EMPOWERING WOMEN WORLDWIDE SINCE 1931

FAWCO 2015 Biennial Conference
focuses on Equality, Protection, Empowerment

By Monica Jubayli
(AWC Lebanon), FAWCO President

The FAWCO Biennial Conference in Rome was impressive for many reasons, particularly in terms of content. While taking care of business, FAWCO was also able to provide informational sessions as well as focus on the three aspects of the conference theme: The Eternal Woman – Equality, Protection, Empowerment.

FAWCO’s four keynote speakers, the Human Rights panelists and a specialized workshop all concentrated on the aspect of Protection. Opening Keynote Speaker, Michele Bond, US Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, described to the audience the ways in which she had witnessed local people doing what they could to fight sex trafficking in their country during the time she was the US Ambassador to Lesotho. Thursday’s Keynote Speaker Linda Douglass, AWA Rome’s Honorary President and wife of the US Ambassador to Italy focused on the worrisome reality that in spite of increased awareness and laws specifically addressing protection, violence against women still persists. This theme was developed further by UN Keynote Speaker, Dr. Moez Doraid who elucidated goals for eliminating gender violence include increasing women’s political participation, closing the gender gap and eradicating poverty. Recognizing that trafficking is going on around us and doing something about it was the message from NGO Keynote Speaker, Cindy McCain, humanitarian and wife of Senator John McCain. That is exactly what the Human Rights panelists from Italy have done, each in her own way, as attendees discovered how their individual organizations make sure that victims of domestic violence
Update on FAWCO and the UN

By Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), FAWCO UN Liaison

2015 marks an important milestone for FAWCO as a UN-accredited non-governmental organization (NGO): 20 years since FAWCO first became involved as a UN NGO. It is also a year of milestones for the UN, which was founded in 1945 and is now 70 years old, and it has been 20 years since the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Beijing+20

Seven FAWCO women attended the Beijing Conference in 1995, and returned motivated to become more engaged members of the UN NGO community. They spearheaded FAWCO’s successful effort to obtain special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1997.

Memories of the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995

The highlights of the conference for me were Hilary Clinton’s provocateur speech: the increasing strength of the NGOs; and the unity, despite the diversity of the 17,000 Forum participants, regarding the position of women in all fields.

I left with hope for the future so well expressed by Bella Abzug: “In Mexico, they gave us a day; for Nairobi, a decade, perhaps now they’ll give us the world.”

Helen Hootsmans

We had no idea what to expect at the conference in Beijing, or if it would even take place. The Chinese thought we would be a horde of hippies overrunning the place. There was a sign on the door: “When dressed in rags, refused coming in.”

There were thousands of porta-potties lined up along the streets. Sometimes there was only one person in a large hotel who could speak any English, so we survived on minimum communication and lots of laughs.

Beijing was truly the experience of a lifetime.

Peggy Rigaud and Donna Sebi

As FAWCO’s new UN Liaison, it is my great honor to follow in the footsteps of some remarkable women. I will do my best to build on the successes of my predecessors, working to keep up the momentum, continuing to increase FAWCO’s visibility in the UN NGO community and becoming a more effective NGO. FAWCO has a dedicated team of UN Reps in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Athens, where we attend UN meetings and events and contribute as an ever more engaged member of the community, in

Chairwoman of the NGO CSW in NY. Most of all, we connected with and learned from representatives of women’s organizations from around the world. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be among 8,600 women from over 100 countries who were present at the largest-ever gathering of women’s rights activists at UN Headquarters.

UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon put it this way: “We must recognize that we can not achieve 100% of our development goals if 50% of the world are not able to realize their full potential.”

The NGO community called for an acceleration of the pace of change in economic and political empowerment for women, and expressed the urgent need to challenge the patriarchy. It is time to change the paradigm, not adapt to the paradigm. We need to work at the level of the fundamental root causes of gender inequality. Looking back at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women, and looking around in NY, we saw the strength of women, our resilience and steadfastness in the struggle for gender justice. This momentous gathering was about joining together, organizing and mobilizing with equally-committed women and men, to amplify our demands collectively.

