

**Bonnie, Brave and Beneficent**  
**FAWCO Biennial Conference 2019 – Edinburgh**



**Annual General Meeting – Session 2**  
**Friday, March 22, 2019**

The session was called to order at 9:09.

### **Announcements**

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, announced that The FAWCO Foundation requested that participants preregister their credit cards before Foundation Night, which would facilitate the checkout process. Maggie Palu (AW of the Aquitaine) reminded participants about the availability of pre-breakfast walks under Clubs in Motion. A very kind message had been received from Thursday's speaker, Alice Thompson, co-founder of Social Bite, who invited interested participants to contact her in order to take part in the worldwide Sleep Out to combat homelessness. Alice would be featured in the next issue of *Inspiring Women*. Patricia Aeby (AWC Bern) had FAWCO pins for sale, and copies of the red book would be available at Face2Face. At the request of AIWC Casablanca, the FAWCO President was glad to recognize the achievements of the late Donna Sebti, a longtime member who had been very active in her club, and in FAWCO and on its behalf.

### **Roll call and approval of minutes**

Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), Secretary, called the roll. Thirty-nine FAWCO clubs were present, as follows: AWC of Amsterdam, AWC of Antwerp, AW in the Aquitaine, AWC of Basel, AWC of Berlin, AWC of Bern, AWC of Bogotá, AWC of Brussels, AIWC of Cologne, AWC in Denmark, AIWC Düsseldorf, AW of the Eastern Province, AWC in Finland, AILO of Florence, AIWC Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main, AIWC of Genoa, AWO of Greece, AWC of The Hague, AWC of Hamburg, Heidelberg IWC, AWG of Languedoc-Rousillon, AWC of Lebanon, AWC of London, AWC of Luxembourg, AC of Lyon, AWC of Madrid, AWC of Malmö, AIWA of Marrakech, AWO Moscow, ACIW of Mumbai, Munich IWC, AWC of Oslo, AAWE Paris, AWG in Paris, AWA of Rome, AWC of Central Scotland, AW of Surrey, AWA Vienna, AWC of Zurich. This constituted a quorum.

As a technical problem had delayed the delivery of the minutes, they would be considered on the following day.

### **Reports**

#### **President**

After noting that her full report, as well as those of the other Board members, was available in the [Annual Report 2018](#), Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) described the honor, privilege and responsibility of serving as FAWCO President, and the 2017–2019 Board's efforts to sustain FAWCO and its work. The Board had worked hard to capitalize on its predecessor's

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achievements, serve member clubs, integrate FAWCO's activities more closely, attract younger members and put FAWCO on a sound financial footing.

She was pleased to report that FAWCO is in robust health. The Board had reviewed and updated the Administrative Guidelines and the Events Planning Handbook. FAWCO's United Nations (UN) Liaison Team had expanded in size and its activities in the UN. The new Public Relations (PR) and Media Committee had been established; with Meenakshi Advani (AICW Mumbai) as its Chair, it was already hard at work developing a strategy, and Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), would become advisor to the Committee after her term as FAWCO President. As to the Target Program, the site visit to Hope Beyond Displacement had been historic in its effectiveness: all participants had been deeply impressed with the Project's impact. In addition to taking part in the visit, the FAWCO President had attended the regional meetings, including the most recent, in Regions 7, 8 and 9.

The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA presidents had been great partners, and all three had worked hard to coordinate activities. These fruitful relationships were hoped to continue.

The remaining challenges to FAWCO included the loss of membership, and reduced activity of the Advancement Committee in seeking grants for FAWCO; new Committee members needed to be recruited to enable the Committee to continue its work. Nevertheless, the FAWCO President was glad to say that the 2017–2019 Board had achieved many of its goals, and aligned its work with the Resolutions and Recommendations (R&Rs) for this period. The most important lesson learned was that women are essential in making the world better, especially by working in cooperation. She hoped that the next Board would build on this one's work as FAWCO neared its ninetieth anniversary, at which the organization would have much to celebrate.

