



www.ncwa-fl.org

NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

Winter 2017

Editor: Richard Clemens

President's Message

As we begin 2017, we reflect on what has taken place over the past year and what we look forward to in the coming year. Because of the size of our Council and our all-volunteer Board, we are constantly looking at ways we can operate in a manner that provides the best programs to our members and students, and yet keep it all manageable for our Board members.

To that end, we held an all-day Long-Range Planning Day in place of our regular board meeting in October. We were fortunate that one of our Council members, Steve Vesce, extremely well-versed in leading these types of events lent us his expertise. We spent lots of hours evaluating our programs and systems through Steve's well-developed questions. Then we followed up with a full-day meeting meshing all our thoughts with potential productive activity.

Some of what we concluded seems self-evident, but, it only seems that way after going through the process. We concluded that we are committed to "going deep vs. expanding wide," that is, "The Board of Directors is committed to enhancing each member's experience within our current programs and our service offerings by focusing our efforts on improving the quality of those experiences and the quality of our NCWA programs and service offerings." In other words, we want to provide the best programs we possibility can, maintaining our focus strictly on global and international affairs.



Some of what we concluded relates specifically to improvements in our organizational operations. Yes, these are things we know we need to do, but, it is easier to defer them until we "have the time." Because we are an all-volunteer Board, our "institutional memory" depends on our Board members. We need to insure that our "institutional memory" is well documented so it can truly be memory.

So, looking back at 2016, we are pleased. But going forward to 2017, we know we need to move forward to stay relevant. So, in that light, the focus of the first half of our December board meeting was a "workshop" on Social Media.

Donna L. Suddeth, President, NCWA

OUR MISSION:

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

Officers:

President – Donna L. Suddeth
Vice President – Robert (Bob) Erbstein
Vice President for Programs – Mimi C. Gregory
Secretary – Mo Winograd
Treasurer – Gregory E. (Greg) Hudson

Directors:

Earl H. Anderson
Daniel D. (Dan) Bumstead
L Stanley (Stan) Chauvin, Jr.
Richard Clemens
Jan K. Guben
Robert P. Haffa, Jr.
Judith Lipnick
L Stanley (Stan) Chauvin, Jr.
Robert J. McGinn
Judith R. (Judy) Rubinstein

Program Committee Report

Clearly our best laid plans meet up with unplanned moments as happened on Saturday afternoon of December 3rd, when a family health emergency forced a cancellation of “Turkey’s Lost Democracy” on the 5th of December. Just to give all of our members a sense of the utter panic that ensues, I thought you might like to know that it takes a combination of 13 phone calls and duplicate e-mails to shut down the event behind the scenes, and at least a couple of phone calls to possible substitute speakers before taking two heavy duty Excedrins and conceding defeat!

I am, however, happy to report that Steven Cook has been re-scheduled for Monday, the 13th of February, and we will certainly welcome him and the opportunity to hear his presentation on a very hot topic that has been occupying headlines since this past summer and the attempted coup d’état.

Coming up as the year turns, we will welcome General John Allen and Dr. Michael O’Hanlon on January 9th, and we have asked them to address the topic of the American Foreign Policy issues facing the new administration. I suggest that we are pretty timely! Next, on January 23rd, Dr. Thomas Wright of the Brookings Institution, will tell us if the European Union will survive 2017, and if yes, how?

The lecture of Admiral James Stavridis on Global Security and the Role of NATO has been moved to Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from Monday, April 3rd.

I invite you to mark your calendars for all our remaining programs and we look forward to welcoming you to the New Year 2017.

Committee on Special Activities



Just a reminder to all of you that we will host Author Stephen Kinzer on Monday, February 27th, for a presentation about his new book, “The True Flag”. We have had the pleasure to follow Stephen’s writing career over the years, covering “Overthrow”, “The Brothers”, “All the Shah’s Men” and now the Birth of the American Empire, as told in the “True Flag”, featuring Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain, “truly” American icons.

Please plan on joining us!

