



THE FORUM

SERVING OVERSEAS AMERICANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1931

Winter 2011

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FAWCO sponsors UN Panel 'Women & the Right to Water'

On Sept 26, 2011, FAWCO had the privilege of sponsoring its first United Nations high level panel in Geneva, during the 18th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) organized by Lois Herman, AWAR member and Women's UN Report Network Director. (Ms. Herman credits FAWCO and its Target Water Program as her inspiration

for creating this first-of-its-kind panel during an HRC session.)

The tone was set by Catarina de Albuquerque, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation:

"The water and sanitation crisis continues unabated with 2.6 billion people lacking sanitation and nearly one billion with no access to a water source...women are the key actors who can lead us to a changed world..."

Panelists included ISIS Int'l, WEDO, MADRE, WECF and the Swiss Red Cross, presented a diverse portfolio of initiatives based on the same fundamental understanding: the

burden of water procurement lies almost entirely on women. This task marginalizes women, presents health risks and exposure to violence. For women in particular, access to water and sanitation poses an additional dimension because of menstrual hygiene needs. All recognized that while women are responsible for water procurement, they are often excluded from decision-making on this issue.

Lois Herman ended the panel with a dramatic presentation of the faces of women and girls around the world impacted by water shortages. She quoted UN conventions protecting women's human rights and stressed that while civil society has played a prominent role in this effort, we must continue to keep a pulse on developments. The "Women & the Right to Water" Panel was the first panel during an HRC session to bring attention to the disproportionate impact the issue of water and sanitation has on women and girls, as well as, the valuable role that women can play in finding solutions and a way forward.

We look forward to the acknowledgment of this gender dimension of the 'human right to water and sanitation' during a future HRC session and inclusion of text promoting and protecting the rights of women in this regard.

— Sara von Moos, UN Rep



Sara von Moos (FAWCO UN Rep), Michele Wirt (FAWCO 1st VP), Lois Herman (AWA Rome, WURN, organizer of Panel) and Kathleen Simon (FAWCO UN Rep and Counselor)

By Michelle Jackson, FAWCO UN Rep

UN's 64th annual conference for NGOs "Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens"

In September, the United Nations held its 64th annual conference in Bonn, Germany for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with the Department of Public Information. This year's theme was "Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens". The conference coincided with the 10th anniversary of the UN "International Year of Volunteers" as well as the "European Year of Volunteers". Over 1500 people attended, representing NGOs from 70 countries. In his opening speech, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, stated that "voluntary action is one of the highest expressions of our common humanity..."

The three-day event featured workshops like "Volunteering for a Sustainable Future" (with speakers from United Nations Volunteers, the European Parliament and the International Federation of the

Red Cross and Red Crescent) promoting the values of volunteering and the further development of volunteerism. In order to really put volunteerism on the international agenda, it is vital to measure the true economic benefits of volunteering, emphasizing that "volunteering needs to move center stage in this debate, instead of being seen as just an add-on". The workshop discussed new forms of volunteering (such as online volunteering).

As an all volunteer NGO organization, FAWCO has always recognized and encouraged its members to be active participants in their local communities, as well as important UN conferences such as this one. For further information about the conference and its final declaration related to the upcoming UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio in 2012 go to www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference.

Wangari Maathai 1940-2011

The world recently lost an amazing woman, Wangari Maathai. Born in rural Kenya, she was the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work on the environment and women's rights. She founded the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya in 1977 organizing local women to plant trees to reinvigorate the environment ravaged by generations of war, drought and scavenging, a movement which eventually spanned several countries, and later spearheaded the UN Billion Tree Campaign.

In 2010, Louise Greeley Copley, President of FAUSA (left) and Pam Perraud, FAWCO NGO Director (right) had the privilege to meet with Wangari Maathai (center) in Houston. For a video about her work, "Taking Root", go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5GX6JktJZg



Girl Up Program: UN's focus on adolescent girls

Studies have shown that the single most important investment developing countries can make is investing in the health, education and the well-being of adolescent girls, but sadly in many developing countries young girls do not attend school, are married off at 14 and bear multiple children before the age of 18.

The United Nations Foundation is the sponsor of the "Girl Up Program" encouraging adolescent girls from developed countries to channel their energies towards UN programs which directly aid adolescent girls in developing countries (such as Malawi, Guatemala, Ethiopia and Liberia) by providing school supplies, clean water, health services and safety from violence. The program encourages girls to form clubs and promote the "High Five" program on social media websites.

Other organizations such as the Nike Foundation (www.nikefoundation.org) are also working as part of the Coalition for Adolescent Girls (www.coalitionforadolescentgirls.org) to encourage investment in young girls.