### **Treasurer**

Alisa Cook-Roehs (AIWC Düsseldorf) presented data on FAWCO's current financial status for a two-year period ending in April 2019, and a forecast that would change as real numbers came in. The latter was why she supported changing the Bylaws to align FAWCO's fiscal year with the calendar year. As to income, advertising income had much exceeded the budgeted amount, thanks to the efforts of Advertising Manager Elsie Bose (AWG Paris). The 2018 Interim Meeting had made a profit, although this could not be planned for. Membership income had declined, even though FAWCO dues had been raised. As to expenses, there was both good and bad news: not all budgeted amounts had been spent, although this could mean that activities had been reduced. Additional funds had been allocated to the Target Chair to attend regional meetings, which had paid off very handsomely in fundraising for the Target Project.

The best news was that FAWCO was close to breaking even. Additional donations had even created a profit, but these needed to be well used and could not be predicted. In addition, FAWCO had considerable assets: around \$200,000 from the Founder's Circle, the Lucy

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Stensland Laederich Memorial Fund, the quasi-endowment based on the legacy provided by the late Elaine Senigallia (AWA Rome) and workshop reserves. The incoming Board needed to consider how to make the best use of these reserves.

Other changes made included putting in place the successful new system of requesting payment of FAWCO dues, pricing conferences in United States (US) dollars for consistent billing, encouraging the use of credit card payments (rather than checks) by eliminating usage fees, and closing FAWCO's to the UBS account and opening the Afex account.

**Vice President for Communications**

Laurie Brooks (AWC The Hague) explained that the biggest issue in FAWCO communications had been completing its compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The biggest change for volunteers working with publications was the switch from Constant Contact, used for distribution since 2007, to Mailchimp. In addition, the new *Global Issues Digest* combined the four previous topic-based bulletins and helped drive more users to FAWCO's [website](#), which helps to attract sponsors, and more readers to up-to-date articles on global issues. Further, FAWCO had just decided to adopt a new policy on website hosting, to help club websites increase their security levels, which would protect both club sites and the FAWCO site from hacking. Web Hosting Coordinator Rheagan Coffey (AWC Dublin) and Website Manager Cat Conner (Munich IWC) would take this work forward.

**Vice President for Member Clubs, and FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards**

Hope Moore (Munich IWC) thanked FAWCO for the opportunity to serve and believed that communications with member clubs had been clear and effective. She thanked all FAWCO reps for their enthusiasm and effectiveness in linking FAWCO and their clubs, club presidents and the effective Club Presidents Coordinator Gina Chiapparine (AIWC Cologne) for linking FAWCO with club activities, and the regional coordinators, who were vital in keeping FAWCO reps involved. The Vice President for Member Clubs, the FAWCO President and other volunteers had attended five dynamic regional meetings in the last year, and encouraged FAWCO members to continue to attend meetings held by regions other than their own. She thanked Club Workshops Coordinator Caroline Pekarek (Munich IWC) for the effectiveness of the workshops, the many contributors to FAWCO's monthly *News in Brief*, and the reps and other contributors of information to the FAWCO [website](#).

She was pleased to announce a new FAWCO member club, the American International Women's Club of Sorrento, and thanked Membership Chair Rebecca DeFraités (AWG Paris) for her work to attract new members. She concluded her report by thanking the other members of the FAWCO Board for their cooperation and all the other FAWCO members who had supported her in dealing with health issues.

The Vice President for Member Clubs was glad to present the Rep Appreciation Awards to recognize the special and ongoing dedication and achievements of three FAWCO reps: Cecily Garver (Munich IWC), Julie Lehr (AWC Amsterdam) and Karen Castellon (AWC Berlin).

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### **Vice-President for Global Issues**

Martha Canning (AWC Amsterdam) described the launch of the *Global Issues Digest*, which had had a number of advantages for the Global Issues Teams, their members and the FAWCO [website](#). It could also attract new readers to the latest information on these important topics.