A political declaration was adopted by all of the governments on the first day of CSW59. The political declaration is a tool we can use in our advocacy work, allowing us to say to our political representatives “You have signed, committed and pledged your government to make women’s rights a priority, and we civil society will hold you accountable to these commitments.”

CSW59 revitalized the spirit of activism among the veterans of the Beijing Conference, bringing in the energy of today’s young women. And we have invited men to join with us and be our allies, because the advancement of women is an issue not just for women, but for all humanity. As UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Nguka said in her closing address: “Change is coming. Change has to come.”

Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity. Think about it. As UN Women’s campaign says: 50-50 by 2030. Picture It.

UN Issues at FAWCO’s Rome Conference

At FAWCO’s Biennial Conference in Rome, there was much interest in the work we do as a UN NGO, and we identified opportunities to expand to other cities where there is a UN presence. Bonn, Nairobi, Torino, Copenhagen, Paris are possible locations for new FAWCO UN NGO activities. I presented future goals for FAWCO’s UN activities, including partnering with like-minded women’s organizations; getting involved in Cities for CEDAW campaigns through FAUSA; and a new emphasis on advocacy around issues that connect with FAWCO’s primary mission of empowering women.

At the Rome conference, our keynote speaker from UN Women, Dr. Moez Doraid, confirmed the relevance of FAWCO’s UN NGO community. At the Rome conference, our keynote speaker from UN Women, Dr. Moez Doraid, confirmed the relevance of FAWCO’s UN NGO community.

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in 2000 as targets for human development by 2015. The UN began a collaborative process to define global post-2015 priorities in 2014. Now, throughout the UN system and worldwide in civil society, we are following the transition from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in September. The Beijing+20 regional reviews and CSW59 Political Declaration are being incorporated in these negotiations. One of the proposed SDGs focuses on Gender Equality as a cornerstone of all the other development goals, and the key to sustainability.

Making the global, local Cities for CEDAW

The US is considered a leading nation in the world on many levels. However, a fundamental human right – equality for women – has not yet been established in law in the US. In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the “international women’s bill of rights.” In 1980, President Carter signed the treaty, but Congress has not enacted it as legislation. 188 countries have ratified the convention.

The UN Member States which have not ratified CEDAW are the US, Sudan, Somalia, Iran and Tonga.

In 1998, San Francisco’s strong women’s community organized a campaign that resulted in a CEDAW ordinance passed into city and county government and the establishment of the Department on the Status of Women. A few years later, Los Angeles did the same. CEDAW has made measurable differences in public safety, budget allocations and employment in both cities.

Cities for CEDAW is a grassroots campaign launched at CSW58 in 2014 to gain support for CEDAW from US Mayors and secure 100 municipal CEDAW ordinances by January 2016. CEDAW in our cities helps to end violence against women, close the wage gap, and release women’s full potential. For more information on how you can help bring CEDAW to your city, in the US and around the world, sign up at citiesforedaw.org.

The UN’s Post-2015 Development Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals

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Left to Right: Johanna Dahongh, My-Unh Kunst, Erica Higbie, Laurie Richardson and Elisabeth von Sachse
“Neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow…”

By Lucy Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO U.S. Liaison

I was privileged this year to be joined in Washington in March by a high-powered team of three on their way to the CSW Forum in New York: President My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin), Target Project Chair Johanna Disenhof (AWC The Hague), and Chair of the Women in Peace and Conflict Committee, Therese Hartwell (AW Eastern Province), as well as by Judy Treanor of FAUSA, now based in Washington, also a participant in a Democrats Abroad-organized “doorknock” the week before. AARO was represented by a team of four, including one from Hong Kong, so that our geographical distribution was more impressive than usual.

In all, we had a total of some 50 meetings, a bit less than usual because for most of the week, the team was small and because one day was almost completely lost due to “inclement weather”. We used that day and other “free time” to leave position papers in the offices of all Members of the Americans Abroad Caucus. The focus of the week was, by common agreement, FATCA and its unintended consequences on overseas Americans.

