



les petits frères des Pauvres
Fédération internationale

Newsletter of the General Assembly of November 4 & 5, 2016 held in Berlin, Germany

November 7, 2016

The International Federation of the little brothers of the Poor brings its decision-making bodies twice a year, spring and fall. With the president, the delegates from the member countries form the Board and the General Assembly and ensure decision-making on a set of issues of mutual interest to the mission of the little brothers. They plan all the actions found to be relevant and useful to all.

- The last meeting of the General Assembly permitted to adopt the governance and activities reform project of the International Federation, according to the terms of the document "*A place to share between members*" and enabled delegates of the eight countries present at this meeting to establish guidelines as a basis for the continuation of its work.
- In this spirit, a working committee was composed for drafting the new statutes and bylaw in accordance with the adopted reform. This committee will also have the responsibility to consider a mean for a greater openness to other organizations working with the elderly in isolation.
- The Federation wishes to provide more exchanges and thematic sharing among its members in the spirit of genuine and active international network. In this context, it aims to welcome and accompany other emerging or existing associations working in accordance with the mission of the little brothers, to expand its network and develop strategic partnerships with organizations that include the isolation of elders in their mission.
- The General Assembly elected a new President, Giancarlo Russo (France) and a new Treasurer Luc Villeneuve (Canada) for a respective term of 2 years. A brief summary of the professional and associative implications of these two persons involved in the action of Little brothers is attached in annex, for information.
- With enthusiasm, we unanimously welcomed into the Federation two new associations from Romania (*Never alone - Friends of the Elderly (Niciodata singur, Prietenii varstnicilor)*) and Mexico (*Amigos de los Mayores, Macochoa abrazar AC*) who will join their action to entire membership's one.
- The General Assembly also adopted the International Charter, which had previously circulated to member countries and had received their welcome and consent. Attached in annex, it will also be available on the Federation website.

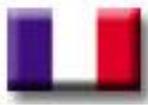
- The General Assembly provides each meeting with a pooling of the diverse activities of the member countries, which is very constructive and inspiring, both as regards on the sharing of successes and problems and identification of solutions to solve them.

Giancarlo Russo
President

The International Federation of the little brothers of the Poor is a non profit international organization established in ten countries, with thousands of volunteers throughout the world. It was established in 1979, so as to promote the action of the little brothers of the Poor globally by helping member organizations to develop their action, by encouraging and allowing communications between member countries and by helping in the development of establishments in other countries of the world.

Countries

President: Giancarlo Russo



Germany
Delegate: Wolf Hinsching



www.freunde-alter-menschen.de

Canada
Delegate: Luc Villeneuve



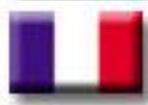
www.petitsfreres.ca

Spain
Delegate: Francesc Patricio



www.federacionamigosdelosmayores.org

France
Delegate: Philippe Chapal



www.petitsfreres.asso.fr

Ireland
Delegate: **James O'Brien**



www.friendsoftheelderly.ie

Poland
Delegate: Barbara Boryczka



www.malibracia.org.pl

Switzerland
Delegate: Fabienne Adam



www.petitsfreres.ch

USA
Delegate: Simone Mitchell-Peterson



www.littlebrothers.org



Delegates of Romania and Mexico will be identified at the next meeting of the General Assembly.



Brief presentation of Giancarlo Russo, elected President of the International Federation, November 4, 2016

Giancarlo RUSSO is Italian and has been living in Paris since 2006. He is an engineer, graduated from the Polytechnic University of Milan.

Professionally, he worked many years as a Sales Manager in the textile sector. He is currently Director of a subsidiary company for an Italian group producing display items for the fashion and apparel industry.

In little brothers of the Poor (France) Mr Russo is involved since late 2007 in the Chapter focused on supporting sick people, at the end of the life and/or affected by degenerative diseases like Alzheimer. He was the president of this Chapter for five years until his election to the Board of the little brothers of the Poor (France) in June 2015. Since, he assumed the animation of the International Action Commission.

France is assuming a leadership role in the discussions and exchanges of experiences between countries and would continue to do so. Giancarlo received the support of its Board for this position as President of the Federation. He was unanimously elected to perform this function for a term of two years.

Brief presentation of Luc Villeneuve, elected Treasurer of the International Federation, November 4, 2016

Luc VILLENEUVE is Canadian and lives in Quebec (province) He holds the title of Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCPA, FCA).

Professionally, he was a partner at Deloitte from 1985 to 2015, a large business firm counting 2,400 employees in Quebec, in 32 cities. He assumed the presidency from 2009 to 2015 and was a member of this Board from 2007 to 2015. At Deloitte, over the years, he could occupied various business management functions such as Operations Director of Certification for Quebec and head of strategy of the Cabinet regarding the role of certification of financial information and respect of the regulation of stocks and shares, securities for public and private organizations.

In Little Brothers (Canada), he is Chairman of the Board and of its Foundation since 2013. He is delegate at the Board and the General Assembly of the International Federation since October 2015. The Board of Little Brothers (Canada) supported the candidacy of Mr Villeneuve for the Treasurer position. He was unanimously elected to perform this function for a term of two years.



Fédération Internationale
des petits frères des Pauvres

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER
ADOPTED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

(The French version is prevailing to any other translation)

The International Federation of the Little Brothers of the Poor brings together associations and other not-for-profit organizations which, by virtue of their mission and the work they do, help combat loneliness and social isolation among the elderly and embrace the following principles:

Values

Members' actions are guided by a set of core values:

- Every person is unique and irreplaceable.
- Every person, no matter what their background or physical, mental or social status, deserves respect.
- Every person's choices, beliefs and values must be respected.

Mission

➤ **Support**

The mission of the members is to support the elders suffering from social isolation, particularly those living in precarious social circumstances.

Members are committed to establishing authentic and lasting relationships among isolated elders and volunteers, over and above any material assistance volunteers or organization can provide.

Support means :

- make regular individual visits to each elder;
- foster a dialogue that respects dignity, privacy, pace and freedom of choice;
- support and help elders in every aspect of life, especially in cases where there is a lack of resources to enjoy a decent standard of living;
- help the elder make connections with others and enjoy moments of happiness and togetherness.

Members ensure this level of support by developing specific initiatives,



Such as:

- trips and outings;
- holiday celebrations;
- group activities;
- material assistance;
- housing and other facilities;
- and more.

➤ ***Teamwork***

Given the long-term nature of Members' commitment to the elders they serve, it must always be carried out by volunteers.

Members must not be bound by conditions imposed by a religious, political or ethnic affiliation.

Members must allow active volunteers the opportunity to debate issues, speak their mind and take part in the decision-making process.

In an effort to foster collective action, Members must develop initiatives aimed at citizen mobilization, education and support for volunteers and staff members alike.

Members must work hand in hand with any family members or elders' friends and serve in a complementary capacity to professional and institutional partners.

➤ ***Raise Awareness***

Members pledge to raise awareness about the various situations they encounter. They strive to draw public attention to the conditions and realities facing the elders they serve, bringing both their hardships and hopes to light.