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Free Advertising
Yes, you heard us!

AAFSW gives our Members yet another Benefit for Joining!

Who in the Foreign Service has not had something they wished they could sell? With all our moves and transitions, we do have a tendency to collect things! Frequent moves also mean that it is important to keep reaching new potential clients for our globally mobile businesses.

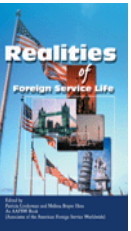
Now, using our website, AAFSW.ORG, we can click on the front page to find the new **Classified Ads** section. There, members can place ads online for everyone who can enter the website to see. **Only AAFSW members can advertise here.** Anyone can read the advertisements and find great bargains! The prospective buyer can contact the seller directly and negotiate price, delivery, shipping, etc.

The categories are: Automobiles, Moving Sales (yard, garage, etc.), Services (offered by our members), Real Estate (sales and rentals of properties), Home Furnishings (appliances, etc.), and Miscellaneous. With the advent of this new feature, we will no longer accept classified ad messages on Livelines.

If you are an AAFSW member and have questions about posting your classified advertisement, please email office@aafsw.org. The special good news is that with the ability to join online with a credit card, we are attracting new members ready to use this feature. It will be fun to watch this service expand!



Realities of Foreign Service Life



We are happy to announce that we are meeting the needs of folks trying to learn more about or share their Foreign Service experiences with the publication of our book, “Realities of Foreign Service”. Currently we are selling about 100 copies a month! This book has only been available from the publisher or through Amazon.com. We have ordered a supply for the office, and can now fill orders through phone calls or emails to the AAFSW office. *Christmas is coming!! Wouldn't this be a nice stocking stuffer for family members wondering just what you have been up to, anyway?*

Members Speak Out

Dear Terri,

May 14, 2003

I want to thank you and the rest of the organization for all the work you did making Foreign Affairs Day so meaningful for the four of us who were able to attend as volunteers. I was thrilled to be in Washington as a participant instead of just as “the spouse of”. I was pleased to hear Secretary Powell and the other speakers. And of course it was wonderful to attach faces to names like Mette Beecroft and Ginny Taylor and you, people whose names I'd seen on communications but had never met. I had not known much about AAFSW previously but you can be sure I'll be a member now! Thank you so much for arranging the transportation this year (and upping the award). I know you put in a lot of work. I am glad to have good people in Washington looking after family issues.

Sincerely,
Kris Luoma-Overstreet

Tell Us What
You Think!

Contact AAFSW at:
5125 MacArthur Blvd.
Suite 36
Washington, DC
20016
Tel 202-362-6514
Fax 202-362-6589
office@aafsw.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Welcome
and
Thank You!

Christy Foreman

John C. Hartman

Jason P. Hyland

Nancy C. Murphy

Sandra Rounds

Greg Siren

John T. Speaks

Ellie Falcocchio
Turner

5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW
Suite #36
Washington, DC 20016

Nominations are being solicited for AAFSW's Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Aboard



Have you seen someone at post doing some kind of volunteer activity that helps your local country, city or post? We believe that the visibility of these acts spreads American goodwill like nothing else can do. One U.S. government direct-hire employee or family member from each of the six geographic bureaus of the State Department will be selected to receive the award. The awards will be presented at Foreign Affairs Day in May. When possible, the Secretary of State delights in being able to make the award.

The award recognizes outstanding volunteers in one or more of the following categories: exceptional service to the community, outstanding activities directed towards the host country and exceptional service in emergencies. It is not too early to begin to think about worthy candidates and to nominate someone from your region. **Nominations are due Feb. 1 and can be sent by e-mail to office@aafsw.org; by fax to (202) 362-6589; or by mail to the AAFSW office at 5125 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 36, Washington, DC 20016. For more information, send an e-mail to AAFSW or call the office at (202) 362-6514.**

The AAFSW Selection Panel will make the awards based on the following criteria: the extent to which the candidate has demonstrated extraordinary personal concern for and contributed time and effort to assist in the improvement of the environment or human condition in the community, and/or the extent to which the candidate has used his/her special ability and sensitivity to recognize and develop better community life.

