

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison

Board Members Absent:

Lesley Dorman, Public Relations
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Joan Walsh, Membership

Committee Members Present:

Anne La Porta, AFSA
Chris Zarr, FBS and Legislative Liaison
Marguerite Fry, Housing Office
Lisa Wilkinson, Foreign Born Spouses

AAFSW Staff:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting took place in the AAFSW Conference Room at the Family Liaison Office at the State Department and began at 10:10 AM.

The November minutes were accepted with a few changes.

By-Laws:

The by-laws need to be changed to reflect our new location, to read “greater Washington, DC area.” It was unanimously voted to make this change. Debbi and Lucy will follow up and look at the charter, which is currently from the District of Columbia. We may need to change this in order to maintain tax-free status.

Treasurer’s Report:

Lucy Whitley reported that the Finance Committee recommended no raises be given to AAFSW staff members this year. A motion in favor of giving a small raise (1.97%) to the Book Operations Manager when her contract is renewed in a few weeks was discussed and voted on. The motion did not pass; it was decided to adhere to the recommendation of the Finance Committee and to give no salary increases this year.

Bookfair:

The Book Fair Committee is meeting monthly in the Book Room. Mette wrote thank you notes for Bookfair volunteers and to those in the Department providing assistance. She received several nice notes back from those that helped.

SOSA Report:

Terri discussed the possibility of rolling AFSA's Avis Bohlen award into a presentation ceremony with SOSA and the new Tragen Award with a representative from AFSA, but they have come to the conclusion that this will not work. The reason is that the Avis Bohlen award and the Averill Harriman Award are now both funded by the Harriman Foundation. Now we need to decide how to organize the presentation of our awards. The Tragen Award (administered primarily by Dacor/Bacon House), the Dorman Award, and SOSA will dovetail together nicely. We should award these next in spring/summer/early fall 2007 , which will give us time to coordinate and to do them well. Mette received a nice e-mail from Steve Beecroft (no relation) in the SecState's office regarding the AAWS awards in December. Mette will see if we might have permission to reprint in the newsletter.

Programs:

The next program will be on March 21st. Possible speakers for future programs include Admiral Stanfield Turner and Steve Roberts.

Membership:

Joan Walsh has resigned from the position of Membership Chairman, so we need a new chairman. We need to clearly delineate the division of responsibilities for membership tasks between the membership chair and the Office Manager.

FLO Meeting:

From 10:30 until 12 noon we met with the Family Liaison Office staff. FLO Director Ann Greenberg was unable to attend & sent her regrets. Leslie Teixeira, deputy director of FLO, introduced herself and gave an overview of some of the programs FLO is working on. Each staff member introduced themselves, told a little bit about their responsibilities and how they felt AAWS might further the cause of the family in ways that FLO is not able to do.

Media Team:

The period for submitting applications for the Media Director's position will be open until January 31. A committee, including Susan Lee, Kelly Midura, Judy Felt, and another Board member, will choose the new Director. We hope to make a choice by mid-February.

Foreign Born Spouse Group:

Lisa Wilkinson, Co-Chair of the Foreign Born Spouse (FBS) group discussed her concern that members of the FBS do not join AAFSW and she asked for suggestions from the Board. We suggested perhaps we could make it mandatory after a grace period and she thought that would be acceptable. There are not many whose financial concerns would make it difficult to pay the membership dues. Terri Williams made a motion that after a grace period of six months, members of our special interest groups must become members of AAFSW. Special financial concerns can be addressed on a case by case basis. Lucy Whitley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AFSA:

Ann La Porta reported on the AFSA Board meeting that she attended as our representative. The issues that affect family members included a discussion of overseas locality pay, which has not been implemented, increases in danger and locality pay and prescriptive relief during grievance cases, basically the employee's wages continue during the case through the appeals process. Tex Harris, an AFSA member announced a program to help the State Department present an image to the country, with T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. He would like ideas for a "motto for State Department" and can be contacted through AFSA. Ann also discussed the new initiative by the Secretary of State termed the 'Global Repositioning Initiative' which would move more State Department positions into transitioning countries.

