



THE FORUM

SERVING OVERSEAS AMERICANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1931

Winter 2012

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president@fawco.org

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vp-communications@fawco.org

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vp-memberclubs@fawco.org

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vp-committees@fawco.org

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Second FAWCO meeting with the U.S. Treasury Department

On November 13, U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich joined AARO, ACA and Democrats Abroad at a follow-up meeting in Washington at the invitation of the Treasury Department/IRS to discuss some progress made with respect to FATCA legislation and to make recommendations for the immediate future. The delegation learned promising things:

Treasury has made a concerted effort to track the foreign financial institutions (FFIs) that, at least in theory because of FATCA, are closing accounts held abroad by Americans.

Wishing to ease the reporting burden on individual FFIs, they have also made an ambitious drive to enter into intergovernmental agreements under which FFIs will report essentially high-risk and very high-value accounts to their governments which, in turn, will report to the United States, rather than having the FFIs in direct contact with the IRS. To date, only one such agreement has been concluded, with the UK, but over 50 are in negotiations.

Treasury and the IRS also want to make it easier overall for FFIs to comply with FATCA regulations and will, under certain conditions, find "looseners" such as raising the threshold for reporting accounts or reducing the number of years for which reporting is required, if the FFI can prove that accounts have not been denied to any U.S. citizens who are bona fide residents in the country in question. For the moment, this condition is not included in the U.S./U.K. agreement but the intent is to add it.

The central priority of the overseas delegation was to recommend the creation of an "advisory council" composed of representatives of overseas organizations to work with Treasury and the IRS in their

ongoing process of refining and implementing FATCA regulations. Given growing instances of renunciation of citizenship, reports of widespread concern and fear regarding Voluntary Disclosure programs, stories of Americans whose foreign spouses and partners refuse FATCA reporting of their financial assets and simply close joint household or business accounts, leaving the American in a position of financial jeopardy, and the realization that many Americans, out of fear or ignorance, are finding themselves in a position of non-compliance and therefore illegality, both sides appear to agree that it is urgently necessary to work together as the deadline for complete implementation of FATCA approaches.

One recommendation made in April fell on sympathetic ears: **Treasury is now building up a list of the tax-free foreign pension plans which will not be subject to FATCA reporting**, realizing that some such plans are essential to the financial security of U.S. citizens living abroad.

Lastly, while the IRS hopes it will become the norm in a very short time, **the overseas delegation pointed out the difficulty of e-filing in many parts of the world where internet access cannot be taken for granted.**

In all, the meeting must be seen as positive: not only have certain steps been actually taken in response to overseas concerns but also it appears clear that Treasury and the IRS are willing to maintain an ongoing dialogue with their overseas constituency, the goal being maximum compliance but also equity.

- By Lucy Laederich, FAWCO U.S. Liaison



Not only has FAWCO US Issues Liaison Lucy Laederich (right) been active in discussions on FATCA legislation, FAWCO also worked closely with Susan Suinat (left) of the Overseas Vote Foundation. Full report on overseas voting on page 2.

FAWCO is a network of independent American and international volunteer organizations representing private-sector American citizens overseas. Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit U.S. corporation with over 75 Member Clubs representing more than 15,000 individuals throughout the world. A recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) since 1995, FAWCO was granted special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997.

President: My-Linh Kunst (president@fawco.org) – Editor: Kristina Didouan (editor@fawco.org) – Advertising: advertising@fawco.org – Layout: Amy Patrick (pr@fawco.org)

By Lucy Laederich, FAWCO U.S. Liaison

2012 Voter Registration with OVF and FAWCO

This year for the third time, thanks to FAWCO’s partner Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF), visitors to the FAWCO website were able to register to vote and request their ballots directly from the FAWCO home page via a dedicated website hosted by OVF. 2012 was the second presidential election for which this service was available, though voters were also able to register/request ballots for the mid-term election in 2010. While the 2012 numbers may not seem impressive, they doubled over that period (to 724 in all) and do represent 20% of the total FAWCO population (though many users were undoubtedly actually visitors to the FAWCO home page).

Voter profile

Not surprisingly, the majority of those using the OVF-FAWCO website (80%) were female. Over one-half of all users (58.3%) were aged between 40 and 65 and encouragingly, four of those were under 18 at the time of their request, with birthdays falling shortly before the election. The population was almost exactly split between voters living abroad permanently and those overseas for a temporary stay. One-half (50.27%) of those requesting their ballots were voting either for the first time ever (6.4%) or for the first time abroad (43.9%) while almost one-third (32.6%) had never voted at all before moving abroad.

