



The Forum

Newsletter of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc.

Winter 2004 - 2005

2003-2005 Board of Directors

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Biometric Requirement for Foreign Passports Extended

Dorothy S.
Citizenship Committee Chair
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The biometric requirement for foreign passports issued by Visa Waiver Countries has been extended one more year from October 26, 2004 to October 26, 2005. Only foreign passports issued **on or after** October 26, 2005 must meet the biometric requirement, not those issued **before** October 26, 2005.

The extension was necessary in order to avoid potential disruption of international travel and provide the international community adequate time to develop viable programs for producing a more secure, biometrically enabled passport. The requirement for machine-readable foreign passports from the Visa Waiver Program countries will still take effect for passports issued on October 26, 2004 or later.

The Department of State has been working towards developing biometric US passports. By the end of 2005, all domestically produced US passports will be biometric. For more information, visit www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/visanews/index.html

Taking FAWCO to the Clubs Making the Connection

Arline C., FAWCO President
Barcelona Women's Network/AWC Madrid
president@fawco.org

FAWCO's founder Caroline Curtis Brown believed in strength in numbers. She believed that enlightened women, working together throughout the world, could do much to achieve international peace. Almost 74 years later, Caroline's issues and concerns are as much global as American, and FAWCO has achieved recognition throughout the world because of the strength and vitality of its members.

The current FAWCO Board embraced Caroline's vision by "**Taking FAWCO to the Clubs**" on several levels. During this two-year term, we've taken our virtual clubhouse, the FAWCO website, to new levels, but the importance of belonging to and participating in a virtual and global organization is best understood *face to face*. To that end, the Board members have made personal visits to nearly 40 clubs in 14 different countries. My personal club visits have made me aware that recognizing the contributions of Member Clubs to their ever-changing membership, applauding their dedication to community service, and

(cont'd on page 6)

"To the Heart of the Matter" 37th Biennial FAWCO Conference

Birmingham, England

Keynote Speaker

Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd M.P.
Member of the Queen's Privy Council
and Prime Minister Blair's Special Envoy to Iraq

Join us in Birmingham - in the heart of England - at FAWCO's 37th Biennial Conference. In addition to Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd, FAWCO is pleased to host as guest speakers Veronica Oakeshott; Cecily's Fund, FAWCO Foundation Development Grant recipient in 2003; and, The Countess of Macclesfield, American Friends of National Children's Home (AFNCH).

This year's theme, "**To the Heart of the Matter**," is the perfect backdrop for a panel discussion on the subject of women, children and heart disease. FAWCO is privileged to present three leading medical professionals who will open our eyes to the many facets of heart problems of women and children.

In conjunction with, and in preparation for, the Conference, the FAWCO Health Issues Committee is featuring a series of articles on cardiovascular disease, prevention, diagnosis and treatment on the FAWCO website.

(see back page for more Conference information)



“Irrelevant” or “Non-existent”?

What's next for overseas American voters?

No matter whom you voted for in 2004, you cannot have missed the fact that not only did Americans vote in higher numbers domestically, but unprecedented numbers of overseas Americans registered and voted, many for the first time in years and some for the first time ever. This may have been due to the contentious election season, but it was also certainly due to the visibility given the overseas vote in 2000.

In the wake of the 2004 election, there are definitely reasons to hope, which must be tempered by some causes for concern.

We should continue to worry that the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is underfunded in relation to what Congress authorized for a 3-year period by close to \$800 million. The shortfall essentially hurts the new Election Assistance Commission, still in its early stages and needing basic infrastructure; the National Institute for Standards and Technology, responsible for conducting studies to set guidelines and standards for election technologies; and the states, which have not received all the promised funds to set up their single state office responsible for voters and their statewide voter registration databases, so important for the overseas voting process.

We should worry that the HAVA funding proposed in House and Senate '05 appropriations bills amounted to \$15 million (House) and \$12.5 million (Senate), as opposed to the \$800 million shortfall. At the time of writing, I do not know what final compromise was reached. What I do know is that we will urgently have to request supplemental funding in early 2005 or see our hoped-for reforms, expanded voter

information programs, improved election machine technology, research on Internet voting, the consolidated and simplified single state office, dissolve into thin air.

