



# REFLECTIONS

A monthly source of information for members of the Adventist Retirees Assn.

## A Word From the President...

*A constituent felt that the local conference owed him and his family money from a trust agreement entered into five decades earlier. They were willing to enter into binding arbitration, following the church's rules and policies. The arbitration session was scheduled to occur in the conference room at a local hotel, a neutral location.*

The constituent wanted Elder Neal Wilson, the General Conference president, to be one of the three judges—and the other two judges wanted Elder Wilson to preside over the meeting. The local conference president was a little worried, because Elder Wilson was a close friend of the constituent. The conference president had known Elder Wilson for many years, however, and had always found him to be eminently fair. He hoped that fairness would allow Elder Wilson and the other judges to see all sides of the argument.

The judges listened to the family's story, and then listened to the conference's response. Then everybody waited for their conclusion. And waited... and waited... Finally, after much discussion, the judges rendered their decision. They believed the family's claims had some merit—though not nearly as much merit as the family claimed. The conference had to pay about 5 percent, which was much less than the amount desired.

## He Looked for Fairness

Elder Wilson's chief concern was fairness. He and the other two judges listened carefully, refusing to allow their opinions to be influenced by previous relationships. Both the local conference president and the family had a lot of respect for Elder Wilson. After that session, their level of respect increased even more. That is a good lesson for all of us—to act fairly and not to allow friendships or anything else to influence us to do otherwise. After all, that is Christ's way of dealing with us, and an example of how we should treat others.

Stephen Gifford is the president of the North American Division Retirees Association.



## Adventist Retirement Plans

**Del Johnson**  
Administrator

**Lyn Wick**  
Associate Administrator

**Judy Glass**  
Associate Administrator

**Judy Beers**  
Assistant Administrator

**Adventist Risk Management:** 1-800-447-5002  
Healthcare Claims Queries

**SHARP:** 301-680-5036  
SHARP@nad.adventist.org  
Healthcare Eligibility Queries

Submit all claims to:  
**Adventist Risk Management—SHARP**  
PO Box 1928  
Grapevine, TX 76099-1928

**Medco Health:** 1-800-841-5396  
Verify pharmacy participation with  
Medco Health

**Steve Gifford**  
President, NAD Retirees Association  
817-271-1160  
2712 Dorothy Drive  
Cleburne, TX 76031  
E-mail: LFORD99@aol.com

**Payroll:** 1-888-838-8955  
Bulletin Board of Payroll Information

**NAD Retirement Department**  
Fax: 301-680-6190  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

**Barbara Yowell:** 301-680-6244  
Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R,  
tax withholding, change of address,  
verification of benefits for loans,  
housing, Medicaid

**Dolores Allen:** 301-680-6249  
General Retirement Office Information

**Chris Meier:** 301-680-6192  
Reporting a death, disability reviews

**Diane B. Gatling:** 301-680-6289  
Tuition assistance for children