

**AAFSW Board of Directors Minutes**  
July 19, 2011

**Board Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
President Patricia Linderman	
1st VP Jen Dinoia	
2nd VP Lisa Wilkinson	
Secretary Margaret Teich	
Treasurer Lucy Whitley	
Ass't Treasurer	Gina Necula
President Emerita Faye Barnes	

**Standing Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
State Liaison	Mette Beecroft
Membership Debbi Miller	
Housing/Public Relations Lesley Dorman	
Art&Bookfair Co-Chairs Anne Kauzlarich	Judy Felt
Community Relations (VACANT)	
Forum Co-Chairs Ann La Porta	Judy Felt
Program Sheila Switzer	
SOSA (VACANT)	

**Additional Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
AFSA Liaison	Patty Ryan
FSYF Liaison	Donna Sharpf
Senior Living Marguerite Anderson	
CLO Alumni Assoc. Donna Ayerst	

**Other Attendees**

BookRoom Manager Brian Neumann  
Office Manager Barbara Reioux

President Emerita Faye Barnes opened the meeting at 10:35am and welcomed/introduced the new AAFSW President Patricia Linderman. The June board minutes were accepted with corrections.

**President's Report**

After speaking to the board regarding her background in the FS, Patricia asked the board members to introduce themselves and to describe their background in the FS. With the

introductions completed, Patricia presented Faye with a gift in recognition of her role and achievements as AAFSW President. Discussion of the AAFSW by-laws was postponed till the Sept. meeting.

### **President Emerita**

The divorce rate within the FS is increasing, especially with the rise of unaccompanied tours and hardship posts. AAFSW continues to develop a support network/resource for divorced spouses, especially those spouses who have limited income.

Faye found a list of DC divorce lawyers who will work for free. FS spouses can attend Brilliant Exits, a divorce support group in Va, for free.

With the establishment of the Dept. of Security VRAP program (Victims' Resource Advocacy Program), Faye reported there is a designated employee to work /assist divorce spouses and issue of spousal abuse (refer enclosed flyer).

Send your Updates/Comments re the board guidelines to Faye.

FLO office has a new program coordinator and DS has a Victims Advocacy person. Go to the FLO website for additional information

### **Program**

The Sept program will highlight two figures in the field of Middle East policy. Speaker Ambassador David Newton's (former US ambassador to Iraq) topic is "The Arab Spring and impact on US Middle East Policy. The second speaker, Dr. Rosa Rai Djalal (President of the Muslim Women's Association in WDC), will address the role of women in Islam.

Sheila intends to schedule additional programs (not necessarily held on the 8th floor, Dept. of State) such as artistic exhibitions, and private tours.

### **BookRoom and Art&BookFair(ABF)**

Book Place sales are averaging \$198/day, or \$2,000/month for the month of July. It will remain open for business thru the first week of Sept and will continue to accept donations for ABF till that time.

There are currently 339 boxes of books - the amount on track for ABF.

ABF flyers were completed and will be distributed throughout the dept.

Selling space during the event (in Exhibition Hall) is limited. The use of outside vendors needs to be re-evaluated.

If AAFSW's 50th Anniversary DVDs are to be sold during ABF, controls need to be established to prevent theft, and to track the sales (the DVD monies go into a separate account).

BJ Harrick will co-ordinate ABF volunteers. Volunteers are needed during ABF to:

- Assist buyers in carrying their purchases to cars/metro
- Distribute flyers - especially during WDC BookFair event at the Mall
- Distribute flyers outside Metro on days of the ABF
- Work as cashiers and book stockers
- Set up and and break down.

NEED a volunteer to be in charge of Art Corner during the event.

Kelly Midura will publish an extra Global Link dedicated to ABF. It will contain dates regarding the event, as well as the volunteer form. This GL will be available mid-late August, in both printed (150 copies) and electronic versions.

With the increase in use of Kindle and other on-line sources for books, questions were raised regarding the feasibility of continuing Book Place as well as Art&BookFair. Book Place is a service for the employees in the Dept. Art&BookFair is AAFSW's only major fundraiser. Until the organization can raise funds through other means, ABF should continue.

### **Membership**

Debbi reported AAFSW has 624 members. In the past two months (May/June) membership increased by 44 members (four of those returning members). Membership has increased since the change in the Livelines membership policy.

Question: How many FS spouses and how many AAFSW members are enrolled in Livelines? Answer: There are 4,000 Livelines participants, but only 10% are AAFSW members.

Mentoring - This past March, Debbi appealed to members to act as mentors. Only 5 answered the call. Debbi plans to distribute cards to the incoming FS classes and will also send out 2nd appeal to our members to act as mentors. At present, there does not seem to be a demand/need for mentors.

Currently there are 30-40 copies of AAFSW's 50th Anniversary DVD. Perhaps sell the DVDs during Art&BookFair?

### **Treasurer**

Lucy reported an increased income due to:

Transferring assets from investments

Dividends re-invested

Membership dues

Higher Book Place sales

Payroll expenses decreased (no health insurance expenses).

With AFSA misplacing our scholarship check, board agreed that any "stop payment" charges that AAFSW may incur will be billed to AFSA.

Next spring (2012), AFSA will charge us an "administration fee" of \$500 if we restrict our Merit Scholarship to AAFSW members' children only. Finance Committee recommends not paying a fee to guarantee an AAFSW winner. The Foreign Service Youth Foundation has a similar problem. This issue needs further discussion.

### **Media and Livelines**

Lisa reported:

This June there were 11,210 visitors to the website.

The top page was the overseas blogs, with 1500 visits.

There are 393 fans of AAFSW Facebook, an increase from a few months ago.

### **Public Relations/Housing Office**

The housing office is doing well though there are few volunteers in the office due to the summer vacation. The online housing form will soon be available.

### **AFSA Liaison/Evacuation Report**

AFSA gained over 1400 new members this year, but there are 8-9,000 retirees who are not members. Since membership is a concern not only for AFSA but also for AAFSW, DACOR, and FSYP, perhaps the organizations should offer a “reduced” fee to person/family that joins all four organizations simultaneously.

AFSA is concerned with the safety and health issue of its members during the “transition” process in Iraq.

This past June, AFSA President Susan Johnson had a meeting in Ottawa with organizations equivalent to AFSA and AAFSW. (Faye Barnes, Judy Felt and Ann LaPorta submitted talking points to Susan for the meeting). Susan reported that the Canadian organizations have similar problems, i.e. a decrease in membership and volunteers. along with a combined increase in workload.

An evacuation report will be published in the Sept GL. No pictures will be available due to constraints on the web.

### **CLO Alumni Association**

Donna would like to change the issue of non-competitive eligibility for Federal jobs for FS spouses. Currently if the dependent FS spouse is living in the DC area, the non-competitive eligibility benefit is only good for three years. Yet the military dependent spouse has lifetime benefits (caveat-only if his/her spouse is disabled or dies). Lobbying efforts aren't viable at this time unless AAFSW has the support of the military family member organization. AAFSW, however, can lay the groundwork through our legislative liaison.

“Life After the Foreign Service” classes will be held at FSI this August & September

“CLO'S To Home” being developed via the website

CLO Alumni Association meeting will be held Sept 17 at Donna's house.

### **New Business**

Next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at 10:30am.  
Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Teich  
AAFSW Secretary