



2024 Annual Report

2025 FAWCO Biennial Conference
Annapolis — March 26-30, 2025



FAWCO Annual Report 2024

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President's Message

Resilience

Resilience is the word that comes to my mind when I think of 2024. We certainly cultivated it during what we now call the "Covid Years." What amazing resilience FAWCO Member Clubs and members have shown successfully racing ahead with plans, programs, and activities all during this past year. Most clubs have bounced back stronger than ever. Connections and advocacy work are back on track.

Global conflicts are still raging in too many places though, and the environment, human rights and women's rights are suffering. One tool that we all have that makes us more resilient is our connections and our work for the common good. There is hope in community. You, your clubs and FAWCO are engaged in activities that strive to make the lives of those around us better. Hope, at its core, is the belief that through action things can be better. Action leads to empowerment.

FAWCO aspires to empower its members to create those ripples of action that can create a better world for us all. This report shares some of the many actions of FAWCO volunteers in 2024. Thank you to all our volunteers, and to all of you, for being a part of this positive action in the world.

Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
FAWCO President 2023–2025

Note on Parliamentary Procedure

Note on Parliamentary Procedure

The 2025 Biennial Conference is taking place in Annapolis, Maryland from March 26–30, 2025. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Annual Meeting on all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with our Bylaws and Administrative Guidelines.

FAWCO Member Clubs are entitled to send up to three (3) delegates to a Biennial Conference. Each Club has one vote, which is cast by the FAWCO Representative. If she is unable to serve, then the Club President, or another Club member who has been approved as the appointed representative, will cast the vote. If Member Clubs are unable to send a delegate to the Biennial Conference, they may send in a vote, in writing, on the matters submitted to them, prior to the Meeting.

Although the Board of Directors, Counselors, Committee and Task Force Chairs, Liaisons, Regional Coordinators, FAWCO Foundation, FAUSA and all club participants and Individual Members have no voting rights, they may participate fully in all Annual Meeting floor discussions.

If you wish to speak during a floor discussion, please wait to be recognized by the Chair, and for the microphone to be brought to you. Before proceeding with your remarks, **state the name of your Club and your name.**

Please address all remarks through the Chair. Discussion by an individual on any question will be limited to one comment of two minutes duration. If a motion is made, it must be seconded before discussion is allowed. Any amendments proposed and seconded must be voted on (in reverse order) before the vote on the original motion. No more than two amendments can be on the floor at the same time. The maker of a motion may answer any questions posed, may withdraw the motion, and may speak again in rebuttal and in conclusion.

For voting purposes, each delegation has been provided with a club sign. When voting, please **raise your sign clearly and wait for completion of the count before lowering it.**

The FAWCO Organization

FAWCO was founded in 1931 when seven Clubs came together to form the Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe, which evolved into the broader-based Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas in 1935.

FAWCO Mission Statement

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

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

The FAWCO Board of Directors

President
First Vice President for Communications
Second Vice President for Member Clubs
Third Vice President for Global Issues
Secretary
Treasurer

Ann Marie Morrow, AWC Finland
Mary Dobrian, AIWC Cologne
Kanika Holloway, AWC Antwerp
Mary Manning, Heidelberg IWC
Laureen Sharps, AIWC Frankfurt
Cathy Farnan, AWG Paris

Board appointments (non-voting)

Parliamentarian
Assistant Treasurer
FAWCO Foundation President

Patricia Meek, AWC Dublin
Patricia Aeby, AWC Bern
Janet Davis, AIWC Cologne

Board of Representatives

One FAWCO Representative from each Member Club

Council

Board of Directors
Board of Representatives
Delegates
Assistant Treasurer*Committee Chairs *
Liaisons*
Regional Coordinators*
Counselors (Past FAWCO Presidents)
President of The FAWCO Foundation
President of FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA)
** Appointed with the approval of the FAWCO President*

FAWCO Counselors

Past FAWCO Presidents serve in an advisory capacity

FAWCO Committees, Teams and Programs

The FAWCO Committees, Teams and Programs give Member Clubs and members from the Clubs a chance to participate in FAWCO's work worldwide in an area of specific interest.

Administrative Committees

- Archives
- Events
- Finance
- Special Committees and Task Forces

Global Issues Teams

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Rights

Global Issues Programs

- Target Program
- Youth Program

US Issues Committees

- US Citizenship
- US Tax and Banking
- US Voting

Presidential Appointees (non-Board members)

Reporting to the President

- Counselors' Coordinator
- Events Team
- Conference Accountant
- Conference Chair/s
- Conference Registrar
- Finance Chair
- Special Committee and Task Force Chairs
- Co-UN Liaisons
- US Liaison

Reporting to the 1st Vice President

- Advertising and Sponsorship Manager
- Inspiring Women Magazine Editor
- Digital Media Chair
- Social Media Manager
- Web Hosting Coordinator
- Web Registration Coordinator
- Website Manager
- Website Content Administrator

Reporting to the 2nd Vice President

- Club Presidents' Coordinator
- Club Workshops Coordinator
- Cross Clubs Events Coordinator
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Chair
- Membership Chair
- Regional Coordinators
- Under 40 Chairs

Reporting to the 3rd Vice President

Global Issues Team Chairs
Education
Environment
Health
Human Rights
Target Program Chair
Youth Program Chairs

Reporting to the Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

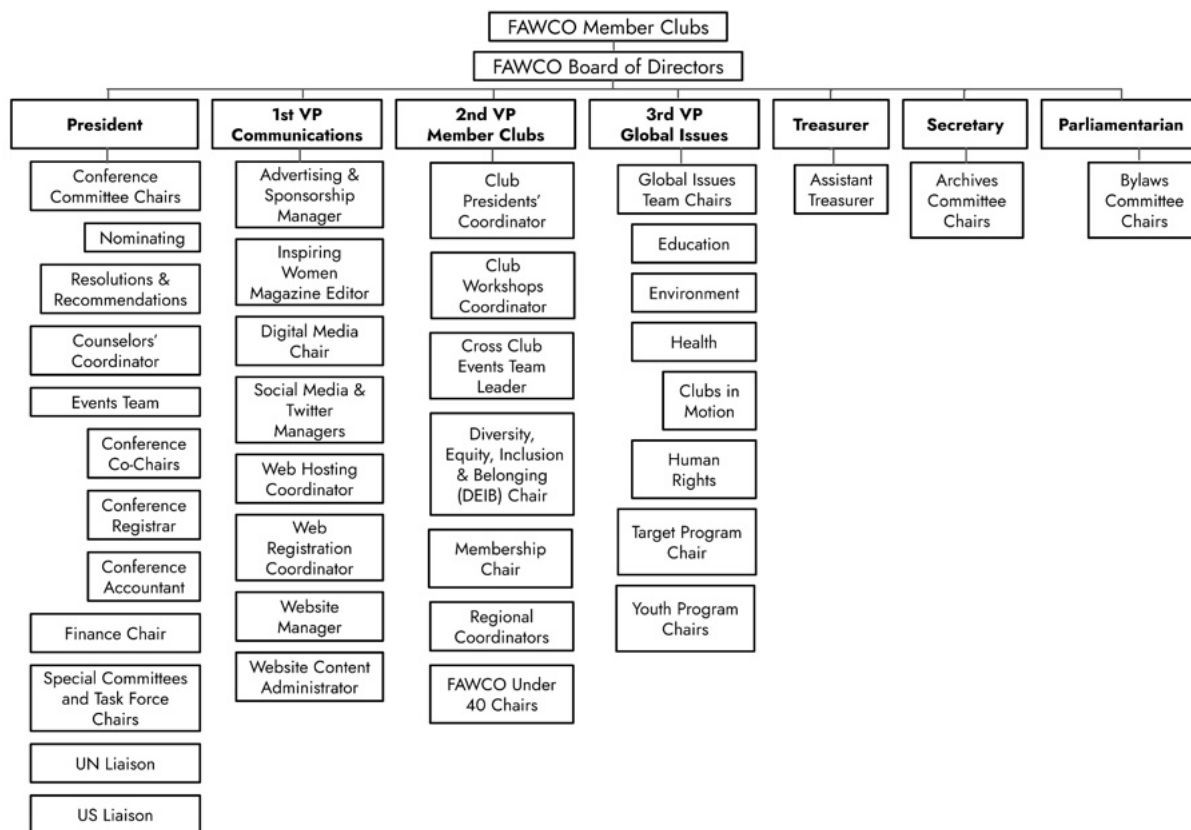
Reporting to the Secretary

Archives Committee Chair

FAWCO Regions

Region 1: England, Ireland, and Scotland
Region 2: Nordic Countries and Russia
Region 3: France and Spain
Region 4: Belgium and the Netherlands
Region 5: Austria, Germany, Moldova and Slovakia
Region 6: Liechtenstein and Switzerland
Region 7: Africa
Region 8: Greece, Italy and Malta
Region 9: Middle East and the Americas
Region 10: Asia/Pacific

FAWCO Organizational Chart



FAWCO Officers' Reports

President's Report

The FAWCO community was running at full speed in 2024 even if, at times, I was not. It was refreshing to see the energy and spirit in Porto at the conference in March. The Interim Meeting attendees shared that it inspired them to see the global impact their local organization can have. Another member commented that their takeaway from the conference was that “FAWCO is a welcoming, inspirational group of dynamic women who come together to serve and to share.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.

FAWCO and UNECE Beijing +30 Civil Society Review – FAWCO should be very proud of the part members played in this review. Reports were submitted, workshops, panels and presentations were held in Geneva, Switzerland in October. Where are we 30 years after the Beijing report? Have we made gains in women’s rights? We are looking forward to continuing the work and discussion at CSW69 in NY in March 2025. The reports are available on the NGO/CSW Geneva [website](#). FAWCO was well-represented in Geneva by Mary Adams (AWC The Hague), Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), Paula Daeppen (AWC Zürich), Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC), Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC), Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris and FAUSA), Connie Phlipot (AWA Vienna) and Veronica Ventura (AWC Bern).

US Voter Protection – FAWCO along with other non-partisan organizations joined together with the Brennan Center to submit a statement of interest of Amici Curiae concerning a lawsuit filed in Pennsylvania attempting to disenfranchise overseas voters. FAWCO joined Blue Star Families, Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), American Citizens Abroad (ACA) and the US Vote Foundation (US Vote). FAWCO continues to support voting and voter rights in all possible ways.

Interim Meeting 2024 in Porto – A full report is below.

Appointments – We welcome some new people to volunteer roles: Regional Coordinator (RC) for Region 6, Veronica Ventura (AWC Bern); RC for Region 9 and 10, FAWCO Counselor Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon); and as Archives Co-Chair, FAWCO Counselor Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague). Appointments made at the Interim Meeting in Porto can be found in the full report below.

Membership – At the beginning of 2024, FAWCO welcomed the International Women's Club of Bratislava. We met this amazing club at the 2023 Biennial Conference and are so glad they joined the FAWCO family this year. FAWCO was also honored to welcome Benvenuto of Milan as a club at the end of 2024. It was especially a pleasure for the FAWCO board to be able to meet their leadership team in person during the time the FAWCO board was gathered for its annual in-person board meetings in September. At the end of the year the decision to remove the AWO Moscow from active clubs was made in consultation with their club. They are unable to operate normally due to the ongoing war. We hope peace will eventually prevail and look forward to that time. There was also good news at the end of the year as FAWCO welcomed the Association of International Women in Malta as a new club. It is great to see FAWCO connections grow.

Resolutions & Recommendations (R&Rs) Chair Shweta Gupta (FAUSA, AWC Berlin) and her committee reviewed, and in December, submitted updates to the R&Rs for 2025-2027. **Nominating Committee** Chair Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) led the Nominating Committee which met during 2024 and submitted a slate of candidates in December for the 2025–27 FAWCO Board. The R&Rs and the slate will be voted upon at the 2025 Biennial Conference in Annapolis.

Regionals and other meetings – It was great to be able to meet members at several meetings throughout the year. In January, I traveled to Gothenburg, Sweden along with the RC for Region 2, Jonelle Lemcke (AWC Denmark). We met FAWCO members from AWC Oslo and AWC Gothenburg for a weekend of connection. Many thanks to Rena Levin (AWC Oslo) for organizing the occasion. In September during FAWCO's in-person board meeting in Milan, hosted by VP Global Issues, Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC), FAWCO's board met the leadership team of the Benvenuto Club of Milan. It was a fabulous first meeting to share more about FAWCO with them and set the stage for welcoming them to the FAWCO community. After our in-person FAWCO board meeting, I traveled north by train and passed through Zürich where it was a pleasure to stop in AWC Zürich's clubhouse and say hello to their president Lyla Taylor and some of their members. I was on my way north as I was honored to be invited by FAWCO counselor and AWC Berlin's president, My-Linh Kunst, to attend their club's 130-year anniversary celebration. What an elegant event where the history of FAWCO's oldest member club was honored and celebrated!

The largest FAWCO meeting of the year outside of the Interim Meeting was in Paris in October. The clubs in Region 3 led by the RC for the region, Sandra Gogel (AWG Paris), hosted a fantastic meeting in the heart of Paris. With over 125 members attending and astounding views of the Eiffel Tower, along with an incredible program of speakers and activities, it was a meeting to remember! Other regionals in 2024 included: Morocco in January and October; Antwerp, Belgium in November; and Berlin, Germany in November. These were attended by VPs and other board members to share the connection with members worldwide.

I was privileged to represent FAWCO at meetings during 2024 with representatives from the White House Office of Public Engagement. Other groups that advocate for Americans overseas also participated. Many topics were discussed: women's rights, citizenship, voting rights, tax & banking concerns, among others. FAWCO strives to amplify members' voices in the many forums we engage in.

US Liaison – Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA, AWC The Hague) helped organize Overseas Americans Week (OAW) back in person in June in Washington DC. She worked tirelessly to make connections and bring the concerns of FAWCO members to decision-makers in DC. Voting rights were a top issue in 2024 as elections were held in many countries around the world, including a presidential election in the US. Work continues on ensuring overseas Americans' right to vote and for activation of all eligible voters in all elections. Advocacy for residence-based taxation grew in 2024, with both US presidential candidates coming out with statements in support of it, or in support of a review of the policies and legislation affecting overseas Americans. 2025 will surely be a busy year for US issues again, and Johanna and team are working hard to ensure your voice is heard and you are informed. Read more in the US Liaison section.

UN Liaison – Alex Vo (FAUSA) led a full delegation of 20 members attending CSW68 at the UN in New York in March. The 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, took place this year from March 11–22. The priority theme was "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."

One highlight for FAWCO was sponsoring a live parallel event on March 14 during CSW68. It was led by a youth advocate, Claire Castellon, daughter of Co-UN Liaison Karen Castellon. It was an interactive One Love Workshop for youth and adults, focused on seeing the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships and bringing life-saving prevention education to communities. Congratulations to Claire and all those involved in advocating for healthy relationships, which is such a bedrock for all human rights.

The 29th UN Climate Change Conference, COP29, took place in November in Baku, Azerbaijan. It was a milestone for FAWCO, which sent its largest delegation yet, including four FAWCO members from four different clubs, plus youth, virtual and other representatives from Guatemala, Malawi, Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, Spain, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, UK and Tajikistan. FAWCO members can be proud of the work that these advocates for the environment are doing. Read more in the UN Liaison section.

FAWCO Programs – The Target Program had a full and fabulous year of fundraising and awareness raising. Awesome Blossoms, a project of Safe Spaces Kenya, shared with us what teamwork, dedication and innovation can do. We've all learned more about urban gardening, sustainable agriculture and the importance of economic empowerment of women for community development. It was an honor to meet the director of Safe Spaces, Peninah Musyimi, again in Paris in October. Thanks also to everyone donating and to Lauren Mescon (FAUSA), Target Fundraising Chair, for supporting the financial goals of the project. Thank you to Amanda Drollinger (AWCC Scotland), Target Chair, for leading us all on this journey. What a great job you have done! In addition to leading the Target Program, Amanda also led the Youth Cultural Volunteers in Scotland in June/July 2024. It is one of my favorite places and surely will be a treasured memory for the youth.

Literacy Is Our Legacy: A Celebration – This initiative was started by the ever-innovative Elsie Bose (FAUSA, AWG Paris) and launched in Porto. It has been great to see the energy and connections being made amongst FAWCO authors, educators and lovers of words. Thank you to Elsie for bringing this program to life.

Publications – As President, I prepare and distribute the bulletin *Connections – Letter from Headquarters*, and this year it was published in April/May, June and October. Additionally, I contribute to the monthly *News in Brief*. I also prepared all the conference *Spotlight* publications for both Porto and Annapolis that went out to conference registrants.

FAWCO's mission is one of connection, advocacy and support. Simple, but powerful. So many are doing good work together. Thank you to all the volunteers, Member Clubs, members and leaders who help move us forward in our mission. I want to especially thank the FAWCO Board, Mary Dobrian, Kanika Holloway, Mary Manning, Cathy Farnan, Laureen Sharps and Patti Meek, for all they do. These women come together from all over the world with one mission – to serve the FAWCO community. It has been an honor to serve with them. FAWCO Counselors Sallie Chaballier and Emily van Eerten have also continued to give advice and support when needed, and I can't begin to express how grateful I am for all they do for me and for FAWCO. I also want to share my deep appreciation for the wonderful collaboration and work of Brenda Brinkley, FAUSA's president, and Janet Davis, The FAWCO Foundation president. The three organizations come together as one in March 2025 for the Biennial Conference in Annapolis. We look forward to welcoming you there and connecting throughout the year. May we feel empowered and emboldened to work for the greater good in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
FAWCO President 2023–2025

First Vice President's Report

First Vice President's Report

The First Vice President's responsibilities include overseeing all FAWCO communications, publications, the FAWCO website, web services, FAWCO virtual meetings, public relations, digital and social media, advertising and sponsorship activities. I am supported on the Communications Team by wonderful women who contribute their skills and passions to keep FAWCO moving forward as technology and means of communication evolve. I absolutely could not do it without them, and I am immensely grateful and proud to be working with them.

Publications

A publications calendar in Google Workspace is used to schedule all of the various publications distributed by FAWCO. Mailchimp was used to distribute all publications in 2024. We adopted new templates for most of our publications as Mailchimp introduced its new builder, which creates publication templates that are better suited to mobile devices. Learning how to use the new builder has required a good deal of time, patience and mental adjustment. Although some of the results are good, in other ways I find it less flexible and user-friendly than the "legacy builder." Converting the *News in Brief* template is still an uncompleted task that I hope to tackle early in 2025. As this is our most multifaceted and complex publication, it has been difficult to find the time to rework it in the new format.

Subscription rates for all publications have continued to rise or remain steady. Seven publications are in regular production. There were no UN Liaison Bulletins published in 2024 (and only two in 2023); however, the UN Team has used other means such as blogs and Zoom presentations to regularly inform our membership about their work at COP, CSW and other UN events. We continue to stress our guidelines and best practices and share communications guidelines with the teams; all are willing to follow these once they understand the reasons for them. The *News in Brief* continues to be less than brief; however, contributors are always looking for ways to streamline their content. Mary Manning and the Global Issues Teams have shortened their entries quite a bit and now make more use of links to the *Global Issues Digest* and *Target Bulletin*. I am very grateful to Mary M, President Ann Marie Morrow and Sallie Chaballier for their regular assistance in proofreading and checking publications before they go out into the world.

2024 Publication Distribution via Mailchimp: *Target Bulletin*, second Tuesday monthly, 10 issues; *News in Brief* (NiB), third Tuesday monthly, 11 issues; *Global Issues Digest* (GID), last Tuesday monthly, 10 issues; *US Liaison Bulletin*, four issues; *Club Presidents' Post*, four issues; *Connections – Letter from Headquarters*, three issues; *Inspiring Women* (IW) magazine, four issues, plus Highlights issue and special *Inspiring Women* live! issue; special mailings, 10 issues (seven 2024 FAWCO Interim Meeting – Porto, one Holiday Greeting, two Spotlight on Annapolis (2025 Biennial Conference)).

INSPIRING WOMEN LOOKING INSPIRED (Submitted by Michele Hendrikse DuBois, *Inspiring Women* Editor)

FAWCO publishes a quarterly online magazine free of charge to members and non-members. *Inspiring Women* profiles the lives of members of FAWCO clubs throughout the world who have used their skills and talents to make an impact locally and globally. We know the people within our clubs, whose life stories we think are amazing! *Inspiring Women* introduces readers to these members.

Since 2017, the *Inspiring Women* Team has:

- Published 32 quarterly issues and a special Five-year Anniversary issue
- Published and printed an annual "Highlights" magazine for the conference
- Shared over 500 stories about FAWCO and FAUSA members

Inspiring Women currently has 984 Subscribers and over 600 FB followers.

During 2024, *Inspiring Women* shone a spotlight on 57 FAWCO and FAUSA members from across all the FAWCO regions and FAUSA. We blended our “A Club Inspires” and “24 Hours In...” features to share city tours and club stories from IWC Bratislava, IWC Leipzig, AWC Madrid and AWC Hamburg.

The 2024 Issues:

- Women and Democracy
- Women Working with Words
- Women Entrepreneurs
- The Family Connection

The 2024 the *Inspiring Women* Team included:

Editor in Chief, Michele Hendrikse Du Bois: iw.editor@fawco.org

Assistant Editor, Connie Philipot: iw.assted@fawco.org

Advertising and Sponsorship Manager, Elsie Bose: advertising@fawco.org

Layout Coordinator, Kristin D. Haanæs: iw.layout@fawco.org

Features Coordinator, Carol-Lyn McKelvey: iw.features@fawco.org

Profiles Coordinator, Shaza Gahiga Bwakira: iw.profiles@fawco.org

Marketing Manager, Hollis Vaughen: iw.marketing@fawco.org

Inspiring Women also has a dedicated team of proofreaders. The 2024 team included Jill Amari (AAWE Paris), Karen Boeker (AWC Denmark), Laurie Brooks (AWC Amsterdam & AWC The Hague), Lesleigh Rizzi Brown (AIWC Genoa), Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf), Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), Tiffany Davenport (AWC Amsterdam), Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne & FAUSA), Gail Johnsen (AWC Madrid), Janis Kaas (AAWE Paris), Carol-Lyn McKelvy (FAUSA), Margie O'Rourke (AWC Dublin), Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), Shawn Watson (AWC Bern), Sally Webersinke (AIWC Cologne), Teddie Weyr, (AWA Vienna), and Roberta Zöllner (Munich IWC).

Inspiring Women remains the main publication that drives advertising revenue for FAWCO. The revenue helps pay for operating costs and has helped keep FAWCO club dues unchanged since 2019.

We continue to reach out to clubs and their members to educate them on how the magazine is a benefit to them and how they can be highlighted in the magazine. Club boards and FAWCO leadership change and, in order to keep up the high quality of the magazine and continue strong readership, it is important for the IW Team to reintroduce itself to club leadership. As part of this effort, we regularly post our current issue, upcoming events and deadlines in the NiB, FAUSA Newsletter and on our Facebook page. *Inspiring Women* highlights were included as part of the FAWCO presentation at all 2024 regional meetings and the FAUSA Getaway. We also attended the monthly TLC Zoom call to share current news with the participants.

We want to grow our readership and engage your members. The magazine is FREE - a wonderful benefit to offer your members, so send the magazine to your club membership, encourage your members to directly subscribe, promote *Inspiring Women* magazine at your club events and, when appropriate, nominate members for inclusion in *Inspiring Women*.

2025 Issues:

- Q1: Women Working With Words – Part 2

Publication Date: January 30, 2025

- Q2: Women in the UN and Multilateral Diplomacy
Nomination deadline: March 31, 2025/Publication Date: June 5, 2025
- Q3: The Phases of Womanhood
Nomination deadline: June 9, 2025/Publication Date: September 25, 2025
- Q4: Art Works – Women and the Visual Arts
Nomination deadline: October 1, 2025/Publication Date: December 4, 2025

Advertising and Sponsorship 2024 (submitted by Elsie Bose, Advertising and Sponsorship Chair)

	Budget	Actual
Advertising	\$4,500.00	\$3,057.25
Website/Sponsorship	\$4,500.00	\$6,249.25
Target Sponsorship		<u>\$2,450.00</u>
TOTAL	\$9,000.00	\$11,756.50

Porto Interim Meeting		
Sponsorship	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$4,200.00</u>
Grand TOTAL	\$12,000.00	\$15,956.50

The 2024 advertising and sponsorship budget was planned for a 0% increase over the 2023 budget. We exceeded the budget by 23.4%. Actual revenue for 2024 was slightly above the actual revenue from 2023 (12 % increase).

Based on new guidelines recommended by our new accountant with regards to “advertising,” I recommend we continue conservative growth planning.

The FAWCO Interim Meeting in Porto had a smaller sponsorship budget than the previous FAWCO Conference. We exceeded the meeting sponsorship budget by 28%.

The State Department Federal Credit Union debuted in *Inspiring Women* in the November 2024 issue, and I am pleased to announce that they will be the Diamond Sponsor for the 2025 Biennial Conference.

Volleyball Development Camps, based out of the UK, advertised with us in the first half of the year. They have proposed to me a FAWCO scholarship initiative for 2025 or 2026. The details have been forwarded to both boards for discussion.

We added one new member partner this year. American Groceries Europe, owned by Kristen Crosson and Chris Stone (AWC Brussels) were sponsors for the Porto Interim Meeting and participated in *Inspiring Women* in the fall. They will be sponsors at the 2025 FAWCO Biennial Conference.

One further advertiser, The American Sleep Clinic had ads in two 2024 issues of *Inspiring Women* but we are having difficulty getting paid. Cathy Farnan and I are working on payment.

The balance of our longstanding partners continued to support us in 2024: London & Capital, BetterHelp and TASIS. All participated with acknowledgements, logos and links in multiple FAWCO media. Our Member partners provided a large amount of our annual partner support: Launch Education Advisors, Janet Darrow Real Estate, The Pajama Company, Tharien’s Art, London Realty and MyExpatriateTaxes.com.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our partners.

I have submitted my resignation as FAWCO’s Advertising and Sponsorship Manager effective December 31, 2024. Anticipating that it may take some time to fill this position, I have worked with our partners to set up most of the 2025 programs. This is the recap of 2025 partner programs to date:

	Budget	Actual
Advertising	TBD	\$2,564.00
Website/Sponsorship	TBD	\$5,350.00
Target Sponsorship	<u>TBD</u>	<u>\$2,450.00</u>
SUBTOTAL		\$10,544.00

2025 Annapolis Conference		
Sponsorship	<u>\$9000.00</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
Grand TOTAL		\$23,544.00

This doesn't include renewals which go out in the spring and summer.
Please support our partners in 2025!

It has been satisfying to be part of the FAWCO team, and I take pride in what we have achieved. I want to thank the Board for their patience and support and the *Inspiring Women* Team for their patience and support. (I require a lot of patience!) I appreciate the help and encouragement that everyone in FAWCO gave me throughout my nearly eight years in the job. I look forward to helping my successor during their transition.

Google Workspace and FAWCO Documents

The Google Workspace platform gives FAWCO volunteers the ability to work effectively and collaboratively with the tools it offers such as Gmail, Meet, Drive, Docs, Forms, among many others. Archiving, standardization and harmonization of documents continues on an ongoing basis. Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague) does an excellent job administering FAWCO's Google workspace; I greatly appreciate her knowledge and reliability. FAWCO's Operating Documents are tracked in a spreadsheet by FAWCO's Board and especially by the Parliamentarian. The archiving of all FAWCO publications continues.

Website, Web Services, GDPR and Compliance

Website Manager Catherine "Cat" Conner (AWC Hamburg) is responsible for the technical side of the website, and she is indispensable in providing support and technical knowledge with kindness, patience, good humor and great attention to detail. I am extremely grateful for her vast knowledge and availability. In 2024, she created conference registrations for the Interim Meeting in Porto in March, as well as launching registration for the 2025 Biennial Conference in Annapolis.

Support for the web content management system used for FAWCO's website, Joomla 3.10, was terminated in 2023. Our move to Joomla 4 is still pending. Cat updated the website template in September 2024. A few additional tasks need to be completed before the transfer to Joomla 4 can take place.

Liz Slaughter-Ek (AIC Malmö) continues her behind the scenes work with registrations for the website and updating FAWCO's world map of member clubs.

Remaining compliant with all privacy, copyright and GDPR policies on the website, behind the scenes and within all communications on the website and on social media platforms is imperative and a main focus. We regularly update FAWCO's Communications Guidelines and share them with all incoming volunteers.

In 2024 the FAWCO website had 105,266 sessions (site visits) and 250,872 page views by 76,527 users. Sessions increased by 14.75% and users decreased by 9.0% from the previous year.

Web Hosting

FAWCO Web Hosting services are offered as a benefit to all Member Clubs. Those who use this service benefit from a continuity of service and the ongoing connection with FAWCO's Web Services Team. Rheagan Coffey (AWC Dublin), Web Hosting Coordinator, oversees this; she is reliable, responsive and always willing to help. Wild Apricot's discount for FAWCO Clubs was renewed and updated in 2022. The discount (23–28%) is offered

by Wild Apricot to FAWCO Member Clubs. FAWCO Web Hosting services: 34 domain names registered with us (up by two from 2023); 13 (including Moscow) websites hosted via FAWCO; 20 Clubs availing of the Wild Apricot discount (down by two from 2024); six Clubs with email hosting only (up by one from last year).

Virtual Meetings

Zoom events open to FAWCO members in 2023 included viewing and discussion of the documentary *Kiss the Ground* and workshops with outside speakers on Self-Confidence and Exploring Creative Expression, all hosted by Global Issues Teams; four Global Issues Book Discussions, including a joint event with AWC London featuring bestselling author Bonnie Garmus; open information meetings about projects shortlisted for Target 5 Environment; Target workshops on Empowering Female Climate Change Activists and on Solar Cookstoves; UN Team presentations on COP27 and the run-up to COP28; a Women Speak Up presentation on Book Banning; a virtual meeting with Target Project Awesome Blossoms leaders Peninah Nthenya Musyimi and Allan C'Oredo; and meetings of the DEIB Team.

We continue to use the Google environment extensively, and many of our meetings for FAWCO operations and groups also take place on Google Meet, including Board meetings; TLC calls for Reps, Presidents and Philanthropy; Presidents-only calls; U40 Happy Hours; and Team and committee meetings.

There were over 50 scheduled virtual meetings, events, workshops and online conferences held in 2024. We plan to continue using virtual meetings to connect with our clubs and members in 2025.

Ginny Trowman (Heidelberg IWC) organizes our Cross-Clubs Events Calendar, allowing individual FAWCO clubs to include members of other clubs in their virtual events.

Digital and Social Media Team

We continue to use the beautiful templates created by Adelina Matinca for our public social media platforms. We publish primarily on Facebook and Instagram, using Canva Pro to create images and highlighting important dates or FAWCO news and content, aiming for two to three posts per week. Most are created by the First VP Communications and posted using Meta Business Suite. Ann Marie Morrow creates posts for Facebook and Instagram Stories and LinkedIn. Ellie Badanes continues as our Twitter (X) Manager, although we have greatly reduced our use of X, as we feel it neither aligns with FAWCO's values nor necessarily reaches an audience that we seek. Some of our important allies – especially UN groups – still use X, so we believe there is some value in FAWCO staying there. However, we plan to revisit this topic in 2025, as many of our members have justifiable objections to supporting this platform.

We monitor our platforms and encourage engagement. At the end of 2024 the main social media platforms of engagement were: FAWCO Members Private Facebook group, 1,200+ members; FAWCO Public Facebook page @fawco, 1,900+ followers; FAWCO *Inspiring Women* Public Facebook page @FawcoIWMagazine, 535 followers; FAWCO Instagram @fawcoofficial, 973 followers; FAWCO Twitter @fawco, 592 followers; FAWCO LinkedIn, 595 followers. All platforms saw growth in followers and overall engagement as a whole was steady or increased.

Digital Media Summary (submitted by Ellie Badanes Digital Media Chair)

facebook.com/fawco

1.9K followers

94 Posts

Best performing posts:

January 24 – International Day of Education 19 engagements

February 21 – International Mother Language Day 22 engagements

March 11 – CSW68 16 engagements

April 3 New Books by Members 26 engagements

April 16– FAWCO Rep Appreciation Award 36 engagements

June 21 – Awesome Blossom 26 engagements

June 29 – UN Women’s Caucus President Pam Perraud 28 engagements
July 4 – Happy 4th of July 38 engagements
July 19 – New FAWCO Member Book 21 engagements
August 1 – Books by Members 13 engagements
October 19 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month 18 engagements
November 4 – Target Team Awesome Blossoms 15 engagements
November 28 – Happy Thanksgiving 18 engagements
December 5 – Our latest Books by Clubs 15 engagements
December 23 – Happy Holidays 24 engagements

instagram.com/fawcoofficial
@fawcoofficial
1071 followers
90 Posts

Best performing posts

January 26 – International Day of Education 17 engagements
February 29 – inspiring women liked by 26
March 8 – International Women’s Day 21 engagements
March 11 – CSW68 22 engagements
April 10 – new FAWCO member book liked by 28 engagements
April 18 – FAWCO Rep Appreciation Award 25 engagements
May 20 – World Bee Day 19 engagements
June 14 – Overseas Americans Week 18 engagements
June 21 – FAWCO Target Special Announcement 22 engagements
July 27 – Virtual US Voting Town Hall 23 engagements
September 26 – Inspiring Women 21 engagements
October 21 – US Citizens Abroad Check Your Ballot 24 engagements
October 24 – United Nations Day 40 engagements
October 31 – Happy Diwali 39 engagements
November 17 – International Day of Tolerance 25 engagements
November 27 – 16 Days of Activism 27 engagements
November 28 – Happy Thanksgiving 29 engagements
December 4 – 16 days of activism liked by 22
December 23 – happy holidays liked by 35

X
@fawco
589 followers
68 posts
14 reposts

Best performing posts

March 8 – Repost #IWD2024 1216 engagements
March 11 – Repost UN CSW Opening Session 234 engagements
March 21 – FAWCO DEIB 7 engagements
June 7 – Repost UN Women on Climate Justice 218 engagements
June 14 – Overseas Americans Week 8 engagements
August 18 – Virtual US Voting Town Hall 12 engagements
October 28 – US Citizens Abroad Check Your Ballot 16 engagements
November 22 – Repost Common Ground Berlin 12 engagements

linkedin.com/company/fawco
694 followers

18 posts

Best performing posts:

July – Target Project Announcement 26 engagements
November – Cop29 Opening Ceremony 15 engagements
December – COP29 Repost UN Women 12 engagements
December – COP29 Repost Alexandra Vo 30 engagements
December – Inspiring Women 13 engagements

Thanks

Once again, I extend massive thanks to my fellow FAWCO Board members – Ann Marie Morrow, Kanika Holloway, Mary Manning, Cathy Farnan, Laureen Scharps and Patti Meek – who are a joy to work with and are kind and supportive friends as well as colleagues. I have great admiration for each of their individual skills and their unshaking integrity. I will dearly miss those board members who are finishing their terms in 2025, although I know our paths will continue to cross, and I am thankful for that.

I wish to give a special thanks to Elsie Bose, who has stepped down as Advertising and Sponsorship Manager. Elsie's talent and commitment are extraordinary: she is always generating new ideas, finding solutions to problems and going above and beyond what is asked of her. She always responds promptly to communications and does so with positivity and great good humor. She is an absolute delight to work with and a true gift to FAWCO. I'm glad she will continue to work with *Inspiring Women* and *Literacy Is Our Legacy*, and we can all benefit from her contributions and knowledge in the years to come.

This year again, I also extend my deepest gratitude to Ann Marie. Getting to know her and have her as a friend has been the number one perk for my service on the FAWCO Board for the last six years. She is wise and patient, and there is always more I can learn from her – whether it is technical skills or outlooks on life. She is deeply caring and giving – to her friends and to FAWCO. I can't thank her enough.

It has been a great honor for me to serve as FAWCO VP Communications for the past two years. I cherish FAWCO and the values it represents, and I look forward to beginning a second two-year term in March 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne)
FAWCO 1st Vice President — Communications

Second Vice President's Report

Can you believe it? We are now 59 clubs strong!! It has been a true pleasure, privilege and honor to serve the FAWCO community as 2nd VP member clubs for two terms. During this time, I have witnessed great change and adversity in the world. We have emerged from a pandemic and experienced a revolution in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), our regions have been impacted by wars and natural disasters, and the US has seen the reversal of Roe vs Wade. What interesting and challenging times we are in – nothing short of the cycles that an organization as old as ours has endured in its almost 100 years. It's a history of the world and we have been on the good side of it.

For my report, first and foremost, I'd like to give a very special thank you and acknowledgement to my fellow board members for your guidance, dedication and commitment to our organization, to being dear sisters and friends. Your support has been incredible and I am so fortunate to have worked with you!

To FAWCO President Ann Marie Morrow for your dedication to managing the daily operations of the organization, a role that undoubtedly comes with its challenges.

To FAWCO VP Communications Mary Dobrian for your friendship, support and patience on the News in Brief every single month, unlimited password updates and follow up (if you know, you know).

To FAWCO 3rd VP Mary Manning for your friendship, support and loads of brainstorming ideas on Target fundraising collaborations in our regions and bringing the best of the best in Global Issues to our membership. To FAWCO Treasurer Cathy Farnan for your financial prowess, sisterhood and collaboration on just about everything related to all things member clubs (including paying dues) and additional support and guidance on life and the crazy things that go on.

To FAWCO Secretary Laureen Scharps for your highly valued educated perspectives, sisterhood and comedy relief!

To FAWCO Parliamentarian Patti Meek for your advice, support to our clubs' legacy, friendship and deep knowledge, grace and calmness.

Moreover, every year they must be recognized!! A heartfelt appreciation to the Member Clubs Team chairs and Regional Coordinators (RCs) for their unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting our clubs every day and on the monthly TLC (Team Leadership Calls and President's Only calls). Our Team's chairs provided fun and interesting workshops and cross club events, filling people's hearts with diversity education, bringing people together at regional meetings and so much more.

I can say this on repeat: we don't work without you!

