



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States

**Northern
Colorado
Chapter**

October 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE UN DAY. Sunday, 22 October, 2:30 pm, The Coloradoan Meeting Room. Additional details are on page 2.

UNA PROGRAM. On Sunday, 19 November, from 2:00-4:00 pm, at the Harmony Library, UNA NoCO will present "Veterans for Peace."

UNA Event. On Sunday, 10 December, UNA NoCO will celebrate International Human Rights Day with a program honoring our International Humanitarian of the Year. Time and location TBD.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPEAKERS BUREAU

We would like to rejuvenate our speakers' bureau. If you would like to have your name added to our list of speakers who can talk on a UN-related topic, please let Bob Jeffrey (Jeffrey2co@gmail.com) know. Many of our members have knowledge and experience that would be nice to share. Schools and clubs are the most likely audience.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have always felt that the UN is and always has been the conscience of the world. This past month with earthquakes, hurricanes, refugees flooding into Bangladesh from Myanmar, ethnic cleansing by that country, or North Korea's advancement towards nuclear weapons. All of these are serious problems that the UN has spoken out on and taken action.

Despite President Trump's "bashing" of the UN during the Presidential campaign, it appears that even Trump sees a role for the UN. While urging reform of the World body (something that even General Secretary Antonio Guterres, agrees needs to be done), Trump also stated in a speech before the General Assembly that if the UN lived up to its mission, America's investment in the UN would be well worth it.

As a chapter of the national UNA of America, we need to continue to push our representatives to support full funding of the UN and its many instrumentalities. The effort to cut funding has stalled and lobbying by UN supporters and meetings with representatives seems to be bearing fruit. Advocacy efforts appear to be working, according to an article in the September issue of *UNA Today* (repeated below).

UNA NoCO programs like the 9 September panel with representatives of our Congressional delegation help ensure our representatives understand the importance

of fully funding the UN (see MEET on page 2). We, as an organization, must continue to support the efforts of our Advocacy committee, headed by Eleanor Dwight and Ed Levering, by supporting their efforts and volunteering. As someone once said, "many hands make light work."

Let's all get together on Sunday, October 22nd to celebrate UN Day.

Bob Jeffrey, President
UNA/USA Northern Colorado

Advocacy News: Our Impact on Capitol Hill

House Votes "NO" on UN-Cutting Amendment; Senate Appropriations Fully Funds UNICEF, UNFPA, and Other Agencies

There were several important developments last week on Capitol Hill regarding the International Affairs budget. Most importantly, our nonstop advocacy efforts are clearly making a difference!

- *Our UNA-USA network helped defeat an amendment in the House of Representatives that would have severely cut funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the UN Human Rights Council. In fact, 29 Republicans broke ranks with their own party to vote "NO" on the amendment. **This is a massive win for the entire UN advocacy community!***
- *In even better news, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its own bill that would fully fund our Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account, which covers U.S. dues payments for the UN Regular Budget and a number of UN specialized agencies. In addition, the committee voted to support full funding for several other critical UN agencies, including UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, most surprisingly, UNFPA.*

***Despite these positive developments, we are not out of the woods yet.** Congress approved legislation last week that will continue federal government programs at FY17 levels until December 15. In the meantime, House and Senate appropriators and leadership will be working to reconcile their respective appropriations measures ahead of the mid-December deadline. That's why we have to keep up the momentum!*

Kathy Calvin
UN Foundation President and CEO

MEETING THE REPS OF OUR REPS

On 9 September, UNA NoCO sponsored a panel discussion on *The UN and USA Government*. Representatives of Senator Corey Gardner--Dan Betts--and Congressman Jared Polis--Mara Brosy-Wiwchar--addressed a series of questions our members had submitted regarding Congress' view of the UN. James Thompson, the representative from Senator Bennet, was unable to attend although he did discuss the issues with Dick Rush, program chair.

The initial questions asked:

- (1) What are your thoughts on the UN, its strengths and weaknesses;
- (2) What will the next three plus years witness as far as US/UN relations; and
- (3) What advice do you have for us to be effective advocates for the UN?