Mimi Gregory, Vice President for Programs

The 2017 Model UN Conference to be Held on March 9 and 10

As part of its educational outreach, the Naples Council on World Affairs sponsors a Model United Nations program for area high school students. Model United Nations programs (MUN), which simulate the actual workings of the United Nations, have four purposes: (a) to teach negotiating, bargaining and communication skills; (b) to represent a foreign perspective in a disciplined forum; (c) to enhance awareness and inform students on critical global issues; and (d) to acquaint high school students with the workings of the United Nations. Since the initial Southwest Florida Model United Nations conference, NCWA has sponsored the event annually. Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) provides the academic portion of the program and the facilities for the conference.

The 2017 Model UN will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 9 & 10 at the Florida Gulf Coast University. We're proud to announce that the Friday afternoon speaker will be one of our own graduates, Ashley Inman. Ashley graduated from Gulf Coast High School in Naples and was active in the Model UN for her four years of high school. She was a scholarship winner and attended the University of Florida, majoring in International Relations. Upon graduation she was hired as an intern at the State Department in Washington and is now a permanent, full-time employee, receiving training to be a Foreign Service Specialist for the Middle East.



Earl H. Anderson
Chairman, Model UN Committee

Ashley will share her experience with the delegates. Because she is a recent graduate and is relatively young, the delegates will be able to relate to her story. Hopefully, other delegates will be inspired to pursue careers in international relations.

We're very proud of her accomplishments and are pleased that she can return to our SWFL Model UN to share her success story.

Model UN Students Creatively Implement Their Own Model UN Proposal

Last year, at our NCWA Model UN, we introduced a new contest asking students to imagine themselves as consultants to the United Nations and they have been given a budget of \$1 million dollars to create a new program that would provide relief to Syrian refugees living in one of the large refugee camps in the desert in the Middle East. It could not duplicate something already being done. The winning proposal earned the Cape Coral High School Model UN a \$500 prize, provided by our NCWA members Howard and Nancy Cohen. The student's novel idea was to set up a system of providing bicycles to school age children that could be checked out at a regional station in their refugee camp and checked in at school, and then checked back out after school to get back to the regional station near their home tent. It overcame the problem of students not attending school because the long walk across the desert was life threatening. The team that won this prize decided this summer to try and make this project a reality. They found a charity in Chicago called Working Bikes, a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit, and they found out if they could raise \$2000, that would allow Working Bikes to send 500 repaired and fully functioning used bikes to a poor village in either Africa or Latin America. Our winning students choose to have their 500 bikes delivered to orphans in Lesotho, Africa.

Saturday, December 10th, was the actual Bike-A-Thon at the track at Cape Coral High School. Mo Winograd, our Model UN Vice Chair and Howard and Nancy Cohen attended on behalf of NCWA and were so impressed with the organization these students showed, including getting free coffee donated by Starbucks on the chilly Saturday morning. They met and mingled with all those attending and discovered that the main student organizer, Daniela Barata, is waiting to hear on early admissions from Harvard, where she plans to major in biology. Her teammate, Stefanai Lugli, has applied to NYU's Journalism School and another teammate, Javiar Diaz, has applied to Emory University, to pursue an interest in law and politics. The Naples Council was thrilled to find out that these students actually took their idea and made it a reality and will send a message of hope to these orphans in Lesotho, Africa. 500 bikes - just imagine. It is the type of take away we all wish for the students we engage with in NCWA's many outreach efforts that all our NCWA members support. We have such hope for this upcoming generation!

A special shout out to the Naples Council Model UN for donating \$150 to help kick this event off and to board member Earl Anderson for suggesting the idea. Also thanks to NCWA members and Board Directors for their personal donations totaling \$1,150 including Stan and Cecelia Chauvin, Dick and Judy Clemens, Howard and Nancy Cohen, Bob Erbstein, Mimi Gregory, Jan Gruben, Greg Hudson, Jan Johnson, Dennis Parass, Chuck Theisen, and Mickey and Mo Winograd. You are all NCWA stars.