The bright side? In a convoluted sense, what went wrong went right for us: too many people didn't receive ballots or received them too late; so many people wanted to register this year that the Federal Voting Assistance Program ran out of FPCAs and had to do last-minute printing (which may have been too late in some cases); some states set up procedures that unequivocally and unfairly privileged military absentee ballots in comparison with those of overseas civilians; some states changed their ballot-receipt deadlines at the last minute, in effect disenfranchising those voters who didn't learn about it in time...and there is more. In what was an extremely contentious election, there is no doubt that new obstacles confronted overseas voters even though the overseas vote just might - it just might - have made the difference in some races.

As a result, I am heartened by the fact that when we go back to Washington and the new Congress and ask for equal treatment for civilian and military voters, harmonized deadlines for receipt of ballots, earlier sending of overseas ballots, and full funding for the HAVA among other things, we will have case studies and real figures to back up our requests.

I also feel - and hear - that there is concern, awareness and commitment we have never before seen in overseas voters. I believe that we will pull together in coming months to effect real - and much needed - change.

Lucy L.
U.S. Liaison
usliaison@fawco.org

Voter Registration Survey Online NOW

Help improve the process
for 2006!

Whether or not you voted in 2004, overseas organizations – and your Washington D.C. representatives – need to hear from you! **PLEASE** respond to the overseas voting survey now being conducted at **www.fawco.org**. Download the form, print out and distribute to other Americans (in and outside of FAWCO), or respond online.

Important Clarification for Overseas Americans with U.S. Bank Accounts

Many overseas Americans have been frustrated in recent months to discover that banks would not open accounts for them in the United States if they had foreign addresses - in some cases, existing bank accounts were actually closed. The Director of the State Department Office of Policy Review, Edward Betancourt, has been good enough to research this problem with various government departments and has given us - and our banks - a clear statement of principle in this regard.

According to his letter, which can be adapted to individual circumstances, it is true that banks are supposed to exercise special vigilance with regard to such accounts: "... the PATRIOT Act does require financial institutions to complete enhanced security procedures in certain circumstances." However, "The USA PATRIOT Act does not prohibit foreign citizens or individuals with foreign residences from opening or maintaining a U.S. bank account. Such activity is done frequently and is necessary in a global economy."

Overseas Americans experiencing problems with their American banks can contact **usliaison@fawco.org** to receive a "standard" letter or be put in touch with the State Department if a personalized request is needed.



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Committee Reports

Citizenship

Expansion of U.S. Visit Program to Foreign Visitors Traveling under the Visa Waiver Program to the USA

By September 30, 2004, foreign visitors traveling under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) will be enrolled in the US-Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program upon arrival at all US airports and seaports. Previously, only foreign visitors traveling to the US on a visa were enrolled in the US-VISIT program.

The program enhances the security of both entry and exit systems for the US by enabling verification of the identity of incoming and outgoing visitors. Upon arrival the visitor's identity is validated by digital scanning of the left and right index fingers and by taking a digital photograph. These procedures add only seconds to the overall processing time. Upon departure, the visitor checks out by scanning the visa

Dorothy S.
Citizenship Committee Chair
citizenship@fawco.org

and/or passport and by repeating the finger scanning. Exit identity is verified and compliance with the terms of the visa and/or 90 day stay allowable under the VWP is confirmed. Exit information is added to the visitor's travel records and compliance reflects upon future entries into the US.

Entry procedures are currently in place at 115 airports and 14 seaports. As of the Fall of 2004, exit procedures are being piloted at 13 airports and 3 seaports. Entry procedures will be implemented at the 50 busiest land ports by December 31, 2004, and to all 165 land ports by December 31, 2005.

For further information please visit the following websites:

www.dhs.gov/us-visit
www.dhs.gov/dhspublic
<http://travel.state.gov>

Interested in getting more involved? Want to make a difference in the world?

Look through FAWCO's list of committees, then log on to the FAWCO website and contact the committee chair for ways you can help.

Administration Committees/Liaisons

Archives
Biennial & Interim FAWCO Conferences
Bylaws and Administrative Guidelines
Club Presidents' Liaison
Site Selection Committee
Finance * Membership * Article Exchange
Nominating

NGO

FAWCO NGO Director
CONGO Liaison * NGO Liaisons

U.S. Issues & Concerns

Census * Citizenship * Election Reform
U.S. Liaison * Voting from Overseas

Global Concerns

Education

Educational Support
Peace through Knowledge

Health

Substance Abuse * Health Issues
Environment

Environment

Wangari Maathai, Environmentalist and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate: FAWCO Shares Her Vision

For the first time, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to an African woman environmentalist, Professor Wangari Maathai, Deputy Environmental Minister of Kenya, citing her longtime leadership of the Green Belt Movement, which has planted more than 30 million trees across Africa.

