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Interim Meeting - The Whirlwind Effect

By Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon), FAWCO President 2015-17

The first FAWCO Interim Meeting (IM) to be held since 1998 took place in Frankfurt March 11-13, 2016. (replacing the Interim Conferences as a scaled-down two day event) On the occasion of FAWCO's special 85th anniversary, Rick Chizmadia, FAUSA Vice President of Communications, updated the FAWCO slide show/visual history and the *FAWCO Red Book* was re-edited and published, as well, thanks to Georgia Regnault and Nancy Thornley.



With a record number of first-time attendees, 35, the Interim Meeting got off to a busy start with an overview of FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA followed by Face2Face where delegates had a chance to find out what FAWCO is all about. Committee and Task Force chairs joined the three sister boards, along with IM Bronze sponsor Janet

(Continued on page 6)

Rebranding FAWCO

By Kathleen Simon (AWC Bern), FAWCO Rebranding Task Force Chair

In March 2015, a Rebranding FAWCO Task Force was appointed; and together with internationally experienced brand consultants Edwin and Sanja Schmidheiny of Accent Brand Consultants Ltd. Zurich, a contemporary logo, tagline and Mission Statement were presented at the Interim Meeting in Frankfurt on March 11-13, 2016. The logo and tagline were approved by a vote of the FAWCO membership on March 13th. After modification in response to feedback, the Mission Statement was approved the same day.



Voting to adopt the FAWCO Rebranding package.

Since no organization can remain static and survive, the FAWCO Board decided it was time to take a fresh look at FAWCO's branding and documentation to ensure the organization's future growth. The rebranding of FAWCO aims to promote the image of a contemporary organization, to align the brand with our current goals, and to address a younger and more international club membership.

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FAWCO at the 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60)

By Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), FAWCO UN Liaison

The annual sessions of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) provide advocates for women's rights an opportunity to influence the UN agenda. 6,000 delegates from the 45 member states of the Commission, UN entities, and NGOs attended CSW60 in March 2016. FAWCO supported the UN's commitment to emphasize and engage youth by including two college students in our delegation of 14 women.

FAWCO UN Liaison Laurie Richardson co-moderated an NGO Briefing, and made a statement calling for the protection of women refugees at a meeting attended by UN Women's Executive Director. FAWCO co-sponsored a panel discussion with the NGO Committee on Migration, the Organization for Early Childhood Education, UNHCR and other organizations, entitled "Empowering Syrian Refugee Women and Children for a Better Future." We also lent FAWCO members' support to the campaign for a feminist woman as the next UN Secretary-General.

CSW60 Negotiations to Reach Agreed Conclusions

The theme of CSW60 was "women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development". This first CSW following the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Agenda 2030, put gender equality at the center. One speaker called this "the moment when the rubber hits the road," when we determine how to implement not only Goal #5 on gender equality, but all of the SDGs. Agenda 2030 requires that we work across agendas, issues and stakeholders, and involve not just women's, social, education and health ministries, but ministries of finance as well.

At CSW60, we had the opportunity to work with CSW Bureau Chair Antonio Patriota (Brazil), Vice-Chair and lead negotiator Andreas Glossner (Germany), and from UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (South Africa), Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri (India), and Civil Society Section Chief Lopa Bannerjee (India).

CSW operates by consensus, so the need for unanimous agreement on conclusions makes negotiations challenging. However, by the second week, there was consensus on water and sanitation, poverty, education and humanitarian language. Discussions continued over the role of civil society, and prickly points like sexual and reproductive health rights. There was tension between global frameworks and national contexts, capacities and stages of development. While all UN member states signed on to the SDGs with great fanfare in September 2015, during CSW the burning question was the extent member states' policies must align with the SDGs.

The Europe and North American NGO Caucus discussed backtracking on women's rights language. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) is the hard-won foundation; Agenda 2030 must not "take Beijing out of CSW, because the core business of CSW is Beijing." It was not the time to bring in new language, but to be strategic, hold on to and optimize what we achieved. The NGO community pledged to continue to push the envelope on the Agreed Conclusions at every CSW.



CSW 60 FAWCO Delegation

Critical Issues

Agenda 2030 requires a comprehensive, transformational approach to interconnected problems. Poverty, lack of education, lack of opportunity and the effects of climate change fuel armed conflicts, which in turn cause refugees to flee, creating humanitarian crises, with women and girls at increased risk of violence and exploitation, including human trafficking. Women's sexual and reproductive health needs are not met, creating cycles of poverty and desolation. At CSW, these were some of the pressing concerns:

Women refugees fleeing from conflict face sexual violence in transit and in camps. In 2016, one in every 122 people globally are displaced, over half women and children. Burdens include exploitation, transactional sex, forced marriage of young girls, limited access to contraception and health care, unwanted pregnancy and maternal mortality.

