

AAFSW Board of Directors Minutes
July 10, 2012

Board Members

Present

President- Patricia Linderman
1st VP - Jen Dinoia
2nd VP- Lisa Wilkinson
Secretary
Treasurer - Lucy Whitley
Ass't Treasurer
President Emerita - Faye Barnes

Absent

Margaret Teich
Jill Perlman

Standing Committee Members

Present

State Liaison - Mette Beecroft
Membership
Housing/Public Relations - Lesley Dorman
Art&Bookfair
Forum Co-Chairs

Program
SOSA - Lara Center

Absent

Debbi Miller
Judy Felt

Ann La Porta
Judy Felt
Sheila Switzer

Additional Committee Members

Present

AFSA
FBS
Scholarship

Patty Ryan
Ana Luisa Gallardo
Anne Cekuta

Office Manager (note taker) Barbara Reioux

Report of President and 1st VP

Patricia attended the AFSA Award Ceremony on June 26 and the Foreign Affairs Council lunch on June 28.

AAFSW Video: Patricia's son Zach is continuing to work on the 3-minute AAFSW promotional video. Zach is preparing a "standard definition" version for B-net, and a "high definition" version for the website. Patricia will pay for video production as a donation to AAFSW.

Membership Brochure: Copies of the current membership brochure are running low. We are planning to have Kelly update the brochure and have it printed. Neither Kelly nor the office has the proof of the current brochure; we will ask Debbi if she has (or know who has) the current proof.

The July 1 picnic had to be cancelled due to the area-wide power outage caused by the June 29 derecho. Patricia, Jen and Barbara came with their families to Nottaway Park in case any other people showed up.

Happy Hour: Another welcome Happy Hour has been scheduled for July 30 at Oakwood. Patricia noted that everyone is welcome to come, not just new people. It was noted that more and more male spouses are coming.

PTSD Seminar: Another upcoming event was the PTSD seminar on July, to be hosted by Beth Payne and Rachel Schneller and held at the Randolph Towers Community Room on July 12. Patricia will put out an appeal for someone to coordinate Happy Hours and seminars (such as the PTSD seminar and TCK seminar)

Meeting with FLO: Patricia and Jen met with Leslie Teixeira and Susan Frost of FLO on July 5. Just before the meeting, Jen reached out to spouses online and quickly collected a 2-page agenda of issues, such as the lack of unaccompanied tour (UT) support. Jen noted that AAFSW needed to be more assertive. She suggested that it made more sense for the UT ceremony be held *during* a UT tour, when families are most in need of moral support, rather than after the UT is over (and when many families would be unable to attend due to their onward assignments). Jen suggested that the FLO leadership should be more connected to the Foreign Service (i.e., some leaders should be active FS members).

FLO has agreed to have monthly meetings with AAFSW. The next meeting is scheduled for August 24. Patricia and Jen will attend.

Meeting with AFSA: Patricia & Jen met with AFSA President Susan Johnson on July 5. Susan thinks it would be good to divide up some areas of responsibility so that we can focus our efforts most effectively and not duplicate them. Susan wants to have a more substantive meeting to talk about how AFSA and AAFSW can best work together.

Spouse Survey: Patricia and Jen met with Crystal Randazzo and her business partner on July 11.: Crystal has put together a committee of four spouses (some with survey experience) who are willing to undertake a Spouse Survey as volunteers. It has been suggested by several people that this should be done under the umbrella of AAFSW.

Spouse Entrepreneur Group: The organization meeting for the Spouse Entrepreneur Group was held on June 18 at Carolyn Connell's house. Patricia is preparing a survey to send out to members to find out their preferences (how to communicate, what activities they are interested in, etc.). The idea is to have some kind of online network plus quarterly gatherings in the DC area. The first gathering will be held in late September or early October.

Livelines: Livelines currently has 4337 members. We are working on contacting the more than 100 people who requested membership over the past year but did not join.

BookRoom and Art&BookFair(ABF)

Lisa Wilkinson is working with June Carmichael and Christa Newton to continue pricing the many art corner items in the stock room.

