



**FAWCO**

**2024**

**INTERIM  
MEETING**

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



# FAWCO Annual Report 2023

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## President's Message

### Community, Support and Advocacy

These three words are key to what FAWCO offers all of us. I strongly believe the world is a kinder, better place when we foster and grow our international connections and community. When we offer support to each other, whether through philanthropy or sharing best practices, we all benefit. Many of us share a global perspective of the world around us; we have lived and traveled in places where we have been outsiders. I feel this gives us deeper empathy for seeing the world as one: the only place we all can call home. Advocacy for issues we care about – whether at COP28, CSW68, your club or in your community – helps make the world a better place.

2023 was a year that was a challenging one for many of us, though. Earthquakes, war, floods and other natural and man-made disasters continue to plague us. We must not lose hope. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” There are many people out there striving daily to make things better. We may falter, get tired and take breaks, but never doubt that we are resolved to make positive change in the world. We all contribute in our own ways, and I am proud and humbled to be working with you in that spirit. Each person might think that their action alone is a drop in the bucket, but together those drops can produce a tidal wave of powerful positive change. What you do matters.

So thank you, for all you do! For all the actions you take each and every day for a better world. I hope you are as inspired as I am when you read through this report.

Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)  
FAWCO President 2023–2025

## Note on Parliamentary Procedure

The 2024 FAWCO Interim Meeting is taking place in Porto, Portugal from March 15-17. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Interim Meeting in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with our Bylaws and Administrative Guidelines.

FAWCO Member Clubs are entitled to send up to two (2) delegates to an Interim Meeting. Each Club has one vote, which is cast by the FAWCO Representative. If they are unable to serve, then the Club President, or another Club member who has been approved as the appointed representative, will cast the vote. If Member Clubs are unable to send a delegate to the Interim Meeting, they may send in a vote, in writing, on the matters submitted to them, prior to the Meeting.

Although the Board of Directors, Counselors, Committee and Task Force Chairs, Liaisons, Regional Coordinators, the Presidents of The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA and Delegates have no voting rights, they may participate fully in all Annual Meeting floor discussions.

If you wish to speak during a floor discussion, please wait to be recognized by the Chair, and for the microphone to be brought to you. Before proceeding with your remarks, **state the name of your Club and your name.**

Please address all remarks through the Chair. Discussion by an individual on any question will be limited to one comment of two minutes duration. If a motion is made, it must be seconded before discussion is allowed. Any amendments proposed and seconded must be voted on (in reverse order) before the vote on the original motion. No more than two amendments can be on the floor at the same time. The maker of a motion may answer any questions posed, may withdraw the motion, and may speak again in rebuttal and in conclusion.

For voting purposes, each delegation has been provided with a club sign. **When voting, please raise your sign clearly and wait for completion of the count before lowering it.**

# The FAWCO Organization

FAWCO was founded in 1931 when seven Clubs came together to form the Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe, which evolved into the broader-based Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas in 1935.

## FAWCO Mission Statement

FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations whose mission is:

- to build strong support networks for its American and international membership; to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide;
- to advocate for the rights of US citizens overseas; and
- to mobilize the skills of its membership in support of global initiatives for education, the environment, health and human rights.

## The FAWCO Board of Directors

President	Ann Marie Morrow, AWC Finland
First Vice President for Communications	Mary Dobrian, AIWC Cologne
Second Vice President for Member Clubs	Kanika Holloway, AWC Antwerp
Third Vice President for Global Issues	Mary Manning, Heidelberg IWC
Secretary	Laureen Scharps, AIWC Frankfurt
Treasurer	Cathy Farnan, AWG Paris

### *Board appointments (non-voting)*

Parliamentarian	Patricia Meek, AWC Dublin
Assistant Treasurer	Patricia Aeby, AWC Bern
FAWCO Foundation President	Janet Davis, AIWC Cologne

## Board of Representatives

One FAWCO Representative from each Member Club

## Council

Board of Directors  
 Board of Representatives  
 Committee/Task Force Chairs/Teams\*  
 Liaisons/Club Presidents' Coordinator\*  
 Regional Coordinators\*  
 Counselors (Past FAWCO Presidents)  
 President of The FAWCO Foundation  
 President of FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA)  
 \* *Appointed with the approval of the FAWCO President*

## FAWCO Counselors

Past FAWCO Presidents serve in an advisory capacity

## FAWCO Committees, Teams and Programs

The FAWCO Committees, Teams and Programs give Member Clubs and members from the Clubs a chance to participate in FAWCO's work worldwide in an area of specific interest.

### **Administrative Committees**

- Archives
- Events
- Finance
- Special Committees and Task Forces

### **Global Issues Teams**

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Rights

### **Global Issues Programs**

- Target Program
- Youth Program

### **US Issues Committees**

- US Citizenship
- US Tax and Banking
- US Voting

## **Presidential Appointees (non-Board members)**

### **Reporting to the President**

- Counselors' Coordinator
- Events Team
- Conference Accountant
- Conference Chair/s
- Conference Registrar
- Finance Chair
- Special Committee and Task Force Chairs
- UN Liaison
- US Liaison

### **Reporting to the 1st Vice President**

- Advertising and Sponsorship Manager
- Inspiring Women Magazine Editor
- Digital Media Chair
- Social Media & Twitter Managers
- Web Hosting Coordinator
- Web Registration Coordinator
- Website Manager
- Website Content Administrator

### **Reporting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

- Club Presidents' Coordinator
- Club Workshops Coordinator
- Cross Clubs Events Coordinator
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Chair
- Membership Chair
- Regional Coordinators
- Under 40 Chairs

### **Reporting to the 3rd Vice President**

- Global Issues Team Chairs
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Rights

Target Program Chair  
 Youth Program Chairs

**Reporting to the Treasurer**

Assistant Treasurer

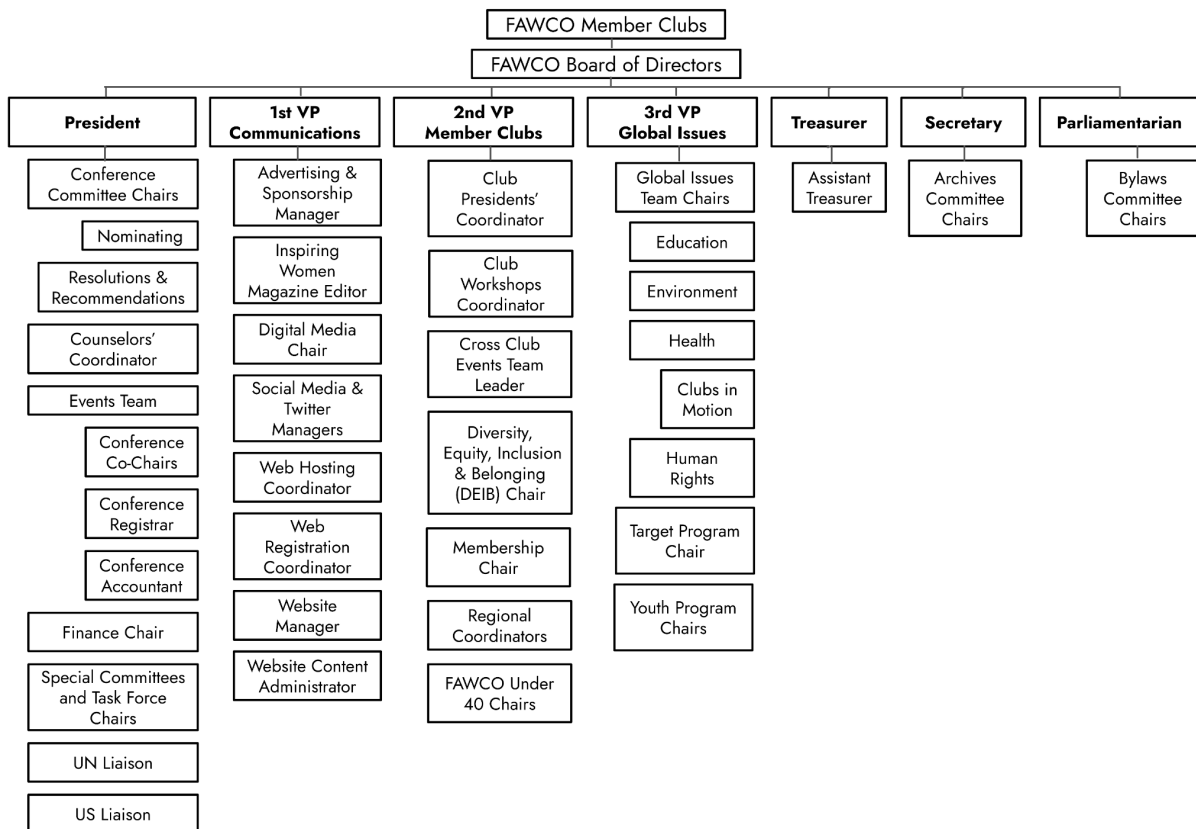
**Reporting to the Secretary**

Archives Committee Chair

**FAWCO Regions**

- Region 1: England, Ireland, and Scotland
- Region 2: Nordic Countries and Russia
- Region 3: France and Spain
- Region 4: Belgium and the Netherlands
- Region 5: Austria, Germany and Moldova
- Region 6: Liechtenstein and Switzerland
- Region 7: Africa
- Region 8: Greece and Italy
- Region 9: Middle East and the Americas
- Region 10: Asia/Pacific

**FAWCO Organizational Chart**



# FAWCO Officers' Reports

## President's Report

The COVID-19 virus which was first declared a *public health emergency of international concern* by the WHO on January 20, 2020 was announced as *no longer a public health emergency* on May 5, 2023. Consequently, 2023 was the first in many years FAWCO and FAWCO Member Club activities were able to get back in full swing. The disease is still with us, ever changing, but the acute phase, hopefully, has passed. Though several in my own family, including myself, contracted the disease this year, thanks to vaccines, cases haven't been severe.

Many have jumped back into all activities feet first and some are tentatively easing back into the groove. We've learned resilience and agility. It was lovely to be able to meet in person in Bratislava for the Biennial Conference in March. A full report can be found within this Annual Report.

**Due to banking issues** for organization leaders living outside the US who need access to US banking services a new Bylaw Amendment was proposed at the 2023 Biennial Conference to allow for the election of a FAWCO Treasurer who lives in the US at the time of election. This proposal was passed and allowed FAWCO to elect a treasurer who resides in the US. Cathy Farnan was then nominated and elected for a second term as Treasurer as a result. More can be read in the Treasurer's and Parliamentarian's reports, including FAWCO now using State Department Federal Credit Union (SDFCU) banking services. Cathy announced on behalf of FAWCO at the March Annual Meeting the benefit of SDFCU membership for qualified FAWCO members who are US citizens or green card holders. Working with SDFCU has not only eased FAWCO's banking issues, but now we are also able to share this benefit with members. Many thanks to Cathy for all her determination and work in helping FAWCO through various banking issues over these past years.

**Appointments** – At the Biennial Conference a Website Taskforce was created to review the FAWCO website. It is customary to do a revamp and thorough evaluation of websites at least every five years. Bev Bachmayer (AWC Vienna) was appointed as Conference Chair for the 2024 Interim Meeting. Also at the conference, Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA, AWC The Hague) was appointed as Finance Chair, as well as Emily van Eerten, (AWC The Hague) as Google Administrator, Shweta Gupta (FAUSA, AWC Berlin) as Club Presidents' Coordinator, Rebekka Klingshirn (Heidelberg IWC) and Michelle D. Miller (AIWC Cologne) as Education Co-Chairs, Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp) as Health Co-Chair, and Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC) and Jody McBrien (AWG Paris) as Human Rights Co-Chairs. Milena Mejia (AWC Bogotá) was appointed as Health Co-Chair in October.

*Inspiring Women Magazine* had several new appointments and some shuffles during the year. At the Biennial Conference Michele Hendrikse Du Bois (FAUSA, Munich IWC) was announced as the new Inspiring Women Editor, taking over the reins from Liz MacNiven (AIWC Cologne) who had been Editor for five years since the magazine's launch. Connie Philipot (AWA Vienna) was then appointed as Inspiring Women Features Coordinator, Cristin Middlebrooks (AWC Antwerp) as Inspiring Women Profiles Coordinator, and Hollis Vaughen (AWC Berlin) as Inspiring Women Marketing Manager. In December Shaza Bwakira-Gahiga (AWC Madrid) took over as Inspiring Women's new Profiles Coordinator.

Two new Regional Coordinators were appointed in 2023: for Region 3, Sandra Gogel (AWG Paris) and for Region 6, Karyn Wynn (AWC Zürich).

**Membership** – FAWCO was excited to welcome the International Women's Club of Leipzig in December. Although normal operations have ceased for the American Women's Organization of Moscow, and many of their members left the country because of the war in Ukraine, the club has asked to remain a member in hopes of a more peaceful future. AIWC Sorrento indicated at the end of the year that due to a change in member demographics they wouldn't continue membership.

**Resolutions & Recommendations (R&Rs)** – Chair Laurie Richardson and her committee prepared streamlined R&Rs for 2023–25, and they were discussed and approved at the Biennial Conference in March.

**Regionals** – October 6-8 I attended the Region 1 Regional Meeting in Stirling, Scotland, hosted by AWC Central Scotland. Over 30 of us enjoyed the meeting with the theme of "Everyone, Everywhere, All Together." The rain didn't deter us from enjoying the cozy atmosphere of the Stirling Highland Hotel and each other's company. November 3-5 I attended the Region 5 Regional Meeting hosted by AWC Hamburg with the theme of Growing



Sustainably. There was a lot of energy and a lot of attendees - over 70 and many for the first time. A special nod to the president and members of International Women's Club of Moldova who attended their first regional. It was also special to meet FAWCO Counselor Becky Tan. Following the Regional in Hamburg the FAWCO board met for their Face2Face extended board meetings. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Region 4 Regional Meeting on November 10-12. Making Grassroots Effort Blossom was the theme and the location was the goat farm Ridammerhoeve in the Amsterdam Forest. Directors of FAWCO's Target Project Awesome Blossoms, Peninah Musyimi and Allan C'oredo were able to attend both Region 4 and 5 meetings and gave in-depth insights into the project and their organization Safe Spaces in Nairobi, Kenya.

**US Liaison** – Johanna Dishongh (FAUSA, AWC The Hague) helped organize Overseas Americans Week (OAW) back in person in Washington DC in June of 2023 after a several year break due to COVID-19. Johanna and members of AARO met influential members of Congress as well as other agencies to advocate for the rights of overseas US citizens. They discussed important issues such as banking, tax, voting and citizenship and advocated for ways to improve the rights of overseas Americans. Read more in the US Liaison section of this annual report. Many thanks to Johanna for her many steps, door knocks and conversations she had on behalf of FAWCO members. Johanna and her team carry on this important work and as always would love to hear from you about your concerns or questions.

**UN Liaison** – Alex Vo (FAUSA) led a group of FAWCO delegates to CSW67 in March 2023 in NY. She also arranged for FAWCO delegates to attend COP28 in Dubai in November/December 2023. Alexandra's passion and excellence in leading the UN Rep Teams and FAWCO delegates means that FAWCO has a voice as part of civil society on the world stage. FAWCO's UN Team members work with other civil society organizations to make sure it isn't just politicians and corporate leaders that have a say in world affairs. Many thanks to Alex and all her team members. Please read the UN report to learn more about their extensive activities.

**FAWCO Programs** – The FAWCO Target Program Environment went through the awareness and application cycle between the 2022 and 2023 Annual Meetings. At the Annual Meeting in Bratislava "Awesome Blossoms: a Project of Safe Spaces Kenya" was named as the 2023-2025 Target Project Environment. This project was nominated by Leslie Janoe of the AWC Amsterdam. Environmental awareness and the need for sustainable urban agriculture are themes of the project which FAWCO will support with fundraising over the two-year cycle. It was inspiring to learn of all the great projects that were nominated. There is so much impactful work out there! Thank you to all those working to create a more sustainable future for us all. The successful FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers Program was hosted by the AWC Zurich. Many thanks to all those involved in helping create lasting memories and connections for FAWCO's youth. FAWCO's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Team continues to work at keeping the conversation going about how to be proactive about incorporating the ideals of inclusivity in all our work and lives.

**Publications** – As President, I prepare and distribute the bulletin, *Connections – Letter from Headquarters*, and this year they went out in July, October and December. Additionally, I contribute to the monthly *News in Brief*.

FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA organizations come together in a shared mission of community, support, and advocacy for the improvement of the lives of women and children worldwide. Thank you to all the volunteers, Member Clubs, members and leaders who help move us forward in our mission. I would also like to thank FAWCO Counselors Sallie Chaballier and Emily van Eerten, who have helped me immensely and are always a phone call away. Working with such kind, intelligent and caring women has been a highlight of this year. I would also like to thank FAWCO Board members Mary Dobrian, Kanika Holloway, Mary Manning, Cathy Farnan, Laureen Scharps and Patti Meek. Their commitment to FAWCO and all their work to support members, Member Clubs, and the legacy of FAWCO is inspiring. My gratitude also goes to Janet Davis, The FAWCO Foundation President and their board for their excellent cooperation and fabulous work this past year. I was also able to work with two FAUSA Presidents during 2023 - Liz Janson and, as of September, Brenda Brinkley. It's been a privilege to work across the time zones with these leaders and their dynamic organization. I look forward to 2024, the Interim Meeting in Porto, Portugal, and our continued connections throughout 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)  
FAWCO President 2023–2025

## First Vice President's Report

The First Vice President's responsibilities include overseeing all FAWCO communications, publications, the FAWCO website, web services, FAWCO virtual meetings, public relations, digital and social media, advertising and sponsorship activities. At the Biennial Conference in March 2023, Ann Marie Morrow completed her term as First Vice President and was succeeded by me, Mary Dobrian. I am supported on the Communications Team by wonderful women who contribute their skills and passions to keep FAWCO moving forward as technology and means of communication evolve. I absolutely could not do it without them, and I am immensely grateful and proud to be working with them.

### Publications

A publications calendar in Google Workspace is used to schedule all of the various publications distributed by FAWCO. Mailchimp was used to distribute all publications in 2023. Subscription rates for all publications have continued to rise or remain steady. Eight publications are in regular production. We continue to emphasize streamlining our publications and content. With some turnover on the Board and team leadership, it is important to continually reiterate our guidelines and best practices, particularly with regard to GDPR and privacy, but everyone has been very cooperative and pulls their weight to get publications completed smoothly and in a timely manner. Special thanks to Mary Manning, who is always receptive to questions and suggestions and proactive in making improvements. I am very grateful for the proofreading and technical help I receive from FAWCO Counselor Sallie Chaballier, and especially from my predecessor, President Ann Marie Morrow, who is infinitely patient in sharing her extensive expertise and experience and is always there for me and for FAWCO.

2023 Publication Distribution via Mailchimp: *Target Bulletin*, second Tuesday monthly, 10 issues plus special announcement (selected Target Project – March); *News in Brief (NiB)*, third Tuesday monthly, 11 issues; *Global Issues Digest (GID)*, last Tuesday monthly, 11 issues; *UN Liaison Bulletin*, two issues; *US Liaison Bulletin*, four issues; *Club Presidents' Post*, three issues; *Connections – Letter from Headquarters*, three issues; *Inspiring Women (IW)* magazine, four issues, plus Highlights issue; special mailings, seven issues (six 2023 FAWCO Biennial Conference – Bratislava, one Holiday Greeting).

### Inspiring Women Team Highlights for 2023

**INSPIRING WOMEN LOOKING INSPIRED** (Submitted by Michele Hendrikse DuBois, *Inspiring Women* Editor)

FAWCO publishes a quarterly online magazine free of charge to members and non-members. *Inspiring Women* profiles the lives of members of FAWCO Clubs throughout the world who have used their skills and talents to make an impact locally and globally. We know the people within our clubs, whose life stories we think are amazing! *Inspiring Women* introduces readers to these members.

Since 2017, the *Inspiring Women* team has:

- Published 28 quarterly issues and a special Five-Year Anniversary issue
- Published and printed an annual "Highlights" magazine for the conference
- Shared over 455 stories about the FAWCO and FAUSA members
- Had participation from 100% of the regions
- Published profiles and features from all but one FAWCO Member Club – we'd love to hear from Venice.

During 2023, *IW* shone a spotlight on a total of 58 FAWCO and FAUSA members from across all the FAWCO regions and FAUSA. We took readers on tours of Malmö, Moldova and Vienna and shared the club stories of AWA Rome, AWC Aberdeen and AWC Antwerp.

2023 Issues:

- Evolving to Maturity – Fabulous, Fun and Fierce
- Goodbyes and New Beginnings
- Women and Fashion
- Women Embracing Culture

In 2023, the *Inspiring Women* Team reorganized. Liz MacNiven took a well-earned retirement after six years as Co-Founder and Editor in Chief. Michele Hendrikse DuBois (FAUSA) moved from Features Coordinator into the role of Editor and Chief. Connie Phlipot (AWA Vienna) joined the team as Features Coordinator, and Cristin

Middlebrooks (AWC Antwerp) joined as Profile Coordinator. Kristin Haaenes (AWC Oslo), Hollis Vaughen (AWC Berlin) and Elsie Bose (FAUSA) remained in their roles of Layout Coordinator, Marketing Manager and Co-Founder and Advertising and Sponsorship Manager, respectively. In December, Cristin left the team and Shaza Bwakira-Gahiga (AWC Madrid) took over as Profile Coordinator.

*Inspiring Women* also has a dedicated team of proofreaders: Karen Boeker, AWC Denmark; Laurie Brooks, AWC Amsterdam/AWC The Hague/ FAUSA; Barbara Bühling, AIWC Düsseldorf; Sallie Chaballier, AAWE Paris; Mary Stewart Burgher, AWC Denmark; Janet Davis, AIWC Cologne; Janis Kaas, AAWE Paris/FAUSA; Carol-Lyn McKelvey AIWC Cologne/FAUSA; Jenny Taylor, AIWC Cologne; Teddie Weyr, AWA Vienna; Roberta Zöllner, Munich IWC.

*Inspiring Women* remains the main publication that drives advertising revenue for FAWCO. The revenue helps pay for operating costs and has helped keep FAWCO Club dues unchanged since 2019.

We continue to reach out to clubs and their members to educate them on how the magazine is a benefit to them and how to make sure they know they can be highlighted in the magazine. Club boards and FAWCO leadership change, and in order to keep up the high quality of the magazine and continue strong readership, it is important for the *IW* Team to reintroduce itself to club leadership. As part of this effort, we regularly post our current issue, upcoming events and deadlines in the *News in Brief* and the FAUSA Newsletter. *IW* has an active Facebook page with over 535 followers. *Inspiring Women* highlights were included as part of the FAWCO presentation at all 2023 Regional Meetings. We also attend the monthly TLC call to share current news with the participants.

We want to increase our readership and engage your members. The magazine is FREE – a wonderful benefit to offer your members, so send the magazine to your club membership, encourage your members to directly subscribe, promote *Inspiring Women* magazine at your club events, and when appropriate, nominate members for inclusion in *Inspiring Women*.

2024 issues will include Women and Democracy (February), Women Working with Words (May), Women Entrepreneurs (September) and The Family Connection (November).

#### **Advertising and Sponsorship 2023** (Submitted by Elsie Bose, FAWCO Advertising Chair)

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Advertising	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,545
Sponsorship	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,530
TOTAL	\$ 9,000	\$12,075

Bratislava Conference		
Sponsorship	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 9,000	\$12,075

The 2023 budget was divided and accounted for into two categories this year: Advertising and Sponsorship, primarily for tax reasons. Conference sponsorship has always been part of the conference budget, which is separate from FAWCO's operating budget.

The 2023 advertising and sponsorship budget was a 16% increase over the 2022 budget. 2023 actual revenue total was 25% over the 2023 budget.

I was very excited to add a Target Program Sponsor this year: LAUNCH Education Advisors. The company is part owned by members of the Amsterdam club. It is a two-year commitment, with the second half to begin in 2024. Their ads are informative, and they offer benefits to FAWCO members. As a result, however, The Short List did not renew with us this year.

The balance of our longstanding advertisers continued to support us in 2023: London & Capital, BetterHelp and TESIS. All participated with ads, logos and links in multiple FAWCO media. Our Member advertisers provide a large amount of our yearly revenue: Janet Darrow Real Estate, The Pajama Company, Tharien's Art, London Realty and MyExpatTaxes.com.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our advertisers.

### **Google Workspace and FAWCO Documents**

The Google Workspace platform gives FAWCO volunteers the ability to work effectively and collaboratively with the tools it offers such as Gmail, Meet, Drive, Docs, Forms, among many others. Archiving, standardization and harmonization of documents continues on an ongoing basis. Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague) does an excellent job administering FAWCO's Google workspace; she is always reliable, responsive and knowledgeable, and I appreciate her very much. FAWCO's Operating Documents are tracked in a spreadsheet by FAWCO's Board and especially the Parliamentarian. The archiving of all FAWCO publications continues.

### **Website, Web Services, GDPR and Compliance**

Website Manager Catherine "Cat" Conner (AWC Hamburg) is responsible for the technical side of the website, and she is indispensable in providing support and technical knowledge with kindness, patience and a cheerful demeanor. Her knowledge is vast, and when she doesn't know something, she makes it her job to find out. In 2023, she created conference registrations for the Biennial Conference in Bratislava in March, as well as launching registration for the 2024 Interim Meeting in Porto.

Given the termination of support for the web content management system used for FAWCO's website, Joomla 3.10, in 2023, a Website Task Force was formed in April to review the website and consider areas where the structure and content might be updated in conjunction with a move over to Joomla 4. The task force consisted of Cat Conner, Emily van Eerten (FAWCO Counselor and Google Workspace Admin), Rheagan Coffey (Web Hosting Coordinator), Laurie Brooks (former FAWCO VP Communications), Tracy Moede (FAWCO Tax and Banking Co-Chair), President Ann Marie Morrow and myself. We created a website user survey that was sent out to boards, FAWCO reps and volunteers, inquiring about their usage habits on the FAWCO website and suggestions for improvement. A list of upgrade and cleanup tasks needed for the website was also created, and Cat Conner provided the board with an estimate of costs for the upgrade. The last meeting of the task force was held in August 2023; since then, progress on the upgrade project has stalled due to members' personal circumstances. Reinitiating the website upgrade process is an important goal for 2024.

Liz Slaughter-Ek (AIC Malmö) continues her behind the scenes work with registrations for the website.

Remaining compliant with all privacy, copyright and GDPR policies on the website, behind the scenes and within all communications on the website and on social media platforms is imperative and a main focus. Since volunteer positions in FAWCO turn over frequently, it is recommended that virtual and in-person workshops on these subjects are held at regular intervals (at least once per year).

In 2023 the FAWCO website had 91,736 sessions (site visits) by 70,205 users. Sessions decreased by 4.97% and users decreased by 5.70% from the previous year. This may in part be due to people's increased mobility worldwide after the easing of pandemic restrictions. Nevertheless, we should consider what other factors may be at play and continue aiming to expand our reach via social media activity, SEO and other means.

### **Web Hosting**

FAWCO Web Hosting services are offered as a benefit to all Member Clubs. Those who use this service benefit from a continuity of service and the ongoing connection with FAWCO's Web Services Team. Rheagan Coffey (AWC Dublin), Web Hosting Coordinator, oversees this; she is reliable, responsive and always willing to help. Wild Apricot's discount for FAWCO Clubs was renewed and updated in 2022. The discount (23-28%) is offered by Wild Apricot to FAWCO Member Clubs. FAWCO Web Hosting services: 32 domain names registered with us (no change); 13 (including Moscow) websites hosted via FAWCO; 22 Clubs availing of the Wild Apricot discount; five Clubs with email hosting only (no change).

### **Virtual Meetings**

FAWCO's virtual meetings program was launched in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, Teams, Volunteers and Clubs have embraced the online meeting technology that enables us to connect and engage across the FAWCO world, and it is here to stay even as we are once again able to meet regularly in person. Since we have resumed holding in-person Regional Meetings and Conferences, we discontinued use of the Hopin

conference platform and Streamyard in 2023. As Zoom technology continues to improve, we are able to hold many online events – even larger-scale ones on that platform.

Zoom events open to FAWCO members in 2023 included viewing and discussion of the documentary *Kiss the Ground* and workshops with outside speakers on Self-Confidence and Exploring Creative Expression, all hosted by Global Issues Teams; four Global Issues Book Discussions, including a joint event with AWC London featuring bestselling author Bonnie Garmus; open information meetings about projects shortlisted for Target 5 Environment; Target workshops on Empowering Female Climate Change Activists and on Solar Cookstoves; UN Team presentations on COP27 and the run-up to COP28; a Women Speak Up presentation on Book Banning; a virtual meeting with Target Project Awesome Blossoms leaders Peninah Nthenya Musyimi and Allan C’Oredo; and meetings of the DEIB Team.

We collaborated with FAUSA to bring the Lunafest film festival to FAWCO members via Eventim.

We continue to use the Google environment extensively, and many of our meetings for FAWCO operations and groups also take place on Google Meet, including Board meetings; TLC calls for Reps, Presidents and Philanthropy; Presidents-only calls; U40 Happy Hours; and Team and committee meetings.

There were over 50 scheduled virtual meetings, events, workshops and online conferences held in 2023. We plan to continue using virtual meetings to connect with our clubs and members in 2024.

### **Digital and Social Media Team**

We continue to use the beautiful templates created last year by Adelina Matinca for our public social media platforms. We publish primarily on Facebook and Instagram, using Canva Pro to create images and highlighting important dates or FAWCO news and content, aiming for two to three posts per week. Most are created by the First VP Communications and posted using Meta Business Suite. Ann Marie Morrow creates posts for Facebook and Instagram Stories and LinkedIn. Ellie Badanes continues as our Twitter (X) Manager, although we have greatly reduced our use of X, as we feel it neither aligns with FAWCO’s values nor necessarily reaches an audience that we seek. We monitor our platforms and encourage engagement. At the end of 2023 the main social media platforms of engagement were: FAWCO Private Member Facebook group, 1,200+ members; FAWCO Public Facebook page @fawco, 1,900+ followers; FAWCO Inspiring Women Public Facebook page @FawcoIWMagazine, 535 followers; FAWCO Instagram @fawcoofficial, 973 followers; FAWCO Twitter @fawco, 592 followers; FAWCO LinkedIn, 595 followers. All platforms saw growth in followers and overall engagement as a whole was steady or increased.

### **Thanks**

I took on the position of VP Communications with some trepidation, since I do not consider technology to be the realm where my greatest skills lie. I have been massively supported this year by Ann Marie Morrow, who has great faith in my ability to learn and doesn’t complain about having to explain things to me more than once. My fellow FAWCO Board members – Ann Marie, Kanika Holloway, Mary Manning, Cathy Farnan, Laureen Scharps and Patti Meek – are a delight to work with. Each one is a smart and inspiring woman with unique skills of her own that I greatly admire. The same goes for all the members of the Communications Team, most of whom I have mentioned above. I am in awe of all the skills and talent that exist among our FAWCO membership and of our members’ generosity in sharing those skills to make this organization flourish.

2023 turned out to be a challenging year for me on a personal level. I was often stressed and distracted by personal crises, but my FAWCO colleagues stepped up for me when my bandwidth was too short, and for that I am enormously grateful. Ann Marie has been like my guardian angel: she is a true and caring friend who always lifts my mood, and she is a wise and patient leader. I cannot thank her enough.

In 2024, I aim to get past the growing pains of taking on a new position and to deepen and strengthen my own knowledge and skills as VP Communications. It is a great feeling to know that I have so many great people on my team and in the FAWCO Community. Thank you to all of you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Dobrian (AIWC Cologne)  
FAWCO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President — Communications

## Second Vice President's Report

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to hold the position of 2nd VP Member clubs for my second term and third year on the FAWCO board of directors. It's a moment to acknowledge the evolution our clubs have undergone since the easing of pandemic restrictions, particularly in Region 10. With the resumption of in-person gatherings, clubs in the Philippines, Korea, and Mumbai have been able to embrace connectivity again with their members and communities, emerging from the isolation imposed by the pandemic.

While we've seen a complete FAWCO-wide return to in-person meetings, it's important to recognize that challenges still loom for many clubs. The challenges faced by our clubs in Regions 2 and 9 include natural disasters, financial instability and conflicts. Despite these hurdles, our clubs positively persevered in 2023. The resilience of our clubs' members also prevailed, as demonstrated by their unwavering commitment to community service and support.

We extended a heartfelt welcome to our newest member club, IWC Leipzig, with enthusiasm, and successfully conducted regional meetings in Regions 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (with an exception for Region 7, which was postponed due to an earthquake in Morocco). I'm so excited to say, "We are back, people!"

Special acknowledgement goes to VP Communications Mary Dobrian, and FAWCO Counselor Sallie Chaballier for their editorial support on the *News in Brief* every single month! Gratitude also extends to the Board of Directors for their guidance, listening ears and mentorship. Moreover, heartfelt appreciation to the Member Clubs Team chairs and Regional Coordinators for their unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting our clubs on the monthly TLC (Team Leadership Calls and Presidents Only calls). Our Teams' chairs provided fun and interesting workshops and cross club events, filled people's hearts with diversity training and education, brought people together at regional meetings and so much more. We don't work without you!

To each magnificent and remarkable FAWCO Rep, your role isn't a simple task. You must have the ability to captivate an audience and persuade others to not only listen but truly believe in FAWCO's extraordinary global impact. This role demands a unique blend of charisma and compassion. It takes someone truly exceptional, with a heart of gold, to achieve what you do. For that, I extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable time and commitment to making a difference and ensuring our relevance and sustainability as an organization.

Together, we are catalysts for change, and it is through all of our tireless efforts that we continue to shine brightly on the world stage. Many thanks to all of you for being the inspiring pillars of our community, leading with grace, determination, and the belief in the power of collective action. The future is ours and it is bright!

The following is a summary of the Member Clubs Team:

### **The Member Clubs Team consists of:**

Regional Coordinators, Regions 1—10

RC-at-Large

Club Presidents' Coordinator

Club Workshops Coordinator

Cross Club Events Chair

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Chair

Membership Coordinator

U-40 (Mindset) Co-Chairs

VP-Fundraising, The FAWCO Foundation (a little bit of a crossover but very helpful, as most of our clubs have a philanthropy or fundraising chair; the concepts discussed are added value and keep our reps, presidents and their boards in the know about the FAWCO Foundation activities, grants and awards).

**Member Clubs Team and what we accomplished:**

(These are high level overviews as all positions have submitted their own reports in their own words.)

**DEIB:**

The focus this year has been on inclusion, specifically for those living with disabilities.

Next year we would like to focus on belonging and how club members can foster a feeling of belonging with their members.

**Membership Chair:**

Focus on going east in Europe

Expanding in Africa and Asia (Regions 7 and 10)

China is complicated due to politically sensitive issues with the US.

**Club Workshops**

We were successful with virtual FAWCO 101 workshops in the following clubs: AWC Bern, AWC Brussels, AIWC Frankfurt, AWC London, AWC Central Scotland, AWC Amsterdam, and lined up are ACIW Mumbai and AIC Malmö. The list is continuing to grow to spread the word about what FAWCO is and does. The Team Building workshop was launched with AWG Paris. The goal is to continue providing new and interesting workshops for member clubs.