The nomination should not exceed three printed pages and should follow the following format:

- Nominee's name, agency and position (if nominee is a family member the name, relationship to the direct hire employee, the employee's position and agency).
- Nominator's name, agency, position (or family relationship) and description of association with the nominee.
- Justification for nomination. The narrative should discuss the actions and qualities that qualify the nominee for the award with specific examples of accomplishments that fulfill the criteria.

Bylaw Changes Need Membership Approval

In May, 2003, the membership voted to approve a Bylaws change of the terms of office for the elected officers from one to two years. In closely looking over our Bylaws to see what the ramifications of that change might be, we discovered an inconsistency. The Bylaws read that the President may only be in office for three consecutive years. Clearly, after the President is elected, should re-election happen, it would put the term over the three year limitation. There is no limitation on the length of time other elected officers may be in office. We are required by our Bylaws to have changes approved by our membership.

Please take a minute to clip or copy this and return it to the office.

_____ **I APPROVE changing the limitation of the term of office for the President from three years to four years to be in concurrence with the rest of the Bylaws.**

_____ **I DISAPPROVE changing the limitation of the term of office for the President from three years to four years to be in concurrence with the rest of the Bylaws.**

Name _____



SWEET ADELINES
INTERNATIONAL

Celebrate the Holidays with some Real Americana!

On December 9th, we will be treated to some old-fashioned barbershop singing-and some funky new barbershop! A select group from the Vienna-Falls chorus of Sweet Adelines International will present a program of seasonal old favorites as well as some imaginative new arrangements.

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. There are more than 600 Sweet Adeline choruses in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, England, Scotland, Finland, Sweden, Germany, and the Netherlands, and at least that many individual quartets. Although no one is quite certain just how or when barbershop style began, there is no doubt that barbershop harmony is an important part of our musical heritage.

Vienna-Falls Chorus numbers about eighty women of all ages from the greater DC area; their members include government workers, lawyers, teachers, homemakers, antique dealers, nurses, administrators, retirees, grandmothers, and new mothers, and our own AAFSW office manager. They have performed either as a full chorus or in smaller groups at the White House, Blair House, Wolf Trap, the Old Executive Office Building, the Mormon Temple Visitors Center in Kensington, for nursing homes, for local business gatherings and parties, and in Fairfax City Fourth of July parade! They regularly compete in regional and international Sweet Adelines events all over the country, and they most recently unveiled their hilarious "pregnancy package" at the International Education Symposium Invitational Harmony Classic competition in Greenville, South Carolina. After hearing the chorus and seeing how much fun they have, if you feel inspired to join in, you are welcome. The chorus rehearses Tuesday nights from 7:00-10:00 PM at Fairfax High School. They are "dedicated to advancing the barbershop art form through education and performance with a commitment to musical excellence and personal growth in a friendly, loving atmosphere."

Vienna-Falls offers a unique holiday gift-a singing holiday greeting delivered live by telephone! For \$5.00 local or \$6.00 long distance (not International) you can serenade your loved ones with holiday song in beautiful four-part harmony (by a quartet)! Call 703-242-SING to place an order.

We will be joined for this program by members of T.H.I.S. (The Hospitality and Information Service), a private voluntary organization whose members give their time to provide foreign diplomatic families with a friendly introduction to life in the Washington community. In addition to the musical offering, a tour of the diplomatic reception rooms will be offered. Please indicate on your return form whether you would prefer a 10:00 am tour, a 10:30 am tour, or no tour. Regrettably, tour space is limited, so if you are familiar with the art and historical items in the rooms, please cede the space to those who are not. We hope to see you there!