By Lucy Laederich, FAWCO U.S. Liaison

All not quiet on the Western front

The outlook is gloomy for the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE), which protects many overseas Americans against double taxation on income earned abroad (though not on income from other sources like pensions and dividends). Perceived by some in Congress as a “tax break”, forgetting as they do that this income has already been taxed in the countries where it was earned ¹, it holds a special attraction for lawmakers looking for untapped revenue streams. Because the fate of the FEIE will probably be decided between the time of writing this article and its publication, we simply remind readers of the importance of the FEIE in maintaining the competitiveness of American businesses overseas and recommend monitoring the issue and making legislators aware of the dangers of making Americans far more expensive to employ than equally qualified foreign nationals².

At the same time, recent legislation (see article in the summer 2011 Forum) is having the unintended effect of depriving overseas Americans of access to financial services 1) in the United States, where banks are closing accounts of clients with foreign addresses, and 2) abroad, where extremely extensive reporting requirements are prompting many banks to refuse to comply with new IRS rules and simply to close the accounts of American clients.

All “U.S. persons” (citizens including dual nationals, green card holders, and even some people without American passports) should be aware:

Beginning in 2012, they will have to submit a new **Form 8938** to the IRS *with their tax form* reporting on their financial assets abroad. This form does not replace the traditional Foreign Bank Account Report (FBAR) submitted to the Treasury Department in June. The information required is more extensive; the reporting thresholds are different; the obligation is the same and the penalties for non-filing range from high, for Form 8938, to prohibitive for the FBAR. FAWCO always advises consulting a tax professional and strongly urges readers to make certain they comply with *both obligations*.

Beginning in January 2014, foreign financial institutions will be required under the **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)** to have entered into a reporting agreement with the IRS to identify and report annually on all clients who are U.S. persons, or be charged a 30% withholding tax on all U.S. source international transfers. Many banks say they will be unable, or cannot afford, to comply; unwilling to lose 30% of all income on U.S. investments, they will either divest themselves of those investments, seriously draining the American economy, or close the accounts of “U.S. persons”. FAWCO is working to inform legislators of the potentially disastrous consequences of both of those possibilities and urges readers to monitor the FAWCO website for any news of “Stop FATCA” mobilization³.

But there’s a bright side despite the contentious climate in Washington, the Americans Abroad Caucus formed in 2007 is alive and well, with 26 members from both parties. If you don’t see the name of your legislator below, you should write and ask him or her to join this group of people who, by joining the caucus, are making clear they understand and are sympathetic to the special concerns of overseas Americans.

We owe thanks to Americans Abroad Caucus members

Maloney, Carolyn, Chair	D-NY	Honda, Michael	D-CA
Capuano, Michael	D-MA	Holt, Rush	D-NJ
Carson, Andre	D-IN	McGovern, James	D-MA
Christensen, Donna	D-VI	Moran, Jim	D-VA
Clyburn, Jim	D-SC	Meeks, Gregory	D-NY
Cohen, Steve	D-TN	Payne, Donald	D-NJ
Conaway, Michael	R-TX	Sablan, Gregorio	I-MP
Connolly, Gerald	D-VA	Sanchez, Loretta	D-CA
Davis, Susan	D-CA	Schakowsky, Janice	D-IL
Doyle, Mike	D-PA	Van Hollen, Chris	D-MD
Gonzalez, Charles	D-TX	Waxman, Henry	D-CA
Granger, Kay	R-TX	Wilson, Joe	R-SC
Hastings, Alcee	D-FL	Wolf, Frank	R-VA

Finally, in the domain where the most positive changes have taken place, the news is good regarding both **federal and state elections**.

Increasing numbers of states continue to take steps to comply with the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act passed in 2009, making voting easier for overseas voters: many have changed their primary dates in order to be able to send ballots out by the 45-day deadline, many now allow electronic transmission of ballot materials, and many have tools to inform overseas voters of the progress of their ballot (request received, ballot sent out, ballot received, ballot counted). (Note that since MOVE, overseas voters are required to register/request ballots *for each election* – some states are interpreting this to mean “every election”, some “every election cycle”; whatever the case, *voters should register and request their ballots at the very beginning of the calendar year, specifying that they want materials for every election in the year*).

Parallel to this, the Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act (UMOVA) drawn up by the Uniform Law Commission has been adopted by six states and introduced in at least one House of another seven. UMOVA takes to state level the protections offered by UOCAVA⁴ and MOVE and in some cases, goes even farther: it completely eliminates witness requirements and allows young Americans born abroad and not yet domiciled in the United States to vote at the address of their eligible U.S. citizen parent(s)⁵.

