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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

Winter 2020

Editor: Jim Schmotter

President's Message - January 2020

“Season” in Naples has arrived. How welcome it is! The events, pastimes, and life in the more robust community of Naples-in-season has not missed a step or skipped a beat—and neither has the robust schedule of lectures and programs planned and now being offered by your Naples Council on World Affairs.

Our lecture series is again at home at St. John’s Kiney Hall. And after the first few lectures, it’s beginning to *feel* like home—only better! And how about those first lectures? Most all your responses to them have been the same as mine: exceptional in content and presentation. More specifically, many of you reported assessments like “outstanding lecture”, “terrific speaker”, and “learned a lot.” So do look ahead to the outstanding lectures and terrific speakers coming our way this month through April. I think we are all likely to learn a lot from them.

But let me also remind you of **the other outstanding NCWA programs** directed to our adult members as well as to middle school and high school students in nearby Southwest Florida counties. These programs are already well into their preparation for the group discussions, events and competitions to be offered over the next few months. They provide both **volunteer opportunities** for members as well as the opportunity to observe the outstanding work being done by current NCWA volunteer committees.

Beginning this month and meeting through March, approximately 835 of our members are participating in twenty-eight **Great Decisions discussion groups**. Using the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions briefing books, the discussion groups meet for two hours, once each week for eight weeks. If you are not yet a member-participant in one of these groups, consider signing up later this spring to give it a try next year. There's a reason most all of our member-participants remain member-participants: compelling topics; rewarding discussions; and welcoming, respectful, new NCWA friends.

Again this year, in February, we bring to you our biennial, day-long **National War College Seminar**. The program speakers are National War College experts who always engage, inform and challenge us about today's most compelling global and national security issues. It's well worth the time invested.

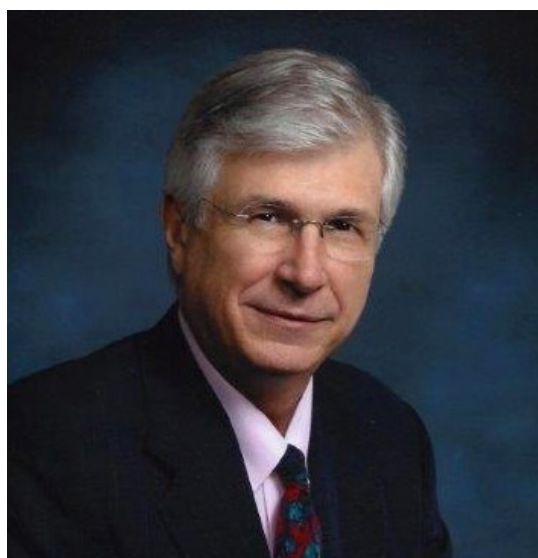
After a year's hiatus, the **Village Assistance Program** is again called to its charge to help provide financial assistance for limited projects in poor communities abroad identified by our volunteer members. These projects will include elements of international engagement and educational components for our member-volunteers and the students of nearby schools who participate in them.

Then there are the NCWA's student-focused programs. The **Student Outreach Committee** invites you to attend the annual high-school and middle-school **Academic World Quest competitions** to be held February 29 and March 28, respectively, at the Community School of Naples. After watching one

of these competitions, you may find yourself drawn to volunteer in the work of the Student Outreach Committee, which also includes selecting outstanding high school students for summer programs abroad or summer studies in foreign relations or national security at Georgetown University.

And there is our highly regarded, two-day **Southwest Florida Model United Nations competition** to be held in March 2-3 at Florida Gulf Coast University. Our **Model UN Committee** and its volunteers are again putting together an outstanding competition including high school teams from all around Southwest Florida. The competition and the students are impressive. And the Tuesday afternoon awards ceremony is not to be missed. It's exciting, affirming, and celebratory. All NCWA members are invited!

And then, to cap off the year, what better way to do some celebrating of our own than with our Annual Dinner at the Hilton. April 3rd. See you there!



Gregory E. Hudson
President

OUR MISSION:

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

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Upcoming NCWA Membership Renewal

On February 1, 2020 you will receive the first of three emails encouraging you to renew your membership for the 2020-2021 Lecture Season.

Renewal will not be available before this date.

From the Program Committee

As 2019 winds down, I have to say that I believe we were fortunate earlier this year to have had such great support from the Moorings Presbyterian Church and its team. In spite of some audio difficulties I think we ended up well, and we are surely grateful.

Back to St. John's, it does feel like home! We started off with a bang with Clint Watts who then also spoke to the students at Naples High School, where he definitely got high marks! (He scared them a bit with the nuances of social media!)

Duncan Wood got an "outstanding rating" for his presentation on Mexico, and his appearance at the Community School was such a hit that teacher Sue Herting said that the kids were fighting over who was going to be the introducer and who would do the next speaker! We even had one of our rare e-mail

praises on “how great it was to really learn about Mexico”. By the way, we were a “destination special” as Duncan’s partner was particularly pleased to have actually seen a manatee.

