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president@fawco.org

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First Site Visit to Target Project

By Tricia R. Saur (AIWC Cologne), FAWCO Target Chair

FAWCO hosted the first official site visit to a Target Project in April. A delegation of 22 women representing six FAWCO Regions and FAUSA along with members from each Board spent three days meeting the beneficiaries of Hope Beyond Displacement.



Julie Mowat, Tricia R. Saur, and Therese Hartwell, Site Visit Organizers

Before arriving at CRP, the group traveled throughout Jordan for five days getting to know one another and gaining a good understanding of past and recent history of the region, and the social and economic implications Jordan copes with as a result of hosting such a large number of displaced persons in relation to their population size. With this background the group was ready to meet the CRP community!

(Continued on page 4)

2018 Interim Meeting: High Energy, New Ideas

By Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President 2017-2019

The 2018 FAWCO Interim Meeting was a high-energy two days packed with information, ideas and inspiration. Held at The Hague Marriott hotel in the Netherlands from March 23 to 25, this was the second Interim Meeting organized since Interim Conferences were traded in for a smaller scale annual meeting. This variation on the IM model had no host club, but did feature pre- and post-meeting tours, which combined with the central location, may have contributed to the near-capacity attendance. In all, 144 full delegates (34 first-time attendees) took part in the IM with an additional seven day participants and 24 guests. Attendees came from 39 clubs in 21 countries, plus FAUSA members from the US.



Participants of the 2018 Interim Meeting.

(Continued on page 6)

FAWCO Advocacy at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62)



By Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), FAWCO UN Liaison

More than 4,300 representatives from over 600 civil society organizations, and delegations from 170 UN Member States attended CSW62, the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's rights. FAWCO's delegation of 13 included Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris, FAWCO President), Laurie Brooks (AWC Amsterdam & AWC The Hague, FAWCO VP Communications), UN Reps Erica Higbie (FAUSA) and Jane Politi (AWA Rome), Bev Bachmayer (AWA Vienna), Karen Boeker (AWC Denmark), Karen Castellon (AWC Berlin) with her daughter Claire and son Matthew, Christine Humphreys (AW Surrey), Suzy Nguyen (AWC Berlin) and Jennifer Padfield (AWC Berlin). They experienced first-hand how advocacy, awareness raising and activism by the NGO community works at the UN.



CSW62 Chair Ambassador Nason at the Opening Ceremony
Photo credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

CSW62 was chaired by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN, an indefatigable advocate. This year, CSW came at a pivotal moment following #MeToo and #TheTimeIsNow, with unprecedented activism and public outcry to end gender injustice and discrimination worldwide. The increasing effectiveness of civil society participation at CSW demonstrates the growing strength of women's voices.

One of the highlights of CSW62 was Secretary General Antonio Guterres' Town Hall meeting with civil society. He declared himself a feminist, and spoke candidly about the challenges presented by the unequal power relationships inherent in the patriarchy. SG Guterres has accomplished a major milestone within the UN, with gender parity among his high-level staff.

The priority theme of CSW62 was achieving gender equality and empowering rural women and girls. The majority of the over one billion people who live in poverty and food insecurity are concentrated in rural areas. Women and girls in rural areas are disproportionately impacted by poverty, exclusion and the effects of environmental and climate change.

In preparation for CSW62, FAWCO endorsed four civil society statements along with dozens of partner NGOs. FAWCO also co-sponsored a panel discussion with the League of Women

Voters and other members of NGO CSW NY, sponsored by Fiji, Estonia, Chile and Republic of Albania: "Women Political & Business Leaders: Achieving Economic Solvency for Rural Women."

The CSW62 Agreed Conclusions call upon governments to ensure that women and girls in rural areas have adequate living standards, access to education, health care, decent work, land and productive assets; enhanced food security, nutrition, infrastructure and technology; and to end to all forms of violence and harmful practices.

Mark your calendar: *CSW63 will be March 11–22, 2019.*

The NGO Forum at CSW

By Erica Higbie (FAUSA), UN Rep and former Treasurer, NGO CSW NY



I was on the Logistics Committee for the NGO Forum at CSW62, and it was an amazing experience. Planning for a CSW Forum starts about a year in advance, with finding and booking event venues in NYC.

Accommodating 6,000+ participants during the NGO Forum, which includes Consultation Day, a Reception and 450 parallel events, takes a lot of effort and space.

The intention of the NGO Forum is to facilitate conversation and learning for the civil society representatives who come to CSW, and to empower them to advocate on behalf of women's human rights everywhere. More than 600 applications for events were received and individually reviewed for relevance to the CSW62 themes.

Caucus meetings give NGO representatives a chance to share regional issues and experiences. Advocacy Training offers regional leaders an opportunity to improve their understanding of UN processes and their advocacy and negotiating skills. Going home from CSW with a relevant network and ideas for best practices is also a primary objective of the Forum - not to mention the friends we make along the way!

Consultation Day, the largest NGO Forum event, is held the Sunday before CSW begins, to lay the groundwork for the CSW themes. The CSW62 Consultation Day venue held 900 and sold out in February. The NGO Reception, an opportunity to socialize and relax with 300 friends and colleagues, sells out every year as well.