It is part of a new "Transformational Diplomacy" project and we should hear more about it in the coming months. The February issue of the Foreign Service Journal will have an article about it and we should be ready to respond to issues that affect family members.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
February 14, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations

Board Members Absent:

Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison
Barbara Gordon, Programs

AAFSW Staff (Absent):

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting began at 10:15 AM.

The January minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

We have a new assistant treasurer, Margaret Teich. Robin is updating her job description; she signed her new contract.

Bookfair

Mette wrote thank you notes for Bookfair volunteers and to those in the Department providing assistance. She received several nice notes back from those that helped. Monthly meetings continue in the Book Room and are attended by Dianne Bodeen, Marian Rondon, Judy Felt, Barbara Ratigan, Lucy Whitley, and Mette. Robin would like to have a pre-party the night before Book Fair next year, a sort of fundraiser preview. The consensus among the board is that this probably is not viable. Years ago we used to have a "Family Night," but with changing lifestyles it was felt that this would not be well-attended, and that people probably don't want to pay to see books they can see for free during the duration of Book Fair. We have not ruled out an event, but would need to check into the legality of selling tickets for such an event. Marguerite Anderson has offered her home for a volunteer luncheon in the spring. Possible dates, depending on Marguerite's schedule, are Tuesday or Wednesday in the last week in April.

Membership:

Debbi Miller is currently doing all the duties of membership management. Lesley Dorman has asked several women to take on the Membership position but has not found anyone yet. She was able to recruit Jane Owens to work in the Housing Office, along with Lisa Wilkinson.

Programs:

The next program will be on March 21, 2006, with speaker Steve Roberts.

AFSA/Colead

Judy reported that she recently called on Tony Holmes, AFSA, and Ray Leki, Transition Center. At a recent meeting on Transitional Diplomacy we were represented by Mette, Judy, and Ann La Porta. (Notes from Ann La Porta are attached with details).

Ann La Porta wants to know if we could send a memo about more money being allotted for Separate Maintenance Allowances. The trend is for a higher number of separated families. It was pointed out that the State budget is thought to be more appropriately put in the “50” account with other national security agencies. This is something we could lobby for with folks in Congress if we had an agenda or talking points.

SOSA

Terri is out of the country and will be back on February 18. The Tragen Award will probably be given this year but whether SOSA will be is up to us to decide.

By-Laws

Elaine is working on them and found several changes to be made. One was the location, which was already taken care of at the January meeting. The other is our seal. Lucy felt that we were okay as far as the charter goes. A by-law meeting was set for March 9 in conjunction with the Finance meeting at 10:30 AM in the office.

FLO

Mette is organizing a meeting of former FLO directors to meet with new FLO Director Ann Greenberg, who is the 9th person in that position. It is hoped that they might discuss balancing the priorities of FLO.

President's Report:

Judy recently met with Ray Leki, who wants to resurrect quarterly meetings between FLO, the Transition Center, AAFSW and the Youth Foundation. The next one will be March 22 in Ray’s office from 3:30 to 5:00.

Media Report:

There is no report, but we have received one application for Media Director and are expecting another. Leslie Ashby will be here in May/June so we will have a chance to meet her then.

Miscellaneous:

When Debbi will not be in the office for a couple of days, the Board would like her to update the voicemail to reflect that, so that anyone leaving a message will realize it. We decided to change the meeting time from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM, with plans to start the meetings promptly at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin, AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations

Committee Chairman Present:

Marguerite Anderson

Board Members Absent:

Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer

AAFSW Staff:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting began at 10:30 AM.

The February minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

The Book Fair report was distributed. Income was up and expenses were down. Profits in the Book Room were up for calendar year 2005 but expenses were too. Book operations showed a profit of \$45,000.

