

National Update

Monthly Newsletter of the World Affairs Council System

February 2005

In this issue...

National Conference 2005 Summary
New Board Members
President's Awards
New WACA Visual Identity
NDI-IRI Program Series
Michael Scharf Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Did you know...that our National Conference 2005 generated the highest attendance ever counting 530 (415 registrants and 115 VIPs)!

Summary of National Conference 2005

The national conference 2005 ended with great success! We are pleased with the results and are especially proud to break a number of records, including the attendance and fundraising records.

We held the first ever Chairman's Dinner at which we gave a Lifetime Achievement Award to Secretary Colin Powell.

We gave a Distinguished International Journalist Award to Fareed Zacharia of Newsweek.

Sen. Chuck Hagel delivered a keynote address on Major Foreign Policy Challenges We Face.

Plenary session speeches by Lee Hamilton, Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Charles Krauthammer, Laurie Garrett, Amb. Dennis Ross, and Amb. John Bruton.

Receptions were held at Japanese, Mexican, Jordanian, French, and Taiwanese missions.

We had C-SPAN and NBC News coverage of conference events.

New Board Members

Five new board members have joined the national board:

Felicity Harley - Executive Director in Hartford
Ian Moncaster - President of the Puget Sound Council
Jeff Robbins - President of the Boston Council
Angela Weck - Executive Director of the Peoria Council
Maria Wulff - President of the Oregon Council
John Carpenter - V-P of American Airlines and Dallas Council.

President's Awards

During our national conference Membership Meeting the President's Awards for Excellence were awarded to a number of our councils as recognition for their effort, innovation, and excellence.

The awards went to Chicago (large council), Dallas (medium-size council), Alaska (small council), and Montana (all-volunteer council). The Carol Marquis Award for School Programs went to Philadelphia Council.

Jeff Merkley and Lisa Maruyama were given awards as National Executive Committee member and National Secretary respectively. Karen de Bartolome and Madeleine A. Jaehne received awards for board service

New WACA Visual Identity

The World Affairs Councils of America has a new logo and visual identity including new brochures, stationery, labels, business cards, envelopes, backdrop, and banners.

We are very excited about our new look and hope you will like it too!

This week we have mailed a supply of new WACA brochures to all the councils. Please expect them at the beginning of next week. We strongly encourage you to use these brochures as a way to link your council with a large national network. The new brochures can be particularly useful when approaching funders, foundations, sponsors, affiliates, etc. Please use them as a vehicle to increase your council visibility!

NDI-IRI Program Series: "Expanding Freedom and Building Democracy"

WACA in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) has launched a new program series entitled "Expanding Freedom and Building Democracy." The series will start in March 2005 and will culminate at the next national conference in January 2006.

Both organizations were created by Congress 20 years ago and are loosely affiliated with their respective parties. They are nonprofit organizations whose programs overseas are nonpartisan. IRI is chaired by Sen. John McCain and NDI by Sec. Madeleine Albright.

WACA has received a record number of applications for this series (26). The list of participants will be announced by Feb. 28.

Dr. Michael Scharf Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Dr. Michael Scharf, a member of our Cleveland World Affairs Council, is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is Professor and Director of the Cox International Law Center at Case School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio and one of the nation's leading experts in the field of international criminal law.

He is nominated by six governments for his accomplishments with the International Criminal Court on Yugoslavia and his contributions during the Dayton Peace Accords. He just came back from London where he trained Iraqi judges for the trial of Saddam Hussein.

During the first Bush and Clinton Administrations, he served in the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State, where he held the positions of Counsel to the Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Attorney-Adviser for Law Enforcement and Intelligence, Attorney-Adviser for United Nations Affairs, and delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

NewsNotes

* The national board meeting 2005 has been announced. It is scheduled for August 5-8, 2005 in Mexico City.

* Mr. John Bruton of Manatt Jones Global Strategies, LLC has been awarded the Mexican Order of the Aguila Azteca in recognition of his active and permanent interest in the enhancement and strengthening of commerce and investment amongst Mexico and the United States.

* Mr. Bruce Buckland, the former Vice-Chairman of the St. Louis council board, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government.

* Ms. Claudia Crump, Louisville International Cultural Center board member, has received the NCIV Educator of the Year Award during the recent NCIV conference.

* Our 10 delegates for the WACA leadership mission to Egypt leave on Feb. 20. We wish them a great time and look forward to their report!

* WACA has announced a new leadership mission to the EU and NATO in Brussels scheduled for May 29-June 5.

"The work of world affairs councils is so very important because the future of mankind will be determined in the area of foreign policy."

- Walter Cronkite -