

## 2022 Summer Newsletter



# AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland

[Home](#) » [2022AWCCSNewsletterSummer](#)

Welcome to our Newsletter for Summer 2022. You can view this newsletter on our [Members Only](#) site (login is required), as well as [a download](#) here.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

4 July 2022 Celebration - Sunday July 3rd 2022. Watch for email invitation

### 4th of July Celebration



- When: July 3rd, 2022
- Where: Portobello Beach, Edinburgh, Foot of King's Road
- Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Bring: Everything you would like. Alcohol is permitted on the beach, you can bring your bbq and of course bring your own food and drink.

By the way, most eating places are open on the Prom and the toilets are also available.

*Directions:*

*King's Road ends at the Portobello Promenade, which we cross and go down to the beach to find a space on the sand. Lothian Buses serve Portobello, and you can get off for King's Road.*

**RSVP using this Website** If weather becomes a problem, we will cancel; therefore it's important that Nancy has your name listed in the rsvp on this website

Questions?

[Contact Us](#)

# GREETINGS FROM YOUR AWCCS PRESIDENT



Greetings family,

That's what we are, a family of expats living uncommonly in Scotland. We are a beautiful, diverse group of people with a common goal, finding happiness living abroad.

Hope your lives have been better as we enter the post lock-down era. Of course, the world, as it is, has delivered more challenges, health, financial and worldly, to face. Let's face it together. Remember, you are not alone, your expat family is here to laugh, cry, support and just share a bottle with you.

We have found the time for a few events since the last newsletter. We've had a Coffee Morning, Foodie Event, Potluck with a Cinco de Mayo theme, FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas) conference in Luxembourg and of course our AGM (Annual General Meeting) which we held at the American Consulate in Edinburgh. If you couldn't attend any of them, there's always more coming up.

Expect another Potluck event as well as several more Foodie outings, birthday celebrations, coffee mornings, book clubs, Fourth of July celebration, walking events and much more. We want to hear from you as well, get in touch and if you want to start a group or just meet up for drinks after work, please do let us know. I'm hoping that we can expand our group to include Perth, St. Andrews, Fife, they are all a part of our region so please if you meet someone from that area tell them about us.

I'd like to announce that I am the new FAWCO Region 1 (England, Ireland, Wales (We don't have a group in Wales as of today) and Scotland) Coordinator so I shall, with the help of the FAWCO reps be arranging national events for us. Hope to see y'all there.

Special announcement: After many many years, Joyce Halsan is stepping down from our Board. Joyce, along with a few others, has been the glue that has held the AWCCS board together for many years. Joyce, we will miss your presence but it's good to know you will still be with the club.

The AGM was successful, we voted on an amendment, but the board remains the same as the post is for two years and next year is when we bring on a new board. Jack Hillmeyer, the Consul General, (Pictured at top with me) spoke on what the consulate is doing in the upcoming months and how we, as American citizens, are supported here in Scotland.

Finally, thank you all for being you and for all that you do to support us as a group family. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the coming months, in one activity or the other.

Best wishes,

Cynthia (The Baroness)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 2022 Coffee Plus

22 Jun 2022 10:00

University of Edinburgh Library and Library Cafe

### Fourth of July Picnic 2022

3 Jul 2022 14:00

Portobello Beach, west of King's Road

### JULY Coffee Plus

25 Jul 2022 10:00

The Scottish Cafe, National Gallery Art

## Dates to remember

**Fourth of July Picnic** - 3rd July

**Kahoot to resume on Thursday 22 September** - Watch for the Event email for details.

**Glasgow Mural Walk** - September date TBC

**Glasgow Foodie Catchup** - September date TBC

**AWCCS Thanksgiving 2022** - TBC

## AWCCS EVENTS EXPLORED

*AWCCS Coffee Morning - April 14, 2022*

*By Katie Graham, Charity Convenor*



*Long time member Michelle Wirt will soon be opening a coffee pod with her friend Linda.*

Michelle kindly brought the pod to Katie's house for a soft launch of this exciting new business. We held a coffee morning with all of the proceeds going to The Kilbrandon Fund. £90 was raised for the fund.

Everyone enjoyed the coffee, tea, hot chocolate and brownies and we are looking forward to seeing the pod opening in Musselburgh this summer.

### AWCCS Cinco de Mayo Potluck - May 5, 2022

By Katie Graham, Charity Convenor



After two years of COVID restrictions, it was wonderful to have so many members come together for a Cinco de Mayo celebration.

We enjoyed tamales, empanadas, enchiladas, cornbread and all kinds of other Mexican goodies.

Thanks to everyone who came, and we hope that we will hold pot lucks in the future.