The four Global Issues Teams had been very active throughout the year:

- Education (co-chaired by Arandeeep Degun and Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne);
- Health (co-chaired by Linda Harvan (AW of the Eastern Province) and Blandina Steinhauslin (AILO Florence)), which included Clubs in Motion and was working hard on the next Target Program, which would focus on health;
- Environment (co-chaired by Anne Van Oorschot (AWC The Hague) and Renuka Matthews (FAUSA, Individual Member, Dubai)), which encouraged more clubs to take part in environment-related activities; and
- Human Rights (chaired by Therese Hartwell (FAUSA)), which focused particularly on gender-based violence and had established the new FAWCO Refugee Network (co-founded by Anne Birot-Salisbury and Clara Siverson (AAWE Paris)).

All participants were encouraged to listen carefully to the Teams' reports and talk with them at the Face2Face session.

The FAWCO Youth Program had held the fifth Youth Cultural Volunteers Program, hosted by AWC Berlin. While Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf) had contributed immeasurably to the Program as its original Chair, she had stepped down, and the Program was now co-chaired by My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin), Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne) and Meg Brew (AWC Amsterdam).

The Target Chair, Tricia Saur (AIWC Cologne), assisted by Christine Funke (Heidelberg IWC) and The FAWCO Foundation Board, had taken Target Program 3.0 from strength to strength. The site visit to the Target Project in Jordan had been transformational for all participants, and their home clubs. FAWCO Youth Program member Julia Goldsby had made an effective video of the event.

### **The FAWCO Foundation**

Suzanne Wheeler (AAWE Paris, FAUSA), The FAWCO Foundation President, reported that the Board, in line with The FAWCO Foundation mission statement, had approved granting FAWCO \$3,000, to recognize the excellent cooperation between The FAWCO Foundation and FAWCO on the Target Program. She was pleased that all The FAWCO Foundation Board members were returning to serve, although in different capacities.

In fulfilling its mission statement (details were available in the [Annual Report 2018](#)), The FAWCO Foundation's biggest challenge had been dealing with GDPR. In addition, The Foundation worked to provide FAWCO clubs with tools for their use, including "free money". None of this success could have been achieved without excellent cooperation with

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the rest of the FAWCO family. As a result of this, The FAWCO Foundation had now disbursed a total of \$2 million since its inception in 1967. All FAWCO, Foundation and FAUSA members should feel pride in this achievement.

The FAWCO Foundation VP Programs Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg) then described how the Development Grants and Education Awards had been used by their 2018 recipients. The reps of the nominating clubs gave progress reports, including both achievements and challenges, on the use of each Development Grant:

1. AW of Surrey Hope Through Education: Butiama Safe House Vocational Training Center, Serengeti, Tanzania (Cecily Garver (Munich IWC));
2. AWC The Hague Creating Better Futures: Kitchen for Rural Kenyan Catering Program, Chepkanga, Kenya (Michelle Parker (AAWE Paris));
3. Pam Dahlgren Educating Africa's Children: #Reboot Computer Literacy – A Safe Spaces Project, Nairobi, Kenya (Lauren Mescon (AWC Amsterdam));
4. Nurturing Our Planet: Hazarwadi Open Well, Maharashtra, India (Carol Strametz (AWC Hamburg));
5. The Coughlan Family Foundation's Support In Sickness and Health: Project WIN, Chiang Mai, Thailand (Blandina Steinhauslin (AILO Florence));
6. Critical Health Concerns, sponsored in part by Renuka Mathews: Ending TB in North Korea, Pyongsong Sanitorium, North Korea (Blandina Steinhausen (AILO Florence));
7. Breaking the Cycle, Sponsored in part by AILO Florence and AW Eastern Province: Feed the Starving Rohingyas, Bangladesh (Kathy Coghlan (FAUSA));
8. FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk: the Pillow Project to Stop Child Trafficking, Murang'a County, Kenya (Julie Mowat (AWC The Hague)).