Of course, all of this takes a small army of 100 members of NGO CSW NY, the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee, 10 interns and 70 event volunteers to achieve. Planning Committees (Handbook, Consultation Day, Reception, Woman of Distinction, Rally, Artisan Fair and Logistics) begin meeting in November, and have all worked long and hard by the time CSW begins.

It is, of course, very rewarding, because we know we are making a difference. Think of all of those ripples going out across the world to empower and improve the lives of women. Volunteers and participants leave CSW stronger and more determined than ever to work for the human rights of women everywhere.

FAWCO Global Issues & the UN Sustainable Development Goals

By Martha Canning, FAWCO VP Global Issues and Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna), FAWCO UN Liaison



FAWCO's Global Issues Teams and Programs and UN Reps Team all contribute to supporting our special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We promote the UN's mission and goals in the areas of education, health, human rights and the environment.

On September 25, 2015, UN member countries adopted the UN's sustainable development agenda to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global social contract for people, planet, prosperity and partnership, and provide a catalyst to motivate advocacy and action for FAWCO, civil society and the world.

With the SDGs serving as an integrative framework, FAWCO's Global Issues Teams make mutually-reinforcing connections between our four priority issues of Education (SDG 4), Environment (SDG 13), Health (SDG 3) and Human Rights (SDG 5). FAWCO's action on the ground to improve the lives of women and girls is the Target Project: Hope Beyond Displacement (SDGs 4 and 5). Our UN Reps Team provides resources to and collaborates on FAWCO global programs, and is active in advocacy through NGO committees and constituencies at UN commissions and conferences.

How do synergies among SDGs work? For example, efforts to support women and girls empowerment through FAWCO's Target Project (SDGs 4 and 5) increase women's economic participation, thereby reducing poverty (1) and inequalities (10), leading to later marriages and safer childbirth (3), and contributing to more inclusive communities (16 and 17).

Education

Education is an essential human right and, like Gender Equality (SDG 5), necessary to achieve all of the development goals. SDG 4, Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all, places priority on education worldwide. FAWCO's Education Team features the efforts of FAWCO Clubs in their local communities and raises awareness of global issues in education, with four areas of emphasis: global citizenship (SDG 4.7), literacy (SDG 4.6), equal access (SDGs 4.2, 4.5), and continuing education beyond secondary school (SDGs 4.3, 4.4).



Environment

FAWCO's Environment Team informs members about environmental issues confronting our planet, guided by six SDGs tied directly to the environment: SDG 2 Zero Hunger; SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation; SDG 7 Affordable and Sustainable Clean Energy; SDG 13 Climate Action; SDG 14 Life Below Water; and SDG 15 Life on Land.

The Environment Team promotes informed action at global and local levels, encouraging clubs to support local environmental projects, and challenging them to become better environmental stewards. We link the relevant SDGs to each article we publish to increase awareness of the UN's global goals. FAWCO's UN Reps to the Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) work on advocacy for gender-just climate solutions with the Women and Gender Constituency.



Health

The Health Team issues articles of interest to FAWCO members on health-related topics affecting women and girls which connect to SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. As no SDG stands alone, others are frequently incorporated, such as SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. The Health Team currently focuses on the role of education in good health and well-being. In addition, the Health Team celebrated the anniversary of the World Health Organization whose theme this year was Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere, as access to healthcare is essential for SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.



Human Rights

Although our work touches many of the SDGs, the Human Rights Team primarily focuses on Goal Number 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. We work primarily by raising awareness about these topics through articles and by encouraging participation in campaigns such as One Billion Rising, International Women's Day, and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The Human Rights Team also administers a Facebook page on human trafficking. FAWCO UN Reps play leadership roles on NGO Committees on the Status of Women and on the NGO Committee on Migration.



Target Program

The FAWCO Target Program demonstrates FAWCO's commitment to the UN and its SDGs. Our Target Project, Hope Beyond Displacement, addresses several SDGs, with a specific focus on SDGs 4 and 5, meeting specific needs identified by urban refugee women and girls in Amman, Jordan. Hope Beyond Displacement addresses 7 out of 10 SDG 4 sub-targets and 5 out of 9 SDG 5 sub-targets through vocational training, educational programs and tangible opportunities for advocacy and leadership.



FAWCO Youth

FAWCO Youth

Youth promotes global citizenship and cultural understanding, and raises awareness of global issues in our youth. FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers explore other cultures, learn and volunteer under the auspices of the SDGs. There are youth-specific targets in six SDGs: 2 (hunger), 4 (education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work), 10 (inequality) and 13 (climate change). Young people must be involved to achieve participation, inclusion and global engagement (SDG 16 peaceful and just societies and 17 partnerships). FAWCO's UN program enables FAWCO youth to participate in UN conferences and fora, putting the promises of the SDGs into action.