In addition to meetings with the staff of the three legislators of almost all delegates (Congressperson + 2 senators), we met with key offices working on tax reform and the Treasury Department as to the bona fides of potential (or existing) customers with foreign addresses.

FATCA

Meetings were held with the staff of Senators Mike Lee, who is pursuing a constitutional challenge to FATCA; Rand Paul, who introduced his “repeal FATCA” bill during the week; and Roger Wicker, an immediate co-sponsor of that bill who agreed during our meeting to introduce a “repeal FATCA” amendment to a Senate budget bill later in the month. The delegates also met with all co-chairs and almost all members of the Senate Finance Committee working groups looking at FATCA and tax reform. One meeting was held with representatives of the Center for Freedom and Prosperity and the Cato Institute, who shared the group’s concerns about possible FATCA-related threats: potential identity theft and security threats related to the information being collected around the world.

One thing learned by the week-earlier group and confirmed in many of the AARO-FAWCO meetings was that regulatory changes are far more likely than any legislative action with respect to FATCA. For Treasury to be willing to make those changes, however, they will have to feel they have Congressional support, so finding Congressional champions continues to be crucial.

We also have to realize that the whole world is moving toward “FATCA-like” legislation, so that all we can hope for is mitigation of the worst aspects (singling out of Americans, major invasion of privacy, heavy reporting burdens), not that our problems will “go away”.

Americans Abroad Caucus

The Caucus has been registered again in the new Congress, with the same co-chairs as before, Representatives

Left to Right: Lucy Laederich, My-Linh Kunst, Therese Hartwell and Johanna Disenhof

Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). With the joining in March of one of the FAWCO delegates’ Representative, Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty of Connecticut, we were reminded that several Caucus members have joined at the request of a single constituent.

The support of the Caucus could be extremely valuable in any effort to convince Treasury to make even small changes to FATCA. In support of that, we suggested they seriously consider IRS webinars or recorded presentations that could be shared with organizations around the world. The suggestion was even made to explore the kind of toll-free lines implemented a number of years ago around the world by the Federal Voting Assistance Program. We hope to have more information on this in the near future.

The State Department reassured us that all other things being equal, the fact of having renounced U.S. citizenship is not, in itself, sufficient cause to make obtaining a visa to the U.S. difficult or impossible. We were also assured that unless a person is suspected of a crime, non-tax-compliance is no reason for citizens to be refused a passport renewal, and that passport information is not shared with the IRS.

We were less lucky, however, when asking if the State Department is concerned by the gathering of personal and sensitive information on Americans all around the world, and the possible security threat that this might pose in some countries. The State Department considers that this is a FATCA-related issue and therefore the purview of Homeland Security.

How powerful is the 13th state?

Our “line” in Washington this year was to remind legislators that the now-estimated 8 million Americans living and working abroad are equal in population terms to the 13th state (between Virginia and Washington). Writing laws that ignore the specific needs of this population is like ignoring the combined populations of the cities of Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia! However, as we see when speaking to the IRS or the State Department, the 13th state is not all that important. No matter how powerful we become when we all speak with one voice, it can also have great impact when we speak as individuals.

This is why it continues to be important for us to return to Washington and “put a face on the overseas population”, and why we continue to urge our members to write to their legislators and to respond when bodies like the Senate Finance Committee put out a call for public comment. Remember that in three cases we know of, it took one voter to encourage a Congressman to join the Americans Abroad Caucus. Remember also that “conventional wisdom” has that 1 email = 10 voters; 1 phone call = 50 voters; 1 letter = 100 voters!

If your Representative is one of them, write and say thank you if not, write and encourage him/her to join (find the email at www.house.gov and be sure to give your voting address as well as your address abroad).

FAWCO responds to Senate Finance Committee call for public comment

In its preparation for a significant review of the U.S. tax code, the Senate Finance Committee put out a call for public comment, with a deadline of April 15, asking people to share their thoughts as to the fairness, efficiency, and smooth implementation of current U.S. tax law.

