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Celebrating 20 Years of FAWCO Engagement at the UN

by UN Liaison Laurie Richardson, AWA Vienna

"We are citizens of the world." August 2017 marked 20 years since FAWCO was granted Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and a voice at the global level with the UN and UN-accredited international NGOs. Advocacy at the UN gives FAWCO the opportunity to influence global decision-makers.

FAWCO's UN program began in 1993, when President Barbara Johnson suggested that FAWCO apply for accreditation with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), pursuing this goal with 1st Vice President Peggy Rigaud. On June 15, 1995, FAWCO was approved for association with the UN DPI. In September 1995, seven FAWCO delegates attended the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing: Helen Hootsmans (AWC Amsterdam), Lois Pott (AWC The Hague), Becky Tan (AWC Hamburg), Donna Sebt (AWC Casablanca), Jeanne Schapp (AWC London), Leslie Fiac (AWC The Taunus), and Peggy Rigaud (AWG Languedoc-Roussillon). The Beijing conference, so critical to the women's rights movement with the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, became the stimulus for increasing FAWCO's UN involvement, leading FAWCO to apply for consultative status with ECOSOC.



FAWCO Forum ECOSOC November 1997

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the President

by Sallie Chaballier, AAWF Paris, FAWCO President 2017-2019

"It's who we are and what we do." As I reflect on 2017, I realize what a banner year it has been for FAWCO. As you'll read in this issue of *The FORUM*, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of FAWCO receiving consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations. Our UN Team is more active than ever, coordinating with the ever-thriving Global Issues Teams. Our new Target Project, Hope Beyond Displacement, is off to a strong start and a delegation of FAWCO members will visit the Collateral Repair Project in Amman, Jordan next spring. The new Advancement Committee is looking at ways FAWCO can expand and diversify its revenue streams, as well as the possibility of applying for grants. The Youth Program is exploring new projects. Last year, we inaugurated a successful new quarterly online magazine, *Inspiring Women*, and more. We have so much to be proud of.

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Celebrating 20 Years of FAWCO Engagement at the UN

Looking back on 1997, at the March 2012 FAWCO conference in Dublin, President My-Linh Kunst awarded the Circle of Honor Award to Peggy Rigaud, saying, "... Wishing to strengthen FAWCO's position in the global community, Peggy shepherded FAWCO through the process that led to FAWCO's receiving Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC in 1997." In her acceptance of the award, Peggy Rigaud noted the extent to which we have become increasingly aware of how powerful we can be and of how our work can influence the world scene, "...We are citizens of the world. FAWCO has had many big moments and turning points; this was definitely one of them."

Today, FAWCO UN Representatives are found in leadership roles on NGO Committees on the Status of Women and the NGO Committee on Migration, and collaborate with NGO partners in advocacy and activism. Our UN Reps participate in meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, the Climate Change Conference in Bonn, and the Interagency Forum of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Greece.

FAWCO's Target Program, Global Issues Teams' activities and The FAWCO Foundation's Development Grants, demonstrate our ongoing commitment and contributions to the UN's development agenda (Millennium Development Goals pre-2015, Sustainable Development Goals since 2015).



Geneva NGO Forum, November 2014

FAWCO's UN Milestones

1995

- FAWCO received accreditation from the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).
- FAWCO delegates attended the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing.

1997

- FAWCO was granted Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

2001

- FAWCO joined the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with ECOSOC (CoNGO), and began to be active on NGO Substantive Committees.

2005

- FAWCO began to focus philanthropy and global issues work on the UN's Millennium Development Goals. On the 10th

anniversary of DPI accreditation, delegates at FAWCO's Birmingham Conference committed to supporting the MDGs by launching the Millennium Malaria Project.

2008

- FAWCO UN Reps and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Geneva dedicated a memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt at the Place des Nations to recognize her as the driving force behind the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

2009

- UN Director Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris) represented FAWCO for the first time at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

2011

- FAWCO sponsored a High Level Panel for the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on "Women and the Right to Water."

2012

- For the 15th anniversary of ECOSOC special consultative status, Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris) proposed that the FAWCO Board and The FAWCO Foundation concentrate FAWCO's global efforts on education, environment, health, and human rights.
- At the Dublin Conference, Peggy Rigaud (AWG Languedoc-Roussillon) spoke about the beginnings of FAWCO's involvement as a UN-accredited NGO and received the Circle of Honor, FAWCO's highest award.

2013

- On International Women's Day at the Bern Conference, US Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Betty King gave the keynote address and joined FAWCO members in the "Join Me on the Bridge" march.
- FAWCO delegations have attended every CSW since 2013.

2014

- FAWCO's first UN Youth Rep was Gavin Higbie, followed by Valia Mitsakis (2015), Paige Higbie and Samuel Witt (2017).
- UN Reps Sara von Moos and Anne Riz (AWC Bern) played key roles in organizing the NGO Forum for the Beijing+20 Regional Review in Geneva. Sixteen FAWCO members participated in the Forum, and the mother-daughter duo of Robin and Julia Goldsby (AIWC Cologne) performed at the closing ceremony.