Human trafficking is a transnational crime carried out with impunity in all regions of the world. Poverty limits life choices, so women and girls become victims. Refugees are especially vulnerable.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to achieve sustainable development and gender equality. CEDAW requires governments to provide access to reproductive health services to all women and girls, regardless of their citizenship, including refugees and internally displaced women.

Violence against women in conflict zones is used as a weapon. We must meet humanitarian needs, prevent gender-based violence and punish perpetrators. There can be no lasting peace without women, so we must empower women, prevent man-made disasters and work for peace.

These challenges demand that we work at the level of root causes to make the world safer and protect all people, not only women and girls. End poverty, improve education, reduce inequality, turn swords into plowshares, and continue to hope for a better world.

CSW Quotes

"Feminism is about justice for all people, women and men."

"We don't want a little window for women, we want doors women can walk through."

"If you get it right for girls and women, you get it right for humanitarian action and development for everyone."

Laurel Anderson, a college student and FAWCO daughter said it best:

"Attending CSW was a life-changing experience."

A Future for Syrian Refugee Women

by Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna) and Jane McCall Politi (AWA Rome)

"Empowering Syrian Refugee Women for a Better Future: Challenges and Innovative Solutions in Early Childhood Development" was an event at CSW60 organized by the NGO Committee on Migration and the World Organization of Early Childhood Education, co-sponsored by UNHCR, PEACE Foundation and FAWCO. UN Rep Jane McCall Politi, PhD, member of the NGO Committee on Migration, helped organize this timely event. Over 70 people attended on the final day of CSW60 including FAWCO UN Reps Erica Higbie, Jane Politi and Laurie Richardson.

Agnès Hurwitz, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR, spoke about the UNHCR priority to make education available to refugees at every age. Of 4.8 million registered refugees from Syria, 2.7 million are in Turkey, only a small percentage in camp settings. Over 4 million refugees live in urban settings. Over 50% are children. School enrollment in non-camp settings is less than 30%. The UNHCR's Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) partners with over 200 humanitarian organizations and host communities in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt to promote social cohesion. They hope to enroll 350,000 children in early childhood education. The problems refugees face include destitute women heading households, children begging or dropping out of school at risk for sex and labor slavery, as well as child marriage or recruitment into armed groups. Host communities are also strained.

Ambreen Qureshi of the Arab-American Family Support Center described their Arabic-speaking trauma-informed neighborhood settlement houses with 6,000 clients at four sites in New York. They build community, facilitate integration and decrease isolation. Faith and feminism are promoted in culturally sensitive ways to combat illiteracy and inequality.

Patricia Talisse, a UN Youth Representative of Close the Gap and a student at Fordham University who migrated from Syria three years ago, remains traumatized by what is happening in her home country. She feels safe in the US, but said, "we see our homes destroyed, our friends and families dying." Misery drives people to seek new lives, "we want to go home and restore the peace."

Eline Caillaud from INSAN Association spoke about the needs of Syrian refugees who are 25% of the population of Lebanon. Public schools have afternoon shifts for Syrian children, but only half (200,000) can attend because schools are full. INSAN prepares children for school with language classes and psycho-social support. They offer English and IT classes, legal counsel

for women and a play center for children under five. Their staff travels to remote areas to provide recreation for children and psycho-social services to mothers.

Selcuk Sirin, PhD from the Migration Policy Institute and New York University's Department of Applied Psychology, reported on his research in Jordan and Istanbul. According to UNICEF, 109 million children live in crisis zones, and nearly 24 million are out of school. Eighty percent of children under 18 experienced a death in the family and 45% of children met the criteria for PTSD. About 50% are clinically depressed. There is hope; children are resilient. They draw pictures of war, but dream of becoming doctors and nurses when they grow up.

In Turkey, education, integration and psycho-social problems remain unaddressed. Half a million children are not enrolled in early childhood education and refugees are leaving for Europe because their children cannot go to school. Ever since refugees reached Europe, there is greater awareness of the need for increased resources. Recently, Jordan announced a \$300 million investment in early childhood education.

In the lively discussion, participants raised the need for early childhood education to give children a sense of cultural identity, belonging and home. We must empower mothers to be protagonists for their children's right to education and should be supported in their role of transmitting cultural values, behaviors and language to their children, so mothers and children can be agents of peace.



FAWCO UN New York Rep Jane McCall Politi (R) with members of her panel.

FAWCO's Participation in Overseas Americans Week Concentrates on "Fast Act" Provisions

By Cora Lee Findley (AW Eastern Province)

This year, FAWCO and AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas) went to Washington with only one position paper, the "Unintended Impact on Overseas Americans by the Passport Revocation Provisions in the Fast Act". Provisions in this Act stipulate that the IRS can ask the State Department to revoke or refuse issuance of the passport of any American owing over \$50,000 in taxes and/or fines. Our position argued that Americans living and working abroad are more seriously impacted by the Fast Act. These American citizens depend more heavily on their passports than residents of the United States. Because of FATCA, it is possible for them, from mere ignorance, to incur significant fines for relatively minor errors in financial reporting.