To each magnificent and remarkable FAWCO Rep, your role isn't a simple task. You must have the ability to captivate an audience and persuade others not only to listen but to truly believe in FAWCO's extraordinary global impact. This role demands a unique blend of charisma and compassion. It takes someone truly exceptional, with a heart of gold, to achieve what you do. For that, I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable time and commitment to making a difference and ensuring our relevance and sustainability as an organization.

Let's celebrate: new member clubs!

We extended a heartfelt welcome to our newest member clubs:

Benvenuto Club of Milan, AIWM (Association of International Women in Malta) and IWC Bratislava.

The following is a summary of the Member Clubs Team:

The Member Clubs Team consists of:

Regional Coordinators (RCs), Regions 1–10

RC-at-Large

Club Presidents Coordinator

Club Workshops Coordinator

Cross Club Events Chair

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Chair

Membership Coordinator

U-40 (Mindset) Co-Chairs

The Member Clubs Team and what we accomplished:

These are high level overviews, as all positions have submitted their own reports in their own words.

Club Presidents coordinator:

Hosting quarterly "President's Let's Talk" calls – topics included

- Board recruitment/growing leaders
- Setting goals and keeping active during the slow periods
- Holistic look at how to keep your clubs sustainable for the future – from your boards to your members to your activities and more.
- Club engagement with FAWCO

DEIB:

The DEIB team sought to connect more with club reps in FAWCO to keep DEI at the forefront. DEI is an ever-changing landscape, and there have been many changes coming out of the United States that were hard to articulate to members while maintaining a non-partisan stance.

Membership Chair:

There weren't as many fruitful opportunities to reach out to former FAWCO clubs in that there weren't many responses. It would be a good idea to focus on *The Red Book* and former lists to try to re-engage former clubs.

Club Workshops:

We were successful with virtual FAWCO 101s in the following clubs: AWC The Hague, AWC Bern, AWC Lichtenstein, IWC Leipzig, AWC Bogota, ACIW Mumbai, Benvenuto Club of Milan, AIW Malta, AW Berkshire-Surrey, AIW Casablanca, AWA Vienna. In addition, many clubs also engaged in the new virtual workshops, The FAWCO Foundation 101s and the Target Project 101.

Cross Club Events Calendar:

The Cross Club Calendar advertised 69 events to all FAWCO clubs in 2024. The chair, Ginny Trowman (Heidelberg) reports more inbound activity and communication directly to her rather than her searching for it online on social media.

U-40s:

The under 40 **mindset** group. It is an absolute joy to join one of their calls. If you want to be inspired and uplifted, don't miss another happy hour! Their calls have increased by 150% in attendance. The word is spreading. Looking ahead, they plan to dive deeper into topics that empower members' financial, personal and career aspirations.

TLC: Team Leadership Calls

It takes a village. We got up to 52 attendees on a call – we are back!

The calls continue to be hosted on the 3rd Tuesday of every month as the NiB publication goes out on the morning of the same day. We bring the *News In Brief* to you live.

We host the calls with special guests:

In collaboration with *Inspiring Women* editor-in-chief Michele Hendrikse Dubois, Fausa Liaison Carol-lyn McKelvey and TFF representatives to ensure Educational Awards, Development Grants and Target Project fundraising and updates are highlighted.

Regional Coordinators (RCs)

Our regions, how are they doing?

Please read the carefully crafted Regional reports submitted by our Regional leadership team.

WhatsApp groups are the preferred method of communication, as the reps and presidents can instantly communicate with each other and receive FAWCO information on virtual and in-person events, publications and other important announcements. They are also a safe space to communicate region-specific issues between each other, make plans and share other goodies.

It is still encouraged for the RCs to arrange quarterly virtual (Google) meet & greets with their region's reps and presidents, and for some it works quite well. This is where regionals are created! Some of our RCs also create monthly or quarterly newsletters of the region to keep everyone in the loop.

Regionals, Regionals, Regionals! Oh my.

It has been a great pleasure witnessing the incredible work being done in all of the regions. Whether near or far, traveling for a shared purpose is what FAWCO is all about! The sisterhood we share, and our collective care for

what's happening in the world, truly reflect the importance of our mission. It reminds us that the work we do is vital, our presence is valid, and our voices must continue to be heard!

We kicked off 2024 with a Region 7 meeting in Casablanca in January. It was a holdover from 2023 due to the earthquakes in Marrakech that occurred in October of that year.

The regions offering meetings in 2024 were Region 3 (France, Spain) Region 4 (Benelux), Region 5 (Germany, Moldova, Slovakia, Austria) and Region 7 again (Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria). More below.

Region 2: RC Jonelle Lemke (AWC Denmark) – Annual meeting at the Gothenburg Film Festival, hosted by AWC Oslo.

Region 3: RC Sandra Gogel (AWG Paris) – Regional meeting hosted by AWG Paris at the exclusive Cercle de l'Union Interalliée and collaborating from all member clubs in the region on *Celebrating Connections, Empowering Women*. Peninah Nthenya Musyimi, CEO of Awesome Blossoms attended. 125 ladies from several regions were represented. There were amazing tours of Paris, special speakers and an auction that raised over 15,000 euros to donate to the Target Project.

Region 4: RC At Large Rozanne Van Rie and RC Magda Honffy (both AWC Antwerp) – Regional meeting hosted by AWC Antwerp in its 95th anniversary year, *Nurture Yourself, Nurture the Earth the first steps to Global Change*, kicked off with a private tour Antwerp's 16th-century city hall hosted by the Minister of Culture, followed by welcome drinks at the Chocolate Nation Museum. The meeting ensued with keynote speaker Cathy Berx, Governor of the Province of Antwerp.

Region 5: RC Angelika McLaren (AWC Berlin) – Regional meeting hosted by AWC Berlin in their 130th anniversary year: *Women and Democracy*. There were amazing tours, a fantastic panel of speakers and much more. Just days after the US election, we joined in Berlin for a weekend of discussion, exploration, and fun! The Women and Democracy theme featured a discussion moderated by former NPR journalist Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson.

Region 7: RC Cynthia Smith Ayed (AIWC Casablanca) – AIWA Rabat hosted the FAWCO Region 7 meeting at The Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture, Ave. Allal Al Fassi, Rabat. This was an all-day event with several guest speakers, FAWCO representative(s), American Women's Club members from Rabat, Casablanca, Kenya and Lagos, and a luncheon. The honorary president, Dr. Sarosh Sattar, wife of United States Ambassador Talwar, hosted a cocktail party and presented on women's economic and human capital progress. Additionally, guest speakers addressed women's rights in Morocco and the impact on women's civil liberties

Regions 9 & 10: Under the stellar leadership and guidance of FAWCO counselor and RC Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon), a change was voted on by the FAWCO board and accepted by Monica to combine these regions. As of last year Monica had been looking for a solution to include all time zones. Monica has been extremely successful organizing region-specific monthly TLC calls that are well attended by the member clubs of the region. It is easier for Monica to work with their time differences (4 time zones), as coordinating them with the TLC call on CET time is difficult. The Mumbai club FAWCO rep is very active on the TLC calls, often leaving her up until midnight to join these calls! Unfortunately, AWC Lebanon has been in the midst of a war, yet the FAWCO rep Carol Hage has kept us updated on the TLC calls. Our hearts and prayers continue to be with our members of that club for their safety and livelihood. Please read the Region 9 report and the club report for AWC Lebanon submitted by Carol Hage.

Regions that did not host meetings did so in 2023. They are gearing up for regional meetings in 2025, for which planning is already underway for Region 1 (RC Cynthia Holden) and Region 6 (RC Veronica Ventura). There are talks in Region 8 (Co-RCs Ann De Simoni and Maria Batista Hancock) to potentially prepare for an regional meeting. Their mighty region welcomed two new clubs this year: Benvenuto Club of Milan and AIW Malta.

Consideration of additional Regions:

As we continue to expand in Eastern Europe, the potential to add another region should be considered soon as Region 5 is getting very large. For Region 8 as well, expansion to Southern Europe is also getting too large.

Challenges for clubs in 2024:

- Expansion of member clubs to other cities and countries in Regions 9 and 10 is still difficult but promising for clubs such as Mumbai that have connections and interest in bringing in more clubs from India.
- Challenges with updating Member Club Profiles is an ongoing concern. Boards change mid-year, end of year etc. Staying on top of communications and updates to these profiles is still a great challenge to overcome.
- Diversity and inclusion in membership and member club activities as it relates to topics such as age and international members.
- Getting new board members to replace long-term board members, getting members to engage in volunteering.
- Reducing overhead, digitizing documents and archives, bylaws changes (gender-neutral language, adding international).
- Re-evaluating the purpose of supporting charities and their continuance. Looking for new local charities to support (sustainability) vs. fundraising for the Target Project.
- American vs. International in identity, many clubs are broadening their scope and outward look to include all people regardless of nationality. This is represented in the titles of their clubs, taking out the mystery. They are updating their bylaws to reflect no imbalance in membership base on nationality.

Member Club Highlights 2024

- Club anniversaries: AWC Berlin celebrating 130 years!! It is our oldest FAWCO member club.
- Additional anniversaries: AWC Bern 75 years, AWC Denmark 90 years, AWC Brussels 75 years, AWC Antwerp 95 years, AWC Madrid, 70 years, AIWC Dusseldorf 65 years, AW Surrey 50 years, AWC Philippines 45 years, AWC Oslo 90 years, AIW Malta 55 years, AWC Lebanon 70 years.
- Whatsapp Community groups are growing for communication within clubs between boards and members and the activity groups.
- More frequent use of virtual meetings and calls by all clubs and FAWCO issues teams.
- Club fundraising activities for the Target Project, attending Regionals and Interim meetings. Fundraising for local charities: AWC Korea raised 50k+ for local charities at their annual Gala and annual charity bazaar.
- Membership growth is promising! AWC Basel (33) and MIWC (32), AAWE maintaining 630 members!

Opportunity areas for 2025: What we need to work on for member clubs:

- **Time zone factors** in grouping member clubs in the regions: Consideration should be given to adjusting the regions so that at least the clubs in the same region are in similar time zones. For example (in parentheses shows the time differences): Kenya (0), Lebanon (-1) and Mumbai (-2.5) are within three and a half hours of one another while Bogota (-8) and St. John's (-7) are closer to London time (-3) than Lebanon (-1).

Other than the time zone factor, there is a sense that clubs outside of the European area are not valued as members since they are never considered when planning virtual activities and events. FAWCO needs to find a way to be inclusive of all its clubs, no matter where in the world they are. This comment was suggested by Monica Jubayli.

- **Member club profile updates, directory and distribution lists**
 - New Systems for the Member Club Profile and Membership Directory
Boards change and individual positions change throughout the year. This can represent up to 120 individuals.
Inefficiency creates more work for everyone.
Innovative ways of including personal emails need to be considered, as the member club profile update continues to be a challenge.

In the end, when access to information is blocked it lowers the value and relevance of FAWCO to the clubs.

- Many passwords need to be updated on a regular basis, causing more work for the 1st VP Communications as well as the Secretary and VP member clubs. A way for clubs to have access to updating their information without involving overlap would be helpful and efficient.
- **Budgeting:** A request by Regional Coordinators to add more of a budget to offset expenses to Regional Meetings, perhaps offering clubs hosting a Regional meeting some stipend/incentive and also to help regions do small meetings with their presidents and reps for leadership. 150 euros spread over two years is totally ineffective and a deterrent.
- **Increase FAWCO-wide club engagement:** We need to find a way to encourage more volunteers to join FAWCO activities, appointed positions, teams and committees. We should look at ways to form stronger bonds between clubs (technology is helpful here) – perhaps a club mentoring program to align clubs with other clubs in different regions to intentionally and actively pull and invite volunteers from all clubs of all regions. Look at not only focusing on Eurocentrism (not including clubs in Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America, for example) with regard to programming, time zones and selecting volunteers. An additional comment: “Seek out members from varied geographic regions, nationalities and ethnic, social and minority groups for FAWCO leadership positions.” Comment suggested by RC2 Jonelle Lemke and Monica Jubayli.
- **Preparing clubs for the future:** Technology such as AI continues to improve. Clubs can embrace new technology to communicate better with their membership and make themselves available to new members to find them.
- More in-person opportunities that are affordable.

Porto Interim Meeting highlights

Outstanding FAWCO Rep Awards 2024:

Congratulations ladies! Your Presidents love you and so do your clubs. Thank you for all that you do to win hearts and minds every day for the FAWCO mission!

And the Rep Award goes to:

AWC Amsterdam – Madeline Hendricks

AWC Central Scotland – Candace Silvera

AWC Dublin – Margie O'Rourke

AWC Hamburg – Jordan Beck Wagner

In closing, my goal in 2024 was to strengthen communication between Regional Coordinators and their regions, ensuring that member clubs – FAWCO's heartbeat – not only survive but thrive in an evolving volunteer landscape. In the future, more women will join FAWCO as volunteers who split their activities with full time work and have less availability. As the VP Member Clubs, one definitely leans on the support of the Regional Coordinators and Member Clubs Team to help maintain communication and get the message out to the clubs. To be sustainable as an organization, we must actively build stronger, more engaged communities and teams within FAWCO. This requires bold action: prioritizing inclusivity, fostering deeper connections between clubs and regions, and equipping clubs with the tools they need to succeed. We must move beyond passive communication and intentionally create opportunities for engagement – whether through live publications, interactive workshops, or dynamic programming in collaboration with the Global Issues and UN Liaison teams. Leadership in FAWCO must be proactive, ensuring that every club has access to information, the freedom to

participate, and the encouragement to lead. FAWCO doesn't function without its clubs – supporting them isn't optional, it's essential.

Looking ahead, we must push forward with determination and purpose. We are catalysts for change in the world, and our collective impact depends on our willingness to act decisively. The future is not something that happens to us, it is something we shape. I hope that we can continue to lead with conviction, engage our members with passion for the same goals, and challenge ourselves to think bigger. We must be relentless in fostering a culture of respect, accountability and action. Let kindness and love drive our words, but let urgency drive our work. FAWCO's future is in our hands, and together we will make it stronger than ever!!

Respectfully submitted,
Kanika Holloway (AWC Antwerp)
FAWCO 2nd Vice President – Member Clubs

Third Vice President's Report

The 3rd Vice President oversees FAWCO's four Global Issues Teams in the areas of Education, Environment, Health and Human Rights as well as the FAWCO Youth and Target Programs and Clubs in Motion. She is responsible for the publication of the monthly *Global Issues Digest* and contributes to the monthly *News In Brief* publication and *Target Bulletin*.

I have the pleasure of working with a truly remarkable and dedicated group of women who are the chairs of the Global Issues Teams:

- Clubs in Motion – Maggie Palu (AWAquitaine)
- Education – Rebekka Klingshirn (Heidelberg IWC) and Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)
- Environment - Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris) and Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AILO Florence, until June 2024)
- Health – Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp) and Dawn Parker (AWAquitaine)
- Human Rights – Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC) and Mary Adams (AWC The Hague)
- Target Program Awesome Blossoms – Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland)
- Youth Program – Stacey Harris Papaioannou (AWO Greece) and My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin).

I would like to highlight a very special event for the Global Issues Teams and United Nations Team, which demonstrated the critical voice our FAWCO members have in the most important topics related to women and children. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the 4th UN World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, which resulted in the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)**, a landmark global policy document for empowering women and achieving gender equality. Every five years there is a UN review of the 12 critical areas outlined in the BPfA. Several FAWCO members and Global Issues Team members played a vital role in conducting a review of the progress made and the challenges that remain in the UNECE region, which was then presented to Member States in Geneva in October. These women worked diligently for nearly one year to create position papers, recommendations, background documents, and workshops that were presented to other Civil Society members.

- Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) – Violence against women
- Jessica Buchleitner (IWC Munich & FAUSA) – Women and the media
- Karen Castellon (AWC Berlin & FAUSA) – The girl child
- Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) – NGO CSW Geneva UNECE Task Force; Women and the media; Women in power and decision-making
- Paula Daeppen (AWC Zurich) – Women and the environment
- Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC) – Women in armed conflict & Human rights of women
- Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC) – Human rights of women
- Connie Philipot (AWA Vienna) – Women in power and decision making

- Veronica Ventura (AWC Bern) – Women and health

The **Global Issues Book Club Discussion series**, which began during the pandemic, continues to be one of the most popular and visible initiatives from the Global Issues Teams. Though it is now possible to attend local book clubs, these events have continued to be well attended, reflecting FAWCO members' commitment to engaging in important issues.

- In January 2024, the Human Rights Team hosted a discussion on *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller, which recounts her attempts to obtain justice and reclaim her identity after her sexual assault made headlines across the United States.
- In April, the Environment Team hosted a discussion of *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben. Modern science has learned much about the social networks of trees, challenging our assumptions and the way we interact with nature.
- In September, the Education Team hosted a discussion of *Push* by Sapphire in celebration of International Literacy Day. Sapphire's novel reflects her real experiences as a young person and the struggles she faced in trying to break out of the cycle of poverty and ignorance.
- In December, the Health Team hosted a discussion of *Looking for Jane* by Heather Marshall, which addresses the history of women's efforts to achieve reproductive freedom.

The Global Issues Digest was published ten times in 2024, with a pause in July and August, when many members are traveling. The range of subjects covered in the articles is truly impressive. In addition, each of the Teams has supported the Target Project: Awesome Blossoms by contributing articles that demonstrate how the Target Project links directly not only to the environment, but also human rights, health, and education.

At the **Interim Meeting in Porto** in March, the following workshops were presented by Global Issues Teams:

- Health – Eldercare and Grief as an Expat
- Environment – Foraging
- Education – Shaping Tomorrow's Education Today
- Target Project – Awesome Blossoms

Teams:

Education:

The Education Team focuses on a rotating series of themes for several months, contributing articles that reflect that theme and its relationships to SDG 4: Quality Education. These themes are: universal literacy and numeracy, equal access to education, continuing education, and global citizenship. In March, they organized "5for4." Five days of activism for SDG 4, which began on March 4 (Dr. Seuss's birthday) and ended on March 8 (International Women's Day). Please refer to the Education Team report for more.

Environment:

The Environment Team organized, together with the Target Chair, Amanda Drollinger, a viewing of the documentary *We are Guardians* in October, which portrays the diverse group of native people who are attempting to save what is left of the Brazilian Amazon. It explains the economic drivers that fuel large-scale environmental destruction and the underlying corruption. In November, Co-Chair Sheila Doucet was one of four FAWCO delegates to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is an important demonstration of FAWCO's commitment to climate activism. Please refer to the Environment Team report below.

Health:

The Health Team has had great success with its WhatsApp group that addresses issues surrounding elder care, specifically from a distance, a topic that touches many of the international women in FAWCO. In addition, in October they held the first of four planned seminars on women's health, with the first focused on perimenopause, led by Dr. Veronica Ventura, a licensed OBGYN. Please refer to the Health Team report.

Human Rights:

The Human Rights Team's yearly calendar is focused on two main events: the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence, from November 25 through December 8, as well as International Women's Day on March 8. Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin and AW Aquitaine), Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC), Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) and Laurie Richardson (AWC Vienna) collaborated to develop the 16 Days Toolkit, which provided FAWCO clubs and members with a calendar of actions to affect real change on this important issue. In April, they hosted Rebekah Lisgarten, Director of Operations for STOP THE TRAFFIK, who spoke to the FAWCO community about gender rights and human trafficking. Please refer to the Human Rights Team report for more information. In December, they hosted a virtual screening of the documentary *She Rises Up!* which chronicles the amazing journeys of three women who are helping to lift their communities out of poverty through the local businesses they fight the odds to maintain.

Target Project 5: Awesome Blossoms

The Awesome Blossoms project is based on an organic, water-efficient urban farm with 75 women micro-entrepreneurs, in partnership with primary schools located in the Mathare slum area of Nairobi. Over the last year, Amanda Drollinger has worked to educate the FAWCO community on the project, hydroponic farming and the intersectionality of this project with the FAWCO Global Issues Teams. She has collaborated with the Executive Director of Safe Spaces, Peninah Nthenya Musyimi, providing information on the status of the project through monthly Target Bulletins and blog posts. She has organized several virtual events, including Target 101s, or virtual meetings with member clubs to raise awareness about the project, and the One Climate Action Workshop with Tammy Mayer, explaining how to have more effective conversations on climate change. The Target Project has reached its initial goal and is now seeking to raise an additional \$50,000 so that Safe Spaces can acquire its own land for a Hydroponics Center of Excellence. Please refer to the Target Project report below.

Youth:

The FAWCO Cultural Youth Volunteers Program was held in Scotland over the summer, with 12 young people between 13 and 17 years of age from Berlin, Heidelberg, Hamburg, Torino, AWG-Paris, Languedoc-Roussillon, Stockholm, Dublin, Central Scotland and FAUSA. The program focused specifically on the environment, with the Target Chair Amanda Drollinger also acting as Chair for the program, and they spent 5 days in the Highlands at a forest rewilding center. The 2025 Program will be held in Hamburg, Germany.

Clubs in Motion:

Maggie Palu is FAWCO's representative for healthy living and motion. She interacts with each of the FAWCO Clubs to get information on how they encourage their members to incorporate activity into their daily lives, whether it is through walking groups (often with four-legged friends), swimming, horseback riding, bowling and even pickleball. Each month she shares stories and photos from the clubs to encourage our membership to prioritize their health and fitness. Please refer to the Clubs in Motion report [here](#).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC)
3rd VP for Global Issues

Secretary's Report

My two-year term on the Board has been quite interesting as I have had the chance to serve on a team with dynamic, outspoken, and dedicated individuals. The inspiration we have from FAWCO Clubs and members has made our jobs working for FAWCO rewarding. My main responsibilities included recording the Minutes of all Board meetings, both virtual and face-to-face meetings i.e. in Italy. I ensured that the Minutes for all Board meetings were circulated, amended as necessary, finalized, and approved in a timely manner. I also recorded the Minutes of all sessions of the annual general meeting in Porto, Portugal. Once finished, I shared a copy with the board. These were sent via the Spotlight email to all participants prior to the next day's annual general meeting for review and vote to approve by the Council.

I also maintained the FAWCO Directory, incorporating all updates and uploading the Directory to the FAWCO member website at least quarterly. Furthermore, I assisted in collecting, editing and formatting the Annual Reports for the 2025 Biennial Meeting in Annapolis, MD. I ensured the Archives Chair received copies of all Conference Approved Minutes and transferred digital files of important documentation to the appropriate Shared Drive.

In an organization such as ours, there is always room for improvement. Looking forward, I strongly recommend we close all social media accounts such as Twitter/X which go against FAWCO values and hurt women and children among others, by actively spreading misinformation and disinformation. In addition, I would like to see more diversity in FAWCO leadership positions in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Laureen Scharps, (AIWC Frankfurt Taunus)
FAWCO Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's responsibilities include oversight and management of FAWCO's financial asset accounts, the maintenance of the financial records and preparation of the financial reports, coordination of an annual objective review of the financial statements and general oversight of the financial and internal controls of FAWCO.

How is FAWCO doing financially? Fantastic! 2024 financial results were unprecedented for FAWCO. As a non-profit organization, FAWCO annually budgets to break even and also plans a breakeven budget for the annual Conference and yet in 2024, FAWCO experienced a surplus of \$19k due to unusual circumstances.

• Membership & Operational (1)	\$ 5,300
• Advertising/Sponsorship (2)	\$ 3,000
• Interest Income (3)	\$ 3,000
• Conference Attendance (4)	\$ 5,100
• Donations (not budgeted)	<u>\$ 2,600</u>
○ 2024 Unbudgeted Surplus	\$19,000

- (1) Membership Dues were \$700 over budget as FAWCO added 3 new clubs in 2024 and 4 new individual members. Operationally, FAWCO efforts to reduce 2024 travel expenses and other operational expenses saved FAWCO \$4,600.
- (2) Sponsorship efforts in 2024 were stellar with Elsie Bose, FAWCO Advertising & Sponsorship Manager, securing new FAWCO sponsors.
- (3) Interest rates in the USA continued at very high rates resulting in total Interest Income of \$10,200 which was \$3,000 over the budget of \$7,200.
- (4) The 2024 Porto Interim Meeting Conference was budgeted to breakeven, however with Full Delegate attendance 25% higher than budgeted and a record number of Foundation Night guests, the 2024 Conference ended with a surplus of \$5,100.

While the 2024 financial results were positive, the long term financial outlook for FAWCO is complicated by the increasing financial pressure on Club Dues (due to declining club membership), increasing operational expense (due to inflation) and declining interest income (due to anticipated changes in USA interest rates). Identifying other revenue sources will need to be carefully considered to offset future increasing operational expenses while not incurring potential US income taxes on unrelated business taxable income.

FAWCO Fund Balances

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Donor Designated Funds			

Founders Circle	\$ 30,010	\$ 30,010	\$ 29,910
Lucy Laederich	\$ 0	\$ 345	\$ 2,081
Refugee Fund	\$ 0	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,479
Board Designated Funds			
CCB Fund	\$ 9,647	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operational Reserves	\$ 48,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
QuasiEndowment	\$ 83,200	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Workshop Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 1,421	\$ 2,418
Total Designated Funds	\$ 170,857	\$ 114,256	\$ 115,888
General Funds	\$ 114,595	\$ 152,123	\$ 131,724
Total Fund Balances	\$ 285,452	\$ 266,379	\$ 247,612

Changes to Fund Balance

During recent Closed and Open Finance meetings, there has been discussion regarding the FAWCO Fund Balances, specifically the need to better define the purpose of the funds and to provide a pathway for our members who are interested in donating or contributing to FAWCO. Thus as of December 31, 2024, the Board has created two new funds, the CCB Fund and the Operational Reserves Fund.

The CCB Fund, in honor of Caroline Curtis Brown, is to support the needs of our Clubs, encourage Conference attendance and Build towards FAWCO's future, including the celebration of FAWCO 100th anniversary in 2031. Effective December 31, 2024, the FAWCO Board voted to move the remaining balances of the Workshop Funds (\$958) and the Refugee Funds (\$3,590) into the CCB Fund and to add the 2024 Porto IM Conference surplus (\$5,100) to the CCB Fund. Individual members, FAWCO Clubs and corporate benefactors are welcome to contribute to this fund to provide additional financial support (outside of our annual budget) for Clubs, Conferences and Building the future of FAWCO.

The Operational Reserves Fund has been established by the Board in order to set aside monies in case of future economic uncertainty or unexpected future expenses. The initial funding was calculated as two years of FAWCO's annual expenses (excluding Conference expenses).

As of December 31, 2024, the Board also voted to designate the interest earned (\$3,200) on the Quasi-Endowment Fund to be reinvested into the Quasi-Endowment Fund. Overall investment interest in 2024 averaged 4%, which was significantly more than in previous years. As a reminder, the Quasi-Endowment Fund originated from a bequest from the estate of Elaine Senigallia, FAWCO President 1981-83. While the bequest did not have any restrictions from the donor, the Fawco Board, upon receipt of those funds in 2011, created a board designated fund called Quasi-Endowment. I recommend that the FAWCO Board periodically review this fund and its purpose.

The Founders Circle Fund was created by the 2003-2005 FAWCO Board to provide members the opportunity to contribute funds (outside of the annual budget) to support FAWCO's Global Issues Teams, UN and US Teams, and the work of the Board. FAWCO members, Clubs and corporate benefactors are also welcome to contribute to this fund.

Financial Assets

FAWCO's financial assets consist of cash and certificates of deposit held in bank accounts as well as online accounts (PayPal, Quickbooks, Stripe and Wise) to facilitate online international transactions, specifically for

Member Clubs to pay their annual membership dues and conference registration fees. The Treasurer and President of the FAWCO Board have signatory authority on and access to all bank and online accounts.

Cash Balances, as of December 31, 2024:

• SDFCU (State Department Federal Credit Union):	\$262,526
• Chase Bank:	\$ 5,107
• Online Accounts: (PayPal, Quickbooks, Stripe, and Wise)	<u>\$ 27,753</u>
○ Total Cash Assets	\$ 295,386

Share Certificates of Deposit and Interest Income

In order to take advantage of the current high interest rates, the FAWCO Finance Committee advised that FAWCO invest funds in SDFCU share certificates of deposit with rolling maturity dates. As a non-profit organization, FAWCO does not hold investments other than Share Certificates of Deposit. SDFCU Share Certificates of Deposit are federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration up to \$250,000.

Share Certificates of Deposit, as of December 31, 2023:

• 12 Month, expiring 01/24/2025, 5.0% APY	\$ 60,760
• 15 Month, expiring 07/25/2025, 5.10% APY	\$ 51,774
• 12 Month, expiring 12/03/2025, 4.3% APY	\$ 30,103
• 36 Month, expiring 07/25/2026, 4.40% APY	<u>\$ 106,510</u>
○ Total Share Certificates of Deposit	\$ 249,147

Approximately 84% of FAWCO's total cash is invested in interest bearing share certificates of deposit resulting in \$10,200 of interest income in 2024. As of December 31, 2024, FAWCO has approximately \$46K in funds immediately available without penalty which is more than sufficient to cover FAWCO's annual expenses (not including the Conference) of approximately \$30K. FAWCO carefully manages overall cash flow to maximize the availability of interest income without compromising the cash needs of the organization.

What happens with FAWCO's year end surplus? At the end of the year, the FAWCO Board reviews the surplus funds or loss and makes a determination as to whether the surplus should be allocated to the Unrestricted Funds or added to other Fund balances. Generally any loss would reduce the balance of the Unrestricted Funds. Donor contributions received during the year that are designated for a specific purpose or fund are transferred to the appropriate fund. See detail of the 2024 and 2023 Changes in Fund Balances above.

Financial Records and Preparation of Financial Reports

FAWCO's financial records are maintained by the Treasurer using QuickBooksOnline, a non-profit version. The 2024 preliminary Financial Statements have been prepared by the Treasurer and will be presented at the 2025 BC in Annapolis, Maryland. Monthly financial reports and bank reconciliations were performed in 2024 and presented to the Board. FAWCO's Finance Committee convened quarterly during 2024 to provide additional oversight of the Treasurer and FAWCO's finances. The draft 2023 Financial Statements were presented at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava. Open Finance Meetings were available to all FAWCO members to discuss the 2023 financial results as well as to review the 2025 budget.

Annual Review of FAWCO's Financial Statements

FAWCO's Financial Statements and supporting financial records for the year ended December 31, 2023 have been professionally reviewed in 2024 by a professional CPA and their report is included in this 2024 Annual Report.

[2023 Annual Review Report](#)

Financial and Internal Controls Recommendations

Oversight and management of the treasury operations includes periodic review of the financial and internal controls to ensure the safekeeping of FAWCO assets and to maintain the fiduciary responsibility of the Treasurer role and the Board. The following recommendation is suggested for 2025 and beyond:

Bookkeeper: FAWCO would benefit from a bookkeeper, experienced with Quickbooks Online, to provide consistent, accurate financial records over a longer period of time than a two-year board position. In addition, the FAWCO Treasurer has access to bank accounts, maintains the Quickbooks financial records and processes all deposits and payments. A separation of duties between the treasurer and a bookkeeper should be considered.

Advertising Income: FAWCO should carefully document Advertising and Sponsorship income to avoid future tax implications. Per the US IRS rules, advertising income for non-profit organizations is considered unrelated business income and thus advertising income (net of related expenses) is taxable at 21%. Sponsorship income, which supports the mission of FAWCO, is not taxable.

FAWCO Funds: The FAWCO Board should review the Quasi-Endowment Fund to further develop the purpose of this fund in alignment with FAWCO's mission and strategic plan.

FAWCO Sustainability: With the Finance Committee, I recommend that the FAWCO Board continue to evaluate the ongoing sustainability of FAWCO, focusing attention on other revenue streams and determining the appropriate level of Club Membership Dues.

I would like to thank all the Clubs for their timely payment of Membership Dues, the Finance Committee for their guidance and a huge thank you to Johanna Dishongh, current Finance Committee Chair, Alisa Cook-Roehs, former Finance Committee Chair, Patricia Aeby, FAWCO Conference Accountant and Assistant Treasurer, the Finance Committee, the FAWCO Foundation Board and the FAWCO Board for their patience and assistance during this past year and I look forward to providing the incoming Treasurer for 2025 - 2027 a smooth transition.

For further financial or treasury information, please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@fawco.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Farnan (AWG Paris & FAUSA)
FAWCO Treasurer

Parliamentarian's Report

The Parliamentarian is a Presidential appointee and a non-voting member who serves the Board over their two-year term. She attends all Board meetings, ensuring proceedings are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, and that all actions are in accordance with FAWCO Bylaws and Administrative Guidelines. The Parliamentarian is also responsible for maintaining the Administrative Guidelines (AGs) and related Handbooks. The Parliamentarian also has duties around facilitating voting both virtually, in the case of approving the annual FAWCO Budget, and at our Annual Meetings.

This year I ensured that Clubs who were not represented by a voting delegate at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava were able to cast their votes for the proposed amendments to the FAWCO Bylaws, the FAWCO Resolutions and Recommendations and the 2023-25 slate of Officers via absentee ballot or by appointing a Club member who was attending to cast the Club's votes. I also oversaw the successful vote for the approval of the 2024 Budget by Member Clubs via electronic ballot in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)
FAWCO Parliamentarian

2024 Interim Meeting Report

Porto 2024

FAWCO's Interim Meeting (IM) 2024 was held from Friday, March 15 to Sunday, March 17, 2024 at the Hilton Boeira Garden Hotel in Porto, Portugal. 133 members and 47 guests from all over the world attended FAWCO's annual meeting of inspiration, advocacy, learning, sharing and networking.



Optional tours for members and guests included a tour of the Douro Valley, a walking tour of Porto City, a cruise of the 6 bridges along the Douro River, wine tastings at local cellars. Optional tours for families, spouses and guests included a full day tour to the National Park of Gerês and a full day tour to Braga and Guimarães.

Conference Chair Bev Bachmayer (AWA Vienna) welcomed delegates and participants from all over the world including Spain, Morocco, Portugal, the Netherlands, USA and Kenya.

The conference was opened by the President Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland) referencing FAWCO origins and how the mission then is very much the same now. A lot has changed since then, but there still is more work to be done in achieving the mission of a more peaceful world and advancing the rights of women and children worldwide. It was noted that delegates from the original seven founding members of FAWCO were in attendance. She also welcomed members from IWC Leipzig who were in attendance as the newest member club at the end of 2023. She reported that FAWCO aims to support member clubs, connect like minded individuals to help pursue their interests and advocate together for positive change.

The Foundation president Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne) reported on an impressive year that included several sizable donations in 2023. FAUSA's president, Brenda Brinkley, reported on their organization's growth in events and fundraising. We also heard a moving tribute to FAWCO Icon Jackie Isler (1931-2023) given by FAWCO Counselor, Georgia Regnault (AWC The Hague, FAUSA).

Further reports were from 1st VP Communications, Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne) sharing all the work that goes on behind the scenes with publications, social media, and the website. Inspiring Women magazine launched their Highlights magazine for 2023 during their presentation and told about the impressive work of their team both in creating a publication but also in terms of helping spread news about FAWCO's work, FAWCO's members and Member Clubs. It was also noted that sponsorship of the magazine helps support FAWCO's budget. Which led to Elsie Bose, (FAUSA, AWG Paris) giving her report on advertising and sponsorship which again exceeded expectations. A new sponsor for the Target Project, Launch Education Advisors, became partners with FAWCO.

Literacy is Our Legacy – A Celebration was then launched by Elsie Bose. She introduced the initiative as a celebration to support FAWCO's writers and would-be writers and promote reading and literacy worldwide. There was a popular workshop continuing the celebration on Sunday that brought together interested parties to contribute to the vision of the initiative.

US Liaison Johanna Dishongh, (FAUSA, AWC The Hague) also reported on Friday about all the work her team does in the areas of citizenship, voting and tax and banking for Americans overseas. She told about Overseas Americans Week and the progress, and lack of progress they are making within Washington DC on issues important to members. Especially noted was the issue of citizen-based taxation and efforts to bring attention to the problems Americans overseas face.

Sponsors were thanked and FAWCO's Gold Sponsor, London & Capital, shared a video highlighting their work and reiterating their support for FAWCO's mission and members. This is the fifth FAWCO event that has been supported by London & Capital. FAWCO Interim Meeting Bronze Sponsor, MyExPatTaxes, attended the conference and held a workshop on Saturday. This was the third year that MyExPatTaxes has been a FAWCO Conference Sponsor. American Groceries Europe was thanked for being a Bronze Sponsor. They are owned by a member of AWC Brussels and they attended the conference and contributed to the Silent Auction as well.

FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards were given to Jordan Beck Wagner (AWC Hamburg), Madeline Hendricks (AWC Amsterdam), Margie O'Rourke (AWC Dublin), and Candace Silvera (AWC Central Scotland).

Saturday morning sessions included a review of the previous years' Education Awards and Development Grant recipients, showcasing how much the awards are appreciated and make a positive difference in many lives. The Treasurer's report was shared in an easy-to-understand way by FAWCO's Treasurer Cathy Farnan (FAUSA, AWG Paris). She highlighted that FAWCO budgets to breakeven over the year. In the case of 2023, overall there was a surplus due to budgeted costs that were pushed forward to 2024 and the fact that there was higher than anticipated attendance at the conference. VP Member Clubs, Kanika Holloway (AWC Antwerp), gave her report and shared some highlights and challenges the clubs faced in the last year. She also met with Reps, RCs and Presidents in two different workshops that aimed to connect volunteers with each other and FAWCO.

Also on Saturday, there were numerous reports from the Global Issues Teams, with each one showcasing what they passionately advocate for, whether it be education, health, human rights, the environment, Clubs in Motion or the youth program. A special treat at the Interim Meeting was when Peju Abuchi (AWBS International Women's Club) shared a moving poem, *The Blessing of Hands*, with the FAWCO community. An empowering and encouraging performance to inspire!