**Cross Club Events Calendar:**

The Cross Club Calendar advertised 71 events to all FAWCO clubs in 2023.

**U-40s:**

The under 40 **mindset** group. They continue defining their niche and focusing on topics in the digital and millennial sphere. They were able to secure attendees in the double digits, which is a goal achieved. The “How to Attract Younger Members” and “Social Media” Happy Hours have been a hit and will be a combined workshop in person at the Interim Meeting in 2024.

**TLC (Team Leadership – Joint Reps Presidents and RCs) Calls:**

We have finally returned to large numbers of 37 to 40 attendees per call.

Topics covered included the following:

**January:**

Club support/Board support

Bratislava Biennial Conference and how to talk about it to your members and board.

Characteristics of a FAWCO Rep.

Navigating FAWCO 101 (Target, Fundraising, and the four pillars).

**February:**

RC Catch-up

TLC CALL: Community, Connections, Empowerment!

**March:**

On our way to BRATISLAVA!!

**April:**

What’s next for clubs and getting organized after a Biennial. Sharing conference takeaways and trading tips for a smooth transition into the next term.

**May**

Board changeovers  
 Bylaws: To be an AWC or AIWC  
 Team building and workshops  
 Communications and membership  
 Fundraising and Target

**August:**

Kick-start the last months of 2023.

**September/October/November/December:**

General Team Leadership informative calls, Regional wrap-ups and pumping up clubs with information.

The dates of the calls have been moved to be on the evening of the day that the NiB newsletter comes out, which is the third Tuesday of each month. We have now welcomed new guests to the platform, which creates a center for receiving more information from the *News In Brief* in person and adds to a very lively call. *Inspiring Women* editor Michele Hendrikse Du Bois, FAWCO Liaison to FAUSA Carol-Lyn McKelvey and Human Rights Team Chairs are regular guests.

The calls are always attended by our Member Clubs Team to promote their events and support clubs with answers to questions.

The FAWCO Foundation VP of Fundraising Angie Abersold and Target Fundraising Chair Lauren Mescon typically join the calls for information about The FAWCO Foundation events, fundraisers and Development Grants and Education Awards. Target fundraising questions are also interesting to include on the calls. It takes away from the confusion about “what is the Target project.” We are also usually joined by the Target Chair as well.

We will return to doing specific calls at a time that works best for Regions 9 and 10.

Moreover, the TLC calls are bringing FAWCO to life.

**Presidents’ “Let’s Talk”:** quarterly calls in an open discussion format with topics covered including the following:

**January:**

Board development  
 Membership recruitment and fundraising

**February:**

Sustainable clubs (and we are not just talking about the environment)  
 Branding your club.

**June:** Club Presidents’ Social Hour

Presidents still continued to receive the Club Presidents’ newsletter quarterly.

**Regional Coordinators calls:**

Topics covered: REGIONALS, REGIONALS, REGIONALS!

We were thrilled to return to in person regional meetings this year!

Regional meetings were Environmentally focused, as the Target Project easily fits into the parameters and SDG goals on the Environment.

- Region 6: Building Bridges, hosted by AWC Bern, April 2023
- Region 1: Everyone, Everywhere, All Together, hosted by AWCCS October 2023
- Region 5: Growing Sustainably, hosted by AWC Hamburg November 2023
- Region 4: Making Grassroots Efforts Blossom, hosted by AWC Amsterdam November 2023



- Region 7: Hosted by AIWC Casablanca, focused on how the charities are doing following the earthquake in the remote Marrakech mountains.

CEO of the Target Project Awesome Blossoms, Peninah Nthenya Musiyimi and Project Manager Allan C'oredo, joined our Region 5 and 4 meetings. It was a chance to make the project real to the touch, mixing and mingling with members, telling the story and engaging the real connection to the Target Project.

### **Regional Coordinators (RCs):**

**At Large:** Rozanne Van Rie, former VP Member Clubs has been an invaluable support in assisting the Second VP position as an interim RC for Region 4. She has also been instrumental in collecting Annual Reports, attending conferences and supporting my position administratively. As I am a full time self-employed person, I can trust Rozanne's communication style and help in keeping in touch with the RCs and, in some instances, Presidents and Reps and always attending the joint monthly calls.

Regions 10, 6 and 3 were transitioning in 2023. In Region 3 we were able to appoint Sandra Gogel, the current FAWCO Rep for AWG Paris, as Region 3 Coordinator and Karyn Wynn, Secretary for AWC Zurich, as the Region 6 Coordinator. For Region 10, we are in talks to appoint a new person to take on the role in 2024.

**Region 1:** RC Cynthia Holden says, "We had such an amazing and active year." The American Women's Club of Central Scotland, along with AWC Dublin, hosted the Regional event in Stirling, Scotland, "Everyone, Everywhere, All Together."

**Region 2:** Spearheaded by their fearless leader, RC Jonelle Lemcke, who maintains positive and successful communication with her region. There is always optimism in her review. This region had some challenges, such as the ongoing conflict in Ukraine affecting the club in Moscow. Leadership positions are still difficult to fill.

**Region 3:** The strong and mighty clubs of Region 3 looked at planning a regional; however, a host club was difficult to organize. With the newly appointed RC Sandy Gogel, hope is on the horizon, and she is moving forward to plan a Regional Meeting in 2024.

**Region 4:** The regional meeting was hosted by AWC Amsterdam FAWCO Rep Madeline Hendricks and President Georgie Chambury-Burke and titled "Making Grassroots Efforts Blossom." A great time was had by all at the goat farm. Rozanne Van Rie, RC-at-Large will continue to hold the interim RC position until we confirm a new Regional Coordinator.

**Region 5:** The "Growing Sustainably" Regional Meeting was hosted by AWC Hamburg. In the beautiful river city, FAWCO Rep Jordan Beck Wagner, Tracy Moede and President Stephanie Allen created an amazing meeting attended by over 80 participants.

**Region 6:** Arranged by former RC Ellen Delman, they held a mini regional meeting at the US Consulate in Bern attended by the General Consul, Vice General Consul, and the US Ambassador to Switzerland. "Building Bridges" was attended by all club Presidents and FAWCO Reps in the region. A fun workshop on team building within your club engaged everyone, as well as learning about fundraising to build bridges.

**Region 7:** This regional was organized by the fantastic and passionate RC Cynthia Smith-Ayed. Given the vast geographical distance between these clubs, a regional conference is practically impossible. The regional was supposed to take place in October 2023 for AIWC Casablanca and AIWA Rabat, but was postponed due to the earthquake in September. The new Regional date was January 20, 2024. In the future, we will work on coordinating a Zoom meeting for Presidents and Reps, which worked during the pandemic and can be revamped again to bring everyone together on a regular basis.

**Region 8** is led by joint RCs Maria Batista Hancock and Ann De Simoni, who is the queen of best practices with Christmas bazaars! As Ann says, “Each of these clubs has very dynamic women as their FAWCO Reps, who are passionate and serve with never ending energy and good spirit.” Hopefully, we will see a Regional meeting in the near future.

**Region 9:** This RC Monica Jubayli, is a whiz at WhatsApp groups. Similar to Region 7 with distance, time zones on different continents are also a real problem for meetings to be effective online. The WhatsApp group is the most effective form of communication. Monica has suggested that we take a closer look at the region and match up time zones properly. She uses an ongoing communication document to keep track of upcoming events and uses the WhatsApp group to keep reminders updated.

### Challenges for Clubs in 2023

- Expansion of member clubs to other cities and countries in Regions 9 and 10.
- Challenges with updating Member Club profiles is an ongoing concern. Boards change mid-year, end of year etc. Staying on top of communications and updates to these profiles is still a great challenge to overcome.
- Diversity in membership
- Getting new board members to replace long-term board members, getting members to engage in volunteering
- Reducing overhead, digitizing documents and archives, bylaws changes (gender neutral language, adding “international” to club names)
- Re-evaluating the purpose of supporting charities and their continuance. Looking for new local charities to support (sustainability).
- Affordable places for meetings
- Low attendance at events as people struggled to socialize again after COVID. Beginning of the year, summer saw a reimmersion of members starting to join again.
- American vs. International in identity.
- Growing Green Clubs
- Clubs in the South (Region 10) revitalized after COVID restrictions were lifted. These clubs were probably in this situation the longest. Strengthening their relationships in their communities after being gone for so long was still a topic of concern. Governments are changing laws for their clubs in this region following the pandemic.
- Due to the pandemic, lots of expats had to repatriate to the US, reducing membership numbers in some of our clubs.
- Returning to in-person events.

### Member Club Highlights 2023

- Live and silent auctions still raise a lot of money for clubs and local charities – from 4,500 euros to over 20,000 for some clubs.
- Anniversaries of clubs: 50,75, 95 years.
- WhatsApp Community groups are growing for communication within clubs between the board and its members and the activity groups.
- Using virtual meetings and calls more often.
- New logos, branding and websites.  
Several clubs are creating new websites and rebranding themselves. Creating new and interesting activities.
- Emerging Green Clubs
- Increasing membership numbers, clubs are growing again.
- DEIB – adding neurodiversity meetings
- Examples of DEIB: Supporting Black History month on social media
- Women’s wellness, women’s empowerment.
- Charities still support combating violence against women and children

- American culture events are still enjoyed: Christmas bazaars, Thanksgiving, Easter holidays and the Fourth of July.
- Fundraising and increasing dues
- Target Project focuses and fundraising
- Heart pillow projects and handbag auctions

### **Bratislava Biennial Meeting Highlights**

#### **Outstanding FAWCO Rep Awards 2023:**

Mary Adams – AWC The Hague

Belen Monasterio – AWC Madrid

Beverly Bachmeyer – AWC Vienna

Anitra Kitts – AWC Munich

#### **Workshops by the Member Clubs Team:**

- Presidents' Let's Talk workshop by Shweta Gupta: Is Sustainability an Issue for Your Club?
- DEIB discussion on education on gender and pronouns, an unprecedented topic hosted by DEIB Chair Meredith Mani, was attended by many of the registrants. It was an emotional discussion and a safe space.
- Reps, Presidents and RCs engaged on the subject of regional meetings; a few Regionals were planned at that group event.

In 2023, my primary focus was on promoting inclusiveness and community within all 10 regions worldwide. This involved being deliberate in our support for member clubs and elevating their growth objectives. The Member Clubs Team embodied Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, offering support to Club Presidents, organizing cross-club events, fostering an under-40 mindset, assisting new clubs, providing fundraising support and leading Regional Coordinators.

In 2024, my goal will be to enhance communication between Regional Coordinators and their regions, especially given the changing landscape with more working members and less time for volunteering. Ensuring the sustainability of clubs is integral to FAWCO's sustainability as an organization. Our strength lies in the dedication of our volunteers and the vitality of our clubs.

We must continue fostering friendship and inclusivity, recognizing the legacy we're all part of. The essence of our organization lies in the collective talents of our members. Let's support each other, encourage participation and empower everyone to speak up and stay vibrant and resilient in our endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kanika Holloway (AWC Antwerp)  
FAWCO 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President — Member Clubs

### **Third Vice President's Report**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President oversees FAWCO's four Global Issues Teams in the areas of Education, Environment, Health and Human Rights as well as the FAWCO Youth and Target Programs. She is responsible for the publication of the monthly *Global Issues Digest* and contributes to the monthly *News In Brief* publication.

I took over this position in March 2023 from my previous role as Co-Chair of the Human Rights Team. Over the last year, there have been several changes to the co-chair positions and many of the co-chairs are also new to their positions. I have been very pleased with how eagerly and enthusiastically the new co-chairs have stepped into their roles and have looked for new ways to share their passion for global issues with the FAWCO community. The current Global Issues Teams are led by the following co-chairs:

- Education - Rebekka Klingshirn (Heidelberg IWC) and Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)
- Environment - Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris) and Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AILO Florence)
- Health - Milena Mejia (AWC Bogotá) and Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp)
  - Clubs in Motion - Maggie Palu (AW Aquitaine)
- Human Rights - Marelie Manders (Heidelberg IWC) and Mary Adams (AWC The Hague)
- Target Program Awesome Blossoms - Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland)
- Youth Program - Stacey Harris Papaioannou (AWO Greece) and My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin)

I would like to thank Mary Dobrian, the former 3rd Vice President, for her help as I have settled into this new role, as well as all of the former team co-chairs, as they have continued to provide support and guidance to the new co-chairs. It is a testament to the strength of the FAWCO community that the former team leaders have lifted up their successors and helped them to flourish.

The Global Issues Book Club Discussion series, which began during the pandemic, continues to be one of the most popular and visible initiatives from the Global Issues Teams. Though it is now possible to attend local book clubs, these events have continued to be well attended, reflecting FAWCO members' commitment to engaging in important issues.

- In February 2023, the Human Rights Team hosted a discussion on *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. It is a fictionalized account of the lives of three Mirabal sisters, Patria, Maria Teresa and Minerva, who were murdered on orders from dictator Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic on November 25, 1960, which now marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence, a crucial part of the Human Rights Team calendar each year.
- In April, the Environment Team hosted a discussion of *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah, which tells the story of a mother and two children migrating from Texas to California during the 1930s Dust Bowl. This was an excellent example of the intersectionality of global issues, as the book touched not only on issues related to the environment, but also the human rights of migrants, education and health.
- In September, the Education Team hosted a discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. This was a truly special event in celebration of International Literacy Day. Former Education Team co-chairs, Carol-lyn McElvey (FAUSA/AIWC Cologne) and Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland/AWC London), together with Caitlyn Rainey (AWC London), organized a joint live and remote discussion with the award-winning author. Around 80 women attended the event at the University Women's Club in London while more than 100 FAWCO members joined the event via Zoom, many through "watch parties" with their local book clubs. The live event raised money for Stemettes, a charity chosen by Ms. Garmus that supports women in STEM careers, while the virtual discussion raised funds for the FAWCO STEM Education Award.
- In November, the Health Team hosted a discussion of *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe, which is a well-researched history of the Sackler family, their company Purdue Pharma, and the opioid crisis. The discussion touched on the powerlessness of the victims, who trusted doctors to treat their pain and ended up ruining their lives, as well as the greed of the pharmaceutical companies, who specifically targeted vulnerable communities.

The *Global Issues Digest* was published ten times in 2023, with a pause in July and August, when many members are traveling. The range of subjects covered in the articles is truly impressive. In addition, each of the Teams has supported the Target Project: Awesome Blossoms by contributing articles that demonstrate how the Target Project links directly not only to the environment, but also human rights, health, and education.

**Teams:****Education:**

The Education Team focuses on a rotating series of themes for several months, contributing articles that reflect that theme and its relationships to SDG 4: Quality Education. These themes are: universal literacy and numeracy, equal access to education, continuing education, and global citizenship.

**Environment:**

In addition to the Global Book Club discussions, typically in April to correspond with Earth Day, the Environment Team also organized a viewing of a shortened version of the documentary *Kiss the Ground* in January 2023, which focused on regenerative agriculture and how soil is the missing piece in solving the climate crisis. The team also coordinated with the UN Liaison to host two virtual meetings on COP28: “The Road to COP28 in Dubai” in November and “Chat with FAWCO Delegates to COP28” in February 2024. Co-Chair Sheila Doucet attended COP28 in Dubai in November, along with Ayuska Motha, FAWCO’s UNFCCC Representative, which is an important demonstration of FAWCO’s commitment to climate activism.

**Health:**

After some conversations at the conference in Bratislava, the Health Team decided to address issues surrounding elder care, specifically from a distance, a topic that touches many of the international women in FAWCO. A WhatsApp group was set up and it has since become an important support group. The range of topics addressed in the group is varied – planning elder care for distant relatives, mourning a loved one from afar, as well as how to plan and prepare for our own elder care.

**Human Rights:**

The Human Rights Team’s yearly calendar is focused on two main events: the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence, from November 25 through December 8, as well as International Women’s Day on March 8. Karen Castellon (FAUSA, AWC Berlin and AW Aquitaine), Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC) and Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) collaborated to develop the 16 Days Toolkit, which provided FAWCO clubs and members information on the history and importance of the 16 Days Campaign, but also included a toolkit with a calendar of actions so that our members can make a difference on this important issue. In addition, on October 4, the team collaborated with the UN Liaison for a virtual event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Target Project 5: Awesome Blossoms**

At last year’s conference in Bratislava, the new Target Project focusing on the environment was announced. The Awesome Blossoms project is based on an organic, water-efficient urban farm with 75 women micro-entrepreneurs, in partnership with three primary schools located in the Mathare slum area of Nairobi. Over the last year, Target Chair Amanda Drollinger has worked to educate the FAWCO community on the project, hydroponic farming and the intersectionality of this project with the FAWCO Global Issues Teams. She has worked with the Executive Director of Safe Spaces, Peninah Nthenya Musyimi, to provide information on the status of the project through monthly *Target Bulletins*, which have proven to be very well received by the FAWCO community. She has organized virtual events on Female Empowerment and Climate Action, as well as one on solar cookstoves. She helped organize Peninah’s trip to Europe in November to attend the Region 4 and Region 5 conferences, which allowed FAWCO members to hear firsthand Peninah’s impressive story about how she began the Safe Spaces Organization. To date the Target Project Awesome Blossoms has raised 70% of its fundraising goal, with another year to go. Please refer to the Target Project report below.

**Youth:**

The FAWCO Cultural Youth Volunteers Program was held in Zurich, Switzerland in April 2023, with 12 young people from nine FAWCO Clubs. They participated in a range of volunteer and cultural activities, in addition to setting aside time for fun and team building. Each Cultural Volunteer submitted an essay on his/her experience and a group video was also produced. Scotland is hosting the next Cultural Youth Volunteers Program in June 2024, with an itinerary focusing specifically on the environment.

**Clubs in Motion:**

Maggie Palu is FAWCO’s representative for healthy living and motion. She interacts with FAWCO Clubs to get information on how they encourage their members to incorporate activity into their daily lives, whether it is

through walking groups (often with four-legged friends), swimming, horseback riding, bowling and even pickleball. Each month she shares stories and photos from the clubs to encourage our membership to prioritize their health and fitness. Please refer to the Clubs in Motion report below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Manning (Heidelberg IWC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP for Global Issues

## Secretary's Report

During this past year, I have learned a lot from my colleagues on the Board and have engaged with them in numerous discussions involving decision-making and ideas to improve FAWCO. My main responsibilities included recording the Minutes of all Board meetings, both virtual and face-to-face meetings i.e. in Hamburg, Germany. I ensured that the Minutes for all Board meetings were circulated, amended as necessary, finalized, and approved in a timely manner. I also maintained the FAWCO Directory, incorporating all updates and uploading the Directory to the FAWCO member website at least quarterly. Furthermore, I assisted in collecting, editing and formatting the Annual Reports for the 2024 Interim Meeting in Porto, Portugal.

In addition to my secretary duties, I organized and hosted the third recorded session of the *Women Speak Up* series called, *Women Speak Up Against Book Banning* (October 24, 2023). Dr. Adora Obi Nweze, NAACP Florida Conference President, spoke about the devastating impact on children's rights to a proper education, particularly those from the African American, LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities as a result of the laws banning books in Florida.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laureen Scharps, (AIWC Frankfurt Taunus)  
FAWCO Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's responsibilities include oversight and management of FAWCO's financial asset accounts, the maintenance of the financial records and preparation of the financial reports, coordination of an annual objective review of the financial statements and general oversight of the financial and internal controls of FAWCO.

### 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**How is FAWCO doing financially?** 2023 financial results were unprecedented for FAWCO. As a non-profit organization, FAWCO annually budgets to breakeven and also plans a breakeven budget for the annual Conference and yet in 2023, FAWCO experienced a surplus of \$18k due to unusual circumstances.

● Operational Savings (1)	\$ 2,800
● Advertising/Sponsorship (1)	\$ 4,800
● Interest Income (2)	\$ 4,000
● Conference Attendance (3)	\$ 4,100
● Donations (not budgeted)	<u>\$ 2,900</u>
2023 Unbudgeted Surplus	\$18,600

- (1) Operationally, FAWCO efforts to reduce 2023 expenses and secure Advertising/Sponsorships were stellar. Elsie Bose, FAWCO Advertising, secured a new FAWCO sponsor, Launch Education Advisors, who provided \$3,250 to raise awareness of our new Target Project.
- (2) Interest Income was extraordinary in 2023 as a direct result of high interest rates in the USA.
- (3) 2023 Bratislava Biennial Conference attendance was 35% higher than anticipated, creating an unexpected surplus.

While the 2023 financial results were positive, the long term financial outlook for FAWCO is complicated by the increasing financial pressure on Club Dues (due to declining club membership), increasing operational expenses

(due to inflation) and declining interest income (due to anticipated changes in USA interest rates). Increasing Club Dues (which have not changed since 2018) or identifying other revenue sources will need to be carefully considered to offset future increasing operational expenses.

**What happens with FAWCO's year end surplus (or spending)?** FAWCO maintains several Funds, including but not limited to the Founders Circle Fund, Refugee Fund, Lucy Laederich Fund and an Unrestricted Fund. Designated contributions are added to that fund balance. When there is a year-end surplus (or spending), those monies are added to (or subtracted from) the Unrestricted Fund balance. See detail of the 2023 and 2022 Fund Balances below.

#### FAWCO Fund Balances

Fund	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Founders Circle	\$ 30,010	\$ 29,910
Workshop Reserves	\$ 1,421	\$ 2,418
QuasiEndowment	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Lucy Laederich	\$ 345	\$ 2,081
Refugee Fund	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,479
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$ 114,256</b>	<b>\$ 115,888</b>
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>\$ 152,123</b>	<b>\$ 131,724</b>
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 266,379</b>	<b>\$ 247,612</b>

#### Financial Assets

FAWCO's financial assets consist of cash held in bank accounts as well as online accounts (PayPal, Quickbooks, Stripe and Wise) to facilitate online international transactions, specifically for Member Clubs to pay their annual membership dues and conference registration fees. During 2023, FAWCO closed both the Washington Federal (WaFd) accounts and Axos Bank accounts. All funds were moved into SDFCU (State Department Federal Credit Union) and Chase Bank for easier management of accounts. Due to the increasingly complicated international banking regulations and security requirements, FAWCO voted for a change in the Bylaws in March 2023 to allow the Treasurer to be a resident of the USA at the time of board election in order to facilitate oversight and management of FAWCO bank accounts. The Treasurer and President of the FAWCO Board have signatory authority on and access to all bank and online accounts.

Cash Balances, as of December 31, 2023:

● SDFCU (State Department Federal Credit Union)	\$199,107
● Chase Bank	\$ 35,803
● Online Accounts: (PayPal, Quickbooks, Stripe, and Wise)	\$ 27,136
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$262,046</b>

#### Share Certificates of Deposit and Interest Income

In order to take advantage of the current interest rates, the FAWCO Finance Committee advised that FAWCO invest funds in SDFCU share certificates of deposit with rolling maturity dates. As a non-profit organization, FAWCO does not hold investments other than Share Certificates of Deposit. SDFCU Share Certificates of Deposit are federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration up to \$250,000.

Share Certificates of Deposit, as of December 31, 2023:

● 12 Month, expiring 01/24/2024, 3.95% APY	\$ 57,843
● 12 Month, expiring 04/07/2024, 4.40% APY	\$ 25,819

• 36 Month, expiring 07/25/2026, 4.40% APY	<u>\$101,938</u>
Total Share Certificates of Deposit	<u>\$185,600</u>

Approximately 71% of FAWCO's total cash is invested in interest bearing share certificates of deposit. As of December 31, 2023, FAWCO has approximately \$76K in funds immediately available without penalty which is more than sufficient to cover FAWCO's annual expenses (not including the Conference) of approximately \$30K. FAWCO carefully manages overall cash flow to maximize the availability of interest income without compromising the cash needs of the organization.

Interest Income earned in 2023:

• Savings Accounts (Axos and SDFCU)	\$ 325
• Share Certificates of Deposit (SDFCU)	<u>\$4,875</u>
Total Interest Earned	<u>\$5,200</u>

### Financial Records and Preparation of Financial Reports

FAWCO's financial records are maintained by the Treasurer using QuickBooks Online, a non-profit version. The 2023 preliminary Financial Statements have been prepared by the Treasurer and will be presented at the 2024 annual meeting in Porto. Monthly financial reports and bank reconciliations were performed in 2023 and presented to the Board. FAWCO's Finance Committee convened quarterly during 2023 to provide additional oversight of the Treasurer and FAWCO's finances. The draft 2022 Financial Statements were presented at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava. Open Finance Meetings were available to all FAWCO members to discuss the 2022 financial results as well as to review the 2024 budget.

### Annual Review of FAWCO's Financial Statements

The Board and Finance Committee previously determined that it was in the best interest of FAWCO to have the financial records reviewed by a professional CPA once during the term of a Treasurer, and specifically in the year that the Treasurer is outgoing. This practice saves FAWCO over \$2K every other year while ensuring that the incoming Treasurer will begin their term with professionally reviewed financial statements. Accordingly, the FAWCO Financial Statements and supporting financial records for the year ended December 31, 2022 have been professionally reviewed in 2023 by a professional CPA and their report is included in this 2023 Annual Report.

### Financial and Internal Controls Recommendations

Oversight and management of the treasury operations includes periodic review of the financial and internal controls to ensure the safekeeping of FAWCO assets and to maintain the fiduciary responsibility of the Treasurer role and the Board. The following recommendation is suggested for 2023 and beyond:

Bookkeeper: FAWCO would benefit from a bookkeeper, experienced with Quickbooks Online, to provide consistent, accurate financial records over a longer period of time than a two-year board position. In addition, the FAWCO Treasurer has access to bank accounts, maintains the Quickbooks financial records and processes all deposits and payments. A separation of duties between the treasurer and a bookkeeper should be considered.

I would like to thank all the Clubs for their timely payment of Membership Dues, the Finance Committee for their guidance and a huge thank you to Johanna Dishongh, current Finance Committee Chair, Alisa Cook-Roehs, former Finance Committee Chair, Patricia Aeby, FAWCO Conference Treasurer, the Finance Committee, the FAWCO Foundation Board and the FAWCO Board for their patience and assistance during this past year and I look forward to working with them in the future.

For further financial or treasury information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [treasurer@fawco.org](mailto:treasurer@fawco.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Farnan (AWG Paris)  
FAWCO Treasurer

### Parliamentarian's Report

The Parliamentarian is a Presidential appointee and a non-voting member who serves the Board over their two-year term. She attends all Board meetings, ensuring proceedings are conducted according to Robert's Rules



of Order, and that all actions are in accordance with FAWCO Bylaws and Administrative Guidelines. The Parliamentarian is also responsible for maintaining the Administrative Guidelines (AGs) and related Handbooks. The Parliamentarian also has duties around facilitating voting both virtually, in the case of approving the annual FAWCO Budget, and at our Annual Meetings.

This year I ensured that Clubs who were not represented by a voting delegate at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava were able to cast their votes for the proposed amendments to the FAWCO Bylaws, the FAWCO Resolutions and Recommendations and the 2023-25 slate of Officers via absentee ballot or by appointing a Club member who was attending to cast the Club's votes. I also oversaw the successful vote for the approval of the 2024 Budget by Member Clubs via electronic ballot in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)  
FAWCO Parliamentarian

## 2023 Biennial Conference Report



The 2023 FAWCO Biennial Conference took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bratislava, Slovakia, March 24-26, 2023. Hosted by the AWA Vienna with the generous assistance of the IWC Bratislava, 140 Participants, 30 guests and 24 conference volunteers enjoyed a long weekend of business and fun, combining our annual business meeting with fascinating speakers and panelists and informative reports and workshops. The theme was Stronger, Better Together and this was reinforced throughout the conference as we embraced our shared community coming out of COVID-19 restrictions.

FAWCO President, Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague) welcomed members from around the world. This was Emily's sixth year as a FAWCO president and she expertly set the stage for the inspiring days to come. Conference Co-Chairs Bev Bachmayer (AWA Vienna) and Connie Philipot (AWA Vienna) had everything well organized and along with the local IWC Bratislava warmly welcomed everyone.

Meredith Mani (AWC Amsterdam), DEIB Chair, also spoke at the first general session and explained our commitment to making a safe space for people of all backgrounds to feel included and a sense of belonging. She presented pins and information sheets about allyship and pronouns and urged us to be curious and inclusive.

During the conference special awards were given to Liz MacNiven (AIWC Cologne) and Suzanne Wheeler (AAWE Paris, FAUSA). They were both awarded the Caroline Curtis Brown Spirit Award in recognition of service exemplifying the spirit, inspiration and dedication of FAWCO's Founder. It was great to be able to present these honors in person.

FAWCO Rep Appreciation Awards were given to Mary Adams (AWC The Hague), Bev Bachmayer (AWA Vienna), Anitra Kitts (Munich IWC), and Belen Monasterio (AWC Madrid) in recognition of their outstanding work promoting FAWCO.

There was a robust program of workshops and panel discussions to complement the important FAWCO business. From emotional growth to leadership, economic empowerment to sustainable development, social media to health advocacy — there was something to interest everyone.

Keynote speakers during the conference reflected the theme. Opening Keynote Speaker, Alison Smale, veteran journalist and member of AWA Vienna, enthralled us with her talk about her time as a pioneer in reporting and journalism at the UN, Associated Press and *International Herald Tribune* among others. She was able to thread

the past with the present to help us better understand the geopolitical background of current events including rising populism and war in Europe. There was a message of hope for our continued work of bridging differences.

The Panel Discussion included the Austrian Ambassador to Slovakia, Margit Bruck-Friedrich, and her counterpart, the Slovak Ambassador to Austria, Peter Mišík. Their discussion of cooperation in the Danube Basin since the end of the Cold War was moderated by Connie Philipot (AWA Vienna). The capitals of Austria and Slovakia are just 40 minutes apart, so it was fascinating to hear about the evolution of the countries coming together since the 90's.

The conference had two official sponsors: Gold – Sponsor Janet Darrow Real Estate and Bronze Sponsor MyExpatTaxes. We thank them for their continued support! FAWCO's Target Program announced a new sponsor – Launch Education Advisors.

FAWCO's Target Chair Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland) announced FAWCO's fifth Target Project 2023-2025 – Awesome Blossoms. Many thanks to Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp), and her team for their work on the selection committee and to all the clubs who participated in the vote.

Awesome Blossoms is the latest evolution of a community-based organization, Safe Spaces, created by Mrs. Peninah Nthenya Musyimi. This project features organic, water-efficient urban farms with 500 gardens in each farm to support girls' education and empowerment programs and with 75 women in partnership with three primary schools located in the Mathare slum area of Nairobi. Read more about the project on the Target Environment Blog. The FAWCO Foundation announced that even before the project had been selected, FAWCO members had already donated over \$26,000. We were also pleased to announce that the Clydette de Groot Foundation offered a \$10,000 matching grant. A two-year fundraising goal of \$140,000 has been set.

FAWCO's Bylaws were amended; Article V, Section 2 and Article XIII, Section 2, were updated and approved on March 23, 2023. The Resolutions & Recommendations for 2023-2025 were discussed and streamlined according to FAWCO's mission during open sessions and approved on March 25, 2023.

It was also announced by FAWCO's treasurer that FAWCO has joined the State Department Federal Credit Union. FAWCO has gone through the strict approval process to qualify as a member of the State Department Federal Credit Union. This means that US members and green card holders and their children are now eligible to open US dollar accounts without a US address or mobile phone number. This goes a long way in helping secure banking access for FAWCO members who are US citizens living abroad.

On Sunday morning, March 25, The FAWCO Foundation announced the results of its Foundation Night. It was a fabulous evening that included a fashion show with sustainable fashions worn by several models and organized by the local IWC Bratislava. Thank you to everyone and a loud round of applause for your part in a very successful fundraising evening. In total, collectively, \$45,186 was raised to support The FAWCO Foundation Education Awards, Development Grants and operations.

Education Awards and Development Grants were awarded in the Sunday sessions as well. These awards and grants are tangible demonstrations of the impact that our fundraising has to help to achieve good in the world by supporting women and children in our clubs and globally.

Gifts of trees in the FAWCO Grove at Trees for Life, Scotland, were given to speakers and volunteers. The success of any conference relies on the work of many. We thank all those involved for their participation. Elections were held and new boards were installed for both FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation. At the final session, closing remarks given by the incoming president, Ann Marie Morrow, AWC Finland. Ann Marie thanked the outgoing FAWCO President Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague) and the outgoing FAWCO Foundation President Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf). They both did two terms during the pandemic and helped keep FAWCO strong and resilient. Going forward we look to working together with clubs, members, The Foundation and FAUSA to continue to build community and make a positive difference in the world.

We are all in this together...and Together we are Stronger. Better.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)  
FAWCO President

# UN Liaison Report



## Goals

2023 was the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR75) and a very busy year for the FAWCO UN Team. It has three goals: advocate for the empowerment of all women and girls by participating in international UN meetings and other NGOs; disseminate the latest information from the UN to FAWCO members; and encourage other FAWCO members to contribute, especially younger members. While remaining active in various UN spaces – NYC, Geneva and Vienna – the Team also directed its focus on bringing back the news to FAWCO in an interactive manner. It hosted several webinars to hear directly from conference delegates and respond to members' questions. These webinars demystify the workings at the UN and break down complex issues in an engaging manner. The resulting feedback loop helps to ground the Team as well as promote more participation.

## Advocacy & Participation

### 61st Commission on Social Development (CSocD61) and the NGO Committee on Migration (NGO CoM)

Jane Politi (AWC Rome) serves on the NGO CoM as Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Children in Migration. FAWCO, along with the NGO CoM, co-sponsored the [side event](#) "Don't Steal my Childhood: Child Labor and Children in Migration" at CSocD61. It highlighted the important issue of forced child labor (which deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity) in line with the ambitious targets for ending child labor (SDG 8.7) and safe, orderly and responsible migration (SDG 10.7).

### 67th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) and the US Women's Caucus

FAWCO had seven CSW67 delegates: Alexandra Vo (FAUSA), Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris), Pam Perraud (FAUSA), Jane Politi (AWC Rome), Karen Castellon (AWC Berlin), Claire Castellon (AWC Berlin) and Annamaria Gergely (AWC Berlin). The priority theme was "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." The delegates attended events to learn, listen to stories at the ground level and amplify the messages of CSW67. In particular, we meet with the US Women's Caucus, of which FAWCO is a member. Pam Perraud (FAUSA) serves as Vice President.

### 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), Dubai & 58th Subsidiary Bodies (SB58), Bonn and the Women & Gender Constituency (WGC)

For both UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings, we were pleased to promote youth participation by offering our highly sought-after observer badges to students. SB58 in Bonn was attended by Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne), Stacey Kimmig (AIWC Cologne) and graduate student Carmen-Jeanette Stepek (AWC Dublin). In addition, FAWCO co-sponsored the side event [Truthful engagement in real, effective and ethical emission reductions for an ambitious GST. - YouTube](#).

