



FORUM Still Inspires Elder Care Action

The continuing results of the 1998 FORUM show how effective AAFSW can be at getting the Department of State to focus on issues of importance to Foreign Service family members.

On November 3 of last year, the FORUM organized an Elder Care Round Table in the Department of State at which STATE, AID, USIA, and six other USG agencies were represented. This round table discussion resulted in a six-page document entitled "Recommendations for the Implementation of an Elder Care Policy in the Department of State." It was submitted to the Director General of the Foreign Service on December 1, 1998. These things never move quickly; however, there has been steady progress since that time.

First, it was decided that a new position had to be created to hire the staff member who would lead the Department's elder care initiative. A new position description also had to be written, and candidates had to be selected and interviewed. Sydnee Tyson, formerly the FLO Education Officer, was selected for the new function.

Under her guidance, a taskforce has been meeting regularly to decide how the regulations might be changed to better accommodate employees' eldercare concerns. Personnel, Allowances, Legal, Finances, MED, FLO, AAFSW and some of the geographic bureaus participated. The recommendations of the taskforce have now been sent forward to the Director General. Once the DG formulates his response to the task force proposals, the inter-agency clearance process can begin. It is premature to say what the final results might be. However, the AAFSW can take satisfaction in knowing that its document was a seminal one in encouraging the Department to focus on elder care.

It's an exciting month for AAFSW!

On October 2, you are invited to a Millennium Initiative continuation meeting. What would you add to the discussion of what AAFSW should stop, start, and continue? To sign up, respond from overseas, or look at previous answers, go to pages 4-5. We're moving ahead!

It's also time for BOOKFAIR!

Volunteer, shop, invite your friends and neighbors! The sale is open to the public October 16-17 and 23-24.



AFSA Reports on Medical Benefits

The State Department has agreed to adopt six of the nine proposals made by the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) to combat the erosion of overseas medical benefits. AFSA's proposals and State's responses follow. AFSA proposed to: — end the required use of R&R for medical treatment. Management agrees and is drafting implementing regulations.

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Calendar

- 2 Day retreat
- 6 Foreign-Born Spouses coffee
- 12 Program (p. 7)
- 15-24 BOOKFAIR
- 26 Board meeting

The November Program will be held Nov. 16th.

Looking for answers? Join **Livelines**, our free interactive email service. Send a blank email to: Livelines-subscribe@egroups.com

Remember BOOKFAIR Oct. 15-24

Still need information? Call the Bookroom at 202-223-5796

Tell Us What You Think!

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Membership in AAFSW is open to all members of the U.S. foreign affairs community for just \$25 per year. Join today!

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