There was a recap of the Target Program and the current Awesome Blossoms (AB) Project from Target Chair, Amanda Drollinger (AWCC Scotland). Hydroponic equipment had been installed at two schools, peer educators trained and harvesting had begun. During the Target workshop participants in Porto were able to connect live via Zoom with Safe Spaces Director Peninah Nthenya Musyimi and participants in the AB Project in Kenya. Fundraising was also reported to be going well. Amanda and Target Fundraising Chair, Lauren Mescon (FAUSA) from The FAWCO Foundation reported that 112,000 USD has been raised so far.

The traditional Face2Face event was held midday and allowed teams to showcase their work at tables where they could meet and interact with attendees wanting to learn more. In the afternoon, nine workshops were held for attendees. Workshop topics ranged from US Issues, taxes, Health Team: Elder Care: Grief as an Expat, Environment Team: Foraging and the UN. The evening concluded with Foundation Night, Fairytale Magic: Happily Ever After for a Great Cause, which included FAWCO Foundation Dinner, Silent and Live Auctions.

Sunday's morning sessions started with the Foundation announcing over 41,000 USD raised during the weekend. They sincerely thanked all the volunteers and generous contributors. The Quilt raffle winner was revealed and it was Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark) with a historic win - her second time winning a FAWCO Foundation quilt. In all, \$2,690 was raised through quilt raffle ticket sales for the FAWCO Foundation. There were nine more workshops on Sunday including: Education Team: Shaping Tomorrow's Education Today, U-40 Attracting Younger Members to Your Club, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Team and Ways Your Club Can Use Social Media... Effectively.

FAWCO's UN Liaison, Alex Vo (FAUSA) shared reports about FAWCO's participation in UN events such as COP28 in Dubai and CSW67 at the UN in NY. She noted that there were twenty FAWCO delegates attending CSW68 which was ongoing during the Porto conference time. She also highlighted work advocating for human rights and the events surrounding the 75th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. She shared with attendees what all the many members of the UN Team do and how to get involved. Alex also led two workshops: The UN and How You Can Participate and FAWCO & The UN: Let's Chat About Climate Change and FAWCO's Role.

Rounding out Sunday's sessions the recipients of the Education Awards and Development Grants were announced. The appointments of the Nominating Chairs for the FAWCO Foundation and FAWCO were announced as well as the R&R Chair. Other appointments included: Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin, AW Aquitaine) was appointed as Co-UN Liaison. A new position on the Inspiring Women magazine team is Assistant Editor and Connie Philpot (AWA Vienna) was appointed. Also appointed to the Inspiring Women Team were Shaza Bwakira Gahiga (AWC Madrid), as Profile Coordinator (replacing Cristin Middlebrooks, AWC Antwerp), and Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA), as Features Coordinator (replacing Connie Philpot).

The announcement that FAUSA will host FAWCO's 2025 Biennial Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, USA was made and met with great enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
FAWCO President

UN Liaison Report



The FAWCO United Nations Team has grown significantly in 2024. Highlights include our largest delegations (ever!) that attended CSW68 and COP29 among other UN meetings and activities throughout the year.

- At the FAWCO Interim Meeting (IM) conference in Porto, Portugal (March 2024), President Ann Marie Morrow doubled the leadership of the FAWCO UN Team by naming Co-UN Liaisons Alexandra Vo (FAUSA, AWG Paris) and Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin, AWAquitane).
- The UN Team had record participation from **26 FAWCO members in 13 clubs** including AWA Kenya for the first time.
- In addition to regular meetings with NGO CSWs in NY, Vienna and Geneva, delegates participated in the following **eight official UN meetings**: [CSocD62](#), [CSW68](#), [2024 Civil Society Conference](#), [SB60](#), [Summit of the Future](#), [UNGA79](#), [UNECE B+30](#), [COP29](#).
- The Team hosted **four webinars and three in-person events**: "COP28 in Dubai Chat" webinar; two CSW68 Orientation webinars; "Empower Youth: See the Signs of Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships" in-person at CSW68; two workshops at the FAWCO IM; "CSW68 Debriefing" webinar.
- FAWCO co-signed the following statements: [Soroptimist for CSW69](#), [Graduate Women International for CSW69](#), [Zonta for CSW69](#), [Oral Statement at CSocD62](#), [Oral Statement at CPD57](#).
- The UN Team posts in the following social media: [FAWCO Members Private Group \(FB\)](#); [FAWCO at the UN \(FB\)](#); [FAWCO](#) on LinkedIn; and [Alexandra Vo's LinkedIn](#) as UN Liaison in addition to the dedicated [United Nations section](#) on the FAWCO website.

2024 FAWCO Interim Meeting, Porto, Portugal

Alexandra Vo, UN Liaison, presented the Annual Report and hosted two workshops:

- "Let's Chat about Climate Change & the UN"
- "UN & How You Can Participate" with the following panelists:
 - Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna, former UN Liaison)
 - Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris)

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna (NGO CSW Vienna)

Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), formerly Chair of NGO CSW Vienna, continues to represent FAWCO on the committee.

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva (NGO CSW Geneva)

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) was appointed to represent FAWCO at NGO CSW Geneva in October 2022. Since April 2024 she has served as Executive Secretary and Paula Daeppen (AWC Zurich) is the Parliamentarian of NGO CSW Geneva.

- [Beijing +30 Review](#). Several FAWCO members participated in the NGO CSW Geneva working groups to review the progress of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region ahead of the Platform's 30th anniversary in 2025, also known as Beijing +30 (October 2023- October 2024). Some members attended the in-person events in Geneva on October 19-20, the NGO CSW Geneva Civil Society Forum on B+30, and on October 21-22, the UNECE Regional Review. The FAWCO webinar: "FAWCO's Review of the Seminal Beijing Platform for Action +30" has been set for February 27, 2025.
- FAWCO representatives who served as convenors included:
 - Women and the Media: Jessica Buchleitner (FAUSA), Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris)
 - Violence against Women: Mary Adams (AWC The Hague)
 - Human Rights of Women: Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC)
 - Women and Health: Veronica Ventura (AWC Bern)
 - Women in Power and Decision-Making: Connie Philipot (AWA Vienna)
 - The Girl Child: Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin)
 - Participants: Paula Daeppen (AWC Zurich), Pam Perraud (FAUSA, AAWE Paris), Marelle Manders (IWC Heidelberg), Amanda Drollinger (AWC of Central Scotland)

62nd Commission on Social Development (CSocD62) and the [NGO Committee on Migration \(NGO CoM\)](#) Jane Politi (AWC Rome) serves on the NGO CoM as Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Children in Migration.

- The year started off with a "Call to Action – NGO Committee on Migration – Right to Shelter time limits"
- [62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development](#), February 8, 2024. Both the virtual side event, "Keeping the Promise: Leave No One Behind! Social Protection Responses to Forcibly Displaced Children" and the [oral statement](#) were supported by FAWCO.
- [57th Commission on Population and Development](#), FAWCO endorsed the [Oral Statement by OMEP](#).
- World Children's Day in October was observed with an intro and video clip by NGOCOM.

[Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW68\)](#) and **NGO CSW Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW New York).**

FAWCO endorsed the following statements: [Soroptimist](#), [Zonta](#). The CSW68 priority theme was "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective". FAWCO sponsored the in-person parallel event through NGO CSW Forum, "[Empower Youth: See the Signs of Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships](#)" on March 14, 2024. Co-sponsors were NoMore and I Have the Right To and featured content and collaboration from the One Love Foundation. For the first time, FAWCO had youth presenters in Catalina Solorzano, Claire Castellon and Elisa Solorzano. The two high schoolers and one middle schooler facilitated a workshop to recognize the signs of healthy versus unhealthy relationships, addressing head-on one of the root causes of domestic violence. They were joined by FAWCO delegates who attended the two week gathering at various times and shared their experiences and learnings via blog posts. On May 15, 2024, the UN Team hosted a "CSW68 Debriefing" webinar for FAWCO members to hear directly from some of the delegates.

- FAWCO Delegates to CSW68:
 - Alexandra Vo (FAUSA, FAWCO co-UN Liaison)
 - Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin, AW Aquitaine, FAWCO co-UN Liaison)
 - Claire Castellon, FAWCO Youth Delegate
 - Jasmine Griffin-Inostroza, One Love
 - Carol Harbers (AWC Hamburg)

- Ruba Hattar, Collateral Repair Project, Amman, Jordan
 - Mae Hsieh, Womankind, NYC
 - Amanda Lane, Collateral Repair Project, Amman, Jordan
 - Jane McCall Politi (FAUSA)
 - Kate O'Toole (AWC Berlin)
 - Jennifer Padfield (FAUSA, AWC Berlin)
 - Pam Perraud (AAWE Paris and FAUSA)
 - Peter Pruyn, EMDR Therapist, MA
 - Monika Sachs-Wilde (AWC Berlin)
 - Lisa Wilde, FAWCO Youth Delegate (AWC Berlin)
 - Catalina Solorzano, FAWCO Youth Delegate
 - Dr. Christine Solorzano, Pediatric Endocrinologist
 - Elisa Solorzano, FAWCO Youth Delegate
 - Zhou Zhuang-Haas (FAUSA, AWC Philippines, AIWA-American International Women's Association of Rabat)
- FAWCO's Pam Perraud was a dais speaker at the last CSW68 [Civil Society Briefing](#) (at 50 minute mark) on March 21, 2024.

[2024 UN Civil Society Conference, Nairobi](#), May 9-10, 2024. AWA Kenya and Awesome Blossoms representatives participated in the [2024 UN Civil Society Conference](#). Their participation was a direct result of the UN Team's workshop "How to Participate in the UN" at the 2024 FAWCO Conference in Porto.

- Andrea Elisabeth Margarete Leon (AWA Kenya)
- Halima Ursuna Dube (AWA Kenya)
- Peninah Nthenya Musyimi, Awesome Blossoms

[78th Session of the General Assembly](#), the [Summit of the Future](#) and [NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York \(NGO CSW NY\)](#)

Alexandra Vo (FAUSA, AWG Paris) is the FAWCO UN Liaison. She follows the news coming out of the annual General Assembly and progress with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Summit of the Future, both of which convene annually in September. She also attends meetings at NGO CSW NY.

Climate Change Advocacy through the [UNFCCC](#), the UN climate change treaty

COP28 Webinar: On February 19, 2024, the UN Team hosted the "COP28, Dubai Chat" webinar for FAWCO members. Alexandra Vo reviewed the key outcomes while COP28 delegates Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne), Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris), and Eesha Rangani (USC PhD student, guest badge holder) related their on-the-ground experiences. They have also written blogs for the UN Team including from Hwei Mian Lim who was our fourth delegate.

[60th Subsidiary Bodies \(SB60\), Bonn](#). These smaller intermediary meetings take place every June in Bonn, the secretariat of the UNFCCC. Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne), our head UNFCCC representative, attended as she has for the past 6 years.

[The 29th Conference of Parties on Climate Change \(COP29\) in Baku, Azerbaijan](#). From November 11-22, FAWCO sent a delegation of 18 representatives both in-person and virtually. FAWCO was allotted seven in-person badges, an increase from three at COP28, and ten virtual badges. This increase of badges is a recognition by the UNFCCC that FAWCO consistently and actively participates in its process. The badges can be assigned to representatives by dates within the 2 weeks conference timeframe. For simplicity, we assign them by week – week 1 or week 2 – thus we had the opportunity to send up to 14 in-person representatives. In 2024, Meg Brew (AWC, Amsterdam) joined the in-person delegation for the first time for a total of four FAWCO members. For the extra badges, we worked with the [Women and Gender Constituency \(WGC\)](#) and the [Youth NGOs \(YOUNGO\)](#), two of the nine constituencies recognized by the UNFCCC, to identify candidates. Additionally,

Ayuska Motha, head UNFCCC representative, and Alexandra Vo prioritized participants who are female, youths (up to age 35), Indigenous people, from the global south, and/or have a disability. We also extended two badges to winners of the [Gender Just Climate Solutions competition \(GJCS\)](#) where Ayuska Motha is a juror. Awesome Blossoms, FAWCO's 5th Target Project, was featured (pg 28) in the [9th Edition of the Gender Just Climate Solutions](#) publication.

- In-Person Representatives
 - Alexandra Vo (UN Liaison, FAUSA, AWG Paris)
 - Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne)
 - Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris)
 - Meg Brew (AWC Amsterdam)
 - Bianca Garvin, YOUNGO, Finland*
 - Sher Shah Khan Bangash, Skillistan, Pakistan*
 - Karen Aleida Dubois Recinos, Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación, Guatemala⁺
 - Iman Berry, Green Ummah, Canada, Turkey*
 - Anisa Abibuloeva, GJCS Awardee, The Little Earth, Tajikistan
 - Mary Shillah Raymond, Kutoka Urban Slums Initiative, Kenya⁺
 - Tuba Rafi, DASTAK Foundation, Pakistan, GJCS Awardee 2023
- Virtual Representatives
 - Amanda Drollinger (AWC of Central Scotland)
 - Joan Evers (AWC Madrid)
 - Halima Dube (AWA Kenya)
 - Meghna Chakkraborty, South Asia Young Women in Water, India*
 - Amira Ibrahim, EGYouth4Climate, Egypt*
 - Hope Gondwe, Climate Mobility Community Action Network(CMCAN), Malawi*
 - Thilini Gunathilake, SLYCAN Trust, Sri Lanka*

*through YOUNGO

⁺through WGC

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin, AWAquitane)
Alexandra Vo (FAUSA)
FAWCO Co-UN Liaisons

Member Clubs Teams

FAWCO Club Workshops Coordinator Report

FAWCO currently offers 12 different workshops either online or in person for our Member Clubs. Subjects range from information on the current Target Project and Tech for Your Club to The Foundation's Guide to Fundraising (which was also presented at the 2024 FAWCO Conference), as well as how to Shape Your Club's Brand Story. With a wide range of subjects, there's something for everyone. For the year 2024, 11 FAWCO Clubs took advantage of these offerings with 20 workshop requests. Target 101 was the most popular, followed by Teambuilding and FAWCO 101. At the 2024 FAWCO Interim Meeting in Porto, MyExpat Taxes presented a workshop on US Tax and Reporting for Americans Abroad in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyla Taylor (AWC Zürich)

FAWCO Club Presidents' Coordinator

As Club Presidents Coordinator, I help facilitate communication and connection between and among Club Presidents and FAWCO. Over this past year, I have published the quarterly Club Presidents' Post in March, May, August, and December 2024, through which I have strived to provide useful information to club presidents for the management of their clubs. I have also held online meetings exclusively for, and with, FAWCO Club Presidents on Google Meet. These meetings have provided an open forum for presidents to discuss and exchange ideas on topics that are of particular interest or challenge for their clubs – from membership engagement to recruiting future club leaders. Additionally, in my capacity as Club Presidents Coordinator, I prepared a workshop for club presidents for the FAWCO Interim Conference, which was held in March 2024, in Porto. Given the common issue among clubs in recruiting for and filling board positions, that workshop specifically focused on the topic of growing members into leaders. It explored the barriers to recruiting leaders and possible solutions to break those barriers. Throughout my time as Club Presidents' Coordinator, I have sought to strengthen and improve my communication and relationship with FAWCO Club Presidents and to be a source of support and partnership – all with the ultimate goal of continuing to strengthen FAWCO Member Clubs. It has been a pleasure to serve as FAWCO Club Presidents' Coordinator and on the Member Clubs Team.

Respectfully submitted,
Shweta Gupta (FAUSA/AWC Berlin)
FAWCO Club Presidents Coordinator

FAWCO Cross Clubs Events Coordinator

The Cross Club Calendar advertised 69 events to all FAWCO Clubs in 2024. This is a slight decrease from the last few years. Forty-four of these were FAWCO organized events such as talks, presentations, 2024 Annual Report discussions, monthly meetings, Regional Meetings and the Interim Meeting. Three were FAUSA events. Twenty-two events were shared by six different clubs.

I have had a lot of good feedback this year about the Calendar which does not reflect in the numbers. I received a lot more emails this year with events to share rather than me searching through the Facebook groups. I attended most monthly FAWCO TLC meetings where I explained how the calendar works and where to find it. This seems to be the best way to get the word out to the biggest audience. I will continue to promote the Calendar to Clubs. From the feedback it is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Trowman (Heidelberg IWC)
FAWCO Cross Clubs Coordinator

FAWCO Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Chair

Social media has worked well for our team as a method to communicate with members and push out time sensitive information. DEI is an ever changing landscape. This year there have been many changes coming out of the United States that were hard to articulate to members while maintaining a non-partisan stance. In the next year we would like to connect more with club reps around the world to keep DEI at the forefront. We will need a new chair next year as I'm repatriating to the USA.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Mani (AWC Amsterdam)
FAWCO DEIB Chair

FAWCO Membership

The biggest part of my position has been dealing with applications for Individual Memberships. About half the time, these are from FAWCO members who have moved on to locations where there is no FAWCO club. I review the application and forward it to the FAWCO president for approval. I also do research in the person's new area, looking for American or international clubs that might be of interest. I also encourage them to start a new FAWCO club or approach an existing club with the idea of becoming a FAWCO club and offer to act as liaison for a possible meeting by Zoom. From time to time, I get requests from people who are interested in starting a FAWCO club but are not good candidates, e.g., a non-American missionary in a developing country. I work with the person in various ways, trying to help them find American contacts who might be willing to work with them. It hasn't yet led to the creation of new clubs, but it's always interesting. The easiest and most rewarding part of the position is when a FAWCO member moves to a new location and enthusiastically introduces the idea of a local club becoming a member of FAWCO. Hope Moore did this in Malta. Then all I have to do is to congratulate and welcome the new FAWCO Member Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca DeFraités (AWG Paris)
FAWCO Membership Chair

FAWCO Under 40

In 2024, we were thrilled to grow our U40 Happy Hour attendance by over 50% compared to last year, welcoming over 70 FAWCO members to 10 engaging and dynamic gatherings. These Happy Hours inspired self-growth, education, and the pursuit of personal passions, with highlights like our Tomato-Themed Happy Hour and “9 in 90 Goals” workshops, which supported members in achieving long-term goals through small, manageable steps. We also collaborated with member clubs on social media strategies and attracting younger members, further cementing our role as a hub for innovation and connection.

Despite five successful years, many FAWCO members are still unaware that our U40 Happy Hours are open to all, regardless of age. In 2025, we're aiming to expand attendance by promoting our meetings more effectively, introducing ourselves to a wider audience, and collaborating with the social media team to boost awareness of our welcoming, member-focused events.

Looking ahead, we plan to dive deeper into topics that empower members' financial, personal, and career aspirations. From financial literacy and small business interests to maintaining our signature judgment-free zone, our Happy Hours will remain engaging, fun, and inclusive spaces where curiosity thrives. We're also proud of our open mic format, which invites attendees to share and connect in real-time. Finally, we're excited to contribute to the upcoming FAWCO meeting in Annapolis, sharing the U40 perspective and fostering collaboration. Together, we're building a vibrant, supportive community that celebrates growth and connection.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Beck Wagner (AWC Hamburg)
Karen O'Shaughnessy (FAUSA, AWC Hamburg)
FAWCO Under 40 Co-Chairs

Global Issues

Education Team Report



Our recently revised Mission Statement is based on SDG 4 and reads as follows:
The FAWCO Education Team's mission is to inform about and advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, particularly as it relates to women and girls.

Areas of Emphasis

1. Universal Literacy and Numeracy (SDG Target 4.6)
2. Equal Access to All Levels of Education, Pre-Primary to Secondary (SDG Targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5)
3. Access to and Initiatives in Continuing Education after Secondary School (SDG Targets 4.3, 4.4)
4. Global Citizenship, in that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (SDG Target 4.7)

In 2024, the team continued to contribute to the *Global Issues Digest* (GID) and the *News in Brief* (NiB) on a monthly basis. In addition, we (co-)sponsored two virtual events, including a Global Issues book discussion on *Push*, by Sapphire, in September 2024. Also of note was a very well-attended workshop led by the Education Team at the FAWCO Interim Conference in Porto in March 2024. We got some wonderful feedback that has helped shape our activities over the past 9 months.

Currently, we have a total of 16 members on our dedicated team. About 6-8 members generally join us each month for our Team Chats. These monthly discussions result without fail in interesting ideas for articles and future events. We have also continued to liaise with other Global Issues Teams and the Target Project. We want to continue to discover more ways to work with other FAWCO groups, but we have had some success thus far.

Throughout the last year Education Team members and guests have submitted some fascinating and educational articles for our section of the FAWCO website. Please see, for example:

- o January: *An Overview of the Education System in Kenya*, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
- o February: *Navigating the Needs of Neurodiverse Students (SDG Target 4.5)*, Devinder Buttar (AWC London)
- o February: *Education in Kenya and the Muslim Primary School*, Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland and Target Program Chair)
- o April: *Nurturing Neurodiversity (SDG Target 4.5)*, Devinder Buttar (AWC London)
- o April: *Education Roundup: April 2024*, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne and Education Team Co-Chair)
- o May: *Awesome Blossoms Training Sessions in Financial Literacy and Hydroponic Farming Create Micro-Entrepreneurs*, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
- o May: *Education Roundup: May 2024*, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne and Education Team Co-Chair)
- o June: *Education and Awesome Blossoms*, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
- o June: *Education Roundup: June 2024*, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne and Education Team Co-Chair)
- o *Education Roundup: September 2024*, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne and Education Team Co-Chair)
- o October: *Being Neurodivergent in a World Created for Neurotypical Learners*, Gabriele Maier (AIWC Düsseldorf)
- o October: *Education Roundup: October 2024*, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne and Education Team Co-Chair)
- o October: *Notes From the Field: What (Il-)literacy Means to a Family*, Rebekka Klingshirn (Heidelberg IWC and Education Team Co-Chair)

- October: *SPOSA CHILD 11 Years Later: Promoting Continuing Education*, Mary Adams (AWC The Hague)
- November: *Follow-Up on Wageningen University Consultation with Awesome Blossoms*, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
- November: *Book Review: The Offing by Benjamin Myers*, Mary Adams (AWC The Hague)
- November: *2024 Charitable Giving and Gifts for the Holidays*, Education Team
- December: *The Insidious Rise of Book Banning: Facts, Figures and Taking Action*, Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA and AIWC Cologne)

Finally, a highlight of the year was the Target Program 101, *Wacha Tucheze* – Kenyan Cultural Karaoke, that the Education Team co-sponsored with the AWC Madrid. During the session we discussed the ways in which the Target Program, Awesome Blossoms, contributes to the realization of SDG 4 and had a wonderful time singing some Kenyan songs. However, the absolute high point was our interaction with some of the women entrepreneurs and peer educators involved in Awesome Blossoms. They taught the participants a dance, which everyone greatly enjoyed!

We hope to continue the Education Team's contribution to FAWCO on all things SDG 4 into 2025 and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,
 Rebekka Klingshirn (Heidelberg IWC)
 Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)
 Education Team Co-Chairs

Environment Team Report



As the impacts of the world's climate change becomes increasingly evident, the Environment Team continues to present FAWCO members with timely information gleaned from a variety of sources about environment-related topics which have piqued our interest and stimulated our curiosity. To that end, we continue our commitment to contributing **monthly articles to the *Global Issues Digest (GID)*** and organizing an **evening book discussion** in celebration of International Mother Earth Day during the month of April. This year's selection featured *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate, Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben. Our Environment Team Co-Chairs also conducted a **workshop** entitled "A Fanciful Look at Foraging" at the FAWCO Interim Meeting (IM) in Porto in March. Members of the team collaborated with the UN team to participate in **report back panels** to present findings and share personal anecdotes from UN-affiliated events (**COP28 Dubai and UNFCCC SB-Bonn**).

In the *GID*, the team contributed a wide variety of topics which included reports from members who attended UN-sponsored events, scientific inquiries, inspiration from the FAWCO Interim Meeting in Porto, follow-ups to environment workshops and a "guest contribution" from the Human Rights Team Co-Chair. Herewith the titles of our **GID articles in 2024**:

1. January: *Environmental Resolutions & Tips for a New Year* (Team collaboration)
2. January: *Beware the Stone Age: Musings from COP28*
3. February: *Oceans – Part of the Climate Change Dialogue*
4. March: A "Taylor"-Made Solution: The Porto Protocol
5. March: *Foraging: A Wisp of Warning... and Wishes for Happy Hunting*
6. April: *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): What they are, where they are found, and how to limit exposure*

7. May: *Unveiling Secrets of our Neighbors – Trees*
8. May: *Book Review: Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World by John Vaillant*
9. June: *Land and Ocean Sustainability: A Perspective from New Zealand*
10. September: *FAWCO Youth Ambassadors 2024: "Rewilding" the Scottish Highlands*
11. October: *An Environmental Dilemma in Southern Africa: Elephants and Trees: How to Coexist?*
12. November: *The Great Christmas Tree Debate – Real vs. Plastic* (Team collaboration)
13. December: *"Should auld acquaintance be forgot?": A Year in Perspective*
14. December: *Urban Agriculture: How Does Your Garden Grow?*

In addition, for the third year in a row, we continued to organize online **movie nights** ("We Are Guardians" in October) to view and discuss. These remain popular to the general FAWCO community in addition to continuing to supplement our online **Recommended Books** entries where members review environment-related books. We also invited members to share any topical books they are reading during our meetings in a time set aside called **"What's on your bedside nightstand"?** In all that we do, our objective is to open a dialogue, to share insights and solutions, and to deepen our appreciation for the beauty of the world around us.

After two academic years of service, Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AIO Florence) stepped down as Environment Team Co-Chair and has not yet been replaced. Our team roster of 22 is a dynamic team of women living in time zones stretching from Bogota to Mumbai. We hold monthly team video meetings to plan, exchange ideas and share information about upcoming events. In closing, it has been our pleasure to support the environment themed Target Program Environment and the Target Project Awesome Blossoms throughout its lifecycle which ends in March 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Environment Team Co-Chair
Sheila Doucet (AAWE)

Health Team Report



During 2024, the Health Team welcomed the following to our team:

- Dawn Parker (AWAquitaine) as Co-Chair;
- Lucy Andrews (AWAquitaine) as Chair of the Elder Care group;
- Veronica Ventura (AWC Bern) as the leader of Phases of Womanhood.

We published various articles focusing on important health topics, including women's health, mental wellness, aging and breaking medical news. Our ongoing webinar series, "Phases of Womanhood," has gained significant interest, addressing key issues women face at different stages of life. We continue to support the FAWCO members through the Elder Care Group, offering valuable resources and assistance. The book discussion on *Looking for Jane*, sparked insightful conversations about the themes of motherhood, identity, and choices.

Going forth in 2025, we will continue to explore stories pertaining to Elder and Breast Care and Phases of Womanhood. FAWCO members sharing their personal health stories are firmly anchored. We are looking forward to another active year!

Clubs in Motion



Twenty-six clubs, two of them new to FAWCO, reported MOTION by their members in 2024, as did FAUSA. Most also sent photos. By sharing info about what your club members are doing, you might be providing ideas for other clubs. FAUSA suggests that if the weather is cold, wet, or just nasty where you are, try an on-line class, such as yoga, Zumba, weights, etc., or perhaps there's a treadmill or rower that you can use inside. MOTION is healthy and can include raking leaves or shoveling snow! To quote Fran at AWC Madrid, "exercise is health, and health is wealth."

To see a detailed report of the MOTION recorded by our clubs for 2024, please refer to our [webpage](#).

The following clubs, or individuals from these clubs, reported activities during 2024:

AWC Amsterdam	AWC Antwerp
AW Aquitaine	AWC Berlin
AWC Bern	AWC Bogotá
AIWC Casablanca	AWC Central Scotland
AWC Denmark	AWC Dublin
AIWC Düsseldorf	AIWC Frankfurt-Taunus-Rhein Main
AIWC Genoa	AWC Gothenburg
AWC Greece	AWC The Hague
AWC Hamburg	Heidelberg IWC
AWG Languedoc-Roussillon	IWC Leipzig
AWC Madrid	AIC Malmö
Benvenuto Club of Milan	ACIW Mumbai
Munich IWC	AIWC Naples
AAWE Paris	AWG Paris
AW Surrey	AWC Zürich
FAUSA	

To highlight just a few of the remarkable achievements of our members:

- Ginny from Heidelberg IWC completed the Frankfurt Ironman competition, one of only 500 women competing. She qualified for the World Championships in Nice and in Hawaii in 2025.

- Ros from Munich IWC cycled 820 km from Rome to Lucca.
- Susan from Munich IWC reported walking more than 970 km on the Camino de Santiago.
- Soraya from AWC Berlin also spent 3 weeks walking the Camino de Santiago.

The clubs' activities went beyond walking, hiking and running. They included dancing, golfing, horseback riding, swimming, cycling, tennis, pickleball, fitness classes, bowling, rowing, skiing, Tai Chi, water aerobics and yoga.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Palu (AW Aquitaine)
Clubs in Motion Chair



Human Rights Team Report

The Human Rights Team continued its regular schedule of meetings in 2024 with Co-Chairs Marelle Manders and Mary Adams. Members of the team include: Adrienne George Lind, Alex Vo, Amanda Drollinger, Ann Birot-Salsbury, Asma Darwish, Barbara Lindsay, Clara Siverson, Constanze Cediell, Constance Philpot, Frances Durocher, Gail Johnsen, Georgia Kallis, Gweneth Johnsen, Hari Kitching, Ina Messer, Inés Mayoral, Jody McBrien, Karen Castellon, Karen Lewis, Laurie Richardson, Lynn Auslander, Marelle Manders, Mary Dobrian, Mary Manning, Mary Stange, Mary-Luise Bass, Melissa Morbeck, Michelle Parker, Raquel Davenport, Sophia Lawson, Sue England, Tania Miller, Ulrike Näumann and Zefi Dimadama.

The Human Rights Team published several articles through the *Global Issues Digest* and on the FAWCO website during 2024. Some of the highlights included the article by Jody McBrien in October about NaTakallam, an organisation she has worked with, that arranges in-person sessions with refugees, and how helpful this could be for human rights education. In 2024, our team focused on the intersection of gender equality and human rights across all the global teams. We contributed articles for health, education, and environment. We supported articles from other teams that showcased how FAWCO is addressing this intersectionality. In June, Loretta Simon Helms shared with us how the FAWCO Target Project Awesome Blossoms is leading the way towards community flood resilience with innovative hydroponic farming solutions.

2024 marked the first year that the Human Rights Team collaborated with the Commission of the Status of Women [CSW NGO Geneva](#) to contribute and coordinate working groups researching progress of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) 30 years after its inception. Our focus was on monitoring 12 critical concerns in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, which includes 59 member States in Europe, North America and Europe. Our targeted goal was to develop informative statements for the Ambassadors specifying three calls to action. We took the opportunity to lead roundtable discussions with Ambassadors for their input to our reports. These reports were delivered to the Member States by the CSW NGO Geneva during the UNECE +30 Beijing Review in Geneva in October 2024. We also participated in a civil consultation in Geneva to lead workshops, network and connect with other NGOs to develop advocacy tools. These reports are now available on the [CSW NGO Geneva website](#).

We commend the following Human Rights Team members who donated their time to this essential human rights project:

- **Connie Philpot, convenor for Women in Power and Decision-Making.** Female leadership and perspective are integral to ensuring that women's perspectives are included in policy-making, treaties, and instruments of authority.

- **Mary Manning, convenor for Human Rights.** Strategic Objective I of the Beijing Platform for Action reaffirms that the first responsibility of governments is to protect and promote the human rights of women, prioritising three objectives: the implementation of CEDAW, ensuring full equality and non-discrimination of women in law and in practice, and achieving legal literacy.
- **Karen Castellon, convenor for Girl Child.** This report examines the plight of girls globally, focusing on three key areas: mental health, child marriage, and child widowhood.
- **Marelle Manders, contributor for Armed Conflict.** States and peace brokers need to ensure that peace processes are fully inclusive, that the appointment of women mediators and negotiators is supported and encourage inclusive delegations where women are absent or underrepresented.
- **Mary Adams, convenor for Violence Against Women (VAWG).** Violence against women and girls affects women and girls of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities. Experts believe that most incidents of violence go unreported, but research suggests that VAWG affects at least 1 in 3 women in their lifetime.

We would also like to recognize our partnership with FAWCO Health and UN Advocacy Teams on this project:

- **Veronica Ventura, convenor for Health.** This report focused on healthcare access, climate change, and mental health. This report outlines the critical issues of climate change, mental health, and telemedicine through a gender lens.
- **Jessica Buchleitner and Sallie Chaballier, co-convenors for Women in Media.** "Women in the media" refers to the representation, participation, and portrayal of women in television, film, radio, print, and digital platforms. The report discussed gender-based violence against women in the media.
- **Paula Daepfen** participated in the **Environment** team. In the years since the adoption of the BPfA, environmental degradation, including air, land, and water pollution and climate change, has progressed to crisis levels. Humanity now faces an existential threat from the adverse effects of climate change that have disrupted the planetary natural balance. Achieving gender equality and reversing environmental degradation is critical for humanity's survival.

FAWCO Youth Program



Launched in 2013, the FAWCO Youth Program's mission is to promote cultural understanding and raise awareness of global issues in our youth and help them develop into responsible and caring global citizens.

This year, the American Women's Club of Central Scotland hosted 12 teens, ages 13–17, from Europe and the United States. The youth came from clubs across FAWCO: IWC Torino, AWG Languedoc-Rousillon, AWC Dublin, AWG Paris, AWC Stockholm, HIWC Heidelberg, AWC Hamburg, AWC Berlin, FAUSA and AWCCS.

The youth completed 29 hours of community service with the following volunteering activities: Audio Description Association Scotland and ARTlink facilitating access to the theatre for the blind and partially sighted and those with hearing loss at the Festival Theatre Edinburgh; Scottish Seabird Centre North Berwick sea life conservation and beach clean; Trees for Life Dundreggan Rewilding Centre working in land management and forest regeneration and conservation; Highland Wildlife Park animal welfare and rewilding/ reintroduction of Scottish Wildcats.

Their cultural activities included a walking tour of Edinburgh, visiting the Kelpies, Glen Coe, Urquhart Castle, Culloden, Loch Ness boat trip and two exhibits. The participants reflected on their experience through a group

video and individual essays, available on the FAWCO website.

Outreach to clubs included a presentation at the Porto Interim Meeting, which resulted in AWC Hamburg volunteering to host the 2025 Cultural Volunteers Program. Preparations are underway.

We also received an inquiry from AWC Madrid to implement the AMERICANA program.

Respectfully submitted,
My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin)
Stacey Harris-Papaioannou (AWO Greece)
Youth Program Co-Chairs

FAWCO Target Program 2022-2025



Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms 2024 Report

FAWCO Target Program 2022 - 2025
Environment

Our Natural Environment: Empowering Women and Girls to Ensure a Sustainable Future

The 2023 - 2025 Target Project, Awesome Blossoms: Edible Fresh Fields for Sustainable Life in the Slums, a project of Safe Spaces Organization, submitted by Leslie Janoe, AWC Amsterdam, was announced at the Biennial Meeting in Bratislava on March 25, 2023. The Target Project fundraising officially began at the Biennial Meeting in Bratislava with The FAWCO Foundation launching a fundraising campaign. Leslie Janoe, Sherrie Zvail Enderman, and Loretta Simon Helms (all members of AWC Amsterdam) attended the conference as the Target Project Education and Awareness Team. They created the Awesome Blossoms logo used for the t-shirts and other promotional fundraising tools for clubs, working with the Target Project 5 Fundraising Coordinator, Lauren Mescon, FAUSA.

Target Bulletins and *Target Blogs* are the main communication tools for sharing news about Awesome Blossoms with the FAWCO community. Target Bulletins are published each month by email, highlighting the work of the project and focusing on a UN Sustainable Development Goal, with supporting articles from the FAWCO Global Issues Teams as well as the progress of the Target Project on the ground in Mathare, Kenya.

The Target Project Team, with the support and in conjunction with the Global Issues Teams, has published a wide range of articles about and related to the work of Awesome Blossoms and the location and conditions in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya where the project is based. These articles are on the FAWCO website and shared in the Target Bulletin and Global Issues Digest, distributed by email monthly. Virtual education and awareness meetings were also organized.

- Target 101 - Targeting International Women's Day with AWC Bern and the FAWCO Human Rights Team in March 2024
- Target 101 with AAWE Paris and the FAWCO Environment Team
- Target 101 with AWC Madrid and the FAWCO Education Team Wacha Tucheze: Let's Dance Kenyan Cultural Karaoke

The FAWCO Youth Program 2024 in Scotland participated in a virtual meeting with Peninah Musyimi, the Executive Director of Awesome Blossoms Safe Space.

In October and November 2024, Peninah Nythenya Musyimi traveled to Europe to attend an in-person Regional Meeting in Paris, club events in Amsterdam, and virtual meetings with FAWCO. She presented at the Region 3 meeting in Paris. Their trip was facilitated by the logistical and financial support of Leslie Janoe, Sherrie Zwaile Enderman, and Loretta Simon Helms, (all members of AWC Amsterdam), with the support and coordination of FAWCO Member Clubs, the FAWCO Board, the FAWCO Foundation Board, the Target Fundraising Coordinator, and the Target Program Chair.

Awesome Blossoms formed a partnership with Wageningen University on their ACT programs. The primary objective of the partnership between the Awesome Blossoms Project under Safe Spaces and Wageningen University's Academic Consultancy Training (ACT) program is to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of the Awesome Blossoms initiative by addressing both socio-economic and technical challenges. This collaboration aims to improve the farming system, incorporate innovative agricultural practices, and apply a gender-sensitive approach to empower women and girls in specific slums and schools. The teams prepared a comprehensive sustainability report and presentation, along with tools to address the identified challenges.