(Continued on page 6)



FAWCO delegation at CSW59, March 2015

(Continued from page 1)

Message from the President



FAWCO Board in Munich. L to R: Mary Stewart Burgher, Laurie Brooks, Martha Canning, Sallie Chaballier, Alisa Cook-Roehs, Judy Furukawa, Hope Moore

In all that we do, FAWCO is mindful of fulfilling our mission and supporting our Member Clubs. The Strategic Planning Task Force, created in March of 2016 by then-President Monica Jubayli, has submitted its final report and recommendations to the Board. The Task Force assessed all aspects of FAWCO's programs and structure for compliance with our Mission Statement and relevance for our Member Clubs. I'd like to thank SPTF Chair Cora Lee Findley and her team for their rigorous and thorough review of FAWCO's work, and for their thoughtful recommendations which will be published in the 2017 Annual Report.

The FAWCO Board has been working constantly since taking office at the beginning of April. We have met in person twice since Mumbai, most recently in Munich before the Region 5 meeting in November. We're working hard with the Events Planning Committee to prepare for the Interim Meeting in The Hague next March which will offer you a full agenda of useful and informative workshops in addition to FAWCO news and business.

It's no secret that people are the glue that binds this largely virtual organization. It has been gratifying for me to meet so many dynamic women at the Regional Meetings this autumn. Joining me were Hope Moore, VP Member Clubs, Laurie Brooks, VP Communications and in Munich, almost all of the Board. The theme of the Region 3 meeting in Paris in October took the form of "Women Inspiring Women" which is an apt description of FAWCO as a whole. As I remarked at several Regional Meetings this autumn, "Inspiring Women" is more than just a tagline, it's a fact. It's who we are and what we do.

See you in The Hague!
Sallie

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

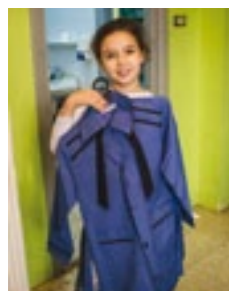
by Tricia R. Saur, AIWC Cologne, FAWCO Target Chair

The Target Program for Education is well into its second year with both of its key components, the Awareness Raising Campaign and the Target Project, going strong. This Fall, the Awareness Raising Campaign has developed with five speaking engagements at three Regional Meetings and two Member Clubs, with more dates in the works. The blog “Let’s Get Schooled” continues to receive positive feedback, as does the monthly Target Bulletin.

We have a new logo designed to specifically reference the FAWCO Target Project for Education “Hope Beyond Displacement”, recognizing CRP as the organization carrying out the work.



Hope Beyond Displacement Programming has Launched!



Educational Support

As the summer drew to a close in August, the Back to School program was busy purchasing backpacks, school supplies and uniforms for girls to return to the classroom in September. The recent announcement by the Jordanian Ministry of Education that school registration and book fees would be waived for ALL refugees in the country means that

the money budgeted to send 100 girls to school went much, much further... allowing 359 girls to resume their education!

With the return to school, Education Consultant Beryl Cheal arrived to develop a trauma-sensitive curriculum for the new SuperGirls After-School Program and to train the staff on how to recognize trauma-driven behavior. The first two groups of 15 girls are now in session and will meet twice weekly for six months.

Vocational Training and Income Generation

In October, 15 women received their beauticians' tool-kit and began the first 6-month vocational training course: learning beauty techniques and self-employment skills. This program will give women the ability to earn money in the local informal economy, reducing the economic stress they and their families are under.

Another 30 women began courses in technical skills through the International Computer Driving License Program. The ICDL



is a qualification that enables people to certify their computer skills to an internationally recognized standard.

Leadership and Advocacy

In September, the Women’s Empowerment 101 (women) and Gender-Based Violence Awareness and Prevention Training (men and youth) began in parallel: each group meets twice a week in groups of 20 for a 3-month period to discuss women’s rights, their roles in society, gender attitudes and behaviors. There will be a total of eight course cycles, graduating 160 women and 160 men and youth by the completion of the Target Project.



Backing Women Fundraising Campaign

With a goal to raise \$125,000 by the end of February 2019, The FAWCO Foundation is off to a great start with over \$42,700 already collected. For this we have Member Clubs, individual members, Regions and FAUSA to thank for their donations. Motivating club donations is a \$10,000 matching grant program sponsored by The de Groot Foundation! Complimenting these donations are the profits from the Backing Women Boutique.



A Win-Win fundraising strategy was introduced by three FAUSA member advertisers. They are each donating 5% of profits from their services and sales to the FAWCO Target Project “Hope Beyond Displacement” from any completed transactions with FAWCO/FAUSA members or their friends and family.