Programs:

The March 21 program will feature Steve Roberts. On April 18 we will host Barbara Ferguson, a reporter who was embedded with the Marines in Iraq. The May speaker will be Admiral Stansfield Turner, former director of CIA, featuring his book Burn Before Reading. The dates for the 2006-2007 program calendar were set as follows: 9/19, 10/24, 12/5, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15. Mette will request to reserve these dates on the 8th floor for next year.

Membership:

There is still no chairman, but Debbi continues to do the daily operations. Discussion followed as to requiring membership from our volunteers in key positions and our employees.

Book Fair:

Publicity: There are 2 parts to publicity, requesting donations and actual publicity for the event. Robin prefers not to solicit donations within the Department. Mette will ask Dianne about this when Dianne has recovered from her recent operation. The Book Fair this year will be from October 13-22. If we had a Wine & Cheese Reception, it would be on October 12 to kick off the Book Fair. Mette talked to Legal (L) about whether or not we can do it. We must first determine whether we may use the space for a fundraising

event, which is apparently seen as a different type of purpose than the Book Fair. Once this is determined, we must check on whether or not we can sell tickets. The target audience would be embassies and antiquarian book collectors. Security would be another component to consider. Mette will continue to follow up.

Volunteer Luncheon:

Marguerite Anderson will host the luncheon on April 25 at 12 noon at her home at 5303 Kenwood Avenue in Chevy Chase MD. Judy will prepare written invitations.

AFSA/Colead:

AFSA Lobby Day will be held on May 4. Judy mentioned the possibility of our members participating in order to “see how it’s done,” although AFSA represents different concerns than AAFSW. Foreign Affairs Day will be May 5.

SOSA:

Terri has found two past winners of the SOSA who are interested in helping: Elizabeth Mates and June Carmichael. However, Elizabeth is going overseas this summer. The SOSA process takes about 7 months. We have no donation as yet from the Green Foundation for this year. The Tragen Award is on target for this summer. Terri will follow up with Dacor-Bacon about the possibility of presenting their (Tragen) award with us in December instead. Lesley mentioned that some have commented about SOSA being removed from Foreign Service Day. We had initiated the move in order to highlight the winners better and this seems to have been a success, particularly in light of the Washington Post publicity we received. We would like to present the Dorman Award at the same event as the SOSA.

Media Director’s Report:

The new Media Director will be Kim Furnish. She will begin on April 1, and share the April MD duties with Leslie Ashby. There was discussion on the Strategic Plan for AAFSW recently submitted by Ruby Carlino, who wrote it as part of her graduate work.

Open House:

We will hold our Open House on Thursday, June 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. It will be mentioned in the Global Link so that all members are aware, plus we will invite guests from FLO, OBC, etc.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
April 11, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations

Board Members Absent:

Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Programs

Committee Chairman Present:

Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison
Marguerite Anderson, Senior Living

AAFSW Staff Absent:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting began at 10:30 AM.

The March minutes were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

The Asst Treasurer, Margaret Teich, has obtained a State Dept ID. Lucy is out of town, but Margaret agreed to ask Lucy to clarify a statement from the last meeting that Book Operations showed a profit of \$45,000. We will look at the numbers and report back next meeting.

General Announcements:

Mette had several announcements. She went to a meeting for those interested in having a table at Foreign Affairs Day, May 5. We have a table reserved for AAFSW. She also discussed the new Director General, George Staples, who will be on board soon. She felt it was important that AAFSW make a courtesy call and discuss our goals and issues with him. She also mentioned that Melissa Hess called and told her that National Public Radio has asked to excerpt parts of the book, Realities of the Foreign Service. Melissa, as one of the editors, is very positive about this and wanted our OK. We agreed that this would be a great opportunity for "Realities" and AAFSW to get some publicity. Mette also announced that seven of the eight former Directors for the FLO met recently with Ann Greenberg, the new FLO Director and had a very good information exchange.

Debbi Miller asked that the following be entered into the minutes: We have had over 30 responses to the proposed change in the Bylaws and all have voted for approval of the change.

