

now 6000 members
20 clubs in Laico

F. A. W. C. O.

History Highlights

In 1931 Mrs. Curtis BROWN, President of The American Women's Club of LONDON (founded 1899), invited the ten similar Clubs located in EUROPE to meet to consider the forming of a FEDERATION.

ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, BERLIN, The HAGUE, VIENNA, and ZURICH sent one or more Delegates.

The idea was enthusiastically received and BERLIN was chosen for the 1st Conference of The FEDERATION of American Women's Clubs in EUROPE, opening on May 11th 1932. PARIS also sent Delegates. The drafting of a Constitution and the defining of the objectives:

- "1. To further by every possible means the cause of peace.
 2. To standardize the laws in the different countries regarding the rights of foreign women married to American men.
 3. To study the question of schools for American children living abroad.
 4. To found an International Peace Scholarship."
- were of primary interest.
Mrs. Curtis BROWN was elected the first President.

Subsequent Conferences took place in VIENNA where BELGRADE was represented. At this 1933 meeting it was decided that elected Officers should hold Office for a two-year period. It was suggested that each Club study the story of peace, from the Council of the Greeks, down to the Council of The HAGUE of 1907.

1934 found the Conference being held in PARIS, where there were discussions regarding the gangster films and the wrong impression of American life they depicted.

Also Birth Control was a concern... "Women should agitate for dignified study in the U.S."

Mrs. CONNETT, of PARIS became The FEDERATION'S second President.

The HAGUE, in 1935 found COPENHAGEN, HAMBURG, and STOCKHOLM among the attendants. The question of the alien wife and disarmament problems were of prime interest.

The Peace Scholarship became a reality through the gift of a LONDON member, Mrs. GASQUE.

COPENHAGEN, 1936 found OSLO joining. Dues, that were nominal were raised. Discussions took place with education problems and The Equal Rights Bill.

SHANGHAI had sent an Observer and so, to accommodate countries in the East the name of The FEDERATION was changed to The FEDERATION of American Women's Clubs OVERSEAS, FAWCO.

There was an enlightening report from the original recipient of The Peace Scholarship on her six-months study living in GENEVA... Mrs. CHAPMAN the widow of a Romance Language professor of Boston University. The FAWCO Bulletin came into being.

Mrs. MENNELL of LONDON became The FEDERATION'S third President.

ZURICH, in 1937... where the days were divided between there and GENEVA where the Delegates were tendered a Reception by The Peace and Disarmament Committee of the U.S. at The League of Nations.

HAMBURG, in 1938 was occupied with interest in the Codifying of Nationality Laws in the U.S. and in The Child Labor Amendment.

Mrs. VOLKMAN, of Zurich elected President, the fourth for FAWCO.

LONDON, in 1939 the great concern being upon the ways of keeping peace, which seemed to be «running-out». The Conference slated for OSLO in 1940 never took place... in fact most FEDERATION archives were lost, having been in the hands of Mrs. MORGENSTERN, who destroyed these papers before entering a concentration camp.

In 1949, Mrs. L.J. BLATTNER, a former FAWCO Officer (1937), together with Mrs. Carl BRINER, both of the ZURICH Club, aroused enough enthusiasm for an awakening of The FEDERATION.

At its first meeting in COPENHAGEN, it was decided to hold Biennial Conferences.

The geographical area then reached as far as GREECE. Since then Clubs in SAUDI ARABIA and INDIA have joined. FAWCO has truly become an OVERSEAS organization representing today nineteen Clubs in fourteen countries with close to 4,500 individual members.

Since the reorganization, Conferences have been held in BRUSSELS, ZURICH, ATHENS, PARIS, and The HAGUE. An INTERIM Meeting for the OFFICERS and CHAIRMEN was instituted during the term of Mrs. Robert L. ST. JOHN. Held in ROME in 1960, it met with such success that it was repeated last April in BRUSSELS.

Last spring during The INTERIM Meeting, The FEDERATION became formally affiliated with The National Council of Women of the U. S. This was in accordance with Resolution, II, passed at The HAGUE, that, «it investigates the possibility of eventual collaboration with a larger group, or groups in the U. S. (for example, People to People Program, Peace Corps, The National Council of Women), which could profit from association with American women residing abroad».

Through this affiliation all FAWCO Clubs are able to keep in constant touch, not only with The National Council's programs, but through its reports, also with the latest developments in The United Nations in connection with the status of women throughout the world.

FAWCO strives to help new and old Clubs by suggesting, not dictating, various activities that bring forth The FEDERATION'S main objective, which is to bring about better understanding between Nations. These often take the form of welfare work within the host country... in assisting Fulbright students and securing exchange scholarships for women Nationals, for advanced study in the U. S.

A brochure explaining FAWCO's objectives was printed in 1961 to promote new memberships. Joining the FEDERATION since that time are Luxembourg-Ville (December 1961), Frankfurt Women's Club (May 1962) and American Women's Club of Zaragoza, (February 1963).

Through the exchange of all member Club Bulletins and The FEDERATION'S own publication, «The FAWCO REVIEW», all Clubs, regardless of distance, are kept in close contact and made aware of one another's efforts to promote better understanding between peoples and to spread true ideals of democracy.

ELIZABETH DRISCOLL TINE'

FAWCO President, 1961-63

March 1963