Looking Ahead

FAWCO will host the first official site visit to a Target Project in April 2018. A delegation of 22 women representing six Regions and FAUSA will have the opportunity to engage with the beneficiaries of “Hope Beyond Displacement”. Participants will gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by urban refugee women and girls, as well as the chance to see first-hand the impact of the project’s programming (which will be in its eighth month of implementation at the time of the scheduled visit). Participants will return to their local clubs and Regions prepared to share their experiences, raise awareness about the issues, and promote the Target Project. The visit will be documented by Julia Goldsby, former FAWCO Youth Ambassador, in a film she will be making as part of her Bachelor’s thesis, featuring “Hope Beyond Displacement”.

Learn more: bit.ly/HopeBeyondDisplacement

Learn more: bit.ly/BWFundraisingCampaign

Sign up for the monthly Target Bulletin: bit.ly/TargetBulletinSignUp

Questions and comments can be directed to Tricia R. Saur, Target Chair at target@fawco.org.

Curiouser and Curiouser (Overseas Americans through a negative looking glass)

By Lucy Stensland Laederich, AAWE Paris, FAWCO US Liaison

Do you ever wonder what happened to the world you thought you knew? For the 9.1 million Americans living and working abroad, the “landscape” is becoming increasingly complex, as laws are being passed that appear to ignore the existence of overseas Americans while having a major impact on their daily lives.

This is the case, not only for the much discussed FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act), but also true of the US tax reform we are hearing so much about. In both cases, Americans abroad bear specific burdens not imposed on their counterparts residing in the US. Under current law, they pay in one way or another for their move, for whatever reason, to an overseas location like London or Abu Dhabi, whereas a move to Chicago or Houston would never be questioned. Regrettably, they are often perceived as “unpatriotic”, whereas most will agree they become more “American” when they leave their native country.

FATCA

There have been many indications in recent months that the Administration may be having “second thoughts” about FATCA. Not about the principle itself - that of sharing financial information among international financial institutions with a view to identifying and preventing tax evasion - but about the means of implementation chosen by the United States, including daunting penalties for incorrect reporting by individuals and a unique-in-the-world 30% withholding penalty for incorrect reporting by foreign financial institutions (FFIs). The FATCA principle has, in fact, already been adopted by 49 countries (as of September 2017) in the form of AEOI (Automatic Exchange Of Information) agreements, with 102 countries committed to their implementation in 2018.

In response to growing complaints from overseas Americans and FFIs, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has undertaken a survey to determine the nature of any undue burdens imposed by FATCA and identify possible remedies. In addition, the Treasury Department submitted a report to the President on October 2, 2017, setting forth recommendations as to specific actions to mitigate the burdens imposed upon taxpayers by eight regulations previously identified for reform, and specifically identifying regulations promulgated under FATCA as “under review and subject to possible reform”. It is therefore possible, that “while the likelihood of repealing (or even reforming) FATCA would have been remote only a year ago, in the current political climate, with tax reform a top priority of the new administration, significant reform of FATCA’s long reach may well be a possibility.” (JDSupra, 11 October 2017)

The long arm of the IRS

In his opening statement before the October Senate Finance Committee hearing, Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) spelled out the solution for corporations (which might also be applied to individuals) under a system of “residence-based taxation”: “The solution to these and other problems, to put it very simply, is to transition to a territorial-based system like

virtually all of our foreign competitors. Under such a system, an American company would owe taxes only on income earned in the United States. Income earned in foreign jurisdictions would only be taxed by those jurisdictions, not here.”

Observers could also take heart from the words of Congressman George Holding (NC-2) as he noted that citizenship-based taxation makes hiring U.S. citizens overseas 40% more expensive than their foreign counterparts. He was seconded by House Ways & Means Committee Chair Kevin Brady (TX-8) who said that “residence-based taxation is an idea (the Committee) should continue to explore.” And yet when the House passed its tax reform bill on November 17, there was no mention of those 9.1 million overseas Americans.

Is it any wonder then that following the trend of the last few years, we learn of record numbers of Americans renouncing their US citizenship? For 2017, that number already stands at 4,448, a 26% rise from 2016’s total which was itself a 26% jump from 2015. For an organization like FAWCO that has fought for years for citizenship rights, it is distressing to see these numbers increase each year ... and to read that the reason might be to “avoid paying taxes”.

The truth, from the overseas perspective, is that these renunciations are essentially due to the high cost of tax compliance and the increasing difficulty Americans abroad face accessing banks and financial services because of US regulations. There are currently two quite different proposals from overseas American advocates with respect to a move to residence-based taxation. The main thing we can hope for is that Washington will take the time to consider the specific situation of overseas Americans and, in a departure from its normal procedure, improve the laws that apply to them and treat the overseas population as the valuable national asset they are.

An important New Year’s resolution: register to vote in 2018!

In 2018, the entire US House of Representatives and a third of the Senate goes up for election. Every overseas American needs to add registering to vote to any list of 2018 New Year’s resolutions.

Remember that the law now says we must request a ballot every year – for every election in the year (in addition to primaries and general elections, a special or run-off election is always possible!). FAWCO members have fought hard over the years to obtain this most precious right, and in 2018, state, local and federal elections will have an impact on our future.