As of December 2024, the members of FAWCO and FAUSA had raised \$170,000+ for Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms. This represents an incredible 120% of our original fundraising goal and includes the generous matching grant of \$10,000 contributed by the De Groot Foundation. Outcomes achieved to date for Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms:

- Awesome Blossoms education and awareness meetings and launch events held in Mathare with the local community and potential entrepreneurs.
- Applications were received and 75 entrepreneur women selected from the local community for Awesome Blossoms Safe Spaces Farms.
- Financial Literacy Training with Trinity Credit, Safe Spaces staff and Awesome Blossoms entrepreneurs held.
- The first two Awesome Blossoms Safe Spaces farms are installed and planted at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya. Containing 1000 of the gardens.
- Following the flooding in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya in the spring of 2024, the new delivery vehicle was purchased earlier than planned after the loss of their existing vehicle in the flood damage.
- The Farm 3 is installed at Heshima Primary School.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland)
Target Program Chair, 2022 – 2025

US Issues

US Liaison Report



The US Issues Team is comprised of the US Liaison and three committees – Citizenship chaired by Judy Furukawa (FAUSA, AWC Brussels), Tax & Banking, co-chaired by Anne Birot-Salsbury (AAWE Paris) and Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg) and Voting, chaired by Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark) – whose primary purpose to educate and inform FAWCO membership of the rights, as well as responsibilities, as a US citizen living abroad. Their subsequent subcommittee reports are following. The US Liaison coordinates FAWCO's work with other overseas advocacy organizations and represents FAWCO's positions in Washington when legislation is drafted or introduced that directly affects Americans living and working overseas, as well as participate in Overseas Americans Week.

FAWCO, along with our partner AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas – www.aaro.org), returned to Washington DC June 3-7, 2024 to advocate on behalf of American citizens living abroad. It was a full week, with Monday and Friday spent visiting agencies and offices of other organizations working on behalf of overseas Americans. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday were jam-packed with appointments in Congressional offices. We met with offices of 33 members of the House, including: Dina Titus (Dem Chair, Americans Abroad Caucus); Don Beyer, sponsor of the Tax Simplification Act this session; 18 members of the Ways and Means Committee; four members of Financial Services as well as others. On the Senate side of the Capitol, we met with 20 offices, including the offices of Sherrod Brown (Chair, Finance), Mike Crapo (Ranking Member, Finance) and Michael Bennet (Chair of Tax/IRS subcommittee of Finance).

Our talking points included seven pieces of pending legislation. However, the main focus was on three bills which would have a significant impact on Americans abroad: HR2729 Commission on Americans Living Abroad; HR82/S597 Social Security Fairness; and HR5432 Tax Simplification Act. We learned of a planned new bill to be co-sponsored by Rep Titus to fund a pilot program limited to the Philippines (selected for the presence of over 300,000 US citizens) to examine the feasibility of Medicare extension overseas, which was introduced in August and referred to several committees but saw no further action. One bill that did see action and was ultimately signed into law by President Biden in January 2025 was the Social Security Fairness bill, which repealed the windfall elimination program (WEP) and government pension offset (GPO). Although details of how this will be implemented have not been released, this could have a significant impact on US retirees who have had their US social security benefits reduced due to receiving a foreign government pension.

Another exciting late session introduction of HR10468 – Resident-based Taxation for Americans Living Abroad by Darin LaHood. Although there was no time for the bill to gain any traction, it was referred to the Ways and Means Committee and put the legislation in the public eye for consideration in the future. Every office we met with indicated that they expect major tax legislation in the next (119th) session of Congress and we will be watching closely for this to be included.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague, FAUSA)
FAWCO US Liaison

US Citizenship Committee Report



Starting in mid-2025, travel within/to Europe on a US passport, the EU equivalent of the US visa waiver program will be required. It is now possible to sign up on the ETIAS website for periodic updates to keep you informed about when ETIAS requirements will come into effect. Go to www.ETIAS.com for complete information.

Similarly, the UK's Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) will soon apply to millions of international visitors. It requires all tourists, except European nationals, to gain permission to enter. All eligible non-Europeans can now apply for the ETA, which will be required as of January 8, 2025. You will need a biometric passport to submit the online application. Guidance is available at UK.gov ETA.

US.ID is the website where US citizens/lawful permanent residents now access various US government agencies, including the IRS, Social Security, the Veterans Administration, and many individual state agencies. Go to ID.me and set up your account.

STEP, the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, has been revised, so it is easier to be contacted by the US Embassy/Consular Office in case of emergency. Enroll at Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at mytravel.state.gov

As has been announced at various times, the enforcement of REAL ID documents is set for May 7, 2025. Non-compliant forms of ID may still be accepted with a warning through May 5, 2027, but how consistent this “flexibility” will be is unknown and possibly inconsistent. See www.dhs.gov

As of June 26, 2024, the German government will recognize dual nationality. This law may potentially allow citizens who lost their German citizenship due to acquiring a second nationality to reacquire their German citizenship. The news summary [is here](#). Please contact a German attorney/official source for further information.

A reminder that if your son with US citizenship is between the ages of 18-25 (inclusive), he is required to register for Selective Service. No military or alternative service is currently required, but this remains an obligation for young men who are US citizens. Service in a non-US military (if he’s a dual citizen), does not void this requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith K. Furukawa (FAUSA)
Chair, US Citizenship

US Voting Report



As national, state, and local elections were held in the United States in 2024, the US Voting Committee stepped up its activities towards the end of 2023, did its utmost to promote and assist voting by overseas Americans through October 2024, and supported FAWCO’s US Liaison in responding to unusual and unwelcome attacks on overseas voting just before Election Day.

In particular, the Committee Chair:

- regularly updated the US Voting section of the FAWCO website, including a new video made with the Federal Voting Assistance Program, and published 19 articles on both regular and special elections and the struggle for the survival of US democracy.
- encouraged overseas voters to take the US Vote Foundation’s survey of their voting experience in the elections, and conveyed reports of failures of ballot delivery in various states, as well as problems with some local election officials, to the US Liaison for use in Overseas Americans Week.
- contributed material to the *US Liaison Bulletin* and *News in Brief*; circulated monthly email messages to Committee members.
- communicated and worked with FAWCO partners, US Vote Foundation, and the Federal Voter Assistance Program; and
- answered questions sent to the voting@fawco.org address.

The Committee Chair and members spoke at FAWCO and club events and promoted and assisted overseas voting through their clubs. Unfortunately, the Committee still does not have a member in every FAWCO club; volunteers should contact the Chair by email to voting@fawco.org.

Continuing problems

As ballot delivery had become relatively easy, the continuation of scattered reports from FAWCO members of missing ballots in 2024, as well as problems with local election officials, aroused concern. The Committee Chair

passed these reports to the US Liaison, so that they could be raised with US lawmakers during Overseas Americans Week.

Since 2020, the Committee has increasingly included a new activity – active support of US democracy – to its traditional work of promoting voting by overseas Americans. As the new threats to US democracy continue, so will the Committee's work to support it. Those threats increase the importance of voting by all Americans, everywhere.

New problem: attacks on overseas voting

According to FVAP's analysis, turnout for overseas Americans voters is only 7.8%. If we do not bother to speak, why should lawmakers listen to our concerns? Low participation, however, did not shield overseas voting from multiple attacks in 2024, detailed in articles dated October 22 and November 4. The first attacks were defeated in court, and the second wave was dropped as the outcome of the election became clear.

Nevertheless, that arrow has been added to the quiver of voter suppression, and overseas voters should expect it to be used again when convenient. Overseas voters have only had the right to vote in US elections for a little over 50 years; the best way to keep it is to use it.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark)
US Voting Chair

US Tax and Banking Report



The primary focus of the Tax and Banking Committee continues to be reducing the “fear factor” by making information and support available. The Tax and Banking Committee provides confidential support and encouragement, perspectives on how others are handling these issues, and suggestions for “Go To” banks, where available. We correspond with members regarding banking issues, loss of overseas accounts, tax questions, tax advisors, estate planning help, etc.

FAWCO members are always encouraged to seek professional help and to comply with reporting requirements to the federal authorities.

The comprehensive review of the US Tax & Banking section of FAWCO's website has been completed and now has the most current information on such topics as filing deadlines, IRS links, FATCA/FBAR, DC advocacy, tax, financial and estate planning resources for internationally mobile US Persons overseas. Content for these pages of the FAWCO website continues to expand.

Articles have been written and published in the *New in Brief*, the *US Liaison Bulletin* and on the FAWCO website as well as Facebook posts informing the FAWCO membership. Topics included the FBAR, Tax Filing Requirements, Finance document retention regulations, how to recognize a PFIC, tips for financial management as an overseas American and a three part expatriation series by our sponsor London & Capital.

The State Department Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution founded in 1938 by Department of State employees, and they welcome US Citizens and Green Card holders, who are members of FAWCO, to their field of membership. SDFCU is committed to providing banking products and services to accommodate overseas Americans with unique global needs and to help reach their financial goals.

All but one goal set for 2024 was met.

- updating web page content on specific topics

Goals for 2025:

- assisting Clubs in organizing Tax and Banking Seminars (carried over from 2023 and 2024)
- continued effort of encouraging FAWCO members to become more active in their overseas financial situations through articles in the US Liaison Bulletin and Facebook posts to the FAWCO members Private Group.
- continued content management on specific topics on FAWCO Tax & Banking web page.

Goals for Overseas Americans Week (OAW) 2025

- supporting the argument that for Americans residing overseas (i) the FBAR filing threshold should be raised, eg from foreign financial account aggregate value of \$10,000 to \$50,000 like IRS Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets); and, (ii) we should not be required to report our accounts located in our tax-base country that hold the funds needed to pay taxes and bills, save for retirement, pay mortgages, receive salary, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Birot-Salsbury (AAWE)
Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg)
Tax and Banking Co-Chairs

Special Initiatives

FAWCO Literacy is Our Legacy – A Celebration



Last March at the FAWCO Interim Meeting in Porto, FAWCO announced Literacy is our Legacy – A Celebration (LioL). So many of our members are involved with the written word, either as accomplished authors, aspiring writers, voracious readers or activists in the quest for worldwide literacy. FAWCO seeks, through this celebration, to connect these interests and passions into a wider community. Since the LioL launch in Porto, here's what's happened:

An e-newsletter is sent monthly to our three mailing lists, keeping interested members informed about activities and events across FAWCO. Currently, there are approximately 110 members who receive this newsletter.

Encouraging Aspiring Writers. FAWCO has established a partnership with the International Women's Writing Guild ([IWWG](#)). FAWCO members can receive a complementary one-year membership which gives them access to a number of free activities as well as discounts on their many workshops. This is valid until December 2025 at which time we will jointly re-evaluate about extending the partnership.

In October, IWWG hosted an exclusive webinar for FAWCO members on memoir writing. It was attended by many members.

Members were encouraged to submit their work for publication in IWWG's upcoming anthology, "*Write Forward*." It will celebrate the spirit of International Women's Day, and reflect on progress and ongoing challenges in achieving gender equality 30 years after the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

FAWCO is extremely grateful to Clydetta deGroot (AWG Paris, AAWE and FAUSA) and Connie Phlipot (AWA Vienna) for making this partnership possible.

Highlighting FAWCO's Published Authors. Since the launch of our Celebration the "[List of Books by Members](#)" on the website has been updated and easier to use. The number of authors has increased by 20% and we have 50 published authors and 80 titles on the list.

We feature a different title each month on our newly updated "[Books by Members](#)" page on the FAWCO website. The page also has information about upcoming writing and reading projects and activities. Thanks to Mary Dobrian and Cat Connor for making these changes.

When we add a new title to the list, it is now supported with posts on FAWCO's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Four of our FAWCO member authors participated at the FAWCO Region 3 meeting in Paris in October 2024. To a sold-out audience, they discussed the things that inspired and challenged them to write their books in a special showcase panel.

Connecting our Readers and Writers Our team encouraged all of the FAWCO club's Book Clubs to add at least one book from the list to their upcoming syllabus. We have formed an Author Speakers Bureau. Clubs who might be interested in inviting the author to join their meeting to discuss their book simply contact literacylegacy@fawco.org.

Supporting the FAWCO Global Issues' Education Team's Commitment to Worldwide Literacy. [The FAWCO Education Team's](#) mission is to "*inform and advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, particularly as it relates to women and girls.*" The Literacy is our Legacy Team supports this mission. The team promotes the Education Team's activities on our Books by Members webpage and in our newsletters.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Bose (AWG Paris, FAUSA)
Literacy is Our Legacy Founder and Coordinator

Administrative Committees

Archives Committee Report



FAWCO joined with the Expat Archive Centre (EAC) in The Hague ten years ago to work on digitizing the physical FAWCO archive. In that time, much time and effort has been spent organizing, indexing, and preparing the physical items for archiving as we don't just want to store the archives, we want to use them! FAWCO now has a robust master spreadsheet identifying all of our materials which the EAC volunteers have honed in preparation for scanning the items and entering everything into the archiving software which will allow FAWCO and other researchers to search deep within the materials as needed.

During our preparation phase, huge technical developments have been made with respect to scanning equipment, OCR software, and the ever increasing speed with which even personal computers and phones can search for anything they can access, and the ability to create archival quality pdfs (PDF/A) without a need to incur the hefty expenses we were seeing in the professional scanning estimates we were quoted. The EAC now uses AtOM (Access to Memory) a web-based open source archiving software. In early 2025, I purchased a desktop overhead scanner and pdf software which dramatically changes our approach. Instead of the quoted thousands of Euros to scan our bookshelves full of scrapbooks, publications, loose documents, and memorabilia using a variety of expensive professional scanners, this machine is fast and effective, meeting all of the archival standards, with manageable file sizes and excellent ability to search within the scans, even including the foreign language newspaper articles. Anyone who has struggled working with flatbed scanners, large file sizes, and lack of optical character recognition might want to take a look at these new tools.

As I write this report, I have scanned a surprisingly large variety of items, including the first seven FAWCO scrapbooks, covering FAWCO conferences from 1931 to 1937. I have further used the powerful software to (re)unite old publications which had been saved digitally section by section to avoid large file sizes. Although we never anticipate that it would take us 10 years before starting the actual scanning, the wait has worked in our favor. And doing the scanning myself has provided me another excellent opportunity to review the wealth of interests, activities and work of our FAWCO predecessors. Our archives are a rich and astonishing testament to our collective contributions to local and international society.

On an administrative note, Georgia Regnault will be stepping down as Archives Co-Chair. I would like to express my profound thanks to her for helping to work on the initial indexing of our collection and her ongoing work as Archives (Co) Chair from 2019 to 2025, as well as her decades of dedication to FAWCO as a former President and in her many other roles.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague)
Georgia Regnault (AWC The Hague)
FAWCO Archives Co-Chairs

FAWCO Counselors' Coordinator Report

It was with great sadness that the Counselors learned of the passing of one of their own, Arline Coward, this past October. Arline was one of FAWCO's inspiring women indeed, having been FAWCO President from 2003-2005 and then The FAWCO Foundation President from 2006-2008! That is not to mention the many other positions she held over the years, including her job as the long-standing FAWCO Rep of Barcelona Women's Network. Arline has been an inspiration to those who have had the pleasure of calling her "friend." She will be sorely missed by all.

Acting as advisors to the current FAWCO Board, the FAWCO Counselors, former FAWCO Presidents, are always ready to help. They have a WhatsApp group to stay in touch with each other. Although "retired" from their Board positions, several of the Counselors volunteer in various FAWCO positions as well.

2019-2023 and 2005-2007 Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague): Google Administrative Coordinator, Co-Chair FAWCO Archives

2017-2019 Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris): FAWCO 2025 Nominating Chair, FAWCO UN Rep – Geneva, Web Content Administrator

2015-2017 Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon): Regional Coordinator – Regions 9 and 10, Counselors' Coordinator

2011-2015 My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin): FAWCO Youth Co-Chair, Host of 2024 FAWCO Region 5 Meeting

2007-2009 Celeste Brown (AWC of The Hague)

1995-1997 Rebecca Tan (AWC of Hamburg)

1993-1995 Barbara Johnson (AWG Paris)

1989-1991 Kay Miller (AWC of Brussels)

1987-1989 Georgia Regnault (AWC of The Hague): FAWCO Archives Co-Chair

1979-1981 Stevie Coppin (AWC of Brussels)

I would like to thank the Counselors for all they do to keep the FAWCO fever burning in members and to mentor the up-and-coming FAWCO leaders.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon)
FAWCO Counselors' Coordinator

Regional and Club Profiles

Region 1: England, Ireland and Scotland

This year Region 1 did not have a regional but a few of our members did attend events in other regions. The past year has not been as full of activity as the prior year, but our clubs have persevered. We have focused on our selected charities as well as Awesome Blossoms, our Target Project. We have stayed in touch and worked on increasing our membership. There is always something to be proud of and always something to work on.

Last year being an election year, it became very political and most people focused on politics. The biggest challenge has been keeping focused on our clubs instead of the challenges we were facing back in the States.

I would like to have another regional in 2025 and to also see the club presidents come together and attend more regionals.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Holden (AWC Central Scotland)
Regional Coordinator for Region 1

AWBS International Women's Club

AWBS is a vibrant international community in Berkshire & Surrey with 200+ women from 46 countries. Catering to those who are new to the UK, returning British expats, or those seeking international friendships, AWBS extends a warm welcome to all at our monthly new members coffee mornings.

With more than 25 monthly activities, we cater to all passions and interests. From tennis, golf, country walks, glorious gardens, English history, and art appreciation to exploring all that London and Europe has to offer – there's something for everyone. Our signature General Meetings feature renowned speakers and local vendors, creating unique experiences and friendships, every month in some of Berkshire and Surrey's most stunning venues. Guest speakers this year have included The Countess of Carnarvon, of the "Real Downton Abbey" and Dr Kate Rawles, a biodiversity expert, who enthralled us with her impressive cycling trek across the length of the Andes.

AWBS has organised many events for members this year, including an annual social event at Royal Ascot, a private tour of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and a special pre-Christmas lunch at Cliveden. Other activities have included visits to Buckingham Palace, Blenheim Palace and theatre visits as well as our Philanthropy team which supports four local charities, focusing on women and children's needs.

Rosie Dean, FAWCO Representative

AWC London

2024 saw our club grow to 305 members. The 2025 membership may decrease as a consequence of the fiscal changes per April 2025, but this may be offset by a more diverse UK influx. AWC held more than 400 activities that are run and organized entirely by our members. In addition to our weekly and monthly activities, we hosted special events such as a day at Checkers, the Prime Minister's retreat. Our Monthly Club-wide events, called Meet & Mingles are geographically inclusive by rotating venues throughout London. We have both evening and daytime slots featuring various speakers or an activity, offering drinks and nibbles free of charge.

We celebrated our 125 year anniversary in March 2024 at the Royal College of Surgeons. This milestone celebrated our past, present and future. It also affirmed our commitment to cultivating our community for years to come.

Philanthropically, we exceeded our fundraising goals, raising £16,000 for our partner charities The Ronald McDonald House and the Soup Kitchen. Thanks to our membership's generous giving, we were again able to sponsor a named room at the Ronald McDonald House! In addition to our financial support, members donated a total of over 200 volunteer hours to our charity partners. For the coming year we are working on expanding our philanthropic range with more one-off events, like the annual Book Club reading to support a charity, and charities supported by individual Club members.

We were fortunate to have a full 14-member board, representative of our club demographics. Zoom board meetings are here to stay, rotating between midday and evening. We try to meet in person quarterly and host Board Retreats for annual strategic planning and personal development.

Yvonne Veger, FAWCO Representative

North American Connection (NAC)

We are a friendly members club founded in 1964. Currently, there are 26 members, 23 of them are active locally. Our social club hub is on Facebook: NAC Members' Private Group and flash notices through 'NAC WhatsApp.' We downsized our Admin and overheads in 2019. Our three officers are Treasurer, Membership and Social Chair and committees. Being a small club of under 50 members, our friendly club structure (Arthurian-round table) works. We have waived membership dues for the fourth year. Our largest overhead was our website that we decided to close.

Our Fundraising in 2024 was done on an individual basis rather than a big club effort continuing to support the British Heart Foundation, Trussell Trust Food Bank, SIFA Fireside-works with people experiencing homelessness and those vulnerably housed in Birmingham, Air Ambulance, Marie Curie Cancer care, The Aber Fund (Student Support) and Guide Dogs.

Our activities are mostly evening social gatherings at a members home and we use the WhatsApp group to communicate special notices, impromptu day/evening gatherings to shows such as the visual arts, musical events and information about the monthly meetings like book club, coffee mornings, posh pubs and walks. Our popular family annual events are 4th of July, Thanksgiving social dinner and Christmas ornament exchange.

Sunny Eades, FAWCO Representative

AW Surrey

Our club is excited to have just entered into our 50th year! However, our membership is struggling to maintain its numbers. AWS International currently has 158 members compared to 196 last year (almost a 20% drop). Unfortunately, our American membership has been dropping due to various factors such as the pandemic, Brexit, and US/UK economic reasons. As a result, we have decided to highlight the fact that we are an International Group and we now have members from over 30 nations, as well as English members.

Sadly, our President, Kara Phillips, returned to the US over the summer. We have been unable to find a volunteer/s to take on this role. In order to move forward, the Board has analyzed the President's responsibilities and distributed them amongst the Board. Though this is not ideal, we are managing. We continue our search for a member (or two) to step into this position.

AWS has always had a full calendar of activities throughout the year. We still hold a Monthly Mingle, often with speakers, to connect with members and welcome new or interested members. These meetings allow us to connect and create a sense of community. We also have London Gallery Tours, monthly Book Club, Coffees (with various focus topics such as Neurodiversity, Meditation, Small Business development, etc.), Pub Lunches, Dance Nights and more! Many of our activities require motion such as our incredibly successful unguided London Walks, monthly English Countryside Hikes, a Bicycle Tour of Windsor and an afternoon of Kayaking to Eel Pie Island from Richmond.

Philanthropy has always been an important part of AWS. Last year we supported two fantastic local charities; Momentum Children's Charity and Elmbridge CAN to help refugees and asylum seekers. We also supported FAWCO's Awesome Blossoms project for FAWCO. The funds for our charitable donations are raised through events held throughout the year such as The Chelsea in Bloom walking tour, craft/cooking workshops, auctions and Cocktails for a Cause, which bring together our member community for a good cause. One of our members, Frederique Kleiber, also collects donations of gently used items from our members and sells them on social media sites. "Nearly New" raised £2,700 for our charities last year. Annually, at our June End of Year Celebration we present each of our charities with a donation check. We were able to give away over £15,500 this past year.

Samantha Eagle, VP Communications & FAWCO Representative

AWC Dublin

While still providing for many activities including tennis, hill walking, girls night out, potluck lunches, book club (morning and evening) to name a few, the introduction of attending the theatre has been well received. Another successful introduction this past year has been our Evening General Meetings. These enable members who work full-time greater access to attend a meeting while catching up with other members.

Five AWC Dublin members in various roles attended the FAWCO Interim Meeting in March 2024 in Porto, Portugal.

We ended our club year in June 2024 with a well-attended lunch in Ireland's National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

AWC Dublin was represented in Scotland in June/July at the Volunteer Youth Program by Ben Ritchie. Ben had a wonderful experience meeting other young people from other countries while enjoying his week of learning and volunteering.

At the new club year in September 2024, AWC Dublin introduced various activity 'WhatsApp' groups under the headings of Activities, Potlucks, Movie Group, Historic Tours and others to make it easier for members to become more involved in the activities of their choice.

The FAWCO Region 3 meeting in Paris October 2024 was attended by the AWCD FAWCO Rep, Margie O'Rourke, and the AWCD FAWCO Deputy Rep, Carol Lovelett.

Throughout the year, we continued collecting coins in our flowerpot for Awesome Blossoms. Our club charity for this year is Dogs Trust. Funds have been raised throughout the year along with various toys, blankets and other necessities for Dogs Trust.

Our AWC Dublin membership during the past year has grown by 44 new members since January 2024.

Margie O'Rourke, FAWCO REP

AWC Central Scotland

The American Women's Club of Central Scotland proudly counts 95 members, most of whom are permanent residents scattered across Central Scotland, including Edinburgh, Glasgow, their surrounding areas, and Fife. Our vibrant community thrives on connection and giving back, with our primary fundraisers being the

much-anticipated annual Thanksgiving dinners in Edinburgh and Glasgow. These festive events feature lively silent auctions and raffles, bringing members and friends together for a great cause.

At our annual general meeting, we selected Food Train Glasgow as our local charity. Since 1995, this inspiring registered charity, voluntary organization, and social enterprise has been making life easier for older adults. By providing vital services to those facing challenges due to age, ill health, frailty, or disability, Food Train ensures they can continue to live with dignity and independence.

Throughout the year, our members connect through a wide variety of activities, including Coffee Mornings, Birthday Bashes, Movie Nights, Virtual Quiz Nights, a Fourth of July Picnic, a Halloween Party, Thanksgiving Potlucks, and the elegant President's Tea. We also hosted the Youth Cultural Exchange, offering young participants a memorable journey into the Scottish Highlands to immerse themselves in the rich culture and stunning landscapes of Scotland.

As 2024 is a voting year, we encouraged our members to participate and provided guidance on accessing resources for support when needed. Together, our club continues to foster fellowship, celebrate traditions, and make a meaningful impact in our communities.

Cynthia Holden, President

England



AWBS International Women's Club

Website: awbs.org.uk

Founded: 1981

Joined FAWCO: 1995

Membership Total: 231

Dues: £80

Mission: To welcome and assist all newcomers and their families, to promote friendship and interactions among members and improve their knowledge and understanding of England.



American Women's Club of London

Website: awclondon.org

Founded: 1899

Joined FAWCO: Founding Member

Membership Total: 305

Dues: £140

Mission: Founded in 1899, the American Women's Club of London has for over 100 years provided a welcoming atmosphere to expatriates living in London. The purpose of the American Women's Club of London is to provide social, cultural, educational and philanthropic activities for our members living in London.

Charities: Soup Kitchen at the American International Church, Ronald McDonald House



North American Connection

Website: naconnect.com

Founded: 1964

Joined FAWCO: 1998

Membership Total: 40 in Facebook group, of which 30 are local members

Dues: £10

Mission: The Club provides assistance with integration into the English community, as well as opportunities for social and

charitable activities.

Charities: Birmingham Children's Hospital, Hand and Upper Limb Department

American Women of Surrey



Website: awsurrey.org

Founded: 1975

Joined FAWCO: 1985

Membership Total: 158

Dues: GBP (£) 65 per year

Mission: To welcome and assist newcomers and their families; promote friendship and cooperation among members; to further members' knowledge and understanding of England; and to give financial and material support to philanthropic projects.

Charities: Oakleaf (Mental Health), Your Sanctuary (Domestic Abuse), B@titude (Family Support)

Ireland



American Women's Club of Dublin

Website: awcd.net

Founded: 1972

Joined FAWCO: 1980

Membership Total: 230

Dues: €70

Mission: The purpose of the Club is to foster and encourage American-Irish relations and cross-cultural understanding among American women and their families living in Ireland, through its educational and philanthropic activities.

Charities: Save the City Ireland, Covid Fundraising Women's Aid, Doyle's Corner

Scotland



Association of American Women of Aberdeen

Website: awaaberdeen.org

Founded: 1985

Joined: 1986

Membership Total: 43

Dues: £40

Mission: We are united in our interest to foster and develop a fun, welcoming environment for newcomers and expatriates in Aberdeen, Scotland, while integrating into the local community by supporting a local charity.

Charities: Mental Health Aberdeen, Bonnymuir Green Community Trust



American Women's Club of Central Scotland

Website: awccs.org

Founded: 1974

Joined: 1993

Membership Total: 95

Dues: \$46

Mission: We have a high percentage of permanent residents living in Scotland, not connected to American businesses. Most of our club members are employed. We try to maintain a close relationship with the US Consulate and through them help to support American non-club members living in the area.

Charities: Friends of the Earth

Region 2: Nordic Countries and Russia

This is the year that Region 2 Clubs looked forward to returning to normalcy after the experiences of the COVID-19 years. It's been heart-warming to review the activities of individual Clubs and view them in their commonality.

All Region 2 Clubs focus on some activities in common, such as book clubs, monthly meetings, activities to explore/tap into their unique locale/history, special interest groups, discovering new/pertinent charities to support, creating connections with similar local groups and making an effort to keep their radars tuned to the needs of their membership.

All Clubs have noted that they are working to embrace new technologies in terms of running their organizations and improving communication with their membership. Some are working at this more aggressively than others; I hope that in the next year Region 2 Clubs can adopt a regular means of sharing experience and information on this topic.

In addition, all Clubs have expressed an interest in attracting younger members. All are grappling with what this means in terms of their direction, activities, priorities and self-definition. All value their Clubs' history and contributions, but recognize that the world and its challenges are changing. The technologies of managing information/communication are evolving so quickly that older Club members who are minimally engaged struggle to keep up. Most of our younger Club members are actively using the pertinent technologies on a daily basis and tapping into their know-how is key to moving forward.

Last but not least, AWO Moscow has decided to withdraw its FAWCO membership. This decision was made, given that the international community of Moscow has been dispersed around the globe since February 2022. A functioning international life has been discouraged in Moscow since that time and participation in activities is in fact deemed dangerous. Nevertheless, to paraphrase AWO Moscow's 2024 Annual Report, "the blueprint for such an international organization exists and, under the right circumstances, the AWO Moscow can be revived." That is the FAWCO spirit!

Respectfully submitted,
Jonelle Lemcke (AWC Denmark)
Coordinator, Region 2

AWC Denmark

2024 was AWC Denmark's 90th Anniversary. In 2023, the Club's board was involved in coming up with ideas and initiatives for the coming year's activities and a skeleton plan was drawn up because the actual anniversary year would begin in May 2024. January 2024, members were polled for ideas, archives searched, materials gathered and a committee went into action. Summary/inserts from old archives were published in the monthly Club Newsletter. In May 2024, a gala dinner with favors and prizes was held at the local restaurant Madklubben (The Food Club).

This year, the Club's major philanthropy award of 10,000 DKK was split and distributed to two charities, each receiving 5000 DKK. The first, Lykkeliga (Happiness League), targets developmentally disabled individuals, referred to as "extraordinary individuals," so that children/young people and their families participate in a sports community (handball). Handball is extremely popular in Denmark, so there is automatically wider interest and support. The second charity, Troestemus, is similar to The Heart Pillow Project, which the FAWCO community is familiar with, but focuses on skills of knitting, crocheting and sewing to create small mice for children ages 1yr+.

AWC Denmark's annual calendar always includes participation events for Chinese New Year, Copenhagen Light Festival, Ladywalk national walk for women's health and a June Garden Party held in The King's Garden, now an annual event for AWC Denmark thanks to FAWCO's Hat/Garden Party of a few years ago. Monthly events include groups for movies, crafts, spiritual exploration, Heart Pillows, books, local walks and special events/programs offered by members with special interests and expertise.

AWC Denmark looks forward to completing its 90th Anniversary Year in style with a special event of some type to cap off the year. We will take our motto of "Fun, friendship and philanthropy" into our next century.

Jonelle Lemcke, FAWCO Representative

American Women's Club (AWC) in Finland

The AWC in Finland provides women of American heritage and international members with interest or connections to the USA with support, information and opportunities to connect. The club membership is currently about 150 members. 2024 started with the traditional wine and cheese evening at the Fulbright Center with a presentation by Dr Peter Matthews. Other meetings in the spring included speakers such as Bitte

Westerlund, Kayliegh Karinen, Finnish author Meritta Koivisto, and writer Anu Partanen. Events in the fall included a meeting with the US Consul in Finland Robert G Ehrmann and an evening with entrepreneur Harriet Aryenda. Tours were organized to WeeGee Museum, the Riihimäki Glass Museum, Kaisaniemi Botanical Gardens, Oodi Library, and the National Library of Finland. Events were both in the evening and during the day to accommodate a diverse membership. The club was officially registered in November. Wild Apricot continued to be used for website, newsletter and membership management. The December meeting was a catered lunch and fundraiser. Funds in 2024 were donated to Kaivo Espoo again, which is a center that supports Ukrainian refugees in Finland due to the war.

AWC Oslo

We started 2024 with our annual trip to the Gothenburg Film Festival, which we have been enjoying since 2014. An additional traditional highlight is Saturday dinner with members of our sister club AWC Gothenburg. We were also joined by members from AWC Denmark and AWC Finland.

The American Coordinating Council of Norway's 37th American Independence Day Celebration included the AWC bake sale and book sale in Frogner Park. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers, and always a great success!

We celebrated our 90th Anniversary Soiree in October with partners, family, scholarship recipients, charities, embassy personnel, and others who helped make our club a success.

Our ninth annual American Christmas Market had a record number of vendors and shoppers and it was a wonderful start to the holiday. We also raised money for our library, our upcoming 2025 scholarship and Atelier Blekksprut.

Beyond monthly meetings, the AWC offers a variety of special interest groups for members to explore shared hobbies and passions. Current groups include: Wine Group, Book Lovers Group, Fireside Forum, Pins and Needles Group, Documentary Film Group, and Library Committee.

We have had a great year together and supported each other as friends during all of the ups and downs that 2024 elected to send our way.

All the best for 2025!

Carly Troncale, FAWCO Representative

AWC Gothenburg

We started the year with our annual meet-up in January with our friends from the AWC in Oslo, who visit Gothenburg each year to attend the Gothenburg Movie Festival. We continued throughout the year with monthly meetings at a café where the board informed members of upcoming events and then enjoyed a mingle afterwards. To accommodate more members, we also included a week night after work for those that couldn't make the monthly meetings. During the year we also had:

- Easter egg hunt
- Co working Fridays at Mind Park in Gothenburg
- Monthly Book Club meetings, including a virtual book club with author and Allt för Sverige contestant Sally Franson *Big in Sweden*
- Bi-monthly coffee mornings to practice the Swedish language with conversation over a cup of coffee.
- Fourth of July together in the homes of our families
- Halloween pumpkin carving
- A Thanksgiving potluck in November for members and families where the club provided the turkeys and everyone brought dishes to share.
- Our annual holiday evening get-together in December to sing carols and share holiday goodies with each other.

We continue to offer new members the first year free of dues and hopefully, after that, they will feel prone to paying the nominal annual fee. Our main problem continues to be finding volunteers besides board members and locations to hold our events.

Cassie Fortin, FAWCO Representative

AIC Malmö

The American International Club (AIC) Malmö is located in the south of Sweden and currently has 146 members, 70% of whom are US citizens. In total the club represents 19 nationalities. Its aim is to bring together Americans and other international expats residing in Sweden to gain companionship, support and friendship among the members.

The AIC Malmö runs activities, several of which have an American theme, throughout the year for the members.

The club has regular and monthly activities: Bookworms, our book club discussions; Let's Do Lunch; Cooking Club; Baby and Toddler Club; and our monthly meeting at the end of the month.

Other club activities during 2024 were the Trivia Night and Media Sale, a Valentine's Boule Brunch, a Bowling Night, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, a Karaoke night, a potluck Pie Night, an Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic, a Fire Station Tour, Afternoon Tea in Österlen, Outdoor Boule, Game nights, Mother's Day brunch, Våruset Women's 5K Run/Walk, the AIC Independence Day BBQ and Summer Picnic, Paint your own pottery workshops, a Scavenger Hunt, a Clothes Swap Party, a Billiard and Shuffleboard Night, a Halloween Friday Night Social, a Halloween "Picnic" Trick or Treat Party, a Halloween outing to Vellingeblomman, a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, a Holiday Cookie Exchange, Election Night Get-together, Fika with Santa, a Christmas and a Mulled Wine Party, Mingle events and After Work evenings.

So it has been a busy year again!

Tania Stanton, FAWCO Representative

AWC Stockholm

The American Women's Club in Stockholm has continued to grow and thrive in 2024. The club's membership remains relatively stable at approximately 180 members. As expected, a few fell off, lapsed members rejoined and new members continued to find us.

We offer a variety of monthly events during our regular club year, which is set from September through May. As a bonus, we even had a few activities during the summer months this year. Each month we hold a club luncheon, a coffee meet up, a book club meeting, one or more movie get-togethers, and after-work activities. In addition, we offer two new member mingles per club year, extra evening events, tours of local museums, galleries, and sites, along with talks and lectures, and, weather permitting, occasional outdoor activities. Occasionally, our moms' "playdates" group meets for get-togethers with their young kids to play together, form friendships and celebrate American traditions.

We continue to collaborate with other American clubs, including the local American Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Embassy, as well as the International Women's Club in Stockholm. Once again, we successfully co-sponsored a joint event with the American Chamber of Commerce in Sweden, the American Club of Sweden, US Embassy personnel, and the American Ambassador. We continue to add various types of events to gauge which are most preferred by our members.

AWC Board meetings continue to be mostly remote, being the most convenient meeting method for many of the Board members. Our Board has been stable throughout the year, although we anticipate some shifts in 2025. At present, an analysis of our technical requirements is underway in order to better integrate our information management platforms.

Lastly, we continuously look to improve our routines and processes for our members, as well as enhance our website and social media presence, and any additional means of effective communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Baird Johansson, President
Kimberly Andersson, FAWCO Representative

AWO Moscow

Region 2's Club in Moscow, AWO Moscow, has struggled since the beginning of the present-day conflict. We have heard how its international community of businesses, schools and institutions went underground or closed virtually overnight. This state of affairs has only gotten worse.

In 2024, we stated the following, "AWO Moscow described itself as dormant...down, but not out. There have been no activities, but its dispersed members believe in their Club's mission and in its ability to bounce back when conditions change." This is still the case. Conditions have not changed for the better, but AWO Moscow leaders hope that the Club will revive and thrive in the future. The blueprint for this community still exists.

We all hope that peace will come in the near future, permitting AWO Moscow to serve again in its role as a bridge and center for international understanding.

Denmark

American Women's Club in Denmark



Website: awcdenmark.org

Founded: 1934

Joined: 1934

Membership Total: 100

Dues: \$45

Mission: Fun, friendship and philanthropy. Our vision for the members and guests of AWC Denmark: to deepen our commitment to working and playing together; to share our laughter and tolerance in our daily lives.

Finland

American Women's Club in Finland



Website: awcfinland.com

Founded: 1970

Joined: 2001

Membership Total: 150

Dues: €35

Mission: To provide a means for social interaction for women of American nationality or heritage residing in Finland and to promote the furtherance of knowledge and mutual understanding between women of the United States of America, the Republic of Finland and other countries.