Ellen Lebel (AARO), Tim Ramier (AARO) and Cora Lee Findley (FAWCO) met with 21 staffers from the House of Representatives and seven staffers from the Senate; four of the offices visited were those of Presidential candidates. We also met with two individuals from The Tax Foundation, one from the American Bankers Association, the Vice Chair of the Election Assistance Commission and a civilian originally from Brazil, and now a US citizen, who considered returning to Brazil only to discover how complicated it might be for an American.

Our meetings with the staff of the Co-Chairs of the Americans Abroad Caucus were encouraging. We were given a copy of the draft letter to be presented by Caucus members to Secretary of State John Kerry concerning our position on the Fast Act. This letter has since been refined and sent.

Most of the people we met with were familiar with the issues our organizations wanted to discuss, no doubt due to the continued presence of members of AARO, FAWCO and ACA who visit them on an annual basis. This confirmed just how important FAWCO's participation is in Overseas Americans Week. Without this annual presence, it would be all too easy for our issues to be forgotten. Much legislation is passed with little concern for the unintended consequences on the American community abroad. It was also invaluable to meet with the Tax Foundation and the

American Bankers Association. Both organizations responded favorably to our bringing our concerns to their attention.

The key question was "How many Americans have actually had a problem with these issues?" It might be useful in the future for FAWCO to develop a survey to address this very question and provide concrete evidence. The FAST Act only became law at the end of 2015 so we have not yet heard of any actual cases of people losing their passports as a result

Contemplating the future of "Overseas Americans Week" and FAWCO's participation, we might consider a few recommendations:

- Continue to send a delegation every year (even during an election year when all eyes appear to be only on the polls and the primaries).
- In a year of major Congressional change, it is imperative that a larger delegation be present. We need the manpower to visit not only Congressional staffers and members of the Caucus, but all staffers on the key committees.
- Focus on meeting with congressional offices we have never met with – particularly in the year following an election. The more new staffers know about our issues, the better.
- The Washington delegation (and all interested members of FAWCO) need to be armed with a few facts (on a business card) to share, specifically: the current number of Americans residing outside of the United States and the fact that given this number, overseas Americans (today) would be the equivalent of the 12th largest State; the ratio of the overseas vote to the total vote in the United States; and the names of larger US companies employing Americans overseas and the economic impact they have on bringing new money into the United States

The "Overseas" Perspective on IRS Services

By Lucy Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO US Liaison

Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, has organized a series of "public forums" on the "Future State Vision" for the IRS for various communities representing a range of taxpayers with special needs, as well as professionals, statisticians, government representatives and advocacy groups. For the forum organized in Washington on May 17, Ms. Olson asked FAWCO, AARO and ACA for a panelist to present the perspective of overseas taxpayers. Marylouise Serrato, Executive Director of ACA, gave testimony prepared by the three organizations, presenting our concerns about the unintended consequences of FATCA and FBAR reporting, the loss of IRS services abroad and the absence of Taxpayer Advocate offices outside the US, the deadlines and requirements often hard to respect for overseas taxpayers, and more.

Demographically, the overseas American population is diverse: business executives in both US and International corporations, independent contractors and consultants, missionaries, aid workers, academics, clergy, housewives, retirees... As found in a 2012 study by Democrats Abroad, over 50% earn less than \$99,000 annually; a high percentage are dual-nationals, including many non-English speakers; and great numbers are permanent or semi-permanent residents overseas, including many married to host-country nationals who resent having joint accounts reported to the IRS.

How does this relate to the "future state" of the IRS?

We are a population disproportionately impacted by the loss of IRS offices abroad :

1) A population needing face-to-face service: All too often, *mail from the IRS* finally arrives in the taxpayer's mailbox after the deadline incurring penalties. For taxpayers needing (and willing) to *call the IRS*, extended wait times can generate high costs and end in "courtesy disconnects" – and this at a time when the IRS Commissioner himself predicted that, even in the US, 50% of calls would go unanswered due to insufficient manpower. And for many US taxpayers with inadequate knowledge of English (including the recently identified numbers of "accidental Americans"), an expert able to speak a *language one understands* is crucial. As Ms. Serrato pointed out in her testimony, IRS online information is currently available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian only.

2) A population frequently facing technological challenges: Many live in "low-tech" regions where access to up-to-date software/hardware and, more importantly, reliable power and internet access are not assured.