(Continued from page 1)

Hope Beyond Displacement Site Visit



Amy Patrick, North American Connection (R1); Angie Aebersold, AWC Bern (R6); Anne Riz-Sandweiss, AWC Bern (R6); Celeste Brown, AWC The Hague (R4); Hope Moore, Munich IWC (R5), FAWCO Board; Judith Palmer Harik, AWC Lebanon (R9); Julia Goldsby, AIWC Cologne Youth Member (R5), Documentary Filmmaker; Julie Mowat, AWC The Hague (R4), Organizer; Kathy Coughlan, FAUSA Board; Mara O'Day, AWC Zurich (R6); Margie Roberts, AWC Madrid (R3); Patti Meek, AWC Dublin (R1), The FAWCO Foundation Board; Sallie Chaballier, AAWE (Paris) (R3), FAWCO Board; Sandra Gogel, AWG Paris (R3); Sherry Mikdashi, AWC Lebanon (R9); Stacey Kimmig, AIWC Cologne (R5); Tara Scott, AWC Central Scotland (R1); Teresa Perez, AWC Hamburg (R5); Theresa Hartwell, FAUSA Board, Organizer; Tricia R. Saur, AIWC Cologne (R5), Target Chair; Valerie Russell, AWC Amsterdam (R4); WangDi Schadendorf, AWC Hamburg (R5)

Participants shared similar first impressions as we arrived at the community center ... how beautiful it was! Obviously on a low budget, but with bright colors, love and creativity they established a warm and welcoming atmosphere where one knows there is a community of people who care.

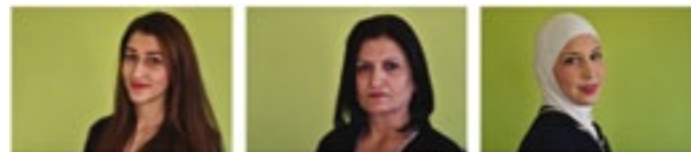
appreciation for being a part of the CRP community center. Through their work and relationships they each rediscover their dignity and worth; in serving each other, they find joy and healing despite their temporary status and uncertain future.

CRP serves a diverse group of individuals from different countries, religions, sects, socio-economic backgrounds and sexual orientations. While these things matter, they do not play a role in who is or is not welcome within the CRP community - it is a safe place for everyone!

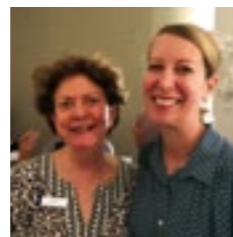


Murals throughout the CRP Community Center

Amanda Lane, Executive Director, and her staff designed a comprehensive agenda for our visit, incorporating nearly every aspect of the Target Project's programs and we were warmly welcomed. After an initial orientation to CRP and a tour of the facility we enjoyed our first meal at the center. Each meal during our visit was prepared by women from the CRP community. We dined outside together with staff and volunteers.



To get a better sense of the impact the Site Visit has had, let's hear from some of the participants directly:



"One of the most moving experiences at Collateral Repair Project, for me, was hearing members of the CRP staff describe their personal experiences of how they left their home country, what their current situations were, and the meaning that their association with CRP brought to their lives. All had faced violence in their home countries and had no choice but to flee." - Sallie Chaballier, AAWE Paris (R3)

"This experience has changed me. My awareness of the struggles and injustices refugees face has increased. I am awed



Who serves the CRP community?

They mostly serve each other - their service model is quite unique and powerful!

We met staff, volunteers and beneficiaries and heard sobering stories of how they came to Jordan and then found CRP. Over and over again we heard a deep sense of gratitude and

by the strength and resilience of the refugees. Even though they had been through so much, they were able to have a positive outlook." - Tara Scott, AWC Central Scotland (R1)



Participants returned to their clubs and Regions sharing insights and takeaways from the three days they spent at CRP.

OTHER TARGET NEWS

By Tricia R. Saur (AIWC Cologne), FAWCO Target Chair

The Target Program for Education is now in its final year. There is much to celebrate and much still to look forward to!

As Amanda Lane, Executive Director of CRP reported at the Interim Meeting in March, seven months into implementation, Hope Beyond Displacement programs have already had an impact on 548 individuals!

- 21 Staff
- 30 Volunteers
- 359 Girls are back in school
- 30 Super Girls
- 40 Women's Empowerment 101
- 29 Gender-Based-Violence Prevention Training
- 24 Computer Training
- 15 Hair & Beauty Training

Here are some of the first graduates!



Based-Violence Prevention



Gender- Hair & Beauty / Economic Empowerment



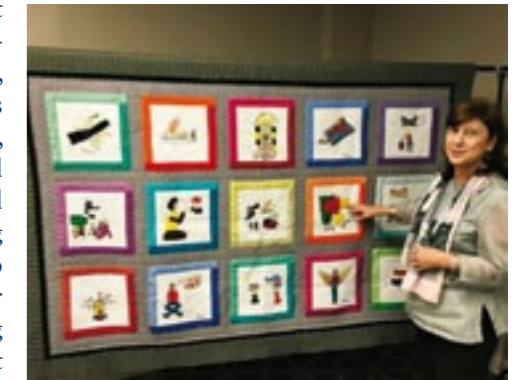
Super Girls



ICDL (Computer) Training

The Target Program continues to offer members resources to learn about key issues related to education for women and girls on the global scale with particular attention to displaced persons through presentations, its Let's Get Schooled blog, e-Bulletins, and webpages.

Project applicant Therese Hartwell-FAUSA President, Human Rights Team Chair, and CRP Board member - traveled as a roving ambassador to five Member Clubs this spring to talk about CRP, Hope Beyond Displacement, and her experiences with refugees in Jordan. Along the way she carried the Advocacy Project Quilt made by women of CRP's Hope Workshop.