Charities: Kaivo Espoo

Norway



American Women's Club of Oslo

Website: awcoslo.org

Founded: 1934

Joined: 1935

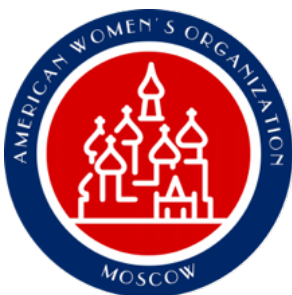
Membership Total: 142

Dues: \$60

Mission: The American Women's Club of Oslo is a nonprofit organization whose members participate in social and philanthropic activities. The club provides an opportunity for American women to connect, network, and socialize while living in Oslo. The term “fundraising” in our club is usually applied to efforts to raise money for the American Women’s Club of Oslo Scholarship, our primary philanthropic activity.

Charities: The AWC Scholarship, Oslo Crisis Center

Russia



American Women's Organization of Moscow

Website: awomoscow.org

Founded: 1993

Joined: 1993-2024

Membership Total: n/a

Dues: n/a

Mission: We provide a support group to North American and international members through coffees, couples events, annual crafts festival and celebration of US holidays.

Charities: Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, SAMU Social, Otkazniki, SafeHouse Foundation

Sweden



American Women's Club of Gothenburg

Website: awcgothenburg.com

Founded: 1948

Joined: 1987

Membership Total: 52

Dues: €24

Mission: To keep our American traditions alive for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

Charities: Haiti Relief, Operation Smile



American International Club Malmö

Website: aicmalmo.com

Founded: 1997

Joined: 1998

Membership Total: 146

Dues: 250 SEK

Mission: American International Club Malmö was founded November 1997 (originally American Women's Club Malmö) to bring together Americans and other international expats residing in Sweden, to gain companionship, support and friendship among the members.

Charities: Ariel's Girls, Kenya , Kvinna till Kvinna, Friends of Paraguay



American Women's Club in Stockholm

Website: awcstockholm.org

Founded: 1911

Joined: 2000

Membership Total: 180

Dues: 400 SEK

Mission: To foster friendship among American women and help them assimilate into Swedish life.

Charities: AWC Scholarship

Region 3: France and Spain

2024 has been an exceptional year for FAWCO's French and Spanish clubs, marked by remarkable growth, impactful philanthropy, and vibrant community engagement. Our Region 3 Conference in Paris was a particular highlight, bringing together 125 members and raising over €15,000 for the Target Project.

Club Highlights

Barcelona Women's Network (BWN)

FAWCO Representatives: Arline Coward, Gail Carberry, Gwen Perry

The Barcelona Women's Network demonstrated its commitment to social impact through multiple initiatives in 2024. In January, the club took an important step by submitting the "DA UN PASO" grant proposal to The FAWCO Foundation. This ambitious proposal sought funding for psychological counseling services for women who have experienced abuse, showing BWN's dedication to addressing critical social issues.

AWC Madrid

FAWCO Team: Belen Monasterio, FAWCO Representative, Liz Page, US Issues, Fran Clemens, Clubs in Motion, Karen Wendel, TARGET, Gweneth Johnsen, Education

2024 marked a milestone year for AWC Madrid as the club celebrated its 70th Anniversary with special events including a member luncheon and clubhouse celebration. Under new leadership, including a new Treasurer and 2nd VP overseeing the Speaker Series, the club achieved impressive 12% membership growth, closing the year with 149 members.

American Women's Group Languedoc-Roussillon

FAWCO Representative: Noel Gaussens

The club demonstrated strong financial support for FAWCO, raising €1,656 for FAWCO-related expenses. Of this amount, €820 went directly to the Awesome Blossoms Target Project, earning the club a prestigious Target Medallion at the Sunflower Donor level.

AAWE Paris

FAWCO Representative: Eilean Ellison

AAWE Paris experienced exceptional growth in 2024, boasting a membership of over 630 women. AAWE Paris made significant community impact through several key initiatives. The School Fair served as a vital resource, connecting parents with representatives from bilingual and international schools. Career Day at the American School of Paris brought together more than 30 professionals to inspire and guide teens. The club also published an eBook of fresh recipes titled "From the Garden" to support the FAWCO Target Project Awesome Blossoms.

American Women's Group in Paris (AWG)

FAWCO Representative: Sandy Gogel

A highlight of the year was hosting the FAWCO Region 3 Regional Conference from October 4-6 at the prestigious Cercle de l'Union Interalliée. The event proved highly successful, welcoming 125 attendees and raising over €15,000 for the Target Project. Throughout the year, AWG Paris maintained active support for several charities, including the FAWCO Target Project, La Soupe, Necker Hospital, and other organizations serving women and children in need.

American Women in the Aquitaine

FAWCO Representative: Maggie Palu

The club maintained strong representation across FAWCO initiatives, with two members serving on the Health Team (one as Co-Chair), one on the Human Rights Team, another as Co-UN Liaison, and one as coordinator for FAWCO Clubs in Motion. Additionally, one member participated in the authors' panel at the Region 3 Meeting in Paris in October.

A significant milestone was reached in March 2024 when equipment purchased through a 2023 FAWCO Development Grant was successfully installed at an ESAT horticultural center in the Gironde (Bordeaux), benefiting visually handicapped participants.

American Club of Lyon

FAWCO Representative: Becky Reynaud

September's renewal period brought unprecedented growth, with membership reaching 180 households, potentially the highest in club history. The club also contributed to the broader FAWCO community by covering part of the cost of traditional Lyon candies for delegate goodie bags at the Region 3 meeting.

Get Involved!

Connect with our vibrant community of American women's organizations in France and Spain. For more information about joining any of our clubs, please contact the respective representatives listed above.

Sandra Gogel
RC for Region 3

AW Aquitaine

American Women in the Aquitaine (AWA) membership decreased at the beginning of 2024, but we acquired a couple of new members, plus one returning member, for a total of 14 members in the second half of the year. FAWCO is still our primary interest, and three members attended the Interim Meeting in Porto, which, at the time, was a whopping one-third of total membership. Two members are on the Health Team (one as Co-Chair) and one is on the Human Rights Team. Another member is Co-UN Liaison, and one is coordinator for FAWCO Clubs in Motion. Another member was on the authors' panel at the Region 3 Meeting in Paris in October. The club once again made a contribution to the Target Project for the Environment, Awesome Blossoms, and moved from a Sunflower Medallion to a Tulip Medallion on the FAWCO Foundation Club Donor Wall. The project for the visually handicapped at an ESAT horticultural center in Gironde (Bordeaux) that was awarded a FAWCO Development Grant in 2023 installed the equipment that was purchased with the Grant funds and the handicapped participants started using the equipment in March 2024. Our AGM in January 2024 was once again held via Zoom, but we have not given up hope for future in-person get-togethers, even if it's only at FAWCO conferences and meetings. We share info via email, and have a public Facebook page.

Maggie Palu, President and FAWCO Representative

AWG Languedoc-Roussillon

For our 2023-2024 club year, which ended June 30, we raised €1656 for FAWCO-related expenses within our club. We donated 820 euros of that directly to the Awesome Blossoms FAWCO Target Project, which earned us a Target Medallion for the Sunflower Donor level of contribution.

In June of 2024, we elected a new board. We currently have 79 members.

During the challenging times in which our world finds itself, our spirits can be lifted by the important work that AWGLR does in our local community and around the world. Last year we raised €1750 and supplied member volunteers to the Montpellier-based association Table d'Anouk, which works to alleviate food insecurity in our local community.

In October, four of our members, including our president and current and past FAWCO Reps, went to the Region 3 Meeting in Paris. Our club contributed financially to the conference and also donated several cases of wine.

78 members and guests gathered together at a local event space in November to celebrate Thanksgiving. Two 30-pound turkeys and a plethora of homemade side dishes and desserts graced a long buffet table. This was our signature annual event. €605 was raised through the Thanksgiving raffle for FAWCO charitable projects around the world supporting women and girls.

Noel Gaussons, FAWCO Representative

AAWE Paris

In 2024 AAWE Paris proudly counted more than 630 women as members. The club also welcomed new President Susan Maine-Descamp and new Co-Rep for FAWCO, Tamara Rigaud, who joins incumbent Rep Eilean Ellison.

What did AAWE do this year?

Hosted Unforgettable Events

- Legacy Luncheon: A heartfelt, intergenerational celebration, gathering 130+ members.
- 70s Rentrée Party: A groovy night, bringing new and longtime members together.
- Holiday Bazaar: A vibrant marketplace spotlighting women-owned businesses, drawing 280+ attendees and doubling as a club fundraiser.

Made an Impact

- School Fair: Connecting parents with representatives from bilingual and international schools.
- Career Day: Inspiring teens at the American School of Paris with 30+ professionals.
- eBook Publication: Showcasing members' fresh recipes, *From the Garden*, supports FAWCO's Awesome Blossoms Target Project.
- Course des Héros: Members raised over €3,400 for Awesome Blossoms and local philanthropy by participating in this charity walk.

Paris in the Spotlight

Finally, the city of Paris itself was a highlight this year. Paris hosted the 2024 Summer Olympics and many members volunteered during the event. Later in the fall, Paris was the location of the Region 3 FAWCO Regional which was enthusiastically attended and supported by our local members.

Eilean Ellison, FAWCO Representative

American Club of Lyon

LEADERSHIP

Board elections were held in July, via an online voting app. President: Mark Gallop (3rd and final term), Treasurer: Meaghan Teitelman (1st term), Secretary: Manon Lelandais (1st term)

Non-elected leadership: Jaime de Brebisson: VP Membership, Neal Frager: Webmaster, Ann Gallops: Newsletter
Becky Reynaud: Fawco Rep

It was a bumper year in terms of activities, attendance and new members.

The club needs to find someone brave enough to succeed Mark Gallop as President (the articles of association set a three-term limit to elected positions). As a retiree and gleeful micro-manager, he may have inadvertently made himself all the harder to replace.

MEMBERSHIP

The renewal period was in September, and we are amazed to see the numbers leap to 180 households, possibly the highest number in Club history, but we lack the archives to check.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

Ongoing events:

- Coffee Chat, weekly gathering in a local café. Open to non-members who speak English. Run by former webmaster, Sam. An excellent tool for recruiting new members.
- Café Français (weekly informal French conversation class) which is greatly appreciated by newcomers.
- The "Circles of Interest" (currently 7 different WhatsApp groups) launched two years ago are finally gaining traction. The Parents+Kids Circle is the most active group. They were nearly autonomous for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween, which meant less involvement from the Board.

Annual events:

- The 4th of July picnic was problematic because our longtime hosts were unable participate this year. The fallback solution was Lyon's big city park, but no barbecue allowed! Attendance was less than half the usual numbers.
- The Thanksgiving potluck was the largest in our history, with a total of 200 people (adults + children + guests) in attendance.

CHARITY

The Club covered part of the cost of the traditional Lyon candies for the goodie bag for delegates to the Region 3 meeting.

Becky Reynaud, FAWCO Representative

AWG Paris

Founded in 1921, the American Women's Group in Paris (AWG) is a secular, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to fostering social, educational, and cultural activities among English-speaking women in France. Our mission also includes strengthening Franco-American relations and supporting organizations that serve women and children in need.

With a membership of 280 members and annual dues of 90 euros, AWG Paris provides a welcoming community for women to connect, learn, and contribute to meaningful causes.

Philanthropy and Community Support

AWG has a Philanthropy Committee to organize and oversee charitable events.

Charitable Giving and Community Support

AWG Paris actively supports several charities, including: the FAWCO Target Project, La Soupe, Necker Hospital, and other charitable organizations serving women and children in need.

In 2024, we proudly hosted the **FAWCO Region 3 Regional Conference** in Paris from **October 4–6** at the **Cercle de l'Union Interalliée**. The event welcomed **125 attendees** and successfully raised over **€15000** for the **Target Project Awesome Blossoms**.

Activities and Events in 2024

AWG Paris organizes a **diverse calendar of activities** throughout the year, offering members numerous opportunities to engage socially, culturally, and recreationally.

- Cultural Activities: Museum visits, guided tours within and outside Paris, and wreath-making workshops.
- Social Gatherings: Café chats, apéritif groups, lunch and dinner groups, and a holiday party attended by nearly 100 members.
- Clubs and Interest Groups: Book Club, Photo Club, Barre Club (athletics), Scrabble Group, Mahjong Group
- Food and Wine Events: Moveable feast lunches, wine tastings, tea and treats, and other food-focused gatherings.
- Fundraising Initiatives: The OOPS Auction in February, raising funds for the Target Project.

Training and New Programs

- AWG hosted several training sessions focused on Wild Apricot, our membership management platform
- A draft for a Code of Conduct is currently under discussion to further enhance organizational governance.
- AWG launched the Ambassador Program, a new initiative aimed at welcoming and integrating new members. The program included a new member coffee gathering and will be evaluated after its first year.

- AWG also maintains a very active WhatsApp group, which has proven to be an effective communication tool for members.

Highlights from 2024

- AWG hosts a multitude of activities every month, catering to varied interests and lifestyles.
- Morning, afternoon, and evening meetings to ensure flexible participation.
- Organized trips outside Paris and local tours with professional guides.
- French-English conversation groups to support language learning and cultural exchange.

Looking Ahead

As we close out 2024, AWG Paris celebrates another successful year of friendship, philanthropy, and cultural enrichment. We look forward to expanding our reach, strengthening community ties, and continuing to support women and children in need in 2025.

Sandra Gogel, FAWCO Representative

Barcelona Women's Network

Our club made a Development Grant proposal to TFF for a project called ARED-FOUNDATION-"DA UN PASO" program - which was not funded. We will be requesting funds for psychological counseling for women who have been abused in the future. SHARING CULTURES - with BWN members. June 14, 2024 (16:00-18:30)- Topic for discussion was to share information about a landmark, monument or natural wonder that reflects the culture and/or history of your country, city, or community of origin. PRESENTATION TO MEMBERSHIP - Three presentations were made to the membership at our Coffee Mornings by Arline Coward, Gail Carberry and at the end of the year by Gwen Perry who had joined the committee. We collected €55 for AWESOME BLOSSOMS.

Gwen Perry, FAWCO Representative

AWC Madrid

2024 was a great year for AWC Madrid, marked by membership growth, engaging events, and higher member participation. The year also celebrated the club's 70th Anniversary, commemorated with a special member luncheon and a clubhouse celebration. The board welcomed a new Treasurer and 2nd VP overseeing the Speaker Series, and membership grew by 12%, closing the year with 149 members.

The clubhouse, the club's "home away from home," buzzed with energy, hosting regular favorites like the Speaker Series, Wine & Tapas, and Bridge and Mah Jong, alongside newer hits such as the Film Club and the annual Ice Cream Social. Highlights of other events included the ever-popular Cultural Tours, Out to Lunch Bunch, and the club's signature Holiday Bazaar.

In philanthropy, AWC Madrid continued its support for charities including Padre Roberto and ACOGEM, providing essential supplies and summer camp opportunities. The 4th Annual Breast Cancer Walk and heart pillow-stuffing activity raised awareness and funds for a vital cause.

Regarding FAWCO initiatives, Awesome Blossoms remained a key focus, supported by events and fundraising. Clubs in Motion continued its group walks and promoted swimming, dance, and exercise classes. In preparation for the US federal election, trained voting outreach volunteers hosted events to assist with the overseas voting process. The club was excited when one of its members' children won a FAWCO Education Award. Also noteworthy is the increased member involvement in FAWCO activities, from Inspiring Women to Global Teams, and the strong participation in the year's Annual and Region 3 Conferences.

Looking ahead, the FAWCO team's priorities in 2025 will be: Clubs in Motion; Literacy and Education; TARGET Human Rights program; wrapping up Awesome Blossoms; continued support for US expat needs; and launching a FAWCO Kids program.

AWC Madrid is poised for another strong year and looks forward to continuing its growth and strengthening connections with FAWCO and fellow member clubs.

AWC Madrid FAWCO Team: Belen Monasterio, FAWCO Representative, Liz Page, US Issues, Fran Clemens, Clubs in Motion, Karen Wendel, TARGET, Gweneth Johnsen, Education

France



American Women in the Aquitaine

Founded: 2017

Joined: 2017

Membership Total: 14

Dues: €15

Charities: ESAT Le Puch, Potatoes and Guayule Cultivation in Bira, South Africa



American Women's Group Languedoc Roussillon

Website: awglr.org

Founded: 1985

Joined: 1987

Membership Total: 79

Dues: €25

Mission: AWG-LR is a friendly network of American and Anglophone women integrating into French society, using our joint skills to enrich our lives. We read, hike, cook, garden, write, blog, enjoy wine-tasting, share our knowledge about France and the Languedoc-Roussillon, and work with local charities.

Charities: Red Cross Ukraine



American Club of Lyon

Website: americanclublyon.org

Founded: 1987

Joined: 1996

Membership Total: 180

Dues: €60

Mission: The American Club of Lyon was founded in 1987 to bring American expatriates together to share their common cultural background and to share American traditions with our members, their families, and friends in the Rhône-Alpes region.



American Women's Group in Paris

Website: awgparis.org

Founded: 1921

Joined: 1931

Membership Total: 250

Dues: €90

Mission: AWG Paris is a secular, non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to foster and encourage social, education and cultural activities among English speaking women in France and to assist in furthering Franco-American relations. One of our principal goals is to support organizations that serve women and children in need.

Charities: Maison des Femmes, Serve the City, FAWCO Target Project, La Soupe



Association of American Women in Europe

Website: aaweparis.org

Founded: 1961

Joined: 1965

Membership Total: 630

Dues: €90

Mission: AAWE is a non-profit volunteer association of American women who, as permanent residents of France, share interests specific to bicultural living. AAWE's mission is to: – support its members at all stages of life – provide information relevant to their evolving needs, including bilingualism, education, citizenship, voting and legal rights – create bonds, lifelong friendships and support networks – maintain American cultural heritage and promote its transmission to members' children – contribute to the wider community through public events, publications and community service – encourage cross-cultural understanding.

AAWE's vision is to be the reference for women with strong American ties looking for a cultural "home", an advocacy base, an information source, a support and social network, and an avenue for community service.

Charities: Cancer Support France - Paris/Île de France Chapter, SOS Help, Refugee Task Force , Friday Mission Lunch Program

Spain



Barcelona Women's Network

Website: bcnwomensnetwork.com

Founded: 1998

Joined: 1999

Membership Total: 160

Dues: €65

Mission: The purpose of the BWN is to foster friendship, goodwill and understanding among women of all nationalities, to provide a support network for women living in Barcelona and environs, and to engage in educational, cultural, social activities and fundraising for charities. We socialize with a social purpose.

Charities: Avismonm AADAS, Heart Pillow Project

American Women's Club of Madrid

Website: awcmadrid.club

Founded: 1954

Joined: 1956

Membership Total: 149

Dues: €100

Mission: The American Women's Club of Madrid is a social and charitable organization. A diverse offering of activities is held both in the Club and in the Madrid area. Activities cover a spectrum of interests, including social, cultural, historical, charity, and well-being. The Clubhouse functions as a home away from home for those Americans and others who are now living here, temporarily or permanently. Our Mission - To help women adapt to the challenges and stresses of living in a new country through support, encouragement and friendship - To provide an opportunity for interaction between women of all nationalities - To help members understand and appreciate the Spanish culture and - To engage in charitable activities emphasizing the needs of women and children.

Region 4: Belgium and The Netherlands

Region 4 is comprised of Clubs in Amsterdam, The Hague, Brussels and Antwerp. We are only 210km and about 2 1/2 hours apart from end to end! We have approximately 700 members, with Amsterdam having 300, The Hague, 180, Brussels, 90 and Antwerp, 95.

This year FAWCO Reps and Presidents did an outstanding job in their respective roles and Clubs! It has been a very positive and optimistic year as shown by the individual reports following our RC report.

Our monthly TLC (Team Leadership Calls) Calls with our FAWCO VP for Member Clubs, Kanika Holloway, served as a connection to all the clubs world wide, proving to not only be constructive, informative, and effective but fun and enjoyable as well!

Magda Honfy, Co-RC of Region 4, had a most difficult year with the passing of her husband Peter after a long illness. Although she is 'grateful for my support' it is I that thank Magda for her continued involvement in her role as RC4 as well as her continued collaboration to keep the ship sailing. It was my distinct pleasure to 'work' with her!

Her frequent R4 Facebook posts, including the links to multiple FAWCO publications such as the *NiB*, *Inspiring Women*, Regional meeting information and other FAWCO Clubs' initiatives.

We began a R4 What's App group which seemed to offer another avenue of communication among the Presidents and Reps and to highlight FAWCO activities and webinars! AWC Antwerp hosted a Regional meeting this year, which you will read also below in the Antwerp Report.

AWC Brussels will host the next Region 4 Regional in 2025 and we wish them much success and look forward to how we can support them when the time comes.

Respectfully submitted

Magda Honffy, Region 4 Coordinator
Rozanne Van Rie, Regional Coordinator at Large

AWC Brussels

2024 was a fabulous year for our Brussels club! Not only did we have more new members signing up and more friendly meetings. THE event of the year was our club's 75th anniversary. This September event took place at the American Embassy in Brussels with our ambassador Mickael Adler and his wife Judith attending. We had a fantastic time meeting with so many different people and enjoying an exceptionally delicious buffet. This year we have been able to set events on a regular basis such as our very popular Saturday night birthday parties every two months, bowling, book club, morning coffee every two months and, best of all, our twice a month "Hearts for Hope" meetings where twenty generous ladies make heart shaped cushions for cancer ward hospitals around Brussels. We also plan a once a year trip out of Belgium such as a day trip to the Netherlands and the beautiful tulip garden of Keukenhof or a wonderful four-day trip to Normandy to the war beaches and Normandy villages.

At the 2024 Fawco meeting in Porto, we discovered the use of creating WhatsApp club groups. This made such a difference in giving information or helping out members when needed. Many thanks to FAWCO!!

Florence Jeannine, President

AWC Antwerp

This year the AWC Antwerp was responsible for the Region 4 Conference. That for me has been a highlight of the year. Kanika did a wonderful job along with the committee and they planned a great weekend. The Governor of Antwerp, Cathy Berx, was the keynote speaker and she did a fantastic job. I think we all felt very proud of our city, Antwerp.

Another highlight of this year was the start of support for a new philanthropic project. Thanks to Liesbeth Faglia, the "fill in" Philanthropy Director AWC Antwerp began supporting an organization located in the Netherlands called "Shelter Suits Foundation". This organization makes waterproof sleeping bags with a detachable jacket for homeless people. They also recycle old sleeping bags to use for the lining of the Shelter Suits. Liesbeth talked with the organization about the AWC Antwerp supporting them if they would bring the suits to distribute in Antwerp. They have already distributed suits in Antwerp which were met with open arms.

The biggest challenge this year has been, again, membership and dealing with apathy towards attendance to the membership monthly meetings. It is true that times have changed and many women are busy with their own lives. As many women are retired or their husbands are, there are many women traveling throughout the year. I think that this is a problem that all clubs face so in that we are not alone. But it is still a challenge when planning meetings. We have also gone this year with several of our board positions unfilled. This has been difficult and a lot of tasks fell on Tharien van Eck our Vice President. Thanks to her, many things were still taken care of. I hope that next year all of the positions on the board will be filled so that many jobs will not fall on a few. Back to the question or challenge of membership, there is another women's club in the area which is stopping as a club, the IWCA, International Women's Club of Antwerp. They have approached us and are wanting to steer their members toward joining the AWC Antwerp. This is a promising development which I hope brings in more members.

Respectfully,

Carol Brazle, President

AWC Amsterdam

AWC Amsterdam had a great year despite some unique challenges for our club. The Articles of Association, Bylaws and Standing Rules were updated this year, after acceptance by our membership in October.

Our key objectives were met this year – passing updated governance documents and restoring calm in the club. We embraced the Dutch Experience while honoring our American Tradition. We provided opportunities for community involvement and philanthropy. We enjoyed cultural, educational, sport, and family activities. We supported one another and created lifelong friendships. We networked with other professionals in the community.

Philanthropy included a monthly baking and cooking date at the de Kloof Men's Shelter. It has connected AWCA members with Serve the City for one-time volunteer events. Our club awarded one scholarship of €1,000 to a member's child at the annual June Luncheon. We held a clothing auction benefiting African Angels for Charity. Club Members made several large donations to Ukrainian refugees. We donated clothing to a local women's shelter. In the village of Opijnen, we continue to support the U S service member memorial. The President gave a speech, and members attended the May 4th Memorial Day Ceremony. We attended the International Day Events.

We have increased our philanthropic endeavors and worked to strengthen our ties with FAWCO. We collaborate with AWC The Hague and AWC Antwerp by including each other's members at events. AWCA members did nominate FAWCO's current Target Project, Awesome Blossoms and continue to support the project. In January

2025, we will hold one final fundraiser with our Share Your Gifts for Good Auction. We promote the FAWCO online events to our members to participate.

Members interacted through countless events, often including food and drink. Our membership includes two active sub-groups in Haarlem and Het Gooi, besides members in Amsterdam. We have held various dinner get-togethers, jazz nights, craft evenings, wine tastings, and holiday parties. Members get together for four different book clubs, going to museums, taking walking tours and two weekly walking groups. Popular and new events included 4th of July picnic, a year end Disco Party, a volunteer fair, a trick-or-treating event as well as a trivia night. We started a Dutch Language Learning group.

This year we started using WhatsApp Community with specific subjects which members may join. This has advantages and disadvantages. It does give a better sense of community and interested members can talk about specific subjects like Dutch language or Things to Do. Other forms of communication are Facebook, and Tulip Talk, our monthly newsletter to Members.

The AWCA has faced some challenges this year. Because of increasing expenses for space to hold our monthly meetings, we now hold one general meeting per month with an invited speaker, alternating between day and evening, instead of two meetings. In the fall of 2023, we encountered a crossroad in relation to the club's identity concerning the requirement of the President being a US citizen. An appointed Governance Committee facilitated conversation through Town Halls and surveyed membership to help navigate the path. In the end, the US citizenship requirement was kept. We have lost double the average (70) members for various reasons, but we are actively recruiting for new members through different avenues. This has given us an opportunity for reidentification, and we will have stronger membership. We are looking forward to 2025!

Julie Hutt, FAWCO Representative

AWC The Hague

2024 has been a year of community and connection, with activities centered around health & wellness, fine arts & culture, current events, and philanthropy. Our membership has rebounded to pre-COVID levels, with 57 new members joining in the last fiscal year. As a founding member, AWC The Hague continues to highlight FAWCO's global impact by contributing to the FAWCO Friendship quilt, attending Regional and Interim Meetings, participating in Global Issues Teams, and raising awareness for the Target Project. Several members were also featured in *Inspiring Women Magazine*, and Mary Adams participated in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva.

We hosted an evening lecture series and welcomed guest speakers such as representatives from the John Adams Institute, Rode Kruis, US Consulate, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; International Commission on Missing Persons; Robert Serry, 1st Dutch Ambassador to Ukraine; and Dr. Christa Hooijer, Director of Science and Technology, Defense Safety and Security for TNO – The Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research. Our activities committee did an incredible job of organizing various one-time events to compliment the other ongoing meetups members have come to love like Walkie Talkies, Pickleball, Book Club, lunches and happy hour meetups. Members enjoyed private tours of exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag and the Expatriate Archives Center, historic and art-themed walking tours, and creative workshops on Tataki-Zone, Terrariums, and Christmas wreath making. The AWC clubhouse, our home away from home, facilitated art workshops, fitness classes, social gatherings, and popular evening events like game nights, Halloween, and Christmas parties. This year we also migrated our club's internal communications to Gmail Workspace and migrated our many group chats to one WhatsApp Community!

AWC The Hague hosted ever-popular monthly volunteer opportunities for the Heart Pillows Project and Meals for the Homeless, and organized a Stolpersteine "Stumbling Stones" Cleaning activity for the first time. Each hand engraved stone placed in front of the last known residence of a victim of the Holocaust is part of the largest memorial of its kind. We hope to make it a semi-annual activity that will ripple out and inspire our sister clubs in Europe who have stumbling stones in their cities as well. In April 2024, we selected KRNRM (Royal Dutch Rescue Society) as our annual local charity, holding educational events and raising funds through bake sales and our other special events. KRNRM conducts thousands of life-saving rescues off of the shores of our community each year and provides these services around the clock 365 days of the year and at no charge thanks to the efforts of professional volunteers and donations.

In 2025, we will celebrate our 95th anniversary. As we honor the legacy of AWC The Hague's contributions to the lives of its members and the local community, we also aim to embrace the future and meet the challenges and opportunities that are ahead of us!

Natalie Malis, FAWCO Representative

Belgium



American Women's Club Antwerp

Website: awcantwerp.org

Founded: 1929

Joined: 1931

Membership Total: 93

Dues: €80

Mission: Our purpose is to create a center for social, cultural and philanthropic activities for American women in the Antwerp area.

Charities: University Hospital Middelheim/Caring Hearts (€10000), Caring Heart's Pillow Project, Royal Ballet School Flanders, Sisters of the Little One, FAWCO Target Project



American Women's Club of Brussels

Website: awcb.org

Founded: 1949

Joined: 1950

Membership Total: 88

Dues: €100

Mission: Create a welcoming and supportive community where members and their families share interest in American Culture and the English language. Provide social, cultural, and philanthropic activities to help our members and their families achieve their fullest potential. Encourage an awareness and understanding of Belgian culture.

Charities: Residence Tombeekheyde, Red Cross Refugee Center Alseberg, Centre de Prévention des Violences Conjugales et Familiales, Oasis Belgium, La Cite Joyeuse, Centre Nos Pilifs, AOMDA, FAWCO Target Projects

The Netherlands



American Women's Club of Amsterdam

Website: awca.nl

Founded: 1927

Joined: 1971

Membership Total: 306

Dues: €100

Mission: The AWCA emphasizes a cohesive and nurturing community for American women and international women with close American ties. The Club works closely with local charities and liaises with Dutch/American businesses and organizations. The AWCA is about: Experiencing the Netherlands while honoring American traditions • Involving members in the community and with philanthropic causes • Participating in cultural, educational, sport, and family activities • Supporting one another and building lifelong friendships • Networking with other professionals

Charities: Scholarships, Safe Spaces, Not For Sale, De Kloof, The Kiran Anjali Project Gender Equality Curriculum



American Women's Club of The Hague

Website: awcthehague.org

Founded: 1930

Joined: 1931

Membership Total: 177

Dues: €110

Mission: Our primary goal is to serve as a support network for American women living and working in The Netherlands.

Charities: FAWCO Target Project Hope Beyond Displacement, Heart Pillow Project

Region 5: Austria, Germany, Moldova and Slovakia

Highlights: The activities in Region 5, a great Regional Meeting, old friendships and new ones.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelika MacLarren
Region 5 Coordinator

AWA Vienna

In 2024, AWA Vienna celebrated its centennial, kicking off with a party in May in the clubhouse, attended by some of AWA's oldest members. The stories of their experiences in the 1960s and 1970s were fascinating and we hope to be able to record them as oral history. As part of our celebration, we organized a concert of up-and-coming young vocalists and instrumentalists from India, Austria and the US, led by Solmaaz Adeli, an acclaimed mezzo soprano and former AWA Vienna board member. It was held in the historic Kaisersaal. Bubbly flowed as AWA and invited guests listened to the music, munched on home-made goodies prepared by our members, and participated in a 50-50 raffle that helped support AWA's activities. In addition, we collaborated with the Longfield Gospel choir and AWA member Bev Minor to present a concert in the Franziskaner Church. The overflow crowd responded to the popular gospel renditions with a standing ovation. Our extremely talented artist member, Halla Chaparro, donated the proceeds from her exhibit to AWA in appreciation for the help and support AWA gave her when she relocated to Vienna. We continue to offer approximately 40 activities a month. In November, we elected an almost entirely new board that has already begun working on implementing new programs and club structures.

Connie Phlipot, FAWCO Representative

AWC Berlin

The American Women's Club of Berlin (AWC Berlin) presently has 329 members with 62 new members in 2024. Americans (US passport holders and wives/children of US citizens) make up 70% of our membership, while the remaining 30% come from 30+ different countries.

In 2024, 23 members offered their time and talents to organize 295 events listed on Wild Apricot, this does not count our Neighborhood Groups and WhatsApp Interest Groups activities. All of our events have returned to in-person meetings, with the exception of those which are led by alumni members who are no longer in Berlin. They take place on our club's Zoom account. We enjoyed celebrating together as a club at five Monthly Membership Meetings, as well as at special events including the July 4th BBQ, Thanksgiving, and our Holiday Party.

In 2024, AWC Berlin celebrated our 130th anniversary (founded in 1894, we are the oldest FAWCO club) with an Anniversary Gala in September and hosted the FAWCO Region 5 Meeting in November. Just 10 days after the US election, the Regional Meeting with the theme "Women & Democracy" was attended by 51 FAWCO members from 16 clubs from Region 5 and beyond.

With the special event "Auction of Talents" and silent auctions at our Anniversary Gala and the FAWCO Regional meeting, in 2024, AWC Berlin raised 3170 Euro to benefit the FAWCO Target Project AWESOME BLOSSOMS and over 10,000 Euro for this year's local charity, the ReDi School of Digital Integration. In addition, we do quarterly cooking for the families at our long-term local charity, the Ronald McDonald House Berlin-Wedding, and continued to financially sponsor an apartment there for 2024. Our members also volunteered regularly at Berliner Tafel, the city's food bank, and at Christmas, we collected for the Mittens Tree, gifting two large bags of hats, gloves and scarves to the Berliner Stadtmission.

My-Linh Kunst, President

AIWC Cologne

In early 2024, the American International Women's Club of Cologne voted to amend our constitution to streamline the organization's governance structure and to clarify, using gender-neutral language, that all English-speaking persons who support the Club's purpose are welcome. Many of the changes reflect our belief in the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In the meantime, we continued in 2024 to support our two chosen charities: the 2022-2025 Target Project, Awesome Blossoms, and innatura, a Cologne-based nonprofit that provides factory-new goods to nonprofit organizations at deeply reduced rates. The focus of both of these programs is the environment, as innatura supports sustainable business practices by aiding businesses with the distribution of quality products, that would normally be destroyed due to something like a typographical mistake on the packaging, to charitable organizations.

In further support of the environment, Club members participated in two clean-up days in 2024, picking up trash to help keep Cologne beautiful. In addition, we are excited to have become a partial sponsor of the FAWCO Foundation Development Grant for the Environment, For the Health of Our Planet. The 2024 recipient of that grant was Caribbean Coral Restoration: Love for the Sea, nominated by the AIWC Cologne.

Finally, participation in FAWCO continues to be highly valued by many of our members. In 2024, we were proud to hold the following FAWCO, FAWCO Foundation, and FAUSA positions: FAWCO Foundation President; FAWCO VP of Communications; FAWCO Education Team Co-Chair; UN Representatives to Bonn; FAWCO Foundation Education Award Administrator; FAWCO Foundation Silent Auction Coordinator; and FAUSA's FAWCO Liaison.

Michelle Miller, FAWCO Representative

AIWC Düsseldorf

The AIWCD continues strong in its 65th year primarily because of our dedication to community, friendship and philanthropy. Our 65th Anniversary Gala had brand-new members in attendance, as well as those who've been around since the initial years of the club's existence. A strong past and present can only lead to a strong future.

We are primarily a volunteer and charity based organization, which is the driving force behind our major club events and fund drives. 2024's AIWCD donations of over €16,000 were distributed amongst our local women's and children's charities. The American in our name is a nod to our history. We welcome women from across the globe and we've been excited to see increased diversity among our ranks.

Our membership holds steady in the 210-230 range. We are also pleased to observe that there have been more members attending club activities and events, though adequate participation remains an ongoing struggle. On the whole we have been very happy with our 2024 and we hope to continue this trend in 2025 and beyond.

Jawahara Saidullah, President and FAWCO Representative

AIWC Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main

In 2024, AIWC Frankfurt proudly expanded its vibrant community by welcoming 88 new members, bringing our total membership to 301, including 11 alumni. Aligned with our core mission of fostering cultural exchange, personal growth, and impactful service, we continued to provide a supportive and engaging environment where members could connect, build meaningful relationships, offer assistance, share joyful experiences, and contribute significantly to both local and global communities.

AIWC Frankfurt actively engaged with FAWCO, attending the Porto conference and the Region 5 meeting in Berlin. We continued to support the TFF Target Project, Awesome Blossoms, and became a Rose Donor. In 2024, we raised €6,217 for our local Hessian charity partner, FIM (Frauenrecht ist Menschenrecht/Women's Rights are Human Rights), by hosting events like a Frauenflohmacht, a pub quiz, and raffles. These funds for FIM helped to train a local physician in reconstructive surgery for FGM/C survivors.

With 360 events on the calendar, there were ample opportunities for member engagement. Monthly highlights such as All Club Coffees and All Club After Darks enriched our members' experiences and strengthened our community bonds. We held a voter registration coffee in cooperation with representatives from the US Consulate in Frankfurt. Additionally, our neighborhood coordinators (we have six neighborhood coordinators that host local activities for our six distinct neighborhoods) kept their neighborhoods busy with many local activities throughout the year! Our monthly digital newsletter, *Zusammen*, keeps all members connected.

The AIWC Frankfurt's Arts & Culture group explored local landmarks, including the Alte Oper and a WWII bunker. The Working Women group hosted ten events, the No Drama Drama Club embraced Frankfurt's theater scene, and the Italian Language group met weekly. Two members organized a Cretan retreat. The International Cuisine group delighted members with global flavors. Our two book clubs flourished. The Tennis League celebrated 47 years of group play with four groups of 12 players each. Looking forward, 2025 promises to be extra special as 48 players join the league's 48th season! This year, AIWC Frankfurt sponsored the Fine Arts Member Award through The FAWCO Foundation, in memory of Barbara Merlino, our tennis league's former captain. The Sole Sisters hiked 13 times, and the Sharp Hookers crocheted a charity blanket, raising €468. Hopeful Hearts crafted over 100 pillows for breast cancer patients and held Bunco Nights for fundraising.