Programs:

Mette announced that the May 16th program, featuring Admiral Stansfield Turner, may be pre-empted by the Secretary of State. Options for other locations within the Dept. were discussed. Mette will continue to track this new development. She also reported that the reservation dates for 2006-07 Program season have been submitted, the office is waiting

for confirmation. Since 2004, FLO office has been underwriting the set-up expenses for the program in the Ben Franklin Room and needs to sign off on the dates. (A verbal commitment was given by FLO office).

Membership:

We are still looking for a chairman, and Debbi continues to do the daily operations. Lesley is progressing in contacting former members who have not renewed and has had quite a bit of success. She said that some simply forget or lose the reminders.

Judy asked to review the decision offering complimentary membership to employees of AAWSF. Because those who had originally voted in favor of the decision were not present, this issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Book Fair:

Mette reported that the room to have the Wine & Cheese Reception has been booked. However, the reception would add \$1,300 extra to cost of the security guards for Bookfair. The legality question remains to be answered if AAWSF can sell tickets in the building. Mette will continue to follow up on this issue.

One of the past supporters of BookFair is Art Buchwald. Lesley has written a short note to him since he is in a hospice at the present time.

Volunteer Luncheon:

Marguerite Anderson is hosting the volunteer luncheon on April 25 at 12 noon at her home at 5303 Kenwood Avenue in Chevy Chase MD. Judy has received 12 acceptances to date.

AFSA/Colead:

AFSA/COLEAD Lobby Day is scheduled for May 4. Judy will attend and is soliciting talking points and volunteers. The AAWSF/AFSA scholarship winner has been selected.

Patty reported that the Cost Equalization Program, a pilot program to help spouses to be hired in Embassy jobs that are usually taken by local hires, has been approved in the past but has no funding. It is estimated that 2 ¼ to 2 ½ million dollars is necessary to fund the program

SOSA:

The time frame for the SOSA process will follow that used last year, with the Awards being presented during our December Program. The action cable soliciting nominations is in the process of being drafted. We discussed letters soliciting donations from former SOS's. The SOSA certificates are now to be produced by the State Department. Mette noted that more lead time we be required for the Secretary's signature on the certificate. Terri Williams, the SOSA Chair, will update the Board at the next meeting.

Media Team, AAFSW Focus:

The new Media Director, Kim Furnish, is on board, working with current Director, Leslie Ashby on the current Global Link.

There was discussion on the possibility of refocusing on the concept of AAFSW as a "CLO in the Washington DC area". There is definitely a need for a connection, and we do serve that need through some programs, such as the Playgroup, Housing Office, etc. We discussed how to manage the program, what to offer and who could do it. What are the objectives; is this a conflict with the FLO office in main state? Again the role of AAFSW was discussed with many ideas explored. The Board will pursue these ideas and others that have been introduced by the Media Team, the Post Representative Chair, Ruby Carlino, and other younger members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Teich
Asst. Treasurer

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
May 9, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations

Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer

Board Members Absent:

Terri Williams, President Emerita
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President

AAFSW Staff Present:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting began at 10:30 AM.

Book Fair

Judy distributed a book fair flyer that Robin had produced for Foreign Affairs Day. Some changes were suggested; there are also two bookmarks, one for in-house and one for the public. Mette will organize the large posters for publicity within the Department. The monthly BookFair meetings continue. The next one will be June 1.

Wine & Cheese Reception: Legal Department did give us permission to sell tickets in the building. We discussed a price of \$15 for a wine & cheese party where books would also be for sale. Connie volunteered to organize the party.

Programs

The May program will proceed as originally scheduled on May 16. The speaker will be Admiral Stansfield Turner. The dates for programs on the 8th floor in 2006/2007 have been confirmed.

Treasurer's Report

Everything is going well. The Finance Committee will meet soon.

President's Report

Judy passed around the draft of a new AAFSW membership brochure that has been designed by the media team. Changes were discussed, including: putting contact info in the part of the brochure that doesn't get torn off and sent in. Comments should be sent to Kim Furnish and/or Susan Lee.