### Our Advertiser: Skyco Online



One of our favourite advertisers, **Skyco**, has some **terrific specials** on at the moment. Triscuits are back in stock along with Pace salsa and stuffing to name a few. Check out the offerings of sweets for Valentine's day and cake mixes are on sale with short dates, just in time for Easter. Visit the Clearance Corner for more specials. *Become a member for discounts.* <https://www.skyco.uk.com/>

## AWCCS CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AWCCS Board Notes

#### AWCCS AGM 2022

The AWCCS AGM was held Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the US Consulate Edinburgh. Members from Glasgow, Edinburgh and in between attended. Seven members booked to attend by zoom. The buffet included wine, sparkling waters, sandwiches that were vegetarian or meat-based, summer fruits, vegetables and dips, sausage rolls, corn chips, a Mediterranean olive platter, macaroons, and chocolate chip shortbread. It was all delicious.

Our new US Consul, Jack Hillmeyer, reported on the US State Department and its current work in Scotland. The staff size in the Consulate has been increased, showing the US Government's recognition that Americans in Scotland matter!

The Board Reports were emailed in advance to all who attended. (Anyone who wishes a copy can email the Events Convenor.) Each attending Board members spoke briefly about their Board work.

Some discussion about promoting our club ensued. Several members pointed out a unique value that AWCCS membership holds over all the other American-affiliated social groups in town. We are a direct link to FAWCO, which offers many benefits.

Our President, Cynthia Holden, has attended the FAWCO meeting in Luxembourg and she has stepped up to be the FAWCO Region 1 Coordinator. Congratulations, Cynthia. We may offer a Region 1 meeting in the future. (FAWCO Region 1 includes the British Isles and Ireland.)

We celebrated our Communications Convenor, Joyce Halsan, who stepped down from the Board after decades of work in many capacities. She received a photo and memory book which was delivered to her door by her niece, Sofi Yucca, another

member of AWCCS. Although we do not yet have a new Communications Convenor, Alistair and Galilee Graham (family of our Charity Chair, Katie Graham) have volunteered to edit and disseminate our newsletter. Many thanks!

Our AGM is always a highlight of our year, and the meeting ended too soon—at 8:00 PM we had cleaned up, moved most of the furniture back into place in Hillmeyer's office, and were out the door.

Next year the AGM will include an Election of Officers. What can you do for the Club? What sort of Club do you want us to become? Share!

## AWCCS End of Year Income and Expense Report

### AWCCS End of Year Income & Expenses (Preliminary) as of May 19, 2022

American Women's Club of Central Scotland - 2021 to 2022	Income	Expenses	Balance
<b>2020 to 2021 CASH BALANCE</b>			£6,714.84
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	£1,744.21		£1,744.21
<b>ADVERTISING</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>NEWSLETTERS</b>		£0.00	£0.00
<b>SOFTWARE</b> (1)		(£922.36)	(£922.36)
<b>FAWCO DUES &amp; WEBSITE</b> (2)		(£146.14)	(£146.14)
<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		£0.00	£0.00
<b>SOCIAL EVENTS</b> (3)		(£246.29)	(£246.29)
<b>CHARITY CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED / (MADE)</b> (4)	£612.00	(£200.00)	£412.00
<b>THANKSGIVING DINNER</b> (5)	£1,590.54	(£2,086.40)	(£495.86)
<b>FAWCO CONFERENCE</b>		£0.00	£0.00
<b>2021 to 2022 TOTAL INCOME &amp; EXPENSES</b>	£3,946.75	(£3,601.19)	£345.56
<b>2021 to 2022 ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>			<b>£7,060.40</b>

(1) Expenses - Wild Apricot (2 years thru July 2023) £778.48; Zoom (1 year thru April 2023) £143.88

(2) Expenses - FAWCO Dues £90.36; FAWCO Domain Name/Web Hosting £55.78

(3) Expenses - Glasgow BBQ £178.97; Halloween £17.32

(4) Income - Member Donations £1; Thanksgiving Auction £521; Coffee Morning £90 / Expenses - FAWCO Target Project £200

(5) Income - Guest dinner payments / Expenses - Meal Payment, Room Hire, Gratuity, Complimentary Drinks, Band, Kids Crafts, and Deposit of £100 for 2022 Dinner

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susanne Hathon  
AWCCS Treasurer

## Keep an eye out for our Autumn Program of Events

Recent discussions at the May Board meeting planning for the Autumn included suggestions for: a Mural Trail Walk in Glasgow City Centre; a visit to the Burrell Collection; more of Lindsay's Lunch Club events; more Kahoot! Evenings; a talk with a representative from Kilbrandon Trust, the Charity we are currently supporting; American Atlas exhibit at Dunblane Museum; the return of the President's Tea.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions of things you would like to do. We are always looking for ideas for outings, talks, Zoom meetings, travels etc.