Backing Women Fundraising Campaign

We welcomed Becca Meurer (AIWC Düsseldorf) earlier this year as our new Target Fundraising Coordinator. She hit the ground running in preparations for the IM in The Hague, introducing several new products to the Backing Women Boutique.

In May, The FAWCO Foundation announced that the Campaign had reached its goal of raising \$125,000 for Hope Beyond Displacement as a result of fundraising at the IM in March - a year earlier than the deadline!

Don't Stop Now!

We are working with CRP to identify ways to further develop current Hope Beyond Displacement programs and add new components - we'll report more on this in the next issue.

This summer, Member Clubs showed solidarity with beneficiaries of the Target Project by standing with refugees and other displaced persons on World Refugee Day - June 20th.



In the FAWCO community, many of us "migrated" to another country either for work, love, or adventure we did so by choice. Displaced persons/refugees do not share this privileged experience - most faced life-threatening circumstances forcing them to leave their homes and many continue to endure great hardship. By participating in the We Came by Choice; What if it was by Force? campaign we raise awareness about the circumstances they face.

(Continued from page 1)

2018 Interim Meeting: High Energy, New Ideas

Because of the packed agenda, the Annual General Meeting sessions began on Friday afternoon, after an orientation session for first-time attendees. Reports from Board officers outlined the achievements of the past year. President Sallie Chaballier summarized the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Task Force, including calls for increased coordination with club FAWCO Reps and regional coordinators; the consolidation of publications; and the raising of membership dues.

In the face of recommendations from the Finance Committee, the Strategic Planning Task Force and the Advancement Committee, the Board thought it essential to seek an increase in membership dues as part of responsible financial stewardship. After thoughtful discussion, delegates overwhelmingly approved a motion that the dues be raised by 10%, rounded off at the nearest 0 or 5, to take effect in 2019.

On the morning of Saturday, March 24, the delegates opened the session by adopting a resolution in support of the "March For Our Lives" demonstration that day in the US. Among other highlights of the AGM sessions, Target Program Chair Tricia Saur described the gratifying success of the program to date, and we were honored to have Amanda Lane, Executive Director of Collateral Repair Project, to give us details about the impact of FAWCO's Target Project "Hope Beyond Displacement". The FAWCO Foundation reported on TFF's Development Grant and Education Award programs, reminding us of the benefits of FAWCO membership both for club charities and for club members and their children.

The Face2Face session offered delegates an opportunity to get to know more about FAWCO in depth, chatting with Global Issues Team chairs, committee heads, liaisons and sponsors about their activities. Face2Face was preceded by a presentation by all four Global Issues Teams - Education, Environment, Health and Human Rights - so that participants would have a more concrete idea of what the teams do and how they fit into FAWCO's work.

The chairs and members of the two Biennial Committees, Nominating and Resolutions and Recommendations (R&Rs) were announced at the final AGM session. News of the 2019 Biennial Conference venue, Edinburgh, to be hosted by the American Women's Club of Central Scotland, was met with great enthusiasm.

Workshops at the Interim Meeting were varied and substantive, ranging from practical matters of club management in "Ensuring Your Club's Financial Health" and "How to Make Best Use of FAWCO Publications for Your Club" on to "Making FAWCO's Global Issues Relevant for Your Club". Second VP Hope Moore and Club Presidents' Coordinator Gina Chiapparine moderated the perennially popular sessions for club Presidents and FAWCO Reps on the theme of "Modern Family". FAWCO's US Issues Team of Johanna Dishongh, Mary Stewart Burgher and Judy Furukawa, and UN Liaison Laurie Richardson, augmented their AGM reports with workshops describing their work. The FAWCO Foundation provided useful ideas for club fundraising, as well as an explanation of how to apply for Education Awards

and Development Grants.

Several aspects of the IM touched on member clubs' work with refugees, resonating with the Target Project. A well-received workshop, "Networking to Support Refugees: FAWCO Clubs Creating Connections Across Borders", has resulted in the creation of a new FAWCO Refugee Network to build on the exchange of ideas and experiences in The Hague. Artist Rosemary Rauber (AWC Zurich) exhibited "Calculated Risks", her ensemble of paintings pairing refugees with everyday people in similar poses, which provided a meaningful backdrop to the meeting room.

The wealth of ideas and energy emanating from the discussion sessions, using the IM concept of concentrating on FAWCO's work and our clubs' concerns using FAWCO presenters, demonstrated the power generated by bringing together smart, committed women. This second Interim Meeting showed that FAWCO exemplifies the saying "Think globally, act locally." FAWCO is both macro and micro, global and local. Together, we thought about the world and how we can make it a better place, then returned home to our clubs to put that inspiration into action.

New FAWCO US Liaison, Johanna Dishongh

By Lucy Stensland Laederich (AAWE Paris), FAWCO US Liaison 2001-2018



Born in Japan into a career military family, Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA) earned a BBA in Human Resources Management from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. She worked with an international engineering company in all aspects of human resources, including employee development and international administration, which was extremely beneficial when her life began as an expat with her husband, Frank, and their three daughters.

Their international assignments began in 1998 in Leipzig, Germany, followed by Dresden, Germany, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, The Hague, Netherlands and most recently Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. They returned to the US in April 2018, 20 years after their first assignment abroad.