The Day on the Hill with AFSA on May 4 went very well and Judy felt that she had learned quite a bit. The lobby day was very well organized by AFSA.

The issue of requiring employees of AAFSW to be members was revisited. We had voted in March to make complimentary membership available to our employees, if needed. The issue was discussed at length and in the end the board voted to make membership a requirement for AAFSW employees. The motion to require membership was passed by a vote of 8-2.

SOSA

There was discussion as to whether or not we should send out reminder letters to the former Secretaries of State who have supported the SOSA financially over the years. The Board felt that this was appropriate. There was also concern about the lack of communication from the Green Foundation. Judy will discuss all with Terri.

AFSA/Colead

Changes are afoot regarding locality pay, civil service protections, and FS pay increases.

Open House:

We will hold our Open House on Thursday, June 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Debbi will send out emails to invite guests from FLO, OBC, FS Youth Foundation, AFSA, ECS, and ESC. Connie will organize the food for this event.

Global Link

The deadline can be a bit later than June 1st but items should be submitted by late June in order to ensure that they are included in the newsletter. Kim Furnish is departing for post in July and would like to publish before she leaves.

Classified Ads

Debbi brought up the problem of people using Livelines to post classified ads. She suggested they could be disallowed completely on Livelines and moved to a blog which already exists. She will talk to Bert Curtis about making this happen.

Katie Rock, recipient of the merit scholarship from AAFSW, sent a letter of thanks.

The April minutes were accepted with a minor change.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison

Board Members Absent:

Marguerite Anderson, Senior Living
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Terri Williams, SOSA Chair

AAFSW Staff Present:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The meeting began at 10:40 AM.

The May minutes were accepted with changes.

AFSA

A written report from Ann LaPorta was submitted which outlined briefly the AFSA's priorities.

Housing Office

Leslie Dorman reported on housing office meeting. We have several new volunteers.

Membership

Debbi sent packets to 177 CLOs, including brochures, flyers and Realities postcards. She also sent out by bulk mail 478 renewal letters, 312 for active members and 166 "please come back" notices. The DC area addressees also received book fair volunteer flyers.

Our stock of "Realities" postcards is low. \$500 in royalties just came in.

Treasurer's Report

Charge card machines: Should we buy instead of rent these machines during Book Fair? They can be purchased for \$110 used with a warranty. (New ones run \$270). We will see if Bank of America will rent them to us for the 1 month we need them for Book Fair.

Donations to various groups: We normally give money to the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, the FSN Emergency Relief Fund, and to Send-A-Kid-to-Camp. We decided to wait until after the books close to send money to FSYF and the FSN fund but will give the camp donation before the end of the fiscal year, as it is in the budget. We have set aside funds for AFSA scholarships: \$8200 needs-based and \$1500 merit-based.

We need additional Finance Committee members.

Book Fair

Things are rolling along. Ads soliciting Art Corner donations are up in the Department. Our reception for October 12 is on track. We are waiting on an alcohol waiver. Security will be the next item to sort out. Carmen Geis is putting together a guest list. Connie is handling food and drink.

SOSA

Debbi sent donation request letters about the SOSA awards to all former Secretaries of State. She also sent a letter to the Green Foundation with all of the background information & history of our relationship with the foundation and the award, as the person Judy had spoken to on the phone had no knowledge of these details. In the letter, she asked if we will continue to receive the \$10,000 and asked to receive notification if we will not.

Terri sent the cable out for the coming year's awards. The cable was approved by the bureaus, which hopefully means that they will pay for travel as in the past.

Mette: We are thinking of having a reception after the awards ceremony this year at Dacor-Bacon and inviting the Secretary. Mette will go to the SecState's office and see if it would work with her schedule. If not, we will think about who we might invite instead.

President's Report

Judy attended the ADST luncheon and heard a speaker talk about FSI.

Mette asked that board members give her plenty of notice when their State ID's are expiring so that she can arrange for their renewal.

