

Naples Council on World Affairs' News & Views

Winter 2016 Editor: Frank Kolhatkar



“Think Globally... Act Locally”

OUR MISSION:

To educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.

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Donna L. Suddeth
President

President's Message

“Think locally, act locally” might seem a bit isolationist in today’s world, but, sometimes it is necessary to take care of things “at home” to be able to focus on the world around and beyond us. Acting locally is essentially what we at the Naples Council on World Affairs (NCWA) do during this time of year.

As the “big picture” has been drawn with speakers lined up for the year, our global focus having been addressed in their selection, we are now focusing on the local aspects of the more mundane in nature. We made a few changes from last season in that we went back to an Associates waiting list without any regular lecture attendance privileges. We tried allowing Associate members to sign up for lectures as we deemed we might have seats available, but, the practical aspects in terms of registration, check-in, etc., caused delays and confusion at the doors, not the desired effect.

Once the season ends, we realize that you, our membership, is not thinking locally, you are more global in your thinking, either going to seasonal homes elsewhere or traveling the world. That also means you leave thoughts of the NCWA behind, which is why we started moving up registration for the following season. We just did not move it up enough; so, this year, we decided that we would begin the registration process early, probably February 1, to ensure that you know you are registered for the upcoming year. We are also very seriously considering combining membership renewal with Great

Decision group renewals so that all can be accomplished with one transaction.

This is the time of year we are also acting locally in organizing our school outreach programs to include the academic world quests, the international living programs, the programs dedicated to international affairs and our Model United Nations program. Those programs are global in aspect, but, it takes lots of local planning and involvement. We are fortunate in that we have lots of dedicated volunteers locally who are willing to share their time and talents in making these programs so effective; they are truly rewarding to the participants, be they students or volunteers.

Acting locally is also evidenced by our very generous scholarship donors. When you receive your directory, check out the “Major Donors” listings in the Special Recognitions page for the Model United Nations Programs. We are fortunate to have members who not only give of their time and talents, they also give financially to help our local students prepare themselves to become productive citizens of our world. Our donors recognize that by acting locally, they are not only contributing to the Council’s mission of educating, inspiring and engaging Americans in international affairs, they are encouraging and supporting the youth who will become the leaders in our evermore global world.

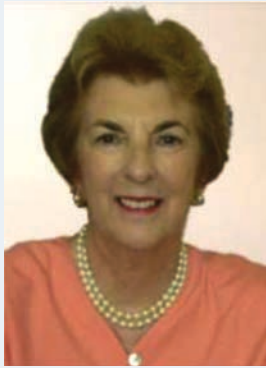
We, the Board of the Naples Council, truly appreciate our “local actors,” as you support the Council and its activities. Thank you.

Donna L. Suddeth, President



Lian Esehaki (WACA), Joel Davis (Nobel Peace Prize Nominee), Donna Suddeth (President, NCWA), Daniel Bumstead (NCWA Board)

Program Committee Report



Mimi C. Gregory
Vice President for Programs

As 2016 begins it is certain that we face crises in abundance and the sense that we are putting out “fires” everywhere. Our speakers for the Autumn months of 2015 addressed some of those very hot topics [pun intended] and as we start the New Year we will have the opportunity to hear how France has begun a recovery which has seen some very dramatic responses to the terror of November 13th.

Welcoming Philippe Le Corre on January 11th to speak of France’s leadership in the

European Union, we see considerable friction emerging over Germany’s push for budgetary austerity when France is redoubling military efforts and actions which require spending that exceed budgetary demands. As I write this, France will have elections tomorrow which will surely see a rise in the National Front leadership of Marine Le Pen which in turn will engender an anti-government, anti-islamist platform. Meanwhile President Hollande has morphed from “a marshmallow to a chief of war” says the Guardian in response to his dramatic initiatives post 11/13.

Alireza Nader on January 25th will target the changes in Iran since the signing of the nuclear deal. What we do know is the increased Iranian presence as Russia’s patron, partner, [and perhaps banker], in the new attacks in Syria, as well as their

In Passing...

The Naples Council notes with sorrow the passing of **Olga Hirshhorn on October 5th, 2015.** One of the truly original founders of the Council and a devoted member over many decades, her philanthropic contributions to the Arts and other organizations in her sphere of interest were many and generous. She will be missed.

supplying Iraq with drones, military equipment, troops and military leadership. Will there be any effort to re-open trade with the United States while the hard-liners maintain their position about the Great Satan? Of course we need to acknowledge that Congress maintains the same position!

Khalid Khoser on February 8th will surely present the world’s greatest heartbreak: the refugee crisis. Syria alone has 11.5 million displaced and there is no hope of “return” to that once proud country that boasted some of the greatest historical monuments in the world. The flow of migrants, uncontrollable, may also see the end of the Schengen agreement which contains 26 European countries that [were] borderless. Angela Merkel is being castigated for her welcome of what may end up being more than a million migrants and the fear of terrorists slipping across borders with impunity.

