

THE RED BOOK

A History
1931-2011



serving overseas Americans and
the international community since 1931

MISSION STATEMENT

The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas is an International network of independent organizations whose mission is:

- To serve as a resource and channel of information among its members;
- To provide a voice for American women abroad and
- To support the rights of all Americans worldwide;
- To contribute actively to the global community with a specific focus
 - On education, the natural and human environment, multicultural
 - Understanding and international good will.

Adopted Athens, 1998; revised Stockholm 2003

Photograph: London 1931. FAWCO Archives.

FOREWORD

A new tag line begins this 80th Anniversary year:

FAWCO...serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931.

In this edition of the FAWCO History, we have tried to be careful editors, wanting to preserve the tones and phrases* of past authors.

They are:

Ruth White and Anna Brady, 1971

Elizabeth Bagney, Pan Hottinger, Shirley Van Ooijen, 1981

Elaine Senigallia, 1991

Elaine Senigallia and Georgia Regnault, 2001

Nancy Thornley and Georgia Regnault, 2006

The 75th Anniversary History Book, published in 2006, was filled with lists and photographs. This update adds five more years, and completes the cycle entitled "The New Century."

Nancy Thornley, Georgia Regnault, Editors
February 2011

**Until 1957, presidents were referred to by their married names; in 1977, "hostess" became "host club" and "chairman" became "chair;" in 1994 "fund-raising" became "fundraising;" in 1997 "Conference" became "Biennial Conference," "Interim Meeting" became "Interim Conference" and "Observer" became "Participant."*

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MILESTONES

1931 Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe formed by seven clubs.

1932 First conference of Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe held in Berlin.

1935 Name changed to Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.

1937 Acronym FAWCO adopted.

1949 First postwar conference, held in Copenhagen; six out of eight clubs attended.

1955 Special Citizenship Committee appointed to work on absentee voting; membership 16 clubs.

1957 Mutual aid project put into operation, and donation sent to victims of Thessaly earthquake.

1965 Peace Through Knowledge adopted as FAWCO project.

1968 FAWCO Foundation established; first grant made to victims of Lisbon flood. Gertrude de Gallaix received Woman of Conscience Award from the National Council of Women of the U.S.A.

1971 First FAWCO Foundation scholarship awarded.

1975 Associate member club category created for those groups with a sizeable non-American membership; AIWC Genoa the first associate club.

1979 First Reps' meeting at a conference; membership 23 clubs.

1981 Conference delegates voted in favor of incorporating FAWCO.

1982 First Interim Meeting opened to all club members. A FAWCO tour organized in Thailand.

1983 *Handbook for the American Family Abroad* published. Membership 29. First meeting of club presidents convened at a Conference; fourth meeting of FAWCO Reps.

1984 *Social Security Benefits Overseas* published.

- 1985 Two clubs, Dusseldorf and Oslo, sponsored a Conference together. Associate clubs granted same voting rights as regular clubs.
- 1986 First Interim Meeting outside Europe (Casablanca).
- 1987 FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund sent to help victims of Mexico earthquake; name changed to FAWCO Relief Fund. Membership 39. Resource center opened in The Hague; index distributed.
- 1989 FAWCO received tax-exempt status. Membership 42. *University Education in the United States—a College Planning Guide* published. Relief funds sent to Lumpa Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone.
- 1990 Affiliate membership created for distant clubs. Promotional video photographed clubs throughout the world. FAWCO a member of the steering committee for the First World Conference of U.S. Citizens.
- 1991 Kuwait club received relief funds for war damage. *The Yeas of FAWCO from 1931 to 1991* distributed. Dues raised by 25%. Founding member of the World Federation of Americans Abroad.
- 1992 New Foundation award: Students with Special Challenges. U.S. citizens now able to work at embassies and consulates. Employment Committee published *American Women and Work Overseas*.
- 1993 First Conference in Africa held in Casablanca; regional meetings in Hamburg and Copenhagen; Asia-Pacific conference in Bangkok. New *Resource Manual for Clubs* distributed. Foundation awarded \$90,000 in scholarships; 28 clubs sponsored applicants. Membership 54.
- 1994 FAWCO applied for NGO status with the UN. Gertrude de Gallaix Annual Award established. Foundation received a bequest of \$50,000 from former President Ruth St. John.
- 1995 President and first vice-president represented FAWCO at the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Seven FAWCO members attended the UN Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing. FAWCO clubs and club members have planted 57,788 trees worldwide. FAWCO and World Federation of Americans Abroad worked on including Americans overseas in the census.
- 1996 FAWCO Alumnae Committee published its first newsletter and proposed hosting the 2000 Interim Meeting in Washington, D.C. All board members online;

FAWCO website (www.fawco.org) established. The 20th anniversary of voting from overseas was celebrated.

1997 Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, spoke at the Dublin Conference, the first head of state to do so. FAWCO was granted special consultative status to UN ECOSOC. Delegates voted to rename Interim Meetings Interim Conferences. Member clubs were divided into 13 regions, each headed by a regional coordinator.

1998 Relief & Development Committee transferred from the Federation to The Foundation. New mission statement formulated. First board meeting held online. Circle of honor created for outstanding service to FAWCO; Shirley van Ooijen the first recipient.

1999 London Conference hosted by four clubs. Resource Center phased out. Circle of Honor awarded to AWC London on its 100th birthday. FAWCO membership 70 clubs.

2000 First Conference in the United States. Circle of Honor presented to Eleanor Fina (Washington Liaison), Kathy Webster (Voting from Overseas), and Caroline Newton (Archives). FAWCO cherry tree planted near Washington Memorial.

2001 Website redesigned; first Foundation Online Auction. FAWCO joined CONGO, the UN Conference of NGOs. Five new member clubs, including India and Finland. First regional meeting held in Asia. FAUSA was incorporated in the State of Texas and joined FAWCO as an affiliate member club.

2002 FAWCO recognized for citizen concerns and UN-related causes; it attended the UN Assembly on Aging in Madrid. Bylaws amended to permit the FAWCO Treasurer to be a non-American. Emergency Relief Fund activated for 9/11.

2003 FAWCO attended the first Overseas American Week in Washington; census for Americans overseas promoted. Bylaws amended to change FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) from an affiliate member club to a separate entity, the alumnae arm of FAWCO.

2004 FAWCO pin launched and Founders Circle inaugurated. FAWCO submitted its Millennium Forest Project to the UN for publication. Foundation Developed Grants restructured.

2005 Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award and FAWCO Fellowship Award established. Kathy Webster honored for her work on overseas voting. Website redesigned. FAWCO pledged to raise \$75,000 for treated bed nets to combat malaria.

2006 Malaria net program raised \$100,000. Emergency funds collected for tsunami in Sri Lanka and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. FAWCO's 75th birthday celebrated with an Anniversary Edition of the History Book. Circle of Honor awarded to Editor Nancy Thornley.

2007 Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary; over one million dollars distributed since its founding. Americans Abroad Caucus established. ERF funds built FAWCO House in Sri Lanka and a study center at Dillard University, New Orleans. Award winners were Phyllis Michaux, Mary Mag, Pam Dahlgren and Ann Di Simoni.

2008 First Conference in Asia. Vision for the future Task Force initiated. New FAWCO website launched and electronic communication expanded. A total of \$135,000 collected for malaria nets. Rep Appreciation Awards inaugurated. Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award given to Cynthia Niggli.

2009 First Conference in 'New Europe,' and held without a host club. Recommendations of the Vision of the Future Task Force adapted. Target program, a more focused approach to philanthropy, launched. Arline Coward and Alice Grevet awarded Circle of Honor.

2010 Second Conference held in the United States. Electronic communication further enhanced. Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) passed. WATER voted as Target Issue. ERF sent to Haiti for earthquake relief.

THE RED BOOK HISTORY

LONDON 1931

The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe that came into being in the spring of 1931 evolved later into The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, or FAWCO.

The growing threat of another war in Europe was one of the many social and political circumstances that contributed to the Federation's emergence. Like all ideas, it started with a dream put into reality through practical application by the right person at the right time. Credit for actual creation of the organization goes to American-born Caroline Curtis Brown who was President of the American Women's Club in London. It was her conviction that enlightened women, working cooperatively throughout the world, could do much to help achieve permanent international peace; and that this was especially true of American women living abroad who had acquired special experience in living in foreign lands among foreign people and foreign customs. Their American clubs provided not only a home away from home, she felt, but also served to promote sympathetic awareness of the needs and problems in countries other than the United States.

An idealist who possessed practical driving energy, Mrs. Curtis Brown had made her own London club outstanding with a membership of some 1500 people, a magnificent clubhouse and a thriving community service program. With equal dedication, she worked to bring the Federation into being.

Early in 1931, supported by her colleagues and encouraged by other American women's club leaders in Europe, especially the Berlin club president, Mrs. Curtis Brown invited some ten of the existing European clubs to send representatives to London to discuss her Federation concept: an association of American women's clubs to work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve problems common to them all, and to aid women whose citizenship rights were being ignored or restricted.

Clubs in Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, Paris, Vienna and Zurich accepted her invitation with enthusiasm. A preliminary planning conference met in the London clubhouse in May 1931. Out of this meeting, attended also by a number of distinguished foreign guests and well reported by the press, came the determination to establish some form of organization. Berlin was chosen as the site for a working conference dedicated to bringing it into being.

I CONFERENCE BERLIN 1932

Exactly one year later, in May 1932, representatives from the clubs of Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, and Zurich, meeting in Berlin, brought The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe into being, electing Mrs. Curtis Brown as its first president and establishing two years as the term for all its officers, with the Headquarters address that of each president. The Federation's Charter specifically stated as its primary objective the furtherance of international peace. It also guaranteed the autonomy of each member club with regard to its internal operations. An annual meeting was established with a different club to act as Conference host each year. In this early period, the Federation was mainly concerned with 'big' issues: furtherance of international peace (with the growth of totalitarianism in Europe in the background), the Equal Rights Bill in the United States and citizenship status for U.S. women married to foreigners. The more immediate issues concerned the education of American children in Europe and a scholarship program.

II CONFERENCE VIENNA 1933

Vienna hosted the 1933 Conference during which an ugly demonstration by Hitler's military forces and a demonstration by the Austrian Landwehr created an atmosphere of tension that emphasized the importance of the Conference's themes: disarmament and the need to educate children to think tolerantly and to develop an international outlook.

The American Literary Club of Belgrade joined the Federation during this Conference. With a membership of only 14, it established the inclusion of small clubs, along with such giants as London (1,400 members) and Paris (1,300), taking part in promoting the Federation's objectives.

III CONFERENCE PARIS 1934

In 1934 representatives of the eight member clubs convened in Paris. Ways to maintain peace again dominated their discussions. It was agreed that, in order to obtain world harmony, the education of peace-loving attitudes in children was essential and required unbiased history books. Birth control was discussed and emphatically advocated.

Conference headquarters was the Paris' lovely Rue Boissière clubhouse. Louise Connett of Paris was elected as the Federation's second president.

IV CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 1935

This Conference at the Hotel des Indes marked a definite advance in the Federation's activities. Three new members, Denmark, Hamburg and Oslo, had joined, bringing the membership to eleven.

Adherence to the World Court of Justice was strongly urged as a means for strengthening machinery to obtain peace.

Again arms reduction was advocated, and objections were voiced against the then common practice of military training for the young.

The problem of the citizenship status of American women married to foreigners was introduced and its often-ambiguous character emphasized.

The publication by Scribner in 1935 of James Truslow Adams's history for American children, *Record of America*, was hailed as an achievement as the Federation felt it had played an important part in bringing about "this commendably unbiased version of American history."

1935 saw the birth of the Federation's publication, *The Bulletin*, a quarterly that immediately met approval for its high literary standards and stimulating content. To finance it, a temporary head tax was introduced during the Conference, as the Federation's dues were not sufficient to cover operating expenses adequately.

As the Conference closed, Mrs. Gasque of London offered to donate \$1,000 a year to the Federation's scholarship fund. This was continued for two years only, but made it possible to launch two promising American candidates on their studies in Europe. Between the 1935 and 1936 Conferences the name was changed to The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas in order to permit clubs beyond the boundaries of Europe to become members.

V CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1936

Hosted by a two-year-old member club at the Phoenix Hotel, this Danish Conference was rated most successful. Credit was attributed in large part to the stimulating presence of the Honorable Ruth Bryan Owen, the American Ambassador to Denmark.

The Equal Rights Bill and the problem of education for American children residing in Europe were the principal topics of discussion.

The Federation elected a member of the London Club, Mrs. James B. Mennell, as president for the ensuing two-year term.

1936 was a bad year for the Federation. The international scene had become extremely somber, precipitating the return of many Americans to the United States. As numbers decreased, so did club memberships. Even the Paris club was forced to close its splendid clubhouse.

VI CONFERENCE ZURICH 1937

The Federation's Sixth Conference at the Hotel Baur au Lac in Zurich was marked by the adoption of the acronym FAWCO.

In addition to discussing the dilemma of the stateless woman, resulting sometimes from an American's marriage to a foreign citizen, attention was drawn to FAWCO's past achievements. President Connett summarized them: the ongoing scholarship program, the Truslow Adams history book, the excellent quarterly *Bulletin* and other intangible benefits, particularly warm, broadening friendships crossing national boundaries.

Documentary evidence of these achievements was presented in meticulously compiled scrapbooks. The work of Mrs. Seavern of London, these beautifully bound records of FAWCO's early history are today one of the Federation's highly valued assets.

VII CONFERENCE HAMBURG 1938

This was a critical year and The Hague, Paris and Vienna were unable to send delegates. For those who did attend it was a memorable experience, not all of it happy to recall.

German officialdom offered sumptuous entertainment in support of the Hamburg club's efforts. Included were numerous specially arranged outings, theater and opera performances, and excursions to Berlin and Potsdam. The FAWCO delegates found themselves ill at ease despite such lavish hospitality. Militarism was blatantly displayed. "Heil Hitler" greetings and terrifying rumors were rampant. The general conformity in the name of efficiency was oppressive and dispiriting.

The Conference itself had cheering aspects. The scholarship program was continuing to hold its own through generous donations from individual club members. Child-labor regulations, the Equal Rights Bill, and the education of American children abroad were discussed. A suggestion that every FAWCO club hold a yearly Peace Luncheon, perhaps to coincide with November 11th memorial services, was presented.

Mary Volkmann of Zurich, the new president, stimulated the delegates with her acceptance speech that emphasized the social responsibilities of Americans living in foreign lands.

VIII CONFERENCE LONDON 1939

Despite mounting international tensions, FAWCO managed to hold its scheduled Conference in the London clubhouse. Ten clubs participated.

A highlight of the Conference was a report about a successful lecture tour throughout the United States by Helen Hielt, FAWCO's second scholarship candidate. The suggestion that a similar scholarship sometimes be given to a European for study in the United States was not generally supported.

The problem of indigent and helpless Americans stranded abroad was discussed. It was recommended that the American government provide its Consulates with funds for such emergencies.

Stockholm was scheduled to host the FAWCO Conference in 1940 and Oslo in 1941. With the declaration of war, all plans had to be abandoned. (Ed. Note: Oslo was considered too much like Stockholm - as well as far from the rest of Europe - and Mrs. Morgenstierne, AWC Oslo, suggested on September 15, ten days after war was declared on September 2, 1939, that perhaps Berlin could host the Conference in 1941. There is no reference to the impending war in the correspondence between the officers, except for a remark on September 10, "what a peaceful world we live in!")

THE WAR YEARS 1940-1948

FAWCO President Volkmann left Switzerland for the United States in the summer of 1939, entrusting the Federation's affairs to Vice-president Morgenstierne of Oslo. Current documentary material was sent to Oslo, including, it appears, the detailed minutes of the 1939 London Conference.

At that time no one could have foreseen the Nazi occupation of Norway and, despite efforts since the war, no trace of this FAWCO material has been found. Mrs. Morgenstierne just managed to escape being deported during the occupation and died of leukemia on December 26, 1946. The great bulk of the FAWCO archives had fortunately been kept in London where, happily, they escaped destruction. What is known of the 1939 Conference was contained in a condensed version of the Conference minutes among the Zurich files, together with the Bulletin report. The Zurich club continued to be active, as Switzerland was not at war, especially in helping the Red Cross and later the International Red Cross in prisoner-of-war work. After 1943, a large number of American flyers landed or parachuted from disabled planes; AWCZ provided kits for them; some were helped across the border by Americans living in Switzerland.

From 1939 until well after the war's end, FAWCO endured a decade of darkness. The war years passed slowly and fearfully, especially for those forced to remain under Nazi rule. Despite occupation of their countries, the clubs in Copenhagen, The Hague and Oslo managed to maintain a sort of identity. Meetings were held in secret; club moneys were taken out of banks and entrusted to individual members. Club records became a bazaar and, for the most part, were destroyed.

Four years after the war ended, Mary Briner of the Zurich club, assisted by Mrs. Blattner, opened correspondence with those FAWCO clubs surviving the war and with the newly established American women's clubs interested in international activities.

THE POSTWAR ERA 1949-1957

IX CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1949

Copenhagen hosted the first postwar conference at the Codan Hotel in October 1949. Eight clubs accepted membership in FAWCO but only six were able to send delegates: Berlin, Brussels (a newly-organized club), Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, and Zurich; Antwerp and London were unable to do so. What this small group lacked in numbers, however, was more than made up for by abundant vitality.

Both old and new problems were faced: how to prevent another world war; how to maintain the precarious peace. Arms limitation was urged as well as measures to prevent the spread of communism and fascism.

Socialized medicine, recently established in Denmark, and the unfavorable criticism of it from American quarters, was discussed, as well as the problem of double taxation for Americans living abroad.

The Conference recommended study groups on international affairs in individual clubs and the fostering of friendship between FAWCO clubs and other clubs in their host countries.