Vienna-Falls Sweet Adelines
December 9, 2003
Please reply by December 2nd

Name: _____ SSN: _____
Telephone: _____ New Member? yes _____ no _____
Guests name(s) and SSN(s) _____

Tour Preference: _____ 10:00 _____ 10:30 _____ None

Please send form with check made out to AAFSW (\$15.00 per person) to:
AAFSW Reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36, Washington, DC 20016.

No refunds can be made or reservations accepted after December 4th.

The Rights for Divorcing Spouses

AAFSW's Foreign Born Spouse group will be hosting one of their monthly meetings with a special guest and discussion. Spouses will want to hear Nancy Dolce from the Family Liaison Office talk about their rights and coping with the consequences of divorce.

The session will be at the home of Mascha Cuadrado, in Fairfax, VA on November 12. Call Mascha at 703-273-2181 to let her know you are coming and to check on the time and address.

This promises to be an important, informative session. Thank you, Foreign Born Spouse group, for opening this to all!



Walking Tour Washington's Greater U Street Thursday, December 11 @ 10 o'clock

AAFSW members and their guests have an opportunity to explore a dramatically revitalized District neighborhood. On **Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m.**, rain or shine, we will tour **Greater U Street** and visit **DCVote, 1500 U Street NW**, the educational arm of a coalition advocating full voting rights for residents of the District of Columbia.

Kevin Kiger, DCVote's communications director, will discuss efforts to fully franchise District citizens who, by paying federal and DC ("state") taxes, are subject to taxation without representation. Jewell Fenzi, AAFSW's oral historian, will lead a brief tour of the U Street neighborhood. **Optional lunch** at U-topia restaurant and **Christmas shopping** at u-nique neighborhood boutiques will follow.

The tour is limited to 20; the cost is \$10 payable at the time of the tour. For reservations, send in the form below before December 9. To begin the tour, meet for refreshments at Jewell Fenzi's, 1824 Sixteenth St., NW, 202-744-1290. Parking restrictions on Sixteenth Street are lifted at 9:30 a.m. and two hour parking should be available.

Members arriving by Metro take the Red Line to Dupont Circle and exit on Q Street. Turn right at the top of the escalator and walk east on Q Street to Sixteenth. Turn left on Sixteenth and continue to 1824, the yellow-gold house with an eagle over the door, a 10-12 minute walk. Walking shoes a must!

Washington's U Street Tour December 11, 2003

Name: _____
Telephone: _____ New Member? yes _____ no _____
Please make luncheon reservations for _____ (Luncheon costs are not included in tour fee)

Please send this reservation form to:
AAFSW Reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36, Washington, DC 20016.

No reservations or refunds may be made after December 9

Scholarship Time is Almost Upon Us

Do you know an AAFSW member who has a child seeking funds to devote toward ongoing education? Maybe that's YOUR child! As has been our tradition for many years, the AAFSW BOOKFAIR raises funds along with AFSA to go toward education scholarships and achievement awards. We have noticed, however, that recently there are only a few AAFSW members who have been among the applicants. We would like to see that expanded. If you know of members with children in that age group, please encourage them to apply for the scholarships. AAFSW even has a scholarship that is named for the organization!

Here are some of the reasons we feel committed to being part of this work. In the words of two of last year's winners, "Since my father's retirement ... in 1998 and our return to the U.S., I have grown to appreciate the cultural education I was lucky enough to experience overseas." (Jessica Ruse, College of William and Mary). Christopher Groth (Cal poly) said, "I again extend my sincerest gratitude to all of the people that have made my aid possible through the BOOKFAIR fund-raisers. I will honor your hard work and dedication to helping others by helping myself, and succeeding to my fullest potential here at Calpoly."



Clearly, our work is appreciated - let's spread the money around to our members!

Order Your Membership Directory Today

AAFSW is updating its membership directory for publication in early January. We will mail a directory to any member who has requested a copy. Be sure to order yours today by filling out the form to the right and sending it no later than December 1 to AAFSW at the address listed. You may also fax it to 202-362-6589.