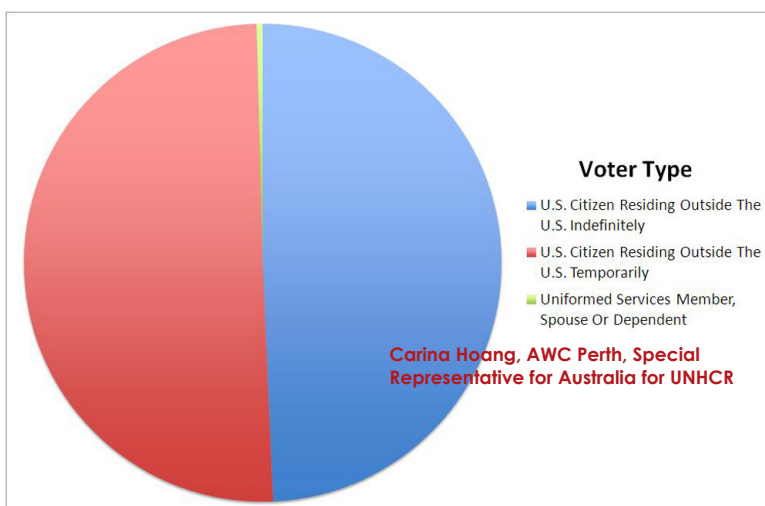
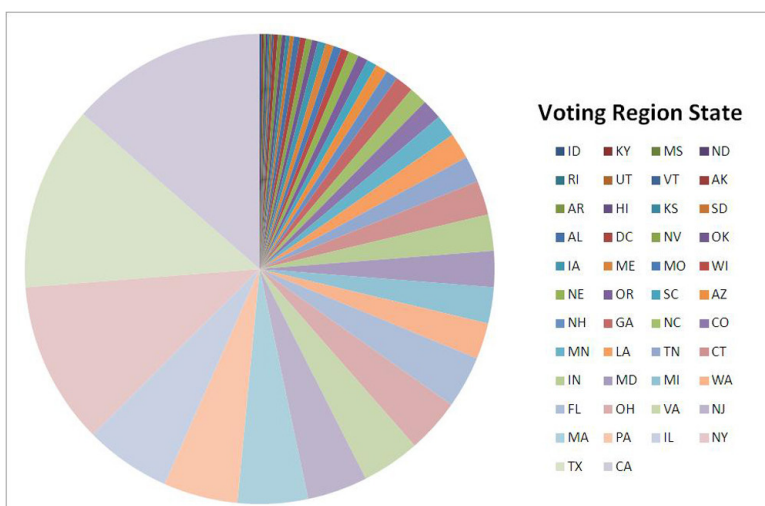
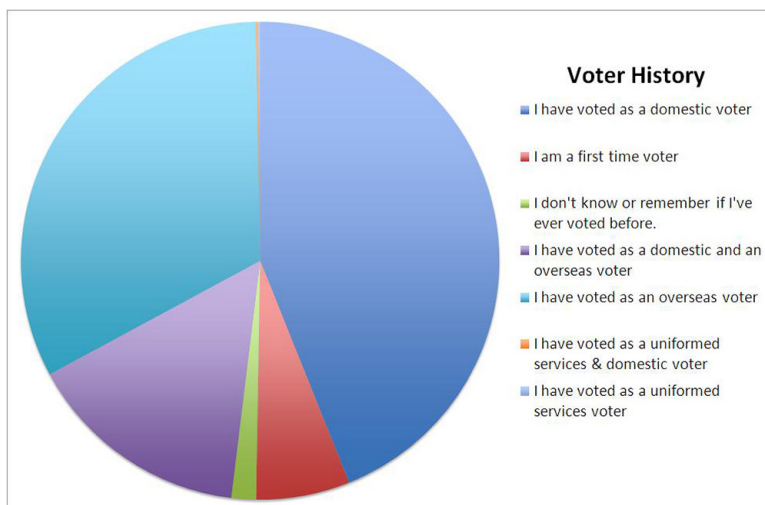
Request type

While the website was used essentially by voters requesting their ballots using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, 33 requested the emergency Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. It will be easier to explain this number in light of overall post-election survey results as, at the time of writing, it was impossible to know whether these voters had requested the FWAB as a precautionary measure or at the last minute, because the ballot they had requested had not yet arrived.

Voting state

Reflecting common statistics on the overseas voting population, over one-third of those using the OVF-FAWCO website voted in just three states, New York, Texas and California (also the states with the highest percentages of population vs. total U.S. population). FAWCO 2012 statistics closely parallel statistics generated by OVF after the 2008 election with the top ten states exactly the same, though in a slightly different order: in ascending order, FL, OH, VA, NJ, MA, PA, IL, NY, TX and CA.

Statistics on users of the OVF-FAWCO website are very much in line with those found by OVF, the Federal Voting Assistance Program and the Election Assistance Commission on the total overseas voter community and (with the exception of women being in the great majority) represent, in a sense, a “thumbnail” image of those voters. FAWCO is grateful for the support of non-partisan Overseas Vote Foundation and proud to facilitate participation in the overseas voting process.