In 1949, finances were a primary problem. FAWCO's prewar assets, some \$460 including scholarship funds, were frozen in Barclay's Bank in London. The Federation's membership dues were minimal at the time with little hope for any substantial increase in the immediate future. As a temporary measure, the voluntary dollar fund was reintroduced whereby individuals could donate to FAWCO. This system was first used in 1936 to implement the scholarship fund.

For the sake of economy, no formal publication for interclub communication was undertaken. Instead, a Round Robin exchange of newsletters between all the FAWCO clubs was instituted until finances would permit something better.

FAWCO Conferences were re-scheduled to meet biennially instead of yearly, shortage of funds being the determining reason.

Mary Briner of Zurich was elected president for the two ensuing years. The next conference was scheduled for Stockholm in 1951.

In 1950 Mrs. Briner was urged by the president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the United States to invite clubs of other nationalities to join FAWCO and make the Federation truly international; the idea was rejected.

X CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM 1951

The Conference took place at the Grand Hotel. The Athens club had joined, bringing the Federation membership up to nine.

The financial situation was given top priority. Barclay's Bank still refused to release the pre-war funds. Again the voluntary dollar fund was suggested, but rejected. Instead, FAWCO dues were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per club per year (before the war they had been \$10.). Delegate fees were introduced and fixed at \$2.00, the money to go toward the Conference expenses of the host club.

Club problems in general were also discussed at length: money-raising projects, libraries, clubrooms, social programs, children's education and scholarships. Hope expressed that FAWCO itself might soon be in a financial position to re-institute its scholarship program

As a way of maintaining close contact with clubwomen in the United States, it was recommended that individual clubs take out membership in both the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women of the United States. Since a publication was still not possible, *The Federation News Exchange* was introduced. It was an improvement on the Round Robin letters in that the material of individual clubs was assembled at a central point and then redistributed.

Inez Hoyer of Oslo was elected president and Brussels chosen to host the 1953 Conference.

XI CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1953

Despite financial insecurity, FAWCO membership had increased to fifteen when the Conference convened in Brussels at the Hotel Gallia & Britannique. This was a particularly forceful Conference. Great optimism prevailed at the meetings despite the as yet unsolved financial problems. They were given a slight boost by raising membership dues to \$10 per club.

The Brussels Club gave an interesting report about its own special fund-raising project. *Hints for Living in Brussels*, a club-edited booklet, had not only won much praise but also provided a steady source of income for the club.

At this time members voted to re-establish the FAWCO *Bulletin* on a modest scale. Two issues were to be printed each year. Member clubs were urged to assist in its financing by obtaining advertising for it. It was agreed that FAWCO should work co-operatively with other interested groups to achieve absentee-voting privileges for U.S. citizens residing abroad. As the status of American women married to foreign nationals was still ambiguous in many countries, further study of their problems was urged.

The fact that many FAWCO clubs raised substantial sums each year for scholarship purposes was reported at the Brussels Conference and warmly applauded. Marge Ganseman of Brussels was elected president and Zurich chosen as the site of the 1955 Conference.

XII CONFERENCE ZURICH 1955

Once again delegates met at the Hotel Baur au Lac. The president stressed the widespread dedication of FAWCO clubs to welfare projects: the combined philanthropic contributions exceeded \$25,000 yearly.

FAWCO clubs numbered sixteen, with four new non-European clubs: Abqaiq, Beirut, Bombay and Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia). With growing FAWCO membership, keeping in touch and learning from each other became even more important. Mrs. Ganseman urged that FAWCO members regularly exchange their publications and provide the *Bulletin* with a yearly summary of their activities.

It was reported that Barclay's Bank had finally released the Federation's pre-war funds and that they were deposited in a Zurich bank and earmarked for scholarship aid. This good news was added to when Patricia Moore, Dhahran's representative, announced that her club wished to donate profits from cookbook sales to the FAWCO scholarship fund. The two amounts totaled some \$900 that was to be donated to the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund to be used at the Fund's discretion. Carmela Renner, the African widow of a doctor, was awarded the scholarship money and used it to great advantage for social work in Sierra Leone.

The question of absentee voting in American elections aroused great interest at the Zurich Conference. A special Citizenship Committee was appointed to work on this project and to keep members informed of its progress.

It was agreed that FAWCO should undertake a fund-raising venture, a FAWCO cookbook. Recipes were to be provided by members of individual clubs so as to include a great variety of national dishes.

Patricia Moore of Dhahran was elected 1955-57 president and Athens chosen as the site of the next Conference.

XIII CONFERENCE ATHENS 1957

At this Conference, held at the Hotel Grand Bretagne and the Y.W.C.A., two member clubs -- the American Women's Organization of Greece and the Hellenic-American Women's Club -- jointly served as hostesses. For the first time an observer (from Madrid) attended a conference, establishing a precedent of inviting observers from non-FAWCO clubs.

It was reported that the sales of the FAWCO *International Cookbook* were very encouraging.

There was an appeal for help in obtaining advertising for the *Bulletin*. Delegates decided to enlarge the format to help attract advertisers, stipulating that the deficit incurred not exceed \$500.

A Mutual Aid project was put into effective operation when the Conference delegates allocated \$200 of Federation funds to be used to aid victims of the calamitous Thessaly earthquake. A number of FAWCO clubs also made donations, bringing the combined contribution to around \$900.

Absentee voting in U.S. elections was again on the agenda, as well as the matter of the preservation and storage of the FAWCO archives. Recommendations included bookbinding of conference minutes and a metal locker for safe storage.

Club programs were discussed, also program planning, club publications, and sponsorship of teenage groups.

To clarify the position of the FAWCO representative, delegates urged that she should be a member of the club's executive committee, but not an officer of her club, lest she be faced with conflicting duties.

President Moore reported on her extensive travels during her administration, considering personal contact a means of vitalizing the Federation.

The highlight of the social program was an audience with Queen Frederica of Greece. The Conference elected Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris the new president and chose Paris as the next Conference site.

GROWTH IN STATURE 1959-67

This was a period of looking outward. While avoiding political issues, FAWCO concerned itself with problems of individual, cultural, educational and welfare activities. It became affiliated with international organizations and women's groups. In addition to continued interest in citizenship rights and dual-nationality problems, attention was turned to the changing pattern of family life, the generation gap and intra-club help and cooperation.

A Federation organ, FAWCO Review, was started, and The FAWCO Foundation established. Many ideas inspired by one club were picked up by FAWCO as a whole, and then in turn taken up by other clubs. Some of them, such as the adoption of the Peace through Knowledge plan, the exchange of local bulletins and the acceptance of associate members in clubs, became part of almost every FAWCO club. Members of the various FAWCO clubs who faced a transfer to another city saw their way eased by an introduction through a letter to the new club.

New, prestigious and large clubs joined the Federation.

XIV CONFERENCE PARIS 1959

The 14th Conference of the Federation took place at the Grand Hotel in Paris in May. Of the 18 member clubs only 13 were able to send representatives.

Fundraising was discussed at length, since financing the Federation and the publication of the *FAWCO Review* were difficult. Volume II of the *FAWCO International Cookbook* was on sale and proving profitable, and a new project proposed by AWC of Denmark was decided on for profit making, a hand-sized reminder book called *Jot and Blot*.

The Citizenship Committee reported its conviction that the only viable solution to the problem of absentee voting was establishing uniform state voting qualifications. Such uniformity could be brought about only within the United States, and the League of Women Voters was working on this program.

The most important discussions at this Conference concerned scholarship awards. AWG Paris attached great value to scholarships; they were the club's only welfare project and upwards of \$3,000 were awarded each year. It was pointed out by one of the speakers, Dr. Dorothy Leet of the American Education Center of Paris, that one approach to choosing scholarship candidates would be through the Fulbright organization, adding that a member of the local club might profitably serve on the Fulbright Committee of her host country.

David Schonbrun, CBS Paris Chief, was among the Conference's memorable speakers. He envisaged a new role for a united Europe of 160 million people as a third major power and peacekeeper in a troubled world. Ruth St. John of The Hague was elected president for the next two years and AWC The Hague offered to host the 1961 Conference.

INTERIM MEETING ROME 1960

Confidence in the Federation's strength led to the introduction of an Interim Meeting, the first yearly get-together since FAWCO's reactivation in 1949. Only the Federation's executive groups were involved in the meeting, which was highly successful. Unfinished Paris business was completed and preparations for The Hague Conference made.

XV CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 1961

Sixteen member clubs sent their delegates to the May Conference in The Hague at the Kurhaus Hotel.

Alicia Paolozzi of Rome gave an enlightening talk about the People-to-People Program initiated during the Eisenhower administration and strongly supported by President Kennedy. Its purpose was the promotion of good relations between the United States and other nations on a personal, non-governmental exchange level. Mr. Kennedy was quoted as saying, "American women speak for our country more directly and more personally than any other representatives sent abroad by the U.S.A."

At this Conference it was decided that the time had come for FAWCO to broaden its scope by associating with international activities while continuing to serve the more immediate needs of its members. Cooperation with the People-to-People Program, with the Peace Corps and, in particular, with the National Council of Women of the United States was proposed.

Extending FAWCO's activities had to involve financial outlay. In May of 1961 the FAWCO bank balance amounted to nearly \$4,000, but income sources were not assured: the *Jot and Blot* books had not been an outstanding success; the proposed commercial publication of Volume I of the *International Cookbook* had met with obstacles; and per capita dues had not proved acceptable as yet (12 member clubs

opposed this plan). A continuation of voluntary contributions was urged, the means of obtaining funds for them left open.

The Conference voted to publish a brochure explaining the Federation's aims and past achievements in order to help make FAWCO known and to increase its prestige.

Four out of the five postwar presidents of FAWCO were among the delegates who attended The Hague Conference and served as an advisory board. (Ed. Note: During the term of President Elizabeth Tiné, 1961-63, past-presidents were designated as Counselors, a title they have retained.)

INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1962

In 1962 the Interim Meeting of FAWCO Officers was held in Brussels. In addition to preparing plans for the 16th Conference, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with implementation of the 1961 Conference recommendations.

It was decided unanimously to seek voluntary contributions as the principal means of resolving the Federation's need for funds. Fifty cents 'per capita' of each club's membership was proposed as the desired goal, with the FAWCO president to be informed yearly of anticipated contributions. It was also voted to continue promoting the *International Cookbook* and the *Jot and Blot* memorandum books.

Furthering the 1961 decision that FAWCO join in the larger work of the world, it was voted to affiliate with the National Council of Women of the United States which led to an automatic association with the International Council of Women and the United Nations non-governmental organizations.

XVI CONFERENCE MADRID 1963

The Federation's 16th Conference took place at the Castellana Hilton Hotel in Madrid, with "FAWCO in the World Community" as its theme. Of the 19 member clubs, 15 sent representatives to Madrid.

For the benefit of newcomers, President Tiné outlined FAWCO's basic aim: peace through harmonious relationships with other people. She said, "Peace is to work for, not to fight for." She emphasized the value of the Federation's association with the National Council of Women, especially endorsing its vigilance as regards human rights and the status of women.

Constitutional changes were adopted in 1963. Recommendations included:

- 1) Encouraging associate memberships for non-Americans in FAWCO member clubs.
- 2) Cooperation in established local community service projects rather than always introducing American methods.

3) Appointment of a committee to investigate cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF and the Peace Corps, possibly aided by the FAWCO U.S. Liaison.

4) Contributions to local U.S. Consulates to be used on behalf of needy Americans stranded abroad, investigation having shown that no such funds are available.

Alleged injustices inherent in the Nationality Act were discussed. Pursuit of voting rights for overseas Americans was urged and, once again, it was pointed out that individual state qualifications result in many voters being disenfranchised.

The Conference's two major speakers were women. Both discussed the present status of women. Matilde Medina, Assistant Director of the Fulbright Committee in Spain, told of revolutionary changes in the status of women in her native Spain; while still primarily homemakers, Spanish women were entering the professions and business in increasing numbers. Katie Louchheim, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, made a global survey of this century's progress by women towards attaining equal status with men.

Panel discussions were introduced and proved popular. The Conference probed how to strengthen 'FAWCO Spirit' within its member clubs, resulting in suggestions that a club's FAWCO representative be a member of her club's executive board; that she serve a two-year term aided by a working committee; that more emphasis be placed on club publication exchanges; that, in addition to the Club's delegates, more members be encouraged to attend the biennial FAWCO Conferences; that club stationery carry the legend "Affiliated with FAWCO" and that the FAWCO officers visit different clubs between Conferences. Elizabeth Bagney of Madrid commented that the most effective way to stimulate interest in FAWCO was to host a Biennial Conference while President Tiné reported that the Rome club's special FAWCO fund-raising functions had developed an increasing interest in the Federation's objectives and achievements.

On the financial front, FAWCO dues became more realistic: \$10 annually for smaller clubs, \$20 for the larger ones, but still far below the Federation's needs. Voluntary contributions had been made by only half of the member clubs, but it was decided to continue requesting them rather than introduce an overall fund-raising project again.

The *Review* Editor, Anna Brady of Rome, resigned, and suggested that the editor should live in the same city as the president. She urged the adoption of a newsletter instead of the present format, which she deemed very expensive and not self-supporting.

Gertrude Kunstenaar of Zurich, an experienced journalist, was appointed editor, and it was decided to continue the *Review* in its current format.

The FAWCO U.S.A. Liaison, Alicia Paolozzi, reported on a speech given by Rachel Carson, author of *The Silent Spring*, at the New York Conference of the National Council of Women, and the Council's recommendation to urge women to take action to check "man's irresponsible use of nature's bounties."

Marcia Hale of Zurich was elected president and London's invitation to hold the 1965 Conference was enthusiastically accepted.

INTERIM MEETING COPENHAGEN 1964

Following the precedent set by the two previous administrations, the Interim Meeting held at the Codan Hotel in Copenhagen in March was attended by the officers and various committee chairs. Plans for the London Conference were finalized and its theme determined: "FAWCO's Inter-Community Climate of Accord."

Finances were discussed again, as well as the possible establishment of a common FAWCO project. Three locally successful, non-money making projects were recommended for consideration: 1) Peace Through Knowledge, conceived and implemented by Madrid AWC; 2) School to School programs presented by Frankfurt; and 3) Educational Rhythmic Program for Handicapped Children, carried out by Zurich. An International Cultural and Services Committee was established to investigate these and other appropriate philanthropic initiatives for FAWCO.

XVII CONFERENCE LONDON 1965

The 17th Conference convened on April 4th in the London clubhouse and the Carlton Tower Hotel. The President, Marcia Hale, emphasizing FAWCO's role as a clearinghouse, advocated the adoption of a common FAWCO enterprise to consolidate the objectives of individual member clubs.

Progress reports were made regarding investigation and action.

1) Dual-Nationality Citizenship status: Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris had collected much valuable information regarding marriages between Americans and nationals of other countries, in preparation for further study of the nationality problems of children of such marriages.

2) Citizenship Rights for overseas Americans: Genevieve Garzero of Rome had conducted an inter-club survey which disclosed a great need for simplified and uniform means of obtaining voting rights. While no obvious progress had been made, Mrs. Garzero reported that some encouragement might be derived from the experience of Washington, D.C. citizens. Their long quest for voting rights had been rewarded in 1964, having, however, required a constitutional amendment. Mrs. Garzero urged all overseas Americans eligible to vote to exercise their right and proposed that FAWCO persist in its efforts to obtain voting rights for all overseas Americans.

3) FAWCO relations with organizations in the United States: Alicia Paolozzi of Rome, FAWCO's U.S. Liaison, reported as the FAWCO delegate to the National Council of Women of the United States and also as delegate of the National Council to the United Nations. She felt that an international undertaking could help attain greater prestige for FAWCO, particularly since 1965, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, had been proclaimed International Cooperation

Year. Mrs. Paolozzi also reported that the possibility of forming a FAWCO foundation to receive tax-exempt donations was under study.

4) As a specific FAWCO project, Marge Ganseman of Brussels recommended the adoption of a philanthropic project that, while benefiting others, would also unite the clubs. The Conference consequently adopted "Peace Through Knowledge" as the FAWCO project, with each member club left free to determine its own means for implementing it.

What is FAWCO?, a newly printed brochure to publicize FAWCO's purpose and achievements, was presented and a new type of member club introduced: the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE) of Paris. One of its objectives was the recognition of the values of a dual-cultural heritage and multilingualism, and it has been most cooperative with the FAWCO investigation of dual-heritage children, initiated by Gertrude de Gallaix in 1964.

Mary Mag of Rome was elected the Federation president, and Rome was chosen to host the next Conference.

1966

The depleted FAWCO treasury rendered impractical an Interim meeting in 1966, but the presidential newsletters (replacing the Review, found prohibitive in price to publish) served as a direct link between headquarters and the individual members of FAWCO clubs. One issue called attention to the courageous stand on civil rights taken by the National Council of Women of the United States. Another reported on President Mag's Far East travels; in her contacts with women's groups she was impressed by the spectacular progress made by women in the Orient in recent years, their entrance into professions and their frequent elevation to high political office.

Administrative Guidelines were introduced to strengthen the administrative structure.

In order to help young people in host countries learn more about America, and for American children abroad to learn more about their host country, the "Peace Through Knowledge" project (founding American libraries in host-country schools and host-country libraries in American schools abroad) was strongly encouraged during this period.

An important event in Federation history took place in 1967 with the establishment of The FAWCO Foundation. Undaunted by the negative results in obtaining a tax-exempt status for FAWCO as a non-profit organization, President Mag continued her efforts. At the 1967 Conference she could report a successful solution; a sister organization having for its sole purpose "the raising and distribution of funds for charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children." Meeting the legal requirements, The Foundation funds could be disbursed to the Federation or to any of its member clubs for use in qualified projects.

XVIII CONFERENCE ROME 1967

The 18th Conference assembled at the Parco dei Principi Hotel in Rome on February 27, 1967. President Mag reported on The FAWCO Foundation (its board was chosen from among the newly elected Federation officers). She explained that the major task - raising funds - lay ahead and that modest initial contributions amounting to \$200 had been received. The Foundation made its first grant to aid the victims of the Lisbon floods.