It will be no surprise that comments were received in astonishing numbers, over 1400 in all, from people of all walks of life and many countries around the world in addition to the United States. Among those submitting comments were FAWCO Voting From Overseas Chair Mary Stewart Burgher and U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich. Both bemoaned the closing of IRS overseas offices and the loss of tax advisors for overseas citizens. Mary Stewart Burgher noted that while 80-90% of overseas filers owe nothing to the IRS each year, as they already file and pay taxes where they live and work, they must still report foreign-generated income and even “foreign accounts”, which are not “foreign” to them, including those held with non-American spouses, who refuse to report their personal finances to a foreign government and simply close joint accounts. She added, “this has caused the numbers of Americans renouncing their citizenship to skyrocket (from a few hundred to over 3000 in just a few years), while the cost of doing so has more than quadrupled at the same time. This is causing our country to lose valuable citizens.”

U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich made specific recommendations in response to these very problems:

To alleviate their FATCA reporting burden, raise compliance, and make Americans less desirable as banking customers, business

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As evidenced by the Micol Fontana Foundation (celebrating the FAWCO Youth Ambassador), Listening to the Eternal Fashion panel, who would have predicted that a shy, self-conscious teenage girl would grow into a confident, self-assured young woman during her year as the FAWCO Youth Ambassador? Standing up for the rights of others also means standing up for one’s own rights. Equality can only be assured when citizens have their say by participating in voting. Not only the rights and responsibilities of US citizens were elaborated upon in the FAWCO and US Issues session, but the difficulties Americans living overseas face concerning tax and banking issues were addressed in the discussion of the Town Hall style meeting. Speaking out and contacting one’s legislative representatives was recognized as a way to have your voice heard and to right the inequalities of the system.

This very same notion of speaking out develops into Empowerment which can come in many forms, as delegates found out at various sessions at the conference. Who would have thought that 32 FAWCO members from more than 11 clubs would have participated in two UN events these last few months as highlighted in the FAWCO and the UN session? Hearing the stories of women who were formerly sex trafficked, as highlighted in the FAWCO and the UN session? When asked what her life motto is, she said “Find your purpose in life and make a difference in the world around you.”

She did just that when she joined FAWCO’s UN team in Geneva. The new FAWCO member attended her first FAWCO conference in 2008 in Seoul because her photo was included in the “Beyond Borders” exhibition of inspirational FAWCO women. She was nominated by her club for her humanitarian work with the Swiss Red Cross. When asked what her life motto is, she said “Find your purpose in life and make a difference in the world around you.”

The Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award by My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin), FAWCO President 2011-2015

This FAWCO member attended her first FAWCO conference in 2008 in Seoul because her photo was included in the “Beyond Borders” exhibition of inspirational FAWCO women. She was nominated by her club for her humanitarian work with the Swiss Red Cross. When asked what her life motto is, she said “Find your purpose in life and make a difference in the world around you.”

Dr. Darius Arya

FAWCO Resolutions & Recommendations 2015 – 2017

1. Resolved: To improve the lives of women and girls worldwide, especially in the areas of human rights, health, education and the environment.

2. Resolved: To advocate for the rights of US citizens and US permanent residents living abroad (US persons living overseas) and keep FAWCO members informed on issues arising in the US that may impact US persons living overseas.

3. Resolved: To support, strengthen and expand the FAWCO network.

4. Resolved: To practice good global citizenship and create a better and more peaceful world.

U.S. Issues, Continued from page 5

leaders and joint account holders, I respectfully recommend:

1) Restoring funding to the IRS to enable, at the very least, efficient worldwide Virtual Service Delivery to assist overseas filers;

2) FATCA: exempts individuals from reporting (Form 8938) of all accounts held in the country of bona fide tax residence; or at least, alleviating the burden on those with non-American spouses (and easing tensions in their marriages) by applying the same rule for reporting jointly-held assets as applies to those with American spouses filing separately; i.e. one-half of the value of the asset; facilitating reporting by requiring only end-of-year balances (as maximum values are difficult to determine in many foreign banking systems); with respect to foreign financial institutions, alleviating their reporting burden by requiring only information on their clients’ income, not bank account balances.