Learning Leadership at the Eleanor Roosevelt Center

Since 2008, in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt's efforts to empower the next generation of principled leaders who will create a just and sustainable world, FAWCO has been supporting the Eleanor Roosevelt Girls Leadership Workshop (GLW).

The goal of the nine-day GLW workshop is to form confident, independent, courageous and passionate women leaders through the study of Eleanor Roosevelt's work and accomplishments. The program also organized a two-day trip to New York City to meet with professionals from the United States Mission to the UN, the NoVo Foundation and the Girl Up Campaign. Following my participation in GLW, I now understand what a leader must be. A leader shows compassion and confidence in times of pain and despair and inspires others to do the same. Being a true leader means helping other people on the team, not only leading them, but being one of them while investing time in believing in them. At the end of the program, a leadership award was presented by the Giving Back Foundation. I had the honor of receiving this award based on four leadership qualities - courage, curiosity, collaboration and compassion.

- Valia Mitsaki, daughter of Alexandra Mitsaki (AWO, Greece)

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' GLW helped me learn about following my dreams, leadership and acting like a lady by speaking up and expressing my feelings about issues to people I might not know very well. I now believe I can change the world in a small way by helping girls in my school increase their self-esteem through art and music. I'm paying tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt and her ideals by making my school a more nurturing environment for girls. I would encourage every teenage girl to apply to the GLW - it was the best experience of my life."

- Julia Meloy Goldsby, daughter of Robin Goldsby (AIWC Cologne)



Valia Mitsaki (center) with an enthusiastic group of GLW participants.



Julia Goldsby with family friends Emilio and Carole Delgado on graduation day.

By Carina Hoang, AWC Perth - Special Representative for Australia for UNHCR

Former Vietnamese Refugee Appointed to UNHCR

The Vietnamese Diaspora that followed the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 was one of the largest mass migrations of the late twentieth century. With tremendous effort, the UNHCR helped nearly one million boat people from Vietnam settle in the United States or elsewhere.

When I was 16 years old, I escaped Vietnam on a wooden boat with my two siblings and 370 other people. We endured violent storms, pirate raids and severely unsanitary conditions to make it to Indonesia, only to find ourselves stranded on an uninhabited island for almost three months until we were rescued by the UNHCR. Every day, someone died from disease and malnutrition.

On June 20th, as part of World Refugee Day, I was appointed Special Representative for Australia for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's charity in Australia. As my grandparents often taught me - "uong nuoc nho nguon," meaning "remember the source when you drink the water" - I will never forget the UNHCR.

There are now more than 43 million people worldwide who have been forced to leave their homes because of conflict and persecution. In 2011, more than 800,000 people crossed borders in search of refuge. This was higher than at any time in the last decade.

Having made a pledge to raise awareness of boat people and their stories, last year I published my first book, *Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975-1996*. On June 4, 2011 in New York, my book received an award as *Best Regional Non-Fiction (Australia and New Zealand)* in the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards. Australia for UNHCR National Director, Naomi Steer, has said that the story "reminds us of the frustration, humiliation, joy, hope and resilience of refugees."



By Anne van Oorschot – Target Program Chair



Target Program: *Wells for Clean Water* in Home Stretch of Three-Year Campaign

FAWCO's Target Program is in the home stretch and our race to the finish of this three-year awareness and fund-raising program is getting exciting! Our goal was to increase awareness about the global issue of water, as well as raise money for *Wells for Clean Water* in Cambodia. The response from clubs has been overwhelming and over \$115,000 has been raised to date, resulting in the creation of about 550 wells in Cambodia.

Another goal is to have as many of FAWCO's clubs as possible participate in the Target Program, and as of September 2012, about 60% of FAWCO's clubs have raised awareness while raising funds. Many clubs who have not yet been actively involved are planning water events for the last months of 2012 to join in FAWCO's water family. Still other clubs have supported alternate water projects. While their donations are not shown in the above total, they will certainly be included in our final Target total...and more water donations keep coming in!

Together, we are truly changing the flow...



10,356 families began growing rice year-round this past program year.

FAWCO clubs raised over \$115,000 which created about 550 wells in Cambodia.



Their spendable income changes dramatically - less than 50 cents a day to an average of \$6,000 USD per year (\$16.00 per day).

By Jane Ritskes - Founder of Tabitha



Target Water Project: Report from the Field, on the Ground in Cambodia



It is the men who are very clear as to the impact this has had on their lives. A consistent comment was, "I bought my children back."



276 Field wells - used by two families for a kitchen garden, cooking and drinking, personal hygiene, and for the irrigation of 10 acres, allowing for intensive year round agriculture.

In the past 12 months, we were able to install 2,597 sources of water directly impacting 5,350 families.