Genevieve Garzero of Rome, FAWCO's Citizenship Status chairman, reported that efforts exerted by the League of Americans Residing Abroad (LARA), by the Bipartisan Committees on Absentee Voting in London and Paris and, not least, by FAWCO, were beginning to have a noticeable effect. The complex problem of franchise for Americans abroad was now a frequent subject of debate in Washington. If voting rights could not be extended by the individual States, they would have to be obtained through the Federal Government, a Congressional bill, or a lawsuit ruling by the courts. More progress was to be expected, as the number of those participating actively in their own particular civil-rights campaigns increased. Mrs. Mag urged all Federation clubs, as well as their individual members, to press their Congressmen for help in exercising their voting rights as American citizens residing abroad.

It was suggested that regional divisions of the FAWCO member clubs might result in greater inter-club cooperation and overall unity. A speech by the General Secretary of the National Council of Women in Italy was read, expressing her gratitude to Americans for the help and encouragement received by Italian women in their struggle for improved citizenship status.

A memorable event of this Conference was a special audience with Pope Paul in the Vatican. Pope Paul declared that FAWCO's work in pursuit of international peace and understanding between Americans and host countries was to be greatly praised.

At the close of the Conference, over her protests that a second term was unprecedented and undesirable, Mrs. Mag was re-elected president. Brussels' invitation was accepted for the 1969 Conference.

WIDENING THE SCOPE 1968 - 1973

With the Federation firmly established, and the financial situation somewhat improved by increased club support, attention was given to those issues important in the United States and elsewhere, i.e. youth, education, ecology and emergency relief for natural disasters. Individual membership was offered to a few selected individuals. Recognition was given to the importance of a positive relationship with the host countries in all areas.

1968

No Interim Meeting was held in 1968 due to the continued precarious financial situation. The president maintained contact with members through presidential newsletters that had been published regularly since 1963. During this period the FAWCO Pamphlet Series was introduced. The first issue, *FAWCO Today*, was written by Joyce Ahrens and Mary Mag in January 1968, was followed by others written by individuals and edited by the FAWCO editorial staff. Succeeding pamphlets were devoted to "Peace Through Knowledge," Bilingualism, Fundraising, Scholarship, the Clubhouse and other subjects.

Most individual States had failed to facilitate voting for overseas Americans (as per a 1968 Congressional investigation). To clarify the issue, Mrs. Robert Rennie of London corresponded with officials in every State to determine what voting facilities currently existed for the U.S. citizen abroad.

It was also during the Interim period that the National Council of Women of the United States invited each member organization to nominate candidates for recognition of work carried out in the field of human rights. In 1967 Gertrude de Gallaix, FAWCO's candidate, was chosen to receive the National Council's "Woman of Conscience" award for her outstanding achievements in Franco-American relations. A member of both AWG and AAWE Paris, Gertrude de Gallaix had dedicated herself over the years to problems pertaining to dual-nationality, bilingualism and the education of young Americans resident abroad.

XIX CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1969

Opening the 19th Conference at the Hotel Hilton on March 9th in Brussels, Mrs. Mag said in her presidential address "we must face the urgent problems that the United States is facing today." She quoted James Thurber: "Not to look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness." Clubs should, she felt, examine the amount of money spent on assisting others in comparison to the amount of money spent on amusing themselves.

The Conference keynote address by Antonia Chayes, Dean of Jackson College for Women, Tufts University, dealt with "The Rebellion of Youth," and the main panel discussion was devoted to "Bridging the Generation Gap." Delegates heard the views of both students and the older generation.

Following the report of the FAWCO U.S. Liaison Officer, Mrs. Peter van Brunt, on various international conferences, FAWCO voted to join Women United for the United Nations.

A report on The FAWCO Foundation was given by its president, Mrs. William McEwan of London, stressing its two committees - fundraising and awards - and its essential connections in the States. Three awards had been made to date. A brochure explaining The Foundation, as well as the Federation, was planned for the immediate future.

Club relationships with host countries were discussed, as well as inter-country hospitality. During a visit to the royal palace, Queen Fabiola greeted and conducted the FAWCO group on a tour.

Sonia Mincbere of Paris was elected president and Paris chosen to host the FAWCO Conference in 1971.

INTERIM MEETING PARIS 1970

The Interim Meeting was held in Paris in March. Present were the executive officers and the co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee.

The 1971 Conference theme "The Role of Women in the World of Tomorrow" was chosen. The FAWCO History, a condensed version of events past and recent compiled by Ruth White, FAWCO Archives Chairman, and edited by Anna Brady, Rome, was presented.

Overall FAWCO policy was discussed. President Mincbere recommended that all future administrations make every effort to hold an Interim Meeting.

XX CONFERENCE PARIS 1971

The 20th Conference was held in March co-hosted by AAWE and AWG Paris. Guest speakers covered timely topics such as Problems in the Universities, Ecology and Drugs.

The "Peace Through Knowledge" program was terminated as a FAWCO project, having performed its role. The possibility of international clubs being accepted as associate member clubs of FAWCO was raised. Further study on the advisability of establishing special membership categories for clubs or individuals presently ineligible for membership was recommended.

The first FAWCO Foundation scholarship was awarded at this time. Elizabeth Sita of AWC Brussels was elected president and Zurich chosen to host the next Conference.

INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1972

At this Interim Meeting in March 1972, the continued interest in allowing international clubs to become associate members of FAWCO was discussed, as was FAWCO policy and the projected changes in dues and contributions.

The FAWCO Board and the co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee decided on "The Family-Future-Shock - The Emergency Pattern" as the Conference theme.

XXI CONFERENCE ZURICH 1973

The Hotel Atlantis of Zurich was the scene of the 21st Conference in March 1973. The Conference theme was developed through panels (educating children abroad, life style in Denmark), speakers (drug production and the role of the United Nations, the feminist issue in the State Department and the role of women in today's world), and discussions.

In view of the growing sentiment to extend FAWCO membership to clubs with less than the present constitutional requirements as to the proportion of Americans to non-Americans, and to a limited number of individuals, it was decided that an appropriate constitutional amendment be prepared for the 1975 FAWCO Conference.

Elizabeth Bagney of AWC Madrid was elected president and Copenhagen chosen as the next Conference site.

TURNING ATTENTION TO OURSELVES 1974 - 1981

During this period FAWCO expanded beyond Europe. Regional meetings took on an important role in inter-club relationships.

Whether working on energy conservation, raising children abroad, or ways of obtaining employment, the clubs were finding a new sense of unity. The category of FAWCO associate membership was established with the acceptance of clubs with a sizable non-American membership.

The possibility of allowing member clubs with mixed male/female membership was broached for the first time, and although shelved for later consideration, opened the way for a possible future innovation. In the meantime, cooperation with the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) was becoming a reality, as well as support of other organizations of Americans abroad.

The two years following the Zurich Conference were devoted to implementing some ideas that were becoming clearer every month, namely that the women belonging to the various FAWCO clubs can consider themselves as members of the 51st state. Committees formed in Zurich worked on such issues as the orientation of the family living overseas, education for women, citizenship rights and, foremost, the ways and means of self-realization as women, in light of the coming International Women's Year in 1975.

INTERIM MEETING MADRID 1974

The Interim Meeting in Madrid, held in the AWC clubhouse in March 1974, was open to AWC Madrid members. In addition to Conference planning, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with the progress achieved in various areas and with trying to project the FAWCO image to the local club members.

XXII CONFERENCE COPENHAGEN 1975

The 1975 Conference opened with President Bagney pointing out the rapid changes that were occurring for women in general and American women abroad in particular. She stressed the necessity of concentrating on a deepening awareness of each individual and her ability to exercise her options as a woman and as an American overseas.

Workshops on "Women Alone" and "Members Under 30" were held, with panel discussions on "Relating to the Host Country" and "Women of the 51st State," in addition to keynote speeches, committee reports and discussions in line with the Conference's theme: "The Aware Woman Overseas."

The Foundation awarded three scholarships. A high point of the social program was an audience with Queen Mother Ingrid of Denmark. Associate member clubs were invited to join the Federation after the Constitutional change was approved, and AIWA Genoa was the first to do so.

Edith Beyer of Copenhagen was chosen the next FAWCO president and Rome the site of the 23rd Conference.

INTERIM MEETING DUSSELDORF 1976

The two years in between the Conferences were devoted to further investigating the idea of widening the possibilities for FAWCO women.

The Interim Meeting was held in Düsseldorf in 1976. At the meeting, the structure for the Rome Conference was discussed, focusing on the two-faceted interest of member-clubs: the status of FAWCO clubs' members as Americans overseas, and the status of women in general.

XXIII CONFERENCE ROME 1977

The Conference at the Hotel Villa Pamphili was opened by President Beyer, followed by workshops, panels, speeches and discussions. Women's legal status, employment and opportunities were some of the highlights.

For the first time, members of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) were invited guests at a luncheon. Milton Lehr, President, in his speech, urged cooperation between the two organizations. A joint cable was sent to Senator Bartell of Oklahoma urging a one-year delay in the effective date of new tax legislation for overseas Americans.

A special social event was a visit to Donna Vittoria Leone, wife of the Italian President, at the Quirinale Palace.

Shirley van Ooijen of Amsterdam was elected president and London chosen as the site of the next Conference.

INTERIM MEETING AMSTERDAM 1978

The meeting was held at the Sonesta Hotel. The 1977-79 years were devoted to internal changes to make FAWCO more effective organizationally, and to a vigorous pursuit of Conference goals. President van Ooijen encouraged and attended two of the three regional meetings held, and opened the Interim Meeting to the FAWCO representatives, which provided valuable forums of exchange and contact between the local club members and FAWCO officers and chairmen.

This administration gave top priority to citizenship issues, and cooperation with other overseas groups on these issues was energetically pursued. The president attended two annual conventions of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) in Spain and in Portugal, and participated both years on a special FIAC panel. The administration reported success in raising funds for special projects.

XXIV CONFERENCE LONDON 1979

President van Ooijen opened the Conference at the Kensington Close Hotel with an overflow audience. Indeed, it had been necessary to close registration to observers. In addition to the delegates of 22 member clubs (out of 23), four women attended as visitors from non-member clubs. The Conference theme, 'FAWCO in Action,' was in evidence all week. Four Italian clubs presented a panel on Raising Children Abroad and four professional women conducted a panel on Estate Planning. The workshops dealt with: Leadership and Club Administration; Reverse Culture Shock; Cross-cultural Children, College in the USA and Women and Work.

Mindful of the Equal Opportunities Act, delegates discussed male membership in FAWCO clubs. Headquarters had requested a consensus from the clubs; they reported that several clubs had already accepted men, there had been no wave of male applications, and no club was willing to change its name. In short, there was no urgency to undertake a constitutional change for FAWCO at this point. In the meantime, it was clearly seen that cooperation with men's clubs as well as with all American organizations striving for equal opportunities for Americans abroad was most beneficial.

The Conference voted to affiliate with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), headquarters in Washington, DC, as an associate member; to change the FAWCO's affiliation with the National Council of Women (NCW) from an organizational one to an individual membership for the FAWCO President, and to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The FAWCO Foundation reported sufficient funds to be able to award three scholarships that year.

The 1979 Resolutions included: giving special attention to overseas children, supporting legislation for equitable treatment of Americans overseas, working for

energy conservation, encouraging member clubs to support women living and working overseas, and striving to improve the American image abroad and the overseas-American image in the States.

Agnes Stephenson Coppin of Brussels was elected president and Paris was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

INTERIM MEETING HAMBURG 1980

The Interim Meeting was held at the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg with 15 clubs represented, giving it the status of a mini-Conference. The question of holding Conferences in resort areas or cities without a FAWCO club was discussed, and those attending were asked to report on possibilities for the next interim.

Plans were made for the 1981 Paris Conference marking FAWCO's golden anniversary.

XXV CONFERENCE PARIS 1981

The Paris Conference at the Hotel Penta celebrated the 50 years since FAWCO was founded. The theme was "Opportunities and Challenges," and the keynote speaker was television news analyst Christine Ockrent who spoke on the subject of career opportunities for women in Europe today. Olivia de Havilland was an honored guest.

President Coppin reported that during the 1979-81 administration prime importance was given to the resolutions adopted at the London Conference. The Raising Children Abroad Committee, which generated sub-committees in many clubs, provided solid information and statistics for them. FAWCO member clubs enthusiastically raised funds and made substantial contributions to The FAWCO Foundation Scholarship Fund, enabling it to offer four awards totaling \$8,000 in 1980, and five awards totaling \$11,000 in 1981, to children of overseas families for study in the United States.

The Citizenship Committee kept members informed about legislation pending in Congress of concern to Americans abroad. Kathy Webster, Brussels, reported that special attention was given to the question of transmission of citizenship to children born abroad of one American parent.

Increased cooperation with other overseas organizations and with the FAWCO U.S. Liaison was emphasized to further the interests of FAWCO members in the fields of taxation, citizenship and Medicare, and communication was established with other American associations overseas.

President Coppin participated in a panel at the FIAC Convention in 1979 where representatives of six associations of overseas Americans discussed common interests in the fields of legislation and taxation. In addition to FAWCO, the other participants were the Federation of International American Clubs, Association of

Americans Resident Overseas, American Citizens Abroad, European and Mediterranean Council of American Chambers of Commerce and the U.S. and Overseas Tax Fairness Committee. The group sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter addressing the issue of equitable treatment for American citizens abroad.

Groundwork was laid for the incorporation of FAWCO, since it was felt that the organization had grown to the point where the legal status of a corporation was advisable, thus paving the way to become a non-profit organization for tax purposes. At the Conference the delegates voted in favor of incorporation.

Conference workshops dealt with The International Family—raising children abroad, dual-national marriage and "Where are your roots?" Other workshops were on employing your talents abroad through continuing education, through work, paid or volunteer; and becoming acquainted with your host country nationals. A panel, moderated by Patty DeBono, Brussels, discussed coping with disasters abroad

A number of tip sheets on energy conservation were circulated to all the clubs. Two new clubs, AWC Dublin and AWL Kuwait, were welcomed, and three regional meetings were productive for inter-club exchanges. The resolutions adopted at the Conference were:

- 1) To focus on the dissemination of information compiled by FAWCO.
- 2) To promote the well being of the individual and society.
- 3) To continue support of legislation aimed at redressing the inequitable treatment of Americans overseas.
- 4) To continue studies in the field of continuing education and to emphasize a positive image of Americans abroad.

Elaine Senigallia of Rome was elected president and Brussels was chosen as the next Conference site.

EXPANSION AND EVOLUTION 1982-1990

The period 1981 to 1991 was one of development and change. The number of clubs increased from 23 to 44. FAWCO was incorporated and tax-exempt status obtained.

Associate member clubs were no longer 'second-class citizens'; an amendment granted all clubs the same vote and the American members of associate clubs were made eligible for elective office in the Federation.

New importance was given to the role of FAWCO Representatives who had first been invited to an Interim Meeting in 1978 and had had a brief rep meeting, for the first time, at the London Conference of 1979. In 1983 there were four scheduled reps' meetings at the Brussels Conference and for the first time one meeting (plus a second by request) of club presidents.

The FAWCO Foundation increased the number of scholarships awarded from three in 1979 to eleven in 1991. The FAWCO Relief Fund (originally called the Disaster Relief Fund) made a number of donations.

INTERIM MEETING LUGANO 1982

The first FAWCO meeting to take place in a resort city without a hostess club was held at the Hotel Commodore in Lugano. Aimee Crane Gloeckner, an individual FAWCO member, set up the meeting with the assistance of Susan Monnier, Basel, and Beverly Weiss, Zurich, and their clubs.

This Interim Meeting was opened to all who wished to attend so that, including officers, committee chairmen, reps, club presidents, counselors and observers, there was a total of 110 participants - the largest Interim Meeting ever held so far. In explaining the reasoning behind this change, President Senigallia pointed out that two years is a long time between meetings, especially with a rapid turnover in club membership, and the FAWCO image inevitably becomes dimmer with the passage of time.

A straw vote was taken on the question of admitting clubs with male members and the consensus was in favor, with a final decision to be taken at the Conference. Arrangements for the first FAWCO tour, to Thailand, were described. Two scholarships, totaling \$5,000, were awarded by the FAWCO Foundation.

The representatives urged that meetings be scheduled for them at the Conference and, on their recommendation, Second Vice-president Muriel Bremner of Dublin was named as their liaison to the Board.

President Senigallia suggested that amendments be proposed at the Conference 1) allowing associate clubs the same vote as regular clubs since they pay the same dues but have only one vote, while regular clubs have two and 2) permitting American members of associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

XXVI CONFERENCE BRUSSELS 1983

The Hotel Sheraton in Brussels was the setting for the 26th Conference; the theme of was 'Communication.' The keynote speaker was Jehan Sadat, widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Other speakers were Jean Gerard, U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO, and Herman de Croo, Belgian Minister of Communications.

President Senigallia reported that a special effort had been made to get information to the member clubs and through them to the individual members. Four issues of a new publication, *The FAWCO Forum*, designed as a readable small newspaper, as well as four newsletters, were sent to officers, committee chairmen, counselors, representatives, and for distribution to clubs' executive boards. Letters of welcome, with information on what a rep should know and do, were sent to all new representatives.

Beverly Morisset, Brussels, editor of *The Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, distributed copies to delegates to take back to their home clubs to serve for fundraising. The Education Committee on Children Abroad issued a pamphlet with the results of their survey on bilingualism among American children educated

abroad, while information compiled by Georgiale Granger, Dusseldorf, on obtaining advanced degrees, and a report on financial aid for students by Lee Iacovoni, Rome, were published in *The FAWCO Forum*.

A joint letter by President Senigallia and Citizenship Committee Chairman Kathy Webster, Brussels, on the transmission of citizenship to children, was sent to the members of the Cabinet Task Force on Immigration. The Citizenship Committee also distributed a revised and expanded version of the citizenship information outline provided at the Interim Meeting.