COP28 in Dubai had observer delegates Ayuska Motha (AIWC Cologne) and Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris). We were pleased to be able to offer our extra badges to PhD student Eesha Rangani (USC), and Hwei Mian Lim (WGC). For many years, Ms. Lim has played a critical role in following the very technical and contentious negotiations on Article 6 (dealing with carbon markets). She is the contact person for the Article 6 Working Group within the WGC where she reports back to the advocacy network on all Article 6 developments.

### **78th Session of the General Assembly, the SDG Summit and NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW NY)**

Alexandra Vo (FAUSA) is the FAWCO UN Liaison. She follows the news coming out of the annual General Assembly and progress with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also attends meetings at NGO CSW NY.

### **NGO Committee on the Status Women, Vienna (NGO CSW Vienna)**

Although she has stepped down from her position as Chair of NGO CSW Vienna, Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna) continues to represent FAWCO.

### **NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva (NGO CSW Geneva)**

The Team welcomed two new members: Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) and Asma Darwish (AAWE Paris). Paula Daepfen remains the Parliamentarian of NGO CSW Geneva. Sallie Chaballier, along with other FAWCO members, are part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) working groups to review the progress of the Beijing Platform for Action ahead of its 30th anniversary in 2025, also known as Beijing +30.

### **Dissemination our Work: Interactive Approach & Global Team Cooperation**

Team members and guests write articles and blogs for the FAWCO.org UN page. In addition to the *News in Brief* and *UN Liaison Bulletin*, UN news and events are shared on Facebook (FAWCO Members' Private group, FAWCO at the UN group), LinkedIn and FAWCO-CSW WhatsApp chat group. The push to make the work of the UN more approachable and thereby boost participation sparked several Zoom events in cooperation with Global Teams.

January 26 – in cooperation with the Environment Team, **Webinar: Chat with COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh)**

**Delegates** with Sheila Doucet, Ayuska Motha and Alexandra Vo.

March 25: **Two Workshops at the FAWCO Conference in Bratislava** by Alexandra Vo

- UN 101
- COP27 & Climate Change

October 4 – in cooperation with the Human Rights Team & SDG Team, **Webinar: UDHR 75 Commemoration + SDGs Halftime Update** with Katja Malinowski, Alexandra Vo, Paula Daepfen, Laurie Richardson, Marelle Manders, Jody McBrian, Sallie Chaballier, Pam Perraud, Karen Castellon, Mary Dobrian and Mary Adams. We launched the **“Pick Your Favorite UDHR Article” campaign** to promote the reading, the creation of artwork, and the sharing on social media of the UDHR. This campaign will continue into 2024.

November 1 – in cooperation with the Environment Team, **Webinar: Road to COP28 & Chat with SB58 (Bonn)**

**Delegates** with Ayuska Motha, Stacey Kimmig, Carmen-Jeannette Stepeck.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Vo (FAUSA)  
FAWCO UN Liaison

## Member Clubs Teams

### **FAWCO Club Workshops Coordinator Report**

FAWCO currently offers 15 different workshops either online or in person for our Member Clubs. With a wide diversity of subjects, there's something for everyone ranging from information on FAWCO and what it can do for your Club, to Club Development as well as personal self-improvement workshops. For the year 2023, we had 22 requests for workshops with FAWCO 101 being the most popular. Early in 2023, Ileana Rontea, a member of The American Women's Group of Languedoc-Roussillon presented, *Why Self-Confidence Matters in Your Life*. This new workshop, predominantly targeting women in the workforce, was added to our Member Enrichment

offerings as an on-request video. For the first time in over one and a half years, the Team Building workshop was requested with Kanika Holloway and I traveling to Paris to present it. The workshop was a success for all involved. Toward the end of the year, Amanda Drollinger, Target Chair of the new Target Project (TP5) Awesome Blossoms, an Urban Farming Project, created a workshop to go with it called Target 101. In this workshop, you learn what the program is, what progress has been made, how you and your Club can support it and last but not least, great ideas for fundraising. We already have three requests pending for 2024. London & Capital continues to send us invitations to their quarterly webinars regarding all things financial, Bill Short from The Short List sends us weekly articles concerning education and admissions and at the 2023 FAWCO Conference in Bratislava, MyExpat Taxes presented a workshop on US Tax and Reporting for Americans Abroad in 2023.

Trying to develop new and interesting workshops for our Member Clubs has been the biggest challenge along with getting the word out to our Member Clubs regarding what FAWCO can do for them in relation to workshops.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyla Taylor (AWC Zürich)  
FAWCO Workshops Coordinator

## **FAWCO Club Presidents' Coordinator**

I have had the pleasure of serving as FAWCO's Club Presidents Coordinator since shortly after the Bratislava conference in 2023. As Club Presidents Coordinator, I help facilitate communication and connection between and among Club Presidents and FAWCO. To this end, over this past year, I have published the quarterly *Club Presidents' Post* in May, August, and December 2023. I have also held online meetings exclusively for, and with, FAWCO Club Presidents on Google Meet.

During these meetings with club presidents, we have focused on maintaining and increasing the sustainability – or longevity – of FAWCO Member Clubs. We have discussed the importance of critically assessing sustainability and the important role club presidents can play in addressing this issue to strengthen their clubs for the future. Among the issues we have discussed include the value in reviewing and updating the documents governing clubs to address a variety of potential areas, including, for example, the size of the club's board, membership eligibility requirements, and board eligibility requirements – all of which relate to club sustainability. Another issue in this area that has emerged for some club presidents is whether their clubs should change to an international club. We also have discussed opportunities for fostering member and volunteer engagement, which, in turn, can lead to greater interest in club leadership.

In my capacity as Club Presidents Coordinator, I have also participated in the regular online team leadership calls hosted by Kanika Holloway, FAWCO's 2nd VP Member Clubs. These calls have been an additional opportunity for me to engage with, and provide added support to, FAWCO Club Presidents.

In the coming year, I hope to continue the conversations about club sustainability, as well as additional topics of interest to club presidents. Above all, I hope to continue to strengthen and improve my communication and relationship with FAWCO Club Presidents and strive to be a source of support and partnership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shweta Gupta (FAUSA)  
FAWCO Club Presidents Coordinator

## **FAWCO Cross Clubs Events Coordinator**

The Cross Club Calendar advertised 71 events to all FAWCO Clubs in 2023. This is an increase of events compared to last year. Forty-one of these were FAWCO organized events such as talks, presentations,

discussions, monthly meetings, Regional Meetings and the Interim Meeting. Four were FAUSA events. Twenty-six events were shared by eight different clubs.

The challenge is always getting clubs to share their events on the Cross Club Calendar. It would be good to send a questionnaire to clubs to ask if they know about the Cross Club Calendar and how they find using it. Also to ask for ideas on how to improve the calendar.

I will do my best to attend every FAWCO meeting where I can advertise the Cross Club Calendar and tell clubs about the events on the calendar. Any feedback on how to improve the Cross Club Calendar would be fantastic.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Trowman (Heidelberg IWC)  
FAWCO Cross Clubs Coordinator

## **FAWCO Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Chair**

We are really proud of launching the TAGG (Trans, Allies, Gender non-conforming Group) along with FAWCO Youth to create a community of fellowship for members. We also hosted a discussion with the Florida NAACP president in October. Our focus this year has been on inclusion, specifically for those living with disabilities. This has been an especially difficult year for me personally and I have not been able to dedicate the time I'd like to DEIB. Next year we would like to focus on Belonging and how club members can foster a feeling of belonging with their members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Mani (AWC Amsterdam)  
FAWCO DEIB Chair

## **FAWCO Membership**

Again, it's been a bit of a challenging year. Thanks to Region 5, we did add a new club in 2023. As a member of Region 3, I am very much hoping that we are able to have a Region 3 meeting in Paris in 2024. I continue to believe that a personal connection to a particular club is the most effective strategy to communicate the value of FAWCO membership. As of this writing, I am in Cape Town, South Africa, where there is a large international women's group. We have had some inquiries from Africa. Pat Jentz, from the Kenya club and I have both corresponded with a potential club in Uganda. I have offered to have a Zoom with the leader of the potential club. I think helping with the Region 3 meeting will be productive.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca DeFraités (AWG Paris)  
FAWCO Membership Chair

## **FAWCO Under 40**

We had a great year with the Under 40s group! We continue defining our niche and focusing on topics in the digital and millennial sphere. By narrowing down our focus, we were able to appeal to a large audience and had several meetings with double digit attendees (which is a lot for the U40s). Our 9 in 90 days goal challenge - accomplishing 9 goals in 90 days continues to be one of our most popular formats. We then followed up on this in spring to see how people did with their goals and started a new 9 in 90 days challenge for the summer. We also had a large number of attendees for our Happy Hour on attracting and retaining younger members. Other meet-up topics included going "green" (tied in with St. Patrick's Day), gardening, and holiday prep. We had a total of seven meetings in 2023 and are looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings!

The biggest challenge continues to be getting more individuals interested in the Under 40s group and participating in our calls. This year, we really made an effort to expand our audience and become inclusive of all ages. We've also slightly changed how we're marketing the Happy Hours to appeal to more people!

Our biggest goal is to continue niching down the topics and focusing on things that FAWCO members really respond to. Anything to do with social media, websites, and about the individual clubs does so well!

We would like the VP for Member Clubs to help us continue finding and attracting people to attend our happy hours, as well as appealing to a broader audience.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jordana Beck Wagner (AWC Hamburg)  
 Karen O'Shaughnessy (FAUSA, AWC Hamburg)  
 FAWCO Under 40 Co-Chairs

## Global Issues



### Education Team Report

Our recently revised Mission Statement is based on [SDG4](#) and reads as follows:

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The FAWCO Education Team's mission is to inform about and advocate for UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, particularly as it relates to women and girls.

#### Areas of Emphasis:

1. Universal Literacy and Numeracy ([SDG Target 4.6](#))
2. Equal Access to All Levels of Education, Pre-primary to Secondary ([SDG Targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5](#))
3. Access to and Initiatives in Continuing Education after Secondary School ([SDG Targets 4.3, 4.4](#))
4. Global Citizenship in that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development ([SDG Target 4.7](#))

In March 2023 at the FAWCO conference in Bratislava, the Education Team welcomed two new Co-Chairs: Rebekka Klingshirn, IWC Heidelberg, and Michelle Miller, AIWC Cologne. Extremely impressed by how smoothly the team was running, the new Co-Chairs decided to follow the excellent example set by the immediate past Co-Chairs, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland) and Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA and AIWC Cologne). Thus, we continued to contribute to the *Global Issues Digest* (GID) and the *News in Brief* (NiB) on a monthly basis. In addition, we co-sponsored one extremely successful virtual event.

Currently, we have a total of 16 members on our dedicated team. About 6–8 members generally join us each month for our Team chats. These monthly discussions result without fail in interesting ideas for articles and future events. We have also continued to try to liaise with other Global Issues Teams and the Target Project. We want to continue to discover more ways to work with other FAWCO groups, and we have had some success thus far. Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) just became a Co-Chair of the Human Rights Team, so we will certainly be exploring possible collaborations in that direction this year.

Throughout the last year, Education Team members and guests have submitted some fascinating and educational (what else!) articles for our section of the FAWCO website. Please see for example:

- [The Gutenberg Project](#), Jonelle Lemcke (AWC Denmark) – January
- [Increased Empowerment for Women in The Digital Age](#), Devinder Buttar (AWC London) – February
- [Book Review: The Bookseller of Kabul](#), Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland) – February
- [Education in Slovakia: An Overview](#), Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA and AIWC Cologne) – February

- Lean In: Continuing Education, Interview with Barbara Brookman, Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) – March
- Book Review: *The Other Einstein*, Susan Mack (AIWC Düsseldorf) – March
- The Education Team Connects with the Target Project, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland) – April
- Lebanon's Education Crisis, Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon) – April
- FAWCO Youth Support the AWCZ Library, Rebecca Royston (AWC Zürich) – May
- Banned Books? Not in the AWCZ Library, Karyn Wynn (AWC Zürich) – June
- Book Review: Ban this Book, Rebekka Klingshirn (IWC Heidelberg) – June
- Poem: "Hiding in Plain Sight", Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) – June
- The Radical Notion Behind UN SDG 4 – FAWCO Education Team Op-Ed, Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne) – June
- Reflections on World Literacy Day 2023, Karen Boeker (AWC Denmark) – September
- Video on the Kenyan educational system, Nancy Lynner (AWC Central Scotland) – September
- Social Work in Public Libraries as a "Safe Space" for Homeless People (and Others), Jennifer Mösenfechtel – September
- Safe Spaces Library's "Each One, Teach One" Girls' Reading Club, Peninah Nthenya Musyimi and Leslie Janoe (AWC Amsterdam) – October
- An Evening with Bonnie Garmus, Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland) – November
- 2023 Charitable Giving and Gifts for the Holidays, Particularly Perfect for Your Favorite Educator, Education Team – November
- The Marriage of SDG13 and SDG4: Climate-Smart Education Systems, Mary Adams (AWC The Hague) and Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA and AIWC Cologne) – December

Finally, a highlight of the year was the Global Issues Book Discussion held by the Education Team in collaboration with the AWC London on September 14, 2023, in celebration of International Literacy Day. What made this particular book discussion so special was that the book, the fantastic *Lessons in Chemistry*, was written by AWC London member Bonnie Garmus, who sat down with us at the University Women's Club in London (or on Zoom for those of us not in London) to discuss her book. A donation of 5 pounds, euros, or dollars by those attending virtually went to the FAWCO Foundation Education Award for Women in STEM.

We hope to continue the Education Team's contribution to FAWCO on all things SDG4 into 2024 and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekka Klingshirn (IWC Heidelberg)  
Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)  
Education Team Co-Chairs

## Environment Team Report



Earlier this year, the scientific community released its assessment of our collective progress towards attaining the UN's Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. We have passed the halfway mark, and it is widely accepted that we have a long road ahead of us. Do we despair or do we double down on our efforts? Against this backdrop, the Environment Team continues its mandate to elevate awareness concerning a wide variety of environmental issues and to encourage each one of us to reflect on how we are impacted by external forces beyond our direct control while remaining active players in the immediate environment in which we all live. We find hope understanding the interconnected causes for this imbalance – and highlighting concrete solutions. Please join us in this important work.

### Highlights of this year's activities:

After organizing two successful online "Environment Festivals" held in 2021 and 2022 (during the "COVID times"), our online offering has evolved. The second "**Environment Team Movie Night**" occurred on January 20,



2023 and featured a documentary entitled *Kiss the Ground*, narrated by Woody Harrelson. The documentary delves into how soil may be an unsung hero in combating climate change and helping save our planet. Note: the future of the Team's Movie Nights initiative is compromised due to the difficulty of finding films which may be shown free of charge.

On January 26, 2023, three members of the Team organized a virtual panel entitled "**Climate Conference (COP27) Chat with FAWCO Delegates.**" The slides presented an overview of the COP framework, highlights of major issues, personal insights and other "behind-the-scenes" anecdotes of their participation at COP, which occurred in November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Members left with a deeper understanding of the COP process and the importance of supporting our partners in the Women & Gender Constituency, of which FAWCO is a proud member.

At the **Bratislava Biennial Conference** in March, Anne Van Oorschot gave a presentation featuring the first FAWCO Target Project focused on the environment, "Tabitha: Wells for Clean Water," located in Cambodia. Her presentation included a pre-recorded interview with the founder and an update on the project. Anne and Renuka Matthews met with conference participants and answered questions at the Face2Face table.

Weaving a clever use of both print and video media, our contribution to this year's **Global Issues Book Discussion**, a discussion of *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah on April 27, 2023, opened with a video on the Dust Bowl. Attendees were instantly transported into the book's historical context, which enriched our appreciation for the characters.

**Collaboration** is an operative word for our work. Three additional online events featuring **Environment Team members** were organized:

1. "Female Change Activists Based in the Global South" on September 18, 2023
2. "Solar Cooking with Solar Cookers International," in collaboration with Target Project 5, on October 11, 2023
3. "The Road to COP 28 in Dubai with the Bonn Climate Change Conference Delegates," in collaboration with the UN Liaison Team on November 1, 2023.

***By collaborating with other teams, the FAWCO presence in environmental issues extends even deeper.***

The Target 5 Project Awesome Blossoms places the environment front and center of FAWCO's collective efforts. Since its announcement at the Bratislava Conference in March 2023, we have featured two articles on the underlying technique utilized: hydroponics. The first one, immediately following the announcement, provided an informative overview of exactly what hydroponics is, why our partner, Safe Spaces, felt that it was appropriate for this particular setting, and how it works. The second ventured outside of the agricultural sphere to explore how hydroponic techniques are utilized and adapted to an array of climates and purposes. It is enlightening to see how similar technology can be adapted to varying situations.

The foundation of our work together remains our contributions to the *Global Issues Digest* each month. Here's a quick review of **featured articles in 2023**:

1. **January** – [The Environment in the News \(COP 27\)](#)
2. **February** – [FAWCO Green Teams Today](#)
3. **March** – [Wildflower or Weed: A Matter of Perspective](#)
4. **April** –
  - a. [Awesome Blossoms: Building Sustainable Life in Nairobi's Slums through Hydroponic Farming](#)
  - b. [A Region 8 Green Team Challenge: Clean Up Your City and Waterways](#)
5. **May** –
  - a. [Biodiversity: Food for All](#)
  - b. [Bee My Honey](#)
6. **June** – [Recycling with TerraCycle](#)
7. **September** – [Hydroponics in Our Backyards](#)
8. **October** – [UN Sustainable Development Goals Reach the Halfway Mark](#)

9. **November** – FAWCO at the Bonn Climate Change (SB-58) Meeting in June
10. **December** – In harmony with the season’s spirit of giving, we invited readers to dip into the past and hope for the future while reviewing past articles.

**Team membership:** Sheila Doucet (AAWE) and Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AILO) have entered their second club year heading up the 22-member team. The group brings together a variety of clubs spanning from FAUSA to Bogotá to Mumbai. We continue our tradition of regular team meetings where we plan, exchange, and share ideas. Feel free to join us in our sessions!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Doucet (AAWE Paris)  
Jocelyn Fitzgerald (AILO Florence)  
Environment Team Co-Chairs

## Health Team Report



The team went through transition during the past year. Deb Hadley stepped down from her position as co-chair shortly after the Bratislava meeting. Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp) remained in place and was joined during the year by Milena Mejia (AWC Bogota).

Elder care was identified as an important topic to explore, resulting in the establishment of an Elder Care WhatsApp group. This has grown into a group of more than 25 members at the moment. Per request, a shared Google folder has been developed containing a library of information, as well as articles dedicated to the topic. The group recently had a first virtual meeting which will continue on a bi-monthly basis.

The team continued to use the United Nations Observance days/weeks as guidance for the development of articles, but also partnered with the Target Project 5 Team to address the important topics of [food security and hunger](#) as well as [cholera](#), both of which are closely linked to climate change. Deb Hadley, previous Co-Chair of the team, wrote a number of inspirational articles addressing [ADHD’s unique manifestation in women](#) as well as [autism](#). The team also invited FAWCO members sharing their personal health challenges; Margie O’Rourke (AWC Dublin) wrote an inspirational article on dealing with a [bilateral knee replacement](#). Adrienne Lind wrote two articles this year, one that provided valuable information on [caring for elderly parents from abroad](#), and a beautiful reflection on [grieving the loss of a parent from abroad](#).

The team decided to refocus on the [phases of women’s health](#), developed by two previous Health Team co-chairs. The five stages span from puberty (Blossom) right up to menopause and beyond. Elder care fits in very well with the last stage (Wisdom).

Respectfully submitted,  
Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp)  
Milena Mejia (AWC Bogotá)

FAWCO Health Team Co-Chairs



## Clubs in Motion

Many clubs seem to have forgotten about Clubs in Motion, even though they have walking groups and other MOTION activities. Sincere thanks to IWC Munich for regular reporting of activities. We continue to encourage group as well as individual activities. MOTION is good for health, both physical and psychological, and it's even better when it can be done with others. A few new MOTION activities were reported in 2023, but there are probably a lot more, so please share the news so we can share it with other clubs.

To see a detailed report of the MOTION recorded by our clubs for 2023, please follow [this link](#).

The following clubs reported activities during 2023:

AWC Amsterdam	AWC Antwerp
AW Aquitaine	AW Berkshire-Surrey
AWC Bern	AWC Bogotá
AIWC Casablanca	AWC Central Scotland
AWC Cologne	AWC Denmark
AWC Dublin	AIWC Düsseldorf
AIWC Frankfurt-Taunus-Rhein Main	AIWC Genoa
AWC The Hague	AWC Hamburg
Heidelberg IWC	AWA Kenya
AWG Languedoc-Roussillon	AWC London
AC Lyon	AWC Madrid
Munich IWC	AIWC Naples
AAWE Paris	AWG Paris
AWA Vienna	AWC Zürich

In addition, individual Margaret H did a Wing Walk for a charity to mark her 70th birthday and Renuka M climbed 50 floors on April 1<sup>st</sup> (not a joke!) at the Big Climb leukemia fundraiser in Houston, Texas.

There was MOTION during the Region 1 meeting in Scotland, in Hamburg after the Region 5 meeting, as well as at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava in March.

The clubs' activities went beyond walking, hiking and running. They included dancing, horseback riding, swimming, cycling, tennis, pickleball, fitness classes, bowling, rowing, skiing, Tai Chi, and yoga.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maggie Palu (AW Aquitaine)  
Clubs in Motion Chair

## Human Rights Team Report



The Human Rights Team continued its regular schedule of meetings in 2023. The team also had a change of leadership this year, with Marelie Manders and Mary Adams now serving as Co-Chairs of the team. We would

like to thank Jody McBrien and Georgia Kallis for serving as Co-Chairs during the year. Members of the team include: Adrienne George Lind, Amanda Drollinger, Ann Birot-Salsbury, Asma Darwish, Constance Phlipot, Frances Durocher, Georgia Kallis, Hari Kitching, Inés Mayoral, Jody McBrien, Karen Castellon, Karen Lewis, Laurie Richardson, Lynn Auslander, Marelle Manders, Mary Dobrian, Mary Manning, Mary Stange, Marie-Luise Bass, Melissa Morbeck, Michelle Parker, Raquel Davenport, Tina Kujala, Twana Rhodes, Ulrike Näumann and Vera P. Weill-Halle.

**16 Days of Activism Eliminating Gender-Based Violence.** We encourage every FAWCO Member Club to promote awareness and education and take action via this United Nations-backed campaign. The Team offered an updated [16 Days Toolkit](#) with extensive resources in 2023. Further, clubs may choose their own (more convenient) timeline for the 16 Days of Activism, which are traditionally November 25 to December 10.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** This year we encouraged Member Clubs to have their members read the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and pick their favorite article. Members of clubs were asked to create artwork or read their favorite articles and share this with us or on social media using certain hashtags. In October, we held a joint event with the UN Liaison and Team highlighting FAWCO's role in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and examining the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals up to now. Particular attention was paid to the development of [SDG5](#) concerning Gender Equality at this event.

**In 2023, members of the Human Rights Team wrote many insightful articles for the FAWCO *Global Issues Digest*.** Focusing on the FAWCO Target Project, Awesome Blossoms, in March we looked into what [life is like for the women of Mathare](#) in Nairobi, where the project is based. Our co-chair, Mary Adams, wrote about [human trafficking](#) in July. In this important article she interviewed Dr. Conny Rijken, the Dutch National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children. In November, Jody McBrien wrote a very important article about [migrant youth in the United States](#). In this article, she lays out the legal background for migrant youth and the challenges facing migrants and highlights the current situation in the United States.

In January 2024, the team will host a book discussion on the book *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller. In this book Chanel Miller tells her story of sexual assault on a college campus that made headlines throughout the United States. She comes forward to tell her story, reclaiming her identity and challenging our ideas about assault and healing. This aligns with the proposed focus of the Human Rights Team on Violence against Women for the first quarter of 2024.

**Another important date in the Human Rights Team calendar** is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is held each year for two weeks in March. In March 2023, the theme of CSW 67 was "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." Since the pandemic, the events and meetings have been held online or in hybrid mode. For this reason, Alexandra Vo, FAWCO UN Liaison, held a training session for our members to explain the different types of sessions, e.g. official CSW meetings, side events, and parallel events such as the NGO CSW Forum, and how to get the most out of the wide variety of sessions available. Some of our members attended the event in person in New York and others attended virtually.

Members of the Human Rights Team endeavor to raise awareness and encourage action on human rights themes in their FAWCO clubs and partner with other organizations in their local areas. Global events related to human rights for women and girls include:

- One Billion Rising (February 14)
- Women's History Month (March)
- International Women's Day (March 8)
- Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations, NYC (March)
- 16 Days of Activism Eliminating Gender-Based Violence
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10)

Human Rights encompasses each one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations for 2030, and uses SDG5, Gender Equality, as its visual logo.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marelle Manders (Heidelberg IWC)  
Human Rights Team Co-Chair



## FAWCO Youth Program

Launched in 2013, the FAWCO Youth Program's mission is to promote cultural understanding and raise awareness of global issues in our youth and help them develop into responsible and caring global citizens. Our main module, the Cultural Volunteers Program, was held in Zurich, Switzerland hosted by the American Women's Club of Zurich on April 8-15, 2023.

During the one-week itinerary, 12 Cultural Volunteers (CVs) from 9 clubs (FAWCO Regions 2,3,4,5,8) and FAUSA who spoke 11 languages (Indonesian, Chinese, Hindi, Swedish, Finnish, Italian, French, Spanish, Dutch, German, English) stayed with local host families and immersed themselves in a variety of enriching activities which were designed to provide insights into important Swiss culture while offering them opportunities to give back to the local community...all whilst making new friends and having a ton of fun.

The youth completed 14 hours of community service with the following volunteer activities:

- Sorting toiletries for FIZ (club charity)
- Trash pick-up
- Uetliberg panorama hike
- Farm work at a traditional Swiss farm
- Tischlein deck dich (food bank)
- Sorting books and arts & crafts for the children's library at the AWC clubhouse.

Their cultural activities included:

- Zurich walking/history tour
- Lindt chocolate factory tour
- Schlafen im Stroh (Sleeping on straw)
- Zurich Opera House tour and workshop
- REGA (air medical service) tour
- United Nations tour in Geneva

They also enjoyed a picnic at the lake, cooking and dinners at the clubhouse, a scavenger hunt, and many other team-building activities. The participants reflected on their experience through a [group video](#) and [individual essays](#).

Outreach to clubs included a presentation at the Bratislava Biennial Conference and regionals in the fall of 2023. AWC Central Scotland has volunteered to host the 2024 Cultural Volunteers Program and AWC Hamburg for 2025. Preparations are underway for both programs.

We did receive several inquiries about opportunities for FAWCO Youth at the UN, though these did not progress further. We also received two inquiries for participation in AMERICANA from individual members, however, these individuals do not have the capacity to bring the program to their clubs. Lastly, FAWCO Youth supported the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Task Force's initiative on Gender Identity by being co-admin of a Whatsapp group "Trans, Allies and Gender Non-conforming Group for FAWCO Parents."

Respectfully submitted,  
 My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin)  
 Stacey Papaioannou (AWO Greece)  
 Youth Program Co-Chair

## FAWCO Target Program 2022-2025



### Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms 2023 Report

The three shortlisted projects for Target 5 Environment, as determined by the selection team, were announced on January 9, 2023:

- Awesome Blossoms: Edible Fresh Fields for Sustainable Life in the Slums, a project of Safe Spaces Organization, submitted by Leslie Janoe, AWC Amsterdam
- Love for the Sea, a project of Caribbean Coral Restoration Center, submitted by Robin Goldsby, AIWC Cologne;
- Wing Woman, a project of Stand for Women, submitted by Monica Jubayli, AWC Lebanon.

The shortlisted projects were announced via a Special Target Bulletin, on social media and through the FAWCO website. Project summaries were made available to members to learn more about the projects. Following the announcement, the Selection Committee provided feedback to applicants whose projects were not shortlisted.

On February 1, 2023, ballots were sent to all FAWCO Representatives for them to cast a vote on behalf of their club by February 15, 2023.

The selected Target Project, [Awesome Blossoms: Edible Fresh Fields for Sustainable Life in the Slums](#), a project of Safe Spaces Organization, submitted by Leslie Janoe, AWC Amsterdam, was announced at the Biennial Meeting in Bratislava on March 25, 2023. The Target Project fundraising officially began at the Biennial Meeting in Bratislava with The FAWCO Foundation launching a fundraising campaign. The Executive Director of Safe Spaces, Peninah Nthenya Musyimi, planned to attend the Biennial Meeting but was unable to come at the last minute and sent a video to share at the meeting, thanking the FAWCO community for selecting the Awesome Blossoms project. Leslie Janoe, Sherrie Zwaile Enderman, and Loretta Simon Helms (all members of AWC Amsterdam) attended the conference as the Target Project Announcement Education and Awareness Team. They created the Awesome Blossoms logo used for the t-shirts and other promotional fundraising tools for clubs, working with the Target Project 5 Fundraising Coordinator Lauren Mescon, FAUSA.

Target Bulletins and Target Blogs are the main communication tools for sharing news about Awesome Blossoms with the FAWCO community. Target Bulletins are published each month by email, highlighting the work of the project and focusing on a UN Sustainable Development Goal, with supporting articles from the FAWCO Global Issues Teams as well as the progress of the Target Project on the ground in Mathare, Kenya.

The Target Project Team, with the support and in conjunction with the Global Issues Teams, has published a wide range of articles about and related to the work of Awesome Blossoms and the location and conditions in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya where the project is based. These articles are on the FAWCO website and shared in the *Target Bulletin* and *Global Issues Digest*, distributed by email monthly.

Virtual education and awareness meetings were also organized.

- In September, the topic of **Female Empowerment and Climate Action** was discussed with Dr. Peg Spitzer. She introduced some of the amazing work of female climate change activists based in the Global South. The presentation was based partly on her new book, *Empowering Female Climate Change Activists in the Global South*, published in July 2023, and also introduced online tools showcasing existing projects as well as presenting the [Gender Just Climate Solution Awards](#) with a discussion of previous winners. Dr. Spitzer is a Senior Lecturer at Stony Brook University and is a jury member for the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards. Dr. Spitzer, Ayuska Motha (FAWCO's UNFCCC Representative, AIWC Cologne), Leslie Janoe (AWC Amsterdam), and Peninah Nthenya Musyimi met

separately to create an oral history of Peninah’s journey to create Safe Spaces for possible inclusion in future books or publications by Dr. Spitzer.

- In October 2023, and after hearing of the devastating results of cook stove home fires suffered by members of Safe Spaces, the Target Project Team organized a virtual meeting with **Solar Cookers International** to explore possible environmental solutions to address the health and safety issues surrounding cooking in crowded and fuel-impooverished locations, such as Mathare.

In November 2023, Peninah Nythenya Musyimi and Awesome Blossoms Project Manager Allan C’Oredo traveled to Europe to attend in-person Regional Meetings, club events in Amsterdam, and virtual meetings with FAWCO and FAUSA. They presented and ran workshops at the Region 4 meeting in Amsterdam and the Region 5 meeting in Hamburg. Their trip was facilitated by the logistical and financial support of Leslie Janoe, Sherrie Zwaile Enderman, and Loretta Simon Helms, (all members of AWC Amsterdam), with the support and coordination of FAWCO Member Clubs, the FAWCO Board and the Target Program Chair.

As of December 2023, the members of FAWCO and FAUSA had raised \$99,553 for Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms. This represents an incredible 70% of our fundraising goal and includes the generous matching grant of \$10,000 contributed by the De Groot Foundation.

Outcomes achieved to date for Target Project 5 – Awesome Blossoms:

- Awesome Blossoms education and awareness meetings and launch events held in Mathare with the local community and potential entrepreneurs.
- Applications received and 75 entrepreneur women selected from the local community for Awesome Blossoms Safe Spaces Farms.
- Financial Literacy Training with Trinity Credit, Safe Spaces staff and Awesome Blossoms entrepreneurs held.
- The first Awesome Blossoms Safe Spaces farm is installed and planted at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland)  
Target Program Chair, 2022 – 2025

Tharien van Eck (AWC Antwerp)  
Target Program Selection Chair

## US Issues

### US Liaison Report



The US Issues Team is comprised of the US Liaison and three committees – Citizenship chaired by Judy Furukawa, Tax & Banking, co-chaired by Ann Birot-Salsbury and Tracy Moede and Voting, chaired by Mary Stewart Burgher – whose primary purpose to educate and inform FAWCO membership of the rights, as well as responsibilities, as a US citizen living abroad. The US Liaison coordinates FAWCO’s work with other overseas advocacy organizations and represents FAWCO’s positions in Washington when legislation is drafted or introduced that directly affects Americans living and working overseas, as well as participate in Overseas Americans Week.

FAWCO, along with our partner AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas – [www.aaro.org](http://www.aaro.org)), returned to Washington DC May 8-12, 2023 for the first time since 2019 to advocate on behalf of American citizens living abroad. It was a full week, with Monday and Friday spent visiting agencies and offices of other organizations working on behalf of overseas Americans, while Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were jam-packed with appointments in Congressional offices. We met with offices of 25 members of the House, including Dina Titus (Dem Chair, Americans Abroad Caucus) Don Beyer, who will be re-introducing a modified version of the Tax Simplification Act this session, Kay Granger (Caucus member and Chair, Appropriations Committee), Lloyd Doggett (influential member of Ways and Means), Maria Salazar (former Republican chair of caucus and

staunch advocate of Americans overseas). On the Senate side of the Capitol, we met with 20 offices, including offices of Ron Wyden (chair, Senate Finance) and Michael Bennet (chair of Tax/IRS subcommittee of Senate Finance) and Elizabeth Warren.

On Friday, we met with the National Taxpayer Advocate, Erin Collins. She expects that Congress will pass a bi-partisan tax bill this session so we remain hopeful that the Beyer bill can be included in that legislation. She is also hopeful that the additional funding to the IRS provided in the Inflation Reduction Act will allow them to add the staff necessary to implement more of the [administrative recommendations](#) from her office, several of which impact Americans overseas.

In general, there were fewer offices who were completely surprised by our reports of challenges that some US legislation and regulations cause to Americans living abroad than in the past, which was encouraging. Most offices seemed to be waiting for us to promote Residency Based Taxation (RBT) and many were eager to see what Beyer's office is proposing in the modifications to the Tax Simplification Act. There also seemed to be more support for the Commission on Americans Living Abroad bill than in the past.

Surprisingly, there were still many shocked reactions to lack of access to banking and financial investments in the US. Unfortunately, we once again received no clear suggestions to solve this issue in our meeting with the American Banking Association.

FAWCO's Position Statements and Summary of Overall Goals for OAW 2023 can be found on the [FAWCO website](#).

Following are the respective committee reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
Johanna Dishongh (AWC The Hague, FAUSA)  
FAWCO US Liaison

## US Citizenship Committee Report



Many of the issues for US citizens have been postponed until 2025. This gives people plenty of time to make sure that they are aware of the upcoming changes.

The requirement for REAL IDs has again been postponed until May 7, 2025. Many members use a state driver's license as identification to board a domestic US flight or entrance to certain federal facilities. Members need to make sure their US licenses comply by this date as an older valid license may not be a REAL ID.