## Membership News:

This year we began collecting Membership dues again after postponing the renewals due to the hardships experienced because of COVID19 last year. We appreciate you renewing again as your invoice is sent to you on your renewal month. It is more important than ever that we keep in communication with each other to offer help and support.

## Communication News

### Communications Convenor position Open to fill immediately

Joyce Halsan, has retired as of the end of June 2022. We are looking for someone for this Board Position to take over for her this year and hopefully run for the position in the next election in 2023.

This person needs to be a member of the AWCCS and requires someone who is willing to use a Content Management System (CMS) to oversee the AWCCS website. We use a fairly easy-to-use CMS through Wild Apricot which is also used by our Board Members in their specific areas. This position heads up a team including the Website Manager (her main responsibility), the Newsletter Editor (involves a team) and an Advertiser Coordinator (we need a volunteer for this.)

Joyce will be happy to work with the new Communications Convenor to train her on the system we use. We have very fortunately found two volunteers to work on the Newsletter, and would happily accept contributors and/or volunteers who want to also work on the Newsletter. We are very interested in having a volunteer work on our Advertising platform, keeping in touch with our current advertisers and looking for new ones.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn a skill that will be transferred to your own employment goals. Website writing and management is a prime skill looked for on a resumé. It is fun to do and the AWCCS very much appreciates this volunteer work for the club. Please contact the board to inform of your interest.

### 2021-23 Charity:

- AWCCS members voted for the local Charity we will support for the next two years. We chose the **Kilbrandon Fund**. *"The Kilbrandon Fund (SC033356) is administered in Edinburgh by a group of Childrens Panel members. It gives small grants, currently up to £300, to improve the lives of children and young people who are under the supervision of the local authority because of home and family circumstances and where no other resources are available to meet that need."*
- **Funds Raised for Charity:**
  - At Thanksgiving the Silent Auction raised £521 which will be divided between our new Charity, Kilbrandon Fund, and The FAWCO Target Project.
  - The canned goods drive for Scottish Food Banks brought in over 100 items which were all delivered to the food bank source by Katie and Alistair Graham.
  - Also at Thanksgiving, six books (What is a Perfect World?) and two mugs were sold, with profits going to the FAWCO Target Project.
- **Thank you** to all who participated in giving to these charities in the name of AWCCS. We send most of our donations out at the end of the fiscal year which is in June.

### Revised 2022 Bylaws

AWCCS recently revised its bylaws. The revised bylaws can be found [here](#)

### privacy policy

Contact Us

## MEMBER NEWS



#### June 2022

Karen Gregory

Lena Russell

Alana Victor

Sofia Zuca

#### July 2022

Cynthia Holden

Jane Miller

#### August 2022

Sallie Redman

## Welcome New Members

Kofi Browne

# GLASGOW EVENTS

## Kahoot! with Mary Jo



September 22, 2022

Play the online Question & Answer Game

RSVP using the Event Email you have/will received

Watch for Kahoot future dates

**Glasgow Mural Walk** - September date TBC

**Glasgow Foodie Catchup** - September date TBC

# EDINBURGH EVENTS

## Edinburgh Book Group



### EDINBURGH MORNING BOOK GROUP

**Friday, 17 June**

**10:15**

Penelope Fitzgerald, *Innocence*

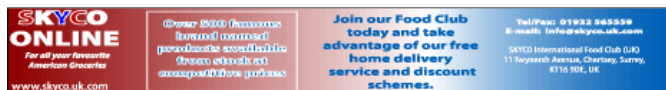
**Friday, 15 July**

**10:15**

Joanna Glen

*The Other Half of Augusta Hope*

No Book Group meeting in August, though we plan to meet up at the Book Festival to attend a session. Anyone is welcome to join us – contact Dale Finlayson ([dka.finlayson@gmail.com](mailto:dka.finlayson@gmail.com)) after the June meeting, where we'll look at the program and choose a session.



## U.S. NEWS

### Have you registered to vote?



#### Not yet registered to vote in 2022? DO IT NOW!!

November 2022 will be a crucial year for midterm elections in the US. Federal law allows Overseas Americans – which in all but 13 states includes those, such as children of citizens, who may never have lived in the U.S. but have citizenship by virtue of a parent – to vote in all Federal elections.