The question of admitting new clubs with male members as discussed at the Interim Meeting was considered. It was agreed that member clubs are autonomous and FAWCO cannot dictate internal membership rules.

Two new clubs, AAC Santiago, Chile, the first South American club, and the Association of American Wives and Husbands of Europeans in Cannes joined FAWCO; two former members, Perth, Australia, and The Hague, rejoined. FAWCO Secretary Marilyn Clarke, Rome, announced that membership now stood at 29 clubs representing 7,000 women in 16 countries.

Emphasizing the new direction in FAWCO policy, there were four scheduled meetings of the FAWCO Reps. For the first time at a FAWCO Conference, there were two meetings of club presidents, one scheduled and a second by request.

Gloria Fischel, Amsterdam, announced that the FAWCO tour to Thailand was a great success, thanks to the hospitality of AWC Bangkok. Forty-five members, representing 17 clubs, took part in the tour. A second FAWCO tour was planned to Kenya.

Conference workshops dealt with facing life transitions overseas; women and work; how to design and conduct a workshop; growing older overseas; introduction and orientation for new members; and stress management.

Looking toward the future, a panel on 'New Directions: Young Women and FAWCO,' moderated by Virginia Roth, Rotterdam, explored future relations between member clubs and the Federation, as well as what members want from their clubs and the clubs want from FAWCO during its second half-century. Like all organizations, FAWCO should examine its aims and purposes at regular intervals.

A humorous panel called Making Ends Meet—Italian style, moderated by Carol Bordoni, Genoa, offered outrageous and hilarious suggestions for fundraising.

Five scholarships totaling \$10,500 were awarded by The FAWCO Foundation.

The Conference resolved:

- 1) To give special attention to improving communication.
- 2) To help the adaptation of women transplanted from one culture to another.
- 3) To give special attention to member club women working or attempting to work.
- 4) To support women in their efforts toward continuing education.
- 5) To continue concern for the education of overseas and dual-national children.
- 6) To reinforce awareness of all legislation, whether from America or a host-country, affecting those living abroad, and to support appropriate U.S. legislation.

Nearly 500 people attended the gala dinner at the Conference where Jehan Sadat spoke on "Peace, Women and Children."

Muriel Bremner of Dublin was elected president and Dusseldorf was chosen as the site of the next Conference as a cooperative effort of AWC Dusseldorf and AWC Oslo.

INTERIM MEETING DUBLIN 1984

The 1984 Interim Meeting was held at the Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin. There were 21 clubs present, a record for an Interim.

Following a panel on the advantages and disadvantages of large Interim Meetings, as compared to those restricted to officers, chairmen and reps, the interim participants decided overwhelmingly in favor of the extended meetings. A straw vote on proposed single-slate elections instead of the customary double slate was defeated.

Dean Ferrier and Kathy Webster of the Citizenship Committee held a voter registration workshop on how to help voters apply for a federal absentee ballot. A strong message from the membership was sent to Washington endorsing pending anti-handgun legislation.

Four FAWCO Foundation awards were granted, totaling \$8,500.

XXVII CONFERENCE DUSSELDORF 1985

'The International Woman in a Changing World' was the theme of the joint Oslo-Düsseldorf Conference, the first Conference sponsored by two clubs working at a distance in well-planned cooperation. The agenda included a panel discussion on coping with technological, political and social change; among the workshop topics were the multiple roles of women, volunteerism, cultural adaptation, the use of computers and speaking in public.

President Bremner pointed out the three main priorities of the 1983-85 Board:

- 1) To foster strong working relationships between FAWCO headquarters, its administrative branches and the member clubs.
- 2) To respond to the interests and needs of Federation members.
- 3) To focus on FAWCO's role nationally and internationally.

In accomplishing the first objective, the administration extended the responsibilities of the vice-presidents and appointed a liaison officer for the counselors. New emphasis was placed on the role of the club representative, with increased communication between her and headquarters. Club presidents became an active unit in regional meetings as well as at the Conference.

Following the suggestion of the previous administration, an amendment was passed granting associate member clubs the same voting rights as regular clubs and

enabling American members of associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

In 1984 a *Social Security Benefits Overseas* pamphlet by Blue Breese, Brussels, was published, and in 1985 a supplement on *Social Security Benefits for Self-Employed Women Overseas* was added.

A new brochure, designed and written by Jacqueline Isler of Zurich, Public Relations Chairman, was distributed to member clubs, to other American overseas organizations and to various U.S. government departments.

Three new committees were formed: Women and Home, Women and Work and University Liaison for Students

With the approach of the 1984 U.S. national elections, Dean Ferrier and the Citizenship Committee launched the largest voter-registration campaign in the Federation's history. Every member club was provided instructions and guidance in addition to those who had attended the Interim voter-registration workshop. Dean Ferrier announced that the campaign had been highly successful and that an increase in overseas voter registration had been noted.

FAWCO, represented by President Bremner, met with two other non-partisan organizations, FIAC (Federation of International American Clubs) and AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas) to form a council (CARO) cooperating on behalf of overseas Americans, with the shared concerns identified as taxation, voter-registration, citizenship rights, Medicare and Social Security.

With the accomplishment of FAWCO's incorporation, negotiations were begun to obtain tax-exempt status.

Three new clubs joined FAWCO: AWC Luxembourg, AWC Surrey and the U.S. Women's Club of Fyn, Denmark. Also attending the Conference were guest observers from Bonn and Bern whose clubs joined FAWCO shortly afterward.

Resolutions and Recommendations adopted were:

- 1) That FAWCO give special attention to the international woman in a changing world.
- 2) That FAWCO give special attention to improving communication and cooperation among the member clubs.
- 3) That FAWCO foster international relations, recommending that a disaster relief fund be established for emergency situations, and that an international relations committee be established to work with organizations promoting goals similar to those of FAWCO.
- 4) That FAWCO continue to encourage improved liaison between U.S. citizens abroad and the U.S. government.
- 5) That FAWCO reinforce awareness of all legislation, American and host country, affecting those living abroad, and to support appropriate U.S. legislation.
- 6) That FAWCO encourage awareness of the problems of child pornography and the abuse of women and children.
- 7) That FAWCO continue its concern for the education of American and dual-national children residing overseas.

Virginia Roth, Rotterdam, was elected president and Madrid was chosen as the next Conference site.

INTERIM MEETING CASABLANCA 1986

The first FAWCO meeting outside Europe was held at the Hotel Safir in Casablanca, Morocco. The warm invitation of AWC Casablanca and the prospect of a visit to a country unfamiliar to most members were irresistible and there was a large and enthusiastic attendance. Social events included a reception at the Consul General's home, a tea at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Rabat, a gala dinner with the members of the host club wearing magnificent caftans, and dinners with Moroccan specialties at members' homes. After the meeting many participants took tours of Morocco arranged by AWC Casablanca.

XXVIII CONFERENCE MADRID 1987

The theme for the Conference, held at the Hotel Melia Castillo, was 'Reaching Out.' A panel discussion was led by Carol Bordoni, AIWC Genoa, on 'FAWCO Is Reaching Out, Not To Grab But To Give'. The panelists discussed reaching out to so-called silent club members, to newcomers, students and the host community. The procedure used by the U.S. military to assist new arrivals was also described.

President Roth reported that during this administration six Executive Board meetings were held in addition to those in the framework of the Interim and Conference, the first time any board has been able to spend so much time together as a team.

Reaching out became a reality when, for the first time, the FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund was used to help victims of the earthquake in Mexico. At this Conference it was decided that the first vice-president should be responsible for disbursing the funds and the name should be FAWCO Relief Fund.

Membership Extension Chairman Elaine Senigallia, Rome, announced that 6 clubs had joined since the last Conference: Bonn, Bern, Korea, Languedoc-Roussillon, Liberia and Vercelli. She brought up the question of whether FAWCO should limit its membership numerically or geographically, which had been discussed previously at the Interim. The consensus was that there should be no limitations on FAWCO membership, and it was hoped that regional groups might eventually be formed for distant clubs, although at the time there was no region that could logically include even two of the non-European clubs.

In regard to distance and postage costs, a suggestion was made that a new system be set up for the interchange of club bulletins. A survey by Treasurer Georgia Regnault estimated that postage costs to each club for these exchanges came to between \$100 and \$200 per year. It was recommended that a minimum of four issues per year be sent out. A report on "Family Safety and the

Environment"—problems of pornography, prostitution and child molestation, was presented by AWC Oslo with recommendations on how to protect children.

Helen Hoogerduyn, The Hague, announced that the FAWCO Resource Center file was completed, and distributed the *Resource Center Index* listing the documents. Copies of any of the material could then be ordered at a nominal cost.

The workshops included A Crisis of Values in Contemporary Culture by Bishop Javier Martinez Fernandez; Witnessing the Birth of Cultural Values in Elementary Schools; Speak Up! How to Speak in Public; and At the Crossroads.

Seven FAWCO Foundation awards, amounting to \$10,000 were granted.

It was resolved that FAWCO:

- 1) Implement strong bonds among member clubs with special emphasis on those outside Europe by establishing a sister-club program.
- 2) Foster the spirit of voluntarism within member clubs.
- 3) Encourage action on the part of member clubs against the threat of terrorism.
- 4) Address itself to the problems of students educated abroad attending universities in the United States.
- 5) Increase efforts to bring pressure to bear on U.S. legislators regarding the needs of the American community abroad.

Georgia Regnault, The Hague, was elected president. It was decided to have the new administration select the site of the next Conference.

INTERIM MEETING LUXEMBOURG 1988

The Hotel Intercontinental in Luxembourg was the site of the 1988 Interim Meeting, the first FAWCO meeting to be held in Luxembourg. Goteborg and Vienna were welcomed as new members and 8 FAWCO Foundation awards were granted, totaling \$14,000.

XXIX CONFERENCE ZURICH 1989

‘Changing Profiles’ was the theme of the Conference held at the Hilton International Hotel in Zurich/Glattbrugg. The theme illustrated the change in the make-up of the member clubs: more internationalism through associate members, the difficulty in recruiting volunteers for club positions and an increasing number of workingwomen arriving overseas.

Four more clubs were welcomed to FAWCO: AWOG Athens (rejoined), AWC Curaçao, AWC Salzburg and AWC Valencia (Venezuela), as well as the two welcomed at the Interim. FAWCO boasted 42 clubs, at least one on every continent.

President Regnault reported that during her term of office she had met with 12 member clubs. She attended a meeting of CARO (Council of Americans Resident Overseas) and also met with The FAWCO Foundation together with the Executive

Board, and with Eleanor Hofmanner, President of The FAWCO Foundation. These meetings were designed to improve the lines of communication between the two elements of FAWCO.

It was announced that tax-exempt status had been granted after a lengthy application process.

First Vice-president Margaret de Maura, Madrid, described the Relief Fund donations to the Lumpa Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone, channeled through WOE (Women Overseas for Equality), an international women's organization based in Brussels.

The revised and expanded *Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, edited by Joy Staudt, Luxembourg, was distributed. It was agreed that, since it is a very useful guide for new arrivals, it should be sold by clubs as a fund-raising project.

University Education in the United States: a College Planning Guide, sponsored by AT&T, was completed by the Education Committee, Petre Kladstrup, AWG Paris, as chair.

The first edition of *The FAWCO Fund-raising Book*, written by Nancy Thornley, Rome, was presented to each club. It described a variety of FAWCO events as well as the outlay required and profit realized.

The sister-club program was begun, under the chairmanship of Inez Scheller, Copenhagen; 22 clubs were taking part.

Letters were sent as part of a letter-writing campaign in an effort to stop the closing of such important US Consulates as in Antwerp and Genoa.

The Citizenship Committee continued its efforts to reduce the prior residency requirements to two years in order to enable a U.S. citizen parent married to a non-citizen to transmit citizenship to his/her child. Denise Liebowitz, Brussels, reported on FAWCO's efforts to change State Department regulations that do not permit U.S. citizens overseas to hold FSN positions.

A panel on Changing Profiles dealt with associate membership within clubs, voluntarism and FAWCO in the future. Workshops were held on Communicating Across Generations, A Sense of Belonging: How Clubs Can Help, Living with Terrorism, Eating for Health and Partners and Organizations.

The Foundation awarded 9 scholarships totaling \$18,000.

The Resolutions adopted recommended that FAWCO:

- 1) Increase awareness of worldwide issues by establishing an ad-hoc committee on the environment.
- 2) Develop further its global potential by setting up a regional structure to accommodate both present and future member clubs.
- 3) Modernize its communication system by providing Headquarters with paid assistance and by preparing a promotional video on FAWCO.
- 4) Address the concerns of individual members.
- 5) Continue its efforts on behalf of United States citizens abroad.

Kay Miller, Brussels, was elected president, and Vienna was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

INTERIM MEETING BRUSSELS 1990

The 1990 Interim Meeting was held at the SAS Royal Hotel in Brussels.

Membership Co-chairmen Brooke Givot, Dublin, and Ellen Baur, Zurich, announced that the American Women's Club of Nairobi, Kenya, had joined and that AWC Taunus, a former FAWCO member, had rejoined.

Guidelines for affiliate membership, available to clubs outside Europe which otherwise qualify for regular or associate membership, were presented by Dorothy Childers, AWC Oslo. This is a one-time trial membership, limited to two years, with dues equivalent to a single individual membership. FAWCO information is supplied and members are welcomed as observers at conferences, but such membership does not include voting rights; the members of affiliate clubs may not hold elective office in FAWCO; and their children may not apply for FAWCO Foundation scholarships.

Pan Hottinger, Madrid, presented the newly revised Administrative Guidelines including those for affiliate membership.

President Miller announced that FAWCO is part of a steering committee planning the July 1990 World Conference of U.S. Citizens, to be sponsored by American Citizens Abroad, The Association of Americans Resident Overseas, Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad, The European Council of American Chambers of Commerce and FAWCO.

The Conference Sites Committee was made a standing committee instead of a temporary one meeting only at Conferences. An Environmental Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Maryrose Walsh, Madrid, in accordance with one of the resolutions of the 1989 Conference. Phyllis Michaux, AAWE Paris, suggested that FAWCO might form a committee to help elderly citizens too old or too poor to relocate in the U.S. Andrea Bowman-Moore, also AAWE Paris, offered to write up a proposal for such a committee to be put before the Executive Board.

Arrangements have been made to promote FAWCO by a professionally produced video photographed by Brynn Bruijn, The Hague, to be ready in time for the Vienna Conference.

The 1991 Conference was to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Vienna. Its theme: "The Environment -- What on Earth Can We Do?"

THE ONLINE WORLD AND ITS REGIONS 1991 - 2000

The last decade of the 20th century might be termed revolutionary, and not only in regard to technical advances in communication within FAWCO. Long-standing problems of citizenship (especially of children) were resolved and new problems tackled. The State Department conceded our right as citizens to hold a job in a United States Embassy or Consulate. A FAWCO committee consulted with the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau to discuss the difficulties of

including private Americans living abroad in the next census. The importance of absentee ballots was highlighted by the election in 2001.

Conferences were held outside Europe, two in Africa and one, exceptionally, in the United States, hosted by the FAWCO Alumnae. FAWCO became a non-governmental organization at the United Nations and was granted special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the UN. Seven FAWCO delegates attended the UN's Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

With more than 70 clubs, new methods were sought for promoting interaction between FAWCO and its members. One answer was regionalization, keyed to geography. Member clubs were divided into 13 regions, each headed by a regional coordinator, the link between the Federation and the individual clubs. Regional meetings became frequent. E-mail was a solution to the problem of high mailing costs and online board meetings saved time and travel expenses.

The Resource Center in The Hague went into honorary retirement. Publishing was deemed to be an 'Anybody Can Do It' activity, and circulation among clubs kept members in touch with what the other clubs were doing. The FAWCO website became a virtual clubhouse. Its address is <http://www.fawco.org> and it is accessible by all members.

XXX CONFERENCE VIENNA 1991

President Kay Miller opened the first session of the 1991 FAWCO Conference at Vienna's Hilton Hotel with an update of the recent decision of the board to continue its support of the women's group in Sierra Leone, Africa. She urged the audience to continue its donations and reminded them that these donations were tax deductible. In regard to finances, President Miller pointed out that at present the FAWCO operating budget is inadequate and recommended the establishment of a fund-raising entity as a standing FAWCO committee.

A highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the slide-show/audio-visual project created by photographer Brynn Bruijn, with pictures of FAWCO clubs around the world. President Miller reminded the audience that this PR project was possible thanks to the sponsorship of AT&T. It was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Eleanor Hofmanner, The FAWCO Foundation President, reported on the decision to help the American Women's League of Kuwait get back on its feet after the Gulf War and be in a position to distribute funds where most needed in that country. Contributions were gratefully accepted.

The Years of FAWCO from 1931 to 1991, a new edition of the FAWCO history by Elaine Senigallia, AWA Rome, was distributed to all Conference participants.

Rebecca Tan, Coordinator of the U.S. Citizens' Concerns Committees, reported on the World Federation of Americans Abroad, of which FAWCO is one of six founding members. The report, including a section on U.S. Laws and Legislation by Kathleen de Carbuccia, AAWE Paris, concerned itself primarily with problems of children's citizenship:

- 1) Children being refused U.S. citizenship because parents do not fulfill the residency requirements;
- 2) Children having different citizenships within one family due to the present laws;
- 3) Children adopted overseas unable to be U.S. citizens without being naturalized in the States.

In addition, the summary included the loss of U.S. nationality, reported on by Michael Adler, AAWE Paris; the problem of hiring U.S. residents abroad by American diplomatic services, brought up to date by Denise Liebowitz, formerly AWC Brussels; and voting from overseas by Dean Ferrier, AAWE Paris.

Treasurer Paula Daeppen announced that it was the recommendation of the board that FAWCO must generate more income in order to serve its growing number of member clubs. The board proposed that, for the first time in ten years, dues should be increased by 25%. It was also recommended that fund-raising be increased and income generated by advertising in the FAWCO newsletter.

