

National Update
Monthly Newsletter of the World Affairs Council System
May 2005

In this issue...

Citizen Diplomacy Summits
People Speak 2005
Council Feature: Minnesota
Great Decisions Teachers' Institute
Art Hull Retires
NewsNotes

Did you know...that the national staff met with 24 councils on operational issues over the last year?

Holding Citizen Diplomacy Summits

The preparation for the Citizen Diplomacy Summits, both local and national, is going great guns!

The initial announcement of the citizen diplomacy summit process is on www.worldaffairscouncils.org/CCDprogram.htm.

The national summit in Washington is scheduled for July 12-14, 2006 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Sister Cities.

Local summits are now being planned for September 2005 - April 2006. The toolkit for the preparation of local summits is ready and will be distributed next week to all interested councils.

The following 66 organizations have indicated an interest in holding a local summit and in being part of the larger movement-building process.

World Affairs Councils of America (13 total to date):

Anchorage, Colchester VT, Columbia, Columbus OH, Dallas, Grand Rapids, Jacksonville, Minneapolis, Naples, New Orleans, Raleigh, St. Louis, San Antonio

Sister Cities International (26):

Birmingham, Toledo, Wilmington, Santa Clarita CA, Coral Gables, Racine, Atlanta, Fredericksburg, Annapolis, St. Petersburg, Portland ME, Sarasota, Scottsbluff NE, Toole City UT, Irvington NJ, Wenatchee, Tulsa, Denver, Tulsa, Hazelton, Tinley Park IL, Fort Worth, Columbus OH, Anacortes WA, Great Falls MT, St. Charles MA, Frankfort.

National Council for International Visitors (21):

Jackson WY, Rochester, Akron, Kansas City, Detroit, Syracuse, Austin, Albuquerque, Tampa, Reno, Charleston, Orlando, Indianapolis, Louisville, Philadelphia, Riverside, Jacksonville, Miami, Rock River Valley, Green Bay, Kalamazoo.

Partners of the Americas (6):

East Lansing-Ann Arbor, Kansas City, Washington DC, Long Island, Jackson MS, Boston.

If you find your city on the list, we encourage you to connect with the sponsoring organization locally.

It is not too late to join in. Please consider being a part of this process, ideally in tandem with other member organizations of the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy.

People Speak 2005

In cooperation with the UN Foundation, WACA will soon announce "The People Speak 2005." This will be the third year of the UN Foundation-WACA cooperation.

The purpose is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in a discussion of the hard questions about America's role in the world.

From September through November 2005, thousands of high schools, colleges, civic and religious groups, and individual Americans will organize events around a vital foreign policy topic under the series theme:

"Building a Safer World: Can America and the UN Work Together?"

This series will take place in the context of the UN's 60th anniversary this fall and will be launched alongside the summit of world leaders discussing the Millennium Declaration.

The detailed WACA program announcement will be out in 2 weeks. Stay tuned and do consider joining in.

What a Success in Minneapolis!

The Minnesota International Center (MIC) is the world affairs council of Minnesota. It won the President's Award for Council Excellence in 2003.

The center has about 2,500 members, over 1,100 volunteers, and a budget of about \$900,000. It organized 1,200 activities last year with a total attendance of 30,000.

MIC's schools program, International Classroom Connection, recruited and trained 100 volunteer speakers from 46 countries will make an estimated 717 presentations to a student audiences totaling 22,000 this year. This is MIC's fastest growing program at MIC.

MIC's International Visitor Leadership Program hosts hosted 310 visitors from around the globe in 2004-5, a 50% increase over the previous year. MIC members have provided dinner hospitality to 275 international visitors and students.

MIC presented and co-presented 39 world affairs speaking events attended by more than 10,000 people last year. During the last 2 years, MIC has hosted ambassadors from Belgium, France, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, China, the UK, and the Czech Republic

MIC's Great Decisions discussion program has grown locally to include 44 groups across Minnesota with over 4,000 participants.

MIC's innovative partnership with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) serves as a key content provider for TPT's Minnesota Channel, which has taped and broadcast 11 of MIC's World Affairs

public forums these past two years. It estimates that an additional 132,000 viewers have seen MIC programs through television.