Lucy reported that Judy Felt was in touch with Marguerite Anderson's family regarding possible items for the A&BF. The family has already donated a large number of Marguerite's books. The family plans to hold an estate sale in August. Art items left over from this sale might be available for the A&BF.

Judy Felt sent in a report noting that we were still seeking a Volunteer Coordinator and perhaps a person who has some expertise with art objects, textiles and crafts to join our very good Art Corner team.

The next A&BF meeting was scheduled for July 19.

Membership

Debbi Miller sent in a report stating that we currently had 722 active members and 135 suspended members. Barbara was in the process of sending out renewal notices.

In her report, Debbi stated her preference for updating the text of the current membership brochure, but she very much prefers to keep the format and color.

Treasurer

Lucy reported that it will cost \$2,950 for tax preparation (\$50 more than last year).

Renewed contracts for Kelly Midura and Sean McKee needed to be signed.

A refurbished computer for the BookRoom was purchased for \$300.

The changeover to a new investment company has taken place. The new investment company is Financial Network Investment Corporation.

Realities II is being sold on Amazon. It was suggested to sell it at the Happy Hours, or to advertise it as a free book with a new membership.

Programs.

According to Sheila Switzer's report, on June 24 more than a dozen members (mostly Foreign Born Spouses) took part in a fundraising event benefiting Asian victims of human trafficking. The event was organized by AAFSW member Jackie Bong-Wright, the speaker at our April 17 program. The Foreign Born Spouses staged a fashion show, modeling beautiful native costumes from all over the world.

The speaker for the September 18 program will be Ms. Liana Paredes, Director of Collections and Chief Curator of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

Housing/Public Relations

Lesley sent a condolence card to the family of Marguerite Anderson.

State Liaison

Security Concerns: Mette has been processing a lot of State ID badges lately. She noted that FLO has been a great help in facilitating the process.

AFSA Awards Ceremony: Mette attended the AFSA Annual Award Ceremony, and presented the Bohlen Award on behalf of Ambassador Avis Bohlen, who was unable to attend.

Dwight Mason and State Department history: Dwight was looking for documentation on the origin of FLO office. The FLO and AAFSW office gave Dwight several documents, including 2 documents that Mette wrote on the 20th and 25th anniversaries of the FLO office. Dwight was also looking for the original 1977 AAFSW Forum report which led to the creation of FLO. Mette has a worn copy of this report, which she will scan for Dwight Mason and the State Department Library.

Paula Jakub, CEO and Vice President of the American Foreign Service Protective Association: Paula wants to find a way to get people who are insured through AFSPA (which is most of us) to know more about the benefits and services which are available. Mette suggested that we might use Livelines and Paula will be in touch with Jen to discuss how we might proceed.

AFSA Liaison/Evacuation Report

Airline Pet Policy: In her pre-meeting report, Ann LaPorta said has been keeping everyone abreast on the United and Delta pet situation, through emails, Livelines, FSParent and FSPets. In her report, she noted that United does not transfer pets to other airlines, and some Delta planes have been reconfigured and can no longer accept pets.

EFM Virtual Employment: In her report, Ann also mentioned Livelines chatter about virtual employment for EFMs, and noted that someone wanted to do a survey of EFM employment. Gabrielle Hampson of FLO has been replying to inquiries about this and providing links to previous surveys.

SOSA

Lara Center said she will ask Debbi Miller about a music program for the Dec. 4 SOSA ceremony.

AAFSW received a \$500 donation from Henry Kissinger. A thank you note was mailed.

Lara is working with FLO to request Deputy Secretary Burns for the ceremony, as Secretary Clinton is not available.

A cable is being sent out to remind people to send in SOSA nominations.

BJ Harrick suggested approaching Cokie Roberts (whose mother was an ambassador) to help publicize SOSA.

Faye suggested reaching out to Tom Genton (Sarah's husband) re: publicizing SOSA.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the office location.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Reieux
Office Manager