



Naples Council on World Affairs

2316 Pine Ridge Road
Box 361
Naples, FL. 34109-2006
(239) 649-3942

2013/2014

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message

All of a sudden the NCWA program season is nearly over. I know from many of you that we have been successful in our mission to provide you with a series of speakers that educate and engage you in critical global issues. We expect that each lecture will have members who agree and those who dissent – but that, overall, your membership is of great value to you. The lectures are the backbone of our Council programs and the Committee is already working on next year.



The Q&A is an important part of the lecture and I urge you to stay and participate. Our speakers look forward to the opportunity to add details to their comments and to listen to yours. It is understood that some members are unable to stay through the end of each lecture including the Q&A. We tried having an intermission between the lecture and the Q&A in hopes that it would be less disruptive to the members staying and to the speaker. It turned out to be just the opposite. So we will return to the old method of people staying as long as they can and drifting quietly out.

We have instituted a “walk-in” program for the lectures. In order to have seats for our members, we need to control the number of Associate Members and Guests who can make reservations and be guaranteed a seat. However, if you would like to attend a lecture that has been “closed,” you can come to the door and see if there are seats. Recently, we have been able to seat everyone and will continue the policy. We are unable to accept credit cards – so please be prepared to pay cash at the door.

The videos of recent lectures are now being provided for viewing on the NCWA website. They are available to our Members and Associate Members, but not to the general public. You can access them from the home page after signing in.

The Book Club began in the fall and has been very successful. I urge you to check the website for information and consider joining the discussions.

In addition to the member activities, one way that the NCWA touches our community is the School Outreach programs. I hope you have enjoyed hearing from the students that participated in the Experiment in International Living, the Georgetown Summer Seminars and the Vermont Governors Institute. Scholarships for this summer have been awarded to a group of exceptional students. The Middle School Academic World Quest was a huge success again this year. The Model United Nations Conference awarded scholarships to eleven students. All of these programs are the result of your generosity and the Board thanks you.

Your membership renewal letters will be in the mail at the end of the month. Be sure to check your contact information to be sure that you receive your membership cards at the proper location. Please respond as soon as you can.

Judith Lipnick, *President*

Thanks to our photographer Debbie Doyle!

Program Committee

As I mentioned at our last lecture, the Program Committee prides itself on choosing timely topics and expert speakers to present to our membership, and I cannot believe we could have done better than ...

Steven Pifer, former Ambassador to Ukraine, categorized President [now deposed] Yanukovich “as a short term thinker”, but clearly he had long enough to hide the latest 3 billion he received in aid, before running home to Rostov-on-Don to plead his case. Meanwhile, we should be sympathetic to the financial plight of his son, the dentist, who only has a small stash of 500 million in the [western] banks; that is certainly a lot of capped teeth!



Clifford Gaddy spoke about “**Mr. Putin, Operative in the Kremlin**”—operative indeed! His operations, as of this morning, March 1st, include many boots on the ground, choppers in the air, tanks on the roll and [just for cover] a nice, friendly call to the EU to express his overwhelming desire to see a peaceful solution to the thuggery that has ousted his poor ally in [now] Rostov-on-Don.

It was also very timely of Secretary John Kerry to speak passionately of the need to recognize **climate change** and its unintended consequences should we continue to ignore the issue. His address, given in Indonesia the day before our lecture of February 17th, underscores the **national security threat** that **Geoff Dabelko** spoke to at our lecture.

China is next on our agenda on March 10th with the very popular **Mike O’Hanlon**. Never short of a great delivery on his topic, he will address the title of his book, “**Strategic Reassurance and Resolve: U.S. – China Relations in the Twenty-First Century**”.

Now would you like to join me in a speculative possibility? On February 28th, Al Jazeera America, also known as “AJAM” announced that a **Russian ship had docked in Havana**. It was described as the type “often used for intelligence gathering”. Simultaneously, **Edward Snowden** has not been seen for 12 days. (He did need a way to get to Venezuela, didn’t he?)

Mimi Gregory, *Vice President - Programs*

2014 Annual NCWA Dinner

The 33rd NCWA Annual Dinner will be held Thursday, April 10th at the Port Royal Club in Naples. There will be a wine reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:45. The price of the dinner is \$80 per person, which includes valet parking. Dress for gentlemen is jacket and tie.

The guest speaker will be Neal Conan, who spent thirty six years with National Public Radio, including 11 years as host of NPR’s “Talk of the Nation”.

Seating is limited to 222 members and guests on a first come, first served basis. And as we prepare to go to press, the tables are filling up quickly. For reservations or inquiries, please call us at (239) 649-3942 or email us at admin@ncwa-fl.org.

Chuck Stuart, *Annual Dinner Chair*

Committee for Special Activities

Who were those Dulles Brothers? Those of us who attended Stephen Kinzer's presentation of his latest book: "The Brothers: John Foster Dulles and Allen Dulles and Their Secret War", found ourselves spinning back to a time when these central figures in U.S. Foreign Policy (Foster) and Intelligence (Allen) ran a government that reeked of "ruthless determination and left behind a legacy of mischief". All the phrases we hear today: "regime change, misuse of corporate, political and media power", all this plays out in the book's pages, led by these two "restless warriors".