Foundation Development Grants Administrator Nan de Laubadère (AAWE Paris) reminded all clubs to cast their ballots on the 2019 Development Grants.

Education Awards Administrator Jennifer Todd (AIWC Düsseldorf) had compiled a video with progress reports from all the 2018 Education Award recipients: Melanie Baur, a member of AIWC Düsseldorf; Leo Kuhnen, whose mother is a member of AWC Brussels; Kristin Melia, a member of AIWC Naples; Megan O'Hearn, whose mother is a member of AWC Zurich; Tammy Sas-Mayaux, a member of AAWE Paris. Pascal Shrady, whose mother is a member of AIWC Cologne; Fintan Viebahn, whose mother is a member of Munich IWC; and Laura Wilhelm, whose mother is a member of AIWC Cologne:

The FAWCO Foundation President concluded that 2018 had been a successful year for The Foundation. Heartfelt thanks went to all donors and volunteers in every capacity, and all participants were invited to help keep up the momentum on Foundation Night.

### **UN Liaison**

Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna) invited participants to talk further with the UN team during their workshops and Face2Face. Her full report was available in the [Annual Report 2018](#) and



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more details could be found on the FAWCO [website](#). FAWCO is a UN-accredited nongovernmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is involved in a wide range of UN activities, especially those related to gender equality, climate change and migration. She recognized the UN Reps Team members who were present at the Conference.

FAWCO carried out its advocacy work with other NGOs at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 2018, FAWCO joined the US Women's Caucus at the UN.

All FAWCO members could take part in FAWCO's advocacy work at the UN. The UN Liaison Team also worked closely with the FAWCO Global Issues Teams and Target Program, to support the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focused on people, prosperity, the planet, peace and partnerships. Highlights of FAWCO's recent work with the UN included participating in the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of CSW (at the latter of which the UN Liaison had spoken on behalf of FAWCO and 20 other NGOs), joining the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and taking part in the conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Further, the UN Liaison had been elected chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Vienna. Finally, speakers from FAUSA and FAWCO clubs had described the work done through the Development Grants and the Target Program at an NGO Forum event at CSW63.

### **US Liaison**

Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA) gave an update on US issues. She had attended Overseas Americans Week (OAW) 2018 with Cora Lee Findley (FAUSA), which had been very productive and remained an important way to keep FAWCO's views before US policy-makers. The team had met with the General Accounting Office (GAO), which was studying the impact of Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) on Americans overseas, including impacts on pensions and retirement accounts. They also met with the State Department, which was very concerned about the burdens imposed on overseas Americans by the new federal tax on Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI), a hot topic with lawmakers. They had asked the State Department whether the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had issued any notices of passport revocations, but no answer was given. The US Liaison repeated to participants the need to file tax return annually.

The US Issues Team would discuss citizenship, tax and banking and voting from overseas. At Face2Face and the Conference workshops. There was some movement in Congress on residence-based taxation: a bill was being written and scored. While the FAWCO voter registration website had been discontinued owing to lack of use; FAWCO was seeking to install a US Vote Foundation widget on its website, to collect data on FAWCO users. These data were essential in convincing US lawmakers to take FAWCO's views seriously. Finally,

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the US Liaison would attend the National Taxpayer Advocate's workshop on taxpayers' rights in May and take part in OAW 2019, which had been postponed to the first week of June owing to the government shutdown.

### **FAUSA**

Therese Hartwell, FAUSA President, reminded the Conference participants that FAUSA was open to not only American citizens but also other internationals who moved to the United States. Of its accomplishments in 2018, the most important was securing 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, followed by the adoption of a new privacy policy, the development of the sponsorship program (including securing sponsorship from Reilly Financial), further development of liaison with FAWCO (well done by Liz Janson, FAWCO Liaison), the addition of further information on repatriation that clubs could share with members and others, increased sharing of FAWCO news with members, the increase in active groups in the US and a Getaway that broke records for attendance and fundraising, in 2018. FAUSA was surveying FAWCO members to find out more about the needs of repatriating Americans, and would set up a Facebook page on which FAUSA and FAWCO members could share tips and information on travel.