Deforestation and environmental degradation are major contributory factors to poverty and conflict throughout Africa (Kenya has lost 90% of its native forests since the 1950s). Maathai's movement seeks to reverse this alarming loss of native ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

FAWCO shares Maathai's vision: after the 1995 FAWCO conference in Nairobi, former president Lucy L. and I planted 50 trees, donated by AWC Zurich, in the Amboselli wildlife reserve below Mount Kilimanjaro.

In Morocco, the AIWC Casablanca administers the FAWCO Millennium Forest, and has planted thousands of trees in rural areas with the support of FAWCO clubs worldwide. Trees are purchased by FAWCO conference delegates to make travel to annual FAWCO meetings "carbon neutral."

Recently, Ms. Maathai spoke at the first Women's Environment Assembly, held at

the Nairobi-based headquarters of the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) with more than 140 prominent women environmentalists from 60 countries. Her subject was "A World in Need of Women's Leadership." The Assembly, "Women As the Voice for the Environment (WAVE)," highlighted the role of women in conservation and sustainable development and proposed a manifesto of concrete recommendations and specific projects.

Prof. Maathai is a strong advocate for the UNEP sponsored "Clean UpThe World" movement, which FAWCO also supports.

Valerie G.
Environment Committee Chair
environment@fawco.org

Education

FAWCO Member Organizes Levine Conference in Paris

Marjorie C. (AAWE Paris) is not a woman easily deterred. Living in Paris with her French husband long enough to feel assimilated, she confesses she was totally uninformed and ignorant about "what goes on in school, how teaching is taught and how children learn."

Her oldest son was singled out early on as having learning difficulties. They visited what she describes as "far too many therapists, learning specialists, orthophonistes, psychomotriciens, psychologists, tutors, cours de soutien, and other activities bound to humiliate him and destroy his self esteem."

"I never questioned the school's authority, nor did I have any other information to counter their assessment of the situation. We were desperate for guidance," Marjorie says.

That's when she read pediatrician Mel Levine's book, *A Mind at A Time*. She became an activist for parent and teacher training, and set out to organize a conference featuring him in Paris where he was able to bring his perspectives on education to a European audience.

"Learning to observe his talents and weaknesses, learning to show him how he could use his talents to offset any weakness, learning that it is ok to use a

keyboard and a calculator — Dr. Levine's work has been so critical in restoring the self-esteem of our son and in setting us on track that I felt compelled to try to organize a conference in France," Marjorie says.

As an attendee at this conference, I can attest to the enthusiastic reception of Dr. Levine's theories. Indeed, when one is overseas, the latest information regarding progress in various fields is not readily available, and such conferences help to bring the latest news from home to here. If help isn't available in your area, follow Marjorie's lead and try to organize one yourself - or enlist the help of other FAWCO members or your local club.

Susan V.
Education Committee Chair
education@fawco.org

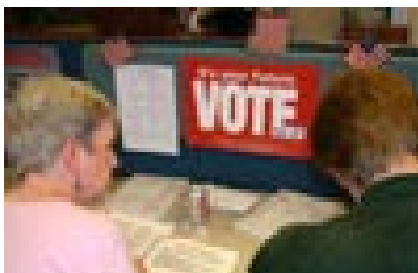
Getting Out the Vote

FAWCO Receives Special Thanks

Kathy W.
Voting from Overseas Committee Chair
voting@fawco.org

Ms. Polli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program in the U.S., recently wrote to thank FAWCO for its support and participation with the 2004 General Election. A BIG Thank You to every one who registered, helped others register, and voted!

With the 2004 General election behind us, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas for helping make it possible for citizens worldwide to vote in the Primary, Special, Runoff and General elections which took place this year. Of note is your continued active participation in promoting and assisting in the implementation of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.



Mary B. (l), AWC of Denmark, helps overseas Americas register to vote.

Thank you for publishing U.S. election news, dates, state deadlines, and other critical information on the FAWCO website. I thank especially all voting assistance volunteers who worked hard providing information and assistance, distributing voting materials, and organizing voter registration campaigns in their club areas.