Left to right: Howard and Nancy Cohen, the winning Cape Coral High School special contest team Javier Diaz, Stefania Lugli and Daniela Barata, Mo Winograd NCWA Model UN Vice-Chair and Michael Cook, Cape Coral High School's Model UN Coach and the real "biker", his daughter Katie Cook.

Our three Contest winners being interviewed by Cape Coral.com are Javier, Stefania and Daniela.

High School Students Praise Model UN Program

The following are some of the favorable comments that NCWA has received from high school students who were awarded NCWA college scholarships at the 2016 Model UN program:

From Ethan Katz, Port Charlotte High School:

I wanted to thank your Council for the generous scholarship money rewarded through the Southwest FL Model UN Conference. Over the past four years in the MUN, I have attended over twenty MUN conferences around the nation and the Naples Conference has always been my favorite. The dedication shown by your members and other staff members always shines through and delegates love nothing more than to see those hosting the conference are just as passionate as them.

Model UN—and the SWFL MUN conference more specifically—has taught me invaluable skills and granted me incalculable knowledge and understanding of the world around me, information I would never have learned without your conference. In high school, MUN was my passion and I would have never been able to explore the international community as thoroughly without it.

I will be using the scholarship money your Council granted me to attend the University of Florida in the Fall of 2016, both of my parents' alma matter, as well as my sister's current school. Going to UF has always been a dream of mine since a young age and your generous scholarship will help me attain that goal. But my thanks goes beyond that, because I know, after attending your conference at FGCU for

four years, that your Council grants thousands of dollars in scholarship funds every year to other MUN delegates, an amazing feat that no other MUN conference in the nation can boast.

Throughout college and my adult life, I hope to stay involved in the MUN community and to visit SWFL MUN conference when my younger brother attends in two years. I know that he and other future generations of MUN delegates will continue to reap the same benefits I did, and I cannot thank you enough for that.

From Anna Albert, Port Charlotte High School:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for granting me with the George Gotschall Memorial Scholarship that will aid in my next step in life toward college. Due to the ineffable challenges with attending college, I would not be able to have continued educational opportunities without your kindness and generosity. I will be going out of state for college, attending Clemson University in South Carolina where I plan to double major in English Literature and Political Science. I am grateful that I can receive this scholarship not only due to merit but also due to the skills of speech, leadership and diplomacy that I have gained through my participation in SWFL Model UN.

I have eagerly looked forward to the SWFL Model UN all four years of my participation at Model UN, and I can genuinely say that the conference has consistently challenged me to view the state of our world affairs in a new and innovative way. I have been perplexed by issues from sustainable development to cyber security, and the Conference has brought depth into my knowledge of international affairs through these challenges. The Naples Council on World Affairs has been especially gracious in spending their time hosting the conference, along with directly engaging themselves in the debate that I have taken part in.

Once again, thank you so much for this opportunity to have an educational opportunity that will eventually help me achieve a professional status within the fields of English or Politics. I look forward to using your generosity to apply my knowledge in new fields.

School Outreach Activities

The High School Academic World Quest will be held on Saturday, February 25 – once again at the Community School. We are working with the Collier County Schools in an effort to increase participation in the event. The Middle School Academic World Quest will be held on Saturday, March 25, at the Community School.

NCWA has three scholarship programs for high school students: (a) the Experiment in International Living program for summer study overseas; (b) the Governor Institute's two-week summer program in Vermont; and (c) Georgetown University's one week program on international relations or national security in Washington, D.C. Applications for all three scholarship programs are available online and due on or before January 21st. The School Outreach Committee will interview all of the applicants and make the selections in early February.



Jan Guben, School Outreach Chairman

About 100 students who have participated in previous NCWA scholarship programs are members of our Alumni Group. The Alumni Group is helpful in encouraging applications for the scholarship.

The funding for the NCWA's School Outreach programs is dependent upon additional voluntary contributions from members and friends of NCWA.