Where the news is bad, it proves how poorly overseas Americans are understood by their legislators. And this is why the good news is so important: the existence of the Americans Abroad Caucus and the ability of growing numbers of Americans abroad to vote for their representatives and be surer than before that their votes will be counted.

¹ The U.S. is the only industrialized nation to tax its citizens on their worldwide income.

² In the late Seventies, when the FEIE was eliminated for a time, thousands of Americans, the best advocates for U.S. goods and services, had to leave their jobs overseas and return home.

³ FAWCO has signed on to the “Stop FATCA” coalition initiated by its longstanding partner ACA, American Citizens Abroad, www.aca.ch

⁴ Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which governs voting abroad

⁵ Previously, only 18 states explicitly allowed this.

By Anne van Oorschot - Target Water Program Chair

FAWCO's Target Program... Changing the Flow in Cambodia



It has already been two years since FAWCO launched the Target Program to engage members from around the world to support the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goal was, and is, a focused strategy of education and project fundraising to help highlight one global issue to assist in attaining the MDGs.

Perhaps it is the time to stress why the Target Program is so important for FAWCO. FAWCO is a UN registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues at the UN. This status gives FAWCO the privilege and the opportunity to submit a report every four years detailing its activities in support of the UN. In order to maintain this exclusive status (less than 10% of NGOs have this status), FAWCO needs to show our commitment in supporting the MDGs. The Target Program is not only a way for FAWCO to focus the efforts of clubs on one issue, but a great way to illustrate our commitment to a UN MDG.

FAWCO clubs around the world have embraced the Target Program and have gotten water on their club's agenda. Not only are clubs and individuals fundraising, they are also becoming more aware of water as a finite resource and learning to make better choices about how we use it. Less is better!

This year will be our first full year of fund-raising for our chosen project, Wells for Clean Water, administered by the Tabitha Foundation in Cambodia. In honor of FAWCO's 80th anniversary, we have set our goal at \$80,000 and are well on our way. As of November, 2011, we have raised over \$50,000.



Anne van Oorschot, Target Program Chair, presenting the Target Program



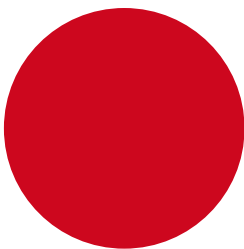
Individual and club fund-raising have taken on a variety of fun and inventiveness: a soup tasting fund-raiser; the creation of a water photography book with photos submitted by members; an art show & reception; “Well Certificates” which can be purchased and given as gifts by club members; a vintage handbag auction with proceeds going to the Target Program; a Mediterranean cruise with “water activities” to raise money; meeting a challenge grant donated to a club by an American Environmental organization....and too many more to mention here.

The FAWCO Foundation (the Philanthropic arm of our organization) has developed a fresh new set of ideas to help clubs in their endeavors. The *Well Deserved*

Desserts Campaign has a wealth of ideas and materials to arrange everything from a bake-less Bake Sale to a chocolate fondue party – have fun, as well as a truly delicious time raising money for water!

Not only are clubs and individuals fundraising, they are also becoming more aware of water as a finite resource and learning to make better choices about how we use it. Less is better!

Japan Disaster Relief



FAWCO is pleased to announce our contribution of \$5,430.41 to disaster relief activities in the Tohoku area severely hit by Japan’s great earthquake.

Our deepest appreciation go to two member clubs - The American International Club of Cologne and the American Women’s Club of Brussels, in association with the International Study Group (ISG).

We would also like to thank the individual donors: Elizabeth Abbot, Beth Arena, Kathey Carreiro, Linda Clouse, Elizabeth Hemminger, Carol Kamphuis, My-Linh Kunst, Lucy Laederich, Lissette Macfarlane, and Juliane Maggi.

Relative to FAWCO’s past efforts, contributions to ERFJapan were modest; however, we have chosen a beneficiary organization, Second Harvest Japan (the first food bank in Japan), where even our small donation is very much needed to continue their work. www.2hj.org

By My-Linh Kunst



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

There are an estimated 10-30 million slaves in the world today - most of whom are women and children. Modern Day Slavery (MDS) occurs when one person controls another, using violence or the threat of violence to maintain that control, exploiting them economically. (CNN Freedom Project).

- Globally, up to 60% of women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Domestic Violence: A World Health Organization study of 24,000 women in 10 countries found that 30-60% experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner.
- Femicide: In the US, 1/3 of murdered women are killed by an intimate partner; UN Population Fund estimates ca. 5,000 women are murdered in honor killings each year globally.
- Human Trafficking: 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year (some estimates go as high 2,5 to 4 million). 70% of those are women, as high as 50% are children, with the majority (79%) trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- Sexual violence: Globally, an estimated 150 million girls under 18 suffers some form of sexual violence annually.
- Female Genital Mutilation: Approximately 100-140 million women have experienced female genital mutilation, with more than 3 million girls in **Africa** at risk annually (from UN Women, facts & figures on Violence Against Women).