An updated *FAWCO Resource Manual*, termed a substantive organizational tool, was distributed to the reps to take back to their clubs. The 158 pages covered every activity of member clubs.

Ann Day, AWA Vienna, was elected FAWCO president and Casablanca's invitation to hold the next Conference was enthusiastically accepted.

After the last tap of the gavel, a number of Conference participants took advantage of Vienna's location and went on to Budapest - for many, a first visit to Eastern Europe.

INTERIM MEETING GENOA 1992

The FAWCO 1992 Interim coincided with Genoa's celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America - a special year for Americans in the great navigator's home town.

The Relief Fund for the Kuwait club was approximately \$2500. FAWCO Foundation President Eleanor Hofmanner reported that The Foundation had received a total of \$27,404, enabling it to grant an additional award for Students with Special Challenges.

The Citizens' Concerns Committee announced that a State Department Authorization Bill had finally lifted the prohibition on the employment of U.S. citizens in positions in U.S. Embassies and Consulates.

The Employment Committee introduced a new FAWCO publication called *American Women and Work Overseas* to be published within a few months. It was reviewed by the International Labor Organization which called it "a scholarly piece of research."

XXXI CONFERENCE CASABLANCA 1993

There were 30 member clubs out of 54 that met at the Sheraton Hotel for the first FAWCO Conference to take place in Africa (an Interim Meeting had been held in Casablanca in 1986). The theme was 'Women and Family: Adapting to a Changing World.'

President Ann Day spoke of the regional meetings during the fall. One was in Hamburg where 39 women from 7 clubs met to discuss issues such as marketing your club and activities policies. Another was in Copenhagen where the three FAWCO clubs in Denmark held the first Danish-club workshop and agreed to share activities and information regularly. The third was an Asia-Pacific Conference hosted by AWC Thailand and attended by three FAWCO clubs and three other clubs from the region. Although not a regional, the purpose was the same - to bring together representatives from a specific area to discuss cooperation and exchange ideas.

She also spoke about the lines of communication between The FAWCO Foundation and the Federation, which had become open and beneficial. Regular meetings of both boards were held at the Interim and the Biennial Conferences, and a Foundation representative attended part of the fall Federation Board meeting.

Kathleen de Carbuccia, AAWE Paris, a delegate to the World Federation of Americans Abroad of which FAWCO is a founding member, described WFAA as an umbrella organization, the purpose of which is to encourage changes in U.S. laws to the advantage of countless (and uncounted) Americans living abroad.

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Citizens' Concerns Committee, chaired by Rebecca Tan, AWC Hamburg, Americans abroad can now work for U.S. embassies; unfortunately, not all embassies know about the change in the law.

The new *Resource Manual for Clubs*, edited by Norma Lehmann-Vogelweid and Eve Higgins Miller, was distributed at the reps' meeting. These books are intended for the use of club boards and members.

FAWCO's Washington Liaison, Eleanor Fina gave a special report on her activities, answering the question "What do you do?" She services officer and committee chair requests; she develops Washington contacts and maintains contacts with government offices that have some responsibility for Americans abroad; she keeps up with the personnel changes in those offices; and she reports on developments in the U.S. of interest to our members.

Paula Daeppen, AWC Zurich, announced a complete revision of the Administrative Guidelines by her committee. The new guidelines were printed double-sided on environmentally friendly paper and it was hoped that the changes in this version would be of a lasting nature.

FAWCO Treasurer Vicki de Klerk-Rubin, AWC Amsterdam, reported that each club had received a copy of *American Women and Work Overseas*. In addition, 237 copies of the book had been sold. She pointed out that the Federation cannot continue with deficit spending.

Ten new clubs were welcomed, including FAWCO's first Canadian club, the American Women's Club of Oakville, Ontario, and the first Eastern European club, the International Women's Club of Bratislava.

Lee Iacovoni, AWA Rome, president of The FAWCO Foundation, announced that there were 13 scholarship awards valued at over \$90,000 for 1993. Twenty-eight clubs sponsored applicants --a new record.

Barbara Johnson, AWG Paris, was elected FAWCO president and Nairobi was chosen to host the 1995 Conference.

INTERIM MEETING BERN 1994

President Barbara Johnson called the opening session of the Interim Meeting to order at the Bellevue Palace Hotel in Bern, Switzerland on March 18, 1994. In her presidential report, she spoke of FAWCO's role in promoting overseas voter-registration and in reforming outmoded rules for transmission of American nationality to children born overseas. FAWCO had recently applied to become a Non-Governmental Organization affiliated with the United Nations.

The President pointed out that FAWCO had been operating under severe budget constraints. Last year the organization had a \$10,000 budget deficit, mainly due to two publications. She appealed to the membership to contribute to the continuation of FAWCO projects and explained that the FAWCO Board felt there is a need to rethink the structure of the Federation, stressing that each geographic region should be more closely knit with the sister clubs in the same region.

FAWCO Foundation President Lee Iacovoni pointed out that only 50% of the member clubs participate by making contributions to the awards program, a record that must be improved in order to be eligible for corporate contributions. The Foundation's aim is to obtain 100% participation by the time of the Nairobi Conference. She also announced that an annual award in the name of Gertrude de Gallaix had been established by Gertrude's nieces and nephew, to which Mary Mag Hasse and AAWE Paris had also contributed. In addition, former FAWCO President Ruth St. John, who died in December, left a bequest of \$50,000 to The Foundation.

Because of the success of the previous year's impromptu auction in Casablanca where \$2,000 was raised, another fundraising auction was held at this Interim Meeting.

XXXII CONFERENCE NAIROBI 1995

The second FAWCO Conference in Africa, following the 1993 Conference in Casablanca, was held at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. There were 120 participants representing 31 clubs from 16 countries.

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Aurelia Brazeal gave a stirring keynote speech. Other talks were on Population Control and Family Planning and Women's Rights in Kenya.

The overriding concern of the board was to make FAWCO better known in the world. Achieving status as a United Nations NGO (non-governmental organization) was an important step in this direction. In the fall the president and First Vice-president Peggy Rigaud represented FAWCO at a regional NGO conference in Vienna; in the spring AWC Denmark represented FAWCO at the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in the company of Vice-president Gore, French President Mitterand and UN Secretary General Butros Ghali.

President Johnson also stated that she believed the time had come for FAWCO to decentralize, which could be achieved by regionalizing. To be the FAWCO president with 61 member clubs, she pointed out, puts too much responsibility in the hands of one person.

The name *FAWCO Forum* was restored to the newsletter and a new *Mini-Forum* created to provide more frequent communication with member clubs. A meeting was held to discuss what issues FAWCO should present at the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in August 1995. Attendance at this United Nations meeting in China would be a notable first for FAWCO.

Environment Chair Valerie Garforth reported that the goals for the committee set up in 1993 had been reached. These included:

- 1) To work with The FAWCO Foundation to create an environment scholarship under the auspices of Earthwatch.
- 2) To support a home in Kenya for abandoned street girls.
- 3) To prevent rainforest destruction by purchasing one acre of rainforest for each club.
- 4) To plant at least one tree per member over a two-year period.

In 1995, the total of trees planted worldwide by FAWCO clubs and club members was 57,788. The Foundation has worked closely with the Environment Committee and part of the proceeds of the auction at the gala dinner were contributed to the salary of a nurse at the Okoa Dada Home for orphaned and abandoned little street girls in Nairobi. Many of the women attending the conference had brought clothing, books and toys to give the girls at the home.

Citizenship Chair Rebecca Tan reported on the new law, passed in 1994, permitting non-American children of a U.S. parent to apply from overseas for expeditious naturalization. She added that the law had not yet been implemented and suggested that members write to our representatives in Congress.

International Liaison Committee Chair Lucy Laederich reported on the World Federation of Americans Abroad, of which FAWCO is a founding member. She pointed out that another founding member, American Citizens Abroad, was also working hard to get overseas Americans included in the 2000 US census.

Shirley van Ooijen, Membership Extension chair, listed the 9 new clubs which joined FAWCO since the March 1993 Conference. They were: AWC in the

Bahamas, AWA of South Australia (Adelaide), Chilterns AWC, AC of Costa del Sol, AWA Budapest, AWC Berlin, AWC Liechtenstein, AW of the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, AW Berkshire-Surrey.

Rebecca Tan was elected president and the Association of American Women in Ireland was chosen to plan the next Conference in Dublin.

INTERIM MEETING BAD HOMBURG 1996

President Rebecca Tan opened the 1996 Interim Meeting in Bad Homburg, Germany, hosted by AWC of the Taunus. Attending were 230 women from 38 clubs in 20 countries. The theme was 'Women in the Year 2000 - A Voice To Be Heard.' Nadine Strossen, President of the American Civil Liberties Union, delivered the keynote speech on "Current Threats to Civil Liberties and Women of Today."

Among the innovations at this Interim Meeting were the first silent auction, introduced by The Foundation; the FAWCO Fair, consisting of parallel meetings in small groups; one-minute reports by reps instead of the usual three-minute ones; and contributions to The Foundation made at luncheon instead of as part of the general meetings. The FAWCO Foundation gave \$25,000 to 6 student recipients and Jackie Isler, AWC Zurich, was elected its president for 1996-98.

In August 1995, 7 FAWCO members - Donna Sebti, AIWC Casablanca, Helen Hootsmans, AWC Amsterdam, Leslie Flack, AWC Taunus, Peggy Rigaud, AWC Languedoc-Roussillon, Lois Pot, AWC The Hague, Jeanne Schapp, AWC London, and Rebecca Tan, AWC Hamburg - attended the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China. An extensive report by all 7 women was given at the fall Hague regional meeting, "Back from Beijing and Beyond," attended by over 80 women.

During this period the FAWCO Alumnae Committee chaired by Mona Garcia, AWC Madrid, published its first alumnae newsletter; club presidents were added to the FAWCO mailing list; and the Presidents' Coordinator, Elinor Badanes, created a newsletter for club presidents called *Presidential Pipeline*. New committees were the Finance Committee, chaired by Dorothy Childers, AWC Oslo, and the Census 2000 Committee chaired by Shirley van Ooijen, AWC Amsterdam.

Besides the meeting in The Hague, regional meetings also took place in Brussels, Ischia (Italy), Montpellier, Florence, East Sussex and Basel. All Board members were on-line and <http://www.fawco.org> was born under the guidance of Sarah Porubcansky, AWA Vienna, and Robin Jack, AWC London.

The 20th anniversary of voting from overseas (Jan. 2, 1976-1996) was celebrated with a historical overview, published by Kathy Webster, AWC Brussels, of the steps taken by FAWCO leading to this historical event.

Valerie Garforth, AWC Zurich, announced that enough money had been raised through the sale of plastic bowl covers to buy an acre of rainforest in Costa Rica in

the FAWCO name. Lee Iacovoni, AWA Rome, outgoing Foundation president, announced awards donations totaling \$21,278.

The FAWCO Alumnae Committee introduced a proposal to hold the Interim Meeting in the year 2000 in Washington, D.C. Committee Chair Mona Garcia, AWC Madrid, reported on the first U.S. regional in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. attended by 30 women.

XXXIII CONFERENCE DUBLIN 1997

'Peace and Partnership' was the theme of the 33rd FAWCO Conference held at the Grand Hotel Malahide outside of Dublin. There were 219 participants representing 47 clubs, out of a total membership of 65 clubs in 31 countries, with 15,000 members worldwide.

Among the 'firsts' at this Conference, and a highlight of the occasion, was a speech by Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, the first time a head of state had addressed a FAWCO Conference. Other speakers were Dr. Dominic Murray, Director of the Irish Peace Institute Research Center; Mary Banotti, Member of the European Parliament and Maeve Binchy, author. Other firsts were the photos of the participants in the Directory and the possibility of paying for the Conference by credit card, something that had long been wished for.

The Foundation presented a *History of The FAWCO Foundation, 1967-1995*, compiled by Julie van der Wolf, AWC The Hague, as The Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary. Jean Schapp, AWC London, reported that the Relief and Development Fund gave out money as follows: \$2000 to the Miftumukiza Project, tracing families of unaccompanied minors in Tanzanian refugee camps, proposed by AWC Oslo; \$1,000 to Amica, helping traumatized refugee women in Tusla, Bosnia, proposed by AWA Vienna; \$1,000 to Desa, empowering refugee women in Dubrovnik, Croatia, proposed by AWC London; and \$1,000 to Rural Girls' Literacy Classes in Morocco proposed by AWC Casablanca.

The Board of Representatives voted to change the Bylaws in order to call future Conferences the Biennial Conference and future Interim Meetings the Interim Conference. Observers would be called participants, hostess clubs would become host clubs and chair would replace chairman.

Resolutions and Recommendations stressed personal safety, world peace, enhancing the U.S. image abroad and creating long-term FAWCO goals.

Robin Jack, AWC London, presented an audio-visual view of the new FAWCO website. She urged clubs to review the information about their own club and to change any outdated material. Individual clubs were given the opportunity to have their own home page linked to the FAWCO website.

Member clubs were divided into 13 regions, each headed by a regional coordinator. Conference minutes were taken each day by different delegates from several FAWCO clubs and coordinated by Carol Battenfeld, AWC Hamburg.

Ellen Rice, AAW Ireland, was elected president and London was chosen as the site for the next Biennial Conference.

INTERIM CONFERENCE ATHENS 1998

Forty-two clubs were represented at the 1998 Interim Conference (the name changed in 1997 from Interim Meeting). President Ellen Rice introduced the new FAWCO publicity and membership materials incorporating the new logo and colors.

Foundation President Jackie Isler, AWC Zurich, announced that The Foundation had revised its bylaws in regard to the election of officers: the Board of Representatives will vote for the four officers of The Foundation; the remaining four directors will be elected by the outgoing Foundation Board. The silent auction raised almost \$9,000, 25% of which goes to AWOG's charity choice, the Aglaia Kyriakou children's cancer hospital.

New Directions Chair Lucy Laederich divided the assembly into six groups, each facilitated by a committee member, to formulate a new mission statement for FAWCO. The proposals were voted upon and the committee was given a mandate to combine the top-ranking statements prior to final publication.

FAWCO Alumnae USA, now in its third year as a FAWCO entity, had approximately 260 members throughout the United States. The group has a tour-planning arm whose tours are open to FAWCO members and spouses everywhere. Alumnae Chair Mona Garcia described the arrangements being made for the FAWCO 2000 Interim Conference, the first time ever within the borders of the U.S.

XXXIV BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LONDON 1999

To celebrate the centenary of the American Women's Club in London, the last FAWCO Conference of the second millennium was held as a cooperative endeavor of four host clubs: the American Women's Club of London, the American Women of Berkshire/Surrey, the American Women of Surrey and the Chilterns American Women's Club.

President Ellen Rice reported that since March 1997 there had been five meetings of the board, two of which were conventional meetings. The other three meetings were held online for the first time in the organization's history. These proved extremely successful, resulting in a considerable saving of time and expense. President Rice said that a chapter on "Online Meetings" is included in the new edition of the *Resource Manual*.

Since no organization can remain static and survive, the board considered three major issues during its term:

- 1) The Relief and Development Committee: in 1997 this committee was moved to The Foundation.
- 2) The Resource Center: the Board decided to phase out the Resource Center as a distribution point for FAWCO materials since all clubs now have access to online communication and reports can be easily and inexpensively published and circulated as requested.
- 3) Dues and Income Restructuring: fundraising is still a serious problem and FAWCO is therefore dependent on the dues from member clubs for its income.

A change in membership dues was proposed by the board to be voted upon at the Biennial Conference. A letter was sent out to all member clubs, seeking a dues increase of approximately 15% in 2000 and another 5% in 2001, the first in eight years. The board also suggested that a discount should be offered to associate member clubs, as approximately 25% of FAWCO's business is a concern of U.S. citizens only, a minority within these clubs.

Membership Extension Committee Chair, Virginia Andersen, announced that three new clubs had joined FAWCO since the Athens Interim Conference: AWC Malmo (Sweden), AW of Sydney (Australia) and the Barcelona Women's Network (Spain). This brought The Federation to a total of 70 clubs.

The New Directions Committee, chaired by Lucy Laederich, made three proposals for the future:

- 1) A 'virtual clubhouse' for FAWCO, a new role for the website which is now functioning.
- 2) Regional meetings to be held in the autumn in each of four to six 'super-regions.'
- 3) Further use of modern communications.

The FAWCO Foundation made a number of organizational changes during the year, eliminating voting deputies from the board and creating two new fundraising positions. For the first time the four administrative officers were elected directly by the FAWCO Board of Representatives. All this entailed writing new Administrative Guidelines. Foundation President Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark, also explained some of the recent economies being made by The Foundation such as the elimination of the newsletter, and using electronic mail as much as possible.

Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris, was elected president and Luxembourg was chosen as the 2001 Biennial Conference site.

INTERIM CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, D.C. 2000

202 delegates and 42 guests attended this FAWCO Conference held for the first time in the United States and titled 'Coming Home to Be Counted.' The delegates represented 20 of the 35 countries in which FAWCO member clubs were present. Three new clubs had joined during the past year: AWC Philippines, AWC Bahamas and AWC Lebanon, bringing the number of member clubs to 73.

The president spoke of the objectives of the board in the past year: further development of the website, changing the headquarters' mailings to bi-monthly

letters from the president and twice-yearly mailings of *The Forum*, and reviving the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund. Other objectives included augmenting the number of regional meetings as well as scheduling more parallel meetings for reps and presidents at Conferences. President Laederich also represented the Federation at a fact-finding meeting of the C2K committee at the Census Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Census Committee Chair Kay Miller reported that Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, had met with her and the FAWCO Board before the Conference to discuss some of the major difficulties in including private overseas Americans in the Census, and encouraged FAWCO to make proposals as to how it could be done.

