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**Overseas Vote Foundation and the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Establish Alliance Partnership**

**Paris, May 17, 2006** – In a joint announcement today, Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF), [www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org), and the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc. (FAWCO), [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org), sealed a new Alliance between their two organizations. The Alliance aims to further advance the success of their respective efforts in the area of nonpartisan overseas voter registration.

FAWCO, an NGO with special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is an international organization of over 77 independent clubs and associations with a combined membership of nearly 18,000 in 35 countries worldwide. Founded in 1931, it is the oldest and largest association representing private sector Americans abroad.

Active in U.S. citizens' issues and global concerns that include education, environmental awareness, health, human rights, and women's and children's rights, FAWCO has been committed to voting rights since its inception. The organization worked together with partner organizations in the 70s to obtain the right to vote for Americans residing abroad.

Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF) was founded in 2005 to assist uniformed and overseas American citizens in registering to vote in federal elections, starting in 2006 with the State Primaries and November 7<sup>th</sup> General Election. OVF is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) public charity organization dedicated solely to serving the voter registration needs of all military and overseas citizen (UOCAVA) absentee voters.

“We applaud the work that OVF has done to automate overseas voter registration procedures and provide secure, nonpartisan, Internet-based voter services to Americans around the world. OVF's user-friendly “RAVA” voter registration wizard revolutionizes overseas voter registration, an area in which we have been active for decades,” stated Lucy Laederich, Paris-based, FAWCO US Liaison.

“FAWCO has a well-earned reputation as an outstanding worldwide overseas organization which not only declares, but acts on the rights of American citizens to vote from overseas – one amongst many admirable and urgent causes that FAWCO addresses. The FAWCO-OVF Alliance comes at an ideal time for OVF as we reach out to voters during this important Mid-term election year,” said Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, Executive Director, OVF.

As part of the Alliance, FAWCO's US Liaison, Lucy Laederich, will join the OVF Advisory Board. Lucy is a 25-year FAWCO veteran and has served as US Liaison for 5 years. As President from 1999-2001, she was closely involved in working to ensure recognition of overseas voters' needs in the Help America Vote Act.

**Further Information:**

FAWCO: [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org)

OVF: [www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org)

Direct Links to Overseas Vote Foundation's Suite of Nonpartisan Voter Services:

- RAVA Voter Registration: [www.ovf-rava.org](http://www.ovf-rava.org) – online, secure, nonpartisan
- Voter Help Desk: [www.ovf-vhd.org](http://www.ovf-vhd.org) – fast, friendly answers to voter questions
- Election Official Directory: [www.ovf-eod.org](http://www.ovf-eod.org) –online lookup service