Register, vote and make 2018 a better year for all Americans. And if you have the energy, help others to register – one-on-one when you meet with friends or simply walk around the library or supermarket - or by working through the FAWCO Voting from Overseas Committee. Every FAWCO club should have a member on the Committee! Just email the Chair, Mary Stewart Burgher, at voting@fawco.org.

Improving Policies through Advocacy, Improving Lives through Education

by UN Liaison Laurie Richardson, AWA Vienna and FAWCO Target Chair Tricia R. Saur, AIWC Cologne

Migration and refugees are major issues on the international agenda; large-scale movements of refugees and migrants affect all UN Member States and require a comprehensive global approach. The UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016, as all 193 UN Member States committed to a “more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world’s refugees.” The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is leading a collaborative process to develop a Global Compact on Refugees to be considered by the General Assembly in 2018. At the same time, the UN and the International Organization for Migration are working on a Global Compact for Migration to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. FAWCO UN Reps have participated in Thematic Discussions on both Global Compacts in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

FAWCO UN Rep Jane McCall Politi (AWC Rome), Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration (CoM), keeps FAWCO current about the latest research and advocacy work for the millions of children displaced by conflict, natural disaster and climate change. Across the globe, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted and their needs neglected. FAWCO joins other members of the NGO Committee on Migration calling for UN Member States to protect the human rights of all refugee and migrant children.

FAWCO has endorsed CoM position papers including “Positive Effects of Innovative Early Childhood Development Programs on Refugee Youth Resilience”, “An Overlooked Emergency: The Poverty of Forced Migrant Children”, “Providing Education and Care for Syria’s Littlest Refugees” and “Migrant and Refugee Children as Protagonists of Development and Peace”. These papers highlight the challenges faced by children in forced displacement: the loss of one or both parents, family members,

friends, home, childhood and normalcy. If they are not in school, they miss out on learning; they often lack a sense of cultural identity and social integration. Joining CoM, FAWCO and OMEP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) call upon governments to invest in early childhood development programs for migrants and refugee children.

To help meet these needs, FAWCO’s Target Project “Hope Beyond Displacement” supports education and skills development for refugee women and girls through the Collateral Repair Project in Amman, Jordan. In September 2017, Target Project funds enabled over 350 refugee girls to enroll in school.

FAWCO’s advocacy for the rights of children, support for “Hope Beyond Displacement” through the Collateral Repair Project, and volunteer efforts in communities hosting refugees all contribute to improving the lives of refugee children and their families – through both policy development and hands-on assistance



Don't put it off! Start the year off right: on January 1, register on FAWCO's dedicated site or those of our partners:

- FAWCO Overseas Voter Services
<https://fawco.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>
- U.S. Vote Foundation
<https://www.usvotefoundation.org>
- The Federal Voting Assistance Program
<https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter>



FAWCO at the Women's March in NY, March 2015

(Continued from page 2)

Celebrating 20 Years of FAWCO Engagement at the UN

2015

- FAWCO's largest delegation to date – 17 members – attended CSW59 (Beijing +20)
- UN Rep Jane McCall Politi (AW Rome) joined the NGO Committee on Migration in NY; she is now Vice-Chair of the Committee.

2016

- FAWCO UN Rep Grace Christovasilis (AWO Greece) began to work with the UN Refugee Agency Interagency Forum of over 25 NGOs in Athens, Greece.
- FAWCO was granted Observer Status at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2017

- UN Reps Stacey Kimmig and Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne) began to participate in UNFCCC Climate Conference sessions in Bonn, Germany. FAWCO joined the Women and Gender Constituency stakeholder group at the UNFCCC.

FAWCO Introduces “Youth Team Local”

by Barbara Bühling, AWC Düsseldorf, FAWCO Youth Program Chair

The FAWCO Youth Program took a slightly different path in 2017. The ever-popular Cultural Volunteers Program took a year’s hiatus when no FAWCO Member Club volunteered to host the program. Fortunately for all of us, AWC Berlin has already volunteered to host the program in 2018 with the dates set for June 23-30, 2018.

At the FAWCO Conference in Mumbai last March, a new FAWCO Youth Program was introduced: FAWCO Youth Team Local, a joint concept created by FAWCO Youth and the FAWCO Education Team in order “...to bring the goals of the FAWCO Youth Program down to a more local/regional level and create a model program that can be duplicated by other FAWCO Youth Local “Teams”. With this in mind, FAWCO Youth Team Rhineland was introduced as the pilot project in cooperation with AWC Düsseldorf, AIWC Cologne, FAWCO Youth, and FAWCO Education Team.

To date, 20 teens have expressed interest in our group. Led by Carol-Lyn McKelvey and Rainier Sielaff, the group has met several times for programs and fun. We have explored topics focusing on the UN’s SDGs and welcomed guest speakers like Laurie Richardson, FAWCO’s UN Liaison, and Rebecca Mazzu, Youth Ambassador from the Stahili Foundation, who shared her knowledge and experience on volunteering. In early November, a small group attended the Climate March in Bonn.