Great Decisions

742 NCWA Members and Associate Members have registered for the 2017 Great Decisions Program. This breaks the earlier record of 690. The Program begins the week of January 16th and runs for eight weeks ending the week of March 6th.

We have two new groups in 2017 bringing the total to 27. Tom Schrader will lead a new group at The Commons Club at The Brooks in Bonita Springs. Marjorie Lewis will lead a new group at the Public Library in Lely.

Board member Robert Haffa has contributed to this year's Great Decisions Briefing Book with a wonderful article entitled, "continuity and Change in American foreign Policy. We have reprinted the "Timeline" from the article and encourage you to read the whole essay which is available in the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ji6x1ze2ipanqx4/Intro.pdf?dl=0>



On January 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., the 27 group leaders will have their organization meeting at St. John the Evangelist which will be followed by the distribution of the 2017 Foreign Policy Association briefing books. Later in December, each registrant will receive a post card confirming their group, its meeting location, the time of their sessions and where they can pick-up their Great Decisions book

Again this year the subjects are topical and we are looking forward to a rewarding season.

Bob McGinn, Chair, Great Decisions

Village Assistance Program Overview

Tanzania aids orphans riding bikes long distances to school. In Guatemala, secondary education is being provided by new classroom space. Now we have clean water for a school and village in Haiti. Then add thatch roofs in Mexico for a woman's community crafts employment center. Medical training, testing, and equipment are going to Jamaica, Ethiopia and India. Frames and lenses for a mobile eye clinic in rural South Africa have been provided and recently, we provided seven refugees 'Shelter Boxes' for Syrian Refugees.

All the above projects have benefitted children, as well as adults, around the world through the NCWA Village Assistance Grants program since its inception.

In order to qualify for a VAP grant, the following must occur:

1. a VAP Application must be submitted and sponsored by a NCWA member to the VAP Committee
2. The project must serve an educational purpose and must also be amenable for future involvement of Naples Community students.
3. Following a review by the VAP Committee, a recommendation is submitted to the NCWA Board of Directors for approval.



As an NCWA member, your interest and involvement in World Affairs makes you an ideal sponsor and I urge you to become involved. There are numerous people awaiting your help. You can make it happen!

For questions or further information please contact me at (239) 394 6303 or send an email to: Ceciliachauvin55@gmail.com.

L. Stanley Chauvin, Jr. Village Assistance Program Chair

The President's Club

Happy New Year! It is not too late for you to join the President's Club this year and the chance to attend a few intimate luncheons with the Speaker of the Day. We still have seven or so luncheons to go. An additional \$250 or more, above your membership dues, will give you a chance to interact with the speaker, members of the Board of Directors and meet other interesting and committed members of the President's Club. We now have 125 generous families who are members of the President's Club. Do join us! Call the NCWA office at 239-649-3942.



Thanks.

Judy Rubinstein, Hospitality Chair

judyrubenstein@aol.com or 239-566-9512.

Membership Report

To those who didn't receive your directory and membership cards, I'm sorry for the inconvenience. We tried to get the directories out earlier and in the process created a problem. Sending cards and directories out at the beginning of October when many persons are returning to Florida resulted in cards and directories being shipped to the wrong address. To complicate matters we mail at a non-profit rate which doesn't forward or return mail.

One approach being considered is to mail cards and directories in August when members are typically at the alternative address provided. The only problem with this is the final lecture schedule isn't yet completed so won't be included on the last page of the directory. Instead we would provide this later in an E blast. If you have a problem with this approach please email me at erbsteinb@embarqmail.com.



Website Report

My email seeking technical support proved again that we have a very generous membership: Many offered help. An effort is starting to upgrade the website which includes the ability to automatically scale it for different devices. If there are specific changes you'd like to see please email me at erbsteinb@embarqmail.com.

Bob Erbstein, Membership Chair & Webmaster



NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

www.ncwa-fl.org



Lectures on the Website

The NCWA lectures are also recorded and available on our website.

Sign into the web site, click on ***“LECTURES”*** and then ***“FEATURED PRESENTATIONS”*** to select the lecture you would like to watch.