



CONNECTIONS Letter from Headquarters



Kathleen

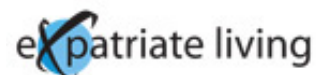
Simon
FAWCO President
AWC Bern

Summer 2009

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Dear Kathleen,

Hello and welcome back! It has been a wet and cold summer in Europe, however, I hope all of you had a touch of sunshine somewhere, as well as special vacation time with your families.

Some people follow the modern mantra of individualism whereby an individual's duty is to make the most of their own life rather than contribute to the good of others. I prefer to follow the mantra of the 'happiness tsar' Professor Layard from the London School of Economics (Financial Times, May 9, 2009) who says you are happier when you belong to something greater than yourself. FAWCO and all the fantastic people that I have met and worked with through FAWCO are inspiring stuff for me!!

Working Together

The new FAWCO Board have been working hard at it now for five months and what we've accomplished has been a result of real teamwork. I want to thank each of my team for their support and effort in tackling so many new issues and reaching out to achieve our goals. Let me bring you up to date.

The FAWCO Board has benefited for over a year now from The FAWCO Foundation President participating in our discussions and meetings. I am thrilled that The FAWCO Foundation have now invited Janelle Mason our 2nd Vice President Member Clubs to participate in their discussions and meetings.

Join us in Boston!

From March 11-14, 2010, FAWCO will hold its annual conference in Boston, Mass. FAUSA (FAWCO Alumnae USA, Inc), as the conference host will be celebrating their 10th birthday and welcome FAWCO back to the USA after 10 years (our first-ever conference there was in Washington in 2000). FAUSA anticipates welcoming some 200+ delegates and their guests, representing FAWCO's 15,000+ members worldwide. Mark your agenda, and why not visit family and friends right after the conference!

The FAWCO Board have reduced the Boston Interim Conference from 4 to 3 ½ days to reduce time away from work and family as well as to save that extra night in the hotel. Travel day is Wednesday March 10 and General Sessions start Thursday March 11 at 8:30am. Sessions and events will continue until Sunday March 14th at 12:00 noon. It will mean a tight and very dense schedule but together let's make it work. I appreciate your support and am pleased to tell you that the FAWCO Board just approved an all-inclusive fee of \$675 (€472.60 at today's exchange rate) (including all meals). We think this is terrific value for a conference in Boston and hope that you will put the date in your diary and encourage as many club members to attend as possible! Stay tuned for news very soon on pre-conference tours.

Charlotte DeWitt (FAUSA) our Boston conference co-chair has unfortunately had to step down due to the fact that her professional activities are demanding more and more of her time. FAWCO is very sad to lose Charlotte's professional insights but we send our congratulations to Charlotte for the following fantastic achievement: The International Festivals & Events Association has announced the induction of one of the festival and event industry's finest professionals into its prestigious IFEA Hall of Fame - Charlotte DeWitt, CFEE, President of International Events, Ltd., Boston, MA.

Charlotte said "Thank you for letting me be a part of this terrific organization once again. We have assembled a dedicated conference team capable of delivering an outstanding event, and with your leadership and direction, I know Boston 2010 will be a great success".

Technical Advisory Group

I have found a great team for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Under Cat Conner's (AWC Hamburg) supervision they are evaluating our website and our webhosting offer with a view to optimizing its service to all of you and our wider community. Look for more news in October.

FAWCO is known by its acronym as you suggested in the "Vision for the Future" survey last year. That Task Force also recommended we have a **tag line** and a survey was sent to Reps

and Club Presidents in June. These results will be part of the final selection process by the FAWCO Board. Look for a new **tag line** by October this year.

Here is Our Team

Do you know what each officer does other than what they tell you on Facebook! For starters each is an editor for the website, and our Constant Contact messaging service, which I am using for *Connections: Letter from Headquarters*, provides FAWCO with a consistent and immediately recognizable web presence. Next we will all be using Twitter! Jane Indreland (FAUSA) our Boston Conference Chair and I hope to have Twitter Reporters in Boston with Alice Grevet (AAWE Paris), our Web Manager offering Workshops on 'Be a User not a Loser': Facebook, Twitter, Google Documents as well as SKYPE.

I want to ask each of you to send your questions and problems directly to the officer who deals with that area.