FAWCO Youth Team Rhineland continues to be a work in progress. We are exploring the potential goal of organizing a team-oriented mission-like trip. We are all looking forward to seeing the path that FAWCO Youth Team Rhineland charts for 2018! Many thanks to the stellar Team Rhineland Organizing Committee: Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne) Rainier Sielaff (AWC Düsseldorf), Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne), Arandeep Degun (AIWC Cologne) and Barbara Bühling (AWC Düsseldorf).

FAWCO-Funded ICDL Offers Hope for Refugee Women

by Amanda Lane, Executive Director, Collateral Repair Project

Starting a new class can be scary for anyone, but especially for refugees. But there’s one universal: an uneasy student can feel a lot better because of a great teacher. Two students from the International Computer Driving License course, Haneen and Sana', have been empowered by their class and teacher, Mr. Ivin.



In ICDL classes, Mr. Ivin's encouragement and simple program illustrations provide refugee women with new-found confidence.

Haneen lived a life of peace in Syria until the fighting threatened her family’s safety and the Syrian government incarcerated her older son. Amman became her refuge, but she still felt insecure. “As a beginner ICDL student, I often worried that Mr. Ivin would be upset if I performed tasks slowly. The one-hour slot for class seemed a short time to learn everything about computers,” says Haneen. However, Mr. Ivin changed her mind and Haneen has even paid her skills forward by teaching her children computer skills.

“I wasn’t able to do things like this in Iraq,” explains Sana'. Sana' left Iraq because of the war and persecution as a Christian. Like Haneen, Sana' was offered a spot in the ICDL class for women. “It was difficult as a beginner but now everything has become so easy in this class,” she says. Sana' explains, “As an Iraqi refugee, I cannot work. But if the chance comes, then I will be able to work on the computer. And I have confidence.” As a parent, now Sana even helps her daughter navigate Microsoft Word and Excel with ease.

ICDL class has impacted Sana' and Haneen's life for the better. CRP sends our gratitude to FAWCO for funding courses like ICDL for women. It has opened new doors for our beneficiaries in Amman!

Please join us for the next Interim Meeting at The Hague (Den Haag), the Netherlands



2018

INTERIM MEETING

FAWCO with a French Touch! AWG Paris Hosts Region 3

by Sandy Gogel, AWG Paris, FAWCO Rep

AWG Paris hosted October's FAWCO Region 3 Meeting with the theme of "Women Inspiring Women". The highpoint of the weekend was the raffle of the beautiful quilt "Hugs and Kisses", crafted and donated by AAWE Paris' Nan de Laubadère.



Region 3 hosted over 70 participants from France, Europe, the Middle East and the US.

The weekend started with an in-depth tour of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, led by Rebecca DeFraités and Mary Ellen Gogel, followed by a welcome dinner for 90 chez Sandy and Bob Gogel. The evening was topped off with a visit to the rooftop to see the Eiffel Tower lit up in all its splendor.



The evening's high point ... the rooftop view!

On Saturday morning, our Regional began with an inspiring speech by Mme. Laurence Negroni, General Manager of Steelcase, France who graciously hosted us at their HQ showroom. Mme. Negroni shared her story about a special woman who inspired her career. We then welcomed Kristina Kvien, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the US Embassy Paris who recounted her experiences as a career woman in the State Department, as well as the inspirational events which have occurred during her many international postings.

Our speakers on Saturday included FAWCO President Sallie Chaballier, FAWCO Foundation President Suzanne Wheeler, FAWCO 2nd VP Hope Moore, FAWCO 1st VP Laurie Brooks, and Target Project Chair Tricia Saur, who introduced this year's project, Hope Beyond Displacement and from FAWCO Foundation VP Fundraising, Barbara Bühling.

AAWE Paris' Karen Darmon then gave a stirring presentation "Hope, Inspiration and Human Trafficking", which was followed by a discussion moderated by AWG Paris' Clydetta de Groot featuring a panel of inspiring young women including Sarah Gogel, Founder/Managing Director of YES Akademia; Wadia Chافتar, Co-Founder at Covetchic.com and VP of YES Akademia; Hakima Mouflih, International Business Development Manager and Board Member, YES Akademia; and Charlotte Bawol, 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Girls Leadership Worldwide participant.

Hope Moore, Kim Mousseron and Linda Laval met with Club Presidents and Reps to discuss innovative ideas and issues facing their clubs. The Regional concluded with a fantastic wine and cheese event, offered by Veronique Bawol, which gave all participants a taste of what France has to offer. Sandy Gogel completed the weekend on Sunday with a tour of the famed Paris Flea market where we all scoured for treasures to bring home!



The quilt raffle raised a considerable sum for FAWCO's Target Project.