Be sure to join us to learn more, Mimi Gregory.

Committee on Special Activities

The calendar for the Committee on Special Activities is quite full for the coming 2016 season. We hope you will hold the dates in your calendars:

January 18th: Dr. Larry Kalkstein on Climate Change. Those who know predict 150,000 deaths from heat alone by the end of the century. Clearly we will not be witness to this, but there are an enormous number of experts anticipating this very prospect that have been meeting in Paris these first 2 weeks of December to begin the “cooling down” process that marks the beginning of man’s efforts to address that need.

Dr. Kalkstein is Professor of Climatology at the University of Miami.

February 19th: National War College Seminar. Looks like it is war all over again! So where and how is it being waged and who are the players and what is the future?

We look forward to our partnership with the National War

College and invite you to the Hilton for this all day event.

March 14th: Jeremy Haft will present his book: “*Unmade in China: The Hidden Truth about China’s Economic Miracle*” which discusses the narrative of “Rising China/Declining America and why it is both a danger and an opportunity for Americans.

Jeremy Haft is an Adjunct Professor at the Schools of Foreign Policy and Business at Georgetown University. He is also a former actor and comedian, a fact which clearly influences his presentation of his book!

April 7th: Author and Historian David McCullough will be the featured speaker at our Annual Dinner to be held at the Hilton on Thursday the 7th. Two time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, his latest book on the Wright Brothers is yet another best-seller, and he will share this famous history as our after-dinner speaker. Be sure to save this date!

Great Decisions Program

More than 675 NCWA Members and Associate Members have registered for the eight week Great Decisions Program. This is the same number as last season. The program begins the week of January 18th and ends the week of March 7th.

When this Newsletter reaches you registrants should have received a postcard confirming their group assignment and giving information about the distribution of briefing books which for most groups will be on Saturday January 9th. The postcard will confirm the time and place.

The topics this season are:

- The Middle East
- The Rise of ISIS
- The Future of Kurdistan
- Migration
- The Koreas
- The United Nations
- Climate Change
- Cuba and the U.S.

Certainly a timely list!

Our Discussions stimulate intellectual curiosity of our participants...

Outreach Committee

The School Outreach Committee year began with a lunch meeting of the newly formed Alumni Group held on October 24, 2015 welcoming into the Alumni Group the students who received scholarships and participated in NCWA-sponsored events during the Summer of 2015. Alumni members and officers Sarah Davenport, Nathan Brown and Hannah Seitz greeted the



Bob McGinn
Chair



Jan R. Guben
Chair

new members and encouraged them to continue their participation by urging other students at their respective schools to apply for, and participate in the sponsored events. Future meetings will be scheduled to coincide with anticipated visits to the Naples area by the Alumni members. Photos of those in attendance are included below.

Applications for all of the NCWA-sponsored scholarships including Experiment In International Living, Governors' Institute, Student Diplomacy Corps and Georgetown University Summer Program, are now on the NCWA website. Applications are due no later than January 23, 2016 as interviews are scheduled for the first week of February 2016. With the expected assistance of the Alumni Group including our most recent scholarship recipients we anticipate a greater number of applicants for the Summer of 2016 sponsored events.

Once again, the Committee will sponsor the Middle School Academic World Quest to be held on February 6, 2016 and the High School Academic World Quest to be held on March 5, 2016. The Academic World Quests consist of teams representing local schools who compete in a series of questions all related to Social Studies. Both contests will be held at The Community School of Naples.

We are always looking for new members who enjoy working with some exceptional local students in both the Academic World Quest contests and in the selection process of our scholarship winners. NCWA members interested in working with us are asked to email me at janguben@gmail.com.

...We reach out and support the next generation



left to right are: Jan Guben, Sebastian Mejia (Palmetto Ridge HS), Manny Carrion (Barron Collier HS), Aynsley Rasmussen (Barron Collier HS), Jake LaRoche (Barron Collier HS) and John Theobald (Naples HS)

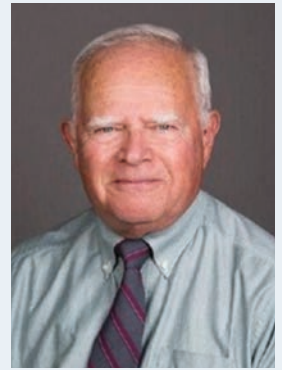
SW Florida Model United Nations Program

Within the past several weeks, all member of the NCWA received a request to donate funds for the Model UN Program. This month's report will give you information about approximately how much money is donated each year and how those funds are used.

An average of 100 donations are received from family and individual memberships annually, usually totaling approximately \$10,000. This amount does not include scholarship donations, but does represent nearly 25% of the annual budget.