FAWCO's Approach:

Tackling this problem requires a 3-pronged approach: Prevention, Prosecution, Protection. FAWCO has initiatives in each of the steps:

- **PREVENTION:** Recognize that the problem exists. At-risk individuals need to be educated and supported; governments need to figure out ways to curb demand. We need to learn to identify violence and slavery in our local communities. FAWCO's Ending Violence Against Women and Children Taskforce (EVAWAC) focuses on prevention through education with a primary mission to raise FAWCO global community awareness and mobilize individuals and clubs to take local actions.

Bulletins from Task Force Co-Chairs Tonya Teichert and Karen Lewis's discuss latest issues and

highlight global, as well as member club initiatives (subscribe to the bulletin at fawco.org, Member Services, Communication, Subscriptions). Tonya gave an impassioned presentation on Gender Violence at FAWCO's Biennial Conference in Marrakech (2011). Judging from the energy in the room, it is obvious that Tonya touched a nerve (see Tonya's Heel the Soul presentation on fawco.org, Global Issues, Ending Violence). At FAWCO's next interim Conference in Dublin (2012), the Task Force will host a panel on "Stop the Violence: Ireland".

- **PROSECUTION:** Governments need to recognize the severity of violent crimes against women and children. For example, sex trafficking, more lucrative than arms or drugs trafficking, it is often lightly prosecuted as a prostitution violation.

FAWCO's approach has been at the UN level, including petitioning the US each year to ratify CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) - a UN treaty that serves as an international bill of rights for women. (The US is one of 5 countries in the world who has not ratified this treaty, along with Sudan, Somalia, Iran and Tonga.)

- **PROTECTION:** On a global level, FAWCO works in partnership with American Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center (AODVC) proactively identifying victims and providing shelter and reintegration into society. Founded by FAWCO member Paula Lucas, AODVC is set up to help victims of domestic violence, specifically Americans living overseas. Through our member clubs, FAWCO's EVAWAC Task Force has worked with AODVC to organize outreach ambassador training sessions throughout the world.

What can you do? I have heard people say "... it's age-old, it happens in uncivilized places, it doesn't affect anyone I know, what can I do about it...?" There is a lot you can do - from spotting that girl enslaved in your local restaurant, to supporting a local women's shelter or participate in a global campaign. Become an ambassador for AODVC, write to your member of Congress and subscribe to EVAWAC's bulletins.

We hope you will join FAWCO in the fight to STOP THE VIOLENCE! Write to endingviolence@fawco.org for more information and copies of resource material.

- *My-Linh Kunst, FAWCO president, co-founded FAWCO's Ending Violence Against Women and Children Task Force in 2007.*

MESSAGE FROM FAWCO'S PRESIDENT

The what, how and WHY... of FAWCO

In a recent speech by Simon Sinek (an author best known for developing “The Golden Circle” and popularizing a concept of human motivation), he explained how organizations are usually good at explaining WHAT they do and HOW they do it, but rarely do they communicate WHY. I immediately thought of FAWCO.

We are good at explaining WHAT we are (a UN NGO with ECOSOC status, an international network of independent volunteer clubs and associations with 75+ member clubs in 40 countries worldwide and a total membership in excess of 15,000), WHAT we do (Member Services, Philanthropy, Global Issues and US Issues) and HOW we do it (with Task Forces, Committees, Target Project, Development Grants, etc.). But we don't talk about the WHY.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, I reflect on FAWCO's Founder Caroline Curtis Brown's original purpose for her Federation: to have an association of American women's clubs to work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve common problems, and to aid women whose citizenship rights were being ignored or restricted.

I attended my first FAWCO conference in 2007 and immediately caught the so-called “FAWCO Fever”. Why was I so energized during that first conference that I immediately volunteered to do a year-long book project on FAWCO, co-founding a task force and eventually joining the Board? It was simple! It was the positive female energy. I was inspired by being in a room with motivated, intelligent, and powerful WOMEN who care about the world we live in and who are trying to make a difference.

THAT is why I joined FAWCO. FAWCO gives me the powerful voices of 15,000 (with the energy needed) to change the world, particularly to improve the lives of women, and make a difference. We dig wells to give our girls more time for school, our women less hardship. We learn how to educate our children. We talk about maternal health. We fight to eradicate violence. We remind Congress the new banking regulations are particularly challenging for American women living overseas. Why? Because we want to make a difference, particularly for our sisters around the world.

