

**Bonnie, Brave and Beneficent**

**FAWCO Biennial Conference 2019 – Edinburgh**



## **Annual General Meeting – Session 1 Thursday, March 21, 2019**

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, called the Biennial Conference to order at 10:01.

### **Announcements**

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, reminded the participants to complete the *Inspiring Women* quiz found at each seat. As FAWCO's Club Workshops Coordinator could not attend the Biennial Conference, Michele Hendrikse Du Bois (Munich IWC, FAUSA) and Liz Janson (Munich IWC, FAUSA) would facilitate the workshops for club presidents. The announcements concluded with the holding of a moment of silence for all FAWCO members who had left us in the previous year.

### **Roll call of clubs**

Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), Secretary, called the roll. Thirty-seven FAWCO clubs were present, as follows: AWC of Amsterdam, AWC of Antwerp, AW in the Aquitaine, AWC of Basel, AWC of Berlin, AWC of Bern, AWC of Bogotá, AWC of Brussels, AIWC of Cologne, AWC in Denmark, AW of the Eastern Province, AWC in Finland, AILO of Florence, AIWC Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main, AIWC of Genoa, AWO of Greece, AWC of The Hague, AWC of Hamburg, Heidelberg IWC, AWG of Languedoc-Roussillon, AWC of Lebanon, AWC of London, AWC of Luxembourg, AC of Lyon, AWC of Madrid, AWC of Malmö, AWO of Moscow, ACIW of Mumbai, Munich IWC, AWC of Oslo, AAWE Paris, AWG in Paris, AWA of Rome, AWC of Central Scotland, AW of Surrey, AWA Vienna, AWC of Zurich. This constituted a quorum.

### **Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure**

Judy Furukawa (AWC of Brussels), Parliamentarian, explained that the rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised*, 11th edition, would govern the Conference. She described the procedures for speaking from the floor, for making and amending motions, and for voting. She reminded delegates to state their names and the names of their clubs before speaking, and to raise their club signs when votes were taken and hold them up until the vote was completed.

### **Approval of minutes from final general session of Interim Meeting, The Hague, Netherlands, March 25, 2018**

Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), Secretary, asked delegates to review the minutes of the final session in order to amend and approve them. Two changes were received by email, although none were suggested from the floor. Anne van Oorschot (AWC of The Hague) moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Maggie Palu (AW of the Aquitaine seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

### **Welcomes**

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, was delighted to welcome nearly 180 participants (including AWC Central Scotland volunteers) from FAWCO clubs all over the world to the Biennial Conference. Region 1 had the most participants, and many clubs in other regions had sent large delegations; there was at least one participant from every FAWCO region, as well as representatives of FAUSA and individual FAWCO members from Dubai and Hong Kong. She welcomed the Board of The FAWCO

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Foundation and the FAWCO Counselors who were present, and thanked AWC Central Scotland for its hard work in preparing the Conference: Conference Chair Amanda Drollinger, President Nancy Lynner, Joyce Halsan, Tara Scott and all the volunteers who were helping to build the substantive event that the Conference promised to be. Thanks were also due to the Conference sponsors: Janet Darrow Real Estate and London & Capital.

Nancy Lynner, President, AWC Central Scotland and speakers' coordinator for the Conference, welcomed the delegates to Scotland, a country of many historic events, scientific developments and cultural achievements. Amanda Drollinger (FAWCO Rep, AWC Central Scotland), Biennial Conference Chair, thanked 26 members of AWC Central Scotland for all their work to prepare for the Conference. She invited delegates with particular dietary requirements to inform the people at the registration desk of these, and all participants to pick up their drinks tickets at the same location. After the session, the Environment Team would distribute information on the efforts made to ensure that the Conference was environment-friendly. For example, AWC Central Scotland would plant a tree for each Conference participant in a special FAWCO grove.

### **Special guest**

Ellen Wong, United States (US) Consulate Principal Officer, was glad to welcome the participants to Scotland. AWC Central Scotland exemplified the best of the US and was an excellent partner for the Consulate. FAWCO's role in showing a positive face of the US all over the world could not be overstated. Its timely and transformative work with Hope Beyond Displacement, through the Target Program, was particularly important. FAWCO's commitment and hard work had sent refugee girls in Jordan to school, given women business skills and instructed boys and men in ways to reduce gender-based violence. All these actions, like the Conference tagline, were "bonnie, brave and beneficent". FAWCO and its members played an important role as unofficial ambassadors of the USA. Ms Wong wished the participants a successful and enjoyable Conference.