A special thanks goes out to Kathy W. and the Voting From Overseas Committee for their close collaboration with my staff and their commitment and dedication in helping U.S. citizens overseas register and request an absentee ballot. This election year, there has been a noted increase in voter participation from overseas. The voter outreach efforts of the clubs, voting assistance volunteers, and the Voting From Overseas Committee have expanded the voice of many American citizens living abroad by involving them in this democratic process.

FAWCO clubs have truly served as a resource and channel for vital absentee voting information among its members and exemplify democracy at work among the global community.

Sincerely,
Polli Brunelli, Director
Federal Voting Assistance Program

FAWCO member clubs were asked to write about their efforts on "getting out the vote." Here are excerpts from some of the club responses.

AWC of Denmark

Mary B.

We coordinated efforts with the Fyn and Aarhus clubs in Region 2, discussed progress at this year's regional and sharpened our skills at the FAWCO Conference in the Hague.

The six-member committee registered everyone they could find. We had public events twice during the year, one at the Embassy after hours and one in a less "intimidating" place: first, the Marriott Hotel and then a café in town. Embassy and business staff were very supportive. We also registered voters in five cinemas and we worked informally with other registration groups.

Even when the deadline for registration passed, we held yet another event at the Embassy to help people fill out FWABs and spent much e-mail time advising Club members who had problems with ballots. The day before the election, I appeared with other Americans on Danish TV to stress the importance of the event.

Our committee helped to double registration of Americans living in Denmark. The Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy used my photo to promote registration on their web site. We also got some coverage from the English-language newspaper, the Copenhagen Post.

Mary B. is a member of AWC of Denmark and the Editor for Publications, the WHO Regional Office for Europe. She can be contacted through their website at <http://www.euro.who.int>.

AWC of Zurich

Cynthia N.

FAWCO Rep Susan R. and her team began the voter registration events in Zurich with an all-day Voter Registration clinic last May. We did two voter registration sessions this year, reaching more than 30 new voters. Many people were already registered. We sent out a sheet with info on how to "do it yourself" as well as the forms; many other people went online to register after filling these out.

AWC of Luxembourg

Stefania S., FAWCO Rep

Our Club's voter registration campaign began just upon returning from the last FAWCO Conference, in cooperation with a consular officer from the American Embassy. We registered many Americans -- including the Ambassador's wife!

American Women of Surrey

Louise G.
FAWCO 3rd Vice President



Louise G. (r) helps 18-year-old Ali M. register to vote for the first time during the AWC of Surrey's "Nearly New" Sale.

Volunteers helped at the American Community School in Cobham, at General Meetings, Coffee Mornings, Soccer on Saturday mornings, and at Wine Tasting events. We registered approximately 400 voters! We had people who have lived here for 20 to 30 years come and register. Many had not voted in years. Perhaps the most rewarding registrations included several 18-20 year olds who were eligible to register this year for the first time — and did!

North American Connection

Kathy Bryan, FAWCO Rep

The first person registered from our efforts on February 2, 2004. I registered people at the 4th of July Picnic and the September Meeting. Not getting the response I wanted, I started sending emails out to Club members and writing my FAWCO Articles, informing members of the timelines and how important our overseas votes were — always reminding members of the loss of close to 500,000 military & expat votes in 2000.

Many members responded, requesting the sign up and absentee ballot be sent to them. Overall, we helped more than 30 people register. Not bad when you consider that's almost half of NAC's current membership!

AWC of Berkshire/Surrey

Sharyn C., FAWCO Rep



(l-r) Martha J., Sharyn C., and Mary M. of AWC Berkshire/Surrey, England, encouraged voter registration with postcards and a "mailbox" at one of their monthly meetings. Together they registered more than 300 voters!

What if...?

Paula D., NGO Director
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What if everyone could eat when they were hungry? What if AIDS disappeared? What if more mothers and children survived the miracle of childbirth...if everyone were guaranteed an education...if environmental resources were here for generations to come? "What if..." was the underlying theme of the recent DPI/NGO Conference in New York, entitled "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action." In September, FAWCO joined 700 NGOs and close to 3,000 visionaries from around the world to talk about making these goals come true.

The eight **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) set a powerful agenda for a global partnership in a shared vision for a better world by the year 2015. They are the result of the 2000 UN Millennium Summit and its Millennium Declaration adopted by 191 countries.