In 2024, special events added excitement to the year. Our February "Treasures and Treats" Frauenflohmacht raised €4184 for FIM and promoted sustainability by encouraging reuse and upcycling. March featured the second annual International Women's Day Luncheon and the AIWC Cares Well-being initiative's Wellness Week, offering 14 transformative activities! In August, our annual Wine & Bites gathering fostered new connections. September brought a relaxing evening cruise on the Main River to bid farewell to summer and welcome autumn. The Thanksgiving Luncheon celebrated friendship while raising funds for our two charities, and the year concluded with a festive Holiday Luncheon at Waxys Irish Bar & Restaurant, paired with our biannual General Membership Meeting.

These diverse events throughout 2024 fostered connection, personal growth, and community engagement. From fundraising to celebrating milestones and promoting well-being, AIWC Frankfurt created a vibrant and fulfilling year for its members.

Dana Fritchie, FAWCO Representative

AWC Hamburg

The American Women's Club of Hamburg had a great 2024! We hit the ground running with many activities, events, and philanthropic activities.

In the first half of the year, we hosted our Annual General Meeting, Easter/Spring High Tea, pre-loved book sale, and a Fourth of July celebration. During the second half of the year, we always have some of our most beloved club celebrations, including our Halloween get-together for our members' kids, our Thanksgiving dinner for families, a cookie exchange at the Consul General's house, and our Holiday Party for members.

Our groups within the club (e.g., Film Group, Currents Magazine, Book Club, Opera Club, Art Group, Walking Groups, Harbor Explorers, Mahjong Group, Photography Group, Theater Group, Social Hours, and Stitch 'n' Bitch) have remained active with a very filled calendar. This year, we introduced Meet and Mingle events for our members, which gave them an extra opportunity to get to know each other and the club better!

In addition, our members continue to participate in events organized by FAWCO, FAWCO Member Clubs, the US Embassy, and local organizations.

Charitable activities remain a pivotal part of our club! We continued supporting our local charity, Hanseatic Help e. V. by volunteering in their warehouse (biweekly), donating clothing and hygiene products, and holding awareness fundraisers. We also hosted events throughout the year to financially sponsor MamaBaby Haiti, one of our Development Grant recipients.

Our internal charity, From the Heart Pillow Project, raised money for supplies to make heart pillows and drainage bottle bags for breast cancer patients in Hamburg. As in previous years, we also held a Thanksgiving food drive for a local food bank and participated in a charity run for women's shelters in Hamburg. Lastly, our online auction this autumn raised almost €2000 for FAWCO's Target Project.

Our triannual digital/printed magazine, *Currents*, provides an overview of the club's activities, FAWCO and a forum for members' themes and ideas.

We had a fantastic 2024 as a club and are excited to see what 2025 holds for us!

Jordan Beck Wagner, FAWCO Representative

Heidelberg IWC

In January 2024 the Heidelberg IWC completed its sixth year. Julia Rais-Morres continued her role as Club President and Beth Herzhauser took on the role of Vice President. Mary Manning continued as Treasurer, and Virginia Trowman as FAWCO Rep.

Activities & Events:

The Monthly Meeting was brought back where we had speakers at every meeting which were very successful. Julia implemented a new website, Clubdesk, in September as the current one ended up being too time consuming and complicated to use.

We had several events where we had a stand selling food and homemade products, raising money for our local charities and for the Target Project. We handed over 100 heart pillows and knitted socks to the NCT. Also at our Advents market, we raised €430 for two amazing projects which were founded by our members - SteadFastLove Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria, by Yewande and Paintbrush Foundation in Bangkok by Gigi Nemrod.

Julia organised several events where we invited non-members as well as members such as our Chinese New Year buffet and our Thanksgiving event with Schiller International University and our joint event with HIP for International Women's Day. We finished the year with a Christmas Charity Gala for members and guests which was a sold out fantastic event which we want to repeat!

We gained a lot of new members at the beginning of the year, but we lost several towards the end and finished the year with 50 members.

FAWCO Meetings:

The Interim Meeting in Porto was attended by four members.

The Region 5 meeting in Berlin was attended by four members where we took part at the Market Place selling handcrafted items and managed to raise over €250 for the Target Project. We agreed to host the next regional in Heidelberg which will take place on November 7-9, 2025.

Virginia Trowman, FAWCO Representative

IWC Leipzig

2024 was a good year for IWC Leipzig. Our club kept growing and currently we have 117 women of 36 nationalities. Our members also are diverse regarding profession, family background and interests. It is a very active and supportive community. We have many much loved groups including conversation, evening activities, and an International Women's Day dance night for women only. We had a lot of program highlights and fabulous guest speakers at our big monthly meetings and at two special public events about "Women's access to education" and "AI and women". We made more progress with our project "Preparing the club for the future". More updating took place in the club's administration. All the networking with other clubs and organisations in Leipzig such as women's clubs, international clubs, museums, departments in the city admin, has had lots of positive effects. The club is on the map in Leipzig, we cooperate with many organisations in different ways and attract new members (also through our beautiful website and additional offers).

IWC Leipzig also continued its charity activities, e.g. some members took part in a charity run. Our biggest charity fundraiser is the "Holiday Bazaar" in December. The (new record number of 30) "talents" were especially successful. We also had a section called "Members make the Bazaar", a lovely IWC Christmas bauble and our own special Christmas choir. Two members presented Holiday traditions from their native countries. Thanks to the fabulous team and our generous members we were able to raise even more money than the year before for the four organisations in Leipzig we support (among those are organisations that support homeless women and women and children who are victims of domestic violence). At the Bazaar we also honoured 17 members that joined our club 20+ years ago. An amazing group!

We joined FAWCO in December 2023 and it's great to be part of this network. Some of us were at the Interim Meeting in Porto and at the Regional in Berlin and very much enjoyed the spirit and exchange of ideas. One of the Porto meeting's effects is a new group called "IWC in motion." Getting featured in the FAWCO magazine *Inspiring Women* (autumn edition) and having My-Linh Kunst as guest speaker also were highlights in 2024. We had a fundraising dinner for the wonderful Target Project AWESOME BLOSSOMS and are very happy we could contribute to its success.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all my great fellow board members, to the committed volunteers and all the members in our club and to all the lovely FAWCO women for all the positive energy and inspiration! All the best for 2025!

Ute McKendry, President

Munich IWC

This has been a great year for MIWC, with membership growing by 32 members, bringing fresh interests and skills to the club. Many new members have actively joined committee teams, which is always a welcome boost as finding volunteers remains an ongoing challenge.

Our monthly program has been as vibrant as ever. The English book club's discussions, especially about divisive books, have been particularly engaging, and meetings have returned to the warmth of members' homes. The German book club has expanded to include theater visits, walks, language conversation groups in four languages, and happy hours remain perennial favorites. New initiatives like the monthly Art Studio and the Aging in Germany group, which plans to share its findings with other clubs, have also been well-received.

Our monthly meetings with guest speakers are consistently popular, with Valentine's Day's potluck brunch being a standout. Members loved the chocolates, Prosecco, and extended time to socialize, reflecting the treasured camaraderie at the heart of our club.

This year also marked the launch of our benefit concert series to support our charities, which involved the performing talents of local musicians, including some of our own club members. The series began with a jazz concert, followed by a metal concert, and a classical concert is planned for February 2025. While not yet financially successful, these events provided valuable learning opportunities, and we are committed to continuing the series in 2025.

Highlights included the August Biergarten lunch, which, despite squally weather, drew a great turnout and offered new members a chance to connect. Our November Bazaar was a tremendous success, raising nearly double the amount of the previous year and showcasing the tireless efforts of so many members.

We ended the year with a December lunch so well-received that we've already decided to return to the same venue next year. Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to build on these successes, strengthening connections and continuing to make a positive impact both within and beyond our club.

Angela Ahiskel, FAWCO Representative

IWC Moldova

Mission: IWCM aims to be a social network and a bridge between local and expat women in Moldova with a heart for charity. Respect for multiculturalism and the desire to share the goodwill are our unchanging values, on the basis of which we build an influential activity in the field of charity, assistance to children and women, support for people in need and refugees.

Charities: MAD AID, Life without Leukemia, Women Law Center, I hear and talk, Your life.

From the monthly meetings to our international lunches, potlucks, cooking master classes, cultural trips, and shared laughter, this year has been a testament to the power of friendship and giving back to our community. In 2024, we helped the new-born surgery ward with 28 new special doors for its renewal, we also reached the rehabilitation center for breast cancer patients and one for hearing impaired children, and delivered new books in village libraries. With our influence, a few women will have the opportunity to develop their business ideas or get an education to secure their future and a life without domestic violence.

We also continued to support the African Fashion Show for charity which was founded by our Board member to promote cultural diversity, support charitable causes and provide a platform for designers from all over the world. The event aims to bring together two cultures, African and European, thus showcasing cultural diversity and celebrating the friendship between the two continents.

For her departure from Moldova, Olesia Shevchenko, President of the club and a wonderful singer, organized a charity concert "Prayer for Ukraine" to help children in Ukraine. Our club organized the 26th edition of the International Charity Bazaar, which gathered a lot of good people on December 7th at the Palace of the Republic, giving every visitor the chance to travel around the world in just a few hours. We were delighted to see how people from different parts of the world are coming together in our small country with a big heart in Eastern Europe to make a difference in the lives of women and children with various challenges. International Charity Bazaar was a true highlight, bringing together locals and internationals to support women and children across Moldova.

Maria Marinuta, Administrator

Austria



American Women's Association of Vienna

Website: awavienna.com

Founded: 1924

Joined: 1931

Membership Total: 290

Dues: €96

Mission: AWA Vienna is an international community of English-speaking women with over 250 members from 40 countries. Our purpose is to provide a social network for international women, and to enhance cultural exchange and cooperation between our members and our Austrian host country community. We also raise funds and provide assistance to community organizations that help women, children and families.

Charities: Caritas, Franziskanerkirche, DieMoewe

Germany



American Women's Club of Berlin

Website: awcberlin.org

Founded: 1931, 1994

Joined: 1994

Membership Total: 329

Dues: €50

Mission: is a social network with a charitable calling. The AWC Berlin provides a forum for women to share information and experiences, to meet friends and engage in inspiring and fun activities, all while helping and empowering others along the way.

Charities: Ronald McDonald House, JACK Berlin, Ascend Athletics



American International Women's Club of Cologne

Website: aiwccologne.org

Founded: 1961

Joined: 1971

Membership Total: 146

Dues: €60

Mission: The American International Women's Club of Cologne e.V. ("Club") shall pursue, exclusively and directly, social and charitable goals relating to furthering understanding among peoples, within the meaning of the section of the German tax laws defining "steuerbegünstigte Zwecke" (tax privileged purposes). A. The purpose of the Club shall be achieved as follows: 1. The support of members and their families living in the Cologne area as they adjust to life in Germany, through information and advice relating to life in Cologne, as well as through the provision of contact persons with common cultural interests etc. 2. The provision of a forum in which to speak English. 3. The advancement of cultural exchange among Americans, Germans, and other nationalities via discussion and activities relating to themes of common interest, as well as through the offer to make instruction in the English language available to schools in Cologne. 4. The support of local and world-wide initiatives.

Charities: Target Project, Bunter Kreis Rheinland, A Mother's Love



American Women's Club of Düsseldorf, e.V.

Website: awcduesseldorf.org

Founded: 1959

Joined: 1971

Membership Total: 227

Dues: €65

Mission: Our Constitution states: The purpose of the Club is: 1. To advance international understanding; to assist Americans and their families living in the Düsseldorf area; to provide support as they adjust to life in Germany; to advance cultural exchanges among Americans, Germans, and other nationalities; and to inform members about issues of interest to Americans; 2. To support education, the upbringing of minors, the care of the elderly, and the assistance of those in need within the scope of Section 53 of the German Tax Code (AO).

Charities: Mitternachtsmissio, Frauenberatungsstelle Neuss, German-American Friends Niederrhein, International Library, Frauen Helfen Frauen Düsseldorf, Knackpunkt



American International Women's Club Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main

Website: aiwcfrankfurt.org

Founded: 1971

Joined: 1978

Membership Total: 301

Dues: €75

Mission: The AIWC provides friendship and support amongst women and families, who are living in the Rhein-Main area, and facilitates their efforts to integrate into the German community and stay connected with a variety of activities, services, and social, sports, and hobby groups. Additionally, we take great pleasure and pride in serving our community throughout the year. Every year we raise money from our AWCT events, such as at our yearly Spring Charity Event, to give to local charitable organizations. Our members have volunteered in a variety of ways such as supporting children's pediatric units, training dogs for the disabled, establishing scholarships for local children and assisting women's organizations.

Charities: Die Arche (2020-2021), Tierheim Hattersheim (2021), S.A.F.E. (2020-2021), Markus Krankenhaus (2021), BadSodenHelft (2022), Projekt, Lebenshilfe (2022)



American Women's Club of Hamburg

Website: awchamburg.org

Founded: 1956

Joined: 1976

Membership Total: 200

Dues: €45

Mission: Our club purpose is to advance international understanding; to assist American women and their families living in the Hamburg area and to provide support as they adjust to life in Germany; to advance cultural exchanges among American, German and other nationalities; and to inform members about issues of interest to Americans. We support education, the upbringing of minors and the assistance of those in need within the scope of the German tax laws. The AWC Hamburg pursues, exclusively and directly, social and charitable goals.

Charities: From the Heart Pillow, FAWCO Target Project, Hamburger Tafel, Integral Tribal Watershed Development Programme, Hanseatic Help



Heidelberg International Women's Club

Website: heidelbergiwc.org

Founded: 2018

Joined: 2018

Membership Total: 50

Dues: €50

Mission: The Heidelberg International Women's Club is a club for English-speaking women living in Heidelberg and the surrounding Rhine-Neckar region. We are an all-volunteer, non-political, non-religious charitable nonprofit organization. Women of all nationalities, ages and backgrounds are welcome! In addition to being a connection point and support network for each other, we give back to our local and global community through volunteering and charitable fundraising. We support efforts that focus on women and girls and currently are engaged in a few charitable projects.

Charities: Cooking for Hope, FAWCO Target Project, NCT Cancer Research & Family Support, Children's Future International, Meaningful Masks Project



International Women's Club Leipzig e. V.

Website: N/A

Founded: 1988

Joined: 2023

Membership Total: 117

Mission: Women support Women, supporting an international spirit in Leipzig, charity activities



Munich International Women's Club

Website: internationalwomensclub.org

Founded: 1990

Joined: 2010

Membership Total: 232

Dues: €50

Mission: The Munich International Women's Club e.V. (MIWC) is a social club acting as a source of contact to English-speaking women of all ages and nationalities living in Munich and the surrounding region. We became a member of FAWCO in 2010 and through this umbrella organization have contact with other German groups, as well as those in other countries.

Charities: Frauenhaus, NEEED Burkina Faso, FAWCO Target Project, Safe House

Moldova



International Women's Club of Moldova

Website: iwcm.md

Founded: 2014

Joined: 2022

Membership Total: 57

Dues: €50

Slovakia



International Women's Club of Slovakia

Website:

Founded:

Joined:

Membership Total:

Dues:

Region 6: Liechtenstein and Switzerland

Respectfully submitted,
Veronica Ventura

Region 6 Coordinator

AWC Liechtenstein

The American Women's Club of Liechtenstein and the Rhein Valley is a social club with currently 31 members. Our purpose is to develop friendships among American women in the area, to actively support them with their integration and provide various activities to share. We have a Hospitality Committee that welcomes new members and helps them connect with club members and activities. Every December 6, St. Nickolas Day, they bring a filled stocking full of goodies to our new members.

The club uses a WhatsApp Chat group for our members to share information and to offer help and support.

Even though we are a small club, we offered a fun variety of events for our members. Our goal is to have at least one planned activity per month. The great selection of activities this year started with a delightful winter evening eating Fondue in the mountains. Other events offered were mini golf, bowling, an escape room experience, a restaurant get-together and our annual October potluck dinner- this time with the theme "Around the World Tapas." Everyone brought delicious tapas and we enjoyed all the culinary delights. One of our new members hosted a fabulous Spring Brunch at her home. Everyone brought something to share making it a delightful and delicious event. One of the beauties of such a small club is being able to meet in private homes. It underscores our purpose of being a family away from home. In the fall, members were invited to a cheese festival in Rapperswil on the Lake of Zürich to sample cheeses from Swiss cheese makers and there are many!

We were pleased to welcome three new members to the club's board in March. Our former board member and new President, Laura Lovinger, stepped forward after prolonging her planned stay in Liechtenstein as a graduate student after finding love in Switzerland. The new Treasurer is Sara Graupera-Hobbs and we now have a great Digital Administrator, Ursula Engler Larson. When it comes to computers it is always valuable to have an expert available!

Our President, Laura, had the opportunity to attend two events this year at the US Embassy. She met other Americans living in Switzerland which provided an excellent chance to connect with fellow Americans and those with citizen touchpoints.

This year, our three favorite annual club events were a tremendous success.

1. The July 4th Barbeque was a hit with the appetizer buffet, a welcome Prosecco, salad and dessert buffet, capped off by an American trivia game and a big lawn for the kids to play.
2. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held this year at a new restaurant following the retirement of our long-term Thanksgiving chef. With great attendance from both members and guests, we had a beautiful setting to celebrate. The dessert buffet provided by our members was especially large and impressive this year!
3. At the Christmas "White Elephant" celebration everyone wore their crazy Christmas sweaters and enjoyed an evening full of laughter and great food.

Kim Kühni

FAWCO Representative

AWC Basel

In 2024, AWC Basel grew to 121 active members, up from 88 last year. We currently have a full board. Efforts were made to attract new members, regardless of nationality, by attending the Basel Expat Expo and Basel International School Fair, where we had tables with information on our activities and charity efforts (and delicious cookies made by one of our members).

In 2024, we raised money to support our local charities primarily through raffling baskets at our Fall Kick off luncheon (with an invited speaker) and through a book sale. Until June, our charity was Art-Therapy Basel. Our current local charity, "Thanksgiving Schweiz", was selected at our June AGM.

This year we implemented a new Wild Apricot members App associated with our new website, which allows members to easily see and sign up for upcoming events. Countless hours were invested in setting this up and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

We try to appeal to our long standing and new members with a variety of activities. The popular Monthly Mingle is an apero to welcome new members held at a different cocktail bar every month. There are two lunches and a dinner monthly exploring different restaurants around town. Seasonal events like July 4, Thanksgiving Dinner and the Christmas coffee were also popular. Regular monthly bridge and Mahjong groups, book clubs and wine tasting are well attended and we've just added a new games afternoon. In the evenings we have regular informational talks on various topics such as upcoming music events, health and lifestyle topics or seasonal activities like our holiday wreath and decorating workshops. Occasionally we have offered excursions to concerts, such as a local production of *Carmen*, Art Basel Photo, and out of town festivals such as the Rueblimart. We continue to try to provide a welcoming sense of community for our members.

Kate Edson, FAWCO Representative

AWC Bern

2024 has been an exciting year for AWC Bern, packed with memorable events and new initiatives! We introduced a WhatsApp group chat for better communication and expanded our social media presence with fresh Instagram pages. Our Thanksgiving dinner was a standout success, with over 50 attendees and more pumpkin pies than anyone could handle!

We also strengthened ties with regional clubs and have cross-club events in the pipeline, including a chili cook-off with our sister club in Zurich in January 2025. We're also gearing up to host a regional conference in September 2025 — stay tuned!

The year featured plenty of fun, from Bingo night, which raised funds for FAWCO's Target Project, to cookie making, ice skating, ceramic painting, fencing, jazz, and opera concerts. The crown jewel was our 75th Anniversary celebration at a stunning Bern venue. With a casino theme, the night was pure fun and camaraderie — a milestone to remember!

Veronica Ventura, FAWCO Representative

AWC Zürich

FAWCO Representative Wendy Cideciyan and Club President Lyla Taylor attended the FAWCO **Interim Meeting** March 15-17 in Porto, Portugal. Wendy attended workshops on the UN and sought to understand the work of FAWCO and the Target Project Awesome Blossoms. Wendy personally spent time trying to get to know the other attendees of the conference particularly those from Region 6. One of her goals for 2023-25 is to have better connections between clubs. Susan Pombo Ball, Basel Club VP was invited to our Christmas lunch. Region 6 RC and AWC Bern Rep, Veronica Ventura, is planning to come to our next Chilli cookoff.

Fundraisers

Awesome Blossoms Chili Cook Off. We all had a fun evening together. Lyla's husband Gregg always wins, and we played a little Bingo. We will have our next Chili cookoff on Jan. 18, 2025.

Heart pillow project

The Heart Pillow project was started to help women recovering from breast cancer surgery. Karen Carpenter led a group of ecstatic volunteers to make 60 pillows at a time and then they were given to various hospital groups. Karen has done an amazing job leading a hard-working group. In Switzerland we all have been doing outreach with cancer groups, hospitals and friends. My own personal friends were very happy to receive the pillows.

Clubs in Motion

Our club continues to participate in Clubs in Motion with both a Thursday morning Walking Group and Core and More fitness program led by Patti Baumgartner. Wendy joins a Zoom FAWCO Laughter yoga group.

Voting

We hosted voter registration at our club house.

Various

- Helped my daughters Joy and Rose with their FAWCO Foundation Education Grant application.
- Attended 9 online/zoom calls
- Club dues paid to FAWCO on time.
- Used posters in clubhouse, social media, emails, open house and club website to communicate FAWCO information and news to our club members.
- Attended Round table with American Ambassador Scott Miller for a discussion on the impact to US citizens living in Switzerland of the June 27 signing of a new intergovernmental agreement to implement the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).
- Talked to club members one to one and in groups about FAWCO.
- At the Zurich Expat Expo, I represented Zurich American Women's Club and FAWCO

Wendy Cideciyan, FAWCO Representative

Liechtenstein



American Women's Club of Liechtenstein

Website: awc-fl.net

Founded: 1994

Joined: 1995

Membership Total: 31

Dues: CHF 75

Mission: We are located in the Rhein Valley and have members from three countries: Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Austria.

Charities: Diakonieverein Werdenberg/Kafihalle, "Verein Humanitarian Nothilfe Ukraine"

Switzerland



American Women's Club of Basel

Website: awcbasel.org

Founded: 1947

Joined: 1952

Membership Total: 110

Dues: CHF 80

Mission: The American Women's Club of Basel is a nonprofit social and philanthropic organization that was founded in 1947 and currently has about 82 members. It is a group of very diverse backgrounds, interests and ages, but all with a connection to the USA. Membership is open to English-speaking women that would like to participate in AWC Basel activities. Our members support a variety of philanthropic causes, have fun, make life-long friends and find the support they need while facing the challenges of living abroad.

Charities: SAHARA, Future For Ritschow, Beautiful After Breast Cancer, Soup n Chill



American Women's Club of Bern

Website: awcbern.org

Founded: 1949

Joined: 1986

Membership Total: 93

Dues: CHF 60

Mission: AWC Bern is a non-political organization sponsoring social, cultural and charitable activities in and around Bern, Switzerland. Major programs include coffee mornings, holiday celebrations, speakers, tours, family events, discussion groups and charity fundraisers.

Charities: FAWCO Foundation - Dual Cultural Award, Ronald McDonald House

**American Women's Club of Zürich****Website:** awczurich.org**Founded:** 1931**Joined:** 1931**Membership Total:** 240**Dues:** CHF 175

Mission: Founded in 1931, the American Women's Club of Zürich welcomes US and North American citizens and women of all nationalities who appreciate the American way of life. We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing opportunities for friendship and personal development. We also actively engage in philanthropic and community service projects in the greater Zürich region, throughout Switzerland and in the larger global community.

Charities: FAWCO Target – S.A.F.E. Safe Alternatives for FGM Elimination, Tischlein Deck Dich, FIZ (Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women and Victims of Trafficking), Terre des Hommes

Region 7: Africa

FAWCO Region 7 is 3 countries with 4 clubs in Africa. Long distances preclude the traditional regional conference but an annual one is held in Morocco for the 2 clubs located there. It is difficult to get feedback from the clubs. Kenya is not on Facebook so that avenue is closed. Rabat and Casablanca are only an hour apart but very few events occur with the two groups. This is my last year as I have been doing this for quite a while and have been FAWCO Rep for 15 years and am also in charge of communications for the club (social media, website).

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Smith-Ayed, AIWC Casablanca
Region 7 Coordinator

American Women's Association of Kenya

As we reflect on another remarkable year, it is with pride that we present our 2024 Annual Report. This year has been one of growth and collaboration, where we have made significant strides in reaching our goals and serving our community.

Our monthly "Meet and Mingle" Coffee Mornings, Out & About visits exploring places of interest, General Meetings with dynamic speakers and quarterly payments to our Food Program Projects were ongoing. In the first quarter of the year, we especially enjoyed celebrations of Mardi Gras and International Women's Day.

The second quarter included a successful fundraising Bake Sale at our local Race Course and several fundraising raffles held at our meetings. Special Out and About visits were made to two projects we support. One empowering women with HIV who are making soap products for self-sustainability and the other, a food program for the elderly that we support and periodically assist with distribution of food. Our AGM was held in April with a nice lunch and good turnout.

The third and fourth quarters were amazing. Our Welcome Back Lunch, Enchanted Indonesia, was hosted by the Ambassador's wife. Indonesian Cuisine and a showcase of their culture and fashion was enjoyed by all and it was a good fundraiser.

We welcomed our first General Meeting speaker, Peninah Nthenys Musyimi, CEO of Awesome Blossoms/ Safe Spaces, FAWCO Target Project. She enlightened us on what they do. In addition, one of our FAWCO Co-Reps visited both project sites in the Mathare slums. We held several other celebrations including, Diwali with dancing and a live food station, Eid Mubarak with delightful food and gifts, and a grand Christmas Lunch with turkey and delicious side dishes. This was a big fundraiser!

We look forward to continued success and to increasing our membership.

Karibu Kenya!

Fannie Kakonge, Chairwoman and Co-FAWCO Rep and Pat Jentz, Co-FAWCO Rep

American International Women's Club of Casablanca

AIWCC had their usual busy year full of fundraising as well as fun activities for the members. There were also several one- and two-day trips within Morocco.

In the spring of 2024, the delayed 2023 Region 7 Meeting conference was held in Casablanca with speakers from two development organizations working in rural Morocco. There was also the Annual Spring Fair with traditional vendors as well as tables for some of the associations that the club supports so they could sell items created. In November, donation checks were presented to 9 organizations in Casablanca for \$2400-\$5000. The year ended with the annual two-day Winter Fair to raise money to give out next year to other associations.

Cynthia Smith-Ayed, FAWCO Representative

American International Women's Association of Rabat

AIWA-Rabat embarked on a number of fundraising events, arranged a wide variety of interesting guest speakers for our monthly general meetings, and hosted the 2024 Region 7 FAWCO Conference in Rabat on October 26. Dr. Sarosh Sattar, honorary president of AIWA-Rabat and wife of the US Ambassador Talwar, hosted a welcoming reception at the residence on Friday, October 25, a perfect way to begin the weekend's events. The conference was held at the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture. Our guest speakers, Jamila Boulima and Elisabeth Van Ness, spoke knowledgeably and passionately about women's rights and gender equality in Morocco. The conference ended with Kanika Holloway, FAWCO's 2nd Vice President for Members Clubs, and Cynthia Ayed, Coordinator for FAWCO Region 7, who gave informative speeches about the federation.

AIWA-Rabat fundraising began with a Valentine's Day Walk-a-Thon, a food drive for Ramadan, and a Spring Fair at the Dar Essalam American School. We worked as translators/editors with the authors of Dining with Diplomats, a cookbook project with all proceeds going to Education for All, an NGO that supports girls' education in the High Atlas Mountains providing them with dormitory housing in Marrakesh which was destroyed in the 2023 September earthquake. AIWA-Rabat enjoyed a joint fundraising event, the 60s–70s Gala, with the International Club of Rabat for Education for All, ending the year with our annual Christmas bazaar held traditionally at the Rabat American School.

Our Community Development Committee (CDC) supported many local charities this year: Education for All, Women's Hadaf Co-op, CSK Sale Center for Handicapped Children and Young Adults, Khemisset for Minors in Prison, Noor Handicapped Center in Sale, Espoir benefitting people with cancer, IKHAE Center for the Elderly, Mourouj Association, Association for the Deaf and Mute, ENSIAS medical caravan, Training Center for the Blind, OUNEINE Association for victims of the 2023 earthquake, Temara School for underprivileged children, and EMI Social Assistance Club.

Nancy Lukas-Slaoui, President

The American Women's Club of Lagos

The American Women's Club of Lagos was established to support American Women living in Lagos through social events and networking. It blossomed into a club that also focuses on fostering goodwill and mutual understanding between Nigeria, our host country and the American Community resident in Lagos. It still

continues to thrive as a charitable organization promoting philanthropy, scholarship and the rights of women and children.

The American Women's Club of Lagos is a well-known and respected Club within the American Community in Nigeria. It provides a catalyst for social, cultural, educational, and recreational gatherings. We kicked off 2024 with a fundraising event on March 2. We again partnered with the Small World Organization to raise funds for our chosen charity. The Small World Organization is an international women's organization devoted to charitable activities. Please visit www.smallworldnigeria.org. Every year, they put together a fundraising event involving all the women's groups in Lagos. Each group presents a charity that will benefit from funds raised for this event. We continued to support our chosen charity, Dreams from the Slum. Dreams from the Slum is an initiative committed to making the dreams of vulnerable persons living in remote and desolate communities a reality through Education, Empowerment, and Mentorship. The initiative reaches out majorly to children and young mothers. Over the years and with the funds raised, Dreams from the Slum has been able to expand and renovate their school, provide meals, purchase needed school supplies including computers to support technical literacy. For further information, please visit www.dreamsfromtheslum.org.

We also had a series of activities in the year 2024 that was aimed at fostering camaraderie, togetherness and sisterhood: Karaoke and Margarita Night held on May 24, 2024; Wine Night on June 24; Booze and Bites on October 10. We also continued to have our regular monthly General and hospitality meetings where we discussed the progress and affairs of the AWC. Our yearly Annual Membership Tea Party was held on December 5, 2024 to celebrate old members and prospective new members hosted at the Consul General's home. We continued to strengthen our relations with the US Consulate and got to meet the new acting Consul General.

- Membership Drive – We carried out a membership drive that has seen an increase in membership, bringing together a diverse group of individuals passionate about the Club's vision and looking to make an impact in the communities around us.

Frances Mathews, FAWCO Representative

Kenya



American Women's Association of Kenya

Website: awakenya.org

Founded: 1958

Joined: 1992

Membership Total: 79

Dues: KES 3000

Mission: American Women's Association of Kenya is a nonprofit, charitable organization – established 1958. We are "Focused on Uniting Women from around the world," by introducing new friends and enriching your time in Kenya through community services and volunteering opportunities in the Nairobi Area. We raise funds through our many social and educational activities.

Charities: Kariobangi Cheshire Home, Pat Dixon, SJT Amka Health Project, Franciscan Sisters of Sacred Heart, Hope House, St. Euphrasia, Fairmile Schools, Zaidi Ya Dreams

Morocco



American International Women's Club of Casablanca

Website: aiwccasablanca.com

Founded: 1962

Joined: 1979

Membership Total: 80

Dues: \$75

Mission: To provide financial and other support to those, in Morocco, who are most vulnerable. To promote a better understanding of Morocco. To unite English-speaking women of all nationalities, especially in welcoming newcomers to our community.

Charities: A.M.I. equipment to assist with severely handicapped children, IDMAJ- center for at risk youth, Al Hassan - orphans, Inclusion et Insertion-former inmates, Asso. Inclusion/Handicap, AMES (deaf children), Ritaje et Khair, Fiers et Forts



American International Women's Association of Rabat

Website: aiwarabat.org

Founded: 1962

Joined: 1996

Membership Total: 100

Dues: \$60

Mission: AIWA-Rabat has a dual mission. The first is to support and encourage intercultural exchange and understanding. The second mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need in the Rabat community.

Charities: Dar Taliba, Sidi Yahya Zaer, Attahadi Association for Handicapped, Vanicre Láutisme: Training equipment, ESPA Association for the Blind - Training equipment, Kaoutar Children's Hospital: windows in children's rooms, Badil Association for Juvenile Diabetes, AMOS Preschool in needy areas, Armis des Ecole - refurbishing and equipping schools in Atlas Mountains

Nigeria



The American Women's Club of Lagos

Website: theawclagos.com

Founded: 1961

Joined: 2009

Membership Total: 45

Dues: \$25

Mission: The American Women's Club (The AWC) strives to: provide a 'soft place to land' for American Expatriate Women in Lagos. foster goodwill and mutual understanding between our Nigerian Host Country and the American Expatriate Community. promote philanthropy, scholarship and the rights of women and children.

Region 8: Greece, Italy and Malta

Region 8 has 9 clubs. We can say "Welcome" to two new clubs which are the Benvenuto Club of Milan and Association of International Women in Malta.

The nearest of the seven Italian clubs in distance is 119 kilometers and the farthest apart are our sister clubs in Athens across the Adriatic Sea/Ionian Sea and Malta across the Mediterranean Sea. Athens and La Valletta are 1,495 kilometers from one another.

There were the usual administration duties along with the regions WhatsApp chat and Facebook page which were active during this past year. A monthly newsletter comes from us and is sent out with any extra news which can be shared.

Many of the member clubs' women may not have all the time they wish to put into volunteering for others and their communities, but they sure do put in all their hearts. They are unselfish, passionate, caring and willing to give of themselves to someone /something bigger than themselves.

I would like to thank these very dynamic women, FAWCO Region 8 Reps and Presidents who serve with never ending energy and good spirit for their efforts and dedication. Here is what they have to share.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann De Simoni
AIWC of Genoa

Maria Battista Hancock
IWCT of Torino
Region 8 Co-Coordiators

American Women's Organization of Greece

As 2024 comes to a close, AWOOG reflects on a remarkable year of growth, impactful initiatives, and strengthened ties with our local community and the FAWCO network. Guided by our mission to empower women, support our local charities, and make a lasting difference, we've achieved milestones that reaffirm the vitality of AWOOG's 76-year legacy.

Here's a look back at our accomplishments:

Philanthropy and charitable initiatives remained at the heart of AWOOG's mission, with a focus on health and community impact.

Heart Pillow Project:

In March, AWOOG hosted a Heart Pillow Party Event in honor of Women's Day, where members and friends gathered to stuff and stitch heart pillows to comfort breast cancer warriors at public hospitals, featuring an inspiring talk by our guest speaker Dr. Apostolos Mitrousias on breast cancer prevention.

In October, AWOOG hosted a second Heart Pillow Event, alongside filming with a major Greek TV Channel, MEGA TV, to showcase our project and support to breast cancer warriors, as well as our encouragement to members to participate in voting in the US 2024 Elections.

Breast Cancer Prevention Campaign: We proudly supported an event hosted at Alexandra Hospital, by Dr. Constantine Dimitrakakis, highlighting our Heart Pillow Project and its impact on breast cancer awareness and offering comfort to women who have undergone surgery.

AWOOG Gala 2024: Reviving the Magic, Building the Future

Our first fundraiser gala in recent years, inspired by the legacy of AWOOG's iconic Moonlight Balls, was a resounding success. The evening united members and friends, raising funds for local charities and reaffirming AWOOG's legacy of making a lasting difference.

Empowering Women: AWOOG focused on initiatives that uplift women and highlight their leadership and potential:

Women Economic Forum Greece 2024: AWOOG was a proud official supporter of the Women Economic Forum, joining forces to promote women's leadership in key economic and sustainable development issues. We engaged in meaningful discussions that shape the future for women in Greece and beyond.

AI & Culture: Conference: Members participated in an enlightening day at the Acropolis Museum, exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence and culture, thanks to an invitation from Community Service Chairperson, Tonia Arahova.

Celebrating Cultural and National Identity: AWOOG celebrated its American heritage and strengthened bonds with the local and international community:

US Embassy July 4th Celebration: AWOOG President Katerina Sirouni proudly represented our organization at this year's Independence Day celebration, which highlighted education, inclusion, and accessibility.

Museum Visits: Members enjoyed 8 museum visits throughout the year, providing enriching opportunities for education, connection and socializing.

AWOOG and FAWCO, Strengthening Our Ties: As a proud FAWCO member, AWOOG deepened its involvement in global initiatives and collaborations:

UNECE B+30 Forum Representation: AWOOG and FAWCO Human Rights Team member, Zefi Dimadama represented the Greek Union of Women at the UN Geneva Headquarters, addressing critical global issues such as women's rights, while connecting with fellow FAWCO members worldwide.

Eliminating Violence Against Women Campaign: In December, AWOOG and FAWCO Human Rights Team member, Georgia Kallis, will be hosting a Krav Maga self-defense workshop, promoting safety, equality, and solidarity while supporting "FIVI, the Battered Women's Shelter" in Athens.

FAWCO "Inspiring Women" Profiles: We are proud to have an AWOOG member featured in all four issues of FAWCO's *Inspiring Women* digital magazine this year.

Membership Growth and Diversity: AWOOG expanded its membership base, creating a more vibrant, inclusive community:

Community-Building Events: Highlights included three Vasilopita – New Year's Greek Cake Cutting gatherings to kick off 2024 and a special Mother's Day celebration, bridging members from all areas.

New Membership Hubs: This year, we launched a new AWOOG Central Area, complementing our hubs in the North and South, to better serve members across Athens, Greece.

Recipient of Charitable Donations across borders: AWOOG received two charitable donations from the US, expanding outreach to our "Friends of AWOOG" network, deepening bonds and creating connections for our friends seeking a vibrant community of American women in Greece.

With these efforts, AWOOG continued to grow, welcoming women of all ages and backgrounds while enhancing opportunities for cultural exchange, networking and lasting friendships.

