

There are leaders, and then there are Leaders. Adele Annis and Andy Sundberg, Honorary Members of AAWE, were Leaders with a capital L. Both Adele, whose life work was the American Aid Society, and Andy, founder of the Children's Citizens Rights League and American Citizens Abroad passed away this summer. Both were Leaders until their very last day, impacting the overseas American community in important ways (see Remembrances on p. 37).

What is it to be a Leader with a capital L? I think that it starts with Conviction—not just any conviction, but rather a conviction that Impacts a wider community. Then there has to be a Vision. Achieving the vision means changing or providing something that doesn't exist. Next comes Action, and this must be motivated by conviction. This frees the Leader to make decisions which serve the conviction, rather than ego or power. Action doesn't happen by itself—Intention determines what action to take, Dedication and energy enable it, and Resilience lets the Leader learn from mistakes and try again.

The Leader with a capital L possesses Confidence. This makes it possible to accept that one will earn enemies as well as friends. Conviction arouses the Leader's Passion, which is shared by expressing thoughts and feelings, and engages others to join the cause. Others respect and like the Leader because this passion—whether eloquent and orderly or feisty and demanding—is in service of the conviction. The Leader is Creative and Generous, never tires of finding different ways to move forward, and is fine with giving more than is received. Finally, the Leader with a capital L needs Stamina, for conviction does not have an expiry date. One must be able to lead for as long as it takes.

The truth is we are all potential Leaders with a capital L. There are myriad reasons why so many of us do not unleash our potential. Some of us are not interested in fighting for a conviction. Others are interested, but have not found the catalyst to start the process. Still others have put our conviction and capital L Leader on hold as we focus all our energies on raising and supporting a family or fulfilling professional demands.

There is a campaign being run by my daughter's university called, "What would you fight for?" Each month alumni receive an email highlighting one fight university researchers are leading. This month it was "predicting the future when it comes to severe weather". Progress on predicting earthquakes and tsunamis was explained with passion and, yes, alumni are engaging with monetary support.

What would you fight for?

Adele and Andy had their answer. And for this they have all of our admiration.

Jane A. Mobbille, Editor



AAWE Remembers Andy Sundberg



Some AAWE members may have wondered over the years why our “Honorary Members” included someone named Andy Sundberg. The answer, to anyone who knew Andy, was easy. Andy stood for everything that AAWE has stood for since it was founded: defending and advocating for the rights of overseas Americans, and promoting greater cooperation and understanding between America and our host country.

Andy Sundberg, founder of the Children’s Citizens Rights League in 1977 and American Citizens Abroad in 1978, Secretary of the Overseas Americans Academy, indefatigable researcher and prolific writer, died on Thursday, August 30. He was born in New Jersey in 1941, finished grammar school in Japan and high school in Germany, and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1962. The following year he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, taking a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. From there he went on to serve on combat ships near Cuba during the Cuban Quarantine and in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War.

He is being referred to with reason as an icon of the overseas American community, having moved to Switzerland in 1968 and quickly become passionately involved in advocating for citizenship and voting rights of Americans living and working abroad. He also fought for years against what he called the injustice of worldwide taxation of US citizens and more recently, the unintended and sometimes disastrous consequences of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

For me and for many around the world, the day is a little empty without Andy’s emails informing us of new legislation, an impending regulatory threat, information about how other countries handle their expatriate community, an important date in American history or a geopolitical landmark. The breadth of his knowledge and scope of his inquisitive mind were, for want of a more appropriate word, unique.

I first met Andy at a meeting in Paris to talk about voting rights, in 1975. Since then, our paths crossed innumerable times, at conferences of overseas Americans,