ETIAS, the European Travel Information and Authorization System, was scheduled to begin in 2024, but again has been postponed; it has now been scheduled to begin sometime in 2025. The actual date has not been announced.

ETIAS will create a system like the US Visa Waiver program for non-US nationals from countries that don't require a visa to visit the US for short periods of time. ETIAS will apply to non-EU citizens traveling to European countries, but also for those traveling to the United Kingdom who do not currently need a visa.

It is now possible to sign up on the ETIAS website for periodic updates to keep you informed about when ETIAS requirements will come into effect. Go to [www.ETIAS.com](http://www.ETIAS.com) and fill in your name and email address.

The Department of State (DoS) has proposed a reduction in the fees for a US citizen to renounce from the current \$2,350 to the former \$450. This is of particular concern to many "Accidental Americans," those born in the US and subject to US tax laws, despite not living there. This will not affect the evaluation of the individual's assets for potential "exit fees" which is roughly based on what would be an estimate of future taxes for a set



period, approximately five years. As no official rule has yet been issued by the DoS, the higher fee remains in effect.

The State Department also announced that the backlog of passport applications has been greatly reduced. Those needing to renew should try to schedule their appointment (if unable to do so by mail) 7-9 weeks in advance to avoid travel delays.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Furukawa (AWC Brussels, FAUSA)  
US Citizenship Committee Chair

## US Voting Report



As there were no national elections in 2023, the US Voting Committee devoted itself to following up on issues arising from the 2022 midterm elections; encouraging overseas voting in special federal, state and local elections in the USA; and preparing for the national elections scheduled for 2024. In particular, the Committee:

- announced and encouraged overseas voting in special federal, state and local elections taking place in 2023 in the US;
- conveyed reports of failures of ballot delivery in various states to the US Liaison for use in [Overseas Americans Week](#);
- regularly updated the US Voting section of the FAWCO [website](#) and published [articles](#) on both elections and the current struggle for the survival of US democracy;
- contributed material to the *US Liaison Bulletin* and *News in Brief*;
- circulated monthly email messages to Committee members;
- communicated with FAWCO partners the [US Vote Foundation](#) and the [Federal Voter Assistance Program](#); and
- answered questions sent to the [voting@fawco.org](mailto:voting@fawco.org) address.

The Committee still does not have a member in every FAWCO Club; volunteers should contact the chair by email to [voting@fawco.org](mailto:voting@fawco.org).

As ballot delivery had become relatively easy, scattered reports from FAWCO members of failures of ballots to arrive in 2022 aroused concern. The Committee passed these reports to the US Liaison, so that they could be raised with US lawmakers during [Overseas Americans Week](#).

Since 2020, the Committee has increasingly included a new activity – active support of US democracy – to its traditional work of promoting voting by overseas Americans. As the new threats to US democracy continue, so will the Committee’s work to support it. Those threats increase the importance of voting by all Americans, everywhere.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark)  
US Voting Chair



## US Tax and Banking Report

The primary focus of the Tax and Banking Committee continues to be reducing the “fear factor” by making information and support available. The Tax and Banking Committee provides confidential support and encouragement, perspectives on how others are handling these issues, and suggestions for “Go To” banks, where available. We correspond with members regarding banking issues, loss of overseas accounts, tax questions, tax advisors, estate planning help, etc.

Members are always encouraged to seek professional help and to comply with reporting requirements to the federal authorities.

The US Tax and Banking section of FAWCO's website continues to undergo a comprehensive review and now has the most current information on such topics as filing deadlines, IRS links, FATCA/FBAR, DC advocacy, tax, financial and estate planning resources for internationally mobile US persons overseas. Content for these pages of the FAWCO website is growing/expanding.

Several articles have been written and published in the *News in Brief*, the *US Liaison Bulletin* and on the FAWCO website as well as Facebook posts informing the FAWCO membership. Topics included the FBAR, tax filing requirements, finance document retention regulations, how to recognize a PFIC, tips for financial management as an overseas American and a three-part expatriation series by our sponsor London & Capital.

As of 2023 and thanks to the work of the FAWCO Leadership, FAWCO is now a member organization of The State Department Federal Credit Union which is a full-service financial institution founded in 1938 by Department of State employees. They now welcome US Citizens and Green Card holders, who are members of FAWCO to open checking and savings accounts. SDFCU is committed to providing banking products and services to accommodate overseas Americans with unique global needs and to help reach their financial goals. This new partnership addresses a very painful problem for overseas Americans who no longer have a US address as a US address is not required to have a SDFCU bank account.

All but one goal set for 2023 were met.

Goals met in 2023:

- updating web page content on specific topics
- encourage FAWCO members to become more active in their overseas financial situations through articles in the *US Liaison Bulletin* and Facebook posts to the FAWCO members Private Group.

Goals for 2024:

- assist Clubs in organizing Tax and Banking Seminars (carried over from 2023)
- work with FAWCO and the State Department Federal Credit Union to provide a webinar concerning opening accounts as FAWCO members
- complete the review and archiving of old Tax & Banking articles.

Goals for Overseas Americans Week (OAW) 2024

- supporting the argument that for Americans residing overseas (i) the FBAR filing threshold should be raised, e.g. from foreign financial account aggregate value of \$10,000 to \$50,000 like IRS Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets); and, (ii) we should not be required to report our accounts located in our tax-base country that hold the funds needed to pay taxes and bills, save for retirement, pay mortgages, receive salary, etc.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ann Birot-Salsbury (AAWE)  
 Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg)  
 Tax and Banking Co-Chairs

# Administrative Committees

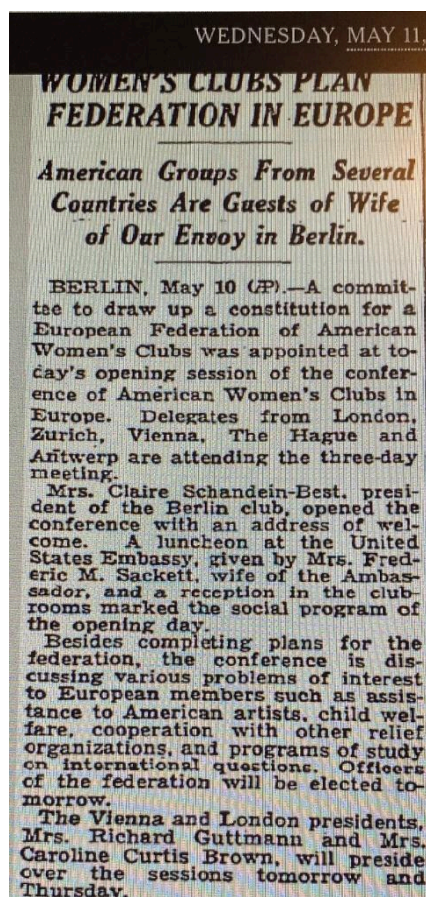
## Archives Committee Report



Since last year's report, there haven't been any real developments with regard to the scanning of all our materials that are at the EAC – Expat Archive Centre in The Hague. We have received one quote of the costs for a one-time total scanning of our (paper/photo) archives. But this is very costly, so we need to investigate further how to proceed and what parts we might be able to do ourselves partially to bring down the costs.

At the request of the President, I did update the short history section of the website to include the last two decades, 2000-2010 and 2010-2020. <https://www.fawco.org/about/how-we-work/history>.

And finally, My-Linh Kunst sent a scan of the article below, which the AWC Berlin found in their archives. It is from the New York Times of May 10, 1932. This is exactly the kind of item the FAWCO Archives are looking for. Send them on when you find them, please.



Respectfully submitted,  
 Georgia Regnault (AWC The Hague)  
 Julie van der Wolf (AWC The Hague)  
 FAWCO Archives Committee Co-Chairs



## Bylaws Committee Report

The Parliamentarian serves as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee. In 2022, the FAWCO Board, in consultation with the Counselors, decided to propose two changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws can be amended at any Annual Meeting and Member Clubs must be advised of these proposed changes three months in advance of the Meeting. Notice of the two proposed changes was given on December 20, 2022 and a virtual open meeting was held on January 23, 2023 to discuss the proposed changes. The amendments were presented for a vote of approval at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava on March 23, 2023. A quorum having been established, each amendment was accepted unanimously by the voting delegates present as well as by those Clubs voting by absentee ballot.

The first amendment was a change to Article 5, Section 2 of the FAWCO Bylaws to make an exception for the FAWCO Treasurer to reside in the United States at the time of election. The sentence "All Directors shall reside outside the United States at the time of election." was amended to read "All Directors, *except the Treasurer*, shall reside outside the United States at the time of election." This change will give FAWCO the possibility to have a US-based signatory, enabling it to continue to conduct its business with US financial institutions.

The second amendment approved the deletion of Article 13, Section 2b which addressed the setting and disbursing of registration fees for the Annual Meeting by the Host Club, a practice that is now obsolete.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)  
FAWCO Parliamentarian/ Bylaws Committee Chair

## FAWCO Counselors' Coordinator Report

The FAWCO Counselors stay in touch with the current FAWCO Board as well as each other. These former FAWCO Presidents are always available to the Board for consultation to act as a sounding board. They are happy to serve in whatever way is needed and stay in touch by email and a dedicated WhatsApp group.

Several of the Counselors continue as FAWCO volunteers in various positions as well.

Thanks to all the Counselors for their efforts to promote FAWCO and mentor the next generation of leaders.

2019-2023 and 2005-2007 Emily van Eerten (AWC The Hague): Google Workspace Administrator  
2017-2019 Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris): FAWCO UN Rep – Geneva, Website Content Administrator  
2015-2017 Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon): Regional Coordinator – Region 9, Counselors' Coordinator  
2011-2015 My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin): FAWCO Youth Co-Chair  
2007-2009 Celeste Brown (AWC of The Hague)  
2003-2005 Arline Burns Coward (Barcelona Women's Network): FAWCO Rep – Barcelona Women's Network  
1995-1997 Rebecca Tan (AWC of Hamburg)  
1993-1995 Barbara Johnson (AWG Paris)  
1989-1991 Kay Miller (AWC of Brussels)  
1987-1989 Georgia Regnault (AWC of The Hague): FAWCO Archives Co-Chair  
1979-1981 Stevie Coppin (AWC of Brussels)

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon)  
FAWCO Counselors' Coordinator

# Regional and Club Profiles

## Region 1: England, Ireland and Scotland

We had such an amazing and active year. So many activities and events including our fabulous Regional which took place in the beautiful and historic Scotland. The American Women's Club of Central Scotland along with Dublin put on an interactive and virtual event. Even Mother Nature's torrential rain didn't stop us. We learned so much about nature and the environment all while having a great time getting to know each other.

The biggest challenge for me has been communication. I'm still working to be more active with the clubs and have them communicate with me. I would like to have more members interacting with each other and supporting one another's events. I would love to get a Wales group up and running.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Holden (AWC Central Scotland)  
Regional Coordinator for Region 1

### AWBS International Women's Club

Our year has been eventful. Our membership has grown. Our aim was to draw in a younger crowd which we have managed to do. I was able to negotiate sponsorship of Berks County Women's and Under18's Football Club which has been great. I found out they were looking for sponsors through my daughters who play for the team. Our members voted unanimously to sponsor the team. This opened us up to a different demographic. Our activities have gone well: theater trips, food explorers, and country walks being quite popular options. We have had a great range of speakers. To increase the diversity of our speakers at our general meetings, I set up a pre-speaker opportunity for members, or their friends and acquaintances, to share some interesting information about who they are and what they do. I believe I made some members feel heard at the selection of who was speaking and added to our new membership sign ups. We have raised funds for our chosen charities by charging fees for vendor stalls at our GMs, and raffles at our events. We will be publishing a members guide in the summer in which companies can advertise. That money will go towards our chosen charities.

Ethel Brome-Mbaya, President and FAWCO Representative

### AWC London

2023 saw our club grow to 300 members. AWC held **more than 400 activities** that are run and organized entirely by our members. In addition to our weekly and monthly activities, we hosted special events such as an evening at Glyndebourne Opera Festival and a trip to Royal Ascot! Our Monthly Club-wide events are now called Meet & Mingles. They are geographically inclusive by rotating venues throughout London. We have both evening and daytime slots featuring various speakers or an activity, offering drinks and nibbles free of charge. We have a partnership with London & Capital, sponsoring our Women's Salon series. We visited the showroom of Faberge in London and will have an upcoming evening of financial and fiscal lectures, with Q and A. Philanthropically, we **exceeded our fundraising goals, raising £16,000** for our partner charities The Ronald McDonald House and the Soup Kitchen. Thanks to our membership's generous giving, we were again able to sponsor a named room at the Ronald McDonald House! In addition to our financial support, members **donated a total of over 200 volunteer hours to our charity partners.**

**We increased our membership by 10%.** Much of our club growth was due to our incredible volunteers. We were fortunate to have a full 14-member board, representative of our club demographics. Notable strategic projects for the year included our use of Stripe as a new payment method. There was a need to cover costs which grew out of increased cancellations from members, creating more transaction fees. Zoom board

meetings are here to stay, rotating between midday and evening. We meet in person quarterly and host biannual Board Retreats for annual strategic planning and personal development.

Ina Messer, FAWCO representative

### **North American Connection (NAC)**

We are a “friendly” members club, founded in 1964. Currently, there are 40 members and approximately 32 of them are active locally. Our social club hub is on Facebook: NAC Members’ Private Group and flash notices through ‘NAC WhatsApp.’ Thankfully, we downsized our executive activities and our overheads in 2019. Being a small club of under 50 members, our friendly club structure (Arthurian-round table) works. We have waived membership dues for the third year. Our largest overhead was our website that we decided to close. However, we have kept our domain with FAWCO that enables us to keep our alias contact addresses such as info@naconnect.com. Our Fundraising in 2023 was done on an individual basis rather than a big club effort supporting the Birmingham Children’s Hospital Hand and Upper Limb (HAL) Specialist Paediatric Centre, Trussell Trust Food Bank, SIFA-Birmingham, Marie Curie Cancer care, BHA, Guide Dogs and Myton Hospice. Our Zoom and team group participation has mostly given way to meeting up! We still self-test for COVID-19 being careful not to spread COVID-19 to our friends when we get together socially. The negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) is now part of our social routine. Our activities are mostly social gatherings from monthly walks, book club, coffee mornings, posh pub lunches to the popular annual Christmas ornament exchange and Thanksgiving family social dinner.

Sunny Eades, FAWCO Representative

### **AW Surrey**

Our 2022/2023 has been the continuation of a highly successful board. After COVID-19 it’s nice to see that things really are “Back to normal.” The Club members have enjoyed varied speakers and events for our “Monthly Mingle,” such as Bee Keeping, Festive Holiday Canapes paired with gin cocktails and our December Holiday Luncheon, with many more planned for the second half of the year. We have regular activities which include hiking, book reviews, crafts, flower arranging, golf, date nights, and pub lunches, to name just a few. Our new Urban Walks are extremely popular. We have also introduced a new “Neurodiversity Coffee” which meets just about monthly providing connection, support and resources for both Neurodiverse members and parents of the neurodiverse. As always, philanthropy is at the heart of AWS. This year we are supporting two local charities, Momentum Children’s Charity and Elmbridge Can (refugee assistance), as well as FAWCO, our international charity. These charities are supported through fundraisers and this year we have increased opportunities to volunteer. Our members have been excited to roll up their sleeves and help out with gift wrapping parties, and donation collections. Our membership continues to become more and more international and remains hovering around 200. Over the past year what has been the biggest challenge?

We are working on adding *International* into our name. This has been quite a debate but is becoming more and more important. We keep hearing the questions: Are expats really going away? Who is replacing them?

Neurodiversity has been a huge topic and we've had success with very little effort in getting people together. It would be great. to connect and understand how other clubs are working on this and share resources

Julia Hinshaw, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Dublin**

We can happily report that membership in the **American Women’s Club of Dublin** has been growing. AWCD provided educational opportunities, tours, potlucks, book clubs, hillwalking, tennis and golf lessons, along with theater visits and successful, well-attended evening meetings for those members who cannot attend the monthly daytime general meetings.

The club also had a successful 2022-2023 year supporting its chosen charity, ARC Cancer Support Centre, for the second year running.

Our club year proudly supported Black History month in February 2023 by posting Black resistance songs every Friday during the month on our AWC Dublin Facebook page.

In March, two of our members were delegates at the FAWCO Bratislava Conference, and we are proud to say that one of these delegates went on to receive a FAWCO Foundation Education Award.

In June, the AWCD also celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special luncheon which was attended by many of our members along with representatives from the United States Embassy (Dublin) and the American Chamber of Commerce.

To ensure our new members connect with FAWCO, we send these members an email after their membership has been approved, outlining FAWCO and its Mission Statement. We also encourage all members to visit the FAWCO website on a regular basis. The practice of informing all members of the actions/activities of FAWCO has also been in place with regular Facebook posts. Feedback from surveys and targeted conversations show that overall recognition and use of FAWCO resources has increased significantly.

The second half of 2023 going into 2024 saw the introduction of a 'flowerpot' present at all meetings to obtain donations (coins and/or notes) for the Awesome Blossom Target Project.

Margie O'Rourke, FAWCO Representative

### **AWA Aberdeen**

The Association of American Women (AWA) of Aberdeen has 43 active members, expatriates primarily from the US and Canada but also from other countries. AWA members strive to give back to the local community which has become our home away from home. In 2022, the AWA voted to support Mental Health Aberdeen as their primary charity for the 2022/2023 year. Mental Health Aberdeen is a local charity that provides counseling and information services to adults and young people experiencing difficulties related to their mental health and well-being. This past year, AWA donated £9,000 to Mental Health Aberdeen. We also made two £50 donations to two other local charities: Forget Me Not Club and SensationAll. In the Spring of 2023, AWA members voted to support Bonnymuir Green Community Trust as our primary charity for the 2023/2024 year. Bonnymuir Green Community Trust is a thriving community-owned green space. It has a productive, managed community garden, a social hub, and a cafe, which is led, developed, and sustained by local volunteers. We will continue to fundraise for and support Bonnymuir Green Community Trust until we choose our new charity in Spring 2024. Our biggest fundraising event of the year is our annual craft fair. This year, our craft fair was Scotland's largest indoor craft fair. We had over 100 vendors and raised at least £4,929.63 for Bonnymuir Community Trust. We have regular general meetings, activity groups, and social events throughout the year, many of which help support our charitable efforts. Although many of our in-person gatherings have become much smaller due to our decreased membership, we've still managed to catch up for coffees, have fun nights out, and explore our beautiful county of Aberdeenshire.

Cheryl McIntyre, President

### **AWC Central Scotland**

The American Women's Club of Central Scotland has 85 members, the majority of whom are permanent residents living across central Scotland and Fife. Our primary fundraisers are the annual Thanksgiving dinners in Edinburgh and Glasgow, which include a silent auction and a raffle, respectively. At our annual general meeting, we presented £1,100.00 to our selected charity, the Kilbrandon Fund. This amount was raised from our 2022 Thanksgiving fundraisers and our charity art exhibit. Our recurring club activities, including Coffee Mornings, monthly Birthday Bashes, virtual Quiz nights, Fourth of July picnic, Halloween party, Thanksgiving potlucks, and President's tea, continued as opportunities for connection and fellowship. We modernized our website to a more polished aesthetic with streamlined navigation. This change also enhanced our online presence for potential club members. Our Board President, Cynthia Holden, was featured in the *Inspiring Women* magazine's November 2023 issue, highlighting her journey from Florida to Italy to Scotland. AWCCS had a grand time hosting the Region 1 meeting in beautiful Stirling, Scotland. With a focus on environmentalism, guest speakers included representatives from Trees for Life and One Climate Action. Despite difficult weather, there was great attendance, and we enjoyed tales of Scottish folklore and partook in local pub culture. The event concluded with a tour of historic Stirling castle. The funds raised from the meeting's silent auction will be donated evenly to FAWCO's Target Project, Awesome Blossoms, and AWCCS's club charity.

Candace Silvera, FAWCO Representative

## England

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### AWBS International Women's Club

**Website:** [awbs.org.uk](http://awbs.org.uk)

**Founded:** 1981

**Joined FAWCO:** 1995

**Membership Total:** 231

**Dues:** £80

**Mission:** To welcome and assist all newcomers and their families, to promote friendship and interactions among members and improve their knowledge and understanding of England.

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### American Women's Club of London

**Website:** [awclondon.org](http://awclondon.org)

**Founded:** 1899

**Joined FAWCO:** Founding Member

**Membership Total:** 300

**Dues:** £140

**Mission:** Founded in 1899, the American Women's Club of London has for over 100 years provided a welcoming atmosphere to expatriates living in London. The purpose of the American Women's Club of London is to provide social, cultural, educational and philanthropic activities for our members living in London.

**Charities:** Soup Kitchen at the American International Church, Ronald McDonald House

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### North American Connection

**Website:** [naconnect.com](http://naconnect.com)

**Founded:** 1964

**Joined FAWCO:** 1998

**Membership Total:** 40 in Facebook group, of which 30 are local members

**Dues:** £10 (waived under COVID-19)

**Mission:** The Club provides assistance with integration into the English community, as well as opportunities for social and charitable activities.

**Charities:** Birmingham Children's Hospital, Hand and Upper Limb Department

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### American Women of Surrey

**Website:** [awsurrey.org](http://awsurrey.org)

**Founded:** 1975

**Joined FAWCO:** 1985

**Membership Total:** 200

**Dues:** GBP (£) 65 per year

**Mission:** To welcome and assist newcomers and their families; promote friendship and cooperation among members; to further members' knowledge and understanding of England; and to give financial and material support to philanthropic projects.

**Charities:** Oakleaf (Mental Health), Your Sanctuary (Domestic Abuse), B@titude (Family Support)

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## Ireland

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### American Women's Club of Dublin



**Website:** [awcd.net](http://awcd.net)

**Founded:** 1972

**Joined FAWCO:** 1980

**Membership Total:** 190

**Dues:** €70

**Mission:** The purpose of the Club is to foster and encourage American-Irish relations and cross-cultural understanding among American women and their families living in Ireland, through its educational and philanthropic activities.

**Charities:** Save the City Ireland, Covid Fundraising Women's Aid, Doyle's Corner

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## Scotland

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### Association of American Women of Aberdeen



**Website:** [awaaberdeen.org](http://awaaberdeen.org)

**Founded:** 1985

**Joined:** 1986

**Membership Total:** 43

**Dues:** £40

**Mission:** We are united in our interest to foster and develop a fun, welcoming environment for newcomers and expatriates in Aberdeen, Scotland, while integrating into the local community by supporting a local charity.

**Charities:** Mental Health Aberdeen, Bonnymuir Green Community Trust

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### American Women's Club of Central Scotland



**Website:** [awccs.org](http://awccs.org)

**Founded:** 1974

**Joined:** 1993

**Membership Total:** 85

**Dues:** \$46

**Mission:** We have a high percentage of permanent residents living in Scotland, not connected to American businesses. Most of our club members are employed. We try to maintain a close relationship with the US Consulate and through them help to support American non-club members living in the area.

**Charities:** Friends of the Earth

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## Region 2: Nordic Countries and Russia

With the exception of Region 2's Club in Moscow, which I will address separately, the Clubs of Region 2 experienced a very positive year. AWO Moscow describes itself as dormant...down, but not out. There have been no activities, but its dispersed members believe in their Club's mission and in its ability to bounce back when conditions change. Reports from all other Region 2 Clubs expressed the satisfaction of returning to activities important to them, reconnecting with other members and making new friends. All groups report new members and the resurfacing of inactive members. AWC Gothenburg capitalizes on this trend by offering the first year dues-free to new members. Post-COVID-19 relief is obvious from all Clubs and there's optimism. All Clubs offer numerous special interest activities, events related to the US calendar, scholarships awarded and distributed, charity events and programs that raise awareness of the local culture base. Optimism jumps off the pages of these reports! However, more than one remark that leadership in their organizations could use

grooming and new members. To quote AWC Stockholm, “Each new Board Member has brought new skill sets, ideas and energy to the Board,” that’s what new blood does. Perhaps an established “grooming program for leadership” could be a FAWCO initiative across the board? Couldn’t it be designed as a program to establish transferable skill sets pertinent to non-profit or corporate environments, thereby increasing the motivation to participate in such a program? Last but not least, FAWCO is a remarkable international community. One of my goals as Region 2 Coordinator in this coming year will be to highlight some of those regional idiosyncrasies that are an integral part of our Club year for each Club in Region 2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonelle Lemcke (AWC Denmark)  
Coordinator, Region 2

### **AWC Denmark**

2023 was a year of branching out and consolidation for AWC Denmark. A key event this year is that Sherry Leventhal, wife of the USA’s Ambassador to Denmark, accepted and took on her role as “Honorary President of AWC Denmark.” Mrs. Leventhal raises the profile of AWC Denmark through invitations to Embassy events and through her presence as AWC Denmark’s representative at special ceremonies. Another highlight is that one of our Club members received a FAWCO Foundation Development Grant for her project in Ghana. In addition, AWC Denmark’s highest monetary award this year was given to a local music academy that focuses on building community among culturally diverse groups through training children/young adults in music. There are numerous other charities, serving needy groups, that the Club contributes to in the course of the year, especially at Christmas with a designated day for wrapping presents and food gifts for charities around town. The Heart Pillow Project is one of the charity projects that runs all year round and attracts helpers/supporters, especially during October, aka Pink Month, where The Club participates in a community program at a local shopping center. Crafts in general are popular, with a designated group that meets every month to work sociably on personal projects. The book group and movie group attract interest; annual local events, such as Culture Night and Lady Walk (for womens’ health) also draw participation. Chinese New Year’s, Thanksgiving and July 4 are dates where there are always gatherings in the Club’s name. For the past two years, we have held a June picnic event in The King’s Garden of Rosenborg Castle, thanks to an Inspiring Women event of two years ago. We communicate with members via a designated Facebook page for AWC Denmark, through the Region 2 Facebook page or our monthly Newsletter, The Chronicle.

Jonelle Lemcke, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Finland**

The AWC in Finland provides women of American heritage and international members with interest or connections to the USA with support, information and opportunities to connect. The club membership is currently about 145 members. During the first quarter of the year monthly meetings alternated between guest presentations by luminaries such as personal coach Emma Jelly, Fulbright scholar David Witwer, translator Kristiina Drews, writer and counselor Hanna Jensen, and tours of prominent buildings like the House of Nobility, the Bank of Finland Museum, the Fazer Visitor Center, and Parliament House. At the May AGM, the membership approved raising the club’s annual dues from €30 to €35. Updates to the club constitution were proposed by the Parliamentarian to remove distinctions in membership categories for American and international members, while continuing to preserve the legacy of the American connection of the club. These changes were approved at the September meeting. After the summer break, members resumed meeting monthly, visiting the Natural History Museum, the Marimekko Outlet, the US Embassy’s Chief of Mission’s Residence, and Kaivo Espoo, a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the well-being of people in difficult life situations, currently focusing much of its work on assisting refugees from Ukraine. Wild Apricot continued to be used for website, newsletter and membership management. At the December monthly meeting, funds were raised to help support Kaivo Espoo, the non-profit that hosted October’s meeting.

Rainier Sielaff, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Oslo**

Our February club meeting is often FAWCO themed, and in 2023 we held a very popular handbag silent auction to benefit the FAWCO Target Project. The bidding was at times fierce, and we raised over 400 euros selling our used handbags! We also raffled off a trip to the FAWCO conference, and four of our members attended the

conference in Bratislava. At the conference it was announced that one of our members had won an Education Award! We hope this will encourage more of our members to apply.

2023 was a scholarship year for the AWC Oslo. Most of our fundraising goes to our biennial scholarship, which supports a Norwegian resident studying in the US, usually in the areas of women's or children's health. Our Scholarship Committee was unable to award the scholarship in 2021 due to COVID-19, which is the first time that has happened since World War II. In 2023 the usual scholarship amount was doubled, and one of the highlights of the club year was the lovely formal reception given in honor of the winners. Both spoke warmly and enthusiastically, and gave members a glimpse into their separate fields: eating disorders and zoonotic diseases.

The fall marked the start of our club year and one of our most popular meetings, the Heart Pillow Project, where our busy sewing bees put together over 50 pillows for local breast cancer patients. November is a gray month in Oslo, but a busy time for our club. We hold both our biggest fundraiser: the AWC Christmas Market, and our most popular monthly meeting: Thanksgiving dinner. We have seen an uptick in new members again this year, and we are happy to report that the club is thriving going into 2024, our 90<sup>th</sup> year!

Sarah Koski Overland, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Gothenburg**

We started the year with our annual meet up in January with our friends from the AWC in Oslo who visit Gothenburg each year to attend the Gothenburg Movie Festival. We continued throughout the year with monthly meetings at a café where the board informed members of upcoming events and then enjoyed a mingle afterwards.

During the year we have also:

- had monthly Book Club meetings discussing specific books chosen in advance,
- held bi-monthly coffee mornings to practice the Swedish language with conversation over a cup of coffee.
- attended Quiz nights as a group
- attended Barbie Movie night
- celebrated Fourth of July together with our families at a local BBQ restaurant
- celebrated the club's 75th Anniversary in September with a dinner and entertainment
- had a Thanksgiving potluck in November for members and families where the club provided the turkeys and everyone brought dishes to share.
- and In December, we enjoyed our annual holiday evening get-together to sing carols and share holiday goodies with each other.

We have promoted new members by offering the first year free of dues and hopefully after that they will feel prone to paying the nominal annual fee. Our main problem during the year is to find volunteers for board positions and activity committees. Very few are willing to commit.

Best regards,  
Linda Evans Thörnqvist

### **AIC Malmö**

The American International Club (AIC) Malmö is located in the south of Sweden and currently has 164 members, 75% of which are US citizens. In total the club represents 20 nationalities. Its aim is to bring together Americans and other international expats residing in Sweden to gain companionship, support and friendship among the members. The AIC Malmö runs activities, several of which have an American theme, throughout the year for the members.

The club has regular and monthly activities: Bookworms, our book club discussions; Let's Do Lunch; Cooking Club; Baby and Toddler Club; and our monthly meeting at the end of the month.

Other club activities during 2023 were the Trivia Night and Media Sale, a Bowling Night, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Rock Climbing, a potluck Pie Night, a Swap Party, an Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic, Game Nights, Mother's Day brunch, a Square Foot gardening workshop, a Boat Tour in Malmö, a Saturday Social Fun Run, the AIC Independence Day BBQ and Summer Picnic, Paint your own pottery workshops, Minigolf, Happy Fingers Potluck evening, "Trash, Treats & Treasures" – visiting different second-hand fairs, Dog Walk and Talk, a Malmö Museum special exhibition, a Halloween Friday Night Social, a Halloween "Picnic" Trick or Treat Party, a Halloween outing at Vellingebloomman, a Wreath Making Workshop, a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, a Holiday Cookie Exchange, Christmas lunch, a Christmas outing at Vellingebloomman, a visit to a Christmas market, Fika with Santa and a Christmas mulled wine party.

So it has been a busy year!

Kerstin Kriz, President

### **AWC Stockholm**

On the whole 2023 has been a good year for AWC Stockholm. We have not been affected by the pandemic as in 2020 - 2022, but have been able to return to normal procedures for our events. The club membership continues to be relatively stable at approximately 170+ members. We are seeing the return of some lapsed members who have rejoined and new members are finding the club. We organize a variety of club events each month during our club year, which is from September through May. Regularly occurring events are a weekday lunch and a Saturday coffee meet up. We offer two new member mingles per club year, additional evening events and, weather permitting, occasional outdoor events. We have several published authors and have had two book signing events during 2023. We continue to cooperate with other American Clubs, the American Embassy as well as the International Women's Club in Stockholm. One popular event was a joint event with the American Chamber of Commerce in Sweden, the American Club of Sweden, US Embassy personnel and the American Ambassador. If financially feasible, we will try to hold a similar event in 2024. We continue to test different types of events to see which events are most preferred by the members. Board meetings continue to be mostly remote as that is the most convenient meeting method for many of the board members. We have had several changes to the Board as members have left due to moves, family changes and most sadly, untimely death. While we have been saddened by these losses we are grateful that we have been able to fill all the vacated positions. Each new Board Member has brought new skill sets, ideas and energy to the Board. We have made beneficial changes to our routines and processes for our members as well as improving our website and social media presence.

AWC Stockholm brings together American women, residing in Sweden, to foster companionship and friendship among country women as well as assist them in their assimilation to life in Sweden.

Judith Baird Johansson, President, AWC Stockholm

## Denmark

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### American Women's Club in Denmark



**Website:** [awcdenmark.org](http://awcdenmark.org)

**Founded:** 1934

**Joined:** 1934

**Membership Total:** 100

**Dues:** \$45

**Mission:** Fun, friendship and philanthropy. Our vision for the members and guests of AWC Denmark: to deepen our commitment to working and playing together; to share our laughter and tolerance in our daily lives.

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## Finland

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### American Women's Club in Finland

**Website:** [awcfinland.com](http://awcfinland.com)

**Founded:** 1970

**Joined:** 2001

**Membership Total:** 145

**Dues:** €35

**Mission:** To provide a means for social interaction for women of American nationality or heritage residing in Finland and to promote the furtherance of knowledge and mutual understanding between women of the United States of America, the Republic of Finland and other countries.

**Charities:** Kaivo Espoo

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## Norway

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### American Women's Club of Oslo

**Website:** [awcoslo.org](http://awcoslo.org)

**Founded:** 1934

**Joined:** 1935

**Membership Total:** 142

**Dues:** \$60

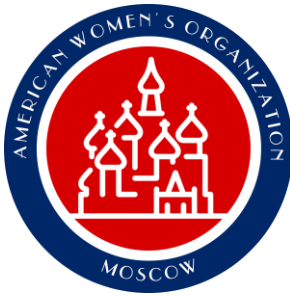
**Mission:** The American Women's Club of Oslo is a nonprofit organization whose members participate in social and philanthropic activities. The club provides an opportunity for American women to connect, network, and socialize while living in Oslo. The term "fundraising" in our club is usually applied to efforts to raise money for the American Women's Club of Oslo Scholarship, our primary philanthropic activity.

**Charities:** The AWC Scholarship, Oslo Crisis Center

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## Russia

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### American Women's Organization of Moscow

**Website:** [awomoscow.org](http://awomoscow.org)

**Founded:** 1993

**Joined:** 1993

**Membership Total:** 14

**Dues:** \$66

**Mission:** We provide a support group to North American and international members through coffees, couples events, annual crafts festival and celebration of US holidays.

**Charities:** Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, SAMU Social, Otkazniki, SafeHouse Foundation

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## Sweden

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### American Women's Club of Gothenburg

**Website:** [awcgothenburg.com](http://awcgothenburg.com)

**Founded:** 1948

**Joined:** 1987

**Membership Total:** 52

**Dues:** €24

**Mission:** To keep our American traditions alive for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

**Charities:** Haiti Relief, Operation Smile

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### American International Club Malmö

**Website:** [aicmalmo.com](http://aicmalmo.com)

**Founded:** 1997

**Joined:** 1998

**Membership Total:** 164

**Dues:** 250 SEK

**Mission:** American International Club Malmö was founded November 1997 (originally American Women's Club Malmö) to bring together Americans and other international expats residing in Sweden, to gain companionship, support and friendship among the members.