Due to the high number of submissions, the committee’s Co-Chairs have now said they will give the Tax Reform Working Groups more time to formulate recommendations, which they had hoped to issue by the end of May.
Rep Appreciation Awards

by Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO 2nd VP for Member Clubs, 2013-2015

Being a FAWCO Rep can be immeasurably rewarding but it can also be challenging. The women whom we recognize with the FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards for 2015 truly have done an exceptional job in strengthening the bond between their clubs and FAWCO. The following are excerpts from the nominations of this year’s winners by their club Presidents:

Leslie Collingridge, Cheltenham AWC

This Rep has been “such a wonderful advocate for FAWCO, a partner and friend to our club members through her communications of the offerings of FAWCO. She has been a passionate advocate for the FAWCO Target Project, “Free The Girls”, in raising monies and the collection of donated bras for this worthy charity. Along with this, she devotes hours of her time working behind the scenes in her communication and assisting our members regarding the educational grants and development grants offered by FAWCO to our club members and charities. She is faithful in her support of our club’s goals, she frequently updates and maintains our website, she has given of her time and talent at assisting our club’s annual fundraising chairperson and did an outstanding job! She has been a great resource to the club, to newcomers, to the board and to me as club president…What a wonderful ambassador for FAWCO!”

Amanda Drollinger, AWC Central Scotland

“…she is a stalwart supporter of our club. In spite of our size, our Rep stepped up to create a Regional FAWCO meeting in September. By marshaling the members’ energy and volunteered time, using local resources that were well-suited and reasonably priced, she created a successful conference. It was educational, filled with opportunities for good food and fellowship, and offered lots of chances for attendees to learn about FAWCO. We raised money for Free The Girls and we learned about other issues. This outstanding Rep ‘owns’ any job she takes on. In spite of her busy professional life, she will step up and supplement any club efforts that need more resources. She is a problem solver. And she makes us laugh too. Her devotion to FAWCO has resulted in our members learning more about this important organization.”

Kristin Haanaes, AWC Oslo

“…It is with a sense of deep gratitude for our club Rep’s service to our members learning more about this important organization.”

Lindsey Hartwell, AW Eastern Province

“This Rep works tirelessly to bring information and enthusiasm about FAWCO to our membership. Every month she synthesizes the important information from FAWCO into her FAWCO Focus Newsletter that all our members receive online. She is always ready to keep us informed about upcoming events such as the Regional Meeting and all other FAWCO activities that members can participate in. Her enthusiasm and bright ideas have helped members to participate in charitable projects. She assisted in planning the Regional Meeting and was instrumental in arranging a pre-conference volunteer program. This Rep never misses an opportunity to offer our members unique ways to connect with FAWCO, including a Skype Book Club meeting. She is ever surprising us with her dedication to making this world a better place, especially for women and children.”

Hope Moore, Munich IWC

“Under her guidance, there has been a significant increase in member participation in our FAWCO team as well as growing acceptance and awareness of FAWCO and FAWCO-related initiatives and projects. Through her leadership, the FAWCO team saw significant growth in participation and achievements in 2014.

Five members attended the annual FAWCO conference in Brussels. Our Development Grant proposal was $4500.

· A club member won an Educational Award of $5000.

· Eight members attended the Regional Meeting.

In addition to the the club’s having voted to support the FAWCO Target Project “Free The Girls” with a 1000€ donation from additional charity funds, we collected over 250 bras at monthly meetings and delivered them to headquarters in Denver, CO.”

MIWC Cabaret Evening is a Success!

by Chris Carney (MIWC), FAWCO Rep

The Munich International Women’s Club was fortunate to celebrate their 25th Anniversary by attending a Cabaret Evening of Solo Piano and Stories by Robin Melroy Goldsby on April 30th at the Steinway Haus. Robin is a Steinway pianist who has enjoyed sold-out shows across Europe. Her performance was nothing less than enthralling. Her witty and entertaining stories about life as an American musician living and working in Germany touched the hearts of each of her listeners, had them reeling with laughter, and put them in a celebratory mood for the entire evening. Her playfulness and camaraderie while sharing her narratives and memoirs made for an exceptional evening that will remain a fond memory.

