If you find that question challenging, then the Naples Council on World Affairs can give you the answer! Part of a network of close to 100 Councils nationwide, the Naples Council began in 1981 when a group of residents, challenged by that very question, gathered to discuss world affairs on a regular basis. Today that nascent group has grown to 2200 active members whose interest in foreign policy and international affairs sustains a robust membership and a growing waiting list. Clearly it is gratifying that our now indisputable “global world” fosters that much support in our community.

Nourished by a plentitude of resources, the Naples Council offers a Flagship Lecture Series comprising ten lectures from November to April addressing the most pressing foreign policy challenges our country faces today. Drawing from a compendium of experts who come from Washington’s many research institutes, nationwide universities, historians, authors, diplomats, journalists, you can see that the garden is ripe for the harvesting and the results, for our audience, are rewarding.

Great Decisions...

In addition to our Lecture Series, the Council offers participation in the Foreign Policy Association’s “Great Decisions Program”. “FPA”, as it is commonly known, is actually the New York City World Affairs Council and celebrated its Centennial Year in 2018. Their annual publication of a briefing book, based on the eight most pressing foreign policy issues annually, fosters participation in discussion groups led by members of the Naples Council. At this time, more than 830 of our members belong to 30 discussion groups in Naples, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Estero.

Reaching Out...

In 1989, as part of its educational outreach, the Naples Council on World Affairs undertook to develop a program of academic enhancement in global issues for area high school students. The Council decided that a Model United Nations program would be well suited to achieve this goal. Other World Affairs Councils across the United States had been sponsoring Model United Nations programs for forty years. Simulating the actual working of the United Nations, Model United Nations programs (MUNs) have four purposes:

- To teach negotiating, bargaining and communication skills;
- To represent a foreign perspective in a disciplined forum;
- To enhance awareness and inform students on critical global issues;
- To acquaint students with the workings of the United Nations.
Underlining those skills were 237 delegates representing 13 high schools from three counties: Collier, Lee, and Charlotte and well over 100 NCWA members, all volunteers, were actively involved providing financial support, grading position papers, serving as judges, manning reception tables, and managing the overall endeavor. 30 countries were represented and among the committee topics ripe for negotiations were:

- Disarmament of Terrorist Organizations and Radical Actors
- Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants
- Access to Clean Water & Sanitation in Rural Communities

The winning schools and the countries they represented for 2019 were:

- 1st: Israel, Port Charlotte High School
- 2nd: United Kingdom, Gulf Coast High School
- 3rd: France, Cape Coral High School

More than $30K in financial awards were distributed in scholarships, best position papers, winning teams, and most of all, the satisfaction that a new generation of students will remain aware and engaged in world affairs.

**Academic World Quest...**

The brainchild of the North Carolina World Affairs Council, the challenge began as an adult after dinner game quiz, often failed by the participants, but mercifully moved into the schools where the challenges were met with a greater accumulation of wisdom!

The annual High School Academic World Quest Competition demonstrated once again the diligence and knowledge of the region’s high school scholars. On March 2, nearly a hundred students on twenty-four teams from Barron Collier, Golden Gate, Gulf Coast, Naples, Palmetto Ridge and the Community School of Naples battled it out for prizes and bragging rights in answering a set of tough questions supplied by the World Affairs Councils of America.

Topics included:

- “How to Deal with North Korea,”
- “The Global Refugee and Migration Crisis”
- “Focused question rounds on Qatar and Japan.

Gulf Coast High School, winners once again, went to Washington for the national competition.

The success of this program inspired...