3) A population with historically subpar IRS services: Before the last offices were closed, the four remaining were in London, Paris, Frankfurt and... Beijing, hardly reflecting the global distribution of Americans overseas.

4) A population with special security challenges: In addition to the risk of identity theft already widespread within the US, the potential lack of secure internet service abroad represents a major problem and unlike domestic residents, overseas filers in some regions may even be identified and targeted for terrorist actions.

5) A population dealing with multiple tax systems and great complexity: Because "US persons" are taxable on their worldwide income, most are subject to the rules of at least two tax systems. In addition, overseas taxpayers are covered by specific rules compounding an already complicated US Tax Code, with special regulations as to foreign tax credits, reporting of foreign investments, etc.

This is the first time that our advocacy organizations have been officially asked to discuss the unique challenges faced by overseas taxpayers. While the IRS is already working to improve service to the overseas population, with specially designed informative videos and webinars, there is much yet to be done, at a time when penalties for non-compliance are increasingly daunting. We applaud the efforts of the National Taxpayer Advocate to give us a voice in helping to shape the "Future State" of the IRS.



AN INITIATIVE OF U.S. VOTE FOUNDATION

Make Your Vote Count in 2016

by Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), US Voting from Overseas Chair
(voting@fawco.org)

Did you know that many elections for the US Congress have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? Follow a few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2016 U.S. elections. To do this, use online resources available to you, including:

- the dedicated FAWCO site (<https://fawco.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>)
- the site of FAWCO's partner, the U.S. Vote Foundation (formerly the Overseas Vote Foundation – <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>); or
- the Federal Voting Assistance Program (<https://www.fvap.gov>)

1. Request your ballot

You must complete a new ballot request after January 1, 2016 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2016 elections. You can complete the form online. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically. Include your email address on your form to take advantage of the option for electronic ballot delivery, and to allow your local election official to contact you if necessary. The instructions accompanying your form will give the name and contact details of your local election official. It is a good idea to contact him or her after you've submitted the form, to ensure that you are registered.

2. Receive and complete your ballot.

States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge at the nearest US embassy or consulate. Place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic US postage, and address them to the relevant local election officials.

You can also return your form/request or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense. If you send the ballot by post, we recommend you send it registered mail to ensure delivery.

3. If your ballot does not arrive in time, send a write-in ballot.

If your ballot has not reached you by October 14, go back to the website where you filled out your registration form, and generate a federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB). If your regular ballot arrives after you have sent off your FWAB, vote and send it, too, and let the local election official decide which one to count.

**Remember, your vote counts!
Your country needs to hear your voice.**

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Interim Meeting - The Whirlwind Effect

Darrow Global Property Specialist and F2F sponsor, London and Capital. The Annual General Meeting focused on highlights from 2015 and a look at FAWCO's future. The Year in Review covered a report from The FAWCO Foundation, a summary of the Target 2.0 program and the 2015 Cultural Volunteers Program (CVP) hosted by AWC Mumbai. Julia Goldsby, former CVP participant and FAWCO Youth Ambassador, presented her film project, The World of FAWCO. The FAWCO Youth Program announced that the 2016 Cultural Volunteer Program will be held in Dublin, Ireland.

We discovered how The FAWCO Foundation's Education Awards and Development Grants awarded in 2015 made a difference in the lives of your children and projects worldwide and how the efforts of individuals, member clubs and The FAWCO Foundation resulted in raising over \$170,000 for the Target Project, Free The Girls. FAWCO's Financial Future Task Force conducted a presentation "How to Build FAWCO's Ideal Budget" an explanation of how FAWCO's finances reflect what FAWCO will be able to do in the future. With the launch of the Target 3.0 Program, Education – Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills, FAWCO will be raising awareness on this issue during the next twelve months while accepting applications for the next Target Project.



85th anniversary slide show

Five Rep Appreciation Awards were presented at the 85th Anniversary Dinner in recognition of the efforts to promote FAWCO in their clubs. (See page 7.) The UN and US Liaisons and FAUSA had only a short time to make their presentations but still managed to cover a lot of territory and generate interest.

"How to" sessions gave delegates a chance to learn all facets of FAWCO, from logging in to the website, making the most of club workshops, building the ideal FAWCO budget, crafting a successful Education Award or Development Grant application, making the best use of FAWCO publications, increasing membership and hosting a regional meeting.

Announcements were made on the appointment of the Biennial Conference Committee Chairs: Nominating (Kathleen Simon, AWC Bern) and Resolutions and Recommendations Chair (Judy Furukawa, AWC Brussels), as well as the appointment of a Strategic Planning Task Force to help lead FAWCO into the future, chaired by Cora Lee Findley (AW Eastern Province). The announcement of the venue for the March 2017 Biennial Conference, Mumbai, India, was greeted with enthusiasm.