I would like to thank all FAWCO volunteers, past and present, who have given so much of their time and talent. In the last 80 years, FAWCO has made a difference, large and small, and it is thanks to all of you, who believe in our WHY.

— My-Linh Kunst, FAWCO President



FAWCO'S INTERIM CONFERENCE

Scheduled to be held in Dublin, Ireland in March 2012, in Irish tradition, the conference theme is “A Hundred Thousand Welcomes”, as FAWCO welcomes delegates from around the world.

In addition to annual general meeting reports on all facets of FAWCO business, delegates will hear from speakers on a variety of global and club-level issues. The FAWCO Foundation will have its BoD election, announce education awards winners and development grants recipients, and conduct its annual silent auction charity evening. The FAWCO Target Water Project will be celebrated with a photography exhibit of “Water – Changing the Flow...” (a fundraising project from AWC Dublin) and an exhibition of Sunny Eades' Water paintings.

The evenings promise to be spectacular with an Irish Shindig and dinner at the Dublin Castle, and pre- and post-conference tours will share the most beautiful sites of Ireland. Registrations are now open on the FAWCO website (www.fawco.org).

Please contact conference2012@fawco.org for inquiries.

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Elizabeth Kelly led a Sharing Cultures Workshop.

Region 2: Greenification in Malmo

"Women in the World Going Green" was the theme of the FAWCO Region 2 Regional Meeting held September 2-4 in Malmo, Sweden. Hosted by AWC Malmo, the regional was attended by representatives from clubs in Gothenburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Antwerp, Rome, Berlin, Munich and Dublin. The FAWCO Board was represented by President, My-Linh Kunst and Elizabeth Abbot, 2nd VP Members Clubs.

Saturday morning activities included an introduction to FAWCO by Elizabeth Abbot; a Water Task Force presentation by Kara Fairchild, Environmental Task Force Co-Chair, and a Sharing Cultures Workshop by Elizabeth Kelly, Chair of the same named Task Force. After lunch, the meeting continued with a "Green IKEA" presentation, "Sustainable Beds" by DUX and "Think Globally, Act Locally: "Greenify your home life" presentation by Laurie Holm, AWC Malmo.

After coffee and a Zumba energy break, Lucy Laederich, FAWCO U.S Liaison, gave a US tax and banking update; FAWCO Foundation Secretary, Terri Knudsen, updated participantson foundation activities and Voting Overseas Information was presented by Mary Stewart Burgher, Voting Committee Co-Chair The meeting ended with clubs submitting their "Best Practices" for the FAWCO Best Practice Library. – *Terri Knudsen, Region 2 Coordinator*



Elsie Bose (center) assisted Region 4 in their Triple Tiered Treats fundraiser for FAWCO's Target Program.

Region 4: Laptops & Desserts in Brussels

Hosted by AWC Brussels, twenty women attended the Region 4 meetingon October 7-8, including representatives from AWC Brussels, AWC Antwerp, AWC Luxembourg, AWC The Hague, AWC Amsterdam and clubs as far away as Rome and Paris. Participants were welcomed on Friday evening with an opening dinner based on recipes from the AWC's cookbook "From Apple Pie to Waterzooi".

On Saturday morning we got down to business, with Elizabeth Abbot, FAWCO 2nd VP, providing an overview of FAWCO and Anne van Oorschot updating us on the Target Program and the Tabitha "Wells for Clean Water" project. In keeping with FAWCO's Target Project, Elsie Bose from AWG Paris demonstrated the "Well Deserved Desserts" fundraiser and immediatelyraised160 euros to contribute to the Target Program. To break up the morning, participants enjoyed a session by Peter Stevens of Pelugi – a diamond and jewelry business in Antwerp.

Later that day, a representative from the "One Laptop Per Child" project talked to us about their mission to provide laptops to children in impoverished areas of the world and how such a small effort could make such an impact educating children and communities. Our program followed with a presentation from Boston University Brussels on a customized four-session program designed for AWC Brussels members on "How to Start a Small Business", followed by a talk on Leadership.

To end the day, each club prepared a presentation their club's best practice that they shared for the group. – *Elizabeth Kennedy, Region 4 Coordinator*



Region 3 taking a well-deserved break from their workshop sessions in Sete.

Region 3: Speakers and Sun in the South of France

The American Women's Group of Languedoc-Roussillon (AWG-LR) hosted a mid-week retreat September 28-30. In attendance, along with the warm weather and sun, were FAWCO guest speakers, officers and reps from AAWE Paris and AWG Paris.

