

AAFSW Board of Directors Minutes
November 3, 2011

Board Members

| Present | Absent |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 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

| Present | Absent |
|--|---------------|
| 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 Kay DeKuiper | |

Additional Committee Members

Present
AFSA Liaison Patty Ryan
Scholarships Anne Cekuta

President Patricia Linderman opened the meeting at 10:30am and welcomed/introduced the new Scholarships chair, Anne Cekuta.

President's Report

FSYF has decided to withdraw from AFSA's scholarship program and intends to initiate their own scholarship program. Organization is willing to work with AAFSW on joint programs/events.

Attended FLO meeting. An AAFSW volunteer would be welcome to attend meetings and work with both FLO and OBC on issues of mutual concern. **Faye volunteered to be the AAFSW representative.**

OBC continues to support AAFSW. It is also developing courses to be available on DVDs or online, but unexpected logistics and financial constraints have hampered the project. Reported cuts in spousal employment positions overseas.

1st VicePresident

Attended an Interagency Round Table Meeting with the emphasis on work life issues, healthy living and health issues. With this goal in mind, Jen reported that a Farmer's Market has been established in the cafeteria every Tuesday; bicycles are available to employees to attend off-site meetings or simply for exercise. Jen suggested that the next possible issue to be discussed at meeting would be problem/difficulties of unaccompanied tours.

The Oakwood get-together was well attended, including 3 FLO representative and 15 AAFSW members. The next one is scheduled for Nov 15th. Any future events will be timed with the new incoming A-100 classes.

Program

The AAFSW Halloween party was well attended.

A special program at the Renwick Gallery in DC is planned for December 13th. Titled "Something of Splendor," it will include a tour of the museum featuring art/items not normally shown in the White House.

Celebrating Women's History, the March 2012 program will be co-sponsored by Women's National Democratic Club. To date the speakers panel include: Mrs. Cumar (advisor to the Obama administration in Communications) and Ms. Musimbi Kanyoro (Pres. & CEO of Global Fund for Women).

BookRoom and Art&BookFair(ABF)

Grossed \$66,008 with an additional \$670 in sales at end of the week.

72 volunteers signed up during ABF.

Any temporary parking passes must be turned in to Security.

ABF protocols worked well, especially the "credit card runner" for the Collector's Corner.

ABF can only use 27 tables for displays according to Fire Marshal & the Fire Regulations.

Kudos to Brian Neumann (BookRoom manager). A letter of commendation will be written. Board agreed to give a bonus to Brian for his excellent work and long hours in setting up/running ABF. A discussion ensued as to the amount. **Motion:** Debbi suggested \$500 bonus, Faye seconded and the board unanimously agreed.

Mr. Steve Grant wrote an article regarding the public's comments/reactions during ABF. Shorter version to be printed in Jan GL.

Membership

Currently AAFSW has 682 active members (an increase of 23 new members), 148 suspended members and 5 multi year membership renewals. There are 10 mentor partnerships.

Treasurer

To date no dues/donations have been made to ADST or FSYF.

Finance Committee recommended a 3% increase in salary for the office and bookroom managers. Next meeting of finance committee schedule for Nov 30th. Topic to be discussed: a new financial advisor and/or new financial company. Our financial advisor left his company under dubious circumstances. Lucy will investigate to be sure none of AAFSW's assets with the financial company have been impacted.

State Liaison

Mette explained that AAFSW has “special status” in the building. However, the organization’s standing and special relationship with the Department has never been written down. **Action:** Mette will write a draft proposal, to be signed by the DC, to go to the Director of GS Management (GSM). This office oversees the the Exhibit Hall space used during ABF as well as the Ben Franklin Rooms used for our programs.

A second memo will be written to GSM regarding use of the Department’s Parking Passes. Currently the BookRoom is permitted 5 parking passes; Housing Office permitted 5 parking passes; during ABF there are 5 special parking passes and one parking pass allocated to the AAFSW President.

AAFSW volunteers can be issued “contractor” ID’s through sponsorship of FLO office, in conjunction with the Department’s Security office.

Media and Livelines

Lisa reported that Livelines has 4,247 members and AAFSW Facebook page activity continues to increase.

Public Relations/Housing Office

John Kelly (Washington Post columnist) wrote an article in the Post regarding ABF. Daughter of Jen Dinoia will write an article on her experience as a volunteer at ABF

AFSA Liaison/Evacuation Report

AFSA is offering its members & their spouses the opportunity to purchase grave markers, with FS modification of the Great Seal. Cost is \$145/marker.

The 150 account is being discussed on the Hill. Secretary Clinton made a personal visit to the Senate advocating for the passage of the bill without a reduction in budget.

Foreign Born Spouse Group (FBS)

A Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 3 in the office Community Room, all are invited. Rosalyn Quinonez Mercado has volunteered to be the official photographer for the FBS group. She may be available to take pictures during the AAFSW programs (State Dept) as well.

Scholarship

After meeting with AFSA’s Pres. Susan Johnson & AFSA’s scholarship co-ordinator, Anne reported that AAFSW has three choices: pay AFSA the fee; negotiate fee; opt out of AFSA’s scholarship program & join with FSYF in developing separate scholarship program.

SOSA

The Award program is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec 6th.

Joan Waggoner will conduct a tour of 8th floor for the SOSA winners and their guests.

Debbi Miller has agreed to sing and provide music for the program.

Reception scheduled prior to the ceremony.

\$2,500 will be presented to each SOSA winner.

Secretary Clinton is unavailable to present the award certificates/check, Deputy Secretary William Burns will present the awards.

Certificates (signed by the Secretary) will be available next week.

No Tragen award will be given this year due to lack of nominees.

The Dorman Award recipient has been selected, Mrs. Faye Barnes. Award will be presented during the program.

Next board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, **January 10th**. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Teich
AAFSW Secretary