A "Kaleidoscope of Opportunities" for Region 4

by Marja Reunis-de Rechter, AWC Antwerp, FAWCO Rep

Our FAWCO Region 4 Meeting got off to an impressive start with a visit to Payoke, an organization supporting victims of human trafficking in Antwerp. Klaus Vanhoutte, one of the directors, gave us an overview of the crime of THB-Traffic in Human Beings. Payoke recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and is internationally recognized as a leading expert in all aspects of human trafficking (<http://www.payoke.be/en/functioning-of-payoke/>).

Bright and early on Saturday, this Regional began in a sunny conference room in Antwerp's Hyllit Hotel as a group of some 30 AWCA members, FAWCO Board members, representatives and special guests gathered for the day-long meeting structured around the theme "Kaleidoscope of Opportunities: Educating

Women Worldwide". We chose the kaleidoscope as a symbol for this Regional as it is made up of numerous facets: on its own, each individual facet has different colors, shapes and sizes, but the real magic happens when these facets come together.



Region 4 participants showing that they are "fans" of The FAWCO Foundation.

The meeting agenda offered a balance between FAWCO information and peripheral topics like a presentation on the importance of education for refugee children presented by Susan van Alsenoy, an educational researcher specializing in the area of learning differently. Dr. Katrien Meuwissen, Development Officer at the European Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) spoke on the subject of "Women's Rights are Human Rights", followed by My-Linh Kunst, photographer, activist for human rights for women and former FAWCO President, who delved into the topic of "Leadership from Within".

Our evening gala featured not only a performance by the Flanders Ballet School, an AWC Antwerp sponsored charity, but the presentation of a 10,000 Euro cheque to the Middelheim Hospital, part of our ongoing support for their creation of a new Caring Hearts Breast Lounge. Our aim was to share the magic and I think we succeeded.



Region 4 participants on a walking tour of Antwerp

Upcoming FAWCO Regionals

There will be two FAWCO Regional Meetings in early 2018. Region 7 meeting will be in Rabat in January and Region 6 meeting will be held in Bern in May. Please contact the relevant Regional Coordinators (email addresses on the FAWCO Website) for exact dates and details.

Prost from Region 5 in Munich

by Cecily Garver & Caroline Pekarek, MIWC FAWCO Reps

With a sparkling wine toast and keg-tapping, the Munich IWC welcomed more than 50 guests to the Beer Keller at Der Pschorr am Viktualienmarkt for the kick-off event of FAWCO's Region 5 Meeting.



Not only was every club in the region represented, but MIWC welcomed delegates from seven clubs outside our area.

The program's ice-breaker included a counting game which enabled us to identify ten first-time regional attendees - a great sign for our clubs! We also heard introductions and highlights from each Region 5 club, followed by the MIWC FAWCO Reps reciting a poem introducing Saturday's raffle which raised over 1,000 Euros for the FAWCO Target Project!

FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation were the focus for our Saturday morning session, followed by a discussion of club concerns. The afternoon brought opportunities to explore our vibrant city, followed by dinner in a typical Bavarian *gasthaus*.

Our final session on Sunday took place at the Münchner Künstlerhaus, an architectural and cultural gem in the heart of town. An enlightening panel discussion focused on taking steps towards personal health, followed by a speaker inspiring us with the health benefits of de-cluttering. Finally, engaging discussion concluded our meeting as we wrapped up with a final round of club concerns.



Cecily Garver taps the keg.

AWC Hamburg Fun Run/Walk

by Lyn Herr and Teresa Perez Y Landazuri, AWCH

On October 8th, members of the American Women's Club of Hamburg (AWCH) gathered for a fun run/walk around the Alster to benefit FAWCO. Nearly 120 people participated in the event, raising over \$2,000 for FAWCO. Organized by a handful of volunteers, the event is a great example of how a small team can make a big impact.

Teresa Perez Y Landazuri and Lyn Herr, AWCH members, began organizing the event in June 2017, after attending a "Hello Mumbai Evening" fundraiser hosted by Carol Strametz, AWCH's FAWCO Rep. The evening included music, dancing, food, wine and information on FAWCO's global initiatives. That night, Teresa and Lyn decided they wanted to do more to support FAWCO.



From L to R: Lyn Herr, Tracy Moede, Carol Strametz and Teresa Perez Y Landazuri

Lyn and Teresa got thinking and the ideas started flowing. They concluded on organizing a fun run/walk, and as Teresa says, "It seemed like a great way to bring people together to promote fitness, friendship and charitable giving". Both Teresa and Lyn were new to Hamburg and weren't sure how people would respond to this type of event. After some debate, they decided it would be worthwhile if they could get 30 people to sign up. They also believed that holding the event near the Alster, one of Hamburg's most picturesque locations, could help boost participation.