More specific questions included

- (a) What is your idea about funding the UN general budget, UN Peacekeeping, the State Department and other US international programs;
- (b) How should the North Korean situation be handled;
- (c) Should the SDGs be supported by the US;
- (d) Are there any of the UN Specialized Agencies that you feel are especially effective or not;
- (e) Should the UN Security Council be enlarged or changed; and
- (f) How will the Trump administration effect US relations with the UN?

Although our meeting time was limited, the representatives did a good job of addressing these issues. It was evident that they had done their homework. Dan Betts also complemented our Advocacy group, led by Eleanor Dwight, on their meeting with him earlier this year. He also thanked Eleanor for the handouts she provided.

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTESTS

The Education Committee is again sponsoring our middle school writing contest and an art contest for elementary school students. The aim of this year's writing contest is for students to create a story about what life would be like in a refugee camp for someone of their age. The art topic is *"Friends Around the World."*

At our UN Day meeting on October 22nd, the three winning stories will be read and the best of the art entries will be on display. That meeting will begin at 2:30 PM and will be held at the office of the Coloradoan, 1300 Riverside Avenue. Stand by to be amazed!

Dick Rush, Education Committee

ADOPT-A-REFUGEE SCHOOL PROJECT

Our Chapter has pledged to raise \$3,000 for the UNA/USA/UNHCR Adopt-a-Future campaign. In this campaign, UNA chapters 'adopt' a school in a refugee camp, raising funds that go to providing school supplies, materials and infrastructure. "Our" school is in the Kakuma School in the Dadaab Camp in Kenya. We have already raised about one third of that thanks to generous contributions from our members and from the sale of Susan Solick's whimsical pottery. (She still has a supply of these "school houses" if you are interested in helping us sell them).

NOW we must roll up our sleeves and come together to raise the remaining amount. Do you have ideas

of how to do that?

Many UNA Chapters across the country are hosting "A Night of a Thousand Dinners," where a person holds a dinner for friends and family and asks them to contribute to the Adopt-a-Future campaign. If you are interested in hosting a dinner, we have all kinds of guides. We also have a Power Point presentation that you can use--but you need not get that technical for a dinner party.

I will be calling a meeting to work on our Adopt-a-Refugee School* project soon. If you would like to participate, even in a small way, or have ideas to share, please email me at Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com.

Thanks.

Eleanor Dwight

**I use the title "Adopt a Future" and "Adopt a Refugee School" interchangeably--Adopt a Future is the official name the national UNA campaign. I call it "Adopt a Refugee School" because I think that is a better description our project.*



United Nations Day



COME CELEBRATE UN DAY WITH US

When: Sunday, 22 October at 2:30

Where: The Coloradoan Meeting Room
1300 Riverside Avenue

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Every year our chapter selects an outstanding humanitarian—individual or organization—that furthers the United Nations’ mission of international service. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- They live and work, or have lived or worked, in Northern Colorado (i.e., Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, Greeley and nearby communities)
 - Their work supports the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights or Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Their work represents a sustained effort in the service of humanitarian causes over time
 - There are measurable benefits to the target international population(s)
 - Their work is not a function of their employment.

If you know of any person or organization that meets these criteria, please fill out the nomination form on pages 5 and 6 and submit it to Eleanor Dwight at 907 Sailors Reef, Fort Collins, 80525 or Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com. Past honorees include:

- Maury Albertson, Peace Corps Pioneer
- Binh Rybacki, founder and director of Children of Peace International
- Dille/Dunbar Fund
- Murulle Foundation
- Norm Illsley, Lifetime Award for Humanitarian Service
- Kari Grady Grossman, founder and principal of Sustainable Schools International
- The Loveland Rotary Club, for their fresh-water project in Mexico
- Meagan Cain, founder of Girls Moving Mountains in Nepal.

Nominate as many as you wish. Those not selected this year will be kept for future consideration. If you want additional forms, or have any questions, please contact Eleanor at Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com or 970-377-0863.