### **Opening keynote speech**

Alice Thompson, co-founder of Social Bite, a social enterprise whose mission was to end homelessness in Scotland, described its work. It had started a string of cafés and a restaurant, which both employed homeless people, training them in restaurant skills, and provided food to 400–500 other homeless people per week. Social Bite aimed to be an environment-friendly business that reduced homelessness and poverty by employing homeless people, as well as generating profits to be given away. The story of one Social Bite employee, who had moved on to a job in the building industry, was an illuminating example. He had been taken into care, as an abused small child, had bounced around the foster care system, and had little education and a criminal record; his experiences had doomed him to homelessness and poverty, but Social Bite had enabled him to turn his life around. Many homeless people had a subculture that saw the values and aims of regular society as out of reach, so Social Bite needed to teach social skills, and provide individual support as well as jobs. It offered counseling on such issues as addiction and bereavement, as well as the frustrations encountered in a regular job, and had a team that provided social support.

Social Bite supported a Housing First policy, to enable homeless people to retain as well as secure housing, as it was effective in reducing homelessness. Social Bite had held a Sleep in the Park event in Edinburgh that raised £4 million for the cause, and funded a new form of temporary housing for homeless people. Social Bite was housing 30–40 people per month around the country. Its success would prove the value of

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the concept in Scotland and in other countries, including the USA. New funds raised would go to refugee support as well as homelessness. The message was that homelessness is an emergency, not the status quo.

Inspired by this talk, the participants responded with a standing ovation.

### Quilt reveal

Suzanne Wheeler, The FAWCO Foundation President, thanked Roberta Zöllner (Munich IWC), The FAWCO Foundation Historian, and her team for creating the 2019 FAWCO Friendship Quilt, “Tell Me a Story”. It portrayed 374 volumes, and blocks had been supplied by 39 contributors from 17 FAWCO clubs. Quilt raffle tickets cost \$5 each or five for \$20.

### Presentations

#### FAWCO 2019–2021 slate of officers and nominations from the floor

Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon), Chair, FAWCO Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees to the 2019-2021 FAWCO Board of Directors, after thanking the members of the Nominating Committee: Meenakshi Advani (ACIW Mumbai), Patricia Aeby (AWC Bern), Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA) and Liz Janson (Munich IWC, FAUSA). Although two of the original nominees had had to withdraw for health reasons, an impressive slate had been assembled, comprising:

- President: Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague)
- First Vice President: Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
- Second Vice President: Rozanne van Rie (AWC Antwerp)
- Third Vice President: Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne)
- Secretary: Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland)
- Treasurer: Alisa Cook-Roehs (AIWC Düsseldorf).

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Voting would take place on Sunday.

#### The FAWCO Foundation 2019–2021 slate of officers and nominations from the floor

Michele Hendrikse Du Bois (Munich IWC, FAUSA), Chair, FAWCO Foundation Nominating Committee, described the work of the Committee, which had announced its slate in December 2018. Members were Marie-Bénédicte Luxem (AWC Zürich), Janet Darrow (FAUSA) and Judy Furukawa (AWC Brussels). The outgoing Board of Directors would elect two members of The Foundation Board; the nominees were: Vice President Programs: Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern), and Vice President Fundraising: Lauren Mescon (AWC Amsterdam). The Biennial Conference would vote on the nominees for four offices:

- Treasurer: Kathy DeBest (FAUSA)
- Secretary: Louise Greeley-Copley (FAUSA)
- Vice President Communications: Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg)
- President: Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf).

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Voting would take place on Sunday.

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#### 2019–2021 Resolutions and Recommendations

Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne), Chair, Resolutions & Recommendations (R&Rs) Committee, thanked the Committee for its work and recognized the members present at the Conference. She presented the proposed FAWCO Resolutions and Recommendations for 2019–2021, and explained that they were developed to respond to issues important to FAWCO and to women and children all over the world. The R&Rs indicated the direction of FAWCO's work in the following two years, and were aligned with FAWCO's mission statement. There had been minimal change to the resolutions, and the Committee had focused on the Recommendations. Two open meetings would be held during the Conference to discuss and if necessary refine the R&Rs, which the Conference would vote on, on Sunday. The draft text of the R&Rs was the following.