Since leaving the corporate environment, Johanna has been an active volunteer in both education and community services. She served as President of AWC The Hague, Board Secretary of AW Eastern Province, Chair of the FAWCO Target Program - Human Rights, and most recently, FAWCO 3rd VP 2015-2017.

Johanna's extremely varied international experience qualifies her uniquely to understand the challenges facing American women living and working outside the United States. She has represented FAWCO twice at Overseas Americans Week and the first time, I knew she was a "natural" for the job, as at ease with the issues as with the people we meet and work with. I am delighted to see her step into this new FAWCO role and know she will make FAWCO proud!

2018 FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards

By Hope Moore (Munich IWC), FAWCO 2nd VP



Sandra Gogel, AWG Paris

Sandra has always been a pleasure to work with on a whole range of FAWCO projects. She organized a stellar Region 3 meeting in October attracting 70 participants and raising more than €2,000 for FAWCO's Target Project. Sandra has been a tireless advocate in spreading the FAWCO fever to AWG Paris. From encouraging club members to attend the Mumbai conference, to going to the "Hope Beyond Displacement" site visit,

Sandra carries the FAWCO spirit with her.

Lauren Mescon, AWC Amsterdam

Lauren's greatest gift is inspiring others into action, encouraging members to attend regional meetings, conferences and events, as well as fundraising for the Target Project. After the conference in Mumbai, Lauren returned full of determination to make a difference in the world using FAWCO's channels. Through her FAWCO Lunch and Learn Sessions, Raise Your Hand for Education and Share Your Gifts for Good, Lauren has promoted a sense of community within the AWCA while raising awareness and/or funds for "Hope Beyond Displacement".



Target Project Links
(they are case sensitive)
bit.ly/HopeBeyondDisplacement
bit.ly/BWFundraisingCampaign

Read more about the Site Visit to Hope Beyond Displacement in our blog series at
bit.ly/LetsGetSchooled

To Subscribe to the monthly Target Bulletin
bit.ly/TargetBulletinSignUp

Questions and comments can be directed to
Tricia R. Saur, Target Chair at
target@fawco.org

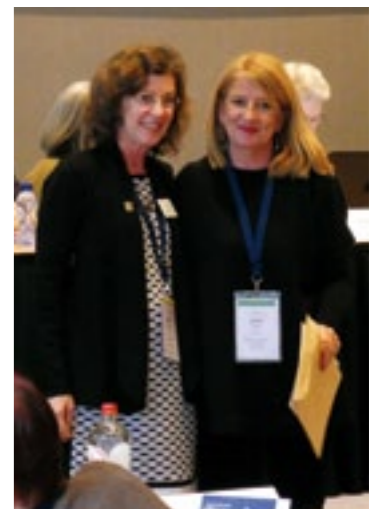
Mary Dobrian, AWC Cologne



When there are FAWCO or women's empowerment activities, Mary is there. One Billion Rising ... she comes, she dances and she brings her daughter! A FAWCO-wide book read ... she reads and discusses. The 16 Day Campaign ... she tries to organize something. Her club's FAWCO Info Night ... a dream come true for her! Mary is a true advocate for FAWCO spreading her enthusiasm to all club members.

Orla Blundell, AWG of Languedoc-Roussillon

Orla has succeeded in raising FAWCO awareness, creating interest and enthusiasm amongst her club's members. She encouraged active participation in the Regional Meetings and almost 20% of her club attended! She regularly posts useful information on her club's website encouraging members to learn more about FAWCO. Orla hosts events to raise awareness for FAWCO and the Target Projects including themed dinners, luncheons, quiz nights and raffles. Orla is always willing to volunteer to help in club activities, showing the character of a genuine FAWCO Representative.



Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award

Emily van Eerten, AWC Amsterdam

At the last afternoon session, the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award was presented to Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague) in recognition of her service to FAWCO past and future: preserving our past through her post as Archives Chair and bringing us into the future with her work on the early FAWCO website.



AWC Amsterdam Holds FAWCO "Lunch & Learn"

By Lauren Mescon and Julie Lehr (AWC Amsterdam)

In May, AWC of Amsterdam held another informative and inspirational "Lunch & Learn" gathering. This time it was held at "A Beautiful Mess" run by the foundation, Refugee Company, an organization which supports and works with people who have a refugee background; "A Beautiful Mess" is a place where refugees can learn culinary skills. Our group had a fantastic lunch while brainstorming about how to organize the next year to ensure lots of FAWCO fun and fundraising for the club!



AWCA members enjoy the informative "Lunch and Learn"

AWC Gothenburg Celebrates its 70th Anniversary!

By Dorothy Andersson (AWC Gothenburg), President

This year, the American Women's Club of Gothenburg (AWCG), celebrates its 70th anniversary, continuing to focus on keeping American traditions alive for members, their children, and grandchildren. The range of activities is impressive, with informative meetings and lectures, crafts and yoga classes, as well as children's activities. AWCG also celebrates American holidays such as Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.

AWCG, an active member of FAWCO, is one of three American women's organizations in Sweden (others include Malmö and Stockholm). Over the years, AWCG has been involved in supporting local charities and charities connected to the work of FAWCO.

An anniversary dinner, complete with entertainment by an American singer, was held in April for members and former members to celebrate the occasion. Congratulations AWC of Gothenburg and President Dorothy Andersson.