GOVERNMENT REPS OF NORTHERN COLORADO

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THE UN AT WORK

The following are excerpts from UN News Centre (<http://www.un.org/News/>) and other authoritative news sources.

THE UN IS FAILING – STATES MUST BACK OFF AND GIVE ITS LEADER THE POWER TO ACT

Extracted from an article by Helen Clark, former New Zealand Premier and top UN official and is part of the Global Challenges Foundation’s report global governance for global citizens

In a world facing many grave challenges across many spheres, people look to the UN to play a key role in resolving them. Yet there is broad appreciation that the UN is failing in vital areas, not least on peace and security.

It is at its best in the development and humanitarian domain, where it works with and for people and gets results. But its seeming inability to act to end the protracted crises that have driven untold human misery – including the forced displacement of an unprecedented 65.6 million people – is an indictment of the organization. It badly needs structures and ways of working that will address this century’s crises, not those of 1945.

Some of its constraints are structural, like the veto power on the security council given to five nations when the charter was written in 1945. . . . That veto should be removed, and replaced by a qualified voting system that allows for decisions to be taken on a near-unanimous basis.

[There should be] fairer representation on the security council, which acts as the executive board for the UN on peace and security matters. . . . [and] the requirement for key agreements to be reached unanimously is holding our world back.

Then there are the many constraints placed on a secretary general’s ability to lead. . . . There is little appreciation of the need for a clear line to be drawn between management and governance.

I advocate the empowerment of the secretary general to take bold initiatives and run the organization as an effective leader and chief executive must. International organizations need leaders empowered to act. Yes, there must be systems of accountability, but when they hamper action on everything from courageous diplomacy for peace to streamlining management, as they do now, they become counterproductive. Worse, they can leave a secretary general looking weak, indecisive and hamstrung because of fear of offending member states.

So, member states must ease up, and give the secretary general and his/her managers the space to act decisively. Coupled with that, there should be only one term served by a secretary general, to avoid the over-caution that is inherent in aiming to secure a second mandate from the day the first one begins.

If steps like these aren’t taken, the UN will continue to diminish in relevance. The world needs an effective UN. The current limitations on its capacity to lead and act need to be addressed urgently.



The International Day for Disaster Reduction is 13 October. The 2017 theme is *Reducing the Number of Affected People*. 2016 saw the launch of the "**Sendai Seven Campaign**" by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR),

centered on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. This campaign seeks to raise global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices taken to reduce exposure to disaster risk at the community level, thereby contributing to saving homes and livelihoods. Each year focuses on a different target. 2016 focused on reducing disaster mortality. This year's target is prevention, protection and reducing the number of people affected by disasters.

Celebrate World Food Day on 16 October. World Food Day is celebrated around the world every year on this date to honor the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The 2017 theme is *Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development*.

19 November is World Toilet Day.

World Toilet Day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The 2017 theme is *Wastewater*. Today, 4.5 billion people live without a household toilet that safely disposes of their waste. Human waste gets out and killer diseases spread, meaning progress in health and child survival is seriously undermined. By 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals aim to reach everyone with sanitation, halve the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increase recycling and safe reuse.



Celebrate UN Universal Children's Day on 20 November. This day was established in 1954 to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. November 20th is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Much of the planet's land severely degraded owing to increased consumption, UN warns. 12 Sept. – A new UN report warns that a third of the planet's land is now severely degraded thanks to a doubling in the consumption of natural resources over the past 30 years. Some 15 billion trees and 24 billion tons of fertile soil are lost each year, according to the *Global Land Outlook* (GLO).

The GLO provides the first in-depth analysis of land functions viewed from multiple lenses such economic growth and global trade patterns, highlighting the inextricable links between land, these sectors, and the people that can work to save it.

Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), said that land degradation and drought are global challenges and intimately linked to most, if not all aspects of human security and well-being, particularly food security, employment and migration. "*Hundreds of millions of people go to bed desperate, hungry and thirsty as a result. Under business-as-usual scenarios, there is no future relief.*"

More than half of children and youth worldwide 'not learning'. 21 September -- About 617 million children and adolescents

worldwide are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, signaling "a learning crisis" that could threaten progress on global development goals, a report from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) shows.