Beginning with a "Soirée Sètoise" at the home of Linda Laval, FAWCO Region 3 Coordinator, in a relaxed atmosphere featuring local cuisine (oysters, olive tapenade, mussels, stuffed squid...) attendees did not hesitate to get acquainted and share club experiences.

The next day featured three fantastic FAWCO guest speakers: Elizabeth Abbot (AWA Rome), FAWCO 2nd VP, shared FAWCO's club vision for the future; Anne van Oorschot (AWC The Hague), Target Water Program Chair, explained the Water Project goals and gave a practical demonstration illustrating the earth's actual water composition. To close our morning session, Lucy Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO US Liaison, discussed "hot" taxation issues for overseas Americans. After a light lunch, attendees left for a sunny afternoon in Sète, the "little Venice of the Languedoc Roussillon".

– *Linda Laval (Region 3 Coordinator) AWG Languedoc-Roussillon*
– *Kim Mousseron (President) AWG Languedoc-Roussillon*

Region 5: Region 5 Rocks in Berlin!

All eight clubs in Region 5 participated in this year's regional, with the AWC Berlin hosting a perfect program in Berlin's Hollywood Media Hotel (almost next door to the center city's Hard Rock Café). Reason enough to choose topics that "rock" U.S. expat life.

A key topic was "Understanding US-German Cross Border Tax and Banking Issues plus Estate Planning". Margaret Spethmann (AWC Hamburg) presented information collected in her long term research and provided detailed documentation on this issue. Cat Connor (AWC Hamburg), FAWCO's web manager, answered questions on website technology and security issues.

To close the first day's sessions, AWC Berlin invited us to celebrate its 80th birthday. Here in Berlin, also 80 years ago, FAWCO's formation took place. A birthday cake was waiting for us at the Ronald McDonald House (a philanthropic project which AWC Berlin has sponsored for several years).

Detailed work on the club reports took place the next morning. Each club had prepared reports on Club Profiles, Best Practices and Issues and Concerns, ahead of the meeting. 2nd VP Elizabeth Abbot explained FAWCO's plans to share the clubs' profile data and best practices on the FAWCO Website to be available to clubs world wide.

Moderated by Susanne Hirschberg (AWC Duesseldorf), the clubs exchanged experiences, ideas and recommendations. The Best Practices were grouped into five categories: membership, club management, communication, external PR and fund-raising. Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg) summarized the results available to all clubs.

Special highlights of the weekend were Angelika McLaren's tour of the city, the wonderful "Concert for Cambodia" piano concert by AIWC's Cologne's Robin Goldsby and a visit to the Berlin opera house for a performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Candide". Region 5 thanks Angelika McLaren and her team for a professional and wonderful meeting!

– *Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann*
FAWCO Region 5 Coordinator



Region 5 intent on understanding topics of importance to expats such as U.S –German tax and banking issues.



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Since 1961 – AAWE Paris!



Founding Member Phyllis Michaux, with current AAWE President Wendy Leyland, summarized AAWE's accomplishments over the past 50 years.

FAWCO had the privilege of attending the first AAWE 50th Anniversary celebration in Paris. Susan Tolson, wife of US Ambassador to France, gave opening remarks. Then Phyllis Michaux, one of the club's founding members (who was awarded the FAWCO Foundation's Carol Buswell Stensland Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership in 1999 and Special FAWCO Fellowship Award in 2007) spoke eloquently about the club's history.

AAWE, who joined FAWCO in 1965, has given us three past FAWCO presidents: Gertrude de Gallaix (later president of The FAWCO Foundation), Sonja Minçbere and Lucy Laederich (currently FAWCO U.S. Liaison); two Circle of Honor award winners Pam Perraud and Alice Grevet (who, with education award winner Dianne Henning, made invaluable contributions to the FAWCO website); Nan de Laubadère (former Presidents' and Region 3 Coordinator and winner of the FAWCO Rep of the Year award in 2010); Sallie Chaballier, FAWCO 3rd VP in 2010, FAWCO Citizenship Advisor Kathleen de Carbuccia; and 15 past Education Award winners.

Over five decades, many more valued FAWCO volunteers have all come from AAWE, including the Forum's current editors, Kristina Didouan and Missy Leiby. — My-Linh Kunst, FAWCO President

AIWCC – 50 years serving the English-speaking community of Cologne

In March 2011, AIWCC members crossed the Rhine to celebrate five decades of providing cultural and social interaction and support to our members and their families, as well as promoting friendships within the local English-speaking community.

AIWCC joined FAWCO in 1970 and has received several education awards and development grants. In return, the club sponsored the "Right to Food and Water" development grant this year in support FAWCO's Target Program. AIWCC's member Robin Goldsby and Amy Antin also composed the beautiful song "Close to Home" for FAWCO 80th Anniversary.