These goals and their associated targets and indicators represent a powerful framework for action unlike anything the world has ever before attempted. They

The MDGs aim to:

- ▲ Lower by half the number of people who suffer from hunger or lack access to safe drinking water;
- ▲ Ensure every child has the chance to go to school and live a long and healthy life;
- ▲ End discrimination against women;
- ▲ Dramatically reduce the risks of dying as a result of childbirth;
- ▲ Bring deadly diseases like HIV/AIDs and malaria under control;
- ▲ Better manage the environment; and
- ▲ Equally share the benefits of progress across all the nations of the world.

All eight MDGs were listed in the Winter 2003-2004 issue of the FORUM, and are posted at www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

For more information on the MDGs, visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals/ or "We the Peoples..." at www.wfuna.org.

focus on the most critical problems that underly tensions in today's world.

The third goal challenges discrimination against women. It aims to measure progress towards ensuring that more women become literate, have more voice and representation in public policy and decision-making, and have improved job prospects. It is important to note that gender equality is not only a goal in its own right, but without it and the empowerment of women, none of the MDGs will be achieved.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in his call to action to civil society said, "It is people mobilized as you are, more than any government initiative or scientific breakthrough, who can overcome the obstacles to a better world."

"We the Peoples, a Call to Action for the UN Millennium Declaration" is the report on civil society engagement with the MDGs, serving as an action plan for us all.

What if...we were to work together as a global community? What if...we held governments accountable to their promise to make the world a better place for everyone? What if...?

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Club Reports

What FAWCO Clubs are Doing Around the World

Luxembourg hosts UNICEF's Kids for Kids Project

Stefania S., FAWCO Rep

Our annual Halloween Trick or Treat event took on added fun and meaning this year when we acquired 250 UNICEF "Kids for Kids" donation boxes for our club. We were quite overwhelmed when more than 500 children signed up to get boxes and collect coins for UNICEF! The donations have reached 600 Euros so far, and there are still some boxes out there to collect!



Alexandra and Danielle (l-r), daughters of Kerry G., Luxembourg's Community Services Chair, deliver their UNICEF donations.

Liechtenstein Turns 10

Kathy R., FAWCO Rep

The AWC of Liechtenstein celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004. The annual meeting was scheduled for the anniversary date. Members attending the meeting met in Murg and caught the ferry over to Quinten, a small lakeside village. Everyone enjoyed an alfresco meeting (and lunch) on the deck of the Sehaus Restaurant overlooking Lake Wallensee and the snow-capped Swiss Alps. A short walk around the village led back to the ferry and the ride home.

AILO of Florence

Lora M., FAWCO Rep

AILO officially welcomed its first Italian president at the 2004 General Meeting in October. Originally from northern Italy, Luciana F. lived and worked in Milan before she and her American husband, John, moved to Florence a few years ago.

A Halloween Party at the Ferretti Evangelical Center, which offers outstanding support for children with difficult home and family environments, kicked off our year.

AILO members also participated in the "Corri la Vita" ("Run for Life"), a 10km race to support breast cancer research and awareness.

AIWC of Casablanca

Diana L., FAWCO Rep

Club President Cynthia S. won a coveted place in the 2004 New York Marathon, which is also World Run Day. World Run Day is an international event that pays tribute to running and philanthropy. Many runners worldwide participated in everything from a 5km race to a Marathon in order to raise funds for various non-profit organizations. Thankfully, Cynthia chose The FAWCO Foundation as the designated recipient of her efforts.

AWC of Hamburg

Frauke R.

FAWCO Rep and Regional Rep for Region 5



(l-r) Irmingard Z., Kathleen S., and Frauke R. enjoy a late summer day marking the first meeting of the new season at the Hamburg Rowing Club with a spectacular view of the Alster.

New members joined the ranks of many long-time members as Kathleen S., FAWCO's 2nd Vice President, was speaker and guest of honor at our first meeting of the year. One AWC of Hamburg member in particular to be recognized is Becky T. A former FAWCO President, Becky is now a FAWCO Counselor to the current board.

Remembrance Day at Chilterns

Debra Y., FAWCO Rep

On Remembrance Day, November 14, 2004 a few women from the Chilterns AWC drove down to the county of Surrey. Their cars were full of sandwiches, hot drinks, and home-baked refreshments. These were offered to the visitors and participants in the annual memorial service for the 468 American service personnel from World War I who are buried in the Brookwood American Cemetery.

This event began under the efforts of one member, thankful for the service given by the U.S. military in liberating her homeland of Poland during World War II.