We spent several minutes thanking outgoing Media Director Leslie Ashby and welcoming incoming Media Director Kim Furnish.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer

Board Members Absent:

Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison

AAFSW Staff:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

The June minutes were accepted with changes.

Book Fair

Carmen Geis is organizing invitations, etc., for the Vernissage October 12 from 6-8 PM. We will probably charge \$10.

Programs

Roz Mack, an ambassador's wife, will be our speaker for September. Dr. Mack is an expert in arts of the Middle East as they influenced Italian and European art. October's program may also be art-themed.

SOSA

The December program will once again be the SOSA awards. Debbi will try to arrange a musical portion of the program using AAFSW member-musicians. Tours of the 8th floor will be available before the program for honorees & their families, and possibly also afterwards for attendees. There will be a lunch at Dacor-Bacon House for winners and their families.

We have 2 nominations for SOSA in already; the deadline is October 1. Everything is on track. FLO is involved and Dacor-Bacon is working with us. They will probably cover the expenses for the luncheon.

Green Foundation: Terri reported that there has been no response from them regarding their continued financial support. Debbi reported that we had received \$1,000 from Secretary Powell. Terri will draft a donation request letter to send to Secretary Baker.

Membership

We have received 200 renewals with 200-250 outstanding. We have also received contributions for scholarships and the headquarters. Clements is going to give us \$1,000 to print new membership brochures. We do have a number of existing brochures to use up on which the address is corrected by stick-on labels.

Treasurer's Report – Lucy Whitley

Things look good. We are about \$5,000 ahead on Book Room for the fiscal year. Financial contributions are down. Scholarships: In discussion an idea was introduced to provide daycare scholarships for spouses so that they can participate in training. We will ask in the November Global Link for contributions.

AFSA

Ken Nakamura is leaving for the Hill.

President's Report

Judy , Terri & Mette met with FLO. FLO is getting pressure to support the unaccompanied employees and their families. The expectation from management is that something must be in place by the end of this fiscal year. FLO is interested in our working with them in partnership in an outreach to employees and family members. They are looking at having a "Washington CLO" or a team of people to specifically help employees & family members with key aspects of life that FLO cannot effectively do. One possibility is using our office as a base for a team of people and as a place for spouses to come for info & assistance. The housing office could be a very helpful component of the plan. For example, it could possibly be a place with computers that spouses could use. One important advantage in partnering with AAFSW is that spouses cannot easily enter the Department of State, and we are easily accessible and close to NFATC. Disabled veterans are somehow to be a part of this plan although it is not clear exactly how. Stay tuned as this plan develops.

We will not meet in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison

Board Members Absent:

Barbara Gordon, Programs
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Terri Williams, President Emerita

AAFSW Staff:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

Meeting began at 10:37 AM. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Book Fair

Vernissage: We have the alcohol waiver. If we have 4 volunteers who will stay in 4 specific places in the exhibit room, we will not need any guards at all, therefore no additional cost for security at the event. Cost of weekend guards could run as much as \$7632. The DG is willing to open the Book Fair on Friday, October 13 at 2:00 PM.
Publicity: Mette passed out some flyers or board members to distribute outside. We are also waiting for Robin to make the postcards to confirm volunteers' participation. We are getting new yellow bookmarks to replace the incorrect pink ones. Paid advertising costing about \$4000 will appear in the Foreign Service Journal, Washington Post (Datebook, Weekend magazine, Book World, Express), City Hill Paper, Capitol Hill Rag, some Current Newspapers. Mette will send info to Connie to be placed on Craig's List. Lesley reported that John Kelly from the Washington Post is going to try to come to the Book Fair. She has completed radio and television appeals.

Treasurer's Report

The Realities of the Foreign Service Life book is in preparation for its second edition and will hopefully start to generate more royalties for AAFSW (in addition to those generated by the first edition).

Finance Meeting: Budget was presented for our approval. We discussed how to donate any excess funds (profits) to local charities. The budget was approved unanimously. With interest rates rising, we are going to consider buying short-term CDs with excess earnings.