**Charities:** Ariel's Girls, Kenya, Kvinna till Kvinna, Friends of Paraguay

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### American Women's Club in Stockholm

**Website:** [awcstockholm.org](http://awcstockholm.org)

**Founded:** 1911

**Joined:** 2000

**Membership Total:** 172

**Dues:** 400 SEK

**Mission:** To foster friendship among American women and help them assimilate into Swedish life.

**Charities:** AWC Scholarship

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## Region 3: France and Spain

### AW Aquitaine

American Women in the Aquitaine (AWA) is six years old and increased its membership to 15 in 2023. We are still encountering difficulties trying to arrange in-person meetings, since members are spread out all over the Aquitaine, but we have not given up hope. The AGM in January 2023 was again held via Zoom, and members

continued to get together in smaller groups for various activities. Last March some of them ran into each other by accident in Bordeaux, which made for a great photo op. Our only official fundraising activity in 2023 was the sale of used books, but thanks to individual contributions from members, the club made a donation to the FAWCO Target Project for the Environment, Awesome Blossoms, that earned us a Sunflower Medallion on the FAWCO Foundation Donor Wall. The project for the visually handicapped at an ESAT horticultural center in the Gironde (Bordeaux) that we first proposed in 2022 was awarded a FAWCO Foundation Development Grant in 2023. The equipment that was purchased with the Grant funds has been installed and should be up and running by the start of the horticultural season in mid-March 2024. We are still in contact with the project in South Africa that was awarded a 2020 Development Grant, and they have planted more potatoes thanks to our donation of funds following storms and floods that washed away the previous crop. We have a public Facebook page. FAWCO continues to be our *raison d'être*.

Maggie Palu, President and FAWCO Representative

### **AWG Languedoc-Roussillon**

Our members are very active: hosting and participating in a large number of activities. Our members feel that it is truly fantastic and fulfilling to have this supportive network of amazing women with whom they can share activities and hobbies. As such, we are always looking for ways we can support each other, but, very importantly, we're also looking for ways we can give back to our community and those in need.

This year our club has strengthened our ties with FAWCO by appointing a new FAWCO Representative. She attended this year's conference and we have concretely seen the effect of her activism. Our club raised €820 in a single fundraising event! We look forward to reinvigorating this aspect of our club in the coming years by connecting with local charities, fundraising for FAWCO Target Projects, and giving back to our communities.

AWG-LR's objectives for the coming year include:

- Increase inner-club communication concerning FAWCO events and news
- Host additional fundraiser events
- Reconnect with local charities to offer volunteering opportunities or to host fundraisers on their behalf. Notably by appointing a Charity Coordination Chair
- Invite new members to be proactive in hosting their own events/activities (afterwork drinks, coffee chats, cultural outings, etc...)
- Increase communications on social media outlets in order to promote our club's activities to a wider (but appropriate) audience
- Continue to connect new members with seasoned members who have similar interests
- Continue inner-club communication concerning recurring and punctual events
- Promoting friendship and sharing the English language and American culture and customs with members of the French community
- Helping women adapt to a new or different culture while still maintaining their own
- Encouraging understanding and good fellowship through social and cultural activities and service to the community

Sealia Thévenau, President

### **AAWE Paris**

AAWE is continuing its fourth year of significant growth, welcoming its 600th member. The club continues to foster a dynamic and growing community. AAWE's vitality was evident in various activities, notably the annual Holiday Bazaar, which embraced a fresh format featuring women-owned businesses. AAWE also found a new clubhouse home in the 16th *arrondissement* after the sale of the American Center for Art and Culture (fondly known as the Mona Bismarck Center). FAWCO club activities revolved around the Awesome Blossoms Target Project. Kick-off brunches successfully raised awareness, and a fall potluck fundraiser weekend brought members together in support. The club collaborated with a Parisian rooftop farm to expand the project's visibility within the broader Parisian community. A new monthly newsletter was inaugurated by AAWE to channel FAWCO's news and activities to members. Other club activities this year included a spring bazaar, monthly members cocktails, Les Historiennes French history series, Bookniks Book Club, Play Reading Group, Yarn Group, French Film Discussion Group, children's events, philanthropic giving and more. There are

dedicated networking channels for all generations: from Gen Z to Seniors. The diverse range of activities reflects the club's commitment to providing enriching experiences for its members while making a positive impact on the community.

Eilean Ellison, FAWCO Representative

## **American Club of Lyon**

### **LEADERSHIP**

Board elections were held in July, via an online voting app.

President: Mark Gallop (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Treasurer: Aubrey Van Hemelryck (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Secretary: Florence Bikard (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Non-elected leadership:

Neal Frager: VP Membership

Sam Finocchio: Webmaster

Ann Gallops: Newsletter

Becky Reynaud: FAWCO Rep

The “old hands” are delighted and relieved to finally see some new people step forward to take on the Treasurer and Secretary Board positions. But we are not sure if either of these new people will be willing to step up to the President role. The articles of association only allow three terms.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The renewal period was in September, and we are happy to see the numbers leap to 150 households, exceeding pre-COVID-19 levels and possibly the highest number in Club history, but we lack the archives to check.

### **ACTIVITIES / EVENTS**

Ongoing events:

- Coffee Chat, weekly gathering in a local café. Open to non-members who speak English. Run by webmaster, Sam. An excellent tool for recruiting new members.
- Café Français (weekly informal French conversation class) has resumed after a for-year hiatus and is greatly appreciated.
- The “Circles of Interest” (WhatsApp groups) launched last year have not produced much activity, but we keep plugging it in the newsletter. The Parents+Kids Circle is the only active group so far. The group was nearly autonomous for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween, which meant less involvement from the Board.

Annual events:

- The Fourth of July was again a great success. A kind member with a large garden has let us hold the event at her place for the past six years.
- The Thanksgiving potluck was perhaps the largest in our history, with a total of 160 people (adults, children, and guests) in attendance.

### **CHARITY**

No activity this year because Becky was not available at the usual “charity drive” occasions of July 4<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving. I try to collect donated goods for teenage African migrants in Lyon.

Mark Gallops, President

## **AWG Paris**

AWG Paris has 250 members and is located in Paris, France. Highlights from the past year January 2023-December 23 are as follows: A multitude of activities for our members including museum visits, cheese tasting, baking French pastry, holiday parties and wreath making atelier, Tea and Treats, Let’s Talk Travel



presentations, wines of Bordeaux tastings, L'Apero Book Club, Cafe Chat, Tuileries Walkers and Joggers, Photo Club, Yoga group, Moveable Feast lunches. Every year there is the "Oops" Auction to raise money for the Target Project, and a giant Thanksgiving dinner for over 80 members and their spouses. Other events this year were a day trip to Meaux, tour of the Square des Batignolle and the Martin Luther King Garden, selling Awesome Blossom t-shirts to members to raise money for the Target Project (we sold 29 t-shirts and received many donations). AWG events also included an Apéro in White at the Champs de Mars, Better Take Photos series of classes, a delightful evening of ping pong, pétanque and a picnic at the AWG Summer Celebration. There was a tour of Modern Architecture, a tour and visit to the Chatou Antique Show and Drouot Auction house, and a Rentrée Welcome Lunch. There was a FAWCO morning meeting to talk about all things FAWCO and to brainstorm and discuss fundraising efforts for Awesome Blossoms. AWG is active in community service and maintains and supports "La Soupe" at Trinité Church and sandwich making at the American Church for refugees. Continuing events each month include member meetings, Cafe Chat, French/English Conversation, as well as cultural and recreational tours, lunches and weekend get togethers.

Sandra Gogel, FAWCO Representative

### **Barcelona Women's Network**

The Barcelona Women's Network (BWN) has continued to grow both in membership, breadth of activities and fundraising events over the last year. From 113 members in January 2023 to its current 160 members from across a wide spectrum of ages, nationalities and life stages/situations, the BWN continues to reflect the cultural diversity and cosmopolitan nature of our vibrant city. "A social club with a social purpose" is one of our founding principles and we have continued to expand our range of activities and fundraising events, the highlight of which was the second edition of the highly successful "Fashion Cares" fashion recycling event with local designers and entertainment. This raised over €6,000 for our local charity ARED this year – twice as much as in 2022! Our bi-monthly Women's Speaker events to empower women and help them express themselves in public better have also raised money for ARED, which supports women coming out of prison and offers them training and help to re-enter the employment market to have a second chance in life. Other ongoing regular monthly activities include:

- Monthly get-togethers over either coffee or wine
- Cultural outings to historic monuments and art exhibitions led by members
- Sharing culture topic discussions gatherings organized by our BWN FAWCO Representative where our diverse membership come together to talk about experiences and cultural influences on a specific subject
- Book clubs in English and Spanish
- Heart Pillow Project – stuffing pillows for breast cancer patients in a local hospital
- Lunches and international dinners
- Evening drinks on hotel terraces and members' homes
- Yoga classes
- Walking in the local countryside

We have also enjoyed some great one-off fun experiences i.e. to La Roca Village shopping outlet, a summer beach day, and trips to local theaters and comedy shows. The BWN has been adding features to our monthly evening drinks – with short presentations on subjects interesting to our members before the main event and these have proved very popular. We are delighted that more and more members are coming forward to propose different events so we can offer something for everyone in the club. Having a weekly newsletter allows us to publish things even on relatively short notice. We welcome any women in the greater Barcelona area to contact us and come along to see what we're up to.

Karen Holladay, President

### **AWC Madrid**

AWC Madrid had a vibrant, active year in 2023. Members commented on the renewed energy and activity in the club, particularly at our clubhouse. Our in-person activities gained more traction, were well received, and complemented our occasional online offerings. As Maria Sibila, our Membership Chair, commented, "the variety is noteworthy, not only in the mornings, but also in the evenings and on weekends." We are working towards "something for everyone!"

Regarding our activities, we had our annual recurring events such as our successful September ice cream social and the October 5K Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, as well as Sunday-Walks in the Park. Our members enjoyed Film Club where they focused on a variety of cinematic themes. Our monthly "Out to Lunch Bunch" lunches, Wine & Tapas and Ladies Nights were always popular, offering a wonderful opportunity to socialize. Our Speaker Series offered a diverse lineup of speakers, including our own members Véronique Bodoutchian, Susan Kellerman, Connie Paredes, and motivational speaker and climber Dierdre Wolownick, Executive Director of the Women's Human Rights program, Robin Phillips, and the founder of Madrid's Secret Kingdoms English Bookshop, among others. We also organized cultural visits to places such as the National Library, the British Cemetery, the Debod Temple, and the Bank of Spain (anyone see Money Heist?).

In terms of fundraising and charities, AWC Madrid maintained similar amounts of donations to its local charities, continuing its long-term relationship with them and helping meet their immediate needs of food and clothing for children and immigrants. AWC Madrid's annual Holiday Bazaar held at the Intercontinental Hotel, was a beautiful event with many long-standing vendors and member volunteers participating. Once again, the Holiday Bazaar proved to be a successful fundraising event.

Membership has remained steady, with 133 members. The members, particularly our expatriate members, appreciate the benefit of having a clubhouse, a home away from home. Although owning and managing a clubhouse has its challenges, AWC Madrid is doing better since the reopening of the clubhouse post-pandemic and return of the annual Holiday Bazaar.

Concerning FAWCO and our club, our 2023 theme was *Connections*. Awareness has grown significantly, with more involvement in FAWCO-related topics and events. Both the Club president (Curran Reid) and the FAWCO Rep (Belen Monasterio) attended the FAWCO Biennial meeting in Bratislava which in turn generated a lot of interest at the club. US Issues provided important expat information to club members and received an invitation for AWC Madrid to the US Embassy for coffee and a presentation of Citizen Services. Our Clubs in Motion continued its focus on walking and its benefits, promoting regular group walks during the week and occasional Sundays, in addition to supporting the club's cancer benefit walk. Environmental information was shared with the member base and donated scarves were sold at the Holiday Bazaar to raise funds for the Target Project, Awesome Blossoms. Efforts to promote the FAWCO Education Awards were made through an online presentation and in-person workshop. This year, we furthered our participation by actively promoting FAWCO initiatives like *Inspiring Women* Magazine, making member nominations and introductions, and actively engaging members in the annual Quilt Project.

Looking to 2024, the AWC Madrid board is motivated to continue expanding its club offerings and growing the club to achieve a more sustainable path for the long term. As President Curran Reid says, "The AWC of Madrid celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2024. Making growth one of our goals means we'll always have a future!"

Curran Reid, AWC Madrid President and the FAWCO Team: FAWCO Rep: Belen Monasterio; US Issues: Liz Page; Clubs in Motion: Fran Clemens; Development & Education: Gweneth Johnsen; and Target Awesome Blossoms: Karen Wendel

## France

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### American Women in the Aquitaine

**Founded:** 2017

**Joined:** 2017

**Membership Total:** 9

**Dues:** €15

**Charities:** ESAT Le Puch, Potatoes and Guayule Cultivation in Bira, South Africa

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### American Women's Group Languedoc Roussillon

**Website:** [awglr.org](http://awglr.org)

**Founded:** 1985

**Joined:** 1987

**Membership Total:** 72

**Dues:** €25

**Mission:** AWG-LR is a friendly network of American and Anglophone women integrating into French society, using our joint skills to enrich our lives. We read, hike, cook, garden, write, blog, enjoy wine-tasting, share our knowledge about France and the Languedoc-Roussillon, and work with local charities.

**Charities:** Red Cross Ukraine

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### American Club of Lyon

**Website:** [americanclublyon.org](http://americanclublyon.org)

**Founded:** 1987

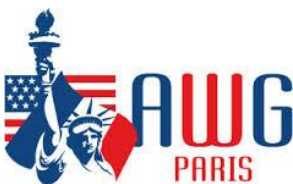
**Joined:** 1996

**Membership Total:** 150

**Dues:** €60

**Mission:** The American Club of Lyon was founded in 1987 to bring American expatriates together to share their common cultural background and to share American traditions with our members, their families, and friends in the Rhône-Alpes region.

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### American Women's Group in Paris

**Website:** [awgparis.org](http://awgparis.org)

**Founded:** 1921

**Joined:** 1931

**Membership Total:** 250

**Dues:** €90

**Mission:** AWG Paris is a secular, non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to foster and encourage social, education and cultural activities among English speaking women in France and to assist in furthering Franco-American relations. One of our principal goals is to support organizations that serve women and children in need.

**Charities:** Maison des Femmes, Serve the City, FAWCO Target Project, La Soupe

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## Association of American Women in Europe



**Website:** [aaweparis.org](http://aaweparis.org)

**Founded:** 1961

**Joined:** 1965

**Membership Total:** 600

**Dues:** €90

**Mission:** AAWE is a non-profit volunteer association of American women who, as permanent residents of France, share interests specific to bicultural living. AAWE's mission is to: – support its members at all stages of life – provide information relevant to their evolving needs, including bilingualism, education, citizenship, voting and legal rights – create bonds, lifelong friendships and support networks – maintain American cultural heritage and promote its transmission to members' children – contribute to the wider community through public events, publications and community service – encourage cross-cultural understanding.

AAWE's vision is to be the reference for women with strong American ties looking for a cultural "home", an advocacy base, an information source, a support and social network, and an avenue for community service.

**Charities:** Cancer Support France - Paris/Île de France Chapter, SOS Help, Refugee Task Force , Friday Mission Lunch Program

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## Spain



### Barcelona Women's Network

**Website:** [bcnwomensnetwork.com](http://bcnwomensnetwork.com)

**Founded:** 1998

**Joined:** 1999

**Membership Total:** 160

**Dues:** €65

**Mission:** The purpose of the BWN is to foster friendship, goodwill and understanding among women of all nationalities, to provide a support network for women living in Barcelona and environs, and to engage in educational, cultural, social activities and fundraising for charities. We socialize with a social purpose.

**Charities:** Avisomonm AADAS, Heart Pillow Project

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### American Women's Club of Madrid

**Website:** [awcmadrid.club](http://awcmadrid.club)

**Founded:** 1954

**Joined:** 1956

**Membership Total:** 133

**Dues:** €100

**Mission:** The American Women's Club of Madrid is a social and charitable organization. A diverse offering of activities is held both in the Club and in the Madrid area. Activities cover a spectrum of interests, including social, cultural, historical, charity, and well-being. The Clubhouse functions as a home away from home for those Americans and others who are now living here, temporarily or permanently. Our Mission - To help women adapt to the challenges and stresses of living in a new country through support, encouragement and friendship - To provide an opportunity for interaction between women of all nationalities - To help members understand and appreciate the Spanish culture and - To engage in charitable activities emphasizing the needs of women and children.

**Charities:** ACOGEM, Comedor Social San Simón de Rojas de Móstoles, Fray Damián Coll, Comedor Social Ventas

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## Region 4: Belgium and The Netherlands

FAWCO is an organization of great worth. This organization provides so many options and opportunities for members. One needs only to go to the website to understand the breadth of possibilities offered! Kanika Holloway is the 2nd VP of Member Clubs, and having been in this position in the past I have a good understanding of the role that she has been given in our organization. In my position as RC at Large, I get to clearly, first hand, see all that Kanika accomplishes at the Member Club level and I am grateful to retain a very small piece of assisting her from time to time in my role. I hope that I can provide an added benefit to this effective organization even in a small way. And I have welcomed these opportunities to serve!

Respectively submitted,  
 Rozanne Van Rie (AWC Antwerp)  
 FAWCO Regional Coordinator at Large

### AWC Antwerp

This year has been full of activity for the AWC Antwerp. The first order of business was to renew the club's website. The challenge was taken on by a committee with much of the work being done by Tharien van Eck the Vice President. The club now has an updated website with relevant and updated news and pictures. In this way we hope to reach more ladies who will be interested in joining the club. The AWC Antwerp is celebrating its 95th year anniversary in February 2024. There is a Founders Day committee which has spent a lot of time organizing and planning the activities for the Founders Day Weekend. The Antwerp City Hall has invited the club to the city hall for a reception to celebrate. The Ambassador of the United States, Ambassador Michael Adler, will be on hand to congratulate the club as well as the Vice Mayor of Antwerp, Nabilla Ait Daoud. There will be a luncheon planned after the reception at Bistrot Benoit where new members will receive their club pins and other members will be honored for their years in the club. On Friday, there will be two different tours of the city available for members to participate in. On Saturday evening, the Founders Day events will culminate in a roaring 20s Great Gatsby Party to be held at the West Park event center. It will be a weekend of festivities for members to enjoy and celebrate.

The past year the club has been faced with the challenge of finding suitable and affordable locations for the monthly meetings. The club has also been challenged to find new philanthropic projects to sponsor and participate in because the philanthropy position is not filled this year.

I would like for the club to have several new philanthropy projects and for every member to volunteer in some way during the course of the year.

Carol Brazle, President

### AWC Brussels

**Mission:** The AWC of Brussels is a friendly organization bringing together American and other expats with cultural activities, social activities and once a year an international trip. Many of our members have married a Belgian or European spouse so they have a long-term membership.

Our monthly focus is on a sewing group that makes heart pillows from scratch for women who have had a mastectomy due to breast cancer. Our annual focus is on fundraising for children via our longstanding "Angel Tree" program (over 350 Christmas gifts were wrapped and given to several Belgian organizations last year). We also support many other charitable associations that support the local community, such as helping children to go on a seashore holiday in the summertime.

We continue to support FAWCO by sending board members to the annual conference and donating to key programs. Last year we again donated to the Target Program.

In September, about 30 members went for a four day trip to Normandy to visit the D-Day beaches, museums, lovely sights, restaurants and more. We don't forget to have some fun days for ourselves too, such as cooking

classes, book club, Fourth of July party, nice lunches, wine tastings, evening outings in a restaurant or a jazz club. Much more is coming up this year, so look for our 2024 FAWCO report!!

Florence Jeannine, President

### **AWC Amsterdam**

AWC Amsterdam had a great 2023! We continue to support our diverse membership, which includes two active subgroups in Haarlem and Het Gooi. We have increased our philanthropic endeavors and worked to strengthen our ties within FAWCO.

Members interact through several events, often including food and drink, such as cheap & cheerful dinners, pub nights, and mix & mingles. Mah jong and cooking club returned to the calendar this year, and shopping events (thrifting, store events) have proven popular. Art on the Move included a visit to the once-in-a-lifetime Vermeer exhibit and a Versace Retrospective. The Excursions Team actively brings us around, and outside the city, most recently visited Belgian Christmas markets. Haarlem and Het Gooi regular programming includes movie nights, book clubs, walking, crafting, and wine tastings. We match newcomers with neighborhood sisters, hold coffee mornings, and assist members experiencing hardship. We promote inclusivity through conversations about racism and gender, and were set to have our second PRIDE pop-up picnic, which was unfortunately canceled due to weather. We communicate primarily through Facebook, a one-way WhatsApp group, and Tulip Talk.

Philanthropy includes a team that has a monthly cooking date (sloppy joes!) at the de Kloof Men's Shelter. It has connected AWCA members with Serve the City for one-time volunteer events. This included cleaning chicken coops at a petting zoo, making pancakes for the homeless, sponsoring Sinterklaas gifts for children and creating Reverse Advent Calendars. Haarlem has worked to support Stichting Holland Ukraine. Our club awarded two €1,500 scholarships to members/children raised through a 50/50 Raffle. In the village of Opijnen, we continue to support the service member memorial. The caretakers of the memorial gave a riveting presentation at our General Meetings.

Regarding FAWCO, the AWCA hosted a successful Region 4 Meeting; and member Meredith Mani chairs the DEIB Team. Two children of club members were selected as FAWCO Cultural Volunteers in Zurich, and our Haarlem group updates Clubs in Motion. To increase awareness, we provided a FAWCO 101 at our first meeting and collaborated with AWC The Hague by including each other's members at our events. AWCA members nominated FAWCO's current Target Project, Awesome Blossoms. The team attends FAWCO events and regional meetings as a means of support. The AWCA set a record with our annual Share Your Gifts for Good Auction, raising over €11,000. Philanthropy partnered with Haarlem's Ceramic Center, where artisans crafted bowls that participants purchased and then used to enjoy soup and chili. This fun event raised over €2,200. Currently, our donations total over \$22,000.

The AWCA has faced some challenges. Expenses have increased for spaces to hold our monthly meetings, which has reduced our monthly general meetings from two to one. Maintaining membership and filling volunteer roles continues to prove difficult. We hope to find new ways to resolve these issues. Towards the end of the year, we reached a crossroads in relation to the club's identity. A past president has facilitated conversation through Town Halls and the Board has surveyed membership to help us navigate this path. It is an opportunity for redefinition and we are optimistic that we will emerge stronger, more focused, and able to deliver even better value to our members. We look forward to 2024!

Madeline Hendricks, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC The Hague**

Our club has a long list of inspiring women who have been profiled in FAWCO's 2023 online magazine. Georgia Regnault shared stories about how her intentions to live one year in The Netherlands turned into 50. Chelsea Wald talked about writing her book, *Pipe Dreams The Urgent Global Quest to Transform the Toilet*. Emily van Eerten talked about Goodbyes and New Beginnings when featured as the FAWCO "Pandemic President." Roberta Enschedé spoke about how she brings American culture to the Netherlands through shared history and common values. The Awesome Blossoms handbag auction held on October 12 included four members of AWC Amsterdam. Bidders and buyers walked away with stylish handbags and through their generosity we are listed as an FAWCO Foundation Orchid donor. In March 2023, AWC The Hague attended the FAWCO Biennial

Conference in Slovakia. It was great to mix and mingle with members and explore the history and sites of Bratislava. Eight members attended, including our FAWCO Counselors, Environment Team and outgoing FAWCO president Emily van Eerten who used her leadership skills to inspire, motivate and show us how to be *stronger and better together*. We continue to sponsor the FAWCO Foundation Arts Award. This donation was made by the family and friends in loving memory of Jessie Rodell, former President of the AWC of The Hague, and her son, Quinn Rodell.

I am resigning my Rep position after the Porto conference. My replacement, Natalie Malis will be taking over - let's grow more local champions!

Mary Adams, FAWCO Representative

## Belgium

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### American Women's Club Antwerp

**Website:** [awcantwerp.org](http://awcantwerp.org)

**Founded:** 1929

**Joined:** 1931

**Membership Total:** 93

**Dues:** €80

**Mission:** Our purpose is to create a center for social, cultural and philanthropic activities for American women in the Antwerp area.

**Charities:** University Hospital Middelheim/Caring Hearts (€10000), Caring Heart's Pillow Project, Royal Ballet School Flanders, Sisters of the Little One, FAWCO Target Project

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### American Women's Club of Brussels

**Website:** [awcb.org](http://awcb.org)

**Founded:** 1949

**Joined:** 1950

**Membership Total:** 88

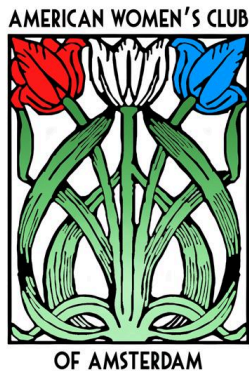
**Dues:** €100

**Mission:** Create a welcoming and supportive community where members and their families share interest in American Culture and the English language. Provide social, cultural, and philanthropic activities to help our members and their families achieve their fullest potential. Encourage an awareness and understanding of Belgian culture.

**Charities:** Residence Tombeekheyde, Red Cross Refugee Center Alsemberg, Centre de Prévention des Violences Conjugales et Familiales, Oasis Belgium, La Cite Joyeuse, Centre Nos Pilifs, AOMDA, FAWCO Target Projects

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## The Netherlands



### American Women's Club of Amsterdam

**Website:** [awca.nl](http://awca.nl)

**Founded:** 1927

**Joined:** 1971

**Membership Total:** 306

**Dues:** €100

**Mission:** The AWCA emphasizes a cohesive and nurturing community for American women and international women with close American ties. The Club works closely with local charities and liaises with Dutch/American businesses and organizations. The AWCA is about: Experiencing the Netherlands while honoring American traditions • Involving members in the community and with philanthropic causes • Participating in cultural, educational, sport, and family activities • Supporting one another and building lifelong friendships • Networking with other professionals

**Charities:** Scholarships, Safe Spaces, Not For Sale, De Kloof, The Kiran Anjali Project Gender Equality Curriculum



### American Women's Club of The Hague

**Website:** [awcthehague.org](http://awcthehague.org)

**Founded:** 1930

**Joined:** 1931

**Membership Total:** 177

**Dues:** €110

**Mission:** Our primary goal is to serve as a support network for American women living and working in The Netherlands.

**Charities:** FAWCO Target Project Hope Beyond Displacement, Heart Pillow Project

## Region 5: Austria, Germany and Moldova

### AWA Vienna

Overall, the year 2023 has been a mixed bag for AWA Vienna. Despite a significant drop in membership, AWA Vienna has increased its number of activities, events and tours. Moreover, AWA Vienna hosted the highly successful FAWCO 2023 Biennial Conference in Bratislava and fostered collaboration with sister clubs. AWA Vienna offers a wide range of monthly activities, catering to various interests such as weekly meetups, language classes, coffee gatherings, wine nights, yoga, and walking and running groups. The club also engages in charity work, raising donations for projects such as Die Moewe, FAWCO Target Project, Give a Gift, which benefits children in need, and giving their time partnering and mentoring mothers that need assistance, knitting hats for the homeless and cooking meals and baking cookies for the homeless through the Franziskanerkirche. In 2024 AWA Vienna will work towards attracting new members as it celebrates its 100th year anniversary.

Beverly Bachmayer, FAWCO Representative

### AWC Berlin

The American Women's Club of Berlin (AWC Berlin) presently has 312 members with 83 new members in 2023. Americans (US passport holders and wives/children of US citizens) make up 61% of our membership, while the remaining 39% come from 33 different countries.

In 2023, 28 members offered their time and talents to make 300 events happen for 4289 registrations from 253 members, which means 85% of our members have attended at least one event. The majority of our events have returned to in-person meetings, but our Women & Finance and select Book Club and Speakers Series meetings take place via Zoom to facilitate participation by members or guest speakers who are away from Berlin. We launched a new event in September: the School Fair of Bilingual and International Schools, hosted by the Allied



Museum. In addition, we enjoyed celebrating together as a club at six Monthly Membership Meetings, as well as Special Events including our July 4th BBQ, Welcome Back Party, Thanksgiving, and Holiday Party.

In 2023, AWC Berlin raised €1,705 to benefit the FAWCO Target Project Awesome Blossoms and nearly €800 for our current local charity, the ReDi School of Digital Integration. In addition, we resumed our quarterly cooking for the families at our long-term local charity, the Ronald McDonald House Berlin-Wedding, and committed to sponsor an apartment there for 2024. Our members also volunteered regularly at Berliner Tafel, the city's food bank.

Lastly, in keeping with our philanthropic missions, our Annual General Meeting on December 16, 2023, took place at the Berliner Stadtmission. We elected the AWC Berlin 2024 Board at this meeting. We look forward to celebrating our Club's 130th anniversary in 2024!

Jennifer Post Dräger, President

### **AIWC Cologne**

In 2023, the American International Women's Club of Cologne (AIWCC) continued to develop as a club with some important amendments being proposed to the organization's constitution, streamlining governance and clarifying via gender-neutral language that all English-speaking persons who support the Club's purpose are welcome. These suggestions sparked some very thoughtful debate. A vote will occur in early 2024. In the meantime, we continued in 2023 to support our two chosen charities: The 2023–2025 Target Project, Awesome Blossoms, and innatura, a Cologne-based nonprofit that provides factory-new goods to nonprofit organizations at deeply reduced rates. The focus of both of these programs is the environment, as innatura supports sustainable business practices by aiding businesses to distribute to charitable organizations quality products that would normally be destroyed due to something like a typographical mistake on the packaging. In November 2023, a group of AIWCC members toured the innatura warehouse, explored the new kitchen sponsored by our Club and packaged over 12,000 pencils. In addition to supporting these charities, Club members participated in two clean-up days in 2023, picking up trash to help keep Cologne beautiful. Finally, participation in FAWCO continues to be highly valued by many of our members. In 2023, we were proud to hold the following FAWCO, FAWCO Foundation, and FAUSA positions: FAWCO Foundation President; FAWCO VP of Communications; FAWCO Education Team Co-Chair; FAWCO Resolutions and Recommendations Committee Member; UN Representatives to Bonn; FAWCO Social Media Manager, Inspiring Women Magazine Editor; FAWCO Foundation Education Award Administrator; FAWCO Foundation Silent Auction Coordinator; and FAUSA's FAWCO Liaison.

Michelle Miller, FAWCO Representative

### **AIWC Düsseldorf**

The AIWCD had a wonderful year. While we are proud of everything we do, we are thrilled that we raised €20,000 for various charitable causes. We combined our charity efforts with being part of our community. These fund-raiser events included a piano concert for earthquake relief, Halloween party and Easter Egg Hunt; all in partnership with local international schools. We also fulfilled Christmas wish lists for women's and children's organizations. Our club continues to grow and provide support to a diverse membership from around the world. Our members are committed and involved, eagerly participating in our ongoing regular events and activities. Overall, 2023 was an exciting, vibrant and fruitful year for the AIWCD. We hope 2024 is even better, though that's hard to imagine.

Jawahara Saidullah, President and FAWCO Representative

### **AIWC Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main**

In 2023, AIWC Frankfurt thrived post-pandemic, welcoming 83 new members, expanding our global community to 300+! Our club continues to nurture cultural exchange, personal development, and charitable efforts, creating mutual support within broader communities. With an active social calendar featuring 346 (!) events in 2023, AIWC Frankfurt curated abundant opportunities for members to connect and grow. Monthly events, including All Club Coffees/After Darks, and diverse meetups, enriched our community. The tennis league persevered despite the loss of captain Barbara Merlino, a member for over 40 years. Special events enriched our calendar, including a summer evening cruise along the Main River, and signature gatherings like the

Welcome Back Picnic, Thanksgiving luncheon, and Holiday Luncheon. The Welcome Back Picnic in early September is a unique celebration, allowing members to observe two important American holidays, the 4th of July and Labor Day. Our traditional Thanksgiving luncheon allowed us to celebrate friendship and was complemented by a member/activity group-led fundraiser that generated funds for our two 2023 charities. The Holiday Luncheon, held at the US Consul General's residence, was a lovely event, preceded by our biannual General Membership Meeting. The impactful inaugural International Women's Day luncheon and the revival of the Working Women group were notable achievements in 2023. AIWC Frankfurt continued to actively promote FAWCO engagement, integrating FAWCO events into its calendar and hosting a virtual 2023 FAWCO 101 with FAWCO's 2nd VP Member Clubs Kanika Holloway at the helm. Emphasizing community building, AIWC Frankfurt 2023 philanthropy included supporting the FAWCO Target Project and a local Hessian charity. Fundraisers such as cooking classes, a Kenyan potluck dinner, and a scavenger hunt enriched our philanthropic endeavors. In July 2023, we co-sponsored a fundraiser with the New England Patriots and raised almost €23,000 for Frauennotruf Frankfurt, our 2023 local charity.

Dana Fritchie, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Hamburg**

The American Women's Club of Hamburg had a fantastic year! We saw the return of our in-person events and even added some new events to our regularly scheduled program. After losing some members due to the pandemic and moving back to the USA, our membership numbers officially reached 200 members this year. Our biggest accomplishment as a club this year was hosting the Region 5 Meeting in November! We had about 80 members attend from our region and beyond. It was a huge success, and we were so excited to be able to host Awesome Blossoms, the FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation boards, and several great workshops. We're proud of this meeting and how it turned out!

We implemented a new logo, branding, and website this past summer. A labor of love for several months (and talked about for years!), it felt good to introduce this new era of the club to our members. We also focused on creating events like Social Hours or Meet & Mingle to encourage our members to connect in informal settings. These were breakfasts, brunches, lunches, dinners, and cocktail hours which helped to attract a variety of members from all around the city. In the first half of the year, we held several successful in-person events, including the Annual General Meeting, pre-loved book sale, Women's Day event, and a Fourth of July celebration through Hamburg's waterways. Our members also participated in a virtual fitness challenge through European national parks, monuments, and seashores, culminating with our members doing 16,460 kilometers. In addition, our members continue to participate in virtual events organized by FAWCO, FAWCO Member Clubs, the US Embassy, and local organizations. During the second half of the year, we always have some of our most beloved club celebrations, including our Thanksgiving dinner for families, cookie exchange at the Consul General's house, and our members' Holiday Party. Our groups within the club (e.g., Film Group, Currents Magazine, Book Club, Opera Club, Art Group, Walking Groups, Harbor Explorers, Mahjong Group, Photography Group, Theater Group, and Stitch 'n' Bitch) have remained active with a very filled events and activities calendar! Charitable activities continue to be a pivotal part of our club! We continued our support of our local charity, Hanseatic Help e. V. Due to an influx of refugees in Hamburg and throughout Germany, we supported Hanseatic Help by volunteering in their warehouse (on a biweekly basis), donating clothing and hygiene products, and holding awareness events and fundraisers. Our own internal charity, From the Heart Pillow Project, raised money for supplies to make heart pillows and drainage bottle bags for breast cancer patients here in Hamburg. Like previous years, we ran a Thanksgiving food drive for a local food bank and participated in a charity run for women's shelters in Hamburg. Lastly, our online auction this autumn raised almost €3,000 for FAWCO's Target Project. Our biweekly digital newsletter keeps us up to date, and our triannual digital/printed magazine provides overviews of the club's activities and FAWCO, as well as a forum for themes and ideas of members. In addition, two special magazine supplements focused on international film festivals. We had a fantastic 2023 as a club and are excited to see what 2024 holds for us!