The impact on our families is immense! Their spendable income changes dramatically - less than 50 cents a day to an average of \$6000 USD per year (\$16.00 per day). When I visited our Takeo project, I was stunned by the intelligence of our families. The families had an average of two hectares of land, but the land was broken into various plots where they were growing rice at different stages. Families were constantly harvesting and earning monthly income from their rice.

One lady, Theira, was so excited with eyes full of joy as she showed me her plots being harvested that day, but it is the men who are very clear as to the impact this has had on their lives. A consistent comment was, "I bought my children back." I cannot begin to imagine under what circumstances so many of the men chose to sell their children, but I do know the circumstances that are bringing the children home. 10,356 of our families began growing rice year-round this past program year.

For other families, growing vegetables of all kinds brings about change. Last week in our Kandal project, I visited 60 hectares of newly grown vegetables: corn, tomatoes, lettuce of all kinds, and surprisingly, things like Spanish onions, large green peppers and ginger. (I never knew that Cambodia could grow such a wide variety of foods.) 9,120 families were able to begin raising vegetables this past year.

*Thanks to Tabitha supporters,
2,597 new sources
of water were
installed this year,
directly impacting
5,350 families.*

By Ellie LeBaron - AWA Doha, FAWCO Education Co-Chair

Americana for Children

Remember when you said The Pledge of Allegiance every day in school? I do. But are your school-age children learning “The Pledge” or many of those other bits of American culture that we learned either formally or “by osmosis” by virtue of our having grown up in the U.S.? Most American schools overseas are American in terms of faculty and curriculum, but not in terms of enrollment, and therefore, things “American” can’t really be taught. Or maybe your children are attending international or local schools or are being home-schooled? Unless you, the parent, make a conscientious effort to educate your offspring, they are probably unfamiliar with many of those traditions, songs, and histories that help give us that “American” identity.

Women in Doha (AWA Qatar) and Dubai (AWA Dubai) have decided to do something about this and have started monthly programs entitled “Americana” or “Americana for Children” that have been hugely popular with children (ages 3-10) and their parents alike. They would like to share those programs with you so that you can easily start your own Americana program with very little effort. For more information, visit our page at FAWCO.org/Americana.

Who are the individuals organizing this program? Most, but not all, are mothers. Some, but not many, are teachers. All are enthusiastic people who themselves want to learn more about the U.S. and want to pass on their enthusiasm and knowledge to the children. AWA Qatar is fortunate to have a music teacher

who leads the singing. The rest of us, who come from various backgrounds, find ourselves doing things we’ve never done before (including writing skits). We’re saving all our materials and recycling them as needed. Best of all, the kids keep coming back for more, asking if they can be in the skits and giving advice to others on showing proper respect for the flag. There was a real gap in their education and we’re doing what we can to fill it. And what’s great is that we, the adults, are learning at the same time!



Children and adults are enthusiastic about the “Americana for Children” program launched by AWA Qatar and AWA Dubai.

By Therese Hartwell - Former President of the American Women's Group of Eastern Province, Saudia Arabia, and member of FAWCO's Ending Violence Against Women Task Force

March of Peace in Srebrenica

In July 1995, more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys of Srebrenica were killed marking the largest mass murder committed in Europe since World War II. In July 2012, I had the honor of participating in the annual *March of Peace* a three-day, 120 km route which commemorates victims of the 1995 genocide. The march, now in its eighth year, takes the exact route followed by the refugees as they tried to escape the massacre. Over the years, this march has attracted thousands of participants. I participated with a fundraising team from *Women for Women International*, an organization whose mission is to serve women survivors of war.

One of the biggest challenges of the trek was the heat and humidity. I also had not realized just how much of the terrain was hilly to mountainous. At one point, part of our team took what we thought was a “shortcut” and ended up climbing an extremely steep hill with very few handholds – a terrain typical of what the fleeing men had experienced. As daunting as the physical challenges were, we found ourselves tested equally by the emotional challenge. Our team included a man, Elvir, who had been part of the original march to safety when he was only 16 years old. Elvir’s father and brothers who did not flee “into the woods” were all murdered near Srebrenica.

To learn more about the work of Women for Women International, or to consider participating in the March of Peace in 2013, visit their website. You may also join FAWCO’s participation in WfWI’s *Join Me at the Bridge* campaign on March 8th at the conference in Bern.



Therese Hartwell (center) with Women for Women International participants in the March of Peace.

By My-Linh Kunst - AWC Berlin , FAWCO President 2011-13

FAWCO President's Message

To quote **Valia Mitsaki**, a **FAWCO daughter** (**AWO Greece**) who attended the Eleanor Roosevelt Girls Leadership Worldwide (page 3), "FAWCO has helped me understand that in this universe I don't only exist as an individual but also as part of the worldwide community with a basic goal to sustain the well-being of my world and the people in it."