Some 90 AIWCC members joined for a high tea celebration at Bergisch Gladbach.



Kathleen Simon (FAWCO President 2009-2011, left) and Betsy Greene (AWC Zurich President, right) posed with AWC Zurich ex-presidents.

An 80th Birthday for AWC Zurich

The AWC Zurich celebrated their 80th birthday in style with an Academy Award-themed celebration Gala. The event was attended by more than 150 members and guests. Fun festivities included members dressed as Hollywood look-alikes.

The AWCZ is one of the original nine clubs which founded FAWCO 80 years ago, and is one of two that have been in continuous operation since then. The AWCZ was joined in their festivities by FAWCO 2009-11 President Kathleen Simon and Parliamentarian Lucy Laederich. The Gala raised \$23,000 for Biovision, one of the Club charities.

AWC Taunus celebrates their 40th

The American Women's Club of the Taunus celebrated its 40th anniversary with year-long celebrations starting on January 27, 2011. 2009-2011 FAWCO President Kathleen Simon was invited to share the celebration and joined speakers including the Oberursel Mayor, Buergermeister Hans-Georg Brum; US Consul General Edward Alford; AWCT President Elaine Kuether, and the British Club of the Taunus Vice-President Trish Breyer (pictured below).



AWC Taunus also announced donations of 3,000 euros to two local charities. Over four decades, the AWCT has donated hundreds of thousands of euros to dozens of charities in the Main-Taunus region and beyond.

More than 630 guests attended and an award was given to the Club's longest-standing member, followed by a special presentation highlighting the milestones in Germany, the world and the lives of international women since the Club's inception.

Welcome to FAWCO's new Clubs

FAWCO welcomes three new clubs in 2011:

Shortly after they founded the Augsburg International Women's Association (AIWA), some of board members attended FAWCO's regional meeting in Munich and caught the FAWCO fever, joining just a few months later. AIWA promotes social and cultural exchange and membership is open to all nationalities.

AIWA Marrakesh was welcomed as FAWCO's newest club at the FAWCO Conference in Marrakesh in March. The club President, Bouchra Bouamama, introduced the club to the FAWCO delegates. FAWCO's 75th club was just incorporated in January 2011 and has 18 members. Their purpose is to promote friendship, unite English speaking women and provide material and financial assistance to local charities. Bouchra and the membership believe it is important "to do more for the world than the world does for you".

St. John's Wood Women's Club (SJWWC) is a social and civic non-profit organization that promotes friendship and fellowship through its many activities and social events dedicated to enhancing the "London Experience". Beginning with 14 women in 1978, they have since grown to more than 450 dynamic members. SJWWC is predominantly an expatriate club, although many members are permanent residents in the UK. Most members live in the northern sector of London.

Welcome to the FAWCO family!

2011 Club Anniversaries

AWC Aarhus	20th Anniversary Celebration event on August 20
AWG Languedoc-Roussillon	25th Anniversary event on May 28
AWC Taunus	40th Anniversary Celebration event on January 27
AIWC Cologne	50th Anniversary Celebration event of March 22
AAWE Paris	50th Anniversary Celebration event on April 28
AWC Berlin	80th Anniversary Celebration event on November 12
AWC Melbourne	80th Anniversary Celebration event on June 17
AWC Zurich	80th Anniversary Celebration event on January 28

2012 Anniversaries

Region 1

American Women of Berkshire and Surrey
1982-2012 (30 years)
Chiltern American Women's Club
1987-2012 (25 years)
American Women's Club of Dublin
1972-2012 (40 years)
Association of American Women in Ireland
1992-2012 (20 years)

Region 2

American Women's Club of Malmö
1997-2012 (15 years)

Region 3

American Club of Lyon
1987-2012 (25 years)
American Women's Group in Paris
1947-2012 (65 years)

Region 4

American Women's Club of Amsterdam
1927-2012 (85 years)

Region 6

American Women's Club of Basel
1947-2012 (65 years)

Region 7

American International Women's Club of Casablanca
1962-2012 (50 years)
American International Women's Association of Rabat
1962-2012 (50 years)

Region 8

American International Women's Club of Genoa
1957-2012 (55 years)
The Benvenuto Club of Milan
1967-2012 (45 years)

Region 10

American Women's Club of Bogotá
1947-2012 (65 years)

Region 11

American Women's Club of Auckland
1942-2012 (70 years)

FAWCO Foundation “cruises” past the halfway mark for our FAWCO Target Water Project Goal!