From L to R: Marlane Nigbur, Lyn Herr, Carol Strametz, Teresa Perez Y Landazuri, Jess Mancuso

After obtaining a city permit, they worked quickly to plan and promote the event. Teresa's daughter created a website, they sent emails, launched online registration, formed a planning committee, hung posters, met with local vendors and secured sponsors like Yogi Tea, the American Bagel Company and Coca Cola. Volunteers made pom-poms and donated baked goods, homemade jams and crafts to be sold or raffled at the event.



US Consul General in Hamburg, Richard Yoneoka (center), took part in the event.

As the logistics came together, the number of online registrations grew. By early October, more than 100 people had registered. "We were really happy with the numbers, but we also knew expectations were high", said Lyn. Careful planning and teamwork would be key to making the event a success.

In the early morning hours on the event day, volunteers gathered in the dark to set up booths, assemble the sound system, hang balloons and post signs. Shortly before starting time, Consul General Richard Yoneoka gave a motivational speech, emphasizing the importance of the AWCH and FAWCO. Music played as runners and walkers gathered at the starting line. Participants snapped photos before beginning their treks



around the Alster. After crossing the finish line, participants chatted, took more photos and enjoyed baked goods, bagels, and beverages as they awaited the results of a raffle drawing. The day's activities closed with an announcement that the event had raised over \$2,000 for FAWCO.

"The fun run was a success on multiple levels", said Teresa. "Not only did it raise funds for FAWCO, it helped foster a feeling of community within the AWCH." "We made a difference and we feel proud," said Lyn. An event video (donated by an AWCH spouse) and the many pictures posted on Facebook capture the laughter, smiles and positive energy of the day. AWCH plans to make the fun run/walk an annual event. With the right inspiration, a support network and team commitment, a small team can achieve outstanding results.



FAUSA Milestones

by Therese Hartwell, FAUSA President

Over the past year, FAUSA (FAWCO Alumnae USA) achieved a monumental accomplishment by completing the application to become a US 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which will make donations to FAUSA tax-deductible under US tax law. Immediate Past FAUSA President Janet Darrow, the Board, and pro-bono attorney Kellie Kemp worked tirelessly to complete and submit the application form. Janet's leadership in moving this arduous process forward leaves a lasting legacy for FAUSA.

FAUSA also enhanced its Board structure in the past year by making the Director of Philanthropy an elected (rather than appointed) board position and adopting a new position, FAWCO Club Liaison. This liaison will work with the FAWCO 2nd VP for Member Clubs and FAWCO Reps to support clubs' efforts to encourage their repatriating members to join FAUSA. In addition to these regular members, who as former FAWCO members are FAUSA's lifeblood, associate memberships in FAUSA are open to repatriated North Americans and expatriates from other countries who were not members of FAWCO clubs.

Kansas City Here We Come!

The FAUSA Getaway and Annual Meeting remains the highlight of the FAUSA year. Board Secretary, Leslie Nelson, planned the 2017 Getaway, sharing her obvious love of her hometown, Kansas City, Missouri with Getaway attendees. With a Speakeasy theme, the Getaway offered participants the opportunity to both learn about KC's history and enjoy its unexpected modern treasures. The conference hotel, the iconic Hotel Phillips, established in 1931, set the atmosphere from the very beginning.

Did you know that Kansas City has the only museum in the US dedicated to World War I? Our excellent guide at the National World War I Museum and Memorial shared his view that the museum should actually be called a peace museum rather than a war museum. The horrors depicted in the exhibits should serve as a warning of the price to be paid for war. The group also enjoyed a trolley tour of Kansas City and a visit to the renowned Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. From our opening dinner at an Ethiopian restaurant to dinner-on-your-own featuring KC's well-known (and delicious!) barbecue and famous steaks with everything in between, Getaway participants enjoyed some of the finest KC restaurants.

In FAUSA business, the 2017-2019 board was elected at the Annual Meeting. First Vice-President, Communications, Rick Chizmadia; Treasurer, Kathy Coughlan; and Secretary, Leslie Nelson, were elected to second terms. The following new board members were elected: President, Therese Hartwell; Second Vice-President, Membership, Shannon Reiss; Director of Philanthropy, Marilee Watts; FAWCO Club Liaison, Janelle Mason. In addition, Jane Indreland was appointed as Parliamentarian for a second term.

Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies was chosen as the FAUSA Banner Project for the coming year. In light of the recent hurricanes, which have affected areas where many FAUSA members live, the board decided to limit project submissions to organizations providing hurricane relief. Louise Greeley-Copley nominated the selected project, which supports people with disabilities, including post-disaster relief work assisting victims with durable medical equipment lost and other obstacles incurred as a result of natural disasters. FAUSA's support of Portlight began with a \$2,000 donation and will continue through the coming year.

The Annual Meeting also featured several informative presentations. Jason Fields from the Urban Farming Guys inspired attendees with a description of his organization's history working in marginalized and underdeveloped neighborhoods in urban Kansas City and abroad. The Urban Farming Guys' mission "to build local economy, capacity and resiliency, while giving back to the global open source community", achieved through projects ranging from after-school programs and community gardens in KC to building aquaponic fish farms at orphanages in India and Mexico. <http://theurbanfarmingguys.com/about>.