(Continued from page 1)

Rebranding FAWCO

What were the Board's goals in seeking to rebrand? FAWCO believes in the guiding words of our founder, Caroline Curtis Brown, and continues to "work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve problems common to all." FAWCO is its Member Clubs, and they must remain strong for FAWCO to stay strong, which is why the Board sought:

- To reinvigorate existing Member Clubs by helping them increase their membership.
- To look for new audiences.
- To emphasize the growing international structure of our membership and our efforts to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide.
- To communicate FAWCO's strengths and market them more effectively.

Rebranding Action Plan

The Task Force members were introduced to Edwin and Sanja Schmidheiny, internationally experienced branding professionals of Accent Brand Consultants Ltd. in Zurich, who donated their time to develop the FAWCO brand with the rebranding team.

The rebranding process included the following steps:

- Finding a brand position that reflects the global mindset of the FAWCO woman, one that balances our American heritage with our international lifestyle and work. FAWCO is inclusive, defining FAWCO women not by where they come from, but based on the women they have become and where they are going. FAWCO challenges all of us to make a difference and harnesses the energy of women from our member clubs into a strong force for global action.
- Creating a branding proposal which clearly promotes FAWCO's international agenda and position: FAWCO is a Global Gateway. The Accent Brand Consultants Ltd. proposed that the new logo be used by all three organizations: FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA creating a "family brand". After some research it appeared that, unlike a commercial organization with its own foundation, FAWCO and its sister organizations are three separate, independent, legal entities and therefore, each should have its own distinct visual symbol.
- Defining the FAWCO values, which are personal commitment, American spirit and global perspective.
- Developing and proposing a new FAWCO logo to better communicate who we are and what we do.
- Reviewing and refreshing the Mission Statement.
- Crafting a new tagline.

FAWCO Mission Statement

FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations whose mission is:

- to build strong support networks for its American and international membership;
- to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide;
- to advocate for the rights of U.S. citizens overseas; and
- to mobilize the skills of its membership in support of global initiatives for education, the environment, health and human rights.

2016 FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards

Sahar Elhallak, AIWA Marrakesh has gone "beyond the call of duty" both as FAWCO Rep and Regional Coordinator, nearly single-handedly organizing a Regional meeting in an area with local official challenges, an extremely limited budget and a more-than-usual challenge getting clubs within the region to participate.

Deborah Lillian, AAWE Paris organized a successful Regional meeting, and is an excellent fundraiser. Deborah's club president recommended her as the best FAWCO Rep ever! And wrote: "Within our club, she has done much to promote FAWCO, ...and has made it fun as well!"

Marie-Bénédicte Luxem, AWC Zurich Zurich believes in FAWCO and this year organized a very successful Regional meeting. Inspired by her enthusiastic promotion of FAWCO, many of her fellow club members acknowledge that without

her commitment and effort it would not have happened.

Laurie Richardson, AWA Vienna is a past club president and current FAWCO Rep who has also served on the FAWCO Board. Laurie also leads FAWCO's work with the United Nations and is very involved in and passionate about women's issues. Her work with refugees is inspiring and motivating.

Ann De Simoni, AIWC Genoa is a FAWCO Rep who has been an active member of her club for well over 20 years, working in virtually every area. She welcomes new members with great enthusiasm, is a skilled fundraiser and has always been a strong supporter and participant in FAWCO.



Circle of Honor Award

by Monica Jubayli, FAWCO President



Kathleen Simon (R) receiving Circle of Honor Award from President Monica Jubayli

The "Circle of Honor" is the highest award given by FAWCO. The Circle of Honor recognizes distinguished years of service and dedication to the goals and ideals of FAWCO in both elected and appointed positions.

This year's award was given to a person who has been an exceptional leader. Kathleen Simon (AWC Bern), FAWCO Counselor, has put an enormous amount of

time and energy into so many FAWCO projects. She has held positions on the Board as well as chaired numerous committees and task forces. While 1st VP she stepped in as acting President and then went on to be an outstanding President in her own right. As the Chair of the Rebranding FAWCO Task Force, Kathleen devoted countless hours to the project making sure to include everyone's ideas and working closely with the consultants. As always, she did a top notch, professional job.

She continues to volunteer to steer FAWCO into the future as she is currently the 2017-19 Nominating Chair. Kathleen was presented the Circle of Honor Award at the 2016 Interim Meeting in recognition for her leadership and outstanding work as the Rebranding FAWCO Task Force Chair.

Fellowship Award

by Monica Jubayli, FAWCO President



From Left to Right: Sanja Schmidheiny, Kathleen Simon, Monica Jubayli, and Edwin Schmidheiny

I would like to thank FAWCO's Benefactors for the pro bono work they have done for FAWCO. They have given their time and energy to guide the Task Force through the Rebranding process. Their professionalism and dedication ensured that the Task Force did a thorough job. Without the leadership of the Accent Brand Consultants, Kathleen's and her team's project would have been much more difficult.

