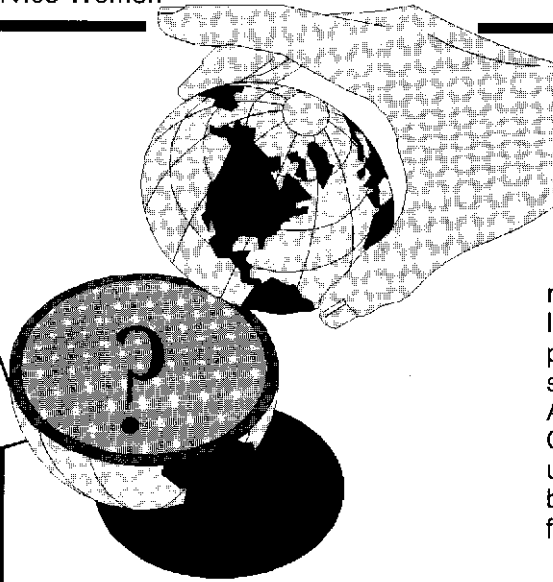


AAFSW NEWS

Association of American Foreign Service Women

MARCH 1996

SPECIAL NOTE: The furlough played havoc with OBC course scheduling, which is tied to incoming new officer classes, among other things. As a result, many of the OBC courses in the near future may have changed. The dates in the Calendar on page 2 were correct as of Feb. 1. Please call (703) 302-7268 to confirm schedules if you have any questions.



Where in the World Are the Good Ideas?

Brainstorming Session: To the Year 2000 and Beyond!

Are you interested in a global business which lets you move up the career ladder while changing from post to post? Do you want to see more daycare scholarships? Do you wish that AAFSW had a monthly book club? Offered quilting classes? Are you totally uninterested in activities and meetings, but would love to receive a coupon book for local businesses?

Would you like to push for longer assignments so that you can enjoy each post more? Shorter? Do you have some bright ideas on compensation for and regulation of representational responsibilities? Are you trying to discover exactly what your role is as a "diplomatic partner"?

AAFSW is planning brainstorming sessions for all interested members and potential members and supporters in March or April, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of an approaching new century. These might be held at different locations around the Washington, D.C. area.

Please contact the AAFSW office, President Chris Zarr or the newsletter editor if you are interested in attending. Overseas members are encouraged to hold local brainstorming sessions and pass on the results - or send your individual opinions and ideas. (An excellent way to get involved is to respond to Anne Cekuta's survey - see page 5.)

CLC: Please copy and distribute this letter through your post newsletter or other means!

Member Requests Response from Male Foreign Service Partners

To the editor:

This is intended as an open letter to male partners of Foreign Service employees and everyone interested in strengthening support structures in the Foreign Service.

As women join the Foreign service in increasing numbers, the nature of the entire Foreign Service community is changing. "Significant others" (including, but not limited to spouses) are more likely to have careers of their own. The State Department has recognized the increasing difficulty of maintaining the mobility which the Service requires, particularly through support efforts such as the Family Liaison Office (FLO), Community Liaison Officers, Overseas Briefing Center, and Employee Consultation Service. When my wife, Jan Levin, joined the Foreign Service in June 1995, I was encouraged by the extent to which I was welcomed in the orientation course. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in other training programs as well.

I was pleased to be invited to join the umbrella organization which initiated the FLO and which, among other things,

serves as a support group for spouses, but I was surprised to learn that this group is called the Association of American Foreign Service Women (AAFSW). I had assumed that AAFSW was composed of only female employees. AAFSW has welcomed my interest in

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participating in the Foreign Service community, but I am not sure that many men feel inclined to join AAFSW.

I would be interested in hearing from other husbands or male partners about their experience as part of the Foreign Service community, and how AAFSW and other organizations can better support our personal and professional needs. Please mail or fax your ideas to AAFSW (see page 2) or call me at (202)363-2501.

--Erwin Rose

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