Chilterns AWC also held its annual fundraiser for the club just a few days later. Over the past 17 years, the AWC has raised in excess of £110,000 through its Bazaar, including £65,000 for the National Society for Epilepsy. Thanks to generous contributions, in 2005 Chilterns will also be able to fund a \$2,000 scholarship award through the FAWCO Foundation for a student with special challenges.

Editor's Note: The FORUM received many more articles and photos than space would allow for this issue. To read them all and find out more about what's going on in Member Clubs around the world, please visit the FAWCO website, www.fawco.org.

Taking FAWCO to the Clubs

(cont'd from page 1)

appreciating their numerous contributions to global concerns and issues is best communicated and most rewarding when done in person. During my presidency I was privileged to have visited the clubs in Australia, Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Spain. In 2003, I represented FAWCO in the Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day Service in Surrey, England. (FAWCO 3rd Vice President Louise G. represented FAWCO at the 2004 event.) Also in 2003, I walked proudly under the "FAWCO Flag" with members of AIWC Casablanca and AIWA of Rabat in the first walk-run event held in Morocco to promote breast cancer awareness and research. I was pleased to join them for the event again in Fez, Morocco.

FAWCO Regional Meetings offer another opportunity to share the enthusiasm, history and culture of host clubs and countries, as well as contribute to fostering a productive FAWCO and Member Club partnership. FAWCO 2nd Vice President Kathleen S. and I were able to connect with members from five different clubs by attending a very successful Regional Meeting in Brussels. Düsseldorf held an equally successful Regional Meeting in 2004, connecting me with club leaders from Germany and Austria. Kathleen's energy and dedication to the clubs took her to Sweden twice for the 2003 Region 2 Meeting hosted by Gothenburg, and the 2004 meeting hosted by Malmo. Region 2 includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Kathleen was also a guest speaker at the Hamburg Forum Meeting in Germany, and visited with the president of the Lyon club while in France.

FAWCO's 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents also attended the Region 1 (UK) Retreats in 2003-2004. Board of Directors member Ashley O. also attended the Swiss-Liechtenstein Interclub and FAWCO Regional Meeting in Basel, Switzerland.

"Taking FAWCO to the Clubs" has been a wonderful platform for connecting us all around the world. We have been able to support and promote FAWCO's traditional concerns, issues and interests in personal, positive ways. We have shared the

(cont'd on page 8)

The FAWCO Foundation



The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It was created in 1967 as a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Missouri to administer all awards and grants on behalf of FAWCO. For more information, please contact info@fawcofoundation.org.

The Foundation recently received this letter from one of its scholarship recipients. Sharing in the success of recipients is as joyful as granting the award, and reinforces why we do it.

Dear FAWCO Foundation,

The scholarship I received through your Foundation has allowed me to enroll in four courses required for my Masters of Education degree and to purchase the necessary materials.

Last fall, I successfully completed two courses, Current Trends in Language Arts and Literacy Assessment. The knowledge I gained through these courses was directly related to my third grade classroom, and it was very exciting to bring the practical ideas right back to my classroom. My students' motivation and reading skills have increased dramatically with my new insights into the teaching of reading. I have been able to provide my pupils with strategies for life-long reading and learning!

Currently, I am enrolled in Advanced Instructional Strategies and Educational Research and Evaluation, through which I grow professionally every day! I have eight more courses to complete and hope to finish my degree program in May 2005.

Winning the Graduate Achievement Award through The FAWCO Foundation was just the incentive I needed to begin my degree program. I could not have done this without your support and send a multitude of thanks to FAWCO and The Foundation. I hope that you are able to continue your support of women, children and education, and, through this support, improve the future of our world!

*Sincerely,
Bernadette S.
Cairo, Egypt
2003 Scholarship Award Recipient*

2005 Awards

- \$4,000 Foundation Sciences Award
(in memory of Frieda Baciagalupo Natale)
- \$4,000 Foundation Humanities Award
(in memory of Gertude de Gallaix, AAWE Paris)
- \$4,000 AW Surrey Arts Award
- \$4,000 The FAWCO Members Award
(sponsored by AWC in Sweden)
- \$3,000 The Chilterns AWC
Special Challenges Award
- \$2,000 The Dual Cultural Award
- \$ 500 The Angelica Award for
Volunteerism
(sponsored by Dina L.)

Eyes of The World

In 2001, Spanish ophthalmologist Borja Corcostegui founded Ojos del Mundo (Eyes of the World), a non-governmental organization dedicated to treating eye diseases in developing nations.