#### **1. Resolved: To support, strengthen and expand the FAWCO network.**

##### Recommended:

1. Encourage FAWCO members to participate actively in conferences, regional meetings, workshops, programs, committees and Teams.
2. Reinforce the value of FAWCO membership by ongoing information exchange among member clubs, including unique experiences and best practices.
  - 2.1. Strengthen and empower FAWCO Reps' ability to share information with their respective clubs by having monthly direct communication via web-based calls between the board (e.g. VP of member clubs) and the Reps.
  - 2.2. Communicate the benefits of FAWCO Foundation programs such as the Education Awards and Development Grants to member clubs and their respective members.
  - 2.3. While maintaining our support for US citizens, continue exploring ways to be appealing and relevant to international clubs and non-US members.
  - 2.4. Explore ways to increase our appeal to younger members and/or potential members.
3. Continue to facilitate communication among member club presidents and FAWCO representatives – thus providing resources to encourage members to develop and sustain more successful Member Clubs.
4. Engage geographically distant FAWCO members and expand the FAWCO network by attracting and retaining American and international clubs. Increase support for the FAWCO Membership Chair for more robust membership outreach.
5. Continue the development of an informative and user-friendly website where members can access ideas, information and resources for individual and club development. Stay current with the latest available technologies and encourage the utilization of blogs, webinars and social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, throughout FAWCO to promote our programs.
6. Promote FAUSA membership to repatriating members.

#### **2. Resolved: To work towards a better and more peaceful world and improve the lives of women and girls through global initiatives.**

##### Recommended:

1. Champion the role of the United Nations (UN) in promoting peace and improving lives, raise awareness among FAWCO members of UN-related endeavors, and support the UN's mission and goals through the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.
2. Increase FAWCO's engagement as a UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-accredited NGO by working with key UN women's advocates such as UN Women, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against



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Women (CEDAW) and both the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as well as the individual NGO Committees on the Status of Women.

3. Collaborate with NGOs, agencies and organizations who pursue similar goals to expand our networks and magnify the strength of our advocacy. Increase FAWCO's visibility by participating in panels, authoring/co-authoring statements and sponsoring/co-sponsoring events.
4. Increase awareness among members of the US stance on CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Advocate for the inclusion of overseas American women in VAWA and support Cities for CEDAW.
5. Regularly update FAWCO Global Issues Teams on developments within United Nations agencies and affiliates relevant to their team's goals and help Global Issues Teams align their work with the SDGs.
6. Advocate for improvement of the human rights and lives of migrants, refugees and internally displaced women, working with United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, as well as local and international initiatives.

### **3. Resolved: To advocate for the rights of US citizens who are temporarily or permanently living abroad.**

#### Recommended:

1. Serve as a recognized voice in Washington, DC for US citizens living overseas; work with the Americans Abroad Caucus in the US Congress, the Departments of State, Treasury, and Defense and partner organizations, to shape US legislation and regulations that address the special needs of US citizens living overseas, including voting rights, citizenship rights, taxation and banking.
2. Disseminate and provide easy access to information on overseas voter registration; promote and facilitate registration and absentee voting among our US-citizen members, encouraging active citizenship.
  - 2.1. Especially in view of the 2020 US presidential/federal elections, support and encourage member clubs in leading voter registration drives for their members and communicate the importance of overseas voter participation.
  - 2.2. Inform and educate members about their voting rights and work to dispel myths and misconceptions about registering and voting from abroad.
  - 2.3. Provide information and encourage voter registration and voting among young people (i.e., member children), including US citizens born abroad.
3. Advocate for more effective representation in Washington by providing reliable statistics on US citizens living overseas.
4. Work to mitigate the impact of FATCA on US citizens living overseas; collect information on its unintended consequences to be provided to Washington policy-makers; actively lend support to FAWCO members in situations of particular distress due to non-willful noncompliance, "accidental" citizenship or excessive financial hardship.
5. Provide workshops, webinars and other resources to empower US citizens living overseas to more effectively manage the tax, banking and legal complexities of living abroad.
6. Keep FAWCO members informed on issues arising in the US that may impact US citizens living overseas. Be eyes and ears for US citizens living abroad and aid them in being active citizens. Keep the US Issues Team healthy and active by recruiting engaged team members. Reach out to US citizen members of FAWCO to stay informed about their concerns.
7. While maintaining FAWCO's non-partisanship, encourage active civic participation among our US members:
  - 7.1. Keep FAWCO members informed about and encourage participation in Overseas Americans' Week.