FAWCO President 2012-13
My-Linh Kunst, AIWCC
(Cologne)

Reading **Theresa Hartwell's** moving account of her March for Peace or **Carina Hoang's** own harrowing refugee story resulting in her work with UNHRC (page 3) or **Janne Ritkes'** letter about the impact of FAWCO wells in Cambodia (page 5), I feel blessed to be part of this global community, where FAWCO members can and do make a difference every day.

In 2012, FAWCO is proud of our work in member services, implementing a best practices online library sourced by our member clubs to be shared with each other. We are proud of our US Issues Team, who has been able to raise awareness on Capital Hill, in the press and with our members about the hardships

on Americans living overseas caused by the new tax and banking regulations. We are proud of the work of our Global Issues Task Forces, particularly the global calls to action to raise awareness on women and children issues. And most significantly, we are

proud that we have improved the lives of thousands of families in Cambodia through our *Target Water Project* (photo, right).

Each and every one of us can make a change, whether it be in our own neighborhood or through FAWCO, to the wider world. Together, our voices carry far and wide.

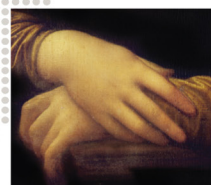


Register now for FAWCO's Biennial Conference in Bern, Switzerland, March 6-9, 2013.

Come celebrate the progress of women with our conference theme, **women tradition innovation**. Registration and information at fawco.org.

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By Elizabeth Abbot - FAWCO 2nd VP for Member Clubs

FAWCO Adds Value to its Member Clubs

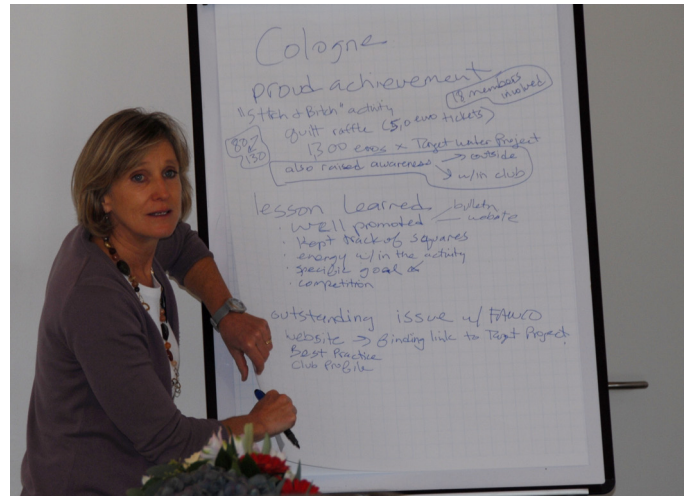
All American and international women’s clubs around the world attend to the needs of their members for connection and friendship. Many of these clubs also reach out to their local communities through fundraising initiatives and hands-on community service. Only a small number of clubs choose to leap out of their local pond into a bigger sea with FAWCO.

FAWCO clubs are dynamic. They are ready to grow and develop. They acknowledge and respond to the changing needs of their membership by tapping into the FAWCO network to share best practices, acquire knowledge and develop the skills they need to be successful, strong and sustainable in the 21st century.

FAWCO clubs reach out. They are ready to enlarge their circle of influence. While caring for their membership and local communities, they also invite and embrace opportunities to engage in the greater world through the FAWCO network, resources and philanthropic programs.

FAWCO clubs take action. They are ready to take part on the world stage. They support the UN Millennium Development Goals by participating in philanthropic projects or applying for grants through the FAWCO Foundation in support of their preferred development projects.

FAWCO clubs stand up. They are ready to have a bigger voice. They join forces with FAWCO to defend the rights of American women overseas concerning citizenship, voting, taxes and banking and provide up to date information on these issues to their membership. They also join forces with FAWCO to take a stand on issues that international women care about: women’s rights, education, environment and health.



2nd Vice President Elizabeth Abbot explains added value and the ways in which individual clubs can engage in the greater world through the FAWCO network, resources and philanthropic programs.

FAWCO clubs want to give their membership something more. Through the FAWCO alumni association (FAUSA) repatriating members have continued support. Transient members have support with future relocation(s). Long-term abroad members find growth and development opportunities outside their local club and community. All members gain a greater sense of purpose and meaning through opportunities to interact with women all over the world, participate in UN initiatives and give back.

By Kara Fairchild - AWC Gothenburg, FAWCO Region 2 Coordinator

Region 2 Meeting Health and Well-being in Stockholm

What do health and well-being mean to you? In late September, over 50 women from all over Region 2 (Scandinavia and Russia) gathered in Stockholm to explore this question.

