

Naples Council on World Affairs



www.ncwa-fl.org

NEWSLETTER

May 17, 2023

President's Letter



Mark Schwab
NCWA President

Our War College day was well attended, engaging and thought provoking.

And our Village Assistance Program provided badly needed housing assistance to Ukrainian families.

I'd like to thank the leaders of each of those areas and the many, many volunteers who put in countless hours of work to deliver top quality programs. Thanks to our hard-working Board of Directors and special appreciation to Jim Schmotter, who just completed his third term as president of this complex organization.

We all expected a return to “normal” this past season, and then Hurricane Ian passed through our community wreaking havoc and leaving a path of devastation in its wake. But hard work and persistence prevailed and your Naples Council on World Affairs was able to deliver a strong season of programs and activities, thanks to our committed teams of volunteers.

Our speaker program featured ten highly, almost uncannily, timely and on point topics as major international events of consequence unfolded.

Our twenty-five Great Decisions groups were able to return in person to their lively discussions.

Our Model United Nations competition in partnership with FGCU celebrated a successful 30th anniversary.

Our School Outreach team offered a number of programs and awarded numerous scholarships to an impressive group of young people.

But especially, I would also like to thank all of you, our members, for your active participation and engagement. This organization exists for you.

As we wrapped the 2022-2023 season, over 40 percent of you took the time to respond to our survey and express your views on your NCWA membership. We learned a lot as we emerged from the Covid years, but we needed a more analytical look forward as we realized the impact of demographic trends, growing reliance on technology for online delivery of programs, the impact of growth (and traffic) on our community, and other important signals in the marketplace.

You provided valuable insights and suggestions which will help guide our work over the summer and coming season and beyond as we strengthen our commitment to educating, inspiring and engaging you and our broader community in international affairs and critical global issues.

Have a great summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in October!

Mark Schwab
President

Membership enrollment and renewal continues to be underway for the 2023-2024 NCWA season. Don't forget to sign up, and bring a like-minded friend!

Renewal for Full Memberships (both individual and family), which begin July 1, 2023, and run through June 30, 2024, is being offered to all current Associate Members, and the Associate category is being closed. There is no Associate waiting list, and new Associate applications are not being accepted at this time.

The lecture schedule will remain at 3:45 or 7:30 pm, mostly on Mondays, held in person and via livestream, or in subsequent recordings posted on our website.

Enrollment also is open for the NCWA Great Decisions program. As with this season, there are no plans for Zoom attendance at Great Decisions meetings. Full memberships will allow Great Decisions participants to enjoy the synergy of lectures plus Great Decisions discussion groups, which will deepen participants' understanding of foreign policy issues as significant events unfold throughout the season.

Members also may volunteer for many roles to support NCWA's Model UN program in partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University and the Academic World Quest competitions for middle school and high school students, as well as to support summer programs for national and international study in foreign affairs. There are many opportunities to learn and to make a difference.

Contributions to support these programs will continue to be welcome. Members donating \$250 or more will become part of the President's Club, allowing them to attend luncheons with speakers during the lecture season.

Enroll now and join us for another stimulating, enlightening year of world affairs programs!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Full Membership (Individual): \$140
Full Membership (Family): \$250
Great Decisions Fees: \$ 55

To renew your membership, call 239-649-3942

*Do you have friends who have expressed an interest in NCWA?
Invite them to join!*

Membership Survey Produces Ideas for Action



NCWA members responding to a recent survey expressed strong commitment to and appreciation for our many programs and offered a number of ideas to greet changing times from a position of continuing strength.

As Southwest Florida's pre-eminent source of programs to educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues, NCWA sponsors lectures by experts, as well as Great Decisions discussion groups focusing on similar topics. We offer outstanding Model UN and School Outreach programs to nurture the interest of the young generation in careers in foreign affairs and diplomacy, and we continue each year to find ways to deepen those involvements.

Thanks to members' strong commitment to NCWA, about 40 percent of the membership responded, a high rate of return. Feedback covered every area of programming and showed high satisfaction and that more than 90 percent of members would recommend NCWA to their friends.

The suggestions and feedback was plentiful, too. As the results of the survey were being collected, NCWA added six members to its Board of Directors, bringing the Board to full strength. New officers are in place, and the Board is now moving to act on the survey results.

Over the summer, the Board will analyze the results and develop action plans. So far, plans call for launching teams to follow up in two external areas -- marketing and communications, and developing mutually beneficial partnerships in the community.

Please stay tuned for information on details from the survey as the Board completes its analysis and for additional developments over the coming months.

Thank you for your participation in the survey!

New Board of Directors and Officers for Next Season

The NCWA Board of Directors has elected new officers for the coming season, led by President Mark Schwab, who replaces Jim Schmotter, who last season completed his third term as Board president.