The Fellowship Award recognizes distinguished service and dedication to FAWCO's goals and ideals by persons outside FAWCO.

In recognition of their vision, talent and generosity in their work with the Rebranding FAWCO Task Force, Edwin and Sanja Schmidheiny were presented with the Fellowship Award.

Successful Conclusion to Target Program - Human Rights for Women

By Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague), FAWCO 3rd VP and Target Program Chair, 2013-2016



In March 2013, Human Rights for Women – Protecting the Rights and Improving the Lives of Women and Girls Worldwide, was announced as the overarching theme for the FAWCO Target Program 2013 – 2016, a program launched in 2009 to bring a critical global issue to the attention of FAWCO Clubs, their members and the world.

Member Clubs selected Free The Girls: Providing Economic Opportunity for Survivors of Human Trafficking as the Target Project. The two-year fundraising campaign culminated February 28, 2016. The FAWCO Foundation Target Fundraising Coordinator, Marie-Bénédicte Luxem, has announced contributions totaling \$172,089.33 with participation across every region of FAWCO.

FAWCO's financial support has provided Free The Girls the opportunity to lay the foundation for future success by allowing them to fine-tune staff positions and provide much needed space for streamlined, efficient operations. Free The Girls Executive Director Courtney Skiera-Vaugh in their annual report stated that her organization will be forever grateful to the members of FAWCO for the financial support which allotted them much needed breathing room as a start-up non

profit. Free The Girls now has the time and resources to more fully focus on what they are really about – the women they service through their initiative and they have already witnessed a significant rise in socioeconomic status across all three of their program locations over the past year.

Announcing the results of the Target Program fundraising efforts





FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation Want You to Save the Date
October 7 - 9, 2016

FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation are pleased to announce a jointly sponsored Symposium dedicated to the sustainable rescue of victims of human trafficking to be held October 7-9, 2016. The Symposium will be held at the International Press Club of The Hague. To register go to www.fawco.org/symposium

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Rebranding FAWCO



Announcing the New Look

The team looked at the name and decided that the acronym FAWCO was so well recognized in Washington, at the UN and on projects around the world that we should not change our name and, rather, ensure that we use the acronym in all communications.

The symbol represents our transition from an American focus to a global attitude, with red, white and blue colors on the left sweeping into global colors on the right: a welcoming and open-minded community of international women, embracing everyone who shares our values. It shows that we are dynamic, inspiring, positive, contemporary and engaged. It communicates

that the FAWCO brand is multi-dimensional and outward looking. It represents our organization taking its place on the global stage.



Rebranding TF L-R: Angelika McLarren (AWC Berlin), Mary Adams (AWC The Hague), Angela Anderson (AC Shanghai), Kathleen Simon (AWC Bern), Mary Jane Eckert (AWC London), Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris). Not pictured: Terri Knudsen (AWC Denmark)

The Power of Education at Marrakech Regional

by Dawn Schwartz (AIWC Casablanca)

Region 7 came together in January in Marrakech with a large group in attendance, about 20 from Casablanca, 10 from Rabat, 8 from Marrakesh and three ladies from Dubai. Unfortunately, distance prevented representatives from the other countries in the region, Kenya, Nigeria and Angola from attending.

We were warmly greeted at the City Hall by Sahar Elhallak (Coordinator for Region 7 and AIWA Marrakesh FAWCO Rep) with Renate Al-Sahuri, AIWA Marrakesh President, introducing the delegates. FAWCO President Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon) then gave a presentation describing FAWCO as “a group of enlightened women striving for world peace.” She was followed by Andy Dilbert, Economic Officer at the US Embassy, who discussed what the US is doing in Morocco in the field of education. We then broke out into small groups and discussed topics of interest to our clubs. One of the suggestions made by the FAWCO delegates was that inter-regional webinars should be organized for geographically widespread regions such as ours.

Sallie Chaballier, FAWCO 1st VP Communications (AAWE Paris) presented an overview of organization activity or “FAWCO in a nutshell”, followed by Amale Zniber from Amis des Ecoles, a charity supported by AIWC Casablanca which won a FAWCO Development Grant in 2013. This association helps renovate schools in remote areas, build toilet blocks and supply water fountains and classroom fans. The morning finished off with a fascinating presentation by Maria Sabnet of the Marrakesh Biennale, an important cultural event which will take place from March through to May of this year.



After lunch, Professor Mohamed Larbi Firdawcy introduced us to the Targa Association which focuses on sustainable development, aiming to reduce social and cultural inequality. He was followed by Professor Allal Barroug from ABEED (Association de Bien-Être de l'Enfant Diabétique), who gave a moving description of his fight for the cause of diabetic children in Morocco.