To vote, you must be registered. To ensure that you receive your ballot, both for primaries and for the midterm elections, you should register in each calendar year. Some states may keep previous registrations on file and send out ballots, but this is increasingly no longer the case in most states. So if you have not yet registered, **do so today!**

If, like me, you can't remember whether you voted this year or not, do so anyway. It will ensure that you are registered – and be assured, you won't receive two ballots!

This is even more important because around half of states have been purging their voter rolls in an effort to suppress the votes of certain voters, including those overseas. There are also reports of challenges to registrations – so make sure you leave plenty of time before a primary or the fall elections to get registered. Your ballot should arrive 45 days before each election.

According to estimates of the Overseas Vote Foundation (an initiative of the U.S. Vote Foundation), only 4% of the 2.6 million U.S. citizens living overseas who are eligible to vote actually vote. Another survey found that only 57% of those who requested a ballot voted. Only if our representatives know there are a lot of us overseas who may vote for or against them will they begin to take the concerns of overseas citizens seriously.

Let's get these numbers up!

Registering is easy. There are write-in tools that allow you to complete your registration in just 10 minutes (see websites below). Start by indicating your state, then you can type directly on the form, which will indicate the voting rules of and information required by your state. Once the form is completed, you will be able to download and print, sign, and mail it to your County Clerk at the address that will be indicated.

The following are websites where you can fill out your ballot online:

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP): <https://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms>

Vote from Abroad (recommended by Democrats Overseas): [www.votefromabroad.org](http://www.votefromabroad.org)

Overseas Vote Foundation (recommended by FAWCO): <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/>

American Citizens Abroad also offers good advice and articles about voting:

<https://www.fawco.org/us-issues/u-s-voting>. And if you have questions about voting, contact the Chair at [voting@fawco.org](mailto:voting@fawco.org).

Kayla Paulson is the Voting Assistance Ambassador in London for the FVAP. She provided voting materials for our recent AGM and has offered to do a Zoom session to give advice and answer members' questions. You can email her for advice at [kayla.paulson.16@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:kayla.paulson.16@ucl.ac.uk).



**AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD**  
EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND INFORM

## Some Useful Information on U.S. Tax Filing

### FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

Americans living abroad have to file a U.S. federal tax return every year just like Americans living in the States. What are the US tax changes 2022 for Americans overseas?

#### 1. Requirement for Americans living overseas to file US taxes unchanged

The requirements for [Americans living abroad to file U.S. taxes](#), and report foreign accounts, assets, and businesses remain unchanged.

#### 2. US tax filing deadline 2022

While the filing deadline was extended to May 15 in 2021, Americans living abroad receive an automatic extension until June 15 anyway: this will not change for filing in 2022.

#### 3. Tax brackets and rates for filing in 2022

For filing for the 2021 tax year in 2022, tax brackets and rates have been adjusted for inflation, while the standard deduction increases to \$12,550. This means that only Americans whose worldwide income exceeded the standard deduction amount in the 2021 calendar year need to file in 2022, unless they have self-employment income or they are married but file separately, even if filing separately from a non-American spouse.

#### The tax year 2021 tax brackets and rates for filing in 2022 are as follows:

- 37% for incomes over \$523,600 (\$628,300 for married couples filing jointly).
- 35% for incomes over \$209,425 (\$418,850 for married couples filing jointly).
- 32% for incomes over \$164,925 (\$329,850 for married couples filing jointly).
- 24% for incomes over \$86,375 (\$172,750 for married couples filing jointly).
- 22% for incomes over \$40,525 (\$81,050 for married couples filing jointly).
- 12% for incomes over \$9,950 (\$19,900 for married couples filing jointly).
- The lowest rate is 10% for incomes of single individuals with incomes of \$9,950 or less (\$19,900 for married couples filing jointly).

#### 4. Foreign Tax Credit on Form 1116

However, Americans filing from abroad can offset U.S. tax on foreign source income if they've paid tax on it abroad by claiming the Foreign Tax Credit on Form 1116 when they file their federal U.S. tax return.

#### 5. Foreign Earned Income Exclusion on Form 2555

Alternatively, Americans filing from abroad can claim the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion on Form 2555, for income earned from employment or self-employment, whether they're paying foreign income taxes or not. This means that most Americans filing from abroad don't end up owing any U.S. tax, but it depends on each individual's circumstances, of course.

#### 6. Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

The maximum amount of income from employment or self-employment from 2021 that overseas residing Americans can exempt from U.S. tax by claiming the [Foreign Earned Income Exclusion](#) also rises for filing in 2022 and is **\$108,700** per person.

#### 7. Proposed US tax changes 2022

President Biden's proposed tax and infrastructure plans, the [Building Back Better Act](#), contains some changes that will affect Americans living abroad.