Other new officers and committee chairs include:

- Mimi Gregory, Vice President of Programs and chair of the Programs Committee and the Committee for Special Activities
- Carol Green, Vice President of Operations, Marketing & Communications Team co-chair
- Jinny Johnson, Secretary and Hospitality Committee co-chair
- Robert Roussel, Treasurer
- Judi Lipnick, Membership chair
- Stu Schweitzer, Great Decisions chair
- Alan Van Egmond, Model UN chair
- Mark Walchak, School Outreach Committee chair

- Jim Schmotter, Nominating Committee chair, Marketing & Communications Team co-chair, Strategic Partnerships Team chair
- Jim Fleck, Hospitality Committee co-chair
- Joyce Fletcher, Village Assistance Program chair

The Board of Directors was brought to its full complement of members with the addition of six persons for the coming season.

In addition to the officers, members of the Board and their assignments are:

- Francisco Figueroa, Finance Committee member
- Dave Brown, Great Decisions Committee member
- Mark Schneider, Technology and Website Committee member
- John Kovach, School Outreach Committee member
- Martha Williams, Model UN Committee and Marketing & Communications Team member

NCWA Supports Important Student Programs

Model UN:

SWFL Model UN Alumna is accepted to medical school... Wait! Accepted to two?

NCWA-FGCU Model UN has strong 30th anniversary year.

[Click to Read about Model UN](#)

School Outreach Program:

Academic World Quest competition is lively this year for middle and high school students.

Students are about to begin summer study on NCWA domestic and international scholarships.

Cindy Brewer of St. John Neumann Catholic High School is named NCWA 2023 Educator of the Year.

Alumni Luncheon brings former and new scholarship winners together.

[Click to Read about School Outreach](#)

Additional Programs Bring Information and Insight

National War College:

This deep exploration by experts in national security and defense strategy issues is offered to NCWA members on alternate years by the Committee on Special Activities. The 2023 program provided examination of issues involving China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Also, in an article about the War College, check out the 2023 Annual Threat Assessment by U.S. Intelligence Agencies (unclassified) prepared for our government leaders. From China to climate, this assessment discusses it all.

[Click to read about the War College Program](#)

NCWA Book Club:

The NCWA Book Club meets monthly to discuss books about major topics relating to world affairs, international policy and diplomacy and other global issues affecting our lives. All members are welcome to attend.

[Click for more information on the NCWA Book Club](#)

Helping Families in Ukraine



A children's hospital in Stryki, Ukraine, is being repaired by MoveUkraine, a nonprofit that was supported this year by donations from NCWA and its members.

One of two projects adopted by NCWA this year to help families in Ukraine reports that its work on a children's hospital is almost completed.

MoveUkraine/Kids Konnect is working on several projects to rehabilitate buildings in the war-torn country, including the renovation of a children's hospital in Stryi that will serve 50 infants and orphans and

25 caregivers.

MoveUkraine reports that it has completed its portion of the work and is waiting for work by a couple of partner organizations to be finished. It refurbishes disused buildings to create homes or buildings for displaced Ukrainians, working only with public buildings on the list of aid projects of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The organization has 501(c)(3) status through the Applied Hope Foundation in the U.S.

The project entailed overall remodeling, installation of external power, water, sewage and drainage systems, installation of internal electrical, heating and sanitary equipment, insulation, installing a suspended ceiling and replacing windows. The overall cost was \$128,000, with MoveUkraine providing \$68,000 of the total. NCWA contributed \$5,000, plus individual donations by members.

The second organization receiving a \$5,000 donation from NCWA was Shelter Box, which provides temporary housing for displaced families.

World Affairs Council Travel Opportunities

The Philadelphia chapter of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) operates a travel service for members of affiliated councils. Here are some opportunities for trips with members of the WACA network:

Italy's Magnificent Lakes Region September 12-20, 2023

<https://wacphila.org/travel/italy-s-magnificent-lake-district>

Cuba: The African Diaspora October 27-November 3, 2023

This is a second trip to Cuba for only 12 people, and space is limited. A discount of \$250 is available if booked by June 1.

<https://wacphila.org/travel/cuba-and-its-people-featuring-the-african-diaspora>

Grand Danube Passage: Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria October 4-19, 2023 (Wait List Only)

<https://wacphila.org/travel/grand-danube-passage>

Madagascar to Mauritius, Islands of the Indian Ocean December 5-20, 2023

<https://wacphila.org/travel/madagascar-to-mauritius-islands-of-the-indian-ocean>

Don't Forget Your Gift from NCWA: *DailyChatter*!



NCWA members are eligible to receive an annual subscription to the email newsletter *DailyChatter*, a \$27.95 value, at **no additional cost to you.**

DailyChatter presents summaries of important international issues that other media often miss. Click the link below to subscribe.

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