

President's Welcome - 2019 Biennial Conference
Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President

On behalf of FAWCO, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 44th FAWCO Biennial Conference! It's wonderful to see you all, and we're delighted to have such a strong turnout from all of FAWCO's 11 Regions. Counting day participants, volunteers and members of the host club, we will have nearly 180 participants from 38 clubs in 20 countries plus the US - phenomenal attendance for a full Biennial Conference!

AWC Central Scotland has the most participants (including volunteers), 26, which means that Region 1 has the strongest showing this year. Congratulations! My home club, AAWE Paris, is tied with the Munich IWC, both with 8 participants, closely followed by AWG Paris with 7 participants and a fully participating guest and AWC Amsterdam and AWC The Hague, also with 7 participants. AWC Berlin, AWC Bern, AWIC Cologne, AW Eastern Province, and AWC Oslo all have strong delegations of 6 participants each. Regions 5, 3 and 4 all are strongly represented.

Thanks to Mary Stange of AWC Bogotá as well as to Meenakshi Advani of ACIW Mumbai for coming such a long way, as well as to our FAUSA sisters from the US, 13 in all. In addition, we have individual members from Dubai and Hong Kong. This demonstrates FAWCO's global reach and is truly impressive - welcome to you all!

In addition to delegates from our FAWCO member clubs, I would like to recognize The FAWCO Foundation (TFF in FAWCO-speak), FAUSA, and the FAWCO Counselors (or Past Presidents).

This conference would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the American Women's Club of Central Scotland. Warmest thanks go to the organizing team of Amanda Drollinger, Nancy Lynner, Joyce Halsan and Tara Scott as well as everyone who has volunteered to make this conference the interesting, substantive event that it promises to be.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank our conference sponsors, Sapphire Sponsor Janet Darrow, who is sponsoring tonight's opening dinner, and Conference Workshop Sponsor London & Capital who will be presenting a workshop on Saturday afternoon about seminars they can provide for your club. Both Janet and Tony McLoughlin and Adam Meyers from London & Capital will have tables at Face2Face on Saturday, so please stop and have a chat to find out all they can offer you. FAWCO warmly thanks them for their support.

I now would like to introduce Nancy Lynner, the President of AWC Central Scotland, who has done a phenomenal job as Speakers' Coordinator for this conference.