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- 7.2. Encourage our members to be active advocates for issues affecting women and girls in the US and around the world – e.g., through writing, lobbying, demonstrations.
8. Cultivate and model civility and mutual respect in ourselves as individuals and in FAWCO as a whole. As US residents abroad, we are day-to-day ambassadors within our countries of residence. We have a responsibility to be good global citizens both in our activities with FAWCO and in our everyday lives.

#### **4. Resolved: To practice good global citizenship, especially in the areas of education, the environment, health and human rights.**

##### Recommended:

1. Focus Global Issues Teams' efforts to promote the well-being of women and girls worldwide, provide opportunities for FAWCO members to become involved in FAWCO's work on global issues, and inform members through FAWCO's publications and website.
  - 1.1. Education: Promote awareness of global issues in education with emphasis on equal access, literacy, continuing education, and global citizenship.
  - 1.2. Environment: Promote awareness of the environment and the impact of climate change on peace in global society. Encourage responsible environmental stewardship and informed action within FAWCO, at both global and local levels.
  - 1.3. Health: Increase awareness of women's health issues such as maternal health, the impact of traditional cultural practices and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), non-communicable diseases, mental health and aging. Invest in improving the health of women and girls worldwide through support of the 2019–2022 Target Project.
  - 1.4. Human Rights: Advocate working to ensure human rights for all women; engage FAWCO members in awareness and action campaigns, and leverage FAWCO's unique strength as a global women's organization to help end violence and discrimination against women and girls.
2. Promote awareness and action on global issues through active participation in the Target Program, the focus of which rotates among the four global issues.
3. Promote a culture of giving through philanthropy.
4. Promote issue awareness and cultural understanding in our youth to help them develop into responsible and caring global citizens. Encourage participation in the Youth Cultural Volunteers, FAWCO Youth Ambassador, UN Youth Reps and other programs and activities.
5. Encourage FAWCO members to be informed about customs and legislation in their countries of residence that affect their rights and responsibilities as international citizens living abroad. Encourage FAWCO members to participate actively in their communities and to collaborate with other organizations.
6. Encourage FAWCO members to work toward a more civil society by exercising respect, tolerance and consideration and modeling that behavior to others.

SC reminded the participants of the location of links to the full text, and announced that the Conference photo would be taken immediately after lunch, at 13:30.

#### **2019–2021 Budget**

Carol Strametz (AWC of Hamburg), Chair, Finance Committee, presented FAWCO's proposed budget for the following two years. She thanked all the members of the Committee, which now included the FAWCO Treasurer as an *ex officio* member. The Committee would take on additional roles in advising the Treasurer and the Board.

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Because a change to the Bylaws was proposed, to align FAWCO's fiscal year with the calendar year, two sets of figures were presented: for the current and proposed fiscal years. The vote on the budget would follow the vote on the Bylaws on Sunday. Changing the fiscal year would allow the presentation of much more complete and up-to-date figures to FAWCO members.

Carol Strametz (AWC of Hamburg), Chair, Finance Committee, explained the figures provided and pointed out the changes from previous budgets. She and the Committee were confident that the figures were realistic. She was also pleased to announce that The FAWCO Foundation was making a grant of \$3,000 to FAWCO's Target Program. All participants were invited to attend the open meeting of the Finance Committee in the afternoon.

In response to a query from the floor, Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), FAWCO President, explained that FAWCO's Annual Report 2018 was available electronically on the FAWCO website. A small number of printed copies would be made available at the registration table. Laurie Brooks (AWC The Hague), First Vice President Communications, explained that the full budgets would be available electronically at midnight. The session was closed at 12:09.