Jordan Beck Wagner, FAWCO Representative

### **Heidelberg IWC**

In January 2023, the Heidelberg IWC completed its fifth year. Our first event where we all met up was our AGM and fifth birthday celebration where we had an auction for fundraising. We have a lot of talented members and

several offered to auction off their skills and we raised €500 for the FAWCO Target Project. Club President Marcella Vermeer and Vice President Lesley Klewinghaus stayed on for a second year. The Treasurer was Mary Manning, and FAWCO Rep Virginia Trowman. The Club was supported by members in coordinating positions for membership, social media, activities, events and charities to help guide and manage the Club. Activities & Events: A lot of events were organized, but in the first part of the year, we struggled to get any commitment from the members so events were sometimes canceled due to very low numbers. It always turned out to be the same people, usually the board, who registered and attended the events. We put this down to the COVID-19 pandemic and people struggling to go back to socializing. Our most popular event has been our Book Club potluck which is always well attended. We had some teething problems with our new website which meant members couldn't access it and it wasn't so easy to see the events. So we had a regular Monday WhatsApp message sent out to all the members to remind them of the week's events. We had a new event, Let's Talk Sex, where we discussed a host of topics and were guided through the subjects by a member who was a couples therapist. After the summer holidays, our events were better attended. This year for International Women's Day we joined forces with another women's club. We organized an English tour of the BUGA garden show which took place in Mannheim. We had several events where we managed a stand selling food and homemade products, raising money for our local charities and for the Target Project. We handed over another 100 heart pillows and knitted socks to the NCT. Dinner club was restarted and we tested out some great restaurants. In October, Juliah Rais-Morres stepped in as acting president as Marcella had other commitments and could not give the Club her full attention. Juliah went on to organize our Thanksgiving event which was well attended by members and their families. We finished the year with a Christmas market where we sold food and handmade products and we had a fantastic Christmas party. We also saw an influx of new members and finished the year with about 70 members. FAWCO Meetings: five of our members attended the Interim Meeting in Bratislava in March. The Region 5 meeting in Hamburg was attended by seven members where we took part in the Market Place, selling handcrafted items and managed to raise over €400 for the Target Project.

Virginia Trowman, FAWCO Representative

### **IWC Leipzig**

Our club year runs from July 1 to June 30, but I will provide the information for the calendar year 2023. There are several highlights worth reporting: 1. 25th anniversary celebration in May 2023. The former board (responsible until June 30, 2023) organized a wonderful get-together with the fantastic help of many club members. There were visitors from many other IWCs in Europe and we all had a great time: tours of Leipzig, meetings on several topics and a dance night every woman enjoyed. 2. Project "Preparing the club for the future." After the new board was elected in May, the spirit of the get-together is still very much alive. We have modernized and updated almost all sectors of the club's administration (the ones remaining are being worked on), have gained a lot of new members (through some additional offers, a very attractive website and through a lot of new networking in Leipzig). Also, we are committed to our charity work. 3. Holiday Bazaar: This is our big charity event every year. We had a grand room for the bazaar in 2023, overlooking Leipzig's Christmas market. Thanks to the fabulous team and our generous members, we were able to raise a substantial amount of money for the four organizations in Leipzig we support. 4. Joining FAWCO: This is another highlight for our club. After getting to know FAWCO in November in Hamburg, our club decided to join. It's exciting to be part of this network. And great to meet so many inspiring women. Looking forward to seeing you in Porto!

Ute McKendry, President

### **Munich IWC**

In 2023, the Munich International Women's Club (MIWC) embarked on a dynamic journey, weaving together cultural exchange, philanthropy, and adaptability, showcasing the strength and resilience of its diverse membership. Representing MIWC on the international stage, four members attended the FAWCO annual conference in Bratislava, fostering global connections. Additionally, another four members participated in the Region 5 meeting in Hamburg, deepening ties with neighboring communities.

The club's commitment to charitable causes shone through with a donation supporting the FAWCO Target Project and a remarkable €10,000 raised through the biannual Auction of Talents, benefitting various club charities. In a spirited display of unity and determination, MIWC members collectively walked an astounding 40,322 kilometers - more than the circumference of the EARTH!

The year unfolded with joyful social gatherings, including a visit to a beer garden and a festive holiday lunch. These events offered members the chance to reconnect, fostering a sense of joy and community. MIWC's diverse monthly activities continued to thrive, encompassing long hikes, English and German book clubs, multilingual conversation groups, museum tours, and poolside hangouts. These activities underscore the club's dedication to providing a range of engaging opportunities for its members.

Membership flourished in 2023, welcoming 28!! new individuals into the MIWC community. The club looks forward to sustaining this positive trend in the future. This year MIWC welcomed a new president, and the increased utilization of our meeting location provided members with more time and space for collaboration and connection. In response to changing circumstances, the club navigated the challenges of combining in-person and virtual meetings. Despite initial difficulties, MIWC exhibited resilience, particularly when faced with train strikes that impacted members relying on the S-Bahn.

As MIWC reflects on the accomplishments of 2023, the club remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering friendship, cultural exchange, and charitable giving, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive community for years to come.

Anitra Kitts, FAWCO Representative

### **IWC Moldova**

In January, IWCM made a donation to the Emilian Coțaga Children's Republican Clinical Hospital Clinica "Emilian Coțaga" for the ophthalmologist's department, including a Slit Lamp, Keratometer Autorefractor and Workplace furniture such as chair, tables, and other necessary equipment. This equipment is very important for the correct diagnosis of patients because the hospital is unique in Moldova because it is performing eye surgeries for children. In February, as decided by the IWCM board, we decided to allocate funds in the amount of 20,000 MDL and purchase heaters to help the victims of the earthquake in Turkey. This humanitarian aid was delivered to the Embassy of Türkiye. In March, we donated furniture for the beneficiaries of palliative center Hospices of Hope Moldova. We also organized a silent auction of paintings by Ukrainian artists "Make Art, Not War," a charity event for refugees. In April, with sweets and board games, we visited Centre Phoenix which assists children with disabilities who permanently reside at this center, and spent a day full of creative activities together. Also, we bought Easter gifts for 52 families of immigrants from Ukraine, which offers charitable support for refugee children. In June, for our special project for the 1st of June, when the whole world celebrates International Children's Day, we visited the Community Center for Children and Youth 'Andries' with a clown, gifts, books and Metro gift vouchers for 27 children without parents, who are raised by Professional Parental Assistants. The African Fashion Show, a first-of- its- kind event about African history and culture, especially from Sierra Leone and West Africa, presented both fashion and traditional accessories. On November 26, 2023, at Palatul Republicii, a chance was given to every visitor to travel around the world in just a few hours. We hosted the 25th Edition of the INTERNATIONAL CHARITY BAZAAR, Moldova, our main fundraising event of the year, where we raised 615000 lei.

Maria Marinuta, Administrator

## Austria

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### American Women's Association of Vienna

**Website:** [awavienna.com](http://awavienna.com)

**Founded:** 1924

**Joined:** 1931

**Membership Total:** 290

**Dues:** €96

**Mission:** AWA Vienna is an international community of English-speaking women with over 250 members from 40 countries. Our purpose is to provide a social network for international women, and to enhance cultural exchange and cooperation between our members and our Austrian host country community. We also raise funds and provide assistance to community organizations that help women, children and families.

**Charities:** Caritas, Franziskanerkirche, DieMoewe

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## Germany

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### American Women's Club of Berlin

**Website:** [awcberlin.org](http://awcberlin.org)

**Founded:** 1931, 1994

**Joined:** 1994

**Membership Total:** 312

**Dues:** €50

**Mission:** is a social network with a charitable calling. The AWC Berlin provides a forum for women to share information and experiences, to meet friends and engage in inspiring and fun activities, all while helping and empowering others along the way.

**Charities:** Ronald McDonald House, JACK Berlin, Ascend Athletics

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### American International Women's Club of Cologne

**Website:** [aiwccologne.org](http://aiwccologne.org)

**Founded:** 1961

**Joined:** 1971

**Membership Total:** 149

**Dues:** €60

**Mission:** The American International Women's Club of Cologne e.V. ("Club") shall pursue, exclusively and directly, social and charitable goals relating to furthering understanding among peoples, within the meaning of the section of the German tax laws defining "steuerbegünstigte Zwecke" (tax privileged purposes). A. The purpose of the Club shall be achieved as follows: 1. The support of members and their families living in the Cologne area as they adjust to life in Germany, through information and advice relating to life in Cologne, as well as through the provision of contact persons with common cultural interests etc. 2. The provision of a forum in which to speak English. 3. The advancement of cultural exchange among Americans, Germans, and other nationalities via discussion and activities relating to themes of common interest, as well as through the offer to make instruction in the English language available to schools in Cologne. 4. The support of local and world-wide initiatives.

**Charities:** Target Project, Bunter Kreis Rheinland, A Mother's Love

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### American Women's Club of Düsseldorf, e.V.

**Website:** [awcduesseldorf.org](http://awcduesseldorf.org)

**Founded:** 1959

**Joined:** 1971

**Membership Total:** 227

**Dues:** €65

**Mission:** Our Constitution states: The purpose of the Club is: 1. To advance international understanding; to assist Americans and their families living in the Düsseldorf area; to provide support as they adjust to life in Germany; to advance cultural exchanges among Americans, Germans, and other nationalities; and to inform members about issues of interest to Americans; 2. To support education, the upbringing of minors, the care of the elderly, and the assistance of those in need within the scope of Section 53 of the German Tax Code (AO).

**Charities:** Mitternachtsmissio, Frauenberatungsstelle Neuss, German-American Friends Niederrhein, International Library, Frauen Helfen Frauen Düsseldorf, Knackpunkt



### American International Women's Club Frankfurt Taunus Rhein-Main

**Website:** [aiwcfrankfurt.org](http://aiwcfrankfurt.org)

**Founded:** 1971

**Joined:** 1978

**Membership Total:** 307

**Dues:** €75

**Mission:** The AIWC provides friendship and support amongst women and families, who are living in the Rhein-Main area, and facilitates their efforts to integrate into the German community and stay connected with a variety of activities, services, and social, sports, and hobby groups. Additionally, we take great pleasure and pride in serving our community throughout the year. Every year we raise money from our AWCT events, such as at our yearly Spring Charity Event, to give to local charitable organizations. Our members have volunteered in a variety of ways such as supporting children's pediatric units, training dogs for the disabled, establishing scholarships for local children and assisting women's organizations.

**Charities:** Die Arche (2020-2021), Tierheim Hattersheim (2021), S.A.F.E. (2020-2021), Markus Krankenhaus (2021), BadSodenHelft (2022), Projekt, Lebenshilfe (2022)



### American Women's Club of Hamburg

**Website:** [awchamburg.org](http://awchamburg.org)

**Founded:** 1956

**Joined:** 1976

**Membership Total:** 200

**Dues:** €45

**Mission:** Our club purpose is to advance international understanding; to assist American women and their families living in the Hamburg area and to provide support as they adjust to life in Germany; to advance cultural exchanges among American, German and other nationalities; and to inform members about issues of interest to Americans. We support education, the upbringing of minors and the assistance of those in need within the scope of the German tax laws. The AWC Hamburg pursues, exclusively and directly, social and charitable goals.

**Charities:** From the Heart Pillow, FAWCO Target Project, Hamburger Tafel, Integral Tribal Watershed Development Programme, Hanseatic Help



### Heidelberg International Women's Club

**Website:** [heidelbergiwc.org](http://heidelbergiwc.org)

**Founded:** 2018

**Joined:** 2018

**Membership Total:** 52

**Dues:** €50

**Mission:** The Heidelberg International Women's Club is a club for English-speaking women living in Heidelberg and the surrounding Rhine-Neckar region. We are an all-volunteer, non-political, non-religious charitable nonprofit organization. Women of all nationalities, ages and backgrounds are welcome! In addition to being a connection point and support network for each other, we give back to our local and global community through volunteering and charitable fundraising. We support efforts that focus on women and girls and currently are engaged in a few charitable projects.

**Charities:** Cooking for Hope, FAWCO Target Project, NCT Cancer Research & Family Support, Children's Future International, Meaningful Masks Project



### International Women's Club Leipzig e. V.

**Website:** N/A

**Founded:** 1988

**Joined:** 2023

**Membership Total:** 89

**Mission:** Women support Women, supporting an international spirit in Leipzig, charity activities



### Munich International Women's Club

**Website:** [internationalwomensclub.org](http://internationalwomensclub.org)

**Founded:** 1990

**Joined:** 2010

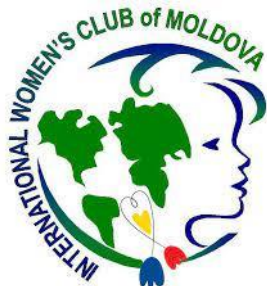
**Membership Total:** 200

**Dues:** €50

**Mission:** The Munich International Women's Club e.V. (MIWC) is a social club acting as a source of contact to English-speaking women of all ages and nationalities living in Munich and the surrounding region. We became a member of FAWCO in 2010 and through this umbrella organization have contact with other German groups, as well as those in other countries.

**Charities:** Frauenhaus, NEEDED Burkina Faso, FAWCO Target Project, Safe House

## Moldova



### International Women's Club of Moldova

**Website:** N/A

**Founded:** 2014

**Joined:** 2022

**Membership Total:** 56

## Region 6: Liechtenstein and Switzerland

I am very new to my position and just trying to learn. I have recently reached out to the club Presidents. I would like to plan a regional this year and start to connect the different clubs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karyn Wynn  
Region 6 Coordinator

### AWC Liechtenstein

The American Women's Club of Liechtenstein/Rheintal is a non-profit, voluntary club with 35 members. We are pleased seven new members joined us this year. We are a wonderful and diverse group of women, some who are working, mothers with small children, retirees, young adults and college students. Our purpose, as a social-oriented club, is to develop friendships among American women in the area, to actively support them with their integration and provide various activities to share. We have a Hospitality Committee that welcomes new members and helps them connect to the club members and activities.

Even though we are a small club, we offer a variety of events for our members. Our goal is to have at least one planned activity per month. Two of our youngest members, who also happen to be daughters of founding members, are responsible for our AWC Liechtenstein Instagram account and post our activities and photos. We invite you to join us. We use a WhatsApp Chat group for our members to share information, ask and answer questions for items they need, and offer help and support. We use the Poll option to help with activity planning to find a date that best fits the members' schedules.

We had a great selection of activities this year: Mini Golf, an exciting Escape Room event, Coffee get-togethers, two Ladies Nights and our annual October Potluck dinner, this time with a Mexican theme. For the first time, we had a Wine and Cheese tasting evening where we learned about and tasted some of the wines of the Rheintal region and everyone brought a piece of their favorite Swiss cheese. One of the beauties of such a small club is being able to meet in private homes. It underscores our purpose of being a family away from home.

Our President had the opportunity to meet up with the US Ambassador to Switzerland on two occasions: in March at the Pop-Up Embassy in Liechtenstein and at the 4th of July Party in Zürich.

The club hosted our three favorite annual events: 1. The July 4th Barbeque (in a wonderful new location, the Mais-Mühle Grabs). 2. The annual Thanksgiving dinner at a local Restaurant, which has hosted the AWC for many years. Next year we will have to find a new restaurant to host us due to the retirement of the cook and owner of this lovely restaurant. 3. Our fun Christmas "White Elephant" celebration with lots of laughter and great food, hosted by our club President at her beautiful home.

Kim Kühni  
FAWCO Representative

### AWC Basel

The AWC Basel started the 2023/2024 year off with the AGM in June, which provided us with a Board of both returning and new members. Our youngest Board member, who is still in University and "a lot" younger than some of us, has been a joy to have on the Board. Unfortunately, the position of FAWCO Rep was not able to be filled. Hopes are high for the upcoming elections in June.

We have continued the AWC fundraising efforts for our local charity, Art-Therapy Basel, which supports art therapy projects for children in Basel hospitals. Club membership has remained fairly stable. The reimplementation of our "monthly programs" has been extremely successful, with a variety of afternoon and evening programs covering both cultural and social topics. AWC Basel was selected as one of 10 local organizations to act as "ambassadors" to the Theater. The Club has access to premiers at ballets, operas and theater, and in return we provided membership to all English speaking women associated with the Theater. We have added two new interest groups this year, Music Appreciation and Dining Out. The Music ladies are extremely enthusiastic and the Dining Out group has been a great mix of singles and couples, long term and new members. This year the Board has focused on activities to develop new members, regardless of nationality.



All Board members now have “business cards” with the Club contact details and QR code; we’ve generated a lot of interest just by passing these out to women we hear speaking English. We’re attending the Basel Expat Expo and the Basel International School Fair, where we’ll have Board members and interest group leaders available, as well as chocolate chip cookies for all who stop by. We’ll be offering a discounted membership for those who join on that day, as well as a raffle of a free one-year membership and basket of American “treasures.”

We’re still adapting to the changing roles, expectations and demographics of existing and potential members. We’ve found that many long-time residents who may not have been active while focusing on family and careers, are now looking for a new “community.” We’re hoping to provide that sense of community and involvement for women of all ages and nationalities.

Janet Ramp, President AWC Basel

### **AWC Bern**

At AWC Bern, we thrive on mingling. Our target is to hold two events per month, and I'm pleased to say that we met that goal. From ice skating in January to hosting a Bingo FAWCO fundraiser in March, each event is tailored to different interests. In addition, we host smaller clubs within our large club: book clubs, writing events, hiking groups, and more. This could explain why we had a 26% growth in membership from January to December 2023.

We aim to attract interest in FAWCO and our other charity partner, the Ronald McDonald House. The biggest hurdle is successfully reaching out to our members. With people's inboxes filled with newsletters, it's a challenge not to get lost in the crowd.

We would like to introduce monthly FAWCO webinars over the next year. Some members find participating in our in-person events challenging due to work or family conflicts. These webinars are a way for members to stay connected and feel included. Thank you for all FAWCO has done. It's truly a fantastic organization that we're thrilled to be a part of.

Veronica Ventura, FAWCO Representative

### **AWC Zürich**

Our club president Eleanor Paunovic, FAWCO Rep Lyla Taylor and member-at-large Wendy Cideciyan attended the yearly conference in Bratislava. They attended a variety of workshops on such subjects as club management and fundraising, women’s and children’s issues, the environment, and American taxes.

AWC Zurich hosted the 2023 FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteer Program for 12 teenagers from nine different Member Clubs from around the world. Lyla Taylor led a group of hard working and generous volunteers who helped the kids experience aspects of Swiss life and culture. Their activities included spending a day and night working at a Swiss farm and taking a trip to Geneva to tour the United Nations to better understand how it works.

Money was raised to support FAWCO activities through fun and funny Bingo evenings. FAWCO helped to establish the possibility of having a bank account through a federal credit union. So far members are still exploring this opportunity. We are working to educate our members about the Awesome Blossoms project in Nairobi.

Our club continues to participate in Clubs in Motion with both a Thursday morning Walking group and Core and More fitness program led by Patti Baumgartner. Wendy regularly joins a Zoom FAWCO Laughter Yoga group.

The Heart Pillow project was started to help women recovering from breast cancer surgery. Karen Carpenter led a group of volunteers to make 60 pillows on January 9, 2024 and then they were given to various hospitals.

Wendy Cideciyan, FAWCO Representative

## Liechtenstein

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### American Women's Club of Liechtenstein

**Website:** [awc-fl.net](http://awc-fl.net)

**Founded:** 1994

**Joined:** 1995

**Membership Total:** 35

**Dues:** CHF 75

**Mission:** We are located in the Rhein Valley and have members from three countries: Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Austria.

**Charities:** Diakonieverein Werdenberg/Kafihalle, "Verein Humanitarian Nothilfe Ukraine"

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## Switzerland

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### American Women's Club of Basel

**Website:** [awcbasel.org](http://awcbasel.org)

**Founded:** 1947

**Joined:** 1952

**Membership Total:** 110

**Dues:** CHF 80

**Mission:** The American Women's Club of Basel is a nonprofit social and philanthropic organization that was founded in 1947 and currently has about 82 members. It is a group of very diverse backgrounds, interests and ages, but all with a connection to the USA. Membership is open to English-speaking women that would like to participate in AWC Basel activities. Our members support a variety of philanthropic causes, have fun, make life-long friends and find the support they need while facing the challenges of living abroad.

**Charities:** SAHARA, Future For Ritschow, Beautiful After Breast Cancer, Soup n Chill

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### American Women's Club of Bern

**Website:** [awcbern.org](http://awcbern.org)

**Founded:** 1949

**Joined:** 1986

**Membership Total:** 93

**Dues:** CHF 60

**Mission:** AWC Bern is a non-political organization sponsoring social, cultural and charitable activities in and around Bern, Switzerland. Major programs include coffee mornings, holiday celebrations, speakers, tours, family events, discussion groups and charity fundraisers.

**Charities:** FAWCO Foundation - Dual Cultural Award, Ronald McDonald House

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### American Women's Club of Zürich

**Website:** [awczurich.org](http://awczurich.org)

**Founded:** 1931

**Joined:** 1931

**Membership Total:** 240

**Dues:** CHF 175

**Mission:** Founded in 1931, the American Women's Club of Zürich welcomes US and North American citizens and women of all nationalities who appreciate the American way of life. We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing opportunities for friendship and personal development. We also actively engage in philanthropic and community service projects in the greater Zürich region, throughout Switzerland and in the larger global community.

**Charities:** FAWCO Target – S.A.F.E. Safe Alternatives for FGM Elimination, Tischlein Deck Dich, FIZ (Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women and Victims of Trafficking), Terre des Hommes

## Region 7: Africa

The clubs in Region 7 include Kenya, Casablanca and Rabat in Morocco, and Lagos in Nigeria. Given the vast geographical distance between these clubs, a regional conference is practically impossible. For many years, up until 2019, an Inter-Morocco meeting was held with the Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakech clubs. Also, it should be noted that it is difficult for the clubs in this region to attend the FAWCO annual conference because travel is expensive, and the clubs spend most of their funds on local charity associations. Therefore, for the presidents and FAWCO representatives to attend, they must pay for most or all of the fees out of pocket. It is recommended that a virtual regional conference be explored. A Regional was planned in October 2023 for AIWC Casablanca and AIWA Rabat but was postponed due to the earthquake in September and will take place in January 2024. Communication with the clubs in Region 7 has been the greatest challenge. To create more interaction among the clubs, maybe we could try a Zoom meeting for the region for Presidents and Reps. Thank you to Kanika for attending the Region 7 meeting in January 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Smith-Ayed, AIWC Casablanca  
Region 7 Coordinator

### American Women's Association of Kenya

We regularly meet on Tuesdays and on the first Tuesday of every month, we hold informal gatherings in members' homes or at local cafes giving members, guests, and visitors a chance to meet and greet and to get to know each other's backgrounds, and cultures.

We held General Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month from January to June and September to December. These meetings included dynamic speakers on subjects ranging from health and well-being, women empowerment and some fun yoga interactive demonstrations.

Fourth Tuesdays of January to June and September to December were spent exploring Nairobi's Artisans, Wildlife, farms, and other places of interest and lunch with members. An afternoon High Tea at Hemingways was a highlight of the 5th Tuesday in months where we try to include an extra outing.

Special Events were held throughout the year including project visits with donations to Hope Babies Home, SJT Amka soap-making project empowering women with HIV, and a Limuru feeding program for the elderly. Other events included a Welcome Back Brunch, Mardi Gras Celebration, International Women's Day Coffee Morning, Pat Jentz's participation at the FAWCO Biennial Conference in Bratislava, our AWA's 65th Anniversary celebration, Bake Sale at the Race Course, Diwali Brunch and Garba dancing, and our Christmas PotLuck Brunch with a successful drive for food and clothing donations to support our projects.

Our 2023 fundraising activities included books, jewelry and bake sales, silent auctions, raffles, ways and means and other items donated by members to raise funds. As we plan for 2024 fundraising activities, we're focusing

on putting fun back into fundraising. We want to increase our membership and provide more support to our projects in addition to our quarterly donations for their food programs. We're also looking forward to a site visit to the Target Project, Awesome Blossoms and liaising with Peninah and Allan on behalf of FAWCO. We welcome being a part of their journey.

Fannie Kakonge, Chairwoman and Co-FAWCO Rep, Pat Jentz, Co-FAWCO Rep

### **American International Women's Club of Casablanca**

AIWC Casablanca (AIWCC) has about 80 paid members with about 65% Moroccan and the rest American or International. All meetings and events are held in English. The club has maintained monthly meetings with speakers starting with breakfast supplied by members. Regular activities continue, including a walking group, wading group, English conversation, scrabble, yoga, and tai-chi. On a monthly basis, we also usually have a potluck lunch or a lunch out at a restaurant, as well as a visit to one of the charities we support. Various fundraising activities are organized, including a two-day Winter Fair and one-day Spring Fair to raise money for the charities the club supports. A monthly newsletter with activities, upcoming events and FAWCO news is sent to members. AIWCC also has a website and a Facebook group (private).

In February, there was a day trip to Rabat for members to visit a Jewelry museum and the Kasbah (old city). In May, a fundraising fashion show was held with caftans designed by member Samira Allali. She was featured in the September issue of *Inspiring Women* magazine! In October, there was a day trip by high speed train to Tangiers, a visit to Cap Sparta where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, The American Legation (a non-profit study and research center) and the medina (old city).

Annual elections are held in April for board positions. Committees are appointed for the following: Membership, Welcoming, Environment, Charity, Communication, Vendor Coordination for Fairs, and FAWCO. Every year in October, the board meets to review charity requests sent in from the liaisons (club members involved with individual charities). Charities can only apply every other year. At the October general meeting checks are given to representatives of these charities. This year available charity funds in the amount of \$28,000 were given to the following: 1. Nassim Bidaoui - \$3,000 table tennis (ping pong) teams for disadvantaged students. Tables, equipment, balls, shirts. 2. Goutte de lait \$5,000 machine for mechanical syringes 3. AMARDEV \$3,000 braille paper, software. 4. ALPC Maroc \$5,000 - for physical education equipment for handicapped children. 5. Relais/Prison \$3,000 To finish buying- kitchen equipment for training classes. 6. Operation Smile- \$5,000 - medical supplies

Cynthia Smith-Ayed, FAWCO Rep, Communications Team, Counselor

### **American International Women's Association of Rabat**

This year AIWA-Rabat was pleased to support these important local associations with the funds that we raised from our Spring Fair and our annual Christmas Bazaar. We support many of our local charity associations: AMOS (l'Association Moussaoui pour les Oeuvre Sociales); Dar Taliba in Sidi Yahya, the Association Passerelle APEAP with centers in both Sale Jadida (for children) and Temara (for adults), where they work with children and adults who are autistic; the Association Patrimoine Culturel; the Centre Al Amal in Sale, which works with handicapped children and their families; Association Kaouthar (Children's Hospital); Mourouj School for children with disabilities; AMAL, center for children with disabilities in Sale; the Sale Patrimoine Culturel; ICHRAQA, center for children with autism; and Dar Taliba in Taza. We completed a joint venture between AIWA and the Latter-Day Saints Humanitarian Association to build part of the Adult Autistic Center in Temara. Four projects were completed: (1) Furnish the kitchen, (2) Provide beds for the living room for family members who spend the night, (3) Provide a leisure space for the adults to use after work, (4) The LDS Association also worked with another of our charitable organizations, the L'Avenir Association, and provided beds and computers. Lastly,

AIWA-Rabat sponsored a Ramadan Food Baskets Drive which distributed baskets to the Centre Al Amal in Sale that works with handicapped children and their families.

Nancy Lukas-Slaoui, President

### **The American Women's Club of Lagos**

The AWC Lagos continues with its mission of fostering goodwill and mutual understanding between Nigeria, our host country and the American Community resident in Lagos. We continue with our quest to promote philanthropy, scholarship for Nigerian Students and the rights of women and children, and continuously provide a safe haven community for American families coming into Nigeria.

The American Women's Club of Lagos is a well-known and respected Club within the American Community in Nigeria. It provides a catalyst for social, cultural, educational, and recreational gatherings. This past year, we renewed and strengthened our relations with the US Consulate and the American Citizens Services in Lagos. We had the privilege of inviting staff and representatives to our meetings and some have joined the Club and have become part of the AWC Family. We also conferred an honorary membership on the wife of the Consul General in accordance with our bylaws. In November, 2023, she opened her home to us and we had a fun, successful annual Tea event.

This past year has been a remarkable journey for our club, filled with exciting activities and meaningful contributions to our community. We started the year focusing on continuity, building connections, and strengthening our fundraising activities. We partnered with the Small World Organization (an International Women's Organization devoted to charity activities) to continue our support for the charity, Dreams from the Slum. Dreams from the Slum, located in the Olodi-Apapa area of Lagos State, is an initiative committed to making the dreams of vulnerable persons living in remote and desolate communities a reality through Education, Empowerment, and Mentorship. The initiative reaches out majorly to children and young mothers. With the funds raised, Dreams from the Slum was able to expand and renovate their school, provide meals, and purchase needed school supplies including computers to support technical literacy.

While we give to the communities around us, we also focus on giving back and empowering the women in our Club. Our Women's Development program (WDP) is continuously looking for diverse and fun ways to empower our members. Our last workshop's theme was 'Know yourself...Grow yourself... Build authentic connections' and the keynote address was on 'Women and Why Authentic Identity Matters' by Gladys Agwai, CEO, Ignite Within LLC (based in Atlanta, Georgia). She addressed us virtually. Workshop content included 'Gain a mirror for self-awareness and a window to better see others' and 'Building your own self confidence and increasing your ability to relate and connect with others'.

### **Key Achievements in 2023**

- Membership Growth – Our club has seen an increase in membership, bringing together a diverse group of individuals passionate about the Club's vision, as new women who have moved to Lagos have become more aware of the AWC Lagos.
- Organized networking and skill development sessions
- Launched initiative to contribute to community/social causes through the donation of funding, clothing, and books
- Collaborated with Partners/Organizations to raise awareness of the AWC Lagos and its commitment to supporting the community
- Regular monthly meetings: Women Fellowship events specifically focusing on self-development, mental and physical well-being, and growth and identity

In 2024, we will continue to drive a strategy to increase our membership and engagement of American women in Lagos in addition to expanding community outreach programs and hosting major events to enhance impact on the community.

Frances Mathews and Beth Teal-Adedeji, FAWCO Representatives

## Kenya

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### American Women's Association of Kenya

**Website:** [awakenya.org](http://awakenya.org)

**Founded:** 1958

**Joined:** 1992

**Membership Total:** 79

**Dues:** KES 3000

**Mission:** American Women's Association of Kenya is a nonprofit, charitable organization – established 1958. We are "Focused on Uniting Women from around the world", by introducing new friends and enriching your time in Kenya through community services and volunteering opportunities in the Nairobi Area. We raise funds through our many social and educational activities.

**Charities:** Kariobangi Cheshire Home, Pat Dixon, SJT Amka Health Project, Franciscan Sisters of Sacred Heart, Hope House, St. Euphrasia, Fairmile Schools, Zaidi Ya Dreams

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## Morocco

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### American International Women's Club of Casablanca

**Website:** [aiwccasablanca.com](http://aiwccasablanca.com)

**Founded:** 1962

**Joined:** 1979

**Membership Total:** 80

**Dues:** \$75

**Mission:** To provide financial and other support to those, in Morocco, who are most vulnerable. To promote a better understanding of Morocco. To unite English-speaking women of all nationalities, especially in welcoming newcomers to our community.

**Charities:** A.M.I. equipment to assist with severely handicapped children, IDMAJ- center for at risk youth, Al Hassan - orphans, Inclusion et Insertion-former inmates, Asso. Inclusion/Handicap, AMES (deaf children), Ritaje et Khair, Fiers et Forts

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### American International Women's Association of Rabat

**Website:** [aiwarabat.org](http://aiwarabat.org)

**Founded:** 1962

**Joined:** 1996

**Membership Total:** 100

**Dues:** \$60

**Mission:** AIWA-Rabat has a dual mission. The first is to support and encourage intercultural exchange and understanding. The second mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need in the Rabat community.

**Charities:** Dar Taliba, Sidi Yahya Zaer, Attahadi Association for Handicapped, Vanicre Láutisme: Training equipment, ESPA Association for the Blind - Training equipment, Kaoutar Children's Hospita: windows in children's rooms, Badil Association for Juvenile Diabetes, AMOS Preschool in needy areas, Armis des Ecole - refurbishing and equipping schools in Atlas Mountains

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## Nigeria



### The American Women's Club of Lagos

**Website:** [theawclagos.com](http://theawclagos.com)

**Founded:** 1961

**Joined:** 2009

**Membership Total:** 45

**Dues:** \$25

**Mission:** The American Women's Club (The AWC) strives to: provide a 'soft place to land' for American Expatriate Women in Lagos. foster goodwill and mutual understanding between our Nigerian Host Country and the American Expatriate Community. promote philanthropy, scholarship and the rights of women and children.

## Region 8: Greece and Italy

Region 8 has seven great clubs in Italy and Greece. The nearest of the six Italian clubs in distance is 171 kilometers and the farthest is 721 apart, and then our sister club in Athens is across the Mediterranean Sea. Each of these clubs has very dynamic women as their FAWCO Reps who are passionate and serve with never ending energy and good spirit. I am sorry to say that our newest club, AIWC of Sorrento, has left us as it is mostly a tourist resort location. Many of the international ladies are present only in the holiday season making it quite difficult to organize events and just come together. A few of these ladies have joined our sister club in Naples so all is not lost. I've enjoyed working with all of these women: Dorina, MariaTeresa, Jocelyn, Erica, Liz, Toma and Katerina this past year and I would like to thank them for their efforts and dedication. Here is what they have to share.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann De Simoni  
Region 8 Co-Coordinator

### American Women's Organization of Greece

AWOG, The American Women's Organization of Greece, celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2023, registering 75 years of being A Way of Giving, A Way of Growing, A Way of Gathering. As with most of the globe, Greece emerged from the hibernation and quarantine of the pandemic and embraced in-person activities as well as online events. A traditional gathering in Greece for friends, families and organizations to begin the year with good luck and good cheer is Vasilopita Cutting. Inside a special butter spice cake a coin is hidden. Whoever gets the slice with the coin is awarded a gift from the host and is considered to have luck the entire year! AWOG hosted their event to kick off 2023 for members as well. Members continued with love and diligence to prepare and distribute heart pillows to public hospitals across Athens. The readers engaged in an online literary club, meeting monthly. Many of the areas welcomed February with Valentines celebrations. In March AWOG hosted an online presentation to celebrate International Women's Day. "What was American education for girls like at the end of the 19th century? How did it reach Europe and the Near East? What was its impact and mission?" AWOG hosted a conversation to explore the interesting history of an institution founded in Smyrna in 1875 by a single female missionary from Massachusetts which reflects the multifaceted impact of American women's education abroad. In December, a New Board of Directors was elected to serve a two-year term beginning in January 2024.