Most of FAUSA's philanthropic endeavors had to do with FAWCO: funding a Development Grant and an Education Award, and supporting the Target Project. The FAUSA Banner Project (\$2,000 grant) had gone to support Pathways International in its work against sexual assault. FAUSA had also donated funds to support the building of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

The annual Getaway was devoted to fun and travel, as well as FAUSA business: It had taken place in Washington, DC, in 2018; subsequent events would take place in Detroit in 2019 and Cape Cod in 2020, to celebrate the anniversary of the Mayflower landing. In 2021, FAUSA could host the Biennial Conference in the US.

The session was suspended at 12:09 and resumed at 14:05.

### **Target Program Wrap-up**

Tricia Saur (AIWC Cologne), Chair, Target Program, and Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf), The FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising, reported on the final stages of the Target Program 3.0. After conducting a pop quiz showing the seriousness of the lack of education for girls and the content and effectiveness of the Target Project, they thanked all FAWCO members for the Program's success, but particularly Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon) and Christine Funke (Heidelberg IWC), the chairs of previous Target Programs, the clubs that proposed projects, and all the members of the Selection Committee. Hope Beyond Displacement was announced as the Target Project at the 2017 Biennial Conference. The Education and Human Rights Teams were strong supporters, as was the UN Liaison Team. AWC Amsterdam held a major event to raise awareness, and the first-ever site visit showed

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the impact of the Project first hand to 22 FAWCO and FAUSA members, many of whom were also present at the Conference and eager to share their experiences.

The FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising described Target fundraising, carried out under the auspices of the Backing Women Program. Two matching grants had been given: one from the DeGroot Foundation, benefitting 15 clubs, and one from The FAWCO Foundation, benefitting nine. The donor wall showed donations from 39 clubs (including 10 Diamond Donors), giving funds raised in a wide variety of ways. Together, the clubs alone raised \$171,500 (137% of the original goal). Other donations came from individuals and through donation cards, amounting to \$12,159. Sales through the Backing Women Boutique also contributed to the total. The Advocacy Project also contributed.

The original goal was \$125,000; a supplementary one was \$175,000. The final total was estimated to be \$190,000. The FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising thanked everyone in the FAWCO family for this success.

The money was used on girls' education, women's empowerment and leadership, and training in skills to reduce gender-based violence. Hope Beyond Displacement planning would continue through September 2019, to break ground on the new playground, translate curriculum into Arabic and expand programs. Thanks were also due to Michelle Parker (AAWE Paris) for devising a promotional coloring book, and to former Youth Volunteer Julia Goldsby, who had made a video on the Project that could be shown by clubs. Thanks were also due to Therese Hartwell (FAUSA) for bringing the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) to FAWCO's attention and to Amanda Lane, Director of CRP and her staff, who delivered their thanks to FAWCO through a video explaining that the Target Program had benefited 1,290 people.

### **Launch of the FAWCO PR and Media Committee**

Meenakshi Advani (ACIW Mumbai), Chair of the Committee, thanked the Target Chair for providing a video on Target to share with the outside community and the FAWCO Board for its support, and introduced the Committee's members: Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon), Kathleen Simon (AWC Bern), Ellie Badanes (AW Surrey, FAUSA), Melanie Baur (AIWC Düsseldorf). The PR and Media team involved all parts of the FAWCO family, and 11 areas of activity, as shown in a video prepared by the Chair, which would be shown on Sunday.

The Committee would focus on outreach, strengthening FAWCO's external communications: giving FAWCO fever to the world through social media and a variety of events. The aim was to enable FAWCO teams, committees, programs and clubs to share their activities in order that FAWCO as a whole would thrive, including financially.



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Concluding the session, Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, announced that a Conference sponsor, London & Capital would take part in the Friday night dinner and hold a workshop. In addition, any participants who were former Peace Corps members should contact Maggie Palu (AW of the Aquitaine).

The session was closed at 14:52.