AW Surrey, which co-chaired the London Conference in 1999, has generously voted to contribute their profit of approximately \$2700 to the Federation. These funds will be used to update and publish a new edition of *The Years of FAWCO* to coincide with the FAWCO 70th anniversary in 2001. Paula Daeppen, Vice-president for Public Relations and Internet Presence, reported that, thanks to *The FAWCO Forum* and the website, FAWCO possesses two tools not only for increasing communication among member clubs, but also for attracting advertisers.

The board presented the Circle of Honor Award to the following women in recognition of their outstanding achievements: Eleanor Fina, Washington Liaison from 1988 to 1998; Kathy Webster for her efforts in voter registration and other citizenship issues; and Caroline Newton for her long service with the FAWCO archives.

FAWCO Foundation President Roberta Zollner reported that the board hoped eventually to increase Relief and Development grants to the level of education grants. Other goals are to work toward increasing the endowment fund through donations and to cut expenses by using e-mail more frequently for communications. President Zollner presented the new Foundation logo and the *Rep Manual*, created by Elinor Badanes.

Laureen Scharps, AWC Taunus, Foundation Chair, Relief and Development, announced that the year's grants totaling \$15,000 had been awarded to: Nyapea Hospital, Uganda, \$5000; Horizons Ouverts (village schools), Morocco, \$3500; Monze Mission Hospital, Zambia, \$2500; Tailor Training Project, Burundi & Rwanda, \$2500; Nuevo Amanecer, Madrid, \$1500.

There were three outstanding speakers at the Conference: Congresswoman Carolyn B. Mahoney; Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States; and Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Executive Director of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

The Washington Interim Conference closed with a tree-planting ceremony with the National Park Service, near the Washington Memorial, celebrating the first FAWCO Conference in the United States.

THE NEW CENTURY

Global concerns were enlarged and expanded. Presidents and committee members regularly traveled to regions outside of Europe; Conferences were in Seoul and Vilnius, Boston and Marrakech. FAWCO gained recognition from Congress, the State Department, the Government Accounting Office, the Federal Voting Assistance Program, and The United Nations. An Americans Abroad Caucus was created.

Emergency Relief Funds went to Sri Lanka, New Orleans and Haiti. Development Grants addressed longer-term projects, and target programs focused on specific issues. FAUSA became an established FAWCO partner.

Administrative aspects were streamlined and electric communication intensified.

XXXV BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LUXEMBOURG 2001

The Conference was addressed by Her Royal Highness, the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, and speakers Claire Brisset, Chairman of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, and Marie Holzman, Franco-American champion of human rights/women's rights in China.

The workshops were Moveable Marriages (*Robin Pascoe*); Leadership Issues in Facing Conflict (*Ann Houston Kelley*); Taxation and Social Security for the American Expatriate (*Stephanie Simonard and Tom Rose, AARO*); A Career in Your Suitcase (*Joanna Parfitt*); Fearless Fundraising (*FAWCO Foundation*); Emergency Response to Cardiac Crisis (*Vicki Arefi, Lynn McCauley*); Lessons in Leadership (*Marge Wendt*).

Circle of Honor Awards went to Michael Adler, AAWE Paris, Citizenship; Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels, Environment; Elaine Senigallia, AWA Rome, Editor, two FAWCO histories.

The first Foundation Online Auction, to run through May 2001, was launched; *70 Years of FAWCO, 1931--2001*, edited by Elaine Senigallia and Georgia Regnault, was presented; The FAWCO Special Project Award for \$500 went to AWO Ticino

Two resolutions were voted on:

- 1). *"The delegates to the 35th Biennial Conference of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas urge the U.S. government to enact legislation that will eliminate all of the current disincentives to voting that overseas citizens encounter, and specifically those presented in FAWCO's electoral reform proposals of February 2001."*
- 2). *"The delegates to the 35th Biennial Conference of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) urge the United States Congress to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of the Child."*

The Emergency Relief Fund was revived at the request of AWC Bombay; two donations totaling \$3,000 were given for aid following the Gujarat earthquake in India.

The FAWCO website was redesigned by Maureen Kittridge and Emily van Eerten, AWC Amsterdam, with two major financial subsidies from AW Surrey. It

featured the work of FAWCO committees and became the web-host for over one quarter of the clubs within two years.

FAWCO joined CONGO, the U.N. Conference of NGOs

Five new clubs joined the Federation, including two from new countries, India and Finland. Membership was 79 clubs in March 2001, the highest ever.

The Census Committee Chair, Nan de Laubadère, AAWE Paris, surveyed FAWCO on "which overseas Americans should be counted in the Decennial Census; and where might they best be found in 'your' country?" President Lucy Laederich attended a conference in Washington, D.C. organized by the U.S. Census Bureau for 'international stakeholders' such as FAWCO, to discuss possibilities for including overseas Americans in the 2010 Decennial Census.

FAWCO was consulted on language and provisions in the first post-2000 election reform legislation, urging maximum possible time between the sending out of ballots and the election day in order to reduce disenfranchisement of overseas Americans. Voting from Overseas Chair Kathy Webster, AWC Brussels, drafted a 'wish list' based on the FAWCO post-election survey that was to become the basis for the first position paper used for Overseas Americans Week in Washington in May 2002.

The first regional meeting in Asia was organized in November 2000 by Helen Papazian, AWC Bangkok. Present were AWC Bangkok, AWC Perth, AWC Philippines, AWC Seoul and the newest FAWCO club, AWC Bombay, as well as an interested visitor from AWC Hong Kong

INTERIM CONFERENCE FLORENCE 2002

The Conference theme was 'Building bridges.' Forty-two clubs attended; new clubs were New Delhi, Lausanne and WIN Austria.

President Pam Dalhgren reported on the Emergency Relief Fund activated for the September 11th attack on the United States. The chosen charity was the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund.

Progress was reviewed on the newly established US Liaison and NGO Director positions:

1) US Liaison Lucy Laederich, appointed in 2001, reported on her two mandates, to work for inclusion in the US census, and to work on electoral reform. She unveiled a map showing the population of Americans abroad, country by country. It was voted to send the following statement to Washington.

"The delegates of the 2002 Interim Conference of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc., representing some 17,000 members in 35 countries, strongly urge the United States Congress to craft legislation that will: 1) facilitate procedures for voting from overseas; 2) ensure the timely distribution of election materials so that all ballots can be received and counted on time; 3) implement procedures for providing statistics on voting from overseas in order to further refine the process for the 4.1 million civilian United States citizens living and working abroad."

2) Ngo Director Paula Daeppen, AWC Zurich, reported that FAWCO had joined CONGO (Congress of Non-governmental Organizations), and that she would represent FAWCO. A statement to be presented to the 2nd UN World Summit on Aging in Madrid was unanimously approved:

“The Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc, as an organization of over 17,000 members in 35 countries worldwide, supports the UN International Plan of Action on Aging, and looks forward to partnering with other NGO and government organizations. It recognizes, in particular, the special needs of aging women, the largest percentage of the aging population and often those who are primary caregivers despite limited financial resources. Its newly established committee on Women’s Health and Aging will therefore work actively to disseminate information and provide support to its members and others in their host countries around the globe.”

A Bylaw amendment was approved to Article IV - Officers, Section 2 - qualifications, which permitted the elected position of treasurer to be a non-American, as the treasurer is not in line to fill the position of president. The purpose of this amendment was to widen the field of possible candidates and to open a position on the board to non-Americans.

Polli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), gave the keynote presentation.

Polli, with Kathy Webster, led a voter assistance-training workshop. Other workshops were: American Studies for Kids; Bridging the Financial Gap; Financial Independence for Women; Confession of an Advertising Woman (How anyone can succeed at selling more advertising and earning more money for her club publication); Educational, Medical, Psychological and Legal Implications Among the Learning Disabled Population; Elder Care from Overseas; Energy Efficiency; FAWCO Global Appeal to International Members; Repatriation – Are you Ready To Go Home again?

The Foundation Officers, 2002-2004, were elected: President Elinor Bedanes, AW Surrey; Vice-president Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland; Secretary Trudi Visser, AWC Dublin; Treasurer Cynthia Niggli, AWC Zurich. The theme of the friendship quilt was Let the Sun Shine In. Laureen Sharps, AWC Taunus, the Relief and Development Chair, announced that the fund would be renamed The Foundation Development Grants.

XXXVI BIENNIAL CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM 2003

The theme of the 36th Conference was ‘Be Inspired.’ The 43 clubs present represented 25 of the 33 countries hosting FAWCO clubs.

President Dahgren reported on the first Overseas American Week in Washington in May 2002. She attended with US Liaison Lucy Laederich, American Citizens Abroad (ACA), Association of American Residents Overseas (AARO), and Alliance of American Organizations, Spain and Portugal (ALLAMO). The American Business Council of the Gulf States (ABCGC) joined the coalition for several appointments with key officials. The weeklong door knock included Capital

Hill, the State Department, the White House and the Census Bureau. Due to the success of the venture, it was decided to make it an annual undertaking. The Circle of Honor was presented to Senator John D. Rockefeller and Representative Carol Mahoney on behalf of their work in supporting the voting rights of overseas Americans. This was the first time that this award was presented to anyone outside of FAWCO.

In January 2003 a second visit was made to Washington during the Congressional budget appropriations to advocate funds for the Help American Vote Act. A meeting was held with the Director of the Census Bureau. Charles Louis Kincannon.

NGO Director Paula Daeppen represented FAWCO on five UN affiliated committees – CONGO (Committee of Non-governmental Organizations), the CONGO Committee on the Status of Women, the CONGO Special NGO Committee on Human Rights, the CONGO HIV Committee, and GINA (the Geneva International Network on Ageing, which works closely with the World Health Association). Paula, Third Vice-president Arline Coward and Dolores Cuellar, chair of the FAWCO Women's Health and Ageing Committee, attended the UN World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in 2002. The US delegation was presented with the FAWCO statement on ageing adopted at the Florence Interim Conference, *"urging recognition of the special needs of ageing women, the largest percentage of the ageing population, and those who are often the primary caregivers despite limited financial resources."*

The president, Sites Committee Chair Ashley O'Reilly, AWC Bern, and First Vice-president Charlotte Dewitt, AWC Sweden, initiated a Pro Forma Budget document to be used by clubs interested in hosting FAWCO Conferences.

A Bylaw amendment was approved to change the status of FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) from an affiliate member club to its own separate category, in line with that of The Foundation; FAUSA serves as the alumnae arm of FAWCO, as The Foundations is its philanthropic arm.

Queen Silvia visited the Conference and accepted a donation for her charity. The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Rehn; she had served as Minister of Equality Affairs and Minister of Defense for Finland, UN Under-secretary, and UN Special Rapporteur of the Situation on Human Rights.

The workshops were: Computers & the Internet; Promoting Your Club in a Politically Sensitive Climate; Speaking Globally; Substance Abuse; Americans as Others See Them; Global Climate Change and Its Impact on Markets; Photographic Reflections on Swedish Immigration and North American Indians; Website Development; Health Promotion and Prevention Among the Elderly in Sweden; Rhythm Therapy for Stroke Victims; Fundraising the Gallo Way.

The theme of the Foundation friendship quilt was 'Oceans Apart, Close as the Heart.' The Development Grants were restructured into five categories: Healthy Living, Feed the World, AWC Madrid Effects of Violence, Peace Through Understanding, and Hope Through Education

INTERIM CONFERENCE THE HAGUE 2004

‘Changing The Flow—Making A Difference’ was the theme of the Interim hosted by the AWC The Hague at the Kurhaus Hotel, with a pre-conference Indonesian *rijsttaffel* at the AWC clubhouse. President Arline Coward, AWC Madrid, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates of 46 member clubs, 32 club presidents and 10 FAWCO Counselors. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the late Princess Juliana, former Queen of The Netherlands.

A panel discussion on “Women, War and Peace” was moderated by Pia Dijkstra, a Dutch journalist and Ambassador of the Dutch chapter of Save the Children. The panel consisted of members of the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights; they discussed women’s roles in war, as victims or soldiers, and in peace, as peace-builders.

With proceeds from the 2003 Stockholm Conference, the FAWCO Board held a FAWCO Fever Lottery that awarded three full Interim Conference packages to AWC Amsterdam, USWC Fyn and AWC Aarhus; underwrote a portion of the conference registration fee for all delegates; and contributed \$2,000 to the FAWCO Foundation Development Grants.

As an emblem for FAWCO, the FAWCO PIN was launched.

The Founder’s Circle was inaugurated as a salute to Caroline Curtis Brown whose original vision created FAWCO. Contributions and bequests to The Founder’s Circle were to be used to help fund FAWCO Committees and Liaisons in their work on traditional FAWCO concerns. A Founder’s Circle pin and two portraits of Caroline Curtis Brown were unveiled.

The Conference was declared “carbon-neutral” when Environment Committee Chair Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels, calculated travel miles to the Conference and allowed delegates to purchase trees, thus offsetting the negative impact of flight travel on the environment. “Water and Gender”, an informative presentation by the International Water and Sanitation Center in The Hague, explained the important relationship between women and water in the developing world.

Delegates attended two official receptions, one hosted by Delft Mayor H. von Oorschot and his wife Anne, FAWCO Rep of AWC The Hague, at the Delft Town Hall. The other was a welcome reception hosted by Ambassador Clifford Sobel and his wife Barbara, Honorary President of AWC The Hague, at the Ambassador’s Residence.

Workshops included Virtual Leadership, Fund Raising for a Cause, Substance Abuse, Living Abroad with Children, Care giving from a Distance, Facing History and Ourselves, How Sustainable is the World of our Grandchildren, and Voting Assistance Training conducted by Polli Brunelli, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defence. The former Dutch Minister of Health, Dr. Els Borst, explored the “Truths and Myths about Dutch Laws on Drugs, Prostitution and Euthanasia.”

The results of a survey by Citizenship Chair Dorothy Stage, AWC Gothenburg, on Expeditious Naturalization to obtain U.S. citizenship for grandchildren or children, were made available.

The delegates unanimously passed a mandate *"that The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc, as a non-partisan network with more than 17,000 members in 33 countries, endorses the three sections of the Equal Rights Amendment and urges timely ratification."*

The board launched a program called "Taking FAWCO to the Clubs" in order to establish a closer partnership between FAWCO and member clubs. Two regional meetings were held, one hosted by AWC Brussels and the second by AWC Gothenburg. The FAWCO president attended AWC Chilterns' Remembrance Day Service at an American cemetery, participated with IWC Casablanca and AIWA Rabat in the first-ever Run/Walk event in Morocco to support breast cancer research, and represented FAWCO at the UN World Urban Forum in Barcelona. The board addressed the changing membership profiles of the clubs and, by working with committee chairs, liaisons, The Foundation and member clubs, confirmed that the FAWCO vision is not only a process, it is a vision in progress.

FAWCO submitted the FAWCO Millennium Forest Project, organized by AIWC Casablanca and supported by member clubs worldwide, to the United Nations publication on successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects.

FAWCO Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland, reported on significant changes during 2003-2004. Acting on a mission statement adopted at the 2003 Annual Special Meeting, Development Grants Chair Elinor Badanes, AW Surrey, oversaw the restructuring of the Development Grants based on categories; the Awards were modified to include specific academic disciplines. The Kids Help project (a donation to mark a special occasion in a child's life) was initiated by Ann DeSimoni, AIWC Genoa. Mary Rose Stauder was elected Foundation President and Pam Perraud, AAWE Paris, Vice-president, for 2004-2006.

FAUSA President Dale Koepnick reported that FAUSA membership remained steady at 200. FAUSA hosts an annual meeting and several regional meetings throughout the United States, and raises funds for a FAUSA scholarship and other philanthropic efforts. Twenty-two FAUSA members attended the Interim Meeting.

Thames Valley AWC joined FAWCO as the 72nd club.

The president closed the Conference with a message from the "Women, War, and Peace" panel by stating that "we must believe in our ability to make changes in our lives, not only locally but globally as well," and that "we must challenge concepts that are taken as normal but we know that are not. We must foster peace."

Conference Chair Georgia Regnault, FAWCO Rep Anne von Oorschot and AWC The Hague President Celeste Brown, passed the FAWCO flag to Sunny Eades, Chair of the 37th Biennial Conference to be hosted by The North American Connection in Birmingham, England.

XXXVII CONFERENCE BIRMINGHAM 2005

'The Heart of the Matter' and "'Thinking Outside the Box' were the joint themes of the 37th FAWCO Biennial Conference hosted by The North American Connection in Birmingham, 'The Heart of England;' 41 clubs and 28 club presidents attended. The president opened the FAWCO Conference by inviting the delegates to re-discover the vision of its founder, Mrs. Caroline Curtis Brown.

Conference innovations included shortening the Biennial by one day; replacing club oral reports with a narrated Power Point presentation by 2nd Vice-president Kathleen Simon, AWC London/NAC, and Presidents' Liaison Melissa Mash, AW Surrey, titled "Clubs in Action"; and the cabaret-style seating in General Sessions. The Flags of FAWCO displayed in the General Assembly represented 74 member clubs; they were created by Conference Chair Sunny Eades and children from the Conference charity, Little Hearts Matter.

A panel discussion on heart care that included two cardiologists and the Director of Little Hearts Matter, was moderated by Health Issues Chair Dolores Cuellar, AWC Bogotá. Conference speakers included the President of the American Friends of the NHC, Countess of Macclesfield; the Lord Mayor of Birmingham; Veronica Oakeshott from Cicely's Fund; and Conference Gold Level sponsors. The Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd MP, Prime Minister Tony Blair's Special Envoy to Iraq, was the keynote speaker.

Workshops dealt with HIV/AIDS, Dealing with Difficult People, the U.S. Government & Overseas Americans, The Woodland Trust, and Learning Differently. Environment Chair Valerie Garforth, AWC Brussels, sold 168 trees through the Carbon Neutral Conference Campaign; 65 trees were planted in the FAWCO Grove in the Woodland Trust near Birmingham.