AWCG members gather to celebrate their 70th Anniversary

FAWCO Region 7 Inter-Club Meeting Women's Development

By Cynthia Smith-Ayed (AIWC Casablanca), FAWCO Rep Regional Coordinator for Region 7

Region 7 comprises the FAWCO clubs in Africa. For the past five years, the three clubs in Morocco have organized an "inter-club" meeting although all clubs in Region 7 are invited to attend. The locale is rotated and this year it was AIWA Rabat which hosted the event.

The meeting was opened by Stephanie Miley, *chargé d'affaires* for the US Embassy. Our first speaker was Sarah Driver who is in Morocco with a US Department of Labor grant to work with companies to improve gender equality in the workplace. Her theme was: "What is holding Women back in the Workplace?". An interesting fact is the younger generation of Moroccan women have evolved but the younger men seem to hold the same views as the older generation.

Our next speaker was Professor Zoubida Charrouf. She established a cooperative in 1999 in the south of Morocco to protect the argan trees and to empower the rural women who harvest and distill the seeds. As many of these women were illiterate, classes were set up to teach both math and language in Berber. They began with 16 divorced or widowed women and quickly grew in numbers. Today there are 300 cooperatives and women are being taught to use more modern methods to extract the oil. The argan oil is for both dietary use and cosmetic/



medicinal use. Some 5,000 women are working and producing 1,200 tons of oil per year. They have improved the extraction, packaging and marketing to be in compliance with European and US trade. They are working with large companies such as L'Oréal, and Body Shop.

After a wonderful buffet lunch of Moroccan salads and tagines we had the afternoon session. There was an overview of FAWCO by FAWCO President Sallie Chaballier. She also made a presentation of the FAWCO Target project with the results to date of fundraising and the impact on the people served. A discussion, led by FAWCO VP Member Clubs Hope Moore, on club issues then followed, and there was also an informative session with FAWCO Foundation President Suzanne Wheeler.

Everyone who attended said they were both impressed and motivated by the event. Thank you to AIWA Rabat for their wonderful organization.

Overseas Americans Week

By Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA), FAWCO US Liaison



Left to Right:
Johanna
Dishongh
and Cora
Lee Findley

In April 2018, FAWCO US Liaison Johanna Dishongh and Tax & Banking Chair Cora Lee Findley joined three members of AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas), President Neil Kearney, along with Paul Atkinson and Kathleen Mistry, in Washington for Overseas Americans Week (OAW). As in previous years, our primary focus was to relay the difficulties caused by FATCA on law-abiding American citizens living overseas. Not only are Americans being squeezed out of banking and financial services, many find it necessary to hire accountants or tax attorneys to complete the complicated IRS documents (see accompanying article on Foreign Retirement Accounts), only to ultimately have zero US tax liability in their IRS filings.

Most congressional leaders visited this year were aware of the unintended consequences of FATCA, so our continued presence at OAW is making a difference. However, most were shocked to learn that not only are Americans living overseas denied services in their country of residence, most were denied banking services in the United States as well under the guise of the "Know Your Customer" provision of the Patriot Act of 2001. American citizens with an overseas mailing address are denied access to new accounts and many have had their longtime existing bank and financial services accounts frozen to new investments or closed completely. Often these account change notifications are sent via regular post and do not reach the account holder before the appeal date. If you have been affected in this situation by either a bank or investment firm (Fidelity, Merrill Lynch, etc), it is imperative that you share this information with us. These personal impact statements make the strongest impression with members of Congress.

There are currently three bills pending in Congress to amend or repeal FATCA: HR2054 (repeal) and HR2136 (exempting accounts in the filer's country of residence) in the House of Representatives and S869 (repeal) in the Senate. There appeared to be modest support on both sides of the political aisle to the same country exclusion. FAWCO has continued beyond OAW to communicate with Ways and Means leadership to push for this bill to be sent to the House floor for a vote.

Since 2002, FAWCO and AARO have joined forces as one of the only non-business, non-partisan, non-single issue groups advocating on behalf of our overseas population, estimated at 8.7 million by the U.S. Department of State (2015).

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**PRESIDENT**

Suzanne Wheeler, AAWE Paris
president@fawcofoundation.org

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Janet Davis, AIWC Cologne
vpcommunications@fawcofoundation.org

VP FUNDRAISING

Barbara Bühling, AIWC Düsseldorf
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org

VP PROGRAMS

Tracy Moede, AWC Hamburg
vpprograms@fawcofoundation.org

SECRETARY

Louise Greeley-Copley, FAUSA
secretary@fawcofoundation.org

TREASURER

Jodi Gentilozzi, FAUSA
treasurer@fawcofoundation.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Patti Meek, AWC Dublin
parliamentarian@fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization registered in the State of Missouri. Direct donations to The Foundation are tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information please contact: info@fawcofoundation.org.