Who knew, as we entered the Cold War period and the agony of the 50's, that a potential replica of the Soviet Empire would begin its own story after the Olympics of Sochi on this March the second, 2014...

Which leads me to...

A Century of Warfare, A Presentation by the National War College

March 14th, 2014, 9:00 am sharp!

Maybe you are reading this on the 14th itself, or perhaps you can now reflect on the presentations that were offered by the James T. Bush Seminar with the National War College! The members of the National War College and National Defense University faculties are always well prepared to address the military questions of our time, which now certainly include these:

- ✦ What does today's soldier look like as he/she goes to war?
- ✦ What roles do military contractors play?
- ✦ When do we use Special Forces?
- ✦ How does intelligence influence military decisions?
- ✦ What do today's Army, Navy, Marines look like?
- ✦ How will drones/harpies change our Air Force?
- ✦ What is the role of cyber in the new military?
- ✦ Finally, what is the future of warfare?

Professor Cynthia Watson, Acting Dean of the National War College, and her faculty do a great job. They provide a wonderful opportunity to put your interests to the text, [a play on words], to learn why experts feel history is repeating the signs of the outbreak of WWI, and why we continue to ignore the historical red flags that plague us through time. This program brings you up to the 21st Century and answers many of the questions that challenge today's military leadership.

Have a great spring and summer.

Mimi C. Gregory, *Vice President - Programs*

Website News

We are now providing **Videos of NCWA Lectures** on the Website. Viewing is restricted to Full and Associate Members, so if you aren't already logged onto the site when selecting a lecture video, you will be required to do so. **Login requires** providing the **email address** used to register for NCWA and the **membership #** on your lecture admissions card. A direct connection to the "Lecture Videos" is <http://www.ncwa-fl.org/lecturevideos.html>. The videos can also be found by going to the "Home" page (www.ncwa-fl.org) and clicking on "Lecture Videos" under the title "Feature Presentations" or moving your cursor to "Lectures" on the tool bar near the top of the page and clicking on the sub category "Lecture Videos".



Currently three lectures are posted: **P.J. Crowley** on the Middle East, **Dr. Dalia Dassa Kaye** on negotiating a nuclear deal on Iran, and **Professor Geoffrey Dalbeka** on climate change. The goal for future presentation is to have them posted a week after presentation.

If you have suggestions for other features on the website or a comment on the existing site, please email me at erbsteinb@embarqmail.com.

Bob Erbstein, *Webmaster*

Hospitality Committee

I am happy to report that we have had eight small, informal luncheons with our Lecture Program speakers so far this year. Members of the President's Club (those who contribute at least \$250.00 above their membership dues) are eligible to attend. These additional monies help fund all the scholarships we give to students to expand their global knowledge through programs like the Model United Nations, the Experiment in International Living, the international relations and national security programs at Georgetown University, and the Governor's Institute in Vermont. You have heard the excited and grateful reports back that many of these students have shared at some of our Monday night lectures.

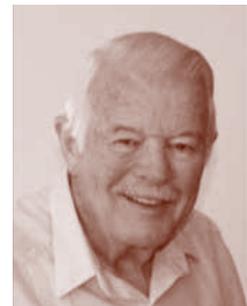


As you are renewing your memberships now, please consider joining these other committed members of the President's Club. Just call the NCWA office at 239-649-3942.

Judy Rubinstein, *Chair*

Membership Committee

It is that time of year again when we invite those with Individual and Family memberships to renew for the 2014-2015 season at last year's rates of \$100 Individual and \$175 Family memberships. On March 31st, emails/letters will be sent to you outlining the appropriate instructions for renewal. Those that would like a head start can follow the simple step-by-step instructions below to renew on the NCWA website. Mimi Gregory and her Committee put together a great program this year and they are already at work on next season's speakers.



As you renew your membership, also consider our many school outreach programs mentioned in our President's and other reports that depend on contributions from our members. A contribution of \$250 or more provides you membership in the President's Club, but any level of giving is very much appreciated.

We look forward to having you all back next fall. Have a great summer!

Instructions for renewing Family and Individual Memberships for 2014-15:

1. Go to www.ncwa-fl.org.
2. Click on "Member Area/Login".
3. Enter in your email address and password*. Click on the "Login" button.
*Your email address is the one used to register for NCWA membership and you password is the member number shown on your NCWA membership card, unless you set your own password at the time you became a member or changed it since.
4. Click on the "Click here to review & update your profile" link.
5. Click on the "Privacy" link.
6. Click on the "Edit Profile" button.
7. Review each field in your profile and choose which fields you would like other members to view and which ones to allow no one to view.
8. Click on the "Save" button found at the bottom on the page.
9. Click on the "Profile" link.
10. Click on the "Renew for 2014-2015 Season" button.
11. Scroll down through your membership details, correcting your information where needed.
12. In the very bottom section please select which contribution level and amount you wish to give. Contributions are very important. Please contribute.
13. Click the "Update and next" button found at the bottom of the page.
14. Review and confirm the details shown on the page before clicking on the "Confirm and proceed with payment" button.
15. If you wish to pay online by credit card click on the "Pay online" button and complete your payment by filling in your billing information. If you wish to pay by check you may click the "Back" link to take you back to the member area. Please mail in your check as soon as possible to NCWA, 12290 Treeline Ave, Fort Myers, FL 3391.