In addition to the concert, Robin generously offered a writing workshop for the members of MIWC on the morning of the concert as another fundraiser. Robin, an accomplished and published author as well as a musician, gave an inspirational workshop brimming with ideas for motivating the women to write. She conducted a question and answer session and provided important topics for new writers such as how to find a suitable writing topic, how to perfect their craft, tips for making their writing more effective, and suggestions on how to publish. Each woman was presented with a set of Robin’s guidelines and chiefly instilled in them a new perspective and confidence to begin writing.

The proceeds of this lively concert as well as a portion of her book and Music CD sales were donated to charity. One half of the proceeds went to MIWC charities and the other half was donated to the FAWCO Target Project. Thanks to Margaret Hilditch and all the MIWC Concert Team who organized these successful events and raised approximately 3000 € for charity.

Each One, Teach One

The AWC Lagos Women’s Development Program


The American Women’s Club of Lagos, Nigeria has an extraordinary membership base inclusive of wives, mothers, entrepreneurs, engineers, chefs, CEOs, diplomats, teachers, doctors, lawyers, artists, motivational speakers, bankers and more. Given the vast experience of our membership, the Executive Board initially planned to hold a Women’s Development Luncheon to focus on developing and empowering our members. However, what started out as an idea of a luncheon was proving to be quite expensive and our 2nd Vice President Fundraising 2013-2014, Memuna Williams, was challenged to find a sponsor. We submitted our proposal to one of Nigeria’s leading financial institutions, Stanbic IBTC Bank, and secured funds. The funds donated were generous and enabled us to take the idea to new heights…a Women’s Development Program!

With members who focus generously on the development and empowerment of others through charity and community service, this initiative was envisioned to give back and directly develop and empower our members. Our club President, Jameelah Sharieff-Ayedun, expressed her goal to create long-lasting traditions that benefit members and the community and the idea of Each One, Teach One was perfect! On March 18, 2015, this new and innovative program was officially launched under the direction of 2nd Vice President Fundraising 2014-2015, Patrenia Werts Onuoha. With the funds to do so, an entire new series aimed at Women’s Development was on the horizon. Given that our sponsor was a financial institution, our inaugural topic was “Financial Literacy”. We held a buffet dinner, exhibition and featured presentations.

Our keynote was a renowned financial expert known for making financial sense common sense for real people. “Money Matters with Nicki Samay is a show that is soon to be a TV show on CNBC Africa. Opunmi Akinkugbe has a passion for financial literacy and has brought Monopoly to Nigeria to help grow financial and civic literacy in the country as the Managing Director of Bestman Games. Her presentation was captivating as she led us through the top 10 essentials to financial planning. Knowledge is power and Ms. Akinkugbe truly empowered all 21st century women to take control over our financial future.

Our opening presentation on “You and Your Credit” was delivered by the President of The AWC, Jameelah Sharieff-Ayedun, who is also

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FAWCO FORUM SUMMER 2014

FAWCO REGIONAL MEETINGS – AUTUMN 2015

October 23-24, 2015. Region 6 - Zürich, Switzerland hosted by the American Women’s Club of Zürich. Contact: rcz6@fawco.org, November 7-8, 2015. Region 5 - Düsseldorf, Germany hosted by the American Women’s Club of Düsseldorf. Contact rc5@fawco.org for more information.

November 14-15 (TBC), 2015. Region 4 - Brussels, Belgium hosted by the American Women’s Club of Brussels. Contact rc4@fawco.org for more information.

TBA, 2015. Region 3 - Bordeaux, France. Contact rc3@fawco.org for more information.

FAWCO FORUM SUMMER 2015

NEWS FROM OUR CLUBS

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THE FAWCO FOUNDATION

2015 Development Grant and Education Awards

Recipients Announced

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The 2015 Development Grant ballot contained 19 submissions in six categories, each grant receiving $4,500. The grants are grouped in four categories aligned with FAWCO’s four areas of focus: Environment, Education, Health and Human Rights. These are the same areas of global concern that are addressed in the UN Millennium Development Goals. The recipients were announced at the Biennial Conference in Rome, Italy.