The donated amount is pooled with other funds to pay for operating costs, such as meals for 350 delegates and volunteers (4 meals each), special Model UN folders/notebooks for delegates and judges, costs for an Administrative Coordinator who is the central point of contact for all schools, space usage at FGCU, etc.

At the 2015 Model UN session, approximately \$22,000 was awarded in scholarships and other grants, most of which were made as special donations, separate from the \$10,000 mentioned above.



Earl Anderson
Chair

And what kind of a Model UN Program do your donations support?

SW/FL Model UN is one of the best in the country, according to participant feedback.

Its relatively small size allows for greater participation by all delegates.

Judges (NCWA members) are highly qualified retired people from varied professions, whereas graduate students are judges at other Model UN sessions.

SW/FL Model UN is one of only a few such programs in the country that awards scholarships.

Close working relationship with the FGCU/Model UN Club enriches our sessions because their members participate in programs nationwide and bring back "best practice" options for us.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Earl H. Anderson, Chairman
Model UN Committee



Model UN Students



Membership Report

Thanks to the generosity of our membership we had record contributions this year. We also stretched the limits on membership requiring the maximum number of chairs in the lecture hall.

Membership renewals this year are planned to start February 1st. The goal being to complete member renewals in Mid March and invitations to Associate members by early May. The intent is to complete membership before most of our current or future members start traveling. This fall we had several people upset that they were no longer members because they had forgotten to renew, hadn't seen the request for renewal or their invitation to join as a new member.

Our organization has been most fortunate to have a waiting list of Associate Members ready to replace members not renewing their membership. Your efforts to inform others in the community about the benefits of joining our organization is greatly appreciated. As you might have noticed we rely on this versus spending money on advertising. All our money is focused on supporting lectures and activities expanding the education of our children. We remain the largest World Affairs chapter with an all volunteer board of directors who manage the organization.

Bob.



Bob Erbstein

Website Report

Increasingly the website is being viewed as part of a broader communications vehicle between members and their organization.

Recording of lectures is part of this along with email blasts notifying members and Associate Members when they are posted for viewing. Reminders for scheduled and CSA (Committee for Special Activities) lectures and events have typically been supported by email blasts. Further effort will be made to use these to highlight the occurrence of outreach activities and increase membership participation with programs involving the youth in our community.

To insure you receive emails, please confirm that your email address in your profile is up to date. We are always looking for new features to improve the use of the website to members. If you have any suggestions please send to them to erbsteinb@embarqmail.com.

Village Assistance Program (VAP)

Provides modest financial assistance to projects in economically distressed areas in foreign countries where NCWA members are directly involved

All programs must be proposed by a Council Member. Full details of the procedure and requirements are available at our website www.ncwa-fl.org under VAP Application.

We would love to hear from you.

Stan Chauvin, Chair VAP



Ghana: Construction of the adult learning center in Whutin.



For the first time Luvana kids have fresh and clean water to wash their bowls and dishes.

**NCWA is proud to support the Village Assistance program (VAP)
Thank you, Stan Chauvin, Chair**

World Affairs Councils of America (WACA)

2015 Conference – Washington, DC
November 11-13, 2015

Each year the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) sponsors a national conference held in Washington, DC, in early November. Any member of a member council, of which there are more than 80 throughout the United States, is invited to attend. Also invited are student scholarship recipients, who apply in early fall. Among those recipients was our own student Grayson Lanza. In addition, we had a very special student guest, Joel Davis, “our” Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. NCWA board members in attendance were quite proud of our student attendees!

This year’s conference was entitled “Leading America: Foreign Policy Challenges and the 2016 Election.” The conference covered all the “hot topics” in world affairs today. Although not uplifting, definitely enlightening was the Opening Dinner Keynote Speaker, Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Department of State. “Syria in Crisis” was keynoted by Ribal Al-Assad, Founder and Director, Organization for Democracy and Freedom in Syria. We thank our own Mimi Gregory for this speaker. Mr. Al-Assad was then joined in a panel with Ambassador Dennis Ross and Thomas Lippman from the Middle East Institute. From Syria to Ukraine (guest Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress) to “The Future of Europe” to “The Arctic: Challenges and Opportunities” and on to “China,” to name some of the topics.

A highlight to this year’s conference was off-site visits to think tanks near the hotel. Council attendees visited the Brookings Institute, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

We also enjoyed evening embassy receptions hosted by their respective ambassadors at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Kurdistan Regional Government-Iraq Representative Office and Embassy of Spain.

From left, Daniel Bumstead, Board Member
Grayson Lanza, WACA Conference
Scholarship Recipient





Naples Council on World Affairs

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Lectures on the Radio

Our lecture series is aired on Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m. following the Monday lectures, thanks to our partnership with WGCU.FM and Public Media. Listen on:

- WGCU (90.1 FM) Naples
- WMKO (91.7 FM) Marco Island