Programs

October program: Rembrandt: The Last 400 Years. There will be no November program.
December program: SOSA and other awards, musical presentations.

SOSA

The Dorman Award will be awarded at the same time as SOSA and the Ele Tragen Award. Reminders for nominations have gone out through the Global Link, Livelines, CLOs, and State cables. The Tragen Award nominations are being handled by Richard McKee at Dacor-Bacon. Mette told us that Secretary Rice wants to create the SOSA certificates herself, through MMS.

Housing Office

We have 2 new members volunteering in the Housing Office, which has received many compliments on its contributions. There are many listings and the office is quite busy.

Membership

Someone called about possibly volunteering as membership chairman.

AFSA/COLEAD

Based on the DG's cable regarding bidding and assignments, Anne La Porta feels that AAFSW really needs to formulate a stance on how these issues affect families. We could possibly put together information regarding benefits available to families on the AAFSW website, so that there is one more place that makes the information available. Kelly needs info on what to put on the website. There is a rising awareness of how some of the current allowances and policies do not work with current circumstances. Mette is going to talk with Nan Leininger at FLO and see what they are doing and how she thinks we might help. Patty recommends that AAFSW should write a letter to the DG expressing our concern for families and our willingness to help in any way we can. Patty will draft a letter for Judy to send to the DG.

Board Tips and Contact Lists for Officers and Committee Chairs were distributed. Scheduled Board meetings this year: October 10, November 14, January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12

Clements has sent us a check for \$1000 to pay for printing new brochures. The new brochures are still under preparation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Griffin
AAFSW Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2006

Board Members Present:

Judy Felt, President
Connie Griffin, Secretary
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison

Board Members Absent:

Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations

AAFSW Office Manager

Debbi Miller

The meeting began at 10:34 AM.

The minutes from the September meeting were accepted with some amendments.

Book Fair

Mette said that Book Fair is ready. The badges for the volunteers are ready for pickup at the VIP desk, thanks to DS. Connie reported that we are ready for about 25 attendees at the Vernissage; she is coordinating with Robin Jones and Carmen Geis.

SOSA

A good number of nominations have come in for SOSA. Terri is coordinating with DACOR on the Tragen Award. She does not know if the Dorman Award is on track to be awarded at the same time. Terri wants to be sure to send publicity to the winners' hometown newspapers. The DG will be invited to participate as the presenter. Debbi has been in touch with several AAFSW member musicians/singers about participating with her in the ceremony. She is working on putting together a program of music representing the different bureaus. Mette reports that Secretary Rice will be out of the country at the ministerials on December 5th. Mette is working on the certificates and once the selections are made she will have the certificates printed and given to the Secretary for her signature.

Unaccompanied Tours

Mette met with Judy Felt, Nan Leininger, Ann Greenberg, Marti Doggett, and Pam Ward at FLO regarding UT. They are doing a social gathering for unaccompanied family members on November 5 from 4-6 at the Oakwood in Falls Church. This will be a cooperative effort, sponsored by AAFSW/FLO/FSYF. The Board agreed that AAFSW will provide up to \$200 for refreshments. Mette will post an announcement on Livelines. Mette & Connie will attend, and other board members are encouraged to attend.

CLO in Washington: There doesn't seem to be movement to make this happen. The survey that Nan did for the unaccompanied tour population did not necessarily indicate that people wanted one. Funding may not be available.

State Liaison: Mette met with the CLO training group and the A-100 class recently. She also is attending meetings with the Allowances Working Group – going through all concerns about allowance and regulations when they don't apply to the new realities of unaccompanied tours. Mobilization of reservists: their point of departure is considered to be Washington. They are working on getting more flexibility for Reservists so that the travel and shipping of HHE for family members to other locations is funded as a full entitlement. This affects the point of Separate Maintenance Allowance for families.