Dr. Corcostegui describes the struggle of blindness in the third world saying, "Being blind is terrible anywhere, but in the Third World, it's much worse. In the West, people are blind because of a quirk of fate...but the majority of blind people in the Third World can cease to be so by means of a simple operation, or an appropriate treatment. Well, it's not easy to bear this, not for a doctor, nor for any marginally aware person."

Tragically, most eye diseases happen because of poverty, malnutrition, lack of hygiene, and the trauma of war. The "Eyes of the Sahara" program was the first project implemented by the Eyes of the World Foundation. Programs in Mozambique and Bolivia were added, and programs for Guatemala, Brazil, Guinea, Ghana and Palestine are now being considered. This project received a Healthy Living Development Grant for 2004 and was proposed by The American Women's Club of Madrid.



HOW FAWCO MEMBERS CAN MAKE LIFE ABROAD EVEN MORE REWARDING.

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Dale K., FAUSA President
president@fausa.org

FAWCO Alumnae USA held its fourth annual meeting in October at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, MD. The two-day event featured time to meet and greet, meetings, speakers, and the opportunity to see the sites in this part of the country.

This year we were hosted by the DC Metro group and had a chance to hear an authentic "Waterman" share his story of restoring a Skipjack oyster boat, learn about the history and effort to "save the Chesapeake Bay," and observe the skill of a professional watercolorist who has helped establish Easton as one of the top 10 small arts communities in the US.

Business this year focused on two topics: FAUSA charitable efforts and what we need to do to reach our members.

CHARITABLE EFFORTS: This year's \$3,000 scholarship winner was Beth H., daughter of Liz H. Beth has entered law school after teaching for two years in an inner city school in Detroit and wants to become an advocate for low-income students. La Estancia Fraternidad in Oaxaca, Mexico. and the Johanna Cecelia School in Guyana, South America, each received \$1,000 grants.

With a budget of approximately \$9,500 per year, the ability to raise and give out more than 50% of our annual budget in 2004 is a reflection of the individual generosity of FAUSA members.

MEMBERSHIP EFFORTS: FAUSA's ongoing challenge is its ability to reach across the US and offer something of value to members in widely disbursed areas of the country. In some cases, Metro areas have done this while Regional Reps have formed more loosely structured groups. Another effort will be to focus more directly on repatriation needs and setting up a more personal system to talk to members newly returned from overseas.

Our 5th Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas – **join us!**

Taking FAWCO to the Clubs

(cont'd from page 6)

importance of our role as an NGO with special consultative status to ECOSOC, as well as highlighted our philanthropic arm, The FAWCO Foundation.

The current Board had a unique opportunity to influence our future by "Taking FAWCO to the Clubs." We dedicated time and effort to strengthening the FAWCO-Member Club relationship. I hope you'll agree that the 2003-2005 Board has made a significant contribution to Caroline's original vision.

"Heart of the Matter" Conference Information



Guest Speakers:

Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd M.P.

Member of the Queen's Privy Council and Tony Blair's Special Envoy to Iraq

Veronica Oakeshott

Cecily's Fund FAWCO Foundation D.G. recipient 2003

The Countess of Macclesfield

American Friends of National Children's Home (AFNCH)



Panel Discussion on:

"Heart Care"

Dr. Jane Flint, Consultant Cardiologist, City Hospital, Birmingham

Dr. Sara Thorne, Heart Specialist Consultant at
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham

Ms. Suzie Hutchinson, Director, *Little Hearts Matter*



Workshops on:

AIDS/HIV, Learning Differently, Dealing with Difficult People,
Environment, U.S.Govt.101



Conference Charity:

'Little Hearts Matter'

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DEADLINE for registration: January 31, 2005 !

Your Hotel Booking will be made by the NAC Conference Registrar.

Things you WON'T want to miss:

Glitz and Glamour Selfridges Department Store, Bullring. Exclusive 4th floor event in the Gallery Restaurant.

St. Patrick's Day Welcome Evening - 'Black Velvet' (a drink of Guinness & Champagne) Reception.

FAWCO Fair and *English Afternoon Tea*

Sponsor's Evening at the prestigious Council House, seat of local government, with The Lord Mayor.

Closing Dinner - 'As you like it' with a twist of Shakespeare.

Broad Travel Conference Tours: Pre, During and Post Conference

Partners and Guest Day Tours, City Tour, Jewellery Quarter, Shakespeare Country, Warwick

For more information visit: www.fawco.org