The weekend kicked off with a potluck hosted by **AWC of Stockholm**. That evening, local club members mingled with out of town FAWCO guests and received a cultural boost from a reading of Nanna Svendsen’s poem “Cross Cultural” and a viewing of Joanie Rafidi’s documentary about the history of the AWC of Stockholm.

The meeting on Saturday was held at the beautiful History Museum. First, there was an overview of FAWCO from **2nd VP Elizabeth Abbot**, then an explanation of “water footprint,” from **FAWCO’s Environment Task Force Chair Kara Fairchild**. We followed with a tutorial on how to organize your finances and information online with the understanding that to have control of one’s financial life is a form of wellbeing. The session ended with an introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the connection between mind, body and soul. In between serious sessions, participants were treated to short exercise sessions and tours of different museum rooms.



Region 2 clubs soak up the culture in Stockholm.

All-in-all, the Region 2 Regional was fun, energetic and lively. Thank you to **Helen Borland** and the AWC of Stockholm for a fantastic weekend!

By Elizabeth Kennedy - AWC The Hague, FAWCO Region 4 Coordinator

Region 4 Travels to Amsterdam

This year's FAWCO Region 4 Meeting was hosted by AWC Amsterdam with fifteen women travelling from within the region and beyond.

Participants were welcomed on Friday evening at the home of the **AWC Amsterdam** treasurer for dinner together with local club members. On Saturday morning, we got down to business with **Elizabeth Abbot, FAWCO 2nd VP**, who provided an informative overview of FAWCO.

There were three different philanthropic presentations. The first was from **Emily van Eerten** who updated us on the FAWCO Target Program. AWC Amsterdam members **Christie Clark** and **Carol Tarr-Tsaltas** gave us an overview of philanthropic efforts of their club which included helping a local women's shelter and

traveling around the world with *Habitat for Humanity*. Carol is an outreach ambassador in the fight to end domestic violence and she gave a dramatic, yet informative, presentation. Finally, **Eileen Baker** from **AWC The Hague** described her club's efforts with the Heart Pillow Project.

After lunch, AWC Amsterdam member **Constanze Woelfe** gave a presentation on tax issues for Americans living abroad informing us on tax law updates. On a lighter note, we had an American comedian from a local comedy club give us a few laughs over the upcoming election, as well as poking fun of some things in the Dutch culture. To end the day, **Elizabeth Abbot** had each rep talk about one best practice from their club. Ideas were exchanged on multiple issues of club success.

By Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann - AWC Hamburg, FAWCO Region 5 Coordinator

Region 5 Meeting in Augsburg with the AIWA

Our annual November-Regional FAWCO and FUN meeting was a gem! All eight clubs were represented, some with up to five members, plus a guest club from Erlangen, a possible new FAWCO member.

Our meeting started with a reading by **Wendy Williams**, member of the **AWA Vienna** and author of *The Globalization of Love*. The key topic of our meeting, *The Future Directions of FAWCO*, was managed by **Laurie Richardson, AWA Vienna**, Committee Chairperson of FAWCO's Resolutions and Recommendations.

In another session, **FAWCO President My-Linh Kunst** reviewed our experiences with FAWCO's now ending *Target Water Project* and collected proposals for changes for future Target Programs. **Tricia Saur** from the **AIWC Cologne** reported on the HR6263 and offered information and support to other clubs. **Tonya Teichert**, from the **AWC Taunus** gave an update on the Violence against Women Task Force. **Elizabeth Abbott** and **Margaret Hilditch** gave updates on the goals and work of FAWCO and the FAWCO Foundation and collected issues and proposals from the clubs.



Host club, **AIWA (Augsburg International Women's Association)** offered a warm welcome, comfortable accommodation, plus a great side program, turning us all into Augsburg fans.



Wendy continued the next morning with *The International You*, a cultural identity and multicultural experience.



Region 5 clubs hard at work. **Nicola Roberts, FAWCO Rep, AWA Augsburg**, front.

By Amy Patrick - North American Connection, England

US Tax Session Hosted by NAC

This past June, **Helena Turner** from FAWCO sponsor **US Tax & Financial Services Ltd**, London, traveled to the West Midlands, England, to present a tax seminar to a group of **North American Connection (NAC)** members and concerned spouses. Those who attended found Helena's advice helpful in navigating the ever-changing landscape of expatriate US tax compliance. The NAC keeps an archive of the US Tax & Financial Services presentations and handouts on their Yahoo Groups service so that any member who could not attend may still download this important information.

Since the presentation, the IRS has announced more lenient measures in dealing with delinquent expat filers. (Read about the new measures that took effect on September 1, 2012 at US Tax's online blog.) You may also see their website to subscribe to the US Tax and Financial Services newsletter to have these updates delivered directly to your inbox. US Tax and Financial Services also offers *special FAWCO tax preparation rates* for anyone who still has not filed their income taxes or for anyone confused about which forms you are required to file while residing outside of the USA.