After a short breakout session, Moulay Hassan Aladlouni talked about the Amal Training Center and restaurant. This association, founded in 2012 by an American born and raised in Morocco, was the recipient of a FAWCO Development Grant in 2014 and is dedicated to empowering disadvantaged women through training in traditional and modern cuisine. The afternoon was rounded off by a presentation of The FAWCO Foundation by Cynthia Smith-Ayed.

AC Shanghai Celebrates Club History

by Angela Anderson (AC Shanghai), FAWCO Rep

The American Women's Club Shanghai (AWCS) was formed in 1898, when most of the American women in Shanghai were wives of missionaries, businessmen or diplomats. A few single women were living in the city, most serving as missionaries for Protestant denominations.

Elizabeth Goodnow, the wife of the US Consul General arrived in Shanghai in 1898. Mr. Goodnow was a lawyer from Minneapolis who had assisted in William McKinley's presidential campaign. Shortly after the election, Mr. Goodnow was appointed Consul General to Shanghai. The couple married in 1898 in Yokohama, Japan, during their journey to Shanghai.

Shortly after their arrival, Elizabeth Goodnow held a small meeting in her home and the American Women's Club was created to “promote higher and broader culture – intellectual, social and moral, and to unite more closely the women of the American community in Shanghai.” The club's formation set a precedent and is the oldest known institution of its kind in a foreign country. American women and other international women residing in the treaty ports along China's coast soon followed the example of the Shanghai club and founded similar organizations.

Elizabeth Goodnow Cooper seemed to exemplify the phrase “grow where you are planted.” While living in Miami Beach in 1926, she founded the Miami Beach Women's Club. The area had been devastated by a hurricane and the club's goal was to foster “friendship and community” for the rebuilding cause. In the first meeting of the club, a book drive was held. The collection became the start of the city's library system.

Upon the foundation Mrs. Cooper provided, the American Women's Club Shanghai flourished. The membership of AWCS grew along with the influx of new business development in Shanghai. The club was active from 1898 until after World War II. It was re-established in 1996, when a few members reorganized the American Women's Club Shanghai. Within a year, the



Elizabeth Cooper

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The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization registered in the State of Missouri. Direct donations to The Foundation are tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information please contact: info@fawcofoundation.org.

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 memorial 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 of The FAWCO Foundation" and help us to maintain a strong and healthy philanthropic program.

All the details about our programs and how to donate are on our website. Visit us today at www.fawcofoundation.org.

2016 Development Grant and Education Awards Recipients Announced

By Patti Meek (AWC Dublin), The FAWCO Foundation President

Development Grants

The FAWCO Foundation Development Grants are grouped into four categories, in alignment with FAWCO's four areas of focus: Environment, Education, Health and Human Rights. The 2016 DG ballot contained 20 submissions for eight available grants. The recipients, chosen by FAWCO Member Clubs, were announced at the Interim Meeting in March, with each recipient receiving \$4500.

EDUCATION:**AW OF SURREY HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION**

Recipient: Mentawai Boarding School

Location: Indonesia

Nominating Club: AWG of Languedoc-Roussillon

Parent Organization: N/A

Website: www.ybtiuniversal.org

PAM DAHLGREN EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN

Recipient: Hope Alive Foundation (HAF) – Mary Handley Initiative on Child Health and Education (MHI)

Location: Malawi Nominating Club: AWA of Rome

Parent Organization: N/A

Website: N/A

ENVIRONMENT:**MOTHER EARTH**, sponsored in part by AC Shanghai

Recipient: Solar Powered Showers for Health and Academic Excellence in Northern Ethiopia

Location: Ethiopia

Nominating Club: AWC of Zurich

Parent Organization: Rainbows4children Foundation

Website: www.rainbows4children.org

HEALTH:**CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS**, sponsored in part by Renuka Matthews

Recipient: Eye Surgery and Placement of Prosthetic Eye

Location: Philippines

Nominating Club: AILO of Florence

Parent Organization: Gabriel's Symphony Foundation

Website: www.gabrielsymphony.com

THE COUGHLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT IN SICKNESS & HEALTH

Recipient: Mothers Averting Aids

Location: Republic of South Africa

Nominating Club: AILO of Florence

Parent Organization: Art Aids Art

Website: www.ArtAidsArt.org

HUMAN RIGHTS:**BREAKING THE CYCLE**,

sponsored in part by AWEP and AILO of Florence

Recipient: Growing Guayule To Fight Aids And Provide Bio-Fuel (a/k/a/ Condoms, Cash, and Cooking Fuel)

Location: Republic of South Africa

Nominating Club: AWG of Languedoc-Roussillon

Parent Organization: University of the Western Cape, RSA, in collaboration with The Ohio State University, USA

Website: www.cornishlab.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

FAUSA DISPLACED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Recipient: Casa Ruth and The New Hope Cooperative Project

Location: Italy Nominating Club: AWC of Naples

Parent Organization: Comunità RUT-Suore Orsoline SCM

Website: www.associazionerut.it

SAFE HAVEN

Recipient: Frauen helfen Frauen (Women helping Women)

Location: Germany

Nominating Club: AIWC Frankfurt/Taunus

Parent Organization: N/A

Website: www.frauenhaus-oberursel.de



Representatives from Clubs receiving Development Grants

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 37 applicants for the 2016 Education Awards and the recipients were announced in March at our conference near Frankfurt.