Jim Fleck, *Membership Chair*

Outreach Committee

The Middle School Academic World Quest took place on February 15 at the Community School of Naples. Over one hundred students from eight schools participated in the contest. The bleacher seats were filled with parents, grandparents and siblings. A fine time was had by all, and there was a tie for first place even after a run-off. They were North Naples Middle School and Pine Ridge Middle School.



Even a tie-breaker could not separate Middle School AWQ co-winners North Naples (left) and Pine Ridge (right).

The Outreach Committee has just gone through the applications of 46 juniors from 11 Collier County high schools, who were then interviewed individually by Outreach teams that fanned out to the schools. As always, the committee was very impressed by the high quality of the applicants.

For the Experiment in International Living (EIL) we selected 11 students. This program sends the students abroad for five to six weeks. For the Governor's Institute of Vermont, a two-week program in Brattleboro, Vt., where students from all over the United States interact with groups of foreign students, we selected three students. For the one-week, university-level course at Georgetown University in either international relations or national security affairs, we selected nine students.

We have already met with the Georgetown awardees, and an excellent group they are. They, along with their parents in most cases, attended a briefing session organized by the Georgetown program chair, Joe Donahue. All the students were asked to explain why they want to attend the Georgetown program. Several answered that they want to go into foreign affairs, a suitably vague statement at this point in their careers. One answer got our attention, though. A Barron Collier girl student announced that she wants to be a "politician." That was a response we hadn't heard before, so she was asked to explain why. Her response was that she is currently president of her class and therefore already involved in politics and likes it. Fair enough, but her other words, while carefully and diplomatically formulated, carried the implication that she felt she could improve on the current class of politicians. It's moments like this that make all our efforts feel worthwhile.

The EIL and Governor's Institute awardees will meet later with EIL admissions people who come to Naples from Washington, D.C., for that purpose.

Outreach Committee *Continued*

Working closely with Wendy Hodgson, the Collier County Coordinator of Social Studies, we have launched an effort to create an “International Studies Cadre” in one of the local high schools. This entails the establishment of a specialized curriculum in international affairs at the advanced placement level, an undertaking for the school and the Collier County school administration. The Outreach Committee will assist in this effort by giving this cadre of students special attention by our main lecturers and by giving extra weight to participating students in the scholarship application process. The expectation is that other schools will quickly begin to emulate this pilot program. The first school to get involved will be Gulf Coast High School, where the program will be headed by Sue Soulard, who excels in this field and who won our “Teacher of the Year” award several years ago.



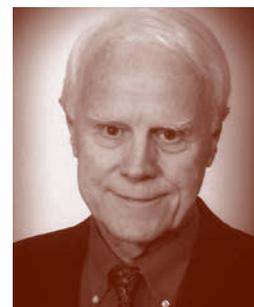
Lastly, our “Alumni Association” of past and current scholarship awardees had its organizational meeting over the holidays, with the support and direction of board member Chuck Stuart. Twenty-six of the 33 students invited attended. They have established a Facebook page and should have a website up and running by April. Another meeting is planned for June or July when they are home from college.

Dan Bumstead, *Chair*

Great Decisions Program

The 2014 *Great Decisions* season is drawing to an end. I have heard many positive comments on the quality of this year’s briefing materials and the timeliness of the discussion topics, which often coincided with and were supportive of the issues dealt with in the NCWA lecture series.

Preparations for our 2015 program are in full progress. Our 2014 members have already received a letter or email, inviting them to indicate whether they would like to join their same group again next year. They are reminded to **respond before 31 March 2014 in order to be guaranteed a place in the same group.**



In April a second round of preregistration e-mails will be sent to 2014 *Great Decisions* members in which we will offer them an opportunity to indicate the group of their choice.

Thereafter registration will be open for all NCWA members and associate members.

The ever increasing popularity of our *Great Decisions* program makes it **necessary to establish new discussion groups for 2015.** We are looking into the possibility of establishing a third group in The Commons Club at The Brooks, a new group in the Lely area, and new groups in the downtown area and the Moorings, respectively. We hope to be able to finalize these arrangements soon so that a complete list of all discussion groups can be announced during the April registration round mentioned above.

I invite all interested NCWA members and associate members to join us. I hope to make sure that everyone will be able to participate in a group at a suitable location.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*



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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Sunday nights at 8:00 pm
after the Monday lectures

Thanks to our partnership with WGCU-FM, Public Media

The lectures can be heard on
WGCU: 90.1 FM, Naples and
WMKO: 91.7 FM, Marco Island

Gregory E. Hudson, *Newsletter Editor*