Easy-to-remember quick links
(they are case sensitive)

For more information on the Education Awards, contact the Education Awards Administrator, Jen Todd, awards@fawcofoundation.org

For more information on the Development Grants, contact the Development Grants Administrator, Nan de Laubadère grants@fawcofoundation.org

For more information on fundraising, contact Barbara Bühling vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org

For more information on the Backing Women Fundraising Campaign in support of the Target Project, contact Becca Meurer targetfundraising@foundation.org

To Subscribe to the "Foundation News" <http://bit.ly/TargetBulletinSignUp>
Questions and comments can be directed to The FAWCO Foundation President, Suzanne R. Wheeler, president@fawcofoundation.org

2018 Development Grant and Education Awards Recipients Announced

By Suzanne Wheeler (AAWE Paris), The FAWCO Foundation President

The Foundation's philanthropic efforts continue to reap rewards; we are proud of the fundraising results from the Interim Meeting in The Hague last March, which netted approximately \$40,000 in two days. Our primary fundraising focus was Foundation Night, titled Alice in Netherlands' The Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The team outdid themselves in providing the "fun" in fundraising. The March fundraising push was in support of the 2019 season of our two programs: Development Grants and Education Awards, plus FAWCO's Target Project: Hope Beyond Displacement.

Education Awards

The recipients of the 2018 Education Awards and Development Grants were announced during the FAWCO Interim Meeting in The Hague. There were 33 applicants for eight education awards and 16 nominations for eight development grants. The Foundation congratulates all recipients and wishes them well in their future endeavors. (Any applicant who did not receive an award or grant this year is encouraged to apply again next year...and the year after.)

ACADEMIC STUDIES AWARDS (For Children of FAWCO and FAUSA members) ARTS AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Pascal Shradly**. His mother is a member of AIWC Cologne. Pascal not only sings and plays both the piano and guitar, but he composes as well, hoping for a career not only in performance but as a producer. Pascal will be attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston in the fall.

SCIENCES AWARD \$4,000, sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali.

Recipient: **Leo Kuhnen**. His mother is a member of AWC Brussels. Leo lost his father five years ago to pancreatic cancer, a tragic event that inspired him to pursue a career in the field of cancer research. He is currently applying to natural science programs in the Netherlands with the goal of achieving a master's degree in biomedical science.

HUMANITIES AWARD \$4,000, sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix.

Recipient: **Meaghan O'Hearn**. Her mother is a member of AWC Zurich. Meaghan received her BS from Georgetown University, as well as a Master's from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Working for a year in Bangalore, India, she developed a keen interest in the importance of nutrition. Meaghan will pursue doctoral research focusing on the correlation of industry strategies and dietary patterns.

CAROLINE NEWTON HUMANITIES AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Fintan Viebahn**. Her mother is a member of IWC Munich. Fintan will continue her Master's degree focusing on political philosophy, digitization and philosophical questions in this emerging digital world. Fintan will research the ethical aspects of artificial intelligence and its effect on humanity.

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD (For Children/Grandchildren of FAWCO members - one Parent/Grandparent must be American)

DUAL CULTURAL AWARD \$4,000, Sponsored in part by AWC Bern and Donna Erismann, in memory of Suzanne Erismann.

Recipient: **Laura Wilhelm**. Her mother is a member of AIWC Cologne. Laura will be participating in a program at Northwestern University this coming summer focusing on calculus, chemistry and psychology. Laura has grown up bicultural; she is German but still retains her American roots. Laura looks forward to seeing how her performance compares to that of American students just like her.

FAWCO and FAUSA Member Awards

The following three awards recognize the diverse lives of our members, their achievements and their never-ending quest for knowledge and self-improvement.

FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD \$4,000

Recipient: **Kristin Melia**. She is a member of AIWC Naples. Kristin is currently working on her Master's degree in "Immigration and the Public Policy of Integration", research which evolved from living in Naples, Italy where she has seen the results of asylum seeker immigration. As part of her study, she will be responsible for researching migration routes at sea for the Migration Policy Institute based in Brussels and Washington.

WOMEN IN STEM \$4,000, In Honor of AWA Dubai's 21 years serving the international community of Dubai.

Recipient: **Melanie Baur**. She is a member of AIWC Düsseldorf. Melanie will further her education in a certificate program in Marketing Analytics through Penn State University. Her goal is to enhance her digital marketing and communication skills, as well as improve her understanding of data analytics.

AWC HAMBURG CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARD

\$4,000, Recipient: **Tammy Sas-Mayaux**. She is a member of AAWE Paris. The UN Sustainable Development Goals influenced Tammy to pursue a Master's degree. Her main motivation is a 2017 report published by Oxfam "Reward Work, Not Wealth". Focusing on the historical context of globalization, as well as public policy theory and corporate regulation and strategies for citizen action, Tammy's Master's program will give her the advantage she needs to promote change on a local, national and international scale.

Development Grants

For more information on the Development Grants contact the Development Grants Administrator, Nan de Laubadère at grants@fawcofoundation.org. Each recipient receives \$4,500.

AW OF SURREY HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

Recipient: **Butiama Safe House Vocational Training Center**

Location: Serengeti, Tanzania

Nominating Club: Munich International Women's Club

Purpose of the Grant: This grant will help 22 girls who have fled Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) receive vocational and entrepreneurial training empowering them to their fullest economic potential. The girls receive Human Rights training while gaining business experience by selling products they have made with their newly acquired skills.

PAM DAHLGREN EDUCATING AFRICA'S CHILDREN

Recipient: **#Reboot Computer Literacy - A Safe Spaces**

Location: Nairobi, Kenya Nominating Club: American

Women's Club of Amsterdam Purpose of the Grant: #Reboot is an empowerment project for young women in Nairobi's Eastland Slums with no access to computers. Project #Reboot will fill this gap by teaching girls computer skills and developing their critical thinking ability by funding a project manager, computers, curriculum and transportation.