Mead Treadwell brought us a “new ocean” in his return ten years after his first time with us. Judi Lipnick reminded him that he had left us with two important quotes last time: “the ice is melting much faster than predicted and the Russians are coming”! So here we are, with prominent article in the *New York Times Sunday Review* stating: “Our Future Depends on the Arctic”!

On Wednesday, December 18, our “falcon huntress”, Donna Suddeth, spoke to a large group about her trip to Qatar; Middle East home to Central Command in spite of the continuing blockade by the Emirate Nations.

As we turned the corner into 2020, we greeted Barbara Slavin of the Atlantic Council, and her topic of Iran was one of special, and incredibly timely, importance.

Happy New Year to all,

Mimi Gregory

Vice President and Programs Chair



Great Decisions 2020 Commences

Great Decision group leader profiles can be found on the Naples Council on World Affairs website as well as in participant handouts distributed at the first session of the program. The credentials of these leaders are impressive. Many of them have made multiple career changes over the years as new challenges arose. They all are committed to the goals of NCWA and Great Decisions. All philosophically believe, as John Kennedy said, that “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”.

Collectively their backgrounds span many fields: law, corporations, academia, government (e.g. the State Department and national intelligence), Energy, the International Monetary Fund, educational administration, global health, global accounting, and medicine. They bring a wealth of diverse experiences which enhance their effectiveness as leaders of our twenty-eight Great Decision groups. The growth and success of Great Decisions is inexorably linked to what these leaders, pictured below, bring to their groups.



QATAR – Leadership Mission Trip October 2019

By Donna Suddeth

When the world's richest country offers a rare opportunity for an ordinary citizen to visit as a guest of the government, there was no way I would turn down that trip. So, as part of a Leadership Mission sponsored by the World Affairs Councils of America through the Embassy of Qatar, I found myself in October on the fifteen- hour flight from Miami to Doha, Qatar, on Qatar Airways.

Qatar is a very small but very, very rich Arab country with the highest per capital income in the world. Located on the arid desert Arabian Peninsula coast, its neighbors are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, with Iran just across the Persian Gulf. Off its coastline are the oil and massive amounts of gas which account for its wealth.



Doha, Qatar, at sunset

Our visit provided a whirlwind, but very comprehensive exposure. Visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we learned about the blockade instituted by its Arab

neighbors and Egypt and also about Qatar's defiant response. Then it was on to the Department of International Cooperation, where we learned about Qatar's multimillion-dollar investments, including a \$650 million investment in City Center DC and \$2 billion in foreign aid each year. This aid included \$100 million to the U.S. following Hurricane Katrina. We also toured the Ministry of Defense and Al-Udeid Air Base, where the U.S. Central Command is located.



World Affairs Leadership Mission to Qatar; Donna Suddeth fifth from right

Other visits included the headquarters of Qatar Petroleum, where we learned all kinds of facts and figures about the oil and liquefied natural gas industry and the Qatar Financial Center where we learned about Qatar's strong financial standing along with their goals and ambitions. We were educated at Education City, a 5.4 square-mile campus dedicated to education, research and community development that includes collaborations with a number of Western universities, among them Northwestern, Carnegie-Mellon, Georgetown, and Texas A & M.

While Qatar is a hereditary monarch, there is an Advisory Council consisting of forty-five members, thirty elected and fifteen appointed by the Emir, the ruler of Qatar His Highness Sheik Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani. We visited with a member of the Council before going on to the Al Jazeera studios. And, finally, we visited the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy where we learned all about the plans for hosting the World Cup 2022. Since Qatar is one of the hottest places on earth, playing host required the creation of outdoor air conditioning and delaying the games to a “winter” month.

There was also “fun and games” with a visit to the Museum of Islamic Arts, which I. M. Pei was coaxed out of retirement at age 91 to deliver as his first and only Islamic design. We also toured the desert-inspired National Museum of Qatar, the Waqif Souk for a bit of shopping, and Katara Cultural to see a beach soccer game and a women’s basketball game. Two important elements of Qatar’s history were on view at a falconry visit (Where I got to actually hold a falcon!) and at dinner our last evening on Pearl Island where we learned about the role the pearling industry traditionally played in Qatar’s economy.



Falconry is an important element of Qatar's cultural and history

Longtime NCWA member Donna Suddeth has served as Treasurer and President of the Council

A Note of Appreciation

The generosity of NCWA members enable us to support our high school summer scholarships, high school and middle school Academic World Quest competitions and our annual Model United Nations Conference.

The following donations were received during the July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 fiscal year, but not acknowledged in the current NCWA *Handbook*. We deeply appreciate the generosity they represent.

*Robert and Anita Foster
Sam and June Hamra
Arthur and Kathryn Knight*

Want a spouse or friend to receive the NCWA Newsletter?

Currently the *Newsletter* is emailed to one address per member household. This electronic publication provides news and updates on the Council's myriad activities three times a year. We want to provide access to it for all interested stakeholders. If you would like us to send the *Newsletter* to another member of your family or a friend, just send the email address to schmotterj@wcsu.edu.

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