Communications: My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin), 1st Vice President, has overseen our recently migrated website which will have a new Homepage soon, a revamping of our advertising rate card, a new style FORUM and a renewed focus on public relations. With her team, My-Linh is working hard to attain our goals of increasing website effectiveness and raising the external awareness of FAWCO. Her team includes Alice Grevet (AAWE Paris) our Web Manager, Madeline Morrow (AWC London) as Public Relations Manager, Valerie Briggs (AWC Korea) our FORUM Editor and Juliane Maggi (AWC Zurich) our Advertising Manager.

My-Linh is here to help with all your communications and web queries. Send her an email at vp-communications@fawco.org

Meanwhile our website has been migrated to a larger server and it remains 'under construction' while the information is uploaded and links are set up. We appreciate your patience while we put the finishing touches on a new Homepage look.

Member Clubs: Janelle Mason (AWC Basel), 2nd Vice President, has direct contact with our Reps and Club Presidents and has taken on this role with great enthusiasm as well as looking forward to her new role as FAWCO liaison to The FAWCO Foundation board. Janelle is the author of our monthly 'News-in-Brief' newsletter keeping all subscribed members up to date with FAWCO news. Marlene Broemer (AWC Finland) is our new Club 'Presidents' Coordinator'.

The 2009-2011 FAWCO Board's first goal is to increase our member club support, our 2nd Vice President and her team have rocketed forward with bringing FAWCO to our clubs as she is working with Celeste Brown (AWC The Hague) our Resource & Training Manager to devise programs on topics that will help our member clubs derive a real service from FAWCO. Together Janelle and Terri Knudsen (AWC Aarhus) are developing an Expat Issues guideline as well.

All problems and questions regarding our Member Clubs, Club Presidents and Reps should be directed to Janelle, who is best placed to recognize problem area trends that need to be addressed. vp-memberclubs@fawco.org

Task Force & Committees: Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne), 3rd Vice President, has taken on our fourth goal of promoting the FAWCO Target Program with enthusiasm, great organizational skills and terrific support from her Task Force Co-Chairs. Find information on the 'target' and submission forms on line at www.fawco.org.

This program is divided into two steps: (1) selection of a philanthropic focus called the "Target," the search for which is already underway, led by the FAWCO global task forces; and (2) the selection of a specific project called the "Bull's Eye Project" for which The FAWCO Foundation

will coordinate the fundraising effort. A FAWCO-wide awareness and education campaign is an integral part of this new program and will be conducted throughout the course of the Target Program.

Following discussion with our active team of volunteer "global committee" Chairs, Michelle is now using the term Task Force rather than Committee, feeling this is much more proactive and attractive to our members to join in. Michelle plans on linking task force goals and work more firmly to our Resolutions and Recommendations, creating a stronger bond between their work and the UN Millennium Goals which is the goal of the Target Program. Visit our website to read what each global task force seeks to do and then join them!!

Michelle will field all questions regarding the work of our numerous task forces, committees and the Target Program. vp-committees@fawco.org

Our **Secretary, Genette Eysselinck (AWG Languedoc-Roussillon)**, has moved our board meetings and Skype calls into a modern technical world just 'a mouse click away' by teaching us how to use Google Documents, Calendar, etc. Genette keeps the FAWCO Directory up to date on our website and reminds all of us to write to addresschange@fawco.org when you have a new Rep or Club President! Genette has on her radar screen the plan to find volunteers who are willing to put in some time and energy to perform various tasks, such as Laurie Wallbank (AWG Languedoc-Roussillon) who keeps our database up to date. secretary@fawco.org

Carol Kamphuis (AWC Luxembourg) as FAWCO Treasurer is a star at keeping us to our budget while working it so we can finance some of our new projects. As well as handling all FAWCO transactions in a timely manner, Carol works closely with our bank contacts in managing our resources with utmost care and concern. As a valuable part of the FAWCO team Carol has set a goal of fostering a working relationship with our member clubs and is always willing to provide financial guidance to our local clubs. Write to her at treasurer@fawco.org.

The FAWCO board are moving forward and we want you with us! Enjoy the rest of the summer and best wishes for the start of the school year.

Kathleen

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www.fawco.org

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