**Yes, please send me a copy of
AAFSW's free membership directory.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: State: _____
Zip: _____

Please clip or copy this coupon and mail or fax to:

**AAFSW
5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36, Washington,
DC 20016.**

Don't Forget AAFSW Program Dates

Mark your calendars now for upcoming AAFSW Programs to be held in State's incomparable eighth floor reception room.

December 9, 2003
Special Holiday Program

March 23, 2004

April 20, 2004

May 18, 2004

All programs, unless otherwise indicated, are from 10 AM through noon and cost \$10.00 per person.

For more information about upcoming programs or to RSVP, contact the AAFSW office at 202-362-6514 or office@aafsw.org

ATTENTION CLO'S

Have you heard about AAFSW? You may be wondering why you need to know about AAFSW - we never make the assumption that you know who we are or why you should know! So here are a few factoids of which you may not be aware...

DID YOU KNOW?

AAFWSW:

- 1 Founded and works closely with the Family Liaison Office?
- 2 Helped establish and continues to support the Transition Center (OBC) and Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF)?
- 3 Created and funds the AAFSW.ORG website?
- 4 Created and monitors LIVELINES, the internet chat group?
- 5 Supported the development of and receives the royalties from the book, "Realities of Foreign Service Life"?
- 6 Promoted the first Bilateral Work Agreement, opening doors to overseas spouse employment?
- 7 Led the way in advocating for the rights of divorced and separated spouses?
- 8 Focused State Department management on elder care needs, culminating in Emergency Visitation Travel being granted to those with elder care responsibilities?
- 9 Offers scholarship funds along with AFSA for Foreign Service youth?
- 10 Presents an annual BOOKFAIR in the State Department?
- 11 Presents the annual Secretary of State Awards for Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA)?
- 12 Is an independent advocate working along with others to better the lives of those in the Foreign Service?



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU ?

...BE OUR VOICE TO THE OVERSEAS COMMUNITY

- 1 You can help by promoting membership in our organization!! *You're not the only ones who don't know who we are!!*
- 2 You can help by gathering books and collectibles for our BOOKFAIR!! *We collect all year for our annual event.*
- 3 You can help in nominating volunteers from your post who qualify for our Secretary of State Award for Volunteerism!! *The winners come to Washington to receive their award from the Secretary of State!*
- 4 You can help let our members know they can nominate their children for scholarships. *We earn the money from our BOOKFAIR proceeds.*
- 5 You can remind people coming to Washington that they should contact AAFSW for information on their new neighborhoods, or to connect their children, or to see what's happening. *We have a database to help connect them with a neighbor!*
- 6 You can let retiring spouses know AAFSW sponsors a special session for them in the Job Search Program! *Spouses are also making a transition!*
- 7 You can JOIN!! *Smart CLO's have figured out that they can get a membership for the office and receive 10 copies of the newsletter a year and access to the Members Only section of the website, which has information that enables them to connect with other FS members. (Of course, they also get their OWN membership (at the reduced multi-year rate) so they have their OWN access, even after they move.) You can join online at the website and pay by credit card!*



WHAT WILL YOU GET FROM US ?

- 1 Membership forms! LOTS OF THEM!! If you run low, just contact our office or membership chair for replenishment. *Please put them in a prominent location!!*
- 2 You will receive periodic mailings from us directly, and occasional mailings through the FLO office communication vehicle.
- 3 We have information that can be downloaded and put into your newsletter. *We love being copied!*
- 4 Your office will receive quarterly mailings of our newsletter "The Global Link." *Put them out to tell folks who we are! If they join, they can get every issue!*
- 5 Check out our website, WWW.AAFSW.ORG for fascinating articles and information.
- 6 We continue to send newcomers to you for information about your post by encouraging them to connect through Livelines.

AAFWSW is a gender-neutral organization! We serve everyone in the Foreign Service, who is looking for a LIFE in the Foreign Service - we are a social group dedicated to keeping Foreign Service people connected as they live their mobile lives. JOIN US!!