- If passed in the Senate, Americans with offshore corporations, including hundreds of thousands of expats, will be affected by an effective new GILTI tax rate of 15%, rising from the current 10.5%, for those who claim the 962 Election.
- If the corporation already pays foreign corporation tax at a higher rate than 18.9%, then they may be able to still claim an exemption to offset GILTI, though.

#### 8. Increased Additional Child Tax Credit

The increased Additional Child Tax Credit of \$3,000/\$3,600 per dependent child for the 2021 tax year is unfortunately only available if you spent half of 2021 physically present in the U.S. For many American parents living abroad who don't meet these residency criteria, the Child Tax Credit amount is worth \$2,000 per child, or, if you have already eliminated your U.S. tax bill by claiming the Foreign Tax Credit, you can receive a \$1,400 per child refund.

### 9. Additional income tax surcharge for high earners

When the Build Back Better act is enacted, it is most likely to affect a group of overseas Americans because of the introduction of an additional income tax surcharge for very high earners, being those who earn over \$10 million (or \$5 million if you're married but file separately).

### 10. Streamlined procedure

If you've been living overseas for a while but have never filed your U.S. taxes, there's an amnesty program called the [Streamlined Procedure](#) available that enables Americans overseas to catch up without facing any sanctions.

### *Need more information about Americans living abroad and US tax changes 2022?*

If you have any questions about US taxes 2022 can contact Americans Overseas. Two dual nationals living abroad founded Americans Overseas. In the costly and exhausting process of finding the right experts, they realised they had not only accumulated a mountain of knowledge but also built up a solid network of tax and legal experts. Do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

*Thanks to Dale Finlay for this update*

## FAWCO NEWS



### 2021 Personal Income Tax Filing Information

[FAWCO Tax & Banking Articles](#)

#### April 18, 2022

- File individual tax return (Form 1040) - for expats, this deadline is automatically extended until June 15, 2021.
- File Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) - or simply wait until October 17 - the automatic extension deadline.

Note: Expat children with foreign financial accounts are also required to file FBARs.

- To avoid late payment penalties, make a payment of any US tax you owe. Alternatively, if you have sustained a substantial financial loss, file Form 1127, *Application for Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Due to Undue Hardship*, to request a 6-month extension to pay taxes due (in some cases, the extension may be granted for a longer period).

#### June 15, 2021

- File Form 1040 or an extension of time to file until October 17, 2022 (extension filed with Form 4868).

#### October 17, 2022

- File the extended tax return (Form 1040); or
- apply for an additional two-month extension to file Form 1040 until December 15.
- File the FBAR (October 15 is an automatic 6-month extension/no further extension is possible).

#### December 15, 2022

- The final deadline to file 2021 US tax returns.

#### 2021 Minimum Income Filing Thresholds:

Whether someone must file a federal income tax return depends on their worldwide gross income, filing status, age, and whether they are a dependent.

- \$5 if married filing separately (MFS)
- \$12,550 if filing single (\$14,250 for those 65 or older)
- \$18,800 if filing as a head of household (HOH) (\$20,500 for those 65 or older)
- \$25,100 if married filing jointly (MFJ) (\$26,450 if one spouse is 65 or older, \$27,800 if both are over 65 years old)

It is important to note that self-employed individuals have a filing requirement if their net annual earnings from self-employment exceed \$400.

Also, you may qualify as Head of Household if you are married to a non-resident alien. You are considered unmarried for head of household purposes if your spouse was a nonresident at any time during the year and you do not choose to treat your nonresident as a resident. However, your spouse is not a

qualifying person for head of household purposes. [You must have another qualifying person and meet the other tests to be eligible to file as a head of household.](#)

Foreign currencies need to be converted to US dollar amounts using the published IRS [Yearly Average Currency Exchange Rates.](#)

In addition, some individuals may be required to file a tax return or submit other information returns even if they earn less than the minimum income for their filing status. It is also important to note that because retirement benefits are not "foreign earned", they are not eligible for the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion and, although, these payments are usually taxable only in the country of residence, you are/may be required to file a US tax return to report such income.

Source: IRS Pub 501

## Transmission of US Citizenship to Child Born Abroad

### [FAWCO Citizenship Articles](#)

One topic that consistently comes up in the expat community is acquiring US citizenship for children born abroad to US citizen parents who have not lived in US territory sufficient time for their children to have acquired US citizenship at birth, if the birth took place outside the US.