Stacy Harris-Papaioannou, FAWCO Representative

### American International League of Florence

The highlight for this year was the Viva Vittoria project to raise awareness of domestic violence or gender violence, an event (which took place in November) covering the entire surface of the Piazza Santa Croce with knitted or crocheted blankets. Each one is made by four different people (50 x 50 cm squares) and sewn together with a red thread. The blankets were then sold and the proceeds donated to three major charities in Florence, which take care of victims of domestic violence, stalking, and other ways in which women are

targeted. The work was complex and extensive and involved other groups of women and even men so it became a true community commitment. It was a great success, widely publicized and reported in the press and on social media.

Membership is gradually growing after a diminished number of members following the pandemic. Our new meeting place 'Il Fuligno' which is a converted monastery, is proving to be very popular as it is easy to reach by car and public transport.

Our Thanksgiving lunch saw the traditional FAWCO raffle, to raise money for the Target Project, Awesome Blossoms. We had some great prizes and managed to raise €375.

AILO had our Christmas Bazaar at the famous Tepidarium, a monumental Greenhouse which we turn into a Christmas wonderland with all the special things we have to sell. It was a successful event and made enough money to fund eight different projects from local charities. It is a very popular event with the local Florentines and visitors.

Jocelyn Fitzgerald and Maria Teresa Medri, FAWCO Co-Representatives

### **American International Women's Club of Genoa**

AIWC American International Women's Club of Genoa continues to be a "Green" club as of last year. We'd like our club to function at its best for the local and global community and for our environment of today and tomorrow. Going digital as much as possible: electronic newsletters, creating WhatsApp chats for social use by members and official club communications. Creating awareness with articles in our newsletter, eliminating the use of plastic decorations or balloons at our events, and making upcycled items for sale at our annual Christmas bazaar are just a few of the actions we are taking. We have focused this past year on our partnership with ISG International School of Genoa and their "Cigarette Butt" (CB) project. Our members, their children, a few sponsors and members of charities we support have also helped us along the road of "pick up" which has brought us to an amazing total of over 40,000 CBs from April to December 2023. The downside is there is much work to do in creating awareness among the citizens and visitors to our city; however, we are hopeful that with the use of the UNESCO platform, which has been created for the student-led project, we can get the message out there. We also supported and hosted speakers regarding a project for revamping solar panels for green energy in collaboration with an Italian electrical company for a school and women's health clinic in Malawi. Our Heart Pillow project is never ending and we have also supported the breast cancer unit by sponsoring awareness events and a Christmas tree decorating party for the patients. Our team of 12 members have sewn over 4,000 pillows. Our members continue to enjoy all activities that include food and drink by day or night. Especially the professional members that meet in the evening and benefit from a reduced annual dues fee.

Ann De Simoni, FAWCO Representative

### **American International Women's Club of Naples**

Our Club year runs from September to June, but the review for all of 2023 is as follows: AIWC Naples has around 50 members at present. Several are married to Neapolitans, others are locally employed or work at the American Navy Base, plus we have quite a few English teachers (both Italian and native speakers) who enjoy our meetings and activities, besides being a great local resource for other members. Our Board is still composed of four members: Tricia Reynolds, Elaine Figg, Meredith Peters, and myself as President. Since, to date, we have not found a replacement as FAWCO Rep, that role is still being carried out by the Club President. Our monthly meetings are held in a rented hall on the grounds of the English Church in the heart of Naples, where we prepare a Breakfast spread for our members. The first and last yearly meetings (in September and June) are held in a gorgeous lounge café which has definitely helped to attract new members, as it allows the Board and long-standing members to be free to mix, mingle and pass on enthusiasm to newcomers. Since the start of the year, on a monthly basis, we have regularly held some or all of these activities: Aperitives get-togethers; fundraising walks in Naples guided by one of our amazing board members covering several hundred kilometers for Clubs in Motion; Pizza Nights and Coffee Mornings. In particular, apart from these, in January our post-holiday meeting always offers a Stone Soup lunch to those present; in March we had a tea-tasting event; in May a guided tour to the Naples Fashion Museum and in November we held our wonderful annual Thanksgiving Lunch in a beautiful seafront hotel. In December we had a small Xmas Bazaar, where we raised €500 which we donated to our animal charity and the FAWCO Target Program. Also, at the end of the year, for the coming



biennium, we adopted a new charity: a home in Naples for needy unmarried mothers and their babies to which we donated €1000. With regard to our social media publicity, we continue to work towards increasing our membership even more as we have received amazing results in terms of interest and numbers due to our attractive and colorful flyers. These are posted on our Club public and Members-only Facebook (Fb) pages, other Naples-based Fb pages, by email to members and newcomers and by WhatsApp. This way we have attracted many new members and so many friendships have blossomed. We have also printed Club brochures, which are given to newcomers and placed in international environments (like the American Consulate, English-speaking medical centers and the American Navy Base). Our goals for 2024 will be to visit and support our local charities. We aim to increase our membership numbers, and involve our members more and more in our activities. Furthermore, since the average member's age is now lower than in previous years, hopefully we can create an U40 section, too!

Elizabeth Shine, President and FAWCO Representative

### **American Women's Association of Rome**

This past year has been a busy year at AWAR. Below are some of the things we are particularly proud of. AWAR has digitized the association's nearly 70 years of history. This includes all of the association's historical documents, publications and photographs. The AWAR website has been revitalized, made more user friendly and given a fresh modern look with particular attention dedicated to its color scheme. Changes were made to modernize the association's Constitution & Bylaws and its Practices & Guidelines including the addition of gender appropriate language. Our Association has committed itself to being 100% Green, more specifically it has become completely paperless. We have the support of three new sustaining members in the wine, travel and artisanal sectors. AWAR was the featured club in the September 2023 issue of FAWCO's *Inspiring Women* magazine. In addition, our very own Mariachiara Giacomel was one of the women featured in the issue dedicated to "Women & Fashion."

Erica Zmitrovich, FAWCO Representative

### **International Women's Club of Torino**

We've had a very active year at IWCT! Ongoing since January, we continued to support our club-elected local social organization, Svolta Donna. They are an Anti-Violence Center which helps women and children escape violence and rebuild their lives. Club monthly events such as Coffee Mornings and After Hours Aperitivo continue and are very popular among all the age groups of the club. Our regular activity groups such as the Moms Group, Wine Club, Walking Group, Yoga, Italian Learning, English Conversation, Knitting, Book Club, Talent Lab, Newcomers meetings, and so much more are ongoing weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. By the fall, we were again in full swing with our regular events and activity groups after the summer vacations. We had a ton of fun with our successful Halloween in the Park fundraiser. Our shared Thanksgiving dinner was lovely and well attended. The icing on the cake for our year was our Winter Bazaar Fundraiser. It was beautifully decorated, coordinated, and well attended. It was full of surprises which included caroling, a raffle, a silent auction, and a beautiful buffet brunch for all the attendees. All proceeds are for our charitable funds. It was a truly successful, memorable and delightful event.

Dorina Ferretti, FAWCO Representative

### **American International Women's Association of Venice**

**AIWAV, The American International Women's Association of Venice** is on fire! After starting in 2020 during the pandemic, we got off to a slow start. By 2022, we reached 20 members and in 2023 grew to 32 paying members. There are a number of potential and pending members. The club's growth rose mainly due to word of mouth i.e. friends inviting friends to club events. We adopted a policy to allow guests to attend two events before committing to becoming a member. Events ranged from excursions to visit wineries in Valdobbiadene, sipping bubbly in the nearby Prosecco Hills, to a visit to the Crypt of the Chiesa San Zaccaria. As a club deciding which charity events to be involved in, we looked towards helping women in crisis and helping our city. We donated to the Anti-Violence Center of the Municipality of Venice as well as organized a lagoon clean up i.e. going out in a boat to clean garbage. The sense of community has grown as well through a popular WhatsApp group in which members share local events, ask questions and suggest last minute meetups, like attending a concert together. A subcommittee on the Leadership Board is compiling a list of local English speaking services

and resources in Venice. And the biggest growth has been in the Leadership Team which has had an egalitarian structure, co-leading the organization. A number of volunteers have stepped up and continue to provide ideas and assets to the club. Most importantly, the organization has grown from a mere "idea" in 2020 to a dynamic community which is warm, inclusive and caring.

Toma Clark Haines, FAWCO Representative

## Greece



### American Women's Organization of Greece

**Website:** [awog.gr](http://awog.gr)

**Founded:** 1948

**Joined:** 1952

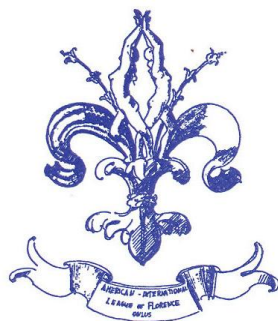
**Membership Total:** 75

**Dues:** €40

**Mission:** Founded in 1948, to help the people of Greece after World War II, by Lucretia Brady, wife of the US Ambassador to Greece, Henry F. Grady. Her efforts were supported by 1948 Secretary of State, George Marshall, who authored the Marshall Plan, to help rebuild Europe. As the Club began to grow and as more Americans settled in Greece, the club's scope stretched by bridging the cultural gap for the American ex-patriots living in Greece. Since then, the acronym AWOG has also come to mean A Way Of Giving!

**Charities:** MERIMNHS, American Farm School, Ag.Christoforos help for Lighthouse for the Blind, Deree College Scholarship, Caritas, Kalo Samaritis

## Italy



### American International League of Florence

**Website:** [ailoflorence.org](http://ailoflorence.org)

**Founded:** 1975

**Joined:** 1977

**Membership Total:** 130 (including male members)

**Dues:** €80

**Mission:** The sole purpose of this non profit organization shall be to contribute to the community well-being through programs of social assistance and fundraising for charity.

**Charities:** Banco Alimentare della Toscana, LILT, ERAM, Pro Animals, APES Onlus, OASI Associazione Insieme Onlus, Associazione Toscana Cure e Ricerche Oncologiche



### American International Women's Club of Genoa

**Website:** [aiwcgenoa.org](http://aiwcgenoa.org)

**Founded:** 1957

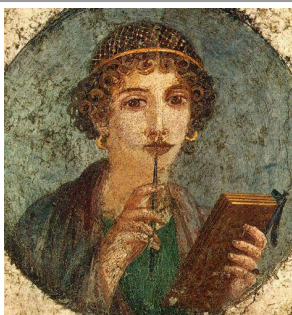
**Joined:** N/A

**Membership Total:** 62

**Dues:** €100

**Mission:** Founded 1957. Dedicated to fostering the appreciation of the cultural riches our host country has to offer and supporting the following Genoese charities: Patronato S. Vincenzo, Piccole Sorelle dei Poveri, G. Gaslini, La Scaletta and emergencies as they arise.

**Charities:** Diritti e Libertà Od, PER LA DONNA, Refugees Welcome Italia, San Marcellino Community, Casa Famiglia Suore di S.Anna



### American International Women's Club of Naples

**Website:** [facebook.com/AmericanInternationalWomensClubOfNaples](https://facebook.com/AmericanInternationalWomensClubOfNaples)

**Founded:** 1970

**Joined:** 1972

**Membership Total:** 50

**Dues:** €30

**Mission:** AWC Naples offers information on life, history and culture of Naples, offering friendship and socialization for long-standing members and helpful resources for newcomers to Naples.



### American Women's Association of Rome

**Website:** [awar.org](https://awar.org)

**Founded:** 1955

**Joined:** 1964

**Membership Total:** 162

**Dues:** €60

**Mission:** Promotion of friendship among its members and understanding between Italy and the United States through community service, cultural and social activities.

**Charities:** Oasi Celistina Donati, Citta Della Ragazzi (€500), Alzheimer's Association, Casa di Kim, Americans in Distress, Differenza Donna



### American International Women's Club of Sorrento

**Website:** [facebook.com/groups/2520131334909874](https://facebook.com/groups/2520131334909874)

**Founded:** 2019

**Joined:** 2019

**Membership Total:** 5

**Dues:** €30



### International Women's Club of Torino

**Website:** [iwct.it](https://iwct.it)

**Founded:** 1960

**Joined:** 1978

**Membership Total:** 240

**Dues:** €60 (new)/€55 (renewal)

**Mission:** IWCT (since 1960) aims at strengthening the sense of belonging for the international community in Torino. Using the Club's diversity in all its richness as the key contributor to successful inclusion. IWCT makes you feel valued and appreciated; feeling at home in Torino.

**Charities:** Svolta Donna Centro Antiviolenza Pinerolo

### American International Women's Association of Venice

**Website:**

[facebook.com/American-International-Womens-Association-of-Venice-108991563835244](https://facebook.com/American-International-Womens-Association-of-Venice-108991563835244)

**Founded:** 2019

**Joined:** 2019

**Membership Total:** 32

## Region 9: Middle East and the Americas

Region 9 continued to stay in touch via WhatsApp. I believe that this method of communication lends itself to a more personalized touch than emails. The geographical distance has been our biggest challenge. Besides the fact that Region 9's three clubs are on different continents, it's very hard to generate a close bond between the clubs when we know there's no chance of any one-on-one interaction. The other challenge is the lack of response from one of the region's clubs. It would be interesting to attempt hosting a virtual regional meeting if

we can figure out a way to overcome the obstacle of time zones! FAWCO could reconsider the boundaries of the regions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Jubayli (AWC Lebanon)  
Region 9 Coordinator

### **American Women's Club of Lebanon**

The year 2023, AWC Lebanon's 70th year, brought the Club many challenges. Dwindling membership numbers and increased interest in the club from non-American ladies encouraged the club to revitalize the Friends of AWC to have non-American expats join the club. The Administrative Board strives to find creative yet feasible ways to sustain and even expand the club's activities, events and charity projects in spite of Lebanon's continued economic collapse and security threats. The monthly Newsletter was replaced by a Yearly report that summarizes all year activities including What's Cooking, Beirut Bookies, Cake Lairs, Material Girls, Coffeelicious and General Meetings. It is worth highlighting this year's Christmas party where members enjoyed Yankee Christmas Gifts Swap, Pictionary and a Quilt Auction. The quilt was stitched and generously donated by a longtime member. All in all, the Club enjoyed successes by welcoming additional club members, creating new and interesting activities, developing its online presence, and finding ways for members to meet and enjoy their time as much as possible.

Carol Hage, FAWCO Representative

### **International Women's Club of Antigua & Barbuda**

2023 was an interesting year for the members of the International Women's Club of Antigua and Barbuda. General meetings were held on the first Tuesday of the month from January to June and from November to December. These meetings took place in various venues across the island of Antigua and covered a range of topics including [mature] Women's Wellness, Stem Cell Therapy, "Flavors of the Eastern Mediterranean" (Cooking Class), a Talk and Tour of St. John the Divine's Cathedral (built in 1845) and a visit with a prospective female Atlantic Rower. We also participated in a pottery painting workshop and learned about "gold leaf painting" from a local artist. Because many of our members travel in the summer, general meetings were not held in the months of July to October. However, groups such as "Lunch Bunch" and Mah Jong continued to meet year round.

Our club also continued to support our various charitable projects. Three Antiguan women were awarded educational scholarships in July, and in December, we distributed approximately 220 sets of Christmas Hampers to some of the country's neediest seniors and one-parent families. In addition to this, we continued to financially support a "Back to School Backpack Project" and "The Young Writers Competition." In 2023, in response to an appeal, we began to donate toiletries to the "Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital" which is located in Antigua. It provides care for patients from other Caribbean islands as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathi Savoury, FAWCO Representative

### **American Women's Club Bogotá**

Members were very interested to read summaries of what's going on in the UN/CSW space, and several enjoyed the online cross-club events. There was also much interest in the finance seminars! I hope those continue!

The biggest challenge has been raising money. Our membership isn't very interested in donating (to our charities or to FAWCO). They join/renew to participate in the social aspect of the club. We raised membership dues by 33% last year to cover club expenses and support our charities. Fundraising will most likely be even more difficult this year as a result.

I'd like to introduce more health topics and workshops this year. I would like to host a few as cross-club events to see if there's interest. (Most people prefer in-person meetups now, but it could be interesting.)

Milena Mejia, FAWCO Representative

## Lebanon

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### American Women's Club of Lebanon

**Website:** [awc-lebanon.org](http://awc-lebanon.org)

**Founded:** 1953

**Joined:** 2000

**Membership Total:** 57

**Dues:** \$110

**Mission:** To give the AWC members an opportunity to contribute to Lebanese society through charitable activities as well as to bring a sense of American culture to AWC members.

**Charities:** Beit El Hanane, Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation

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## Antigua and Barbuda

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### International Women's Club of Antigua and Barbuda

**Website:** [iwcantiguabarbuda.org](http://iwcantiguabarbuda.org)

**Founded:** 1986

**Joined:** 1990

**Membership Total:** 55

**Dues:** \$28

**Mission:** Our club membership is open to women of all nationalities. We gather to form new friendships, learn more about the history, culture and landscape of our twin island nation and to contribute to its future by funding worthy causes and projects that will benefit the people of Antigua & Barbuda.

**Charities:** IWC of Antigua & Barbuda Annual Scholarships for Women, Annual Christmas Hampers for Needy Seniors, Wadadli Pen (Young Writers) Competition, Back to School Backpack Project, St. John's Hospice

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## Colombia

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### American Women's Club Bogotá

**Website:** [awcbogota.org](http://awcbogota.org)

**Founded:** 1947

**Joined:** 2003

**Membership Total:** 150

**Dues:** USD (\$) 50.00

**Mission:** Our club is well known throughout the Colombian community for its fundraising and charitable activities.

**Charities:** Asociacion Barranquillera De Caridad, Casa De La Esperanza, Fundación Amigos De Jesus Y Maria, Fundacion FE, Hogar De La Niña De Veracruz, Hogar San Miguel, Hogar San Rafael Carrera

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## Region 10: Asia/Pacific

### American Women's Club of Korea

2023 was a great year for AWC Korea. We hosted more than one hundred events and saw our membership continue to grow; we now stand at over 150 members. We are still a hub of the expat community and have increased our work with local charities. Sadly, we said goodbye to a number of key members moving on to lean

times who had been supporters during lean times, but we've welcomed many new enthusiastic and committed folks into our fold.

We consider the past year to have been rather successful, particularly given how our numbers have rebounded since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Our challenges are still around how we define ourselves/continue to think about broadening our membership while keeping the club at a manageable size.

We are in the process of rolling out a new website, which will hopefully serve as a more central point for our membership.

Carrie Shuchart, Secretary, AWC Korea

### **American Women's Club of Perth**

Current membership at 66 members. Dues recently increased to \$50. We meet every month with four General Membership meetings per year. For our meetings that are social, we have had a lovely variety of activities during the year. Sculptures by the Sea was our first social meetup of the year, followed by new member morning tea, and a talk by the Western Australia Historical Society. The Fourth of July was celebrated at an American style BBQ restaurant. In September, we celebrated Founders Day with a lovely luncheon and talk by Siriana Nair, the US Consul General in Perth. October had us on a historical walk and talk around Chinatown. We celebrated Thanksgiving with our membership and extended the invitation to the greater American community in Perth. Our year was closed out with a Christmas lunch and gift exchange hosted by our Treasurer. Our outreach this year was The Australian Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, raising funds for the cancer council and Friends with Dignity, providing furnished accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence.

Karen Slavinsky, FAWCO Representative

### **American Club for International Women – Mumbai**

We had a remarkable year revitalizing the club after the pandemic slump. Our primary focus was on strengthening our relationships with the local Mumbai small business community and increasing the number of charity-based activities. The highlight was undoubtedly our charity Mela, which raised close to \$9,300, marking it as the most successful fundraiser we've had in many years. Leaning into our personal relationships with local businesses, the US Consulate, American School of Bombay and NGOs has really helped us get the support we needed to get back to normal.

With the ever-changing laws for charity donations in India we really struggled to find ways to donate through our account facilitator. We've now been able to find a solution and things are more streamlined. We are now focused on finding more ways to raise money through ad sponsorships on our WhatsApp groups, Instagram, and monthly newsletter. We plan to make this a priority so that we can increase the number of NGOs we support through the year.

Serena Vora Chandra  
Co-President of ACIW Mumbai

### **American Women's Club Philippines**

This past year we spent updating our business to comply with new government rules and regulations coming out of the pandemic. We also used this opportunity to reduce our overhead costs, digitize our processes, and streamline our business administrative side. We hosted the AWCP Charity Bazaar five times with hundreds of vendors. This requires significant administrative efforts for our small team of volunteers, but we are so proud of the proceeds we generate to support our local charity partners. We had a successful year and are very grateful that the impact of the business changes we made have already paid off and will continue for years to come.

The biggest challenge in 2023 was adjusting to the new business rules and regulations for non-profit organizations. Membership recruitment was challenging as we compete with our international social clubs, but we have a strong membership who are incredibly supportive of our club. We have started to partner with other clubs for hosting events as many of our members overlap. AWCP launched the inaugural International Women's

Day event in March and we invited other international clubs to join. It was an incredible success and will be our new annual cross-club event hosted by AWCP.

This year we have prioritized having smaller social events for members, hosting seven bazaars, coordinating local cultural tours, as well as bringing back yet another iconic large fundraising event, the Hoe Down. We are actively recruiting new members and have a larger core group of volunteer leaders this year. We are also revisiting some of our long standing charities, over 40+, to better understand how their needs have changed coming out of one of the longest lockdowns worldwide.

Denise Faulhaber, President

## Australia

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### American Women's Club of Perth

**Website:** [awcperth.com.au](http://awcperth.com.au)

**Founded:** 1967

**Joined:** 1968

**Membership Total:** 65

**Dues:** AUS \$60 new member, AUD (\$) 50 renewal, AUD (\$) 40 retirees

**Mission:** To promote good fellowship and cooperation among American and Australian women of Western Australia. To promote & facilitate communication between American Women To sponsor social, recreational, cultural and welfare activities. To encourage and promote understanding and goodwill between the people of the United States and Australia. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and exercises of the powers of the club.

**Charities:** Operation Sunshine

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## India

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### American Club for International Women – Mumbai

**Website:** [aciwmumbai.org](http://aciwmumbai.org)

**Founded:** 1928

**Joined:** 1954

**Membership Total:** 85

**Dues:** \$18 joining fee

**Mission:** To promote social and cultural activities within the Club, to encourage members to support charitable and cultural activities in Mumbai and to welcome and assist all newcomers to Mumbai.

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## Korea

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### American Women's Club of Korea

**Website:** [awcsouthkorea.com](http://awcsouthkorea.com)

**Founded:** 1964

**Joined:** 1987

**Membership Total:** 150

**Dues:** \$ 50

**Mission:** AWC Korea serves a dual role in Seoul. It is a community for expat Americans providing social, familial and daily living support as well as engaging in fundraising activities to support the local Korean community.

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## Philippines

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### **American Women's Club Philippines**

**Website:** <http://www.awcphilippines.net>

**Founded:** 1979

**Joined:** 1979

**Membership Total:** 140

**Dues:** \$58

**Mission:** A strong community based philanthropic club that supports local charities with enthusiasm and joy to help others.

**Charities:** Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation Inc., Missionaries of Charity – Home of Joy, Missionaries of Charity – Home for the dying and the destitute, Concordia Children's Services Concordia Children's Services, Gabriel Taborin, St. Anthony's Boys School( Cavite), Sikat T'Boli (Cotabato), Welcome Home Foundation

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# The FAWCO Foundation Report



The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic heart of FAWCO and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), incorporated in the state of Missouri.

## 2023–2025 FAWCO Foundation Board of Directors

President	Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne)
Vice President Communications	Mary Stange (AWC Bogotá & FAUSA)
Vice President Fundraising	Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern)
Vice President Programs	Christine Riney (AWC Hamburg)
Treasurer	Wendy Leyland (AWC London)
Secretary	Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)
Parliamentarian	Barbara Bühling (AIWC Düsseldorf) ( <i>non-voting</i> )

### *Special Appointment to the Board (non-voting)*

FAWCO President	Ann Marie Morrow (AWC Finland)
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### *Presidential Appointments (non-Board members)*

Archive Team Lead	Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)
Counselors' Liaison	Patti Meek (AWC Dublin)
Development Grants Administrator	Tracy Moede (AWC Hamburg)
Education Awards Administrator	Michelle Miller (AIWC Cologne)
Silent Auction Coordinator	Carol-Lyn McKelvey (FAUSA & AIWC Cologne)

## 2023 Board Reports

### President

The 2023 conference in Bratislava brought changes to The FAWCO Foundation board. Four-year President Barbara Bühling ended her term but remained on the board (thank you, Barbara!) in a new capacity, as Parliamentarian. We welcomed three new faces: Mary Stange (VP Communications), Wendy Leyland (Treasurer) and Hollie Nielson (Secretary). Along with Christine Riney (VP Programs) and Angie Aebersold (VP Fundraising), we are enjoying working together as we continue to fulfill the mission of The Foundation.

Foundation Night in Bratislava was hugely successful – over \$48,000 was raised between the Live Auction, Silent Auction, quilt ticket sales, charm sales and other donations. Huge kudos to Lauren Mescon for organizing our “There is Value in Vintage” evening with recycling and upcycling of clothing being the name of the game. Fun was had by all.

Target fundraising kicked off in Bratislava with a generous \$10,000 donation from Clydette de Groot, offered as a Matching Grant to our clubs. Club donations, up to \$1,000, were matched by this grant until the funding ran out. The Foundation extends its gratitude to Clydette for her truly generous gift!

At the same time, we were informed of a monumental donation coming to The Foundation from the Shirley Kearney family in the amount of \$200,000. Shirley has been the sponsor of the AWC Basel University Study Degree Award since 2008. This incredible gift from the Kearney family will make it possible to offer the Shirley Kearney Award in perpetuity. We are so grateful for their tremendous generosity.

November brought us more good news with Nan de Laubadère informing The Foundation that she, too, will be sponsoring a Development Grant for many years to come. Nan has been a proponent of The Foundation for a long time and continues to generously support The Foundation. For that, we are truly grateful.

FAWCO and FAWCO Foundation icon, Jackie Isler, sadly passed away this year but honored her association with both FAWCO and The Foundation by remembering The Foundation in her estate. Her donation will sponsor an Education Award for the next few years. It was heartwarming to hear from her daughter how much FAWCO meant to her in her lifetime.

We on the Foundation board continue to be amazed and overwhelmed by the show of generosity from FAWCO members. Our hearts are full of gratitude.

Over the summer, I communicated with many past and current donors regarding the 2024 Education Award and Development Grant slate. The generosity of individual donors, member clubs and everyone who participates in Foundation Night is what allows us to continue to do the wonderful work that we do... making a difference in the lives of so many around the globe. Up to this point, we have disbursed close to 1.9 million dollars in Education Awards (EAs) and Development Grants (DGs) alone! That is truly remarkable and shows the commitment level of our FAWCO Member Clubs, FAWCO individual members and FAUSA to have an impact on the global community. We should all be very proud of what we have accomplished.

The Foundation has been fortunate to have some long-time donors – both Member Clubs and individuals. Individual consistent sponsors include The Coughlan Family, Renuka Matthews, Donna Erismann, Shirley Kearney and Clydette de Groot. There are some Member Clubs who also deserve recognition for their ongoing support of the Foundation programs: AW Surrey, AAWE Paris, AWG Paris, AWC Genoa and AWC Bern, among others.

Many of you know the members of the Foundation board, however, we can't do what we do without the support of our fabulous Committee members:

- This year, we are welcoming a new Development Grant Administrator, Tracy Moede of AWC Hamburg, and a new Education Award Administrator, Michelle Miller of AIWC Cologne. However, we would be truly remiss if we didn't thank the two very important people who are stepping down from those positions. Nan de Laubadère has been the DG Admin for many years and has worked tirelessly to ensure that the process is fair, smooth and seamless. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to her for all of her hard work over many years. Shelly Schoeneshoefer has been the EA Admin for a few years and also did an incredible job with a very challenging position that requires impeccable attention to detail. Many thanks to them both.
- Additionally, we thank Lauren Mescon, our Target Fundraising Coordinator; our Silent Auction Coordinator, Carol-Lyn McKelvey; and our Counselor Liaison, Patti Meek.

- Thanks also go to Sallie Chaballier who did a wonderful job as Nominating Committee Chair for The Foundation along with her team: Mary Stewart Burgher (AWC Denmark), Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne and FAUSA), Amanda Drollinger (AWC Central Scotland) and Karen van Antwerp (AIWC Düsseldorf).

This fall, I was able to attend two Regional Meetings – Region 4 in Amsterdam and Region 5 in Hamburg. I presented information about The Foundation and learned much about what was going on in both regions. The Region 4 meeting was a smaller, more intimate gathering at a goat farm in Amsterdam (great setting!) and Region 5 had record-breaking attendance with about 80 registrants! Both were great meetings – truly informative while affording the opportunity to visit and speak with fellow FAWCO-ites about FAWCO and their individual clubs.

The Foundation Archives continue to be a work in progress. Patti Meek, Barbara Bühling and I are slowly making our way through years of documents, trying to eliminate duplicates, chase down stray missing documents and organize it all into one cohesive digital file. It's a big job, but we have fun while we do it so it's a labor of love!

And finally, we thank you – our donors, our supporters and everyone who gives to The Foundation. The Foundation wouldn't exist without the FAWCO community. We express our sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you as we work together to make a difference in the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Davis (AIWC Cologne)  
President

## Vice President Communications

The FAWCO Foundation website saw ample change in 2023, updating the menu structure and visuals to make it increasingly accessible. The goals of the redesign were to provide an easier path for personal online donations, make key information easy to find, and streamline information to avoid user-overload. The largest update was integrating an interactive donation widget provided by Donorbox. By using this tool, The FAWCO Foundation has been able to update the user donation process, offer monthly and annual donation/subscription options, and more efficiently categorize donations intended for different “pots” of money (Target, GFTH, programs, etc.).

While the majority of the pages have received updates, the process of re-adding the quilt and charm galleries previously created is still underway

In August, Joomla, the website hosting platform, underwent major updates performed by Cat Conner. Much of the back-end UI changed and has taken some time to adjust to.

*The NEWS* continues to be a cornerstone for communication for The FAWCO Foundation. *The NEWS* seeks to keep FAWCO members informed about what is currently happening with The Foundation, including details regarding the fundraising activities at the annual conference/meeting, Education Awards and Development Grants, fundraising for Foundation programs, current and new programs and initiatives, and valuable information for member clubs. Anyone who wishes to receive *The NEWS* can sign up on The FAWCO Foundation homepage. The publication is sent quarterly with a few special editions, bringing our subscribers information that is useful, timely, and entertaining. In 2023, TFF sent six emails via Constant Contact, which received an average open rate of 67 percent.

During the 2024 annual budget projection, it was determined that Constant Contact was costing TFF on average \$388 per year. Options were analyzed to reduce this cost and the decision was made to switch providers.

The most widely utilized social media platforms remain the closed Facebook group (The FAWCO Foundation Friends) and Instagram. While still underutilized, a plan is being devised to create a very loose content calendar of posts to maintain presence, forecasted to be published once per month.

Canva continues to be the graphic design platform of choice. Every Board member now has access, and there has been interest in a workshop in the future to improve skills.

This first year in the role of VP Communications has been enriching and eye-opening. There is significant room for growth in my second year and I look forward to continuing to support The FAWCO Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Stange (AWC Bogotá)  
Vice President Communications

## Vice President Programs

My role as VP Programs began in April with picking up various administrative activities for the Development Grants (DGs) and the Education Awards (EAs).

These include:

- processing the returned Statement of Agreements (SOAs) to ensure they are in order
- ensuring payment of the Awards/Grants
- following up on any outstanding SOAs. In 2023 we have managed to complete holdovers from the previous year's extensions; this is good news as we start 2024 with a clean slate.
- working with Grants Admin and Awards Admin to ensure interim reports and progress reports are requested/received

These activities all provided a key level of learning, as the Education Awards Administrator and Development Grant Administrator are both new to their roles. The previous long-term incumbents, the amazing ladies Shelly Schoneshoefer and Nan de Laubadere, provided great support over the past years.

Given the newness of the team, I took the opportunity to do a deep dive into the processes that surround the DGs and EAs. This resulted in, as every year, a slight reworking of the applications themselves and most notably, taking the DG application process online as a Jotform. As for the EAs, the notable change is behind the scenes with the appointment of an EA Admin support person, a streamlined EA processing flow of work, again taking as much as possible onto Google Drive to help eliminate some of the workload and vast email trails. This new workflow also incorporates the EA review teams making use of Google forms. The results of these changes have yet to be realized and will be reviewed later to understand how they, too, can be improved upon.

A high point was putting together the DG and EA slate for 2024. So many wonderful donations have come in from our FAWCO family that allow us to yet again offer a great 2024 slate for our members.

Current activities in the works include:

- recipient Certificates for both DGs and EAs ready to be given out at the Interim Meeting in Porto
- sponsor interim and progress reports for 2023, sponsor 2024 appreciation certificates to be sent out after the announcement of the recipients.
- preparing for the March IM in Porto by supporting the presentation on the DG and EA 2023 reports as well as the 2024 DG and EA Recipient Announcement. These will be a pleasure to provide.

I'm looking forward to 2024 and the amazing work the Foundation can do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Riney (AWC Hamburg)  
VP Programs

## Vice President Fundraising

I was elected to the office of VP Fundraising at the Biennial Conference in Bratislava 2023. Since that time, I started first with cleaning up the mail program and the Google drive for the VP Fundraising. Also, just figuring out what all is involved with being VP Fundraising is an ongoing endeavor, to say the least.

I have monthly meetings with The Target Fundraising Coordinator (Lauren Mescon), monthly meetings with the Target Team (Lauren Mescon, Amanda Drollinger, Janet Davis) and monthly Reps and Presidents Meetings (Kanika Holloway, FAWCO 2nd VP – Member Clubs).

I attended the Region 1 Meeting in October 2023 to represent The Foundation and to give a presentation about The FAWCO Foundation.

I have been preparing for Foundation Night 2024 in Porto at the Interim Meeting. One of the larger undertakings that I have had was to contact all of the Live Auction sponsors for the last 10 years – first, to thank them for their donations and secondly, to ask if they would be interested in donating again to our Live Auction to support the Education Awards and the Development Grants. Through this action, we were able to encourage several past donors to donate again to our cause. For the 2024 Live Auction, we will have six properties available.