Don't forget that many of us are also responsible for filing an FBAR/foreign bank account declaration if the balance of our foreign bank account exceeds \$10,000 on any one day.

2013 Club Anniversaries

American Women's Association of Angola
2003 - 10 years

The American Women's Club of Perth
1968 - 45 years

American Women's Organization of Greece
1948 - 65 years

The American Women's Club of Bombay
1983 - 30 years

American Women's Association of Kenya
1958 - 55 years

The American Women's Club of Lebanon
1953 - 60 years

American Women's Organization of Moscow
1993 - 20 years

American Women of the Eastern Province
1993 - 20 years

Barcelona Women's Network
1998 - 15 years

American Women's Club of Gothenburg
1948 - 65 years

By Kristina Didouan - AAWE Paris

Water Glasses for Wells in Paris



FAWCO Foundation Vice President Programs, Nan de Laubadère, launches AAWE Paris' "Water Glasses for Wells" project with a sip.

AAWE Paris FAWCO Rep Sallie Chaballier has launched the club's online auction of hand-painted "water" glasses, a fitting fund-raiser for FAWCO's Target Water Project. A donation from one of the members of the AAWE's Handicrafts group, the glasses are inspired by 16th century Venetian designs – meticulously hand-painted for a 21st century cause. The project is not only a FAWCO fund-raiser, but a means to raise club awareness of the importance of water in the developing world. Every sip counts!



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By Carol Tarr-Tsaltas - AWC Amsterdam

Roaring '20s in Amsterdam



In the second of four big celebrations planned for this year, the **American Women's Club of Amsterdam** celebrated their 85th anniversary on the evening of October 6th after a day filled with the intense program of the FAWCO Region 4 Conference.

The anniversary party was held at Desmet Studios, the façade of which dates to 1926, and it showcased the light-hearted, fun-loving and humorous side of AWCA women and their partners. Since the club was founded in 1927, the theme was *The Roaring '20s* and individual interpretations included everything from gangsters and molls to glamorous stars of stage and screen. There were plenty of feathered boas, feathered headbands, opera-length pearls, fringed and sequined dresses and fedoras in attendance. On the dance floor, located behind the prohibition-themed bar serving "bathtub" gin cocktails, members tried their feet at the Lindy Hop, the Charleston and other dances of the era.

By Tricia R. Saur - AIWC Cologne

Knitting for Water in Cologne



On Wednesday, September 12th the **AIWC Cologne** held their annual Welcome Back Brunch. This year, there was a buzz in anticipation of the raffle as the talented ladies from the club's *Stitch 'n' Bitch* group had spent the previous four months creating a beautiful water themed afghan; 18 individuals contributed 130 squares. As Activity Co-Leader **Sally Webersinke** explains, "The experience of working towards our goal so intensively, so cooperatively and yet still with lots of chatter and laughter was very rewarding and has certainly deepened our friendships." The raffle of the afghan raised € 1330! All proceeds will be donated to FAWCO's Target Water Project to support the building of wells in Cambodia.

By Cynthia Smith - AIWC Casablanca

AIWCC Celebrates 50 Years



AIWCC was founded in 1962 by Mrs. Tomlison, the then U.S. Consul General's wife. The small group of members wanted to help the lepers in a local hospital and their first fundraiser was selling greeting cards. In 1963, the AWC opened up to English-speaking women of all nationalities and was registered with the authorities as the American Women's Club. In 1978 AWC joined FAWCO and in 1996 was changed to American International Women's Club of Casablanca.

Presently, there are more than 120 members of 25 different nationalities. AIWCC organizes social activities, but its main objective is to unite energies and donations to benefit local charities and various development projects throughout Morocco. In the last ten years AIWCC has distributed about 250,000Dh annually (\$29,000) to charities - that's 2.5 million dirhams (\$300,000) in the last decade!

By Elizabeth Abbot - AILO Florence, 2nd VP Member Clubs

COCO-Mat Heart Pillows



FAWCO clubs around the world have embraced the Heart Pillow Project creating and distributing heart pillows for breast cancer patients in their local communities. The international company COCO-MAT, a recognized leader for sleep products, bed linens, towels and furniture for homes and hotels, has joined the Heart Pillow Project in the countries in which it operates (South Korea, China, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Germany, France, Belgium and the USA).

In Greece, COCO-MAT sponsored a project together with **AWOG Athens**. Project coordinator **Grace Christovasilis** is hoping to spread this sponsorship to other FAWCO clubs with Heart Pillow Projects.

2013 FAWCO Foundation Programs

The 2013 Foundation Programs will feature **\$21,500** in Education Awards and **\$31,500** in Development Grants. Guidelines, eligibility information and applications can be found at fawcofoundation.org.