The legal requirement for a child born outside the US to be a US citizen at birth is that at least one parent is a US citizen who can document a physical presence in the US for at least five (5) years, two of which must be after the age of fourteen (14). The physical presence does not have to be consecutive, but a cumulative total of five years. If you believe that your son or daughter someday may have children born outside of the US, then start documenting the time they spend in US territory as this can have important implications in the future. Passport stamps, flight records, church/school/camp records, doctor/dentist appointments, etc. are examples of such records. Three of the five requisite years can be accumulated prior to his/her fourteenth birthday.

If the adult US citizen does not have the residency requirement, but wants their child/ren to have US citizenship, then the US citizen grandparent can convey citizenship to the child/ren. Section 322 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) allows for a child to acquire US citizenship through a grandparent, if the parent cannot convey citizenship directly. The grandparent must be a US citizen who meets the physical presence requirement of at least five (5) years, two (2) of which must be after the age of fourteen. The application, Form N-600K, must be submitted to USCIS, along with birth certificates, proof of residency of the petitioning adult and the filing fee. The interview will take place in the US, with the exception of a US military dependent, and the process MUST be completed prior to reaching his/her 18th birthday. Processing times may vary, so while it may only take a few months, it is advisable to submit the application and supporting documents with at least a year prior to the child's 18th birthday, or much earlier. Children under the age of 14 will most likely not be required to take the Oath of Allegiance, however, the child will be required to appear for an interview.

The child can apply for a visitor visa once the interview in the US has been scheduled. A certificate of citizenship will be issued and the child will be eligible to apply for a US passport.

## US Voting - NOW is the Time to Act

### [FAWCO Voting Articles](#)

It's more than time for FAWCO and its clubs and members to strongly encourage overseas Americans to vote in the 2022 US elections. While Election Day is November 8 in the US, it comes a month earlier for overseas voters – who must receive and return absentee ballots by the deadlines set by their states. Overseas voters must start the process even earlier – now, if they haven't already – to ensure that they are registered to vote in time. As noted, [many states have made new rules and requirements](#) that making voting harder.

The US Voting Committee has already offered [advice to individual overseas voters](#). Now we must broaden our focus to include voter-registration activities by and in FAWCO clubs.

### What you and your club can do?

#### 1. "Secure your own oxygen mask before attempting to assist others." (Get yourself registered first).

Be sure that you are registered before trying to help others register. Go to FAWCO's partner, the [US Vote Foundation](#), or the Federal Voting Assistance program ([EVAP](#)), fill out the form online and send it to your local election official, carefully following all the instructions. **In view of delays in the US Postal Service, request that your ballot be delivered electronically (and return your ballot in the same way if your state permits that).** Then check with that official a couple of weeks later to be sure you're on the rolls. (Urge all other voters to do the same when you get to them.) Urge message recipients to pass the message to other Americans.

#### 2. Promote voting in your daily life.

Urge all the other Americans you know to register to vote, and advise and assist them as needed. Urge your friends and acquaintances to do the same. Give voting information in the signature of your email, and voting graphics and information on your website and social-media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

#### 3. Promote voting in your club and local community.

Give information on voting in your club newsletter and at virtual and in-person meetings of your club and its interest groups. Hold dedicated virtual and/or in-person events to inform and register voters. Give voting graphics and information on your club website and social-media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Do/Offer the same for any other group you belong to, and any US expat group operating in your vicinity.

Answer voters' questions, if you have the knowledge, or direct them to FAWCO (), or the voter help desks or FAQs of the [US Vote Foundation](#) or [FVAP](#) (Some US embassy/consulate officials can do this, too, but they are operating with reduced capacity at present.)

## Resources

For all these tasks, use the regularly updated information and resources provided by FAWCO; get them from:

- the [US Voting](#) section of the FAWCO website, and its monthly [articles](#); and
- FAWCO publications, such as the quarterly [US Liaison Bulletin](#) and the monthly *News in Brief* ([NiB](#)).

We also offer three videos on FAWCO's YouTube channel:

1. [Why the rush to register to vote?](#) (1:34)
2. [Information and support from FAWCO](#) (1:05)
3. [Voter registration: demonstration](#) (5:30)

All three date from 2020, but are still accurate in general terms. Soon we expect the US Vote Foundation and FVAP to offer outreach materials, too.

*The above information was supplied by FAWCO Liaison Bulletin, Johanna Dishongh, FAWCO's US Liaison*



Did you know that you can now set up an IRS account online?

Until the end of last year, Americans living outside the US were blocked from accessing and setting up an online account on the IRS website. Many people have successfully set up an online account, although others have reported that they struggled to do so.