Education:

Proposal Name: Preventing a Lost Generation: Sending Refugee Children to School
Location: Jordan Parent Organization: Colateral Repair Project
Website: www.colateralrepairproject.org
Nominating Club: AWC of the Hague

Human Rights:

Proposal Name: African Women of the Eastern Province Skills for Life
Location: Southern Brazil
Parent Organization: International Federation of the Blue Cross
Website: www.ifbc.org
Nominating Club: AWC of Alem

Health:

Proposal Name: Critical Health Concerns
Location: Southern Brazil
Parent Organization: International Federation of the Blue Cross
Website: www.ifbc.org
Nominating Club: Stahili Foundation

Awards:

VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Lola Masha

AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE SKILLS FOR LIFE AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Mary Adams

CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Mary Adams

EDUCATION AWARDS

The FAWCO Foundation has been supporting education since it offered its first education awards in 1972. Created by and for FAUSA and FAWCO club members and their children, the program recognizes and honors academic excellence and all-around achievement. There were 44 applicants for the 2015 Education Awards and the recipients were announced in March at our conference in Rome.

SCIENCES AWARD $3,500
Recipient: Nastia (her mother is a member of AWC of Genoa)

HUMANITIES AWARD $3,500
Recipient: Jodi Gentilozzi, AWA Rome

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD $3,000
Recipient: Alison Mood (her mother is a member of AWC of Hamburg)

FAWCO and FAUSA Member Awards

The following two awards recognize the diverse lives of our members, their achievements and their never-ending quest for knowledge and self-improvement.

AWC BASE AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS $5,000
Recipient: Christiane Ferraro, a member of AWC of Florence

FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD $4,000
Recipient: Christine Ferraro, a member of AWC of Florence

The newly elected FAWCO Foundation Board has hit the ground running. We are already starting to plan for the inaugural Interim Meeting in Sceister next March and we are very excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie present. Over the next few months we will be fine tuning programs and procedures and creating and implementing new fundraising strategies that will enrich and support all our core programs - Education Awards, Development Grants, NEEEED Scholarships and the FAWCO Target Program.

Did you know that by making a donation to The FAWCO Foundation, you automatically become a “Friend of The FAWCO Foundation”? As a Friend, you have the opportunity to: Establish a special fund to honor a loved one; Designate your donation to the general fund, Educational Awards, Development Grants or other special funds; Contribute to the endowment fund include The Foundation in a bequest. Please think about becoming a Friend and help us to maintain a strong and healthy philanthropic program.

June is the season for weddings, graduations and anniversaries. Mark the occasion with a donation to one of the The FAWCO Foundation’s programs! You can honor your friend or family member by supporting education, bettering health, backing womens’ pursuit of equal access to human rights or improving the environment in their name. Upon request, along with your acknowledgement you will receive a certificate which you can personalize with the name of the honoree(s) and present to that special person. Simply go to our website and under Donations and How Can I Donate then select the program you wish to support. You can pay by PayPal, a check drawn on a US bank or by bank transfer. This is truly the gift that gives!

To learn more about our programs and how to donate are on our website. Visit us today at www.fawcofoundation.org.

To learn more about the FAWCO Foundation Development Grant and Education Awards visit our website www.fawcofoundation.org.

To learn more about FAWCO and the UN, visit our website www.fawco.org/strategies. To find out more about women’s issues and the gender equality agenda at the UN, including the Beijing Platform for Action, check out UN Women’s website, www.unwomen.org. To enlist men in the campaign for gender equality, go to www.heforshe.org, member of AAWE Paris parlamentsstiftung@fawcofoundation.org

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the Managing Director/CEO of CreditRegistry Services. As Nigeria’s pioneering credit bureau, CreditRegistry Services is recognized for its revolutionary impact as one of Africa’s most innovative companies being the first and only credit bureau in the world with integrated biometrics to identify individuals. We gained valuable knowledge about credit controls and credit tracking that is taken for granted in the developed world. With this credit bureau service, more Nigerians now have faster and easier access to credit to improve their standards of living. Our final presentation was on “How to Boost Your Income” delivered by Board Secretary and Country Manager for OLX (think Craigslist), Lola Mash. This was a great delivery in that it enabled the audience to identify ways in which The AWC can utilize OLX to raise money for charity. We are now aimed at exploring the opportunity further to boost income to achieve our philanthropic financial goals.