MIC has also participated in Minnesota Public Radio's "Golden Baton" program which has enabled them to publicize their programs.

MIC's corporate membership program has 33 corporate members and contributes to about 1/3 of MIC's annual budget.

Carol Engebretson Byrne, MIC's Executive Director, was a former member of WACA's National Executive Committee. She now serves on the National Board of National Council for International Visitors.

Carol serves on the Nobel Peace Prize Steering Committee and organizes a Minnesota event each year for the current winner. She also went on the Governor's trade mission to Poland and the Czech Republic last year.

MIC uses a country-specific theme, this year the Czech Republic, as the basis for its annual fundraising gala event. 20% of its annual budget comes from this event.

We all congratulate MIC on its sterling program and incredible track record of achievements.

Great Decisions Teachers' Workshop

The Foreign Policy Association is organizing its first Great Decisions Teacher Training Institute from July 10-15, 2005 at Bryn Mawr outside Philadelphia.

It will bring together 20-30 high school educators from around the country to gain a greater perspective on international affairs and to help them acquire tools for teaching about the world.

Participants will receive background briefings from influential policymakers and experts on U.S. foreign policymaking, security issues, global health, democratization, and regional issues. They will meet with State Department and UN officials during the workshop.

For more information, please contact Michael Lucivero in New York at (212) 481-8100, ext. 250 or email: mlucivero@fpa.org.

Congratulations to Art Hull

Arthur C. Hull Jr, President and Executive Director of the World Affairs Councils of Greater Cincinnati retired this month after more than a decade with the council. Art was, we believe, the first African-American to head a world affairs council.

Art was the first African-American to be appointed to the Cincinnati Civil Service Commission. He served from 1966-82 and chairman from 1974-82. He served on the Board of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority from 1992-99 and chaired it from 1996-99. He was elected to the Cincinnati Board of Education in 1996 and was president in 1998-99.

Art joined the Cincinnati Council as its executive vice president in 1994 after retiring from Cinergy, the former Cincinnati Gas & Electrical Co. He became president in 1999 and executive director in 2000. He became a National Councillor in the council system in 2002.

During his council tenure, he successfully worked to build a cooperative relationship between the World Affairs Council and the International Visitors Council in the city. These two leading organizations have now formed the Global Center of Greater Cincinnati.

Congratulations to Art from all of us on an outstanding lifetime of public service and a highly productive decade working for and with the council system.

NewsNotes

* Brattleboro, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Grand Rapids, Houston, Montana, New Hampshire, New Orleans, Palm Springs, Raleigh, and Springfield IL won the 12 places in the series "UN Reform: What Needs to Be Done." Members of the American Academy of Diplomacy are the speakers.

* Congratulations to Mimi Chapin Gregory, a new President of the Naples Council. Mimi is our National Secretary and a National Board Member.

* Pittsburgh President Sky Foerster was featured on NPR's one-hour documentary "Global 3.0" focusing on the city's transformation from steel city to a service-finance-healthcare-high tech based community.

* The council system PowerPoint Presentation can be downloaded by going to www.worldaffairscouncils.org/WACAPowerPointPresentation.zip. It has 23 slides. 41 councils have downloaded it so far.

* Raleigh Charter High School, second place winner at Academic WorldQuest 2005, placed 9th in Newsweek's listing of 1,000 top US high schools.

* The national website is undergoing major renovation now. See what is new now on www.worldaffairscouncils.org and let us have your ideas. A new home page, Flagship Programs sections, and passworded section are under construction this summer.

* Operations Paper No. 21 on Membership Databases is now complete. It will be emailed within the next week.

* Our National Teachers Workshop on the European Union is scheduled for June 28-July 1. 23 teachers, all users of Europe in Transition, are coming from all around the country.

* The Minnesota International Center is looking for a new development officer. See the national website for the job announcement under the Councils button or contact Carol Byrne at (612) 625-8646 or at cbyrne@globe.mic.umn.edu.

* The photos signed by the President and personalized to the winners of our national Academic WorldQuest were sent to the Pittsburgh council.

* Ljiljana Komnencic visited the Minneapolis and Chicago councils in May. She visits the FPA and the National Book Expo in New York in early June.

*"Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?"
- Abraham Lincoln -*