



ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION

D-1/1, Sector-C, Scheme-71,
Near Kasara Bazar School, Indore – 452 009.

Chairman

Sri S.R.Kulkarni

President

Sri S.M.Deshpande

Vice President

Sri P.S.L.M.Haragopal

Sri D.A.Masdekar

Sri M.V.G.Nair

Sri J.B.Dave

Sri F.Martis

Sri B.Ramji

Sri M.K.Jha

Sri C.Gopinathan Nair

General Secretary

Sri S.C.Jain

Dy. Genl. Secretary

Sri R.S.Desai

Sri D.P.Gupta

Sri S.V.Srinivasan

Sri Debesh Bhattacharya

Organising Secretary

Sri P.P.Karandikar

Sri Kalyan Sengupta

Sri V.K.M.Varma

Sri M.N.Pandit

Sri B.G.Raithatha

Sri C.N.Prasad

Sri Kishore Gujarati

Sri A.L.Chandramouli

Sri C.Gopinathan Nair

Sri A.K.Bansal

Sri Sunil Srivatsava

Sri Dilip Ghosh

Sri S.Velayoudam

Sri Anindya K. R. Basu

Sri Pratap Shukla

Dr.G.S.Jog

Treasurer

Sri M.S.Chourey

Ref. NO. 2013/392

27-05-2013

The office Bearers/ Central Committee Members
A.I.B.R.F

Dear Sir

RE: DUAL MEMBERSHIP

The issue of **DUAL MEMBERSHIP** has been engaging attention of our affiliates, office bearers, central committee members, activists and our well wishers and many times this issue is bothering too to them after formation of retiree organisation by AIBOC in 2012. We have been receiving several quarries from various quarters as to what will be the impact of this development on the retiree movement and mission to achieve our demands and how to tackle it effectively. In this regard we would like to make the following submission.

BACK GROUND

All India Bank Retirees' Federation (AIBRF) has been the pioneer in promoting the retiree movement and organising the retirees of the public sector banks. AIBRF came into existence about 18 years back in 1995. Similarly, SBI Pensioners Association organised retirees of SBI and came into existence much earlier to ours to handle their pension related issues. In subsequent years, another all India level organisation was formed known as RBONC. As long as these three apex level retirees' organisations were working there was hardly any issue of dual membership. Because, SBI have different pension scheme and their area of operation is separate. RBONC came into existence in the initial years of introduction of pension scheme and they simultaneously developed coordination with AIBRF.

Almost 17 years after formation of AIBRF and introduction of pension scheme in the banking industry, AIBOC decided to sponsor and form retiree organisation in the banking industry in 2012. They were very late entrant in retiree movement and by that time majority of the bank retirees had enrolled themselves as members of retiree organisation operating in banks and affiliated to AIBRF/ RBONC at all India level. We can say with all pride that the members of our affiliates are original and when they took membership they were not members of any other organisation. However



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, we have been getting reports that after formation of new retiree organisation .the efforts are being made on continuous basis and in a systematic manner to attract our existing members to seek membership of new organisation. This is basically happening because new organisation, being quite late entrant, has no option but to encourage dual membership in an attempt to increase their base through the inorganic technique.

WHAT IS DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Most of the retiree organisations have system of giving life membership by collecting one time membership fee. In other words, once retiree joins organisation, he/she become member for whole life. Even, when he/she opts to join another retiree organisation, his/her membership with the first organisation continues. This exactly is the case of DUAL MEMBERSHIP.

WHY IT MAY GET MOMENTUM

Our affiliates have system of collecting one time membership to provide life membership. They do not collect periodical membership fee for logistic reasons and members do not have obligation to pay periodical fee as per terms of membership. This situation encourages the existing member to take membership of another organisation. It gets further momentum and one takes decision to take dual membership out of consideration of acquaintance, friendship , some other influence without applying other logical parameters in most of the cases.

WHETHER DUAL MEMBERSHIP IS BENEFICIAL

AIBRF and other retiree organisations have been formed broadly with the twin objectives (1) To work to protect retirees interest. In other words to engage itself in trade union activity and (2) to carry out welfare and social activities which is natural instinct in all senior citizens. But, incidentally, today, our full focus is on pursuing trade union activities because of huge bag log of pending demands. In other words today we are functioning as trade union organisation. In coming years the situation may undergo change.

As a basic and fundamental discipline, no trade union organisation can permit dual membership. It is highly damaging for the following reasons



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- (i) It creates huge confusion in the minds of the authorities and the management who finally take decision on our demands
- (ii) Duplication of membership figure create loss of credibility for the retiree organisation.
- (iii) It gives boost to power struggle
- (iv) It hugely damages retiree interest.
- (v) It gives upper hand to the management in avoiding decision on issues.
- (vi) It damages squarely both the organisations, original as well as to the one which provide dual membership.

In view of this, we are of the firm view dual membership is highly dicey issue fraught with danger and will damage interest of the retirees and retiree movement heavily. We may mention for the information of our affiliates that we have started encountering many problems in various banks because of dual membership as inflated figures of membership are being given to the management. We hope the sensitivity of the problem will be understood and appreciated by all organisations.

It is our request to all affiliates to discuss this issue with the members and explain the dangers of the dual membership and avoid it any cost. We hope this will receive full attention of our affiliates.

COORDINATION AMONG RETIREES' ORGANISATIONS

AIBRF firmly believe in coordination among retiree organisations at the apex level to achieve the best results for the members. We have been working in this direction for last several years. We took all steps to form UFBRO, umbrella organisation to coordinate activities of various all India retiree organisations. Today the combined membership of all organisations to UFBRO is almost 2 lakh. Besides we maintain periodical consultation with SBI Pensioners Association.

When we came to know about AIBOC decision to form retiree organisation in 2012, irrespective of our view on the necessity of having another retiree organisation in banking industry at this stage and AIBOC passing certain unpalatable remarks about the existing organisations in their communications, AIBRF immediately wrote letter to the then General Secretary, AIBOC with the proposal to have some arrangements to have some mechanism of coordination among apex level organisations.



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We have subsequently also followed the matter through our communications as well as personal contacts to the newly formed organisation, but without any success so far on this front. Newly formed organisation and its office bearers hold very closed and tight views on the issue of any coordination with AIBRF. In their various communications, they have stated that coordination is possible and can be thought of with whom who can be trusted. Further it is stated in their communications that the office bearers of AIBRF do not have experience of running retiree organisation etc.

We would like to reiterate that we shall continue to work to safe guard interest of the membership despite all hurdle and bottlenecks.

With Regards

Yours Sincerely

(S.C.JAIN)
GENERAL SECRETARY