

# Newsletter

Association of  
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN

P.O. Box 8068  
Washington, D.C. 20024  
OCTOBER 1976

## AAFSW FORUM SEEKS INPUT FROM 8,000 FS WOMEN Can You Answer These Questions?

*The following is a verbatim transcript of an interview with our faithful member Hepzibah Hummingbird (Mrs. Hubert), who is represented by "Q."*

Q. What is the Forum?

A. The Forum is short for the Forum on the Concerns of Foreign Service Women and Families.

Q. What is that?

A. The Forum is a project launched by AAFSW to solicit the various points of view of Foreign Service women with regard to life in the Foreign Service.

Q. Why?

A. The Department of State is interested in hearing from women on matters of particular concern to them. We have a unique opportunity to have some input into decisions that may affect us. AAFSW cannot speak for all Foreign Service women, but it can and is encouraging women to speak for themselves.

Q. Why is AAFSW the organization to tackle this project?

A. AAFSW is always looking for ways to serve Foreign Service women. We feel that this particular situation is very important to the Foreign Service community and demands our attention. We also feel that AAFSW can serve as a natural channel to express our "unofficial" points of view to the Department of State.

Q. What is the November 7 meeting?

A. This is a large meeting planned as part of the Forum project to give women a chance to discuss their thoughts and ideas with one another. AAFSW needs to know how women feel so it can focus the efforts of the study groups.

Q. Tell me about the study groups again.

A. Five study groups are meeting on the topics of Family Life, the Modern Foreign Service Wife, Orientation, Re-entry, and Women in Transition. These groups will meet on a regular basis and will forward their findings to AAFSW, including any appropriate recommendations or proposals.

Q. Can anyone come to the November 7 meeting or join a study group?

A. Yes. We are encouraging all our members to participate and to interest a Foreign Service friend in the Forum. We are soliciting the opinions of every Foreign Service wife through a mailing to 7,420 wives from State, AID and USIA. You might remind your Foreign Service friends that they may never have another opportunity like this to make themselves heard.

Q. What about women living abroad?

A. We hope that women abroad will organize their own study groups and write to us (Forum, % AAFSW, P.O. Box 8068, Washington, D.C. 20024). We especially need to know how women feel about themselves and their families and how they view their role in the Foreign Service community abroad.

Q. Who should I contact to join one of the study groups?

A. Steering Committee members are serving as temporary chairmen of the study groups. They are: Family Life, Alice Lowenthal, 256-6276; The Modern Foreign Service Wife, Stephanie Kinney, 379-1140; Orientation, Jean Vance, 986-0591; Re-entry, Mary Holmes, 229-7037; and Women in Transition, Mavis Barrett, 387-4172.

You are invited  
to an Open Forum  
to present your thoughts and ideas  
on Foreign Service life  
and to listen  
to those of your colleagues  
on Sunday, November 7,  
3 to 5 P.M.  
at the Guy Mason Center,  
3600 Calvert Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

Free parking

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Q. What if I can't attend committee meetings?

A. Even if you cannot attend meetings, you should present your ideas to one of the people listed above, either in writing or by phone. If you would like to help with the Forum at home, the Data Collection Committee will need volunteers for research, typing, mailing and telephoning. Call Virginia Egan (270-2623) if you can spare any time at all.