If you want to set up an online IRS account, here are some resources that you can use:

- [CNET It's tax season](#): Here's how to set up an online IRS account This article explains the steps and documents required to set up your online account. You don't need to set up an online account, but it helps with having visibility of what the IRS has on file for you. It's especially useful for viewing when your economic stimulus payments and child tax credit payments have been sent.
- [ID.me](#): What if I don't live in the United States? You shouldn't need a US address or a US phone number to sign up for an online account; you should be able to use your UK address and UK phone number if that's all you have. If you have any problems setting up your account, read this article and hopefully it'll point you in the right direction to get your account set up.

On Thursday, February 10th at 6pm Democrats Abroad will hold a free [Expats Virtual Financial Summit](#) including a talk on "Why US Taxes Aren't A Barrier To Voting in US Elections". RSVP to attend this event and all of the sessions at the online summit by clicking [here](#).

*Thanks to Dale Finlay for this update*

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Nothing new, but please find links to recent publications below**

### Trees: Planting, Reforestation and Rewilding

by Amanda Drollinger, AWC Central Scotland

Originally published by FAWCO: <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/environment/environment-articles/4679-trees-planting-reforestation-and-rewilding>

### Bridging the Gap – Overcoming Academic Disruptions on the Road to Higher Education (SDG Targets 4.3 & 4.4)

by Lindsay Nygren, AWCC Scotland

Originally published by FAWCO: <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/education/education-articles/4695-bridging-the-gap-overcoming-academic-disruptions-on-the-road-to-higher-education-sdg-targets-4-3-4-4>

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN WORKING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

By Tara Scott, AWC Central Scotland

Originally published: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSB05IYeIWCPU\\_9NdSmBDjUUyYtxX07EXP2WZLLKnMhYejPmqJbbQ4mhiEczvKbA8w/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSB05IYeIWCPU_9NdSmBDjUUyYtxX07EXP2WZLLKnMhYejPmqJbbQ4mhiEczvKbA8w/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p1)

## Notes from the Field: How to Be a Global Citizen (SDG Target 4.7)

by Nancy Lynner, AWCC Scotland

Originally published by FAWCO: <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/education/education-articles/4734-notes-from-the-field-how-to-be-a-global-citizen-sdg-target-4-7>

## AWCCS Board 2021-2022

### President

Cynthia Holden

### Honorary President

U.S. Consul General,

### Secretary

Kathy McGlew

### Treasurer

Susanne Hathon

### Membership

Lindsay Nygren

### Communications Convener

Joyce Halsan

### Charity Convener

Katie Graham

### Events Convener

Nancy Lynner

### FAWCO Representative

Caroline Graves

### Glasgow Representatives

Mary Jo Bone Caselton/Shanon Lei

### Parliamentarian

Dale Finlayson

## Special Interest Group Coordinators

*Although we will not be meeting in person, some of these groups may be meeting online. Contact us if you would like to participate.*

**Edinburgh:** Dale Finlayson for Morning Book Group, Coffee Plus Edinburgh and Voting Coordinator

**Glasgow:** Books Beverages and Banter hosted by various individuals.

**Fife:** Pat Peters for Fife Dinner Club

### *Join us as a Board Member or work on a Team*

Interested in joining us as a board member? We would love to hear from you. We are meeting online at the present, but still very active in the club. We have the following openings:

**Communications Convener** is looking for members who would like to help as a team in the following areas: Newsletter writing on line, Advertising/PR and working on the website. Expertise is helpful, but training is available if you want to learn a system. Please notify Joyce of your interest.

Contact Us

To Contact any of the Board Members, please use our [Contact Us](#)

page and just put the Title of the person you wish to contact in the Subject area of the Email: i.e. "AWCCS President"

## Our Advertiser Nomads Tent

**the NOMADS tent**  
  
*a warehouse of tribal art*




RUGS  
 MASKS  
 KILIMS  
 TEXTILES  
 FURNITURE

Tues- Sat 10-5 Sun 12-4  
 21 St Leonard's Lane, EH8 9SH  
[www.nomadstent.co.uk](http://www.nomadstent.co.uk) 0131 662 1612

## Notes from the Website

### Please Log in to [awccs.org](http://awccs.org)

Your AWCCS Newsletter has been sent to you in an eMail blast with links directing you to our Member's Only site. You will have to have logged in to read the details. Let me know if you are having trouble logging in. You can also use your Facebook and Google login to sign in. [websitemanager@awccs.org](mailto:websitemanager@awccs.org)

### Email going to Spam?

If your communication from us is going to your Spam folder, all you need do is to place our email (the 'reply to' on the email you receive from us) into your Contacts and it will recognize us as a "friend."

### Please Update your Profile

Did we miss announcing your birthday in our Newsletter? We want to make sure to include you in our good wishes, but sometimes we just don't have the information we need.