Dialing back the clock...how did we get here? Teamwork! March is Women’s Month and we got our funds from our sponsor just weeks before. The Women’s Development Program (WDP) committee was created, met on March 5th for the first time and we had a full house of 40 attendees by the 18th! We stretched ourselves as a committee and the Law of Momentum (John Maxwell) kicked in, along with talent and strong will combined with an in-demand topic making for a successful launch.

What has the program accomplished? The evening timeframe catered to many working women who find it difficult to make our traditional daytime meetings. We achieved a collaborative community effort with the inclusion of sponsors and speakers to make an impact. Finally, we excited potential and/or active members to want to renew their membership and be a part of our initiative to build traditions that empower women. This was women backing each other!!!

In upcoming programs, we hope to focus on topics like Health/Wellness, Leadership, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, Marriage, Motherhood, Tourism and more! Ideally, we will hold a Women’s Development Program twice annually during our nine-month calendar year. Watch The AWC Lagos as we continue to deliver on our traditions by developing and empowering our members and community of friends!
FAWCO Target Program
By Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague), Target Program Chair

As we enter the third and final year of the FAWCO Target Program, Awareness and Education continue with 100% participation across all 11 regions. Fundraising for the Target Project, Free The Girls – Providing Economic Opportunity to Survivors of Human Trafficking, continues through the efforts of Member Clubs, individual donors and FAWCO Foundation support of matching fund grants, live and silent auction items and the Backing Women Boutique. The original Christian de Laubadère painting, “The Necks”, which was the inspiration for the Backing Women brand was sold by live auction at the Rome Conference for US $12,500 and a photographic reproduction on linen canvas sold for $5,000 in the silent auction that same evening. This was a big boost to the campaign, which as of May 2015 has raised $106,840. Although bra drives in support of Free The Girls are not officially part of the program, many clubs have incorporated bra drives into their other events and over 2000 bras have been forwarded directly to Free The Girls. Fundraising, as well as Issue Awareness and Education, will continue through the duration of the program ending February 2016.

Backing Women Campaign
Sponsors Photo Competition
By Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague), Target Program Chair

The Backing Women campaign held a photo competition open to all FAWCO members and their families requesting submissions that reflect “what backing women means to you”. The distinguished panel of judges, Amy Antin, painter, songwriter and recording artist from NYC, Lorenzo Fiaschi, owner and managing director of Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy and Guillaume Estève, professional photographer, France, chose ten finalists as well as the Jury Selection Winner. Finalist photographs were displayed in an exhibition at the 2015 FAWCO Biennial Conference in Rome and conference attendees were given the opportunity to vote for the Viewers Choice Award.

Congratulations to the remaining finalists: Chantel Ayers-Kalish, Leslie Collingridge, Paula Daeppen, Judith Furukawa, Melissa Mash and Denise O’Gorman.

The Jury Selection winner was Therese Hartwell’s An Intimate Moment. Therese snapped this photo because it captured an intimate moment shared by two young women in Isfahan, Iran. One of the most significant ways that we can “Back Women” is to listen to and share with the girls and women in our daily lives.

The Viewer’s Choice winner was Suzanne Wheeler’s The Cell Phone. During a recent trip to Mozambique, Suzanne was fascinated by women working in the bay. Whether crabbing, scavenging or delivering lunch to the fishermen, their life was so very different from hers until she saw the mother juggling her baby, work and cell phone. Not so different after all. Backing women can mean a simple acknowledgement of the commonality between two people.

Announcing The
FAWCO Interim Meeting 2016

The FAWCO Interim Meeting 2016 will be held at:
The Lufthansa Meeting Center
Frankfurt, Germany
March 11-13 2016