AWC THE HAGUE CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Recipient: **Kitchen for Rural Kenyan Catering Program**

Location: Chepkanga, Kenya Nominating Club: AAWE Paris

Purpose of the Grant: Grant funding will go to Rafiki Ya Masha, an NGO that raises money for two schools in Kenya. The funds will be used to construct a teaching kitchen at Sergoek Vocational Training Center in Chepkanga in order to help improve professionalism as well as the self-esteem of the students.

NURTURING OUR PLANET

Recipient: **Hazarwadi Open Well** Location: Maharashtra,

India Nominating Club: American Women's Club Hamburg

Purpose of the Grant: The Indian Watershed Program used watershed development ("catching the rain") in desert areas of Maharashtra, India to replenish the groundwater feeding open wells, and improve the lives of the tribal inhabitants. The funds will finance the construction of an open well in a rural hamlet of 14 tribal families.

THE COUGHLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT IN SICKNESS & HEALTH

Recipient: **Project WIN** Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Nominating Club: AILO of Florence

Purpose of the Grant: Protein in the diet of Thai hill tribe people is minimal; this grant will finance hands-on training in four different initiatives (raising chickens, building a pond for sustainable fish-farming, growing mushrooms and developing and growing chemical-free vegetable gardens) to improve the quality of nutrition of the locally marginalized.

CRITICAL HEALTH CONCERNS

sponsored in part by Renuka Mathews

Recipient: **Ending TB in North Korea**

Location: Pyongsong Sanitorium, North Korea

Nominating Club: AILO of Florence

Purpose of the Grant: Tuberculosis is the #1 infectious killer in the world, endemic to North Korea. The grant will pay for N-95 respirators, nutritional support and immunomodulation that will cut TB transmission, increase treatment success rates and reduce post-treatment relapse and reinfection rates.

BREAKING THE CYCLE,

sponsored in part by AILO of Florence and AW Eastern Province

Recipient: **Feed the Starving Rohingyas** Location: Bangladesh

Nominating Club: FAUSA Purpose of the Grant: Since

the Myanmar military started ethnic cleansing in 2017, approximately one million Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh. The project will provide the newly arrived Rohingya with dry food packs, each containing a tin container of basic food staples directly benefitting 400 families - 2,800 refugees.

FAUSA EFFECTING CHANGE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT RISK

Recipient: **The Pillow Project to Stop Child Trafficking** Location:

Murang'a County, Kenya Nominating Club: AWC The Hague

Purpose of the Grant: Most children in orphanages in Kenya are there because of poverty; families are often tricked into giving up their children under the false promise of food and education. In reality, children are trafficked so that orphanage operators receive donations. Funds will provide beds, sheets and pillows for 31 children who have been trafficked..

Act NOW to Vote in US Elections from Abroad

by Laureen Scharps (AIWC Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main), FAWCO Voting from Overseas Committee

Why have US citizens living overseas historically voted in low numbers? The passage of a federal law called the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as well as the creation of online resources, was supposed to make voting easier for those outside of the country. However, only around 4% of the 2.6 million eligible voters voted between 2012 and 2014 (source: www.fvap.gov).

Register NOW to vote on November 6, 2018!

In order to start the process, it is recommended that you submit a Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request aka the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to your state election official. This should be done early in every calendar year you wish to vote, or whenever you change your address. If you voted in past elections, don't assume you will continue to receive automatic mailings or you could end up missing out on the November 6 midterm elections.

Don't be shy; let those ballots fly!

Bear in mind that every ballot counts, whether it is submitted in person or absentee. Rest assured that absentee ballots are kept confidential; every ballot incorporates a secrecy envelope which separates the voter's identity from the ballot they cast.

Go to one of the links below!

Different states have different rules. For example, North Carolina allows ballots to be returned by post, email or fax, whereas most states (e.g. Minnesota and Michigan) only allow mailed ballots. New York State officials accept ballots postmarked by November 5, whereas other states accept ballots postmarked on November 6. This may sound confusing to some; however, after you have registered once, you'll know what to do the next time. Just go to one of the links below to find out how and when the forms for your home state need to be submitted.

- FAWCO (<https://fawco.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>)
- US Vote Foundation (<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>)
- Federal Voter Assistance Program (<https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots>)

Organize a voter registration drive!

The US Consulate is not a polling place, but it does offer voter assistance to help with the completion of the necessary forms (i.e. FPCA). If you live in a city with a US Embassy or Consulate, you can request a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) to come to one of your club's events and assist members with voter registration. VAOs provide nonpartisan voting information and assistance with registration and absentee voting. VAOs may be members of overseas US citizen organizations, civilians or part of the military. You can even become a VAO yourself. Learn more at www.fvap.gov.

- FAWCO (<https://fawco.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>) Note: the red check mark on the FAWCO home page takes you directly to the dedicated FAWCO page on Overseas Vote. This link is open to the public, not just for FAWCO members.
- US Vote Foundation (<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>)
- Federal Voter Assistance Program (<https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter/registration-ballots>)

Questions? Contact voting@fawco.org.