As we step into 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower women, promote inclusivity, foster deeper synergies with FAWCO, and to amplify our charitable and cultural impact. www.awogreece.org

Katerina Sirouni, President/FAWCO Representative

American International League of Florence

We have changed our General Meeting Venue from the British Institute to the prestigious Il Fuligno meeting centre in town. (It used to be a convent.) We have the Giglio room just off the central cloister. A very peaceful and pleasant atmosphere. It is easy to get to and has encouraged people to come from outlying areas, as it is close to the railway station.

The biggest and most significant activity that AILO has organised this year is Viva Vittoria Firenze, on November 11 we were able to completely cover Piazza Santa Croce with hand crocheted or knitted blankets. Each blanket is made from 4.50 x 50 cm squares, from four different contributors, sewn together with a red thread. The aim is to raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence to women. The blankets were then sold and the proceeds will go to three associations in Florence who help victims of violence and domestic abuse, in many different ways. The work was complex and extensive and involved other groups of women and even men so it became a true community commitment and success.

Our Thanksgiving lunch saw the traditional FAWCO raffle to raise money for the Target Project, Awesome Blossoms. We had some great prizes and managed to raise €375.

AILO held its 47th Christmas Bazaar at the famous Tepidarium, a monumental Greenhouse which we turn into a Christmas wonderland with all the special things we have to sell. Proceeds go to local charity projects and it is a very popular event with the locals and visitors. It will be successful as it is very well known and attended by the Florentines.

Dania Scarfallotto Girard
Elena Corinne Piani
FAWCO Co-Reps

American International Women's Club of Genoa

During the past year I have immensely enjoyed the monthly Zoom meetings with the FAWCO VP for Member Clubs. I always come away feeling energized with the desire to do more.

I have communicated updates regarding all activities available to the general membership from FAWCO Headquarters in the monthly AIWC newsletters. During the year, I have kept in touch with other club reps in our FAWCO Region 8.

I attended the annual FAWCO Interim Meeting in Porto in March 2024, reporting back to the club and putting into use some of the new practices learned at the conference which have brought positive changes to our club!

I also post regularly on our Facebook page the cultural events from Dott. Massimo Bacigalupo as a courtesy and service. Massimo and his brother Dr. Andrea have been donating to an educational science award in the memory of their mother Frieda for the past 32 years. Our club also supports and donates to the same award for the same amount. I inform the general membership of the recipients through the newsletter.

Members are encouraged to sign up at FAWCO.org home page so that they can access the information directly and learn about and take part in the crossclub activities.

The club continues to support the Heart Pillow Project at the local breast cancer hospital with pillows, drainage equipment bags and other necessary items required by the hospital unit for female and male patients.

Our Green Team is always on the go with several beach and city cigarette butt (CB) clean-ups and our major city-wide billboard campaign creating awareness for proper disposal of the cigarette butts. Brochures are also being created by the student CB project at ISG (International School of Genoa) and we have sold puzzles to raise funds for the brochures in which the puzzle picture was also designed by the students.

We have taken on two new charity projects with enthusiasm from the membership. Refugee Welcome and Creazioni al Fresco (for women in prison). www.aiwcofgenoa.org.

Ann De Simoni, FAWCO Representative

Benvenuto Club of Milan

The Club has more than 300 members as of December 2024. As we became new members of FAWCO in September/October 2024, my report covers the period from September to December 2024.

Regular Meetings:

- Monthly Main Coffees: Total participants: 470
September Motto: Share with us
October Motto: Bring a friend
November Motto: Going digital together
December Motto: I am grateful for...
- Weekly Drop-In Coffees: Total participants: around 550
- Monthly NtN Zone Meetings: Total participants: around 300
- Sub-groups (dedicated to specific interests, such as Card Games, Learn Italian, Language Exchange, Book Clubs, Professional Women): Monthly or weekly meetings, total participants: around 600

Other meetings:

Cultural & Special Activities (exhibitions, trips, excursions, Lunch & Learn, theatre, cinema, etc.): An average of one to two activities per week, with a total of around 350 participants.

Monthly Magazine

Our club magazine, *Benvenuto*, is sent by email to all members, and we print an average of 140 copies.

Food Drive Donation (single event)

Food drive donation organized to benefit a local association Ronda Carità e Solidarietà dedicated to supporting homeless individuals

Christmas Bazaar

Organized to raise funds for the two charities the club supports for 2024 and 2025: Portofranco Milano and Le Vele Onlus.

Christmas Lunch

For all Members: 150 attendees.

Club in Motion

Monthly excursion in the mountain around Milan: average 10 participants 8 km

One runner: November Marathon in Milan

One walker: average 50 km x week

Iva Cattapan, Vice President/FAWCO Rep

American International Women's Club of Naples

September to June is our Club year, but our review for all of 2024 is as follows: AIWC Naples has around 50 members at present, following a turnover. Some have lived here for many years, others are locally employed or work at the American Navy Base, plus we still have some English teachers (both Italian and native speakers) who enjoy our meetings and activities. It is also a great local resource for other members. Our Board is still composed of the same four members: Tricia Reynolds, Elaine Figg, Meredith Peters, and myself as President. We continuously look for a member to become our FAWCO Rep (currently the position is held by the Club President). The hall we rent for our monthly meetings, located behind the English Church in the heart of Naples, where we prepare a Breakfast spread for our members, has raised its prices so from September, we ask for €40 annual membership fee.

We continue to hold our first and last annual meetings (in September and June) in a gorgeous lounge café which has definitely helped to attract new members, as it allows the Board and long-standing members to be free to mix, mingle and pass on enthusiasm to newcomers. Since the start of the year, on a monthly basis, we have regularly held some or all of these activities: Aperitives get-togethers; fundraising walks in Naples guided by one of our amazing board members covering several hundred kilometers for Clubs in Motion; Pizza Nights and

Coffee Mornings. In January, our post-holiday meeting always offers a Stone Soup lunch to attendees. We had an American writer present his latest book, and in November we held our annual Thanksgiving Lunch in the same beautiful seafront hotel and raised over €200 at our Christmas Market stall. We support an animal rehoming charity, a safe house for needy pregnant women as well as the FAWCO Target Program.

With regard to our social media publicity, we continue to work towards increasing our membership even more as we have received amazing results in terms of interest and numbers due to our attractive and colorful flyers. These are posted on our Club's Public and Members-only Facebook (Fb) pages, other Naples-based English-language Fb pages, by email to members and newcomers and by WhatsApp. This way we attract new members and many friendships have blossomed. We have also printed Club brochures, which are given to newcomers and placed in locations such as the American Consulate and the American Navy Base.

Our goals for 2025 will again be to visit and support our local charities. We aim to increase our membership numbers, and involve our members more and more in our activities. Furthermore, since the average member's age is now lower than in previous years. Hopefully, we can encourage them to join U40 online gatherings and finally, also find a FAWCO Representative.

Elizabeth Shine, President and FAWCO Representative

American Women's Association of Rome

In 2025 The American Women's Association of Rome (AWAR) will celebrate its 70th anniversary. We are planning a festive moment to take a look at AWA's long history, since it first began 70 years ago until today, and how life has changed over the years here in the Eternal City of Rome.

This year we are pleased to have been able to show the true spirit of what FAWCO stands for: women supporting women in big ways and small. We involved our members in supporting the amazing Climate Action project (SDG 13) promoted by the American International Women's Club of Genoa. We were inspired by the energy and spirit of FAWCO Representative Ann De Simoni who helped organize this project bringing together the community, schools, businesses, and local governments to hold a clean-up drive addressing a local environmental issue. The enthusiastic collaboration of our members highlights the importance of tapping into community strengths and fostering collaboration for global sustainability impact.

The American Women's Association of Rome continues to see a positive increase in its membership, especially among our young members. We have begun a large push to reach out to American university students studying in Rome through our social media campaign which has seen good results.

Our new president Jennie Hauschild has also brought a breath of fresh air into the club, as does every new president. Jennie has worked hard to bring together new members and long standing members through the organization of new activities that cater to everyone's busy schedules. There is truly something for everyone.

AWAR continues its community outreach supporting local organizations that work with women and children in the community. This spring will once again see increased involvement in sustainability awareness events as well as our annual AWA participation in the Komen Race for the Cure in Rome.

Erica Zmitrovitch
FAWCO Rep

International Women's Club of Torino

2024 has been a great year for the International Women's Club of Torino. The IWCT has welcomed many new members this year and is happy to report the diverse range of 35+ nationalities within the club. Our regular, community-building activities such as Wine Club, Walking Group, Italian Learning, Moms Group, Book Club, Talent Lab and many others, have all contributed to our main goals of creating safe spaces for women to connect and empower one another.

As part of our mission to have a large impact in our community, the club votes on a new, local organization to support every two years. This year, our club elected to support Zerotre, an organization dedicated to supporting children with severe disabilities and their families. In May of this year, we hosted an incredible event called Opera Against Violence with the amazing talent of our very own club members, Laura Claycomb, Fé Avouglan, and Dana Musca. This event was in support of Svolte Donna, the Anti-Violence Center which helps women and children escape violence and helps them rebuild their lives.

Our annual fall/winter events, Halloween in the Park and Thanksgiving dinner, were both very well attended by both members and non-members alike. To wrap up our fundraising for 2024, the IWCT's Winter Bazaar raised over €8000. It was a large event featuring external vendors, a vintage market, handmade with love items, and a wine toss which was a huge hit. We are so grateful for all our members and everything they bring to the club and we look forward to more friendships, connections, and togetherness in 2025.

Lyndsi Vasquez, FAWCO Representative

American International Women's Association of Venice

(AIWAV) had a lovely 2024. We continued our focus of building and nurturing our membership with activities and social events in Venice proper (the island) and the surrounding area. We attended a glass blowing demonstration on the island of Murano, had a tasting course by a local private chef, a coffee morning chat, visited art exhibits, and ventured over to *terra ferma* (the mainland) for a local festival for all things goose. Our biggest event of the year was our Carnevale fundraiser, complete with many in traditional Venetian Carnevale costumes, that raised money for two local organizations that support and advocate against violence against women. Additionally, at the very end of 2024, we started a partnership with Castello925 (a local art gallery), which now hosts our monthly meeting. It is great for us to now have a fixed location for meetings and get-togethers. AIWAV also has compiled, and continues to compile, a resource database only available to its members with all things from recommended and/or English-speaking doctors to logistics services to glassblowing demonstrations. It is something we are very proud to offer our members, many of which are foreigners navigating a new place. We look forward to 2025 with a great expansion of activities and member involvement.

Julia Runte, President/FAWCO Rep

Association of International Women in Malta

Fifty-five years ago, moving to Malta due to their partner's jobs, a few American women initiated a club to create a network of support and to build new friendships. Since then, our association has grown to over 200 members, representing 34 nationalities. Our members bring diverse cultures, backgrounds, experiences, opinions and world views. Of course, we have fun, as we eat, drink, laugh, tell stories, share ideas, try new things and lean on each other.

AIWM is so pleased to join FAWCO at the beginning of 2025 because we will extend our reach even further. As we support a common objective of improving women's and children's lives by fundraising and through other avenues, we will learn from each other, embracing and celebrating our differences — as a group of like-minded women, committed to giving back to our local, regional and global communities.

Lindsay Mann, FAWCO Representative

Greece



American Women's Organization of Greece

Website: awog.gr

Founded: 1948

Joined: 1952

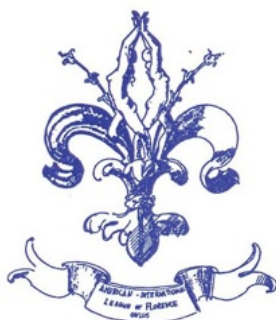
Membership Total: 75

Dues: €40

Mission: Founded in 1948, to help the people of Greece after World War II, by Lucretia Brady, wife of the US Ambassador to Greece, Henry F. Grady. Her efforts were supported by 1948 Secretary of State, George Marshall, who authored the Marshall Plan, to help rebuild Europe. As the Club began to grow and as more Americans settled in Greece, the club's scope stretched by bridging the cultural gap for the American ex-patriots living in Greece. Since then, the acronym AWOG has also come to mean A Way Of Giving!

Charities: MERIMNHS, American Farm School, Ag.Christoforos help for Lighthouse for the Blind, Deree College Scholarship, Caritas, Kalo Samaritis

Italy



American International League of Florence

Website: ailoflorence.org

Founded: 1975

Joined: 1977

Membership Total: 130 (including male members)

Dues: €80

Mission: The sole purpose of this non profit organization shall be to contribute to the community well-being through programs of social assistance and fundraising for charity.

Charities: Banco Alimentare della Toscana, LILT, ERAM, Pro Animals, APES Onlus, OASI Associazione Insieme Onlus, Associazione Toscana Cure e Ricerche Oncologiche



American International Women's Club of Genoa

Website: aiwcgenoa.org

Founded: 1957

Joined: N/A

Membership Total: 62

Dues: €100

Mission: Founded 1957. Dedicated to fostering the appreciation of the cultural riches our host country has to offer and supporting the following Genoese charities: Patronato S. Vincenzo, Piccole Sorelle dei Poveri, G. Gaslini, La Scaletta and emergencies as they arise.

Charities: Diritti e Libertà Od, PER LA DONNA, Refugees Welcome Italia, San Marcellino Community, Casa Famiglia Suore di S. Anna



Benvenuto Club of Milan

Website: www.benvenutoclubofmilan.it

Founded: 1967

Joined: 2024

Membership Total: 296

Dues: €90

Mission: Our mission is to create a vibrant community for women in Milan, offering opportunities to build friendships, expand professional networks, and immerse in Italy's rich culture. Through social events, cultural excursions, networking activities, volunteering, and cultural exchange, we empower our members to thrive personally and professionally while enriching our community and broader society.



American International Women's Club of Naples

Website: facebook.com/AmericanInternationalWomensClubOfNaples

Founded: 1970

Joined: 1972

Membership Total: 50

Dues: €30

Mission: AWC Naples offers information on life, history and culture of Naples, offering friendship and socialization for long-standing members and helpful resources for newcomers to Naples.



American Women's Association of Rome

Website: awar.org

Founded: 1955

Joined: 1964

Membership Total: 162

Dues: €60

Mission: Promotion of friendship among its members and understanding between Italy and the United States through community service, cultural and social activities.

Charities: Oasi Celistina Donati, Citta Della Ragazzi (€500), Alzheimer's Association, Casa di Kim, Americans in Distress, Differenza Donna



International Women's Club of Torino

Website: iwct.it

Founded: 1960

Joined: 1978

Membership Total: 240

Dues: €60 (new)/€55 (renewal)

Mission: IWCT (since 1960) aims at strengthening the sense of belonging for the international community in Torino. Using the Club's diversity in all its richness as the key contributor to successful inclusion. IWCT makes you feel valued and appreciated; feeling at home in Torino.

Charities: Svolta Donna Centro Antiviolenza Pinerolo



American International Women's Association of Venice

Website: www.aiwav.org

Founded: 2019

Joined: 2019

Membership Total: 32

Malta



Association of International Women in Malta

Website:

Founded: 1969

Joined: 2025

Membership Total: 190

Region 9: Middle East and the Americas

Region 9 AWC Lebanon found itself in the midst of a war at a time when the country was already struggling with a shattered economy. Both President, Junella Berrou, and FAWCO Rep, Carole Hage, opted to stay in Lebanon as club members had to decide whether to risk the trip to the airport to leave the country while bombs hit nearby or stay with their non-US spouses or take care of elderly relatives who were unable to travel. Despite these many obstacles, the club continued to function via Zoom Happy Hours and WhatsApp groups to keep everyone's mind off the deteriorating situation or to share security information. After the ceasefire, the Board managed to put together a "festive Friendship Brunch" on December 7 with over 20 members attending. Both Carole and Junella are part of the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group. IWC Antigua and Barbuda is under the leadership of President Cheryl Adams, an active club member for many years and FAWCO Rep, Kathi Savoury who has been in her role for many years so knows the ropes. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, the team has not joined the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group though the RC stays in email contact. Nevertheless, the club continues to pay its dues and submit annual reports. The RC is doing all she can to stay in touch and hopes to improve communications between the club and FAWCO.

IWC Bogotá went through a transformation that many clubs have undertaken in the last several years. Previously an American Women's Club, Bogotá is now an International Women's Club! They also took advantage of our virtual connections and scheduled a FAWCO 101 session with 2nd VP of Member Clubs, Kanika Holloway in July. The President and Co-FAWCO Reps are all enthusiastic and participate in the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group regularly.

Region 10 ACIW Mumbai is another club that took advantage of a virtual FAWCO 101 session. In August 2024, the FAWCO Rep, Sonia Talukdar, and President, Sanskruti Mehta, organized a meeting of their Board to attend the informational workshop. They are frequent participants in the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group. Hats off to Sonia for making the effort to join the monthly TLC meetings even though they are at 11:30 pm in Mumbai! FAWCO is being promoted within the club, and they are actively engaging with many of the opportunities to enjoy club support.

AWC Perth has had minimal contact with FAWCO this past year. The RC reaches out regularly by email to President, Sharon Lekawski and FAWCO Rep, Stacey Shields since they are not on the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group.

AWC of the Philippines has been very communicative this year, eagerly joining the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group and frequently staying in touch. President Denise Faulhaber, and FAWCO Rep, Keri Meyers, do their best to attend Region 10's TLC updates.

AWC Korea, after a long while out of contact, has very recently reconnected and responded to the RC's emails, and FAWCO Rep, Carrie Shuchart has joined the Region 9 and 10 WhatsApp group. A call was arranged between RC 10 and the 2nd VP to help Carrie understand what FAWCO is all about and how to reacquaint the club to the benefits of being a FAWCO member. A plan was made to arrange for a virtual FAWCO 101 in the New Year for the President, Betty Chung, and the AWC Korea Board.

This has been a challenging year for the "far flung" FAWCO regions: 9 (The Americas and Middle East and Latin America) and 10 (Asia/Pacific). The most difficult issue is the widespread time zones. Since most FAWCO activities are held at a time convenient for the majority of FAWCO clubs, it is difficult for Region 10 clubs to join.

This means they cannot attend the monthly TLC meetings. To address this issue, the RC has started holding follow-up calls with Region 10 at a time they can join to give them an update.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon)
Region 9 Coordinator

American Women's Club of Lebanon

In a strategic move to enhance growth while maintaining the club's core values and goals, the AWC Lebanon has welcomed expatriate women to join as "Friends of AWC" members. To become a Friend of AWC, prospective members must meet specific criteria, and the total number of Friends is capped at 30%.

Despite the ongoing crises in Lebanon since 2019, including economic struggles and the repercussions of the recent war, the Activity Groups have managed to make a meaningful difference in the club's community: What's Cooking, Beirut Bookies, Cake Lairs, Material Girls & Coffeelicious.

Moreover, AWC Lebanon successfully assisted two local associations in obtaining FAWCO Foundation Development Grants aimed at providing essential diabetes medication and empowering women who have experienced abuse. The Charity team is actively engaging with nonprofit organizations to better understand their needs.

FAWCO's Inspiring Women Newsletter featured an article titled "A Tale of Three Families" for our Treasurer Patricia Nabti. Her Picture with her family was also chosen to be the cover page of this special issue: The Family Connection.

Finally, the Club's members found joy in celebrating two special occasions in unique ways before and after the war: Founders Day Lunch (Feb 24) was celebrated in pink! and Christmas Brunch with fun gifts exchange!

Carol Hage, FAWCO Representative

International Women's Club of Antigua & Barbuda

The International Women's Club of Antigua and Barbuda experienced an influx of new members in 2024. Sadly, we recently mourned the passing of two former club presidents: Ann Cunningham and Connie Rabinowitz.

General meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month; Board Meetings on the second Tuesday, and Lunch Bunch on the third Tuesday. General meetings included field trips to a local distillery, a farm specializing in exotic fruits, plants and flowers and a visit to the home/business of a "self-taught" orchidologist.

General meetings were paused for the months of July – October due to the fact that many of our members are off-island travelling at this time.

Our club continued its support of various local charitable projects. In July, two Antiguan women were awarded educational scholarships which helped them to continue their studies for the coming year. Monthly donations of toiletries and other personal care items were gathered and delivered to a local Psychiatric Hospital. The women who attended Lunch Bunch in December each brought a gift to be given to a patient at the aforementioned hospital. We continued to support the "Back to School Backpack Project" and "The Young Writers Competition."

Without a doubt, our favourite and most widely supported charitable event is the packing and distribution of over 216 sets of hampers (filled with all sorts of non-perishable food items and toiletries). Husbands, neighbours and friends are all recruited to help. The event is always heartwarming and meaningful, both for those who assist and those who receive the hampers.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Savoury, FAWCO Representative

International Women's Club Bogotá

From May to December 2024, we have faced significant challenges in reaching the goals for the IWC. Through collective effort, we highlight that much of our success was due to the invaluable support of our members.

Key Achievements:

1. New Website:

We created a new website to facilitate access for our members to events and news from the IWC. This not only allows for easier registration but also includes a payment gateway through Epayco, streamlining the payment process for both renewals and new memberships. This implementation aims to promote good practices in financial management and transparency.

2. Rebranding:

We developed a new image and brand for our organization, adjusting it to a new reality that includes greater participation from women of different nationalities and cultures. This change reflects our inclusive and altruistic nature.

3. Change of Bank:

We opted to switch to a more accessible bank, making it easier for our members to process payments through various channels.

4. Strengthened Support for Foundations

We have reinforced our commitment to foundations, fulfilling the delivery of \$31,656,240 Colombian Pesos promised for 2024. We also established significant partnerships, such as with AVIATUR, whose leader Jean Claude Bessudo donated 10 million pesos. We also got from Lupa Óptica a donation for eye exams for children in various foundations.

5. Partnership with the Bogotá City Hall: We partnered with Bogotá's City Hall and the Nordic Institute to offer English Classes through IWC volunteers. In return, our members and families will have the opportunity to apply for scholarships in Nordic countries. Additionally, the children of our members can receive recognition for their English class hours as part of their community service requirement.

6. Membership Increase:

We are pleased to announce that our membership is growing, which brings us great motivation.

7. FAWCO:

We permanently announce and promote the programs offered by FAWCO to provide our members with the benefits this great federation offers.

8. Bazaar Results:

We are pleased to announce that we achieved a net profit of \$27,054,235 Colombian Pesos.

Conclusion:

We are deeply grateful to our members for their continued support. Together, we have made significant progress, and we are excited about what lies ahead.

Tatiana Carrion, President

Lebanon



American Women's Club of Lebanon

Website: awc-lebanon.org

Founded: 1953

Joined: 2000

Membership Total: 57

Dues: \$110

Mission: To give the AWC members an opportunity to contribute to Lebanese society through charitable activities as well as to bring a sense of American culture to AWC members.

Charities: Beit El Hanane, Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation

Antigua and Barbuda



International Women's Club of Antigua and Barbuda

Website: iwcantiguabarbuda.org

Founded: 1986

Joined: 1990

Membership Total: 55

Dues: \$28

Mission: Our club membership is open to women of all nationalities. We gather to form new friendships, learn more about the history, culture and landscape of our twin island nation and to contribute to its future by funding worthy causes and projects that will benefit the people of Antigua & Barbuda.

Charities: IWC of Antigua & Barbuda Annual Scholarships for Women, Annual Christmas Hampers for Needy Seniors, Wadadli Pen (Young Writers) Competition, Back to School Backpack Project, St. John's Hospice

Colombia



International Women's Club of Bogotá

Website: www.iwcbogota.org

Founded: 1947

Joined: 2003

Membership Total: 150

Dues: USD (\$) 50.00

Mission: Our club is well known throughout the Colombian community for its fundraising and charitable activities.

Charities: Asociacion Barranquillera De Caridad, Casa De La Esperanza, Fundación Amigos De Jesus Y Maria, Fundacion FE, Hogar De La Niña De Veracruz, Hogar San Miguel, Hogar San Rafael Carrera

Region 10: Asia/Pacific

American Women's Club of Korea

2024 was a great year for AWC Korea. With an international membership base in excess of 150, we've grown more than five times from our pandemic enrollment numbers. We held over 100 events, including monthly coffee mornings, book clubs, and happy hours, along with numerous talks, excursions to historical and cultural sites, and market/shopping trips. Our charity gala, which welcomed 400 guests, and charity bazaar raised over \$50,000 to support multiple organizations that work with local orphans, the elderly, and the infirm. Our annual Breast Cancer walk raised additional funds and dramatically increased the amount of pink seen on Namsan Mountain.

As a club, we have grown our leadership ranks and revamped our board structure to include divisions focused **on philanthropy and partnership with local businesses. We launched a new website (www.awckorea.com) , and** created a new logo, which will be revealed at the 2025 charity gala. We're looking forward to another packed year as we continue to grow and explore all that Korea has to offer our community!

Carrie Shuchart, Secretary, AWC Korea

American Women's Club of Perth

MISSING

Karen Slavinsky, FAWCO Representative

American Club for International Women – Mumbai

ACIW Mumbai had a remarkable year with a strong focus on fostering community engagement and supporting charitable causes. The newly appointed volunteer board, led by dynamic leaders, organized impactful events and initiatives. A highlight was the ACIW Charity Shopping Mela, which brought together 27 NGOs, 26 curated brands, and two social enterprises. The event raised over ₹828,000 to support partner charities with initiatives such as funding education, animal welfare and providing resources for underprivileged communities.

Signature social events included a Welcome Back Lunch, Diwali Celebration, Thanksgiving Dinner, and Holiday Potluck, which promoted cultural exchange and camaraderie. Beyond these, the club hosted 29 in-person events, including coffee mornings, cultural tours, and wellness gatherings. Member-driven initiatives and partnerships, such as contributions by India Trotter, Organik Truck and Ruby's Organics, were pivotal in driving success.

As the club looks ahead, plans are underway to complete its term with impactful donations and innovative projects, including providing solar panels for rural communities. ACIW Mumbai remains committed to empowering its community and creating a positive impact through meaningful connections and philanthropy.

Sanskriti Mehta, President
Sonia Talukdar, Treasurer

American Women's Club Philippines

2024 proved to be a successful year in continued efforts to reinvigorate our club after the devastating effects of COVID-19 on the Philippines overall that severed valuable connections and traumatized non-profits.

AWCP helped members connect over shared interests and hobbies. Popular AWCP activities such as Book Club and KnitWits knitting club were held monthly. We recognized Monica Ewing, spouse of US Deputy Chief of Mission, Robert Ewing, as our Honorary President at a New Member Event held at the Deputy Chief of Mission Residence. We collaborated with other clubs to again host an incredibly successful International Women's Day event that raised funds for charity and created connections and strengthened our sense of community. In this presidential election year, AWCP also worked closely with the US Embassy to share information about voting abroad by holding an informational coffee session and connecting members and other community members with valuable resources via social media and our physical office.

Celebrating our 45th anniversary in 2024, AWCP brought back our signature Charity Hoedown Event. The fundraiser was both fun and effective at raising serious funds for Stepping Stone, Center for Special Needs Education in the Philippines, to build a new teacher dormitory on campus.

The AWCP Charity Bazaar was held seven times throughout the year and each time attracted over 1000+ shoppers, connecting them with 100-200 small and medium local Filipino businesses and social impact organizations, which might not otherwise be able to reach this greater market. The AWCP continues to be our largest fundraiser allowing us to support additional projects and charities throughout the year.

AWCP is particularly proud of our Community Service and Outreach efforts in 2024. AWCP members pitched in to support different causes in the Manila Metro Area and beyond. The Philippines experienced a devastating Typhoon Season that left many vulnerable communities reeling. AWCP was able to respond and revitalize connections with both long term charity partners and new organizations.

Keri Myers, Vice President

Australia



American Women's Club of Perth

Website: awcperth.com.au

Founded: 1967

Joined: 1968

Membership Total: 65

Dues: AUS \$60 new member, AUD (\$) 50 renewal, AUD (\$) 40 retirees

Mission: To promote good fellowship and cooperation among American and Australian women of Western Australia. To promote & facilitate communication between American Women To sponsor social, recreational, cultural and welfare activities. To encourage and promote understanding and goodwill between the people of the United States and Australia. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and exercises of the powers of the club.

Charities: Operation Sunshine

India



American Club for International Women – Mumbai

Website: aciwmumbai.org

Founded: 1928

Joined: 1954

Membership Total: 85

Dues: \$18 joining fee

Mission: To promote social and cultural activities within the Club, to encourage members to support charitable and cultural activities in Mumbai and to welcome and assist all newcomers to Mumbai.

Korea



American Women's Club of Korea

Website: www.awckorea.com

Founded: 1964

Joined: 1987

Membership Total: 150

Dues: \$50

Mission: AWC Korea serves a dual role in Seoul. It is a community for expat Americans providing social, familial and daily living support as well as engaging in fundraising activities to support the local Korean community.

Philippines



American Women's Club Philippines

Website: <http://www.awcphilippines.net>

Founded: 1979

Joined: 1979

Membership Total: 140

Dues: \$58

Mission: A strong community based philanthropic club that supports local charities with enthusiasm and joy to help others.

Charities: Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation Inc., Missionaries of Charity – Home of Joy, Missionaries of Charity – Home for the dying and the destitute, Concordia Children's Services Concordia Children's Services, Gabriel Taborin, St. Anthony's Boys School(Cavite), Sikat T'Boli (Cotabato), Welcome Home Foundation

The FAWCO Foundation Report



The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic heart of FAWCO and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), incorporated in the state of Missouri.

2023–2025 FAWCO Foundation Board of Directors

President	Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne)
Vice President Communications	Mary Stange (AWC Bogotá & FAUSA)
Vice President Fundraising	Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern)
Vice President Programs	Christine Riney (AWC Hamburg)
Treasurer	Wendy Leyland (AWC London)
Secretary	Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
Parliamentarian	Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf) (<i>non-voting</i>)

Special Appointment to the Board (non-voting)

FAWCO President	Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
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Presidential Appointments (non-Board members)

Archive Team Lead	Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)
Counselors' Liaison	Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)
Development Grants Administrator	Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg)
Education Awards Administrator	Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)
Silent Auction Coordinator	Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA & AIWC Cologne)

2024 Board Reports

President

It's hard to believe that our board has almost reached the end of the 2023-2025 term. That went fast!

The 2024 annual meeting in Porto ended the first year for our board, highlighted, of course, by the wonderful Interim Meeting.

Foundation Night in Porto was very successful – through the Live Auction, Silent Auction, quilt ticket sales, charm sales and other donations, over \$43,000 was raised. That's remarkable for an Interim Meeting conference. Angie Aebersold (VP Fundraising) did an amazing job organizing Foundation Night – *Fairytale Magic...Happily Ever After* for a Great Cause. All manner of sparkly princesses, fairies, wizards, storybook

characters, etc., were in attendance with everybody having a great time while donating to support the programs of The Foundation. We thank everyone who gave so generously.

Once a conference ends, things settle down for a little while. I used the late spring and summer to contact our donors who this year helped The Foundation to do the work we do through their support. We have some faithful ongoing donors (individuals and clubs) and we always have first-timers – individuals or clubs sponsoring an award or grant for one or two years, perhaps in honor of a special occasion or a loved one. This generosity is what makes The Foundation tick. Our donors' giving spirit is evidenced by the fact that in 2025, we will be giving out 21 total Education Awards (EAs) and Development Grants (DGs). This is the most we have ever offered and it's thanks to the very generous FAWCO community.

As a matter of fact, due to some very large donations last year, The Foundation finds itself in a truly enviable financial position. In Porto, during our workshop, we asked for input as to how we could further disburse some of our funds. We have spent the last six months discussing this and the board has a plan going forward.

We decided that one immediate way to give back more is to raise the values of the EAs and DGs. In 2025, the values of most awards will increase to \$5000. There are two exceptions. The Dual Cultural Award will be valued at \$4000. Additionally, the Foundation board voted to add another award this year – a second Skills Enhancement Award that will be valued at \$2500. Not everyone needs as much as \$5000 for a program so this will be an opportunity from which more of the FAWCO community can benefit! The Foundation will be making up the difference in funding for those EAs and DGs that are fully sponsored at \$4000. However, some of our donors have already offered to make up that difference themselves. Again, the generosity of the FAWCO community continues to awe and inspire us.

Throughout this second year of our term, we thoroughly enjoyed working together as we sought new ideas and creative ways to further the goals of The Foundation. Being a global board, we relish our opportunities to meet in person where idea sharing and problem solving are a bit easier. In September, we were lucky enough to be able to gather at Hollie Nielsen's beautiful home in St. Andrews, Scotland. Work blended with pleasure as we planned out Foundation Night, made changes to our Constitution and By-Laws (which continuously need to be reexamined) and examined ways to further our giving among other things, all while enjoying the beautiful atmosphere of St. Andrews. We also laughed a lot. The time together is very productive and we cherish it.

I was able to attend two regional meetings this fall – Antwerp (Region 4) and Berlin (Region 5). Regional meetings are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, connect, network, share ideas and learn from amazing speakers. Both regionals were well-attended and I was grateful to be able to share information about The Foundation with both groups. I was intending to attend the incredible Region 3 meeting in Paris, however, unfortunately fell ill. Big thanks to Angie Aebersold who stepped in and did my presentation, made more challenging by the fact that the slide show wouldn't load and she did it all without visuals. Thank you, Angie!

The Foundation Archives continues to be a work in progress. Patti Meek, Barbara Bühling and I are slowly sifting through years of documents as we attempt to organize everything into one cohesive digital file. It's a more daunting task than we anticipated, but it is slowly getting done.

The Foundation board members are known to many of you but our "supporting players" serve crucial roles in the functioning of The Foundation. Many thanks to:

- Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg), Development Grant Administrator
- Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne), Education Award Administrator
- Lauren Mescon (FAUSA) who is ending her term as our very enthusiastic and effective Target Fundraising Coordinator for Awesome Blossoms. She also served as our Nominating Chair.
- Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne and FAUSA), Silent Auction Coordinator
- Patti Meek (AWC Dublin), Counselor Liaison

We on the Foundation Board continue to be so inspired by the generosity of our FAWCO club members and individual members and their commitment to serving the greater good. To date, The Foundation has disbursed

roughly 1.9 million USD in Education Awards and Development Grants. What an impact that has made on so many people!

The Foundation has been fortunate to have some long-time donors – both Member Clubs and individuals. Individual consistent sponsors include The Coughlan Family, Renuka Matthews, Donna Erismann, Shirley Kearney and Clydette de Groot. There are some Member Clubs who also deserve recognition for their ongoing support of the Foundation programs: AAWWE Paris, AWG Paris, AWC Genoa and AWC Bern, among others.

However, EVERY member of FAWCO is a donor and supporter, be it of time, talent or funding and on behalf of the board, I express my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you as we work together to make a difference in the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne)
President

Vice President Communications

This year has been one of steady growth and engagement for The FAWCO Foundation's communications, marked by increased efforts in email outreach, social media presence, and website enhancements.

NEWS

In 2024, The FAWCO Foundation transitioned its email communication service from Constant Contact to Mailerlite, resulting in a cost savings of approximately \$388 annually while maintaining a high level of functionality. Over the course of the year, six emails were sent, including two special editions: one celebrating a Target fundraising milestone and another announcing an increase in grant and award amounts. These emails achieved an impressive average open rate of 70.38%, an increase from the previous year, with a subscriber base of 575 active members.

Social Media

Recognizing the power of social media to connect and engage with our community, we took significant steps to strengthen our presence. A key milestone was the consolidation of our online groups into one main space, the "Friends of The FAWCO Foundation" Facebook group, which allowed us to streamline communication and focus our efforts. A strategic approach to content creation, including regular posts, resulted in measurable growth in engagement and reach.

Website

While major updates to the website were completed in 2023, this year saw the implementation of targeted improvements, including the update of the FAWCO Friendship Quilt page and the transition of Development Grant and Education Award recipient results from "articles" to "pages." These changes enhanced functionality and design, making it easier for users to access key information. The Target 5 fundraising milestone was supported through coordinated efforts across the website, social media, and NEWS, underscoring the importance of an integrated communications strategy.

Positive feedback from users about the overall site improvements has been encouraging. However, work remains, particularly in optimizing the site for mobile and tablet views and preparing for the launch of the new Target Program in March 2025.

Donorbox Widget

The Donorbox widget, first introduced in late 2023, has continued to streamline the donation process in 2024. With its capacity for recurring donations and ease of use, it has proven invaluable in helping The FAWCO Foundation meet its fundraising goals. In 2024 alone, the Donorbox tool facilitated \$13,184 in donations, reflecting the value of this tool in advancing our mission.

Collaboration and Challenges

This year, collaboration has been a cornerstone of success. I worked closely with the VP of Programs to not only execute coordination to publish results of the 2024 award recipients, but also organize and publish the slate of

2025 awards and partnered with the VP of Fundraising to create the 2025 Foundation Night landing page. While time constraints posed occasional challenges, the support from fellow Board members has been instrumental in maintaining progress.

Looking Ahead

For 2025, my focus will be on optimizing the website for mobile and tablet users, enhancing social media engagement, and continuing to refine strategies that connect our community and amplify our mission. I am excited to build upon the progress made in 2024 and further support The FAWCO Foundation's goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stange (IWC Bogotá, FAUSA)

Vice President Communications

Vice President Programs

After the Porto conference in March, the tasks for the Development Grant (DG) and Education Award (EA) were successfully completed, thanks to the invaluable support of the Development Grant and Education Award Administrators.

Key activities included:

- **Distribution of 2025 SOAs:** Both the DG and EA Statements of Award (SOAs) were transitioned to online Google Forms for the first time in 2024, streamlining the submission process.
- **Processing Returned SOAs:** The new online forms have significantly simplified the process, enabling quicker and more efficient disbursement of awards and grants to recipients.
- **Follow-up on Outstanding SOAs:** We ensured all deadlines were met, although one Development Grant remained unclaimed due to changes in the recipient charity before the SOA could be completed and funds disbursed.
- **Collaboration with Grants and Awards Administrators:** We successfully closed out all remaining grants and awards from previous years, gathering updates and reports for both the current and past cycles.
- **Database Updates:** A thorough update of our databases, including stats, figures, members, clubs, and more.

Refining the Application Process

For the 2025 Development Grants, we made slight adjustments in response to applicant feedback and our own learnings. These changes are designed to improve the process for 2025, and we hope to continue evolving it with further feedback in future cycles.