AWG PARIS IT AWARD FOR YOUNG WOMEN \$4,000

Recipient: Sarah Ruegger. Her mother is a member of AWC of Zurich.

SCIENCES AWARD, sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali, and AWC of Zurich \$4,000

Recipient: Aashna Iyer. Her mother is a member of AWC of Mumbai.



Meenakshi Advani displaying one of two Education Awards given to daughters of an AWC of Mumbai member.

HUMANITIES AWARD, sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix \$4,000
 1st Recipient: Adrien Cabantous. His mother is a member of AAWE Paris.
 2nd Recipient: Mallika Iyer. Her mother is a member of AWC of Mumbai.

VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: Alyssa Spaeth. Her mother is a member of AWBS International Women's Club.

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD, sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC of Bern, in memory of Suzanne Erismann \$4,000 Recipient: Alessandro Kalb Cosmo. His mother is a member of AWA of Rome.

FAWCO and FAUSA Member Awards

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

AWC of BASEL AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS, sponsored by Shirley Kearney \$5,000 Recipient: Erin Newby. She is a member of AWG in Paris.

FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: Kelly Snow. She is a member of Chilterns American Women's Club.

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD, in honor of AWA Dubai's 21 years serving the international community of Dubai \$4,000, Recipient: Kathryn Araujo. She is a member of AWG in Paris.

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 women's 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 can be personalized with the name of the honoree(s) and presented to that special person. Simply go to our website and under Donations and How Can I Donate, select the program you wish to support. Please email president@fawcofoundation.org to arrange for a certificate to be created. This is truly the gift that gives! All the details about our programs and how to donate are on our website. Visit us today at www.fawcofoundation.org.

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AC Shanghai Celebrates Club History

membership had grown to over 100. By 2012, membership had reached a high of 800. In 2014, members voted to change the club name to the American Expatriate Club Shanghai (shorted to ACS in common usage). We will celebrate an anniversary of sorts in the fall of 2016, the 20th anniversary of our reorganization after the re-opening of China. Recent decades have brought many changes to Shanghai and to the expatriate population as well. Our club mission remains the same - to assist Americans and international residents in this huge, chaotic and exciting city!



FAWCO Target Program 2016 – 2019 Education – Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills

By Tricia R. Saur, (AIWC Cologne), Target Chair 2016-2019

The Target Program demonstrates the power of FAWCO Member Clubs working together towards a common goal to create change and increase knowledge of the global issues impacting women. The Target Program follows a three-year cycle of issue awareness and education, project selection, fundraising, project monitoring, review and evaluation.

At the FAWCO Interim Meeting in Frankfurt (March 2016), *Education – Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills*, was announced as the overarching theme for the FAWCO Target Program 2016 - 2019.

Over the next three years, we will take a deep dive to learn what matters in girls' education. In our monthly *Blog: Let's Get Schooled* we will explore the issues which prevent millions of women and girls from receiving quality education; become familiar with the goals established by world leaders in education to remedy this injustice; and look at the impact educating women and girls have on their lives, their families, their communities and society.

The Target Project is a way for FAWCO members to make an actionable investment to empower women and girls through knowledge and skills. Through the support of The FAWCO Foundation we will employ the energy and generosity of our Member Clubs by fundraising for a single project supporting women's and girls' education. We will be accepting applications for project proposals through September 30, 2016. A Selection Committee will present a short-list of proposals to Member Clubs to vote on and the winner will be announced at the Biennial Conference in Mumbai, India.



Girls in school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

To follow our *Blog: Let's Get Schooled* please visit the FAWCO website www.fawco.org and click on the Target Program: Education Quick Link. You can also sign up for the Target Program: Education Bulletin to stay up to date on program developments.

At home around the world

Connecting communities around the world and providing a platform for its members to make a meaningful difference, FAWCO is a truly global brand.

When FAWCO asked us to support its rebranding project, we felt honored to apply our international experience to a brand committed to make the world a better place. As specialists in global branding, we helped FAWCO express its authentic heritage and its attitude with a clear positioning, a set of brand values and a new, modern brand design.



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