

First Vice-president

Membership Chair

Stevie Coppin

After taking office in Oct 2007, there was a whirlwind of activity in order to print and send renewal letters and applications to all of our members for 2008 before the Thanksgiving and holiday mail filled member's boxes. This was followed by welcome letters to all new members.

We have welcomed 30 new members since then and continue to grow thanks to the excellent activities of President Jane Indreland and the Regional Reps and Metropolitan Coordinators.

I am indebted to Carol Yee for assembling the Directory and to Jane for handling the publishing and mailing of the Directory.

The Membership Chair is a big job - - taking more time than I had expected! Each new member requires a welcome letter from me and in turn receives messages from the President and the local coordinators informing her of any activities in her area. Frequent updating of the database is a must.

It has been suggested that due to the size and importance of this job, a deputy be enlisted who will help with correspondence and to proofread the database.

For the 2009 season there is a new procedure in place, thanks to the vision of President Jane Indreland and the expertise of Debbie Hastings, the FAUSA webmaster. From now on renewals and potential members will be able to fill out an application directly on line. Payment can be made through PayPal using a credit card. This is in line with the 21st century and the habits of most of our newer members. Alternatively the application may be downloaded from the FAUSA site and mailed to the Membership Chair. For those who are not computer oriented, we will continue to send out application forms by mail and accept payments by written check.

We expect this new system will attract new members and speed up the application process. As of 1 Sept., it works! In the first 2 weeks of September I have entered 4 new members and 1 renewal into the database.

Ideally, more information can be collected during the application process, i.e. a list of committees available for members to join; suggestions for other focus areas for FAUSA; member's talents that could be called upon (professional, language, arts and crafts, etc.); *ages* of children living at home.

It is revealing that the great majority of members come from a handful of FAWCO clubs. Of the clubs listed on the FAWCO web site, FAUSA has 4 or more members hailing from only 13 of the 38 clubs. We can identify where more efforts can be made to increase FAUSA exposure to returnees.

I have prepared renewal letters and application forms for 2009 to be sent out after this annual meeting. There is the problem of duplication as it is a waste of effort, time and money to send these by snail mail to those members who can renew on line. Perhaps we should be even more pro-active on line by emailing renewal reminders (on a weekly basis?) to all these members? There had been discussion of reducing Overseas members dues from \$45 to \$25 if they are willing to receive publications by email. This should be made clear on the application form reading "dues \$25 + \$20 for postage unless internet delivery is accepted".

Respectfully submitted,

Stevie Coppin

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