Some 387 million children of primary school age (or 56%) and 230 million adolescents of lower secondary school age (or 61%) will not achieve minimum proficiency levels in reading and math.

The report identifies three common problems: a lack of access to school, and a failure to retain children in school, and the poor quality of education in the classroom.

Surprisingly, two-thirds of the children not learning are in school. Of the 387 million primary-age children unable to read proficiently, 262 million are in classrooms. And about 137 million adolescents of lower secondary age in classrooms are unable to meet minimum proficiency levels in reading



NOMINATION FORM, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Every year, the Northern Colorado Chapter of UNA celebrates the work of an outstanding humanitarian—individual, group, or organization—who has provided exemplary service to an international humanitarian effort over time NS the United Nations' mission of international service. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- They live and work, or have lived or worked, in Northern Colorado (i.e., Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, Greeley and nearby communities)
- Their initiatives support one or more points of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>) or the UN Sustainable Development Goals (see <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>).
- Their work represents a sustained effort in the service of humanitarian causes over time
- There is a measurable or identifiable impact in terms of benefits to the target international population(s)
- Their work is not a function of their principle means of employment, but rather is performed voluntarily or in the interest of sustaining not-for-profit initiatives.

NOMINATOR Name and Contact Information

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

2016 NOMINEE Name and Contact Information (either an individual or an organization):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Has your nominee ever lived or worked in Northern Colorado? Y _____ N _____.

Is your candidate aware of this nomination? Y _____ N _____.

Can we contact them for additional information? Y _____ N _____.

PLEASE RESPOND TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE REQUESTED AS NEEDED:

1. Describe what makes your nominee an excellent candidate for the UNA NoCO International Humanitarian Award; Describe their international work and projects as succinctly as possible. Use additional space if needed.

2. Describe one or more points of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the UN's Sustainable Development Goals supported by this work.
3. When did your candidate become involved in international service and in what capacities?
4. Describe the population(s) served by these efforts.
5. Describe the most identifiable impacts of this work and specific benefits to the target populations.
6. Describe plans and visions this nominee has for future international humanitarian initiatives.

Please attach completed nomination forms to email: Eleanor@dwightcentral.com or send via snail mail to Eleanor Dwight at 907 Sailors Reef, Fort Collins, CO 80525

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UNICEF U. S. Fund: www.unicefusa.org .

United Nations information: www.un.org .

UN Information Center, DC: www.unicwash.org .

Our World 2.0—a web-magazine produced by the UN University: ourworld.unu.edu/en/.

Dawn's Digest—a community of global news consumers inspired to support compelling global humanitarian storytelling:
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/partners/dawns-digest/>

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UNA-USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

To join UNA-USA by mail, please return this form with your check to:

**UNA of Northern Colorado,
Eleanor Dwight, Membership Chair
907 Sailor's Reef, Fort Collins CO 80525**

Your form and payment will be forwarded to the national office after being recorded locally. *Your dues include membership in both the local and national UNA-USA, which is a part of the Better World Foundation.*

Please make check payable to: *BWF/United Nations Association of the USA.*

To join online or pay by credit card, go to www.unausa.org/join.

Select Appropriate Dues Category (US\$):

- ☐ \$1,000 Lifetime
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☐ FREE Student/Model UN Participant
☐ Join Young Professionals for International Cooperation (UNA program for ages 21-40)
☐ Additional gift to local chapter: \$_____.

Preferred Chapter: Northern Colorado

Is this a membership renewal? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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My check (payable to **BWF/United Nations Association of the USA**) is enclosed in the amount of \$_____

Questions? Contact our Membership Chair at 970-377-0863,
Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com

Membership in UNA-USA is open to any citizen or resident of the USA who is committed to the purposes of UNA-USA.

The BWF/UNA-USA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization (EIN/tax ID number: 58-2366765). Your donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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