President's Report

One of our members, Sharon Maybarduk, is asking for a letter from AAFSW endorsing her master's thesis on "An Exploration of Factors Associated with the Reentry Adjustment of US Foreign Service Spouses." The Board agreed that it would like to support her and could do so by mentioning her project on Livelines and in the Global Link, and leaving it for readers to contact her if they want to participate in her study.

Membership

Katarina Hamilton has agreed to be the Membership Chairman, starting in November. Debbi sent out 140 "Oops" emails and 30 "Oops" letters to members whose memberships had lapsed. We now have over 700 members.

Treasurer

We are doing fine.

Life After the Foreign Service

AAFSW (Terri) puts on a seminar for spouses whose employee spouses are going through the job search program. There were 12 participants in August, and 5 in October. There was some discussion of continuing the conversation within an AAFSW group.

Foreign Affairs Council

Terri attended their meeting. Cox Foundation: Projection of the Embassy of the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM. Next meeting is November 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie G. Griffin
Secretary

AAFSW
Board of Directors Meeting
November 14, 2006

Board Members Present:

Elaine Neumann, 1st Vice President
Lucy Whitley, Treasurer
Margaret Teich, Asst. Treasurer
Lesley Dorman, Public Relations
Patty Ryan, Legislative/AFSA Liaison
Barbara Gordon, Programs
Connie Griffin, Secretary

Board Members Absent:

Sandy Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Terri Williams, President Emerita
Judy Felt, President
Mette Beecroft, President Emerita

AAFSW Staff:

Debbi Miller, Office Manager

Meeting began at 10:41 AM. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Book Fair & Treasurer's Report

Lucy: The latest total sales number for Book Fair is \$66,877.13. We took in \$400 in admissions and \$828 in sales at the Vernissage the evening prior to the official opening. Discussion about how we might improve sales followed.

We have to apply for a business license in Arlington County. This will involve paying a tangible property tax based on an inventory of our office furnishings. We will also owe a penalty for not filing these forms sooner.

SOSA

The 5 recipients have been selected and notified. Travel arrangements have not yet been made. Four AAFSW members will be providing singing and musical entertainment.

Dorman Award

Lesley said that the DG will present the award. There will be two recipients this year: Lisa Wilkinson, one of the co-chairs of the Foreign Born Spouse group, and Dianne Bodeen, chair of the Art Corner of the BookFair.

Programs

SOSA and other award presentations will be the program for December. The March program will have the ambassador from Colombia to the US. Barbara Gordon may have something on Cuba on the April or May program.

Housing

The housing office is vibrant. New people have been coming in to volunteer.

Membership

After the October GL, the unpaid members were suspended. We are down to about 650 members. Lesley has been following up with people in the DC area. We get 1 or 2 members per month from online applications. Debbi will send out reminder emails.

Media Issues

All the advertisements on our website have expired contracts. Debbi has been trying to contact Jeff Porter, our advertising person, to no avail. Within the next week the ads that have not been paid for will be removed.

AFSA

The report from Ann La Porta was emailed to everyone. There is a new employee dealing with legislative affairs at AFSA. There are now as many as 600 families of unaccompanied employees.

Transportation Office Issue

Mette reported that a move has been proposed for the Transportation offices. This will break up the service corridor, created in 1995 to serve employees and families. There is a possibility that all services could be moved to an annex, including parts of the FLO office. The Tranportation move would just be the first such move. Mette has put an appeal out on Livelines for people who disagree with such a move to voice their opinions.

Scholarship

Our scholarship coordinator has resigned so we need a new one. We currently give 1 named AAFSW scholarship (must be a child of a member) and we give enough money for 4 AFSA need-based scholarships. Terri thought that we could stipulate that the scholarships go to AAFSW kids only. Lori Dec wrote back that we could do as we wished but it might be hard to find that many kids of members each year. Debbi will convey to Lori that we would like to have AAFSW kids receive preference when possible.

The FLO party at the Oakwood for unaccompanied tour families went very well. Mette, Lucy, Connie and Patty were all there. AAFSW paid for refreshments.

There will be no board meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 16, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Griffin
AAFSW Secretary