Ann DeSimoni, VP of Fundraising, has spent the last year organizing the “Cruise for Cambodia” which set sail September 30th. All 58 FAWCO members and guests (from 12 FAWCO Clubs and 13 countries) had a wonderful time while raising money for Tabitha, Wells for Clean Water. Ann had surprises for all around every corner. A “blue bingo”, a silent auction and generous donations raised a total of over \$8,000.



We also had water awareness through a Tabitha workshop given by Chiltern’s member Maureen Rice, a water quiz created by FAWCO Environment Chair Kara Fairchild and a “walk for awareness” around the ship’s jogging track. Thank you to Ann, our sponsors and participants for making it such a success. Go to www.fawcofoundation.org for photos

and sponsor information.

We realize most clubs won’t be running a cruise to support the FAWCO Target Water Project so that is why The Foundation provides you with everything you need to get involved in our “Well Deserved Desserts” campaign!

This is Not Your Mother’s Bake Sale!

NEEEDs

(Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Developpement)

We have sent another \$5,000 donation to NEEED, a non-profit, NGO run by Friends of Burkina Faso, to provide further education to young women there. We are helping them obtain a certificate for either primary school teacher, nurse or advance nurse (including midwifery). Generous FAWCO donors already have several girls into their second year and they are all doing very well. This year, donations in memory of Pam Dahlgren will continue the tradition.



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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.

Development Grants and the Education Awards

The FAWCO Foundation Developments Grants fund projects that can make an immediate impact on the people that they support. FAWCO Member organizations have been aiding worthy and reputable charitable projects throughout the world through The Foundation for over 40 years. Since the beginning of the program, The Foundation has awarded over \$220,000 to nearly 80 projects in 72 countries.

These grants and awards are the signature programs of The FAWCO Foundation. Guidelines and applications are available on the Foundation website: www.fawcofoundation.org. The deadline for submitting applications is January 20, 2012. The recipients will be announced at the FAWCO Conference in Dublin in March. Kelly Al Nashri of The American Women of The Eastern Province is the Administrator of The Development Grant Program; Suzanne Wheeler of The AWC Brussels is the Administrator of the Education Awards Program.

2012 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (\$4,500 each):

Critical Health Concerns in memory of Charlton Eric Burns, sponsored in part by Arline and Charles Coward – The Right to Food and Water (projects that address the basic needs of a community by providing water, food or shelter) – **Pam Dahlgren Educating Africa’s Children** (promoting literacy and support for academic studies for disadvantaged children in Africa) – **AW of Surrey Hope Thought Education** (promoting literacy and support for academic studies for disadvantaged children in non-African countries) – **American Women of the Eastern Province Skills For Life sponsored in part by the AILO Florence** (projects provide vocational training, teach practical skills and promote social entrepreneurial initiatives for at-risk/marginalized population groups) – **Around the Corner, A World Away** (projects addressing critical problems of violence, food and shelter, healthcare, education or cultural understanding in a FAWCO Member Club’s host country) – **Coughlan Family Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis** (projects halting and reversing the spread HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, a UN Millennium Goal, through education, prevention, or treatment).

2012 EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

The FAWCO Foundation Education Awards Program has long recognized academic achievement in leadership, extracurricular and non-academic activities of children of, as well as the FAWCO members themselves. The 2012 Awards Program will also include the children and members of FAUSA. FAUSA is generously funding The Members Skills Enhancement Award for 2012.

Foundation Academic Awards (\$3,000 each) are open to the children of FAWCO and FAUSA members in the following categories:

Arts Award (study in the performing and visual arts, architecture and graphic arts) – **Sciences Award sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali** (study of scientific subjects, mathematics, medicine, engineering, environmental studies, computer science, economics, business administration, etc.) – **Humanities Award** (study in the field of education, law, social studies, history, languages, etc.)

The Dual Cultural Award (\$1,500) (in memory of Suzanne Erissman) sponsored in part by Donna Erissman and AWC Bern:

Open to children and grandchildren of FAWCO Club members only. One parent must be American and the other a different nationality. Established to enable bi-cultural high school students to become better acquainted with their American culture and education, the award may be used to attend a semester of American high school or an academic or structured educational summer program in the United States.

THE FAWCO AND FAUSA MEMBERS AWARDS

Open to members of FAWCO Clubs and of FAUSA (except current or proposed members of the boards of FAWCO, The Foundation and FAUSA)

AWC Basel Award for University Degree Study Programs sponsored by Shirley Kearney (\$5,000) (award is for continuing or resuming studies in an undergraduate or graduate level university degree program. The candidate may be of any nationality and may study in any country.)

FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award (\$3,000) (award is for acquiring new skills or enhancing already existing ones. The candidate may be of any nationality and study in any country.)