If there is anything in the directory you don't want to be included, you can just go into your profile and remove permission.

### To edit your profile

- sign in with your login name and password
- Go to your Profile page by clicking on your name on the top right corner
- To change anything on your Profile, click on "Edit Profile"
- Be sure to save when you have edited it.

## Our Advertiser Olivia McLaren, Ltd.



## Olivia McLaren, Ltd.

U.S. Immigration Law Advisory Services\*

Forth House, 28 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BW  
 Website: [www.mclarenltd.com](http://www.mclarenltd.com) · Telephone: +44 (0)131 221 6513

We are an award-winning U.S. law practice providing strategic immigration law advice and support for businesses wishing to establish or strengthen a U.S. presence and individuals interested in visiting, working in or immigrating to the United States of America.

About Olivia McLaren: A U.S. qualified attorney admitted to the bar of the State of New York, who worked in U.S. immigration and nationality law in New York City for a decade before opening Olivia McLaren, Ltd. in Edinburgh in 2014. Listed in *Who's Who in Corporate Immigration* (2015-2016). Co-columnist for the *New York Law Journal* bimonthly immigration law column between 2012 and 2014. Also selected as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in NY Metro in 2013 and 2014, as published in *NY Times Magazine*. Graduated with a J.D. and LL.M. in International & Comparative Law from Duke University in 2004.

\*Olivia McLaren, Ltd. is a limited company registered in Scotland (SC483161), which is regulated in the practice of U.S. law by the bar of New York State. This constitutes ATTORNEY ADVERTISING under the laws of New York State. Olivia McLaren, Ltd. is not a solicitor firm, and cannot offer solicitor services or advice on issues pertaining to Scottish law or U.K. law, including U.K. immigration and nationality law.

### Our Advertiser: Mail Boxes Etc.



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**

**SHIPPING TO THE USA**  
 FedEx overnight\* documents to U.S.A - £38

Weight (Kg)	UPS	Parcelforce
10 (22 lbs)	£120 (£12/kg)	£85
20 (44 lbs)	£147 (7.35/kg)	£110
30 (66 lbs)	£175 (£5.83/kg)	£140
50 (110 lbs)	£227.36 (£4.54/kg)	£234
100 (220 lbs)	£355 (3.55/kg)	£404

\*overnight in most cases.  
 Parts of New York and New Jersey may be cheaper than the UPS price quoted.  
 Prices correct at time of print.

44-46 Morningside Road, Morningside, EH10 4BF  
 tel: 0131 446 9777 info@mbeMorningside.co.uk

12 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1DD  
 tel: 0131 652 3672 info@mbeSouthBridge.co.uk

196 Rose Street, West End, EH2 4AD  
 tel: 0131 220 1999 info@mbeEdinburghWestEnd.co.uk

[www.MbeEdinburgh.com](http://www.MbeEdinburgh.com)

## Going Home Soon?

### FAUSA

Are you returning to the US any time soon? Whether you are being dragged back kicking and screaming or if you can hardly wait to return home, you will probably find that as a "repat" you and your family members are different sorts of Americans from those who stayed behind. This can be a jolt, but there is help out there for you. Membership in the FAWCO Alumnae, USA, better known as FAUSA keeps you in touch with others who understand the life changing experience of living in other cultures.

Besides the pure psychological support of being a part of this network, there are other benefits, too. The Quarterly magazine carries articles of interest to "repats," and you may apply for the FAUSA Education Award for yourself or a child. In addition, FAUSA members may attend the FAWCO conferences overseas and the FAUSA Annual Meeting, which is in a different part of the US every fall. Learn all about FAUSA, contact someone in your region, and download an application at [www.fausa.org](http://www.fausa.org). We would love to hear from you.

Jane Indreland President, FAUSA

**www.FAUSA.org**

**Are you returning to the USA soon? Maintain your international connections with other "repats" by joining FAUSA.**

---

**For information, speak to your FAWCO Rep or visit [www.FAUSA.org](http://www.FAUSA.org)**

### LINK TO OUR ADVERTISERS



[Link to Olivia McLarewn Ltd](#)



[Link to Mail Boxes Etc](#)



[Link to Nomad's Tent](#)



[Link to Skyco Online](#)

*Thanks so much for all our contributors to the Newsletter: Nancy Lynner, Lindsay Nygren, Dale Finlayson, Mary Jo Bone-Caselton, Suzanne Hathon, Caroline Graves, Katie Graham and Joyce Halsan. If you wish to contribute to our next Newsletter, please send your article to Joyce Halsan.*

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Site Map](#)