The Development Grants program includes grants in seven categories, each of which targets an area of global concern in keeping with the UN Millennium Development Goals. The Development Grant program is open to all FAWCO clubs and to FAUSA, each of which can propose two of their charitable projects. These \$4,500 grants can provide immediate financial relief in a difficult economic situation for organizations dedicated to helping underprivileged populations throughout the world.

2013 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

\$4,500 each:

- **AW Surrey Hope Through Education**
- **Critical Health Concerns**
sponsored in part by AWC Zurich
- **FAUSA Right to Food and Water**
sponsored in part by FAUSA and Copley Family
- **Pam Dahlgren Educating Africa's Children**
- **American Women of the Eastern Province Skills for Life**
sponsored in part by AILO Florence
- **Around the Corner, A World Away**
sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa in memory of Carol Bordoni
- **The Coughlan Foundation**
Prevention and Treatment of HIV/ Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis



The Education Awards program includes three Academic Studies Awards for children of FAWCO and FAUSA members studying in the fields of Arts, Science and Humanities. Two Awards are open to FAWCO and FAUSA members pursuing degree-based studies and skills-enhancement programs. We continue to offer The Dual Cultural Award for children or grandchildren of FAWCO members wishing to undertake high school programs or specialized summer programs in the United States.

2013 ACADEMIC AWARDS :

- **Viola Wheeler Arts Award, \$4,000**
- **Sciences Award, \$3,500**
sponsored in part by AWC Zurich and AIWC Genoa in memory of Frieda Baciagalupo
- **Humanities Award, \$3,500**
sponsored in part by AAWE Paris in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix

FAWCO MEMBERS AWARDS:

- **AWC Basel Members Award for University Degree Programs, \$5,000**
sponsored by Shirley Kearney
- **FAUSA Members Skills Enhancement Award, \$3,000**

OTHER AWARDS:

- **Dual Cultural Award in memory of Suzanne Erismann, \$1,500**
sponsored in part by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern

Left: AW Surrey Hope Through Education 2012 Development Grant partially financed the building of a school that will teach English and computer skills to children in Sri Lanka. Specifically, the grant built the "loggia" of the library.

Your Club can Sponsor a Development Grant or Educational Award

What better way to celebrate a significant club anniversary, honor a special club member or memorialize a family member than to support a Development Grant (DG)? To be named as a co-sponsor, you need to make a minimum contribution of \$1,000. To have your name in the title, the contribution is \$4,500. However, ANY size donation gets us closer to our goal of fully funding all the DGs your clubs want.

We also need funding for our annual Education Awards: Arts, Humanities, Sciences and the Dual Cultural Award.

For more information contact president@fawcofoundation.org.

NEED Scholarship Program

The FAWCO Foundation continues our partnership with The Friends of Burkina Faso and NEEDED (Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education et Developpement, a local non-profit organization in Northern Burkina Faso) to provide post-secondary school scholarships to young village women. Once graduating from secondary school, they will continue their studies in midwifery, nursing, primary school teaching or continue on to university. Our 2012 donation of \$6,000 will fully fund the education and housing of two girls for a two-year nursing training and one girl for a two-year primary teaching program. For more information see fawcofoundation.org.



PRESIDENT

Michele Hendrikse DuBois, Munich IWC
president@fawcofoundation.org

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Cynthia Smith-Ayed, AIWC Casablanca
vpcommunications@fawcofoundation.org

VP FUNDRAISING

Suzanne Wheeler, AWC Brussels
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org

VP PROGRAMS

Nan de Laubadère, AAWE Paris
vpprograms@fawcofoundation.org

SECRETARY

Margaret Hilditch, Munich IWC
secretary@fawcofoundation.org

TREASURER

Kathy Coughlan, AW Surrey
treasurer@fawcofoundation.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Elsie Bose, AWG Paris
parliamentarian@fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization registered in the State of Missouri. Direct donations to The Foundation are tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law.

For more information please contact:
info@fawcofoundation.org.

Donate while Shopping with iGive.com

Have you been thinking that you want to find a way to make a donation to The FAWCO Foundation? Now you can shop online and at the same time and AT NO ADDITIONAL cost to you, make a donation to the FAWCO Foundation. The FAWCO Foundation is registered as a "cause" on www.iGive.com, the first online shopping mall "committed to turning everyday online shopping into donations for worthy causes at no cost to shoppers or the causes they support."

To make online shopping work for The FAWCO Foundation register with iGive.com:

1. Visit <http://www.iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?c=54027&m=760552>
2. Fill out the simple registration form and submit (write down your password!).
3. Once registered, the site will take you to its home page.
4. Find your favorite retailer and shop 'til you drop!
5. A percentage amount of the purchase (before shipping and taxes) will be calculated and sent to The FAWCO Foundation.

Please note: If you enter the website using the basic iGive.com website address, (and not from the link above) you will have to enter "FAWCO Foundation" as your cause.