I did a lot of research for Foundation Night 2024. I have designed the Benefactors' Button for Foundation Night and, together with Lauren Mescon, we designed the Conference Charm for 2024. At the Foundation's Face2Face meeting in November 2023, we finalized our theme for Foundation Night 2024: "Fairytale Magic: Happily Ever After for a Great Cause." Since then, I have been designing and implementing FB posts for everything relating to Foundation Night. Our VP Communications, Mary Stange, has designed a Foundation Night page on the Foundation website that contains everything concerning Foundation Night 2024 in Porto.

Along with Carol-Lyn McKelvey, our Silent Auction Coordinator, we were able to have OneCause, the Silent Auction platform, up and running for the Region 5 Regional Meeting in Hamburg. Participants were then able to purchase Quilt Tickets and view the Live Auction Destinations 2024. I will continue to prepare for Foundation Night.

Below you will find a recap of the 2023 Foundation Night that was held in Bratislava at the Biennial Conference. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Lauren Mescon, the former VP Fundraising, for the excellent job she did in her four years as VP Fundraising under very difficult circumstances. She has made herself available to me for any help I may need and to answer any questions that I may have (which I do).

### Biennial Conference and Foundation Night 2023

The 2023 theme was "There is Value in Vintage: Old is New Again." This was inspired by the new Target Project, under the Environment pillar. There was an amazing DJ spinning tunes. The Silent Auction ran until dinner and the Live Auction took place after the meal. As usual, we danced until midnight with practically everyone joining in! All told, we raised an astonishing \$47,283 that evening. The funds raised go to support the programs of The FAWCO Foundation.

#### Live Auction:

There were five items up for auction on Foundation Night, and two were actually offered twice! Our five fabulous items: a one-week stay in Winter Park, Colorado from Johanna Dishongh; a one-week stay in a Vienna Farmhouse in Austria from Laurie Richardson; a one-week stay in Gordes, Luberon Valley Provence, France from Jennifer Taylor; a four-day stay in Barcelona from Monica Jubayli; and a one-week stay at an Oregon Beach House in Pacific City, Oregon from Bev Bachmeyer. Barcelona and the Oregon Beach House both were sold

twice! Our wonderful auctioneer, Sandy Gogel (AWG Paris), was a master as the bids climbed! The Live Auction alone raised \$21,200!

#### **Silent Auction:**

Carol-Lyn McKelvey again worked tirelessly with her partner, Julie Meyerson, and successfully ran the auction on the OneCause platform. She was able to gather virtual and physical items, many of which were brought to Bratislava. The Foundation Night Silent Auction sold 146 items, including five unique modeled outfits, and raised \$9491!

#### **Benefactors:**

The Benefactors program continued on OneCause with a focus we adopted from the virtual days that “We can all be Benefactors!” A banner ran continuously on OneCause recognizing those who made a donation on the site. Benefactor donations started at \$20, and we raised an impressive total of \$9,787.50 with 41 donors. This is the largest sum we have ever received from Benefactors. We are grateful to all our donors.

#### **Charms and bracelets:**

We stayed with the same supplier, Monterey Company (Bend, Oregon), so kept our costs low. Sales from this year’s charm, Bratislava Spaceship, raised \$1,085.

#### **Friendship Quilt Raffle:**

The 2023 quilt – Life Lines – contained squares donated by over 30 donors. The quilt was revealed at the Region 5 Meeting, and tickets were immediately available on OneCause. The lucky winner was Liz Janson (FAUSA). We raised \$3,019 in ticket sales.

#### **Foundation Night miscellaneous:**

We went with the environment theme and made paper flowers out of napkins while using recycled jars as tea light candle holders. As we could not use real candles at the hotel, we used battery operated tea lights. We also spread chocolate hearts on the tables for the participants to enjoy.

### **Target Program**

#### **Target 5:**

The Target Project that was selected and announced at the 2023 Biennial Conference in Bratislava was “Awesome Blossoms: Edible Fresh Fields for Sustainable Life in the Slums.”

With the Target Fundraising Coordinator, Lauren Mescon, at the helm, the fundraising started off with a bang! Fundraising for Awesome Blossoms started even before the Target Project was announced. To date at the end of November 2023, FAWCO Clubs have raised \$87,740 for Awesome Blossoms.

The fundraising started off in Bratislava with a matching grant offered by Claudette de Groot. Another hit from our Fundraising Coordinator has been the selling of Awesome Blossoms t-shirts. For the holidays, clubs could download a “Holiday Ornament Kit” to sell Awesome Blossoms Certificates for those hard-to-buy-for people! We are well on our way to meeting our goal to raise \$140,000 for Awesome Blossoms.

I have to mention Amsterdam’s 2023 “Share Your Gifts for Good” event which raised almost \$10,000 in November for Target 5. I would take this opportunity for a shout-out to AWC Amsterdam who have raised almost \$20,000 for the Awesome Blossoms project!

## Regions 1, 4 and 5 Regional Meetings

At these meetings, we sold SDG pins, Awesome Blossoms t-shirts, button keychains and the *What is a Perfect World* children's book. Between The Market Place sales and the proceeds from Mary Stewart Burgher's earrings, we raised over \$2,158 for Target 5. What an amazing start!

The 2024 Friendship Quilt, Vertical Garden, was revealed at the Region 5 Meeting in November 2023, with tickets immediately available on the OneCause site. The drawing for the quilt will be held in Porto, Portugal in March 2024.

## General Fundraising

Giving From the Heart:

We decided to rebrand the Giving From the Heart Campaign to see if we could generate more interest. Giving From the Heart is a chance to recognize a special person, moment or event in your life such as: Anniversary, Life Milestones, Loss of a Loved One, Honoring a Friend, Giving Thanks or whatever is near and dear to your heart. All proceeds go to the Close to Home Development Grant.

## Other

### Rep and RC Calls:

The calls with the FAWCO VP Member Clubs and FAWCO Presidents' Coordinator: I have not always been able to attend. We should continue to work with Kanika, the current VP for Member Clubs, to ensure we remain part of these calls for the Presidents, Reps, Regional Coordinators (RCs) and Philanthropy heads. Additionally, if FAWCO continues to hold Regional gatherings virtually or in person for the Region's Presidents, Reps and RCs, the VP Fundraising for TFF should be included.

### Fundraising Analysis:

The ongoing database spreadsheet contains the data for the past several years and will continue to be maintained.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern)  
Vice President Fundraising

## Development Grant Recipients 2022

### ENVIRONMENT

**AWG Paris Centennial Environment Development Grant** \$4000  
**Recipient:** Trash Hero World  
**Location:** 171 chapters in 20 countries around the world  
**Nominated by:** AWC Bern

47 cleanups with 847 participants helping to rid the environment of plastic while receiving environmental education. Funds were used to train chapter leaders and produced children's books to educate participants and contextualize cleanups.

**Trees Glorious Trees** \$4000  
*sponsored in part by AWC Amsterdam, AIWC Cologne and Friends of the Environment*  
**Recipient:** Regreening Degraded Land in Rural India  
**Location:** Khoch village in Mokhada Taluka, Palghar District, Maharashtra, India  
**Nominated by:** AWC Hamburg

Funds financed 1200 cashew trees for 27 families (145 people) to plant on 110 acres under watershed development. The trees prevent soil erosion, regreen the land and provide a harvest for income, bringing prosperity through sustainable change.

## HEALTH

### **Critical Health Concerns** \$4000

*sponsored by Anne Riz in memory of Jack and Letha Sandweiss*

**Recipient:** Re-edition and Distribution of the game "Relations & Prevention"

**Location:** France and francophone countries worldwide

**Nominated by:** AAWE Paris

The Relations et Prevention game was developed to provide education on relationships, contraception, and STDs for female at-risk adolescents. Funds allowed distribution of the game, to teach several thousand women and girls at risk and in danger.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### **Breaking the Cycle** \$4000

*sponsored in part by proceeds from the sale of the book*

*"Hope is the Thing With Feathers"*

**Recipient:** Dignita "Train the Trainer" Academy

**Location:** Amsterdam

**Nominated by:** AWC Amsterdam

Not For Sale aids survivors of human trafficking and vulnerable women at risk and offers vocational training and work opportunities. These grant funds allow NFS to maximize its impact by creating a training program to train staff as certified teachers.

### **FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk** \$4000

**Recipient:** Empowering Community Health Workers in a Haitian Shantytown

**Location:** Cité de Soleil, Haiti

**Nominated by:** FAUSA

Grant funds equipped locally-trained workers to provide health services in this deprived community. Workers visit homes, providing care around nutrition, maternal health, first aid and serve as a link between the community and the Lamp Clinic.

## GLOBAL ISSUES

### **Close to Home** \$4000

*sponsored in part by donations to the "From the Heart" program*

**Recipient:** Healing through Art for Vulnerable Children in Lebanon

**Location:** Beirut, Lebanon

**Nominated by:** AWC Lebanon

This project incorporated art therapy to help the children heal from PTSD. The grant funds will pay the art therapist for one year to mentor art teachers in art therapy, including assessing, evaluating their work and submitting a final report.

**The FAWCO Foundation sincerely thanks Nan de Laubadère and her committee for overseeing the 2022 DG program.**

## 2022 Education Award Recipients

For 2022, there were a total of 40 applicants for the Education Awards. Interim reports from these recipients will be presented in Bratislava at the Biennial Conference in March 2023. In total, The Foundation disbursed



\$36,000, all of which was funded by FAWCO Clubs, individual member support or The FAWCO Foundation. The recipients, award sponsors and nominating clubs are listed below.

**ACADEMIC STUDIES AWARDS:** *For Children of FAWCO and FAUSA members*

**Arts Award**

*Sponsored in part by the family and friends in memory of Jessie Rodell, former President of the AWC of The Hague*

**Recipient:** Alexandra Sirola

**Mother:** Heather Sirola (AWC Finland)

**Humanities Award**

*Sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix*

**Recipient:** Lea Absetz

**Mother:** Nely Keinänen (AWC Finland)

**Sciences Award**

*Sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa and the Bacigalupo family, in memory of Dr. Frieda Bacigalupo Natali*

**Recipient:** Hannah Dorn

**Mother:** Krissy Dorn (AIWC Cologne)

**The Foundation Award**

**Recipient:** Carlotta Barone MacDonald

**Mother:** Jane MacDonald (AAWE Paris)

**Dual Cultural Award**

**Recipient:** Stella Kim

**Mother:** Jane Joo Park (AIWC Düsseldorf)

**Vocational Award**

No recipient

**MEMBER AWARDS:** *For members of FAWCO, FAUSA or Individual Members*

**Continuing Education Award**

*Sponsored by Mary Stewart Burgher of the AWC Denmark, in memory of Pauline "Pete" Arnold Schweppe*

**Recipient:** Anisa Kauls (AIWC Düsseldorf)

**FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award**

**Recipient:** Brooke Viertel (AWC Hamburg).

**Shirley Kearney AWC Basel University Degree Award**

**Recipient:** Kayleigh Karinen (AWC Finland)

**The Foundation sincerely thanks Shelly Schoeneshoefer and her committee for overseeing the 2022 Education Awards Program.**

## 2023 SLATES

For 2023, The FAWCO Foundation is pleased to offer nine Development Grants and nine Education Awards which are fully or partially sponsored by FAWCO Clubs, individual members and The FAWCO Foundation. These are listed below.

### 2023 Development Grant Slate

## EDUCATION

### ***AW Surrey Hope Through Education***

***Educating Women & Girls Worldwide***, sponsored in part by Renuka Matthew and by AWC The Hague  
***The Coughlan Family Education Grant***, in recognition of the generosity of the Coughlan Family

## HUMAN RIGHTS

***FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk***  
***Breaking the Cycle***

## GLOBAL ISSUES

***Close To Home I***, sponsored in part by donations to the "From the Heart" program  
***Close To Home II***

## ENVIRONMENT

***AWG Paris Centennial Environmental Development Grant***

## HEALTH

***Critical Health Concerns***

## 2023 Education Award Slate

### Academic/Non-University/Dual Cultural Awards:

#### ***Arts Award***

*Sponsored in part by the family and friends in memory of Jessie Rodell, former President of AWC The Hague, and her son, Quinn Rodell*

#### ***Sciences Award***

*Sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa and the Bacigalupo Family, in memory of Dr. Frieda Bacigalupo Natali*

#### ***Humanities Award***

*Sponsored in part by AAWE Paris, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix*

#### ***Non-University and Technical Training Award***

#### ***Dual Cultural Award***

*Sponsored in part by AWC Bern and Donna Erismann in memory of Susanne Erismann*

### Member Awards:

#### ***Shirley Kearney AWC Basel University Study Degree Award***

#### ***FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award***

#### ***Skills Enhancement Award II***

*Sponsored in part by Carol McEowen from AWC Bern, recipient of the 2012 FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award*

#### ***Continuing Education Award***

*Sponsored by Mary Stewart Burgher of AWC Denmark, in memory of Pauline "Pete" Arnold Schweppe*

I enjoyed working as the FAWCO Foundation VP Programs. It is a fulfilling, rewarding and fun way to contribute to the work of The Foundation. In the last few years, I have been learning new skills and broadening my horizons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Aebersold (AWC Bern)  
Vice President Programs

## Secretary

FAWCO, The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA continued to thrive in 2023 through our global network. Our organizations have continued to meet virtually, with webinars and most importantly in person. As a team we have continued to support our programs and FAWCO members.

As Secretary, I accomplished the following in 2023:

- Added meeting dates and times to TFFB calendar
- Produced agendas for monthly meetings, which were conducted by Google Meet and F2F.
- Took minutes of TFF Board meetings.
- Processed the minutes: checking content, formatting, attaching addendums, releasing for editing, and processing all edits and suggestions. Once approved, converted the minutes into PDFs and confirmed that all the monthly financial reports were attached.
- Maintained motions and proxy.
- Completed 2023 annual registration with the state of Missouri.
- Redirected mail when the incorrect email address to our domain was used and landed in TFF "catchall" folder
- Created backups of all folders in the Shared Drive to an external hard drive.
- Supported the FAWCO Foundation mission by contributing ideas and making donations.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hollie Nielsen (AWC Central Scotland)  
Foundation Secretary

## Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian is appointed by the President to serve as a non-voting member of the Board.

In my role as Parliamentarian (which began at the end of March 2023), I have:

- Assisted our new Foundation President, as needed
- Served in an advisory capacity to the Board, particularly as the board transitioned into their respective new jobs
- Helped with reviewing and editing presentations and the Education Awards (EAs) and Development Grants (DGs) slates
- Worked with Christine and Janet in changing the EA Review process
- Reviewed and maintained suggested changes to the current Administrative Guidelines and prepared them for approval by the Board
- Reviewed and maintained the current Bylaws and prepared them for approval by the Board
- Met regularly with the Archives Team to continue the archiving process

### The Foundation Archive

The FAWCO Foundation Archive is an ongoing project as we, the Archives Team (Patti Meek, Janet Davis and I) continue the process of establishing a registry of all relevant Foundation documents. Our goal is to make it easy for future Foundation board members to access the documents they need. An added benefit of the Archives is that it serves as a repository for the Foundation's history. Progress has definitely been made, but the process of finding and eliminating duplicates and locating all documents that are required under the

Document Retention Policy (an Addendum to the Administrative Guidelines) can definitely be time-consuming. The project will continue until all existing documents have been properly cataloged so that the Archives Team's job will basically be one of updating the Archives each year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Bühling (AWC Düsseldorf)  
Parliamentarian

## Treasurer

The following pages include the financial statements for the FAWCO Foundation for 2023, with a comparison to 2022. The Foundation accounts are reviewed each year by an independent certified public accountant (CPA). Each review is done in the following year, so the latest letter, reporting on the independent review for 2022 is attached.

### **Summary: The Foundation is in sound financial condition.**

The Foundation had \$759.3K of cash assets at the end of 2023. \$465.9K is restricted funds and \$293.4K is unrestricted funds, providing a solid financial basis from which to continue to drive and support the Foundation's programs. In 2023, the Foundation had income of \$491.8K and made disbursements totaling \$159K. The year-end result is an increase in net assets of \$298.5K.

### **Balance Sheet**

At the end of December 2023, the Foundation had total assets in cash of \$759.3K.

**The Restricted Fund** (\$465.9K) comprises two elements:

- Temporarily Restricted Funds (\$456.1K) representing donations from donors who have specified that the funds be used for specific Foundation programs (Education Awards (EAs), Development Grants (DGs) and the Target Program) beyond the current year's end with some disbursements to be made over several years into the future.
- Restricted – Endowment Funds (\$9.8K) are donations collected in the past in response to a call to establish an Endowment Fund. There has been no activity related to this Fund in recent years.

**The Unrestricted Fund** (\$293.4K) also comprises two elements:

- Board Designated Reserve Funds (\$123.5K) established several years ago to provide a safety net to ensure the Foundation's programs would be funded for at least two years without any external donations.
- Unrestricted Funds (\$169.9K) is everything left after deducting the restricted and reserved funds from the total cash assets. Over time, these funds are used to supplement EAs and DGs, Foundation donations and expenses.

### **Income and Expense Statement**

The Foundation is on the cash basis of accounting. This means that the income and expenses are recorded when the funds are received into, or paid out of, the Foundation's bank accounts.

There are three major categories of Income and Expenses: Donations/Programs, Fundraising and Administration.

To aid in program planning and budgeting, the Foundation's goal is to disburse funds in the year after the donations are received. With this donation information as a basis, the Foundation plans the number and level of disbursements (grants and awards) for the next year, as well as the level of additional funding that it will add on top of the donations received. The Foundation tops up the awards and grants from its Unrestricted Funds base.

As The Foundation is on the cash basis, there can be large fluctuations from year to year due to large donations received in one year that are to be paid out over several years. This is the case with certain Education Awards and Development Grants. Or, Target funds collected for the last quarter of the year but not paid out until January.

Fluctuations in expenses are generally due to a change in the number or amount of Awards and Grants disbursed and timing of Target funds received and paid out.

The Net Surplus/(Deficit) in any year must be viewed in combination with the Restricted and Unrestricted Funds on the Balance Sheet to get an overall picture of the financial strength of the Foundation.

## Types of income

### Donations

- Administered Awards — The Foundation collects donations (one donor) and distributes Education Awards (two) for The Association of American Women in Europe (AAWE). The recipients go through the same application and evaluation process that all our Education Award applicants go through. The Foundation holds the donation as part of its Temporarily Restricted Funds until the disbursements are made over the period requested. The Foundation does not charge a fee for this service.
- Award and Grant Programs Donations — There is a continuous ebb and flow of funding for Education Awards and Development Grants. As one donor steps back we have been extremely fortunate to always have another willing to step in. In addition, we continue to have some very consistent and loyal donors: FAUSA, Shirley Kearney, Renuka Mathews, AAWE Paris, and AIWC Genoa.

During 2023, two donors have made unprecedentedly generous donations to the Foundation: Shirley Kearney (\$200,010) and Nan de Laubadère (\$100,000). These donations will enable the Foundation to fund both EA and DG awards for many years into our future. The donors also wish for the Foundation to use the funds as needed for other important projects, to be defined by the FAWCO and the Foundation Boards.

Jackie Isler also included The Foundation in her will, for which we received \$9,970 in 2023 to be used towards EAs for the next three years. Another sizable donation came from Michelle DuBois (\$10,000), also for EAs (partially or in total) for 3 years.

The Foundation continues to supplement the funding of the Awards and Grants programs from Fundraising activities (mainly from Foundation night proceeds) and unrestricted funds, as described above.

- Target Project Donations — The Target 5 project was chosen in March 2023 at the annual conference in Bratislava (see other sections for more details about the organization chosen). As of year-end 2023, a total of \$99.5K has been donated to this project, with \$80K sent to the Safe Spaces, Awesome Blossoms organization. The fundraising efforts for this project will continue until March 2025.
- General Donations (\$567 in 2023) are from individuals and institutions (such as AmazonSmile and iGive) to the Foundation's General Fund which is unrestricted.
- In-Kind donations arise when an individual pays for a budgeted expense for The Foundation and does not request reimbursement. We recorded just \$53 such donations during 2023.

### Fundraising Income

Income generated from the Foundation Night at our annual conferences has now rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, with \$41.1K raised in Bratislava (March 2023).

- Fundraising consisted of Silent and Live auctions, the Quilt Raffle, and the selling of a conference charm. These funds are raised to support The Foundation and supplement our annual Awards and Development Grants.
- During the conference, fundraising efforts, specifically for the Target 5 project, included some merchandise sales and the sale of Sustainable Development Goals pins, resulting in \$2K for Target.
- The Foundation also sold items, such as the Awesome Blossoms t-shirts, at three regional meetings during 2023. A total of \$3K was raised.

## Other Income

The Foundation also receives income from interest on CDs and our other bank savings accounts. During 2023, as interest rates increased on savings across the world, the income received on these deposits increased significantly from previous years – \$8.2K vs. \$1.5k in 2022. We expect this to remain a possibility during 2024 and we will continue to monitor the market to maximize this type of income.

## Types of Expenses

### Program Disbursements

- **Administered Awards** — As stated above, the Foundation currently administers an Education Award Program for one of our member clubs, AAWE Paris. Fully funded disbursements are made to the selected recipients who have undergone the same rigorous vetting process that we have in place for all of our Education Award applicants.
- **Awards and Grants** — \$79K was disbursed to award and grant recipients in 2023. Of that amount, \$49K was funded by donors and \$30K was funded by The Foundation's use of Unrestricted Funds.
- **Target Program** — \$80K was disbursed to Awesome Blossoms – Safe Spaces in 2023. The goal for fundraising and disbursements during 2024 is \$61K.

### Fundraising Expenses

Fundraising expenses continue to be very low. In 2023, we spent as follows;

- OneCause, our online auction platform, the cost of which we share with FAUSA – \$1,197.
- Conference charms – \$343.
- We purchased 150 Awesome Blossoms logo t-shirts, which were sold at Regionals and will be available at the 2024 IM Conference. These funds (\$1.8K) will be taken from the Viola Wheeler Target Expense grant from 2015.
- We did not purchase any new Backing Women Boutique items and have decided to move away from this method of fundraising. For now, we will continue to sell conference charms and any leftover merchandise.

The net fundraising funds are used to supplement the Awards and Grants programs, some of which are either partially or fully funded by The Foundation, as well as support The Foundation's administration expenses.

### Operating Expenses

These expenses totaled \$27K in 2023 compared to \$19K in 2022. This is also back to pre-pandemic levels due to increased travel to F2F conference and board meetings. Typically, there are two face-to-face board meetings each year. One coincides with the FAWCO Conference and the second is aimed to take place to coincide with one of the FAWCO Regional meetings. In 2023 it was held in Hamburg at the Region 5 meeting.

### Net Surplus/(Deficit)

It should be noted that the reported large surplus is due to the very generous donations during 2023 from four donors – Shirley Kearney, Nan de Laubadere, Jackie Isler, and Michelle DuBois, as described above. They are included in our Temporarily Restricted Funds Balance. Some of these funds have been invested in high-yielding bank CDs and money market savings, and will provide interest earnings over many years to come.

On the following pages are the Balance Sheets and Summaries of Income and Expense for 2023 and 2022.

There are also two pie charts:

- **Sources of Income** shows source of support: from individuals, Member Clubs and Foundation fundraising efforts.

- **Disbursements and Expenses** shows spending for Programs, Fundraising and Administration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Leyland (AWC London)  
Treasurer

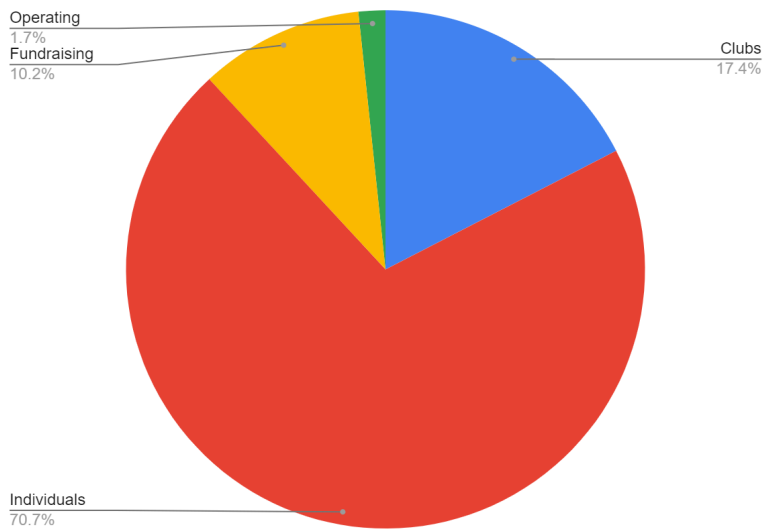
<b>The FAWCO Foundation</b>		
<b>Balance Sheets</b>		
<b>As of December 31</b>		
	2023 Unreviewed (USD)	2022 Reviewed (USD)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash Accounts	367,535	327,473
Certificates of Deposit	391,722	133,298
	759,257	460,771
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>759,257</b>	<b>460,771</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	169,874	162,167
Board Designated Reserve Funds	123,500	123,500
Total Unrestricted	293,374	285,667
Temporarily Restricted Funds	456,092	165,313
Restricted - Endowment Funds	9,791	9,791
Total Restricted	465,883	175,104
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>759,257</b>	<b>460,771</b>

**The FAWCO Foundation**  
**Income and Expense Statements**  
**For the 12 months ended December 31**

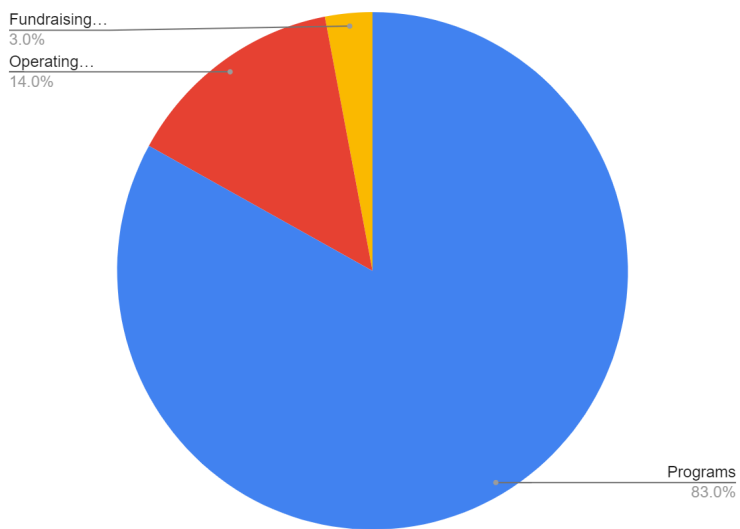
	2023 Unreviewed (USD)	2022 Reviewed (USD)
<b>Income</b>		
Foundation Donations		
Administered Awards	0	9,000
Education Awards	220,700	20,872
Development Grants	130,542	66,557
Target Program - Environment	81,174	22,247
Target Program - Health	0	20,069
In-Kind Donations	53	0
General Donations	873	17,599
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>433,342</b>	<b>156,344</b>
Fundraising Income		
Fundraising Income	45,013	49,264
Fundraising Income - Target	5,220	2,245
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>50,233</b>	<b>51,509</b>
Other Income	8,223	1,495
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>491,798</b>	<b>209,348</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Foundation Program Disbursements		
Administered Awards	0	8,000
Donations to Host Club Charities	1,500	0
Education Awards	43,000	28,000
Development Grants	36,000	36,000
Target Program	80,000	44,425
<b>Total Program Disbursements</b>	<b>160,500</b>	<b>116,425</b>
Fundraising Expenses	5,779	2,840
Operating Expenses	27,033	18,881
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>193,312</b>	<b>138,146</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>298,486</b>	<b>71,202</b>



### Income By Source 2023



### Disbursements and Expenses 2023



# FAWCO Alumnae USA Report



## FAUSA - Globally Connected, Locally Active

FAWCO Alumnae USA (FAUSA) is the social and philanthropic network for former FAWCO club members and others repatriating to North America, and the sister organization of FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation. Being a member of FAUSA connects members with a fellowship of returning expats who understand what it's like to come home when "home" is not the same, and when "home" can also mean a place outside of North America.

We enjoy spending time together! Take a look at our most recent [FAUSA video](#) created by Rick Chizmadia to get an idea of the fun we had at our 2023 Getaway and Annual Meeting which was held in Nashville, TN. FAUSA members also have the opportunity to meet with others in their local areas as well as attend any of the virtual activities FAUSA offers. FAUSA members are also able to participate in committees, teams and boards for FAUSA, FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation. The three organizations cooperate and work with one another to achieve mutual goals, while sharing the camaraderie of living internationally or having experienced the expat life.

FAUSA members (and their children) may apply for The FAWCO Foundation's Education Awards and propose projects for The Foundation's Development Grants and FAWCO Target Project. FAUSA supports projects that benefit women and children, offers [Annual Grants](#) which focus on work in the Americas, and votes on Education Awards and Development Grants offered via The FAWCO Foundation. FAUSA sponsors both an Education Award and a Development Grant for The FAWCO Foundation as well as making significant donations to [FAWCO's Target5 project](#).

FAUSA's 2023-2025 Board members are:

- President: Brenda Brinkley (AWC Bern)
- 1st VP Communications: Jennifer Padfield (AWC Berlin)
- 2nd VP Membership: Linda Harvan (AWC Brussels)
- 3rd VP Philanthropy: Sue Frick (AWC Brussels)
- Secretary: Amy Patrick (NAC England)
- Treasurer Kathy Limbaugh (AWC Dublin)
- FAWCO Liaison: Carol-Lyn McKelvey (AIWC Cologne):
- Director of Activities and Events: Yolanda Henry (AW Surrey)
- Parliamentarian (appointed): Kathy DeBest (NAC England, AWC The Hague)

Key volunteers: Newsletter Editor: Nicole Grillo (AIWC Frankfurt), Website Manager: Debbie Hastings (CAWC), Archives: Louise Greeley-Copley (AW Surrey), Sunshine: Jean Setser (AIWC Genoa), Nominations: Rick Chizmadia (AWC Zurich).

As of December, 2023, FAUSA membership is 280 members that are annual, five-year, and lifetime members, which includes 33 spouses. Our FUNdraising director and 3rd VP Philanthropy, Sue Frick, once again raised the roof of donations received at The Getaway to help FAUSA raise a record-breaking \$36,000 for FAUSA and its

projects, which included the quilt raffle (quilt donated by Nan de Laubadère ). Through the enthusiasm and leadership of FAUSA Counselor, Therese Hartwell, the LUNAFEST women's film festival provided entertainment and raised over \$2,200 in 2023, all of which went directly to FAWCO's Target5 Project on the environment and put FAUSA in the Hibiscus donor category.

Philanthropic awards sponsored by FAUSA include:

- FAUSA 2023 Annual Grants (2): *Tewa Women United: A'Gin Healthy Sexuality and Body Sovereignty - Braided Curriculum Project* and *Refugee Assistance Alliance*
- The FAWCO Foundation Human Rights 2023 FAUSA Effecting Change for Women and Children at Risk Development Grant: *Refugee Assistance Alliance*
- The FAWCO Foundation Global Issues Close to Home II: *Project Beloved*
- FAWCO's 2022-2025 Target Environment Project: *Awesome Blossoms*, supported by FAUSA LUNAFEST fundraiser for the Target Project and additional support so that FAUSA reached the Hibiscus donor level, the highest level for donors of the Target Project

Our many virtual activities and groups continued to thrive, providing members with opportunities to connect with a variety of interest groups:

- Bridge
- MahJong
- Crafts
- FAUSA in Motion
- Monthly Wine Tasting
- FAUSA Virtual Road Trip around North America
- Six virtual book groups
- Metro and Regional Coordinators
- And our newest addition is a quarterly Speaker Series

In addition to virtual travel, FAUSA members have started traveling together! In May of 2023, 23 FAUSA members traveled from New York to Southampton, UK, on the Queen Mary II and had a wonderful time. In February 2024, 12 FAUSA members will go on their second cruise around the Caribbean aboard the Windstar Windsurf.

To learn more about FAUSA, contact any of the FAUSA board members or other FAUSA members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Brinkley  
FAUSA President 2023-2025

## FAWCO Board



**Ann Marie Morrow**  
FAWCO President

AWC Finland  
president@fawco.org



**Mary Dobrian**  
FAWCO 1st Vice President  
Communications

AIWC Cologne  
vp-communications@fawco.org



**Kanika Holloway**  
FAWCO 2nd Vice President  
Member Clubs

AWC Antwerp  
vp-memberclubs@fawco.org



**Mary Manning**  
FAWCO 3rd Vice President  
Global Issues

Heidelberg IWC  
vp-globalissues@fawco.org



**Lauren Scharps**  
FAWCO Secretary

AIWC Frankfurt  
secretary@fawco.org



**Cathy Farnan**  
FAWCO Treasurer

AWG Paris/FAUSA  
treasurer@fawco.org



**Patti Meek**  
FAWCO Parliamentarian

AWC Dublin  
parliamentarian@fawco.org

## The FAWCO Foundation Board



**Janet Davis**  
FAWCO Foundation President

AIWC Cologne  
president@fawcofoundation.org



**Mary Stange**  
FAWCO Foundation  
Vice President Communications

AWC Bogotá, FAUSA  
vpcommunications@fawcofoundation.org



**Angela Aebersold**  
FAWCO Foundation  
Vice President Fundraising

AWC Bern  
vpfundraising@fawcofoundation.org



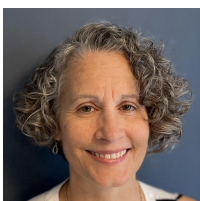
**Christine Riney**  
FAWCO Foundation  
Vice President Programs

AWC Hamburg  
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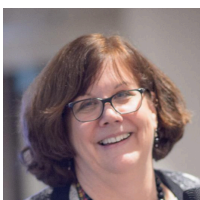
**Hollie Nielsen**  
FAWCO Foundation  
Secretary

AWC London, AWC Central Scotland  
secretary@fawcofoundation.org



**Wendy Leyland**  
FAWCO Foundation Treasurer

AWC London  
treasurer@fawcofoundation.org



**Barbara Bühling**  
FAWCO Foundation  
Parliamentarian

AIWC Düsseldorf  
parliamentarian@fawcofoundation.org

## FAUSA Board



**Brenda Brinkley**  
FAUSA President

[president@fausa.org](mailto:president@fausa.org)



**Jennifer Padfield**  
FAUSA 1st Vice President  
Communications/PR

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**Linda Harvan**  
FAUSA 2nd Vice President  
Membership

[2ndvp@fausa.org](mailto:2ndvp@fausa.org)



**Amy Patrick**  
FAUSA Secretary

[secretary@fausa.org](mailto:secretary@fausa.org)



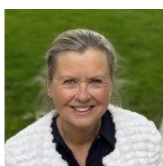
**Kathy Limbaugh**  
Treasurer

[treasurer@fausa.org](mailto:treasurer@fausa.org)



**Sue Frick**  
Director of Philanthropy

[philanthropy@fausa.org](mailto:philanthropy@fausa.org)



**Yolanda Henry**  
Director of Activities and Events

[activities@fausa.org](mailto:activities@fausa.org)



**Carol-Lyn McKelvey**  
FAWCO Liaison

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**Kathy DeBest**  
Parliamentarian

[parliamentarian@fausa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@fausa.org)