Nan de Laubadère and Louise Greeley-Copley gave a presentation on The FAWCO Foundation's programs, and Therese Hartwell shared her experience with the Collateral Repair Project and their program "Hope Beyond Displacement", the current Target Project supporting educational activities for refugee women and girls in Jordan. Louise also presented a talk on safeguards we should all have in place should we become a displaced person (a stark reality for recent victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and the wildfires in California). Therese presented tips on growing an active metro group based on her experiences in developing the Houston group. Rick Chizmadia shared a video he created with memories of the FAWCO Conference in Mumbai, which numerous FAUSA members attended. The next Getaway and Annual Meeting was announced for Washington DC the first weekend in October, 2018.

The weekend culminated in the annual gala dinner, FAUSA's major fundraising effort for the year, held at the Hotel Phillips. Members bid on silent and live auction items as well as the beautiful quilt made by Nan de Laubadère. Fundraising efforts raised \$6,000 for the FAUSA Banner Project, the FAWCO Target Project, and the FAWCO Education Award and Development Grant that FAUSA funds.

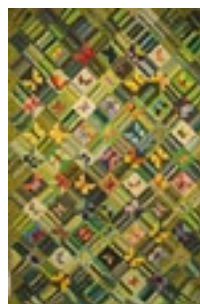
FAUSA remains committed to providing a vehicle for former FAWCO members to remain connected to the FAWCO Network, as well as providing support and fellowship for all repatriating Americans. Join FAUSA by going to www.fausa.org or contacting the VP Membership at 2ndVP@fausa.org. Help us spread the word!

By Suzanne Wheeler (AAWE Paris), The FAWCO Foundation President

The FAWCO Foundation celebrated a significant birthday this year – 50 years of supporting FAWCO's philanthropic goals, improving the lives of women and children worldwide. Over \$1,750,000 has been disbursed over the past 50 years through the programs administered by the foundation - Development Grants and Education Awards, the Eleanor Roosevelt Girls Leadership Workshop, Kids Helping Kids, and NEEDED scholarships for young women in Burkina Faso, to name a few. Our fundraising has shown the synergistic power of clubs banding together to make a difference.

The FAWCO Foundation Friendship Quilt:

Read our downloadable 50th Anniversary Book, (www.fawcofoundation.org), to see how small ideas like the Friendship Quilt can grow into major accomplishments. In 1995, Roberta Zöllner started the quilt fundraising concept, a community endeavor. Over the years, she has sewn together more than 1,000 quilt blocks donated from approximately 800 separate contributors resulting in over \$71,000 raised. It has been a shining example of a small idea growing into a mainstay event, highlighting the power of women bonding together, be it through sewing squares or selling raffle tickets. Its theme of unity carries a strong yearly message for our members. This year's "Butterfly Brigade" quilt is composed of 180 blocks from 43 contributors.



The Foundation is pleased to announce the following programs:

2018 FAWCO Foundation Education Awards - We are offering four awards for FAWCO and FAUSA members' children in the areas of Science (1), Humanities (2) and Art (1). For FAWCO members' children and grandchildren, we offer one award, the Dual Cultural Award. For FAWCO and FAUSA members, there are three awards this year. For more information on the Education Awards, contact the Education Awards Administrator at awards@fawcofoundation.org.

2018 FAWCO Foundation Development Grants - Our Development Grants are aligned with FAWCO and the UN's four focus areas. This year, there are two grants focusing on Human Rights, two in the Health area and one for the Environment. We are also very fortunate this year to be able to offer three grants in the area of Education. For more information on the Development Grants program, contact the Development Grants Administrator at grants@fawcofoundation.org.

Backing Women (BW) Fundraising Campaign:

The Backing Women Campaign continues with the current Target Project "Hope Beyond Displacement". Fundraising has been dynamic since the announcement of the project's selection in Mumbai, with the added incentive of a Matching Grant Program offered by The de Groot Foundation. Clubs continue to demonstrate a commitment to the Target program through various Clubs in Action events. Our Backing Women Boutique is proving a great success with new items on offer, demonstrating our commitment not only in product selection (many of our items come from women's collectives or cottage industries) as well as in the disbursement of the net profits to the Target Project. Our "stack of books" is growing daily as the donations from all aspects of the Backing Women Fundraising Campaign come in. Learn more about it on our website.

We could not have achieved this without the countless donations from Member Clubs and individuals, who through their generosity, have made our success possible. No matter how



you donate - via direct donation, during regional meetings, or through participation in Foundation Night during the annual FAWCO conferences, The FAWCO Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for enabling us to sustain our roster of worthy programs.



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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.

www.iGive.com

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The FAWCO Foundation is registered as a "cause" on www.iGive.com. Visit our website at www.fawcofoundation.org and follow the link to register. Then start shopping! A percentage of the purchase amount (before shipping and taxes) will be calculated and sent to The FAWCO Foundation at no cost to you.

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