For the Education Award applications, we've transitioned to online forms for the 2025 cycle. Given the added complexity of these applications, we've adopted Google Forms, which allows for customized forms for each award. This flexibility makes the collection of relevant information easier for both applicants and the administrator.

Feedback on the 2024 Education Award review process has been overwhelmingly positive, with reviewers appreciating the streamlined approach. The new online application forms for 2025 will further enhance the experience for both applicants and reviewers.

A Team Effort

I'd like to extend my gratitude to Tracy M and Michelle M for their hard work in navigating the changes to the process. Their efforts were vital in ensuring the smooth running of the programs and in addressing any concerns that arose. It was truly a team effort.

Exciting New Additions for 2025

Bringing together the slate for 2025 was a humbling experience. The FAWCO Foundation is fortunate to have a community of generous individuals whose donations allow us to offer **9 Development Grants** and **12 Education Awards**.

We are particularly excited to introduce **3 new Education Awards**, which will broaden the range of learning opportunities for our members, their children, and grandchildren:

- **Opening Learning Award:** Exclusively for our members' grandchildren;
- **Fine Arts Award:** Focused on supporting an artistic journey;
- **Skills Enhancement Award:** A smaller-value award recognizing the growing availability of affordable online courses.

Ongoing Activities

Currently, we are focused on several key tasks:

- Preparing for the upcoming March conference, with a strong slate of 9 Development Grants and 12 Education Awards.
- Preparing the review of the outstanding achievements of past Development Grant and Education Award recipients, which is always a rewarding experience.
- Continuing to refine our processes to ensure we're delivering the best possible experience.
- Keeping the award slate relevant to both the FAWCO community and the world around us.

Communication and Outreach

One important question that remains is how best to communicate the incredible opportunities offered by the Education Awards and Development Grants to the wider FAWCO community. Ensuring that the work done by our clubs and the educational aspirations of our members are realized is key to the continued success of these programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Riney (AWC Hamburg)
Vice President Programs

Vice President Fundraising

Since the last report I have been busy with planning and implementing the 2024 Foundation Night in Porto and now planning the 2025 Foundation Night in Annapolis.

I have monthly meetings with the Target Fundraising Coordinator (Lauren Mescon), monthly meetings with Target Team (Lauren Mescon, Amanda Drollinger, Janet Davis) and monthly TLC Reps and Presidents Meetings (Kanika Holloway, FAWCO 2nd VP - Member Clubs). The TLC meeting, I am not always present partly because the meetings are at a little too short notice for me and the time of the evening is a bit late.

In September 2024, I attended the Foundation's Face2Face Board Meeting in Scotland. We accomplished a lot of business. From my side of the meeting we were able to decide on our theme and logo for the Foundation Night 2025 in Annapolis. We agreed on the decorations for the tables, what the lucky dip "Ducky Dip" would be and what direction that our advertising would go.

In October 2024, I attended the Region 3 Regional Meeting in Paris. At the last minute, I had to give the presentation about The FAWCO Foundation. Unfortunately, our presentation slides did not work and so I had to just give the presentation with no powerpoint to go with it. I, along with Lauren Mescon (Target Fundraising),

had a table to sell our Backing Women items for Target. It went very well and we raised around \$700 for Target at the Regional.

I also attended the Region 5 Regional. It was a great success. I had a Backing Women table to sell for Target. We raised just over \$400 in Berlin for Awesome Blossoms.

I have been preparing for Foundation Night 2025 in Annapolis which will take place at the FAWCO Biennial Conference. I have contacted past Live Auction Donors and have received some amazing destinations for the 2025 Live Auction. Some destinations are from past donors and we also have a few that are new donors and some that have not donated in a few years and are once again donating a destination to our Live Auction on Foundation Night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Donors, whether it be to the Live Auction, Silent Auction or the Benefactor program. Without you and your support, we could never accomplish everything that we do. Through your support we are able to offer more Development Grants and Education Awards than ever before. Thank you for your support!

I did research for Foundation Night 2025. Every year I do a lot of research on where the next conference is going to be and how we can incorporate that into our Foundation Night theme. I have designed the Benefactor Button for Foundation Night, which is not a button but a magnetic bookmark for 2025. I have also designed the Conference Charm for 2025. At the Foundation's Face2Face meeting in September 2024, we finalized our theme for Foundation Night 2025... "Sea Beyond... A Nautical Night." Since then, I have been designing and implementing Facebook posts for everything relating to Foundation Night. Our VP Communications, Mary Stange, has designed a "Foundation Night" page on the Foundation website that contains everything concerning Foundation Night 2025 in Annapolis.

Along with Carol-Lyn McKelvey, our Silent Auction Coordinator, we were able to have OneCause, the Silent Auction platform, up and running for the Region 5 Regional Meeting in Berlin. Participants were then able to purchase Quilt Tickets and then pre-order their Conference Charm. By the time this is published, we will also have all of our Live Auction Destinations up on OneCause for preview. I will continue to prepare for Foundation Night.

Below you will find a recap of the 2024 Foundation Night that was held in Porto at the Interim Meeting.

Interim Meeting and Foundation Night 2024

The 2024 theme was "Fairytale Magic... Happily Ever After for a Great Cause." There was an amazing DJ spinning tunes. The Silent Auction ran until dinner and the Live Auction took place after the meal. As usual, we danced until midnight with practically everyone joining in! All told, we raised an astonishing \$43,594 that evening. The funds raised go to support the programs of The FAWCO Foundation (Development Grants and Education Awards).

Live Auction

There were eight items up for auction on Foundation Night! Our eight fabulous items: a two-week stay in Paris for the Summer Olympics from Rebecca DeFraitess; a four night-five day stay in Bavaria from Margaret Hilditch; a one-week stay in Gordes, Luberon Valley Provence, France from Jennifer Taylor; a three-night stay in Barcelona with a sail on the Mediterranean from Monica Jubayli and Arline Coward; a one-week stay in Cork, Ireland from Kathy Coughlan; a two-night stay at Sausage Tree Safari Camp in South Africa offered by Tamara and James and facilitated by Mary Adams; a last minute addition of a four day-three night stay in De Haan, Belgium from Rozanne Van Rie; and we had a 2x2 tickets to the Jazz Forum Arts in New York offered by Mark Morganelli and facilitated by Jonelle Lemcke. Our wonderful auctioneer, Sandy Gogel (AWG Paris), was a master as the bids climbed! The Live Auction alone raised \$17,800!

Silent Auction

Carol-Lyn McKelvey again worked tirelessly and successfully ran the auction on the OneCause platform. She was able to gather virtual and physical items, many of which were brought to Porto. The Foundation Night Silent Auction sold 53 items of which 43 were "Bundles." The Silent Auction raised \$6,259!

Benefactors

The Benefactors program continued on OneCause with a focus we adopted from the virtual days that “We can all be Benefactors!” A banner ran continuously on OneCause recognizing those who made a donation on the site. Benefactor donations started at \$20 and we raised an impressive total of \$15,250 with 27 donors. From this amount there was a matching sum offered by Carol and Sal Lalani of \$3,100! This is the largest sum we have ever received from Benefactors. We are grateful to all our donors.

High-end Raffle

In Porto, we had two bags that were offered as High-end Raffle prizes. We had a Ferragamo evening bag and a Fendi evening bag. Both items were donated by Anne Riz. We were able to raise \$300 from this raffle.

Charms and Bracelets

We stayed with the same supplier, Monterey Company (Bend, Oregon), so kept our costs low. Sales from this year’s charm, the Portugal Rooster, raised \$830.

Foundation Lapel Pins

We once again had a Foundation Pin for sale. It is a lapel pin that says “The FAWCO Foundation” and has our logo on it. We raised \$266.

Friendship Quilt Raffle

The 2024 quilt, Vertical Gardens, contained squares donated by 39 members from 15 clubs. The quilt was revealed at the Region 5 Meeting and tickets were immediately available on OneCause. The lucky winner was Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark). We raised \$2,630 in ticket sales.

The Lucky Dip “Pixie Packs”

In 2024, we offered “Pixie Packs” as our lucky dip. They were brown bags decorated in sparkly fantasy figures – dragons, princesses and even a Prince Charming frog! The Pixie Packs raised \$295.

Foundation Night Miscellaneous

We went with the fantasy theme and had fiber optic, lighted centerpieces with wands and golden crowns decorating the tables.

Target Program 5 Environment

With the Target Fundraising Coordinator, Lauren Mescon, at the helm, the fundraising started off with a bang! Fundraising for Awesome Blossoms started even before the Target Project was announced. As of the end of November 2024, FAWCO Clubs have raised \$141,046 for Awesome Blossoms.

By the end of August we had already reached our goal of \$140,000. What to do next? To make Awesome Blossoms truly sustainable, we are going to help Safe Spaces (parent organization) to raise another \$50,000 to buy land to create a “Center of Expertise” in order to teach their farming methods to as many as possible as well as educate participants on financial literacy. Today they are limited to a virtual center, but once they obtain their own land they will build an office, a place where the peer educators can work and a place where the community can come to learn.

Regions 3, 4, 5 and 7 Regional Meetings

At these meetings, we sold SDG pins, Awesome Blossom t-shirts, items straight from Nairobi that Peninah had brought with her to Region 3, and the *What is a Perfect World* children’s book. We were able to raise approximately \$1,350 at all of the Regional Meetings together.

The 2025 Friendship Quilt, Octopus Oasis, was revealed at the Region 5 Meeting in November 2024 with tickets immediately available on the OneCause site. The drawing for the Quilt will be held in Annapolis, Maryland in March 2025.

General Fundraising

Giving From the Heart

We decided to rebrand the Giving From the Heart Campaign to see if we could generate more interest. Giving From the Heart is a chance to recognize a special person, moment or event in your life such as: Anniversary, Life Milestones, Loss of a Loved One, Honoring a Friend, Giving Thanks or whatever is near and dear to your heart. All proceeds go to the Close to Home Development Grant.

Other

Rep and RC Calls

I have not always been able to attend the calls with the FAWCO VP Member Clubs and FAWCO President's Liaison. We should continue to work with the VP for Member Clubs, to ensure we remain part of these calls for the Presidents, Reps, Regional Coordinators (RCs) and Philanthropy heads. Additionally, if FAWCO continues to hold Regional gatherings virtually or in person for the Region's Presidents, Reps and RCs, the VP Fundraising for TFF should be included.

Fundraising Analysis

The ongoing database spreadsheet contains the data for the past several years and will continue to be maintained.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern, FAUSA)
Vice President Fundraising

2024 Development Grant Slate

There are 9 Development Grants offered for 2024: 3 Education, 2 Human Rights, 2 Global Issues, 1 Environment and 1 Health. The diversity is a result of our generous sponsors and the greater FAWCO community that donate both large and small to our programs. There is a total of \$36,000 to be awarded.

Education \$4,000 each

1. **Educating Women & Girls Worldwide** *sponsored by Renuka Matthews*
2. **The Coughlan Family Education Grant** *in recognition of the generosity of the Coughlan Family*
3. **Hope through Education** *sponsored by Michele Hendrikse DuBois in memory of her parents Joan and Denis DuBois*

These 3 awards are for projects:

- promoting literacy and supporting academic studies,
- that build or provide classrooms, libraries or general learning facilities for disadvantaged women/children,
- that provide training designed to lead to economic and social empowerment for women and girls.

Human Rights \$4,000 each

1. **FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk**
2. **Breaking the Cycle** *sponsored by the FAWCO Foundation**

These 2 awards are for projects:

- providing vocational training, teaching practical skills, promoting social entrepreneurial initiatives for at-risk/marginalized population groups,
- addressing the critical problems of violence, food and shelter, healthcare, education, poverty, advocacy, human trafficking, prostitution, refugees, including all those impacted by economic, political or other forced migration,
- promoting cultural understanding

Global Issues \$4,000 each

1. *Close to Home I* sponsored in part by donations to the “From the Heart” program

2. *Close to Home II* sponsored by The FAWCO Foundation*

These 2 awards are for projects:

- that fall within any of the FAWCO focus areas with which we align our Development Grants i.e., Education, Environment, Health or Human Rights.
- that recognize club’s local charities often overlooked on the world stage,
- that take place in the nominating club's home country.

Environment \$4,000

1. *For the Health of Our Planet* sponsored in part by AIWC Cologne

For projects:

- which contribute to supporting environmental action,
- that help mitigate climate change,
- aimed at restoring the health of our planet.

Health \$4,000

1. *Critical Health Concerns* sponsored by The FAWCO Foundation*

For projects:

- providing medical treatment, diagnostic services, preventive care or medical counseling. ● that include but are not limited to cancer, HIV/AIDS, communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases, substance abuse, life-improving surgeries, mental issues, the critically ill, the disabled, the aged, medical transport, special needs and maternal health for mothers and children.

*These awards are sponsored by the ongoing generosity of our members.

2024 Education Award Slate

Academic, Non-University and Dual Cultural Awards

These 6 awards support the educational endeavors of the children of our FAWCO family. There is a total of \$23,000 to be awarded.

Arts Award \$4,000 *sponsored in part by the family and friends in memory of Jessie Rodell, former President of AWC The Hague, and her son, Quinn Rodell*

- For undergraduate or graduate study in the history, theory and/or practice of the performing arts, visual arts, film and media arts, architecture or graphic arts.

Sciences Award \$4,000 *sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa and the Bacigalupo Family, in memory of Dr. Frieda Bacigalupo Natali*

- For undergraduate or graduate study in any area of science; e.g. biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, computer science, mathematics and medicine.

Humanities Award \$4,000 *sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix*

- For undergraduate or graduate study in fields including, but not limited to, education, law, social studies, history and languages.

Women in STEM \$4,000 *sponsored in part by AWC London, Whitney Edwards (AWC London) and FAWCO Members in Honor of Bonnie Garmus for International Literacy Day 2023*

- For the study of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, including the study of medicine, chemistry, computer and information technology science, engineering, geosciences, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy for women and individuals who identify as women.

Non-University and Technical Training Award \$4,000 *sponsored by Whitney Edwards AWC London, in memory of Dr. John H. Hoagland & Carolyn Hoagland*

- For an individual enrolled in a training program or a course of study at a trade school, either of which will conclude with a vocational certification.

Dual Cultural Award \$3,000 *sponsored in part by AWC Bern and Donna Erismann in memory of Susanne Erismann*

- This award may be used to attend a semester or year of American high school or an academic or structured educational summer program in the United States.

FAWCO Member Awards:

These 4 awards recognize the diverse lives of our members, their achievements, and their never-ending quest for knowledge and self-improvement. There is a total of \$16,000 to be awarded.

Shirley Kearney AWC Basel University Study Degree Award \$4,000

- For continuing or resuming studies in an undergraduate or graduate level university degree program.

FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award \$4,000

- For acquiring new skills or enhancing already existing ones which will allow a FAWCO or FAUSA member to become more capable, competent and confident by acquiring the skills to improve performance in any given field.

Skills Enhancement Award II \$4,000 *sponsored by The FAWCO Foundation**

- For acquiring new skills or enhancing already existing ones which will allow a FAWCO or FAUSA member to become more capable, competent and confident by acquiring the skills to improve performance in any given field.

Continuing Education Award \$4,000 *sponsored by Mary Stewart Burgher of AWC Denmark, in memory of Pauline "Pete" Arnold Schweppe*

- For a FAWCO or FAUSA member to further their education at university or an equivalent level through courses, workshops, and certificate programs. Subjects can encompass all areas of interest—*inter alia*, journalism, writing, arts, philanthropy as well as the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), including medicine.

*These awards are sponsored by the ongoing generosity of our members.

Secretary

FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation (TFF) and FAUSA continued to thrive in 2024 through our global network. Our organizations have continued to meet virtually, with webinars and most importantly in person. As a team we have continued to support our programs and FAWCO members.

As Secretary I have accomplished the following in 2024:

- Added meeting date and time to TFF board calendar;
- Produced agendas for monthly meetings, which were conducted by Zoom and F2F;
- Took minutes of TFF board meetings;
- Processed the minutes: checking content, formatting, attaching addendums, releasing for editing, adding action items, following up on action items, and processing all edits and suggestions. Once approved, converted the minutes into a PDF and confirmed all the monthly financial reports were attached;
- Maintained motions and proxy form;
- Completed 2024 annual registration with the state of Missouri;
- Redirected mail when the incorrect email address to our domain was used and landed in TFF "catchall" folder;
- Created backups of all folders in the Shared Drive to an external hard drive;
- Supported the FAWCO Foundation mission by contributing ideas and making donations;
- Hosted the September TFF board F2F meeting at my home, Little Hayes, in St Andrews, Scotland.

Respectfully submitted,

Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland, AWC London)
FAWCO Foundation Secretary 2024

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian, appointed by the President, serves as a non-voting member of the Board.

In my role as Parliamentarian, I have:

- Assisted the Foundation President, as needed;
- Served in an advisory capacity to the Board;
- Conducted research and compiled a report detailing the history of changes to the Bylaws regarding residency requirements for the President and VP Communications. This resulted in changes to the Bylaws that removed the requirement for them to live outside of the US at the time of the board elections;
- Reviewed and maintained suggested changes to the current Administrative Guidelines and prepared them for approval by the Board specifically addressing changes to the Education Award requirements;
- Met regularly with the Archives Team to continue the archiving process.

The Foundation Archive:

The FAWCO Foundation Archive remains an ongoing project as we, the Archives Team (Patti Meek, Janet Davis and I) continue the process of establishing a registry of all relevant Foundation documents. Our goal is to make it easy for future Foundation board members to access the documents they need. Researching the background for past board decisions was definitely easier as a result of the collection of documents in the Archives. Progress has slowed down in the past six months, but there has been movement! The project will continue until all existing documents have been properly catalogued so that the future Archives Team's job will hopefully be easier.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Böhling (AWC Düsseldorf)
Parliamentarian

Treasurer

The following pages include the financial statements for the FAWCO Foundation for 2024, with a comparison to 2023. The Foundation accounts are reviewed each year by an independent certified public accountant (CPA). Each review is done in the following year, so the latest letter, reporting on the independent review for 2023 is attached.

Summary: The Foundation remains in sound financial condition, bolstered greatly in 2023 with two large private donations totaling \$300K.

The Foundation had \$757.1K of cash assets at the end of 2024. \$462.9K is restricted funds and \$294.2K is unrestricted funds providing a solid financial basis from which to continue to drive and support the Foundation's programs. In 2024, the Foundation had income of \$165.4K and made disbursements totaling \$137.0K. The year-end result is a decrease in net assets of \$2.1K.

Balance Sheet

The Restricted Fund (\$462.9K) comprises two elements:

- Temporarily Restricted Funds (\$453.1K) representing donations from donors who have specified that the funds be used for specific Foundation programs (Education Awards, Development Grants and the Target Program) beyond the current year's end with some disbursements to be made over several years into the future.
- Restricted - Endowment Funds (\$9.8K) are donations collected in the past in response to a call to establish an Endowment Fund. There has been no activity related to this Fund in recent years.

The Unrestricted Fund (\$294.2K) also comprises two elements:

- Board Designated Reserve Funds (\$123.5K) established several years ago to provide a safety net to ensure the Foundation's programs would be funded for at least two years without any external donations.
- Unrestricted Funds (\$170.7K) is everything left after deducting the restricted and reserved funds from the total cash assets. Over time, these funds are used to supplement the Foundation's programs and operating expenses.

Income and Expense Statement

The Foundation is on the cash basis of accounting. This means that the income and expenses are recorded when the funds are received into, or paid out of, the Foundation's bank accounts.

There are three major categories of Income and Expenses: Donations/Programs, Fundraising and Administration.

To aid in program planning and budgeting, the Foundation's goal is to disburse funds in the year after the donations are received. With this donation information as a basis, the Foundation plans the number and level of disbursements (grants and awards) for the next year, as well as the level of additional funding that it will add on top of the donations received. The Foundation tops up the awards and grants from its Unrestricted Funds.

As The Foundation is on the cash basis, there can be large fluctuations from year to year due to large donations received in one year that are to be paid out over several years. This is the case with certain Education Awards and Development Grants, as well as Target funds collected for the last quarter of the year but not paid out until the following year.

Fluctuations in expenses are generally due to a change in the number or amount of Awards and Grants disbursed and timing of Target funds received and paid out.

The Net Surplus/(Deficit) in any year must be viewed in combination with the Restricted and Unrestricted Funds on the Balance Sheet to get an overall picture of the financial strength of the Foundation.

Income: Donations

- Administered Awards

The Foundation collects donations (one donor) and distributes Education Awards (two) for The Association of American Women in Europe (AAWE). The recipients go through the same application and evaluation process that all our Education Award applicants go through. The Foundation holds the donation as part of its Temporarily Restricted Funds until the disbursements are made over the period requested. 2024 marks the last year for this Administered Award.

- Award and Grant Programs Donations

There is a continuous ebb and flow of funding for Education Awards and Development Grants. As one donor steps back we have been extremely fortunate to always have another willing to step in. In addition, we continue to have some very consistent and loyal donors: FAUSA, Shirley Kearney, Renuka Mathews, Mary Stewart Burgher, AAWE Paris, and AIWC Genoa.

As an example of the fluctuating nature of donations, during 2023, two FAWCO member donors made unprecedentedly generous donations to the Foundation - Shirley Kearney (\$200,010) and Nan de Laubadere (\$100,000). These donations will enable the Foundation to fund both EA and DG awards for many years into our future. The donors also wish for the Foundation to use the funds as needed for other important projects, to be defined by the FAWCO and the Foundation Boards.

Also during 2023, Jackie Isler included The Foundation in her will, for which we received \$9,970 to be used towards EAs for the next three years. Another sizable donation came from Michelle DuBois (\$10,000), also for EAs (partially or in total) for 3 years.

The Foundation continues to supplement the funding of the Awards and Grants programs from Fundraising activities (mainly from Foundation night proceeds) and unrestricted funds, as described above.

- Target Project Donations

The Target 5 Project was chosen in March 2023 at the annual conference in Bratislava (see other sections for more details about the organization chosen.) As of year-end 2024, a total of \$175.5K has been donated, or collected as merchandise sales, for this project, with \$142.0K sent to S.A.F.E. Spaces, Awesome Blossoms organization in 2023 and 2024. The fundraising efforts for this project will continue until March 2025.

The Clydette DeGroot Foundation made a generous donation of \$10,000 to help incentivise FAWCO club donations through a matching grant program. Every dollar up to \$1,000 donated by a club was matched from this CDF donation.

- In-Kind donations

In-Kind donations arise when an individual pays for a budgeted expense for The Foundation and does not request reimbursement. We recorded just \$396 such donations during 2024.

Income: Fundraising

Income generated from the Foundation Night and other merchandise sales was \$48.4K

- Fundraising on Foundation Night consisted of Silent and Live auctions, the Quilt Raffle, and the selling of a conference charm. These funds (\$43.8K) are raised to support The Foundation and supplement our annual Awards and Development Grants.
- During the conference, fundraising efforts specifically for the Target 5 Project included some merchandise sales and the sale of Sustainable Development Goals pins, resulting in \$3.6K.
- The Foundation also sold items (\$1.0K), such as the Awesome Blossoms t-shirts, at three regional meetings during 2024.

Income: Other

The Foundation also receives income from interest on CDs and our other bank savings accounts. During 2024, as interest rates remained at relatively high levels on savings across the world, the income received on these deposits was \$23.9K. Although rates have slowed during 2024, we expect earnings to remain at good levels during 2025, as we will continue to monitor the market to optimize this type of income.

Expenses: Program Disbursements

- Administered Awards

As stated above, the Foundation currently administers an Education Award Program for one of our member clubs, AAWE Paris. Fully funded disbursements are made to the selected recipients who have undergone the same rigorous vetting process that we have in place for all of our Education Award applicants.

- Awards and Grants

\$67.0K was disbursed to award and grant recipients in 2024.

- Target Program

\$62K was disbursed to Awesome Blossoms - S.A.F.E Spaces. in 2024.

Expenses: Fundraising

Fundraising expenses continue to be a low percentage of the total raised (4%). In 2024, we spent \$5.4K on conference charms, Foundation Evening items, and Target charms and sales merchandise.

The net fundraising funds are used to supplement the Awards and Grants programs, some of which are either partially or fully funded by The Foundation, as well as to support The Foundation's administration expenses.

Expenses: Operating

The total operating expenses for 2024 of \$25.2K were for the following main categories;

- Bank fees - \$3.1K - these include transaction fees for our online auction platform, Paypal, Wise and other miscellaneous banking fees.
- Board Expenses - \$18.5K - includes conference fees and travel/accommodation costs for the annual conference and face-to-face board meetings.
- Miscellaneous - \$3.6K - includes annual auditor fees, web hosting and accounting package fees.

Net Surplus/(Deficit)

The net deficit for 2024 was (\$2.1K). This is much less as compared to the bumper year in 2023 and further illustrates the nature of our fluctuating donations landscape.

On the following pages are the Balance Sheets and Summaries of Income and Expense for 2024 and 2023. There are also two pie charts:

- **Sources of Income** shows source of support: from individuals, Member Clubs and Foundation fundraising efforts.
- **Disbursements and Expenses** shows spending for Programs, Fundraising and Administration.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Leyland (AWC London)
Treasurer (2023-2025)

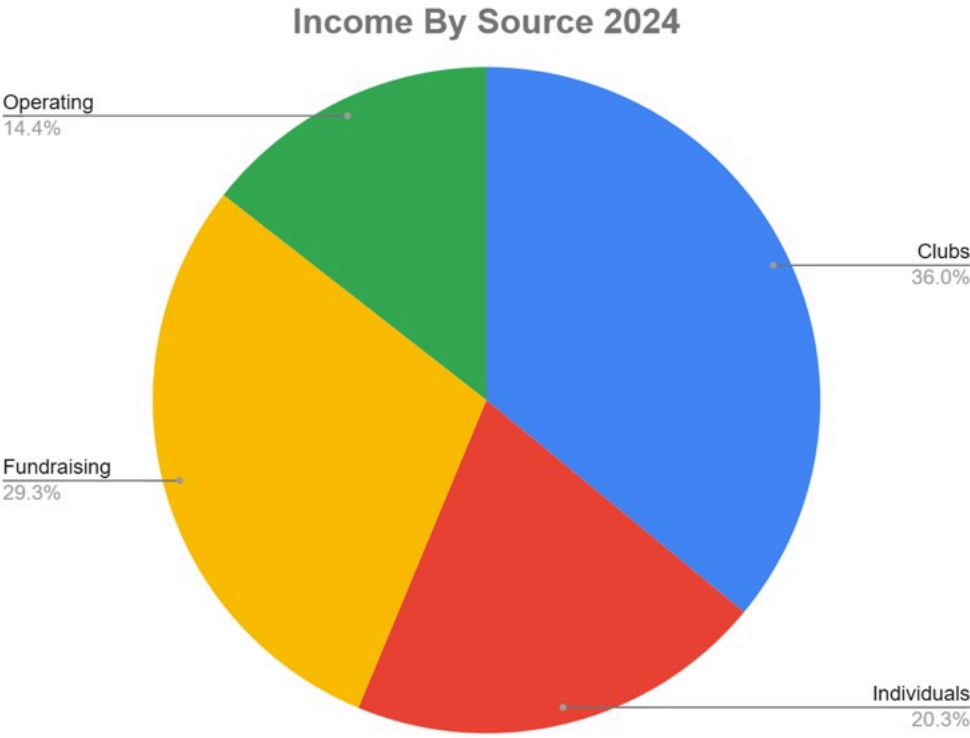
The FAWCO Foundation		
Balance Sheets		
As of December 31, 2024		
	2024	2023
	Unreviewed	Reviewed
	(USD)	(USD)
ASSETS		
Cash Accounts	242,374	367,515
Certificates of Deposit	514,730	391,721

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>757,104</u>	<u>759,236</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Funds	170,701	169,853
Board Designated Reserve Funds	<u>123,500</u>	<u>123,500</u>
Total Unrestricted	294,201	293,353
Temporarily Restricted Funds	453,112	456,092
Restricted - Endowment Funds	<u>9,791</u>	<u>9,791</u>
Total Restricted	462,903	465,883
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>757,104</u>	<u>759,236</u>

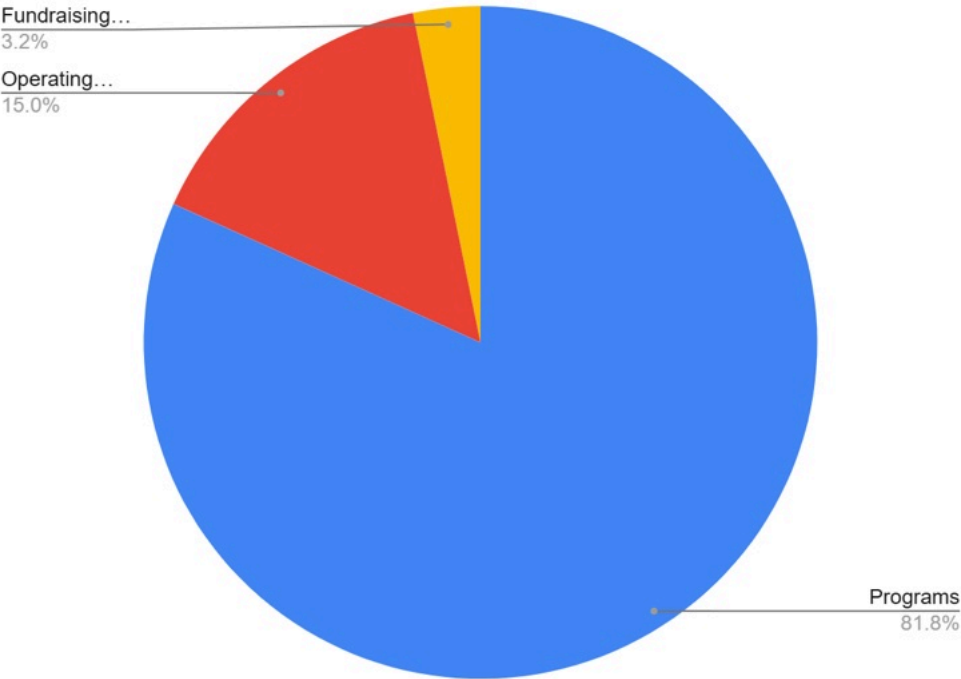
The FAWCO Foundation
Income and Expense Statements
For the 12 months ended December 31, 2024

	2024 Unreviewed (USD)	2023 Reviewed (USD)
Income		
Foundation Donations		
Administered Awards	0	0
Education Awards	20,582	220,700
Development Grants	12,154	130,542
Target Program - Environment	59,501	81,174
In-Kind Donations	396	53
General Donations	426	873
Total Donations	93,059	433,342
Fundraising Income		
Fundraising Income	43,820	45,013
Fundraising Income - Target	4,635	5,220
Total Fundraising	48,455	50,233
Other Income	23,882	8,223
Total Income	165,396	491,798
Expense		
Foundation Program Disbursements		
Administered Awards	8,000	0
Donations to Host Club Charities	0	1,500
Education Awards	35,000	43,000
Development Grants	31,982	36,000
Target Program	61,988	80,000
Total Program Disbursements	136,970	160,500
Fundraising Expenses	5,394	5,779

Operating Expenses	25,165	27,033
Total Expense	167,529	193,312
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,133)	298,486



Disbursements and Expenses 2024



FAWCO Alumnae USA Report



FAUSA - Globally Connected, Locally Active

FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) serves as a social and philanthropic network tailored for former FAWCO club members and other individuals repatriating to North America. As the sister organization to FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation, FAUSA offers members a supportive community of returning expatriates who understand the complexities of transitioning back to life in North America. Members connect with others who share the unique experience of redefining "home," especially when "home" can also signify a place outside of North America.

As of December 2024, FAUSA's membership is at 276, which consists of annual, five-year, and lifetime members, and includes 30 spouses. Our FUNdraising director and 3rd VP Philanthropy, Sue Frick once again exceeded expectations, spearheading a remarkable fundraising effort at the Getaway event. Her leadership helped FAUSA achieve a record-breaking \$56,000 in donations to support its projects. Among the highlights was the quilt raffle, featuring a beautifully handcrafted quilt by Kathy Coughlan. Through the dedication and leadership of FAUSA Counselor Therese Hartwell, over \$10,448 was raised to support FAWCO's Target 5 Project on the environment. This impressive achievement was made possible through the LUNAFEST Women's Film Festival and a virtual FAUSA Pampered Chef Party. These efforts not only contributed directly to environmental initiatives, but also earned FAUSA recognition in the prestigious Hibiscus Donor category.

2024 FAWCO Development Grants awarded to FAUSA members' causes:

- Education
 - Educating Women and Girls Worldwide: [*Kiwimbi Prep for Success*](#) submitted by Stephanie Biery
 - Hope for Education: [*Tewa Women United: A'Gin Healthy Sexuality and Body Sovereignty - Braided Curriculum Project*](#) submitted by Liz Janson

2024 FAUSA funded FAWCO Development Grant's and winners:

- FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award: Deborah Lillian (AWG Paris)
- FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk: Keep the Lights On at Haitian Birth Center (AWC Hamburg)
- FAWCO's 2023-2025 Target Environment Project: [*Awesome Blossoms*](#)

2024 FAUSA annual grant recipients:

- [*Food Finders - Nourished Kids 4 Nourished Minds*](#)
- [*Ascend: Leadership Through Athletics*](#)

FAUSA members enjoy opportunities to connect locally and participate in a wide range of virtual activities. They can also engage more deeply by joining committees, teams, and boards within FAUSA, FAWCO, and The FAWCO Foundation. These three organizations collaborate closely to achieve shared goals, fostering a sense of camaraderie rooted in the shared experiences of living internationally or navigating the unique challenges of expatriate life.

FAUSA's 2023-2025 Board members are:

- President: Brenda Brinkley (AWC Bern)
- 1st VP Communications: Jennifer Padfield (AWC Berlin)
- 2nd VP Membership: Linda Harvan (AWC Brussels, AWEF Saudi Arabia)
- 3rd VP Philanthropy: Sue Frick (AWC Brussels)
- Secretary: Amy Patrick (NAC England)
- Treasurer Kathy Limbaugh (AWC Dublin)
- FAWCO Liaison: Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne):
- Director of Activities and Events: Yolanda Henry (AW Surrey)
- Parliamentarian (appointed): Kathy DeBest (NAC England, AWC The Hague)

Key volunteers:

- Website Manager: Debbie Hastings (CAWC)
- Newsletter and Highlights Editor: Nicole Grillo (AIWC Frankfurt)
- Archives: Louise Greeley-Copley (AW Surrey, AWEF, Saudi Arabia)
- Counselor Liaison (appointed): Jane Indreland (AWC London)
- Sunshine: Jean Setser (AIWC Genoa)
- Historian: Nancy Thornley (AWA Rome)

Our many virtual activities and groups continued to thrive, providing members with opportunities to connect with a variety of interest groups:

- Bridge
- Mah Jongg
- Crafts
- FAUSA in Motion
- Monthly Wine Tasting
- FAUSA Virtual Road Trip around North America
- Seven virtual and/or in-person book groups
- Metro Groups and Regions
- Speaker Series
- Travel Club
- New! FAUSA Partners Group Chat
- New! A Taste of FAUSA (a monthly virtual cooking group)

FAUSA members have embraced the joy of exploring the world together, organizing group travel experiences that strengthen their bonds and create lasting memories. These shared adventures offer an exciting way to reconnect with fellow members while discovering new destinations. In February 2024, 12 FAUSA members went on their second cruise around the Caribbean aboard the Windstar Windsurf. In May 2025 several members will cruise down the Magdalena River with AMAWaterways, and we are already planning another Caribbean cruise on the Windstar Star Seeker in 2026.

FAUSA members (and their children) may apply for The FAWCO Foundation's Education Awards and propose projects for The Foundation's Development Grants and FAWCO Target Project. FAUSA supports projects that benefit women and children, offers Annual Grants which focus on work in the Americas, and votes on Education Awards and Development Grants offered via The FAWCO Foundation. FAUSA sponsors both an Education Award and a Development Grant for The FAWCO Foundation, as well as making significant donations to FAWCO's Target projects.

We invite you to visit us at our **Face2Face booth** to learn more about FAUSA and all that we offer! Feel free to connect with any of our FAUSA board members or other members for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

Respectfully submitted,

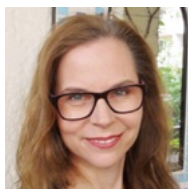
Brenda Brinkley

FAWCO Board



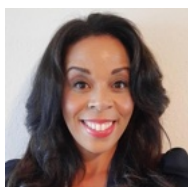
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Mary Dobrian
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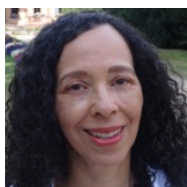
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Cathy Farnan
FAWCO Treasurer

AWG Paris/FAUSA
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Patti Meek
FAWCO Parliamentarian

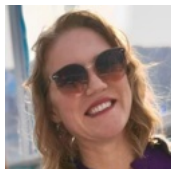
AWC Dublin
parliamentarian@fawco.org

The FAWCO Foundation Board



Janet Davis
FAWCO Foundation President

AIWC Cologne
president@fawcofoundation.org



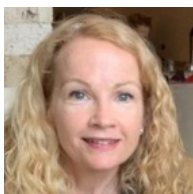
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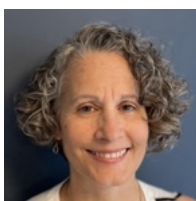
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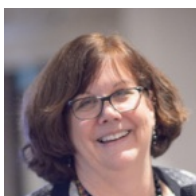
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FAWCO Foundation Treasurer

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Barbara Bühling
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Parliamentarian

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FAUSA Board



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Jennifer Padfield
FAUSA 1st Vice President
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Linda Harvan
FAUSA 2nd Vice President
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Amy Patrick
FAUSA Secretary

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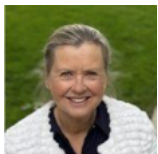
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