For distinguished years of service and dedication to the goals and ideals of FAWCO, The Circle of Honor was presented to NGO Director Paula Daeppen, AWC Zurich; FAWCO Foundation Counselor and Archives Co-Chair Jackie Isler, AWC Zurich; FAWCO Counselor and U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich, AAWE Paris; FAWCO Counselor Georgia Regnault, AWC The Hague; ESC Chair Susan van Alsenoy, AWC Antwerp; and Foundation Counselor Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark.

Two new FAWCO awards were established in 2005. The Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award, in appreciation of service exemplifying the spirit, inspiration and dedication of Founder Caroline Curtis Brown, was presented to Stella Fizazi and Donna Sebti, AIWC Casablanca; Rebecca Warnander, AWC Stockholm; and Shawn Watson, AWC Bern. The FAWCO Fellowship Award for outstanding support and partnership in promoting the ideals and goals of The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc, was presented to "the fathers of the Help America Vote Act of 2002," Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Bob Ney (R-OH); to Polli Brunelli, Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program; and to long-time FAWCO supporter Jaime Watson.

Voting from Overseas Committee Chair Kathy Webster, AWC Brussels, retired from 'active duty.' Polli Brunelli, Director FVAP, presented Kathy with letters of recognition and congratulations from New York Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (signed by Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz); an American flag flown over the Pentagon in her honor; and mementos from the Department of Defense and FVAP.

Dianne Reed, AW of The Eastern Province, spoke of being shot during a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia and the strength that she gained from the support of her FAWCO family. She congratulated FAWCO for empowering women and developing global partnerships with the member clubs. The board made a contribution in Dianne's name to the FAWCO Founder's Circle.

The new FAWCO website was presented by the web manager Alice Grevet, AAWE Paris, who acknowledged the contribution of web designer Stephanie Von Ohain, AWC Stockholm. The FAWCO 75th Anniversary History Book project was launched, with FAWCO Counselor Georgia Regnault, AWC The Hague, and Nancy Thornley, AWA Rome/FAUSA, as editors.

The delegates unanimously passed two mandates: the first urged FAWCO members to support a U.N. Millennium Development Goal to eradicate malaria by raising \$75,000 for the purchase and distribution of mosquito nets; the second advocated the creation of a Congressional caucus in Washington dedicated to active dialogue with the overseas American community, and to explore the possibility of setting up a council of overseas Americans with consultative status to the United States government.

The FAWCO Foundation produced Biennial Conference CDs available for purchase. Foundation Counselor Roberta Zollner, AWC Denmark, received recognition for organizing the 10th FAWCO Friendship Quilt, "How Does Your Garden Grow." Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder, AAW Ireland, reported that member clubs donated \$25,000 to The FAWCO Foundation in 2004-2005 and that the Kids Help project contributed funds to the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund.

The Federation became a visible organization to many member clubs through the board's efforts to "Take FAWCO to The Clubs." Six regional meetings, three regional retreats and two Swiss inter-club meetings were held during 2003-2005. The president visited clubs in Australia.

FAWCO continued to assist overseas Americans in voting in Federal elections. It advocated full funding of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 with the inclusion of overseas Americans in the original Senate bill. FAWCO President Arline Coward, U.S. Liaison Lucy Laederich, FAUSA President Dale Koepenick, American Club of Lyon Co-President Eric Way and FAWCO Counselor Pamela Dahlgren attended Overseas Americans Week in Washington, D.C. during 2003-2005.

The FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund raised \$48,000 for the Beruwala Village Housing Project, Sri Lanka, submitted by AWG Languedoc-Roussillon, to build a house for the widows and children of fishermen killed in the 2004 tsunami.

An official statement was issued calling upon the U.S. Administration to honor the rights and dignity of women and children by supporting life-saving programs sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund. Letters of condolence were sent to former First Lady Nancy Reagan on the death of President Ronald Reagan and to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the death of Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights.

AWC Bogotá and WA Cairo joined FAWCO in 2004-2005, bringing membership to 74 clubs.

Two ad hoc committees were created during the year. The Ad Hoc Committee on Communication addressed communication and the flow of information within FAWCO; the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of FAWCO was charged with reviewing the present structure of FAWCO and making recommendations where required.

Emily van Eerten, AWC Amsterdam, was elected president for 2005-2007. The FAWCO 75th Anniversary Interim Conference will be held in Berlin, the site of the first Conference hosted by AWC Berlin. The American Club of Lyon will host the 38th Biennial Conference in Lyon, France.

INTERIM CONFERENCE BERLIN 2006

The first FAWCO Conference was held in Berlin in May 1932, so that returning to the city in 2006 was especially appropriate for a 75th anniversary year. Hosted by AWC Berlin, the theme was 'Tearing Down Walls,' 41 member clubs attended.

FAWCO clubs responded to the mandate of the Birmingham Conference to eradicate malaria by raising enough money to buy one insecticide-treated bed net per member club of FAWCO, or \$75,000, for its 75th birthday. Led by NGO Director Paula Daeppen (AWC Zurich), small clubs and large joined in with raffles, auctions and swim events. In honor of the FAWCO commitment, Dr. Hans Herron, President of the Millennium Institute and BioVision, a Swiss foundation, gave the keynote address. \$100,000 was raised in the year leading up to the Conference. \$35,000 of this sum went to the UK-based World Swim Against Malaria, which purchased and distributed 7,000 nets on FAWCO's behalf via several programs. The remainder of the money was pledged directly to BioVision in support of its programs in Malindi and Nyabondo, Kenya. FAWCO renewed its commitment to these projects as part of a new Global Concerns Fund for 2006-7.

Other speakers at the Conference included a member of the German Parliament, Marcus Loning; Sandy Weiner, Personality Profiles and Group Dynamics; Kirsten Dierolf, Ways to Develop and Sustain a Voluntary Organization; motivational speaker Carlona Stone; Polli Brunelli, Voter Assistance Training; Peter Garforth, Sustainability and New Urbanism; workshops on international education and

mobile families; The Expatriate and the IRS; Social Security for Expats; Domestic Violence Overseas; Alcohol Abuse and Intervention; Col. (ret) Robin Greenham, The New Berlin; Birgit Ehlers, the Conference charity Ronald McDonald Haus.

A birthday cake was presented and wishes came from American Citizens Abroad and the Association of American Residents Overseas. Nancy Thornley (AWA Rome/FAUSA) and Georgia Regnault (AWC The Hague/FAUSA), as editors, presented the 75th Anniversary edition of the FAWCO History Book. This publication, affectionately known as The Red Book, was warmly received and Nancy Thornley was awarded the Circle of Honor. Laura Bush sent a letter of greetings and congratulations on the 75th anniversary.

The Emergency Relief Fund was activated following the Asian tsunami in December 2004. \$48,000 was sent to the Beruwala Village Humanitarian Association in April 2005 for a project, proposed by Genette Eysselink and AWG Languedoc-Roussillon, to construct a building for widows and children of lost fishermen. It will be known as the FAWCO House. The ERF was again activated following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Clubs were asked to prepare annual reports that annotated their charitable giving, both in time and money. This information, along with reports of liaisons, global committees, the Foundation and FAUSA, was distilled into a six-page report. In the year 2005 FAWCO clubs had collectively donated \$1,700,000, plus time, food and goods, to its host communities and developing countries. The money, goods and services went to some of the neediest women and children in the global society for health, education, the environment and peace.

Valerie Garforth (FAUSA), Environment Committee Chair, reported the continuing promotion of tree planting and Clean Up The World initiatives; US Liaison Lucy Leaderich (AAWE Paris) spoke of the continuing work in Washington with the other overseas organizations on the census, on streamlining voting, and on creating a caucus focusing on overseas Americans. The delegates voted on a statement urging United States support of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on the right of a non-citizen in a host country to have access to Consular information and notification.

FAWCO Foundation President Mary Rose Stauder (AAW Ireland) introduced a 'Charity Is the New Black' fundraising theme. Development grant and scholarship winners were announced; \$24,000 went to grants and \$23,000 went to education awards. The Foundation announced a Friendship Cruise to support its Kids Help charity and Hole-in-the-wall Camps. Past Foundation award winner MaLinda Hill (AWC Cologne) spoke of using her award money to fund research on the Kugeria Women Water Project of Murinduko, which received the 2005 grant to build a water tank. This is a first in which award money went to finance research for a grant.

Four new clubs joined FAWCO: AW Potluck Club, Kristiansand, Norway; AC of Hertfordshire, England; AWC Auckland, New Zealand; and AWC Montevideo, Uruguay.

XXXVIII BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LYON 2007

Conference Chairs Eric Way and Becky Raynaud welcomed the delegates from 42 clubs, as well as special guest Angie Bryan, the US Consul to Auvergne, Bourgogne and Rhone-Alps, to 'Light the Way' in Lyon. The Presidents' Day Gala, held at the Lyon City Hall, commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the host club, AC Lyon.

The FAWCO Foundation, celebrating its 40th anniversary by 'Painting the Town Rouge,' has distributed nearly one million dollars since its founding in 1967. The FAWCO Bylaws were amended to accurately reflect the status of The Foundation as an independent corporation with its own elected officers, documents and bylaws, and as the charitable arm of FAWCO. A second bylaw change made the FAWCO secretary an elected office.

The Resolutions and Recommendations for 2007-2009 were approved; supporting Americans living, working and retiring abroad; working toward greater human rights, particularly for women and children; and promoting mutual respect, understanding and international goodwill between the United States and other countries.

The Aging Today Chair introduced the new Grandma 2 Grandma Bibi Jann Children's Care Trust Project to provide housing for AIDs orphans and their grandmothers, or *bibis*. Environmental Chair Valarie Garforth (AWC Brussels/FAUSA) announced FAWCO's participation in the UN Billion Tree Campaign and urged FAWCO to strive to plant at least one tree per member. The Educational Support Committee reported that its two-page document, detailing how students with special needs can be educated, had been translated into 24 languages, thanks to FAWCO members.

US Liaison Lucy Laederich announced the formation of the much-anticipated Americans Abroad Caucus, co-sponsored by Congressman Carolyn Mahoney (D-NY) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC). Speakers at the Lyon Conference included the Executive Director of the Overseas Vote Foundation, Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, who works with FAWCO and others to increase overseas voter participation in US elections and is developing online voter registration software. Professor Peter Luthy of BioVision and Director of the Nyabondo and Malindi Malaria projects provided delegates with a vivid picture of life in the villages, and the impact that FAWCO's contribution has made to combat malaria. Jean-Baptiste Richardier, Director and Executive Manager of the Conference charity, Handicap International, gave a powerful presentation on the devastation caused by landmines and cluster bombs. Workshops included Estate Planning for Overseas Americans; Oral Fluency Strategies in Learning a Foreign Language; Language and Bilingualism in Ageing; Addiction Intervention with Arno Winkelmann; FAWCO in a Flat World presented by Conference sponsor Jian Global Services4; and Global Warming with Peter Garforth.

FAUSA had 178 members as of September 2006; it introduced a new membership category for guest members who were not American-born nor members of a FAWCO clubs while abroad.

President Emily Van Eerten reported on attending the opening ceremony for the FAWCO House in Beruwala Village, Sri Lanka. This home for widows and orphans of the 2004 Asian tsunami is now operational and providing many additional training services to its residents. The Emergency Relief Fund for Hurricane Katrina, approximately \$20,000, went to Dillard University to build a new reading/study room in Kearny Hall, to be dedicated in April 2007.

A special FAWCO Fellowship Award was given to Phyllis Michaux (AAWE) in recognition of her efforts over the years to change and improve the US Citizenship laws on voting from aboard and dual-national requirements. The Circle of Honor was presented to Mary Mag; as FAWCO president, Mary was integral in establishing The Foundation as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Missouri, and served as its first president. FAWCO Counselor Pamela Dahlgren (AW Surrey/FAUSA) also received the Circle of Honor for her extensive service to FAWCO over the years, serving on many boards and chairing the London Conference. The Carolyn Curtis Brown Spirit Award was presented to Ann De Simoni (AIWC Genoa) in recognition of her outstanding leadership in such projects as the Dream Cruise, Kids Help and Conference Buddies.

INTERIM CONFERENCE SEOUL 2008

The first FAWCO Conference in Asia was held at the Millennium Hilton Hotel in Seoul, Korea, March 5-9. President Celeste Brown greeted the 183 attendees and guests with the theme, 'Dynamic Korea: Global Impact.' Conference Chair Valerie Briggs and her committee introduced Seoul and its environs with a pre-Conference tour of the area.

The Wonderful World of FAWCO opened with a new PR film, "FAWCO Making a Difference," and a festive Parade of Nations featured Korean club members, in costume, representing all of the FAWCO clubs.

The delegates from 42 member clubs attended a varied program of general sessions, parallel sessions for club presidents and FAWCO Reps, and separate sessions for non-officer attendees. BOOST (Be Open, Organized and Successful Today) sessions were on "Attracting and Keeping Club Members" and "Public Speaking with Poise and Confidence." Workshops included "Play the Game to Win: Women and Negotiations;" "We all Learn Differently – Some a Bit More than Others;" and "Operation Underground Railroad: Changing One Life at a Time."

The goals and activities of the Vision for the Future Task Force that had been initiated at the end of the 2007 Lyon Conference were presented. Under the leadership of FAWCO Secretary Linda Rishel (AWG Paris), the work was organized into three distinct areas: 1) input was solicited from individual FAWCO members on the current state of FAWCO; 2) member clubs were surveyed to learn

what demographic changes and issues were affecting them; and 3) Vision for the Future Task Force Open Forums were scheduled during the Conference to discuss the tentative findings.

Other initiatives included:

- 1) A new, easy-to-navigate FAWCO website created by Web Manager Alice Grevet.
- 2) Bulletins by committee chairs, NGO Directors, and US Liaisons made more directly available to all FAWCO members.
- 3) A new FAWCO power point presentation to promote FAWCO to member clubs and their communities.
- 4) The use of Skype for board conference calls and other contacts.
- 5) Two 'FAWCO Greatness' workshops given by Eric Way (AW Lyon) to investigate ways for FAWCO to harness and direct its strength.

Second Vice-president Terri Knudsen presented the new FAWCO Rep Appreciation Award to three reps: Janet Byrne, AW Surrey, Region I; Barbara Edwards, AWA Vienna, Region 5; and Tricia Reynolds, AWC Naples, Region 8. She announced that Regional Meetings were held in Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5. New club reports were from AWC Auckland, AWC Korea, AWC Philippines, AWC Shanghai and AWA Bristol.

NGO Director Pam Perraud announced that FAWCO was donating \$3000 to the Eleanor Roosevelt Workshop for Girls in Val Kill, New York, in honor of the 69th Anniversary of Mrs. Roosevelt's vital role in creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Several daughters of FAWCO members attended the workshop in summer, 2008. NGO directors actively supported the anniversary activities in Geneva, and FAWCO sponsored the special website for the event.

FAWCO Foundation President Arlene Coward thanked the member clubs for being the lifeline of The Foundation, supporting 'Philanthropy, People and Promises.' The Foundation Board revised its structure to have six members. Elsie Bose (AWG Paris), Development Grants Chair, introduced a new grant, Ending HIV/AIDS DG, and announced the 8 winning grants. Dolores Cuellar (AWC Bogota), Education Awards Chair, announced the 7 award winners. Lee Sorensen, Foundation Counselor, gave a tribute to Mary Mag Hesse, FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation President, and presented the Mary Walker Mag Hesse Award for Asian Studies.

"North Koreans in Crisis: Causes, Dimensions and Responses" was the subject of a panel discussion led by Stephen Bradner, Tim Peters and Andre Landkov, MD. They discussed the human rights violations facing North Koreans and North Korean refugees.

Cynthia Niggli (AWC Zurich) was awarded the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award in recognition of her efforts for The Foundation. My-Linh Kunst presented her book, "Beyond Borders: Portraits of American Women from Around the World," featuring FAWCO women; their portraits were displayed throughout the Conference. Reports and photographs were uploaded to the FAWCO website so that those at home were able to follow Conference news and activities.

The Gala was combined with the FAWCO Foundation evening and its live and silent auctions; \$29,000 was raised. The theme of *Kapchi Katshida* (Let's Go Together) was an apt finale.

XXXIX BIENNIAL CONFERENCE VILNIUS 2009

The 39th Biennial Conference was held March 18-22 at the Reval Hotel Lietuva in Vilnius, Lithuania. Without a local host club, Conference Co-chairs Angelika McLarren (AWC Berlin) and Sharon Lochocki (AWC Berlin) organized this first-ever Conference in New Europe with the theme 'Open Doors to New Horizons,' reflecting the eastern expansion of the European Union.

A secondary theme of Reduce, Reuse Recycle addressed the environmental impact of Conferences. Significant attempts were made to minimize the FAWCO footprint – less paper used, club mailboxes eliminated, and a Conference Manuel reduced in size. Reports and photographs were posted on the FAWCO website as they took place allowing members at home to follow the activities.

Thirty-nine member clubs were represented. The guest speakers were: Dr. Audra Sipaviciene, International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Vilnius, on Sex Trafficking; and Dr. Hans R. Herren, Millennium Institute in Riga, on Food Security in a Changing World; and Mrs. Kazmira Danute Prunskiene, the first Prime Minister of Lithuania, who spoke on Women in Leadership Positions.

Boost sessions (Be Open, Organized and Successful Today) included How to Fundraise; The 3 P's – Increasing PR and Profits from your Club Publications; and Good to Great. Workshops were The Fight for Liberty in Lithuania; Being a Woman in a Flat and Shrinking World; and Insurance Options for Living Overseas.

The final report of the Vision for the Future Task Force was received in May 2008, and many of the recommendations adopted. FAWCO will continue to be identified as FAWCO, but a descriptive tag line will be added; The Foundation president is serving as a non-voting special presidential appointee to the FAWCO Board; a Philanthropic Strategy and Focus Committee has developed a more streamlined approach; and a legal committee was formed to investigate the legal aspects of several longstanding issues regarding the organizational structure and process of FAWCO. The president emphasized four focus areas for FAWCO: 1) member club support; 2) U.S. issues; 3) global issues; 4) philanthropy.

