

Second Vice-president

Regional Representatives and Metropolitan Coordinators

Priscilla Dysart

During the last year, members have volunteered to become Metropolitan Coordinators and Regional Representatives. California and Hawaii have become the Western Pacific Region, thanks to California member Rebecca Corona-Nickerson volunteering to organize something in California. The Mid-Atlantic Region now includes the metropolitan area of Philadelphia/Delaware and the Tri-State Area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. FAUSA welcomes suggestions of members how to configure their metropolitan and regional areas. As membership grows and spreads, members might want to break into smaller, more geographically compact groups. Please give me your ideas.

The annual reports of the Metropolitan Coordinators and Regional Representatives are printed below. I want to thank everyone who took the time to write a resume of the past year and will send it to all the MCs and RRs so that they can see what everyone else is doing and that they share similar obstacles.

CAPITAL REGION

MC Washington D.C. - Clare Richels

It has been an incredibly busy summer for me as my daughter got married 3 weeks ago and my stepdaughter gets married at the beginning of Oct. We haven't been home much. We continue to gather for book club when we can, although we only met in Jan. Feb and Apr. so far. Some of us did have an extra get together in April when we went to the botanical gardens in DC and then to lunch afterwards. Our book club scheduled for May got cancelled last minute due to our host's house being flooded. At that time, we decided that with so many of us coming and going over the summer that we would just suspend activities until the fall. We hope to start up again in Sept. with a book club meeting and continue meeting monthly from then on.

GREAT LAKES REGION

Susan Benhan, Grove City, Ohio, has agreed to be the Regional Representative. Terrie Hostetter recently resigned.

MC Chicago - Margaret Ghielmetti

I look forward to learning from my "colleagues" as I am new in this role for FAUSA.

For the Chicago Area: We have been trying to set up a "getting to know you" lunch this summer, but have been unable to coordinate schedules (even though there are only three of us,) given vacation, children, etc.

However, as I believe that "there's no time like the present," I'm having lunch with one member this month, and will resume our search for a date for a group lunch ("all" three of us!) early autumn.

Also hoping to meet up with Shirley (who lives quite a bit outside of Chicago;) otherwise she'd be a "loner" and we don't want that! So...I'd love to hear creative ideas from other MCs with a group that doesn't live toooooo close together. That's the case here: I live downtown Chicago...Carol is SW of the city, Nancy is west...and Shirley is "downstate."

I am very happy to be a part of FAUSA and eager to share ideas!

MC Columbus - Jackie Haas

The Columbus group continues to meet once a month for lunch. We did add several new ladies to the group. One of the ladies had been a FAWCO member in Bermuda and had looked for FAUSA when she moved here in 2001.

I had located her via the New Neighbors League as well as the other new ladies. Another lady is from Belgium and after she returned to Belgium after her first stay in the US, she joined FAWCO in Brussels. She has been back in the US for many years but was thrilled to find out about FAUSA. The group is showing more life than last year.

MOUNTAIN WEST

MC Billings MT Area - Geri Burnett

Greetings from Billings, Montana and surrounding areas. Our group continues to grow. We have added several new members this year. All of us are amazed what a melting pot our part of the world has become. The Last Best Place!

Jane and Terry Indreland hosted our holiday gathering in early December, to which spouses, best friends, and prospective members are invited. Some interesting food from each of our favorite countries and great wine led to a discussion and map of where each of us had lived. The criteria for where you lived was if you actually unpacked your pots and pans! Anyway, the list was long, something like 29 countries, many of which were overlapped by our 16 guests.

In January we met for lunch at one of our favorite restaurants in Billings. In April we gathered at The Big Yellow House in Absarokee, MT for a fantastic lunch and buying opportunity. The Big Yellow House is owned and operated by our own Paula Goldman.

Our trip to DanWalt Gardens in May found us huddled together in the bride's room as it poured and blew. Our amazing group settled in for a wonderful lunch and then, without hesitation, grabbed their umbrella's and toured this unbelievable place.

October will be a highlight for us as we join the Livingston/Bozeman group for lunch in Big Timber. This happy time is always arranged by Priscilla Dysart and provides an opportunity to get together with our FAUSA sisters annually.

MC Livingston/Bozeman MT - Priscilla Dysart

Our group meets monthly for lunch at different local restaurants in Livingston or Bozeman. The number of members and prospective members who attend vary from four to twelve. Members travel, work or are part-time residents. They come to lunch when they can. I send out two notices: the first is a "mark your calendar," the second about a week before the lunch announcing the location and requesting an RSVP. Organizing the lunches takes little energy or time thanks to emails. Spouses and friends are invited to the Christmas party and summer barbecue which are always festive and fun.

NEW ENGLAND

RR New England - Charlotte De Witt

MC Boston - Barbara Santoro

The New England region, contrary to its name, encompasses only Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire; Connecticut people tend to gravitate towards the New York/New Jersey region, and we have no members in Rhode Island and Vermont. That being said, the majority of the 24 FAUSA members in the New England region live within the Metro Boston area, so it is understandable that most social activities of the region originate from the Metro Boston group.

Our activities from November 2007-August 2008 have included the following:

November Institute of Contemporary Art tour & Legal Seafoods Test Kitchen, Boston

December Elegant Christmas luncheon, L'Espalier Restaurant, Boston
February Kennedy Library tour & luncheon, Boston
April Fenway Park (Red Sox) tour & Petit Robert luncheon, Boston
June Boston Harbor boat tour & luncheon
August Cape Cod picnic; meet FAUSA President Jane Indreland

We have chosen not to have an events committee, but rather, to encourage our members to organize activities that interest them personally. Because of our vast geographic spread, at some point, it may be more feasible for those in Maine to form their own group within the New England region.

In 2010, FAUSA will host the FAWCO conference, and Boston is the host city. An on-going calendar of events and social outings help us to build a stronger local team of people who will "be there" to help as a Boston Host Committee. Not co-incidentally, we are also able to "test drive" some ideas in advance of the conference by visiting them as tourists now.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RR Pacific Northwest - Judy Ostrow

The Seattle group has not met this year. We are down to a few members, but no one has organized anything.

SOUTHEAST

MC Atlanta - Sue Ripps

Here is the schedule of events we had last year in Atlanta.

September Explored a new area in Atlanta with many new condos, stores etc. Lunch at a new restaurant.
November Theater in a suburb of Atlanta. Holiday show titled the "Sanders Family Christmas", with lunch following at a local restaurant.
March Tour of the famous Fox theater in Atlanta, built in the 1920's, followed by lunch.
April Tour of the new Cobb Energy Center which is home to the Atlanta Opera.
May Tour of historic homes in Druid Hills, a very old historic neighborhood in Atlanta with dinner following in Decatur at a restaurant owned by the son of one of our members.

SOUTHWEST

MC Dallas

Elizabeth Partyka recently resigned because she is relocating overseas.