Vice-president Terri Knudsen announced that five regional meetings had been held, and Mary Kent (AWO Moscow) gave a club report. Rep awards were presented to Linda Laval (AWC Languedoc-Roussillon), Anne Cameron (AWC Zurich), and Grace Christovasilis (AWC Greece). "Clubs in Motion" highlighted club activities devoted to the importance of exercise and health.

Third Vice-president Marlene Holmes and FAWCO Foundation President Elsie Bose announced the new Target Program, the brainchild of the Philanthropic Strategy and Focus Committee that worked throughout the summer of 2009. It is a focused philanthropic approach that will integrate education and awareness of a

chosen topic along with project fundraising over a four-year period. It will highlight a specific issue to be solved while supporting the UN Millennium goals.

FAUSA President Jane Indreland summarized the 2008 membership statistics; the Annual Meeting will be in Durango, Colorado. The Foundation awards and development grants were announced. Donations were solicited for the Emergency Relief Fund for the Chinese earthquake.

The Circle of Honor was awarded to Arline Coward (Barcelona Women's Network) and Alice Grevet (AAWE Paris). The FAWCO Fellowship Award was presented to Ray Cheng, CEO of SoZo Group, for his support and sponsorship.

The Foundation evening was a Wild Night in Vilnius; \$18,700 was raised. The Gala evening was Enchanted Moments; guests were asked to ReStyle, ReCycle, ReUse their evening attire, evoking a romantic atmosphere of times past.

INTERIM CONFERENCE BOSTON 2010

FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) hosted the Interim Conference at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel with the theme, 'Make History.' Forty-one clubs participated, three of them new - Munich International Women's Club, American Woman's Club of Lagos, and the American Women's Association of Dubai – bringing the total FAWCO membership to 75 clubs.

President Kathleen Simon reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among women and the impact such cooperation can have on our host communities. On the eve of the Federation's 80th Anniversary, she stated, "Now more than ever, we are expected, and we owe it to ourselves, to give back to our communities and the world; through FAWCO we have the chance to make a difference, today, tomorrow, and for the next 80 years."

The president spoke of recent success in increasing member club support through interaction between clubs at regional meetings and newly created club workshops in which individuals share experience and expertise. Communication has been improved using e-newsletters and e-bulletins from Headquarters, Task Forces and liaisons. Another board goal was to increase website effectiveness. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was appointed to evaluate the website and set guidelines for optimizing its use and structure within overall communication channels. Catherine Connor (AWC Hamburg) spearheaded TAG. Its recommendations influenced the dynamic new website inaugurated in September 2009: a new advertising rate card, migration to an alternative web hosting company, and a better-priced web hosting offer.

The board conducted a survey for a new tagline, and the vote was: *FAWCO...serving overseas Americans and the international community since 1931.*

As a founding member of the Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Rights (AMOVR), FAWCO contributed during the year to the ground-breaking Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE), setting new standards for Federal elections; it again partnered with Overseas Vote Foundation, reaffirming FAWCO's

leadership in the field of overseas voting. The NGO team expanded to include UN NGO Advocates and a UN NGO Youth Coordinator, while the NGO Director worked directly with the task force chairs on global issues. FAWCO again honored Eleanor Roosevelt through its sponsorship of the Girl's Leadership Workshop in Val Kill, New York

The board applauded the proposals from individuals, member clubs and task forces for the FAWCO Target Program, initiated in Vilnius as a four-year fundraising effort to bring a critical global issue to the attention of the extended FAWCO community and the world. The three finalists were: Empowering Women through Education (Anne Cameron-Rutschmann for AWC Zurich); Maternal Health (Regina Weber and Sylvia Behrman, co-chairs of the Health Issues Task Force); Water (Anne van Oorschot and Kris Smith, co-chairs of the Environmental Task Force, and on the behalf of AIWC Casablanca and the Barcelona Women's Network). Following the vote by member clubs, WATER was chosen as the Target Issue where FAWCO can truly make a difference.

In response to the earthquake in Haiti, the FAWCO Board activated the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund and sent \$21,000 to Oxfam America.

The FAWCO Foundation awarded \$36,000 to the Educational Award and Development Grant recipients. Melissa Mash (AW Surrey) was elected president of The Foundation for 2010-2012. A proportion of the silent auction proceeds was given to the Conference host charity, American Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center.

Conference delegates received tips on volunteer leadership, online social networking, and international banking within the economic crisis. An agenda change merged the Face2Face session with the FAWCO Fair; attendees can chat with committee chairs, the US liaison, the NGO Director, the FAWCO Board, The Foundation and sponsors. Member club presidents and FAWCO Reps discussed common club-level issues (i.e. membership, volunteer management, use of technology), as well as how to promote FAWCO within their clubs. Two sessions featured the Executive Director of the Pew Research Center, discussing recent demographic trends in America, and the Grameen Foundation, introducing micro financing as a way of empowering women.

AWARDS

CIRCLE OF HONOR

The Circle of Honor is the highest award given by FAWCO. It recognizes distinguished years of service to the goals and ideals of the Federation in both elected and appointed positions.

Shirley van Ooijen 1998	FAWCO Counselor (AWC Amsterdam)
Caroline Newton 2000	Archivist (AWC London)
Eleanor Fina 2000	Washington Liaison (AWC London)
Elaine Senigallia 2002	FAWCO Counselor (AWA Rome)
Michael Adler 2001	Citizenship Issues (AAWE Paris)
AWC London 1999	100 years of service
Valerie Garforth 2001	Environment Chair (AWC Brussels)
Kathy Webster 2000	Voting from Overseas (AWC Brussels)
Paula Daeppen 2005	NGO Director (AWC Zurich)
Jackie Isler 2005	Foundation Counselor (AWC Zurich)
Lucy Laederich 2005	FAWCO Counselor/US Liaison (AAWE Paris)
Georgia Regnault 2005	FAWCO Counselor (AWC The Hague)
Susan van Alsenoy 2005	Education Support Committee (AWC Antwerp)
Roberta Zollner 2005	Foundation Counselor (AWC Denmark)
Nancy Thornley 2006	Editor, 75 th History Book (AWA Rome/FAUSA)
Mary Mag 2007	FAWCO/Foundation Counselor (AWA Rome)
Pamela Dahlgren 2007	FAWCO Counselor (AW Surrey/FAUSA)
Arline Coward 2009	FAWCO/Foundation Counselor (Barcelona)
Alice Grevet 2009	Webmaster (AAWE Paris)

Senator John D. Rockefeller and Representative Carolyn Mahoney on behalf of their work in supporting the voting rights of overseas Americans. 2002

CAROLINE CURTIS BROWN SPIRIT AWARD

Founder Caroline Curtis Brown was an idealist who, through her vision, inspiration and energy, made AWC London an outstanding organization of service to its membership and community. With equal dedication, Caroline believed that enlightened women, working together throughout the world, could do much to achieve international peace. The Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award was established in 2005 in appreciation of service exemplifying this spirit, inspiration and dedication.

Stella Fizazi 2005 FAWCO Millennium Forest (AIWC Casablanca)
Donna Sebti 2005 FAWCO Millennium Forest (AIWC Casablanca)
Shawn Watson 2005 Foundation Silent Auction (AWC Bern)
Rebecca Warander 2005 (AWC Stockholm)
Ann De Simoni 2007 Fundraising, The Foundation (AIWC Genoa)
Cynthia Niggli 2007 The Foundation (AWC Zurich)

FAWCO FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Fellowship Award recognizes those outside of FAWCO who have given distinguished service and dedication to the goals and ideals of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.

Senator Christopher Dodd 2005 (D-CT) Help America Vote Act
Senator Mich McConnell 2005 (R-KY) Help America Vote Act
Congressman Steny Hoyer 2005 (D-MD) Help America Vote Act
Congressman Bob Ney 2005 (R-OH) Help America Vote Act
Polli Brunelli 2005 Federal Voting Assistance Program
Jamie Watson 2005 Photographer and technical advisor
Phyllis Michaux 2007 Overseas Voting (AAWE Paris)
Ray Cheng 2009 CEO, Jian Global Services

FAWCO REP APPRECIATION AWARD

This award was initiated in 2008 in recognition of ongoing commitment, dedication and achievement of FAWCO Reps in member clubs.

Janet Byrne 2008 (AW Surrey)
Barbara Edwards 2008 (AWA Vienna)
Tricia Reynolds 2008 (AWC Naples)
Linda Laval 2009 (AWC Languedoc-Roussillon)
Anne Cameron 2009 (AWC Zurich)
Grace Christovasilis 2009 (AWC Greece)

PRESIDENT AND CONFERENCE / INTERIM SITES

TERM	PRESIDENT	INTERIM	CONFERENCE
1932-34	Caroline Curtis Brown (London)	Berlin 1932	Vienna 1933; Paris 1934
1934-36	Louise Connett (Paris)	The Hague 1935	Copenhagen 1936
1936-37	Mrs. James Mennell (London)	Zurich 1937	
1937-39	Mary Volkmann (Zurich)	Hamburg 1938	London 1939
1949-51	Mary Briner (Zurich)		Stockholm 1951
1951-53	Inwz Hoyer (Oslo)		Brussels 1953
1953-55	Marge Ganseman (Brussels)		Zurich 1955
1955-57	Patricia Moore (Dharan)		Athens 1957
1957-59	Gertrude de Gallaix (Paris)		Paris 1959
1959-61	Ruth St. John (The Hague)	Rome 1960	The Hague 1961
1961-63	Elizabeth Tine (Rome)	Brussels 1962	Madrid 1963
1963-65	Marcia Hale (Zurich)	Copenhagen 1964	London 1965
1965-67	Mary Mag (Rome)		Rome 1967
1967-69	Mary Mag (Rome)		Brussels 1969
1969-71	Sonia Mincbere (Paris)	Paris 1970	Paris 1971
1971-73	Elizabeth Sita (Brussels)	Brussels 1972	Zurich 1973
1973-75	Elizabeth Bagney (Madrid)	Madrid 1974	Copenhagen 1975
1975-77	Edith Beyer (Denmark)	Dusseldorf 1976	Rome 1977
1977-79	Shirley van Ooijen (Amsterdam)	Amsterdam 1978	London 1979
1979-81	Agnes Coppin (Brussels)	Hamburg 1980	Paris 1981
1981-83	Elaine Senigallia (Rome)	Lugano 1982	Brussels 1983
1983-85	Muriel Bremner (Dublin)	Dublin 1984	Dusseldorf 1985
1985-87	Virginia Roth (Rotterdam)	Casablanca 1986	Madrid 1987
1987-89	Georgia Regnault (The Hague)	Luxembourg 1988	Zurich 1989
1989-91	Kay Miller ((Brussels	Brussels 1990	Vienna 1991)
1991-93	Ann Day (Vienna)	Genoa 1992	Casablanca 1993
1993-95	Barbara Johnson (Paris)	Bern 1994	Nairobi 1995
1995-97	Rebecca Tan (Hamburg)	Bad Homburg 1996	Dublin 1997
1997-99	Ellen Rice (Ireland)	Athens 1998	London 1999
1999-01	Lucy Laederich (Paris)	Washington 2000	Luxembourg 2001
2001-03	Pamela Dahlgren (Surrey)	Florence 2002	Stockholm 2003
2003-05	Arline Coward (Madrid)	The Hague 2004	Birmingham 2005
2005-07	Emily van Eerten (Amsterdam)	Berlin 2006	Lyon 2007
2007-09	Celeste Brown (The Hague)	Soeul 2008	Vilnius 2009
2009-11	Kathleen Simon (Bern)	Boston 2010	Marrakech 2011

FAWCO MEMBER CLUBS

Club Name	Country	Member	Re-joined
Aberdeen AWC	Scotland	1991	
Amsterdam AWC.....	Netherlands	1971	
Angola AWA	Angola	2008	
Antigua & Barbuda IWC....	West Indies	1992	
Antwerp AWC.....	Belgium	1931-60.....	1978
Århus AWC.....	Denmark	1992	
Auckland AWC	New Zealand	1991-94.....	2005
Barcelona Women's Network	Spain	1998	
Basel AWC	Switzerland	1952-67.....	1968
Berkshire & Surrey AW	England	1995	
Berlin AWC.....	Germany	1931-54.....	1994
Bern AWC.....	Switzerland	1986	
Bogotá AWC.....	Columbia	2004	
Bombay AWC (Mumbai)....	India	1954-62.....	2000
Bristol AWA	England	2002	
Brussels AWC.....	Belgium	1949	
Cairo Women's Association	Egypt	2004	
Casablanca AIWC	Morocco	1977	
Central Scotland AWC.....	Scotland	1993	
Chilterns AWC	England	1993	
Cologne AIWC.....	Germany	1970	
Curaçao AWC.....	Neth/Antilles	1989	
Denmark AWC (Copenhagen)	Denmark	1935	
Dubai AWA	UAE	2009	
Dublin AWC.....	Ireland	1980	
Düsseldorf.....	Germany	1970	
Eastern Province AW.....	Saudi Arabia	1954-70.....	1995
Finland AWC.....	Finland	2001	
Florence AILO	Italy	1976	
Genoa AIWC.....	Italy	1975	
Göthenburg AWC	Sweden	1987	
Greece AWO	Greece	1952-68.....	1989
Hamburg AWC	Germany	1935-89.....	1976
Hertfordshire AC	England	2005	
Ireland AAW.....	Ireland	1992	
Kenya AWA.....	Kenya	1992	
Korea AWC	Korea	1987	
Lagos AWC.....	Nigeria	2009	
Languedoc-Roussillon AWG	France	1987	

Club Name	Country	Member	Re-joined
Lebanon AWC.....	Lebanon	2000	
Liechtenstein AWC.....	Liechtenstein	1994	
London AWC	England	1931	
Luxembourg AWC	Luxembourg	1962-75.....	1985
Lyon AC	France	1996	
Madrid AWC.....	Spain	1956	
Madrid INC.....	Spain	2007	
Malmö	Sweden	1999	
Melbourne AWA.....	Australia	2000	
Milan Benvenuto Club	Italy	1978	
Montevideo AWC.....	Uruguay	2005	
Moscow AWO.....	Russia	1996	
Münich IWC	Germany	2009	
Naples AWC	Italy	1972	
North American Connection	England	1998	
Oslo AWC.....	Norway	1949	
Paris AAWE.....	France	1966	
Paris AWG	France	1953	
Perth AWC.....	Australia	1966-76.....	1982
Philippines AWC.....	Philippines	1999	
Qatar AWA	Qatar	2010	
Rabat AIWA	Morocco	1996	
Rome AWA.....	Italy	1958	
Rotterdam ANCOR	Netherlands	1976	
Shanghai AWC	China	2000	
Southern England CA	England	1998	
Stockholm AWC	Sweden	2001	
Surrey AWA.....	England	1985	
Thailand AWC.....	Thailand	1974	
Thames Valley AWC	England	2003	
The Hague AWC.....	Netherlands	1931-66.....	1981
The Taunus AWC (Frankfurt)	Germany	1976-78.....	1990
Ticino AW	Switzerland	1983-90.....	1992
Torino IWA	Italy	1978	
Vienna AWA.....	Austria	1931-39.....	1987
Zürich.....	Switzerland	1931	

AWC London and AWC Zürich have been continuous members since 1931.

FORMER FAWCO MEMBER CLUBS

Club Name	Country	Member
Alsace, Americans in	France	1993-2004
Amman AWC	Jordan	1984-1985
Athens AHA	Greece	1952-1958
Bahamas AWC	Caribbean	1993-1996
	2000-2002	
Barbados AWC	Caribbean	1970-1976
Barcelona AWC	Spain	1958-1970
Bari IWC	Italy	1992-2008
Beirut AWC	Lebanon	1954-1970
Belgrade ALC	(Former) Yugoslavia	1933-1935
Bonn AWG	Germany	1986-1988
Bratislava IWC	Slovakia	1993-1996
Budapest AWA	Hungary	1993-1995
Chile AAC	Chile	1982-1997
Costa Del Sol AC	Spain	1993-1995
Côte d'Azur AIC	France	1982-1997
East Anglia IN	England	2006-disbanded
FAWCO Alumnae (FAUSA)*	United States	2000-2003
Frankfurt AWC	Germany	1962-1964
Fyn USWC	Denmark	1985-2007
Graz IWA	Austria	1996-2002
Kristiansand AWPC	Norway	2005-2007
Kristianstad aWC	Sweden	1991-2008
Kuwait AWL	Kuwait	1980-2010
Liberia AWL	Liberia	1987-1987
Lausanne AWC	Switzerland	2001-2009
Maracaibo AWC	Venezuela	1998-2000
New Delhi AWA	India	2001-2002
New Delhi AWC	India	1952-1954
Oakville AWC	Ontario, Canada	1992-1994
Palermo Americans Abroad	Italy	1998-2004
Paris AWC	France	1931-disbanded
Portugal IW (Lisbon)	Portugal	1992-1998
Salonika AWC	Greece	1958-1968
Salzburg AIWC AAS	Austria	1989-2003
Salzburg WIN	Austria	2000-2001

Club Name	Country	Member
Seville AWC	Spain 2001-2009	1958-1970
South Australia AWA	Adelaide, Australia	1993-1994
South Wales AW	Wales	1997-2009
Sydney American Society	Australia	1998-2003
Teheran AWC	Iran	1974-1976
Ulster AWC	Northern Ireland	1992-2002
Valencia AWC	Benezuela	1989-1990
Vercelli BIC	Italy	1987-2002
Warsaw, American Friends	Poland	1989-2002
Zaragoza AWC	(Former) Yugoslavia	1962-1964

*FAUSA became the Alumnae Association of FAWCO in 2003

Growth in Membership:

2010 – 75 clubs
2001 – 79 clubs
1991 – 43 clubs
1981 – 23 clubs