

OUR VISION:

We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect our rights and freedoms, and solve the problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires effective democratic global institutions that will apply the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

OUR MISSION:

We are a membership organization working to build political will in the United States to achieve our vision. We do this by educating Americans about our global interdependence, communicating global concerns to public officials, and developing proposals to create, reform and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations

GOING MAINSTREAM WITH GLOBAL THINKING

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

It's easy to fall into the trap of obsessing over the latest litany of bad news the media obligingly provide. Yet, looking back on one's lifetime, one can see real positive changes in attitudes and therefore in the prospect for solutions to whatever problems the future might bring us.

Over lunch on Earth Day this past month I was watching the favorite soap opera of my 80-something-year-old mother. A ten-second public service spot at the end of the episode had one of the main actors out-of-character remind viewers of the importance of Earth Day and of our stewardship of the environment. Encouragement, like beauty, is where you find it. Nonetheless, I was surprised and uplifted that this message seems to have gone mainstream during the thirty-odd years since the first Earth Day.

Perhaps in another third of a century an out-of-character actor will remind daytime TV viewers that their carbon tax is less than 1% of energy costs and allows the UN to do its work to help ensure our secure future.

THE TIDE IS TURNING

Joe Schwartzberg, CGS Board Member

Reflecting on what Claude observed in the note above, I'm struck by the many changes for the better -- some subtle, others obvious -- that the past year has brought. The biggest, of course, is the sense of hope generated by the election of President Barack Obama, in regard to international affairs in general and our relationship with the United Nations in particular. It looks as if the United States will, at last, ratify the UN Comprehensive Law of the Sea Treaty (UNCLOS), likely pay up its arrears in UN dues, and try to address the economic chasm separating the global North from the global South.

Change is also evident in non-governmental circles. Last month I took part in an excellent conference on United

Nations reform at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC organized by the UN Nations Association, with the co-sponsorship of a number of other prestigious NGOs. Previously, the UNA steered clear of serious discussions of UN reform because (in my view) it had all it could do muster support for the UN in its present highly imperfect form. The emergence of World Savvy (discussed on page 2) is another very positive development.

Equally encouraging was Thomas Weiss' Presidential address this February before the International Studies Association: "What Happened to the Idea of World Government?" Until recently, speaking approvingly of the prospect of

world government in the political science and international relations communities of academia was a sure way of getting oneself labeled as "hopelessly naïve;" but Weiss bravely cited much of the literature on the subject that animated the World Federalist movement prior to its being undermined by the likes of Senator Joe McCarthy in the 1950s. Weiss reminded his audience that the worldwide movement until then was led by the United States. He noted that in 1949 111 members of Congress, two future presidents (John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford) and a host of other eminent political leaders put forward a "sense of Congress" resolution that argued for "a fundamental
(continued on page 6)

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objective of the foreign policy of the United States to support and strengthen the United Nations and to seek its development into a world federation.”

Additionally, resolutions were passed in 30 of 48 state legislatures supporting “pooling of American sovereignty with that of other countries.”

We have a long way to go before we recapture the exciting spirit of the early World Federalist movement; but we are, at last, moving in the right direction.

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public

When? Thursday, May 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where? Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church,

511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis (at Lyndale & Hennepin) Park in church lot.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A MAJOR TOOL OF DIPLOMACY

In today's complex, interdependent and globalized world, the economic chasm between the global "North" and the global "South" is a major source of political tension and instability. It also presents the affluent countries of the North with a serious moral challenge. It has become important, therefore, that the art of diplomacy recognize that without basic economic development, there can be little hope for a sustainable global peace. This presentation will discuss how the requisite diplomacy might ideally be conducted.

Presenter: RONALD M. BOSROCK, J.D. After a long and varied banking and international business career, Ron Bosrock was appointed to the Myer's Chair at Saint John's University in 1998, a position he held until 2005. Currently he is the author of the column, The Global Executive published by the StarTribune. He is also the Founder of the Global Institute and a guest lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. He is also the Honorary Consul General of Austria to Minnesota, a position he has held for the past 30 years.

Citizens for Global Solutions

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

17350 West 67th Street Circle

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

*An alive, aware citizenry will not lessen the need for leaders; it will ensure better leadership.
Good constituents produce good leaders.*

John Gardner, Founder of Common Cause

CGS MN ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION

Thursday evening, June 18, 2009, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Bistro Dining Room, basement of Humphrey Institute
West Bank, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis

PARKING in 19th Avenue Parking Ramp just to west of Carlson School, at hourly rate,

**SCHEDULE: 6:00 Social Hour; 6:30 Served Dinner (vegetarian option available);
7:15 Program; 9:00 Adjournment.**

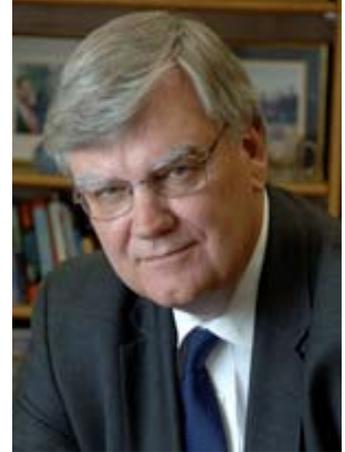
COST: \$30 per person; \$15 for students and those with limited income.

Reservations should be made by June 11. QUESTIONS? Call Mary Rose Goetz at 612-374-5321.

Keynote Speaker: DEAN J. BRIAN ATWOOD

THE TRANSFORMATION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Following a distinguished career in public service, Atwood became Dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota in 2002. Previously, he directed the US Agency for International Development for six years during the Clinton administration, headed the transition team at the State Department and was Under Secretary of State for Management. He taught international development at Harvard's JFK School, was the Linowitz Professor for International Affairs at Hamilton College, and directed Citizens International, a non-profit organization fostering public-private partnerships for international development. His work for the UN included service on Kofi Annan's Panel on Peace Operations and as the only American on the Brahimi panel on UN peacekeeping and peace building. His career as a Foreign Service officer commenced in 1966 and included assignments in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Among Atwood's many awards are an honorary doctorate from American University in 1995 and the Jean Mayer Award for Global Citizenship from Tufts University.



MEETING RESERVATION FORM AND BALLOT

RESERVATION: Please reserve _____ places for (indicates names of those who will attend):

_____ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: Please enroll me/us as (a) member(s). My check for \$25 for an individual membership / \$30 for a joint membership is enclosed.

VOLUNTARY DONATION: I would (also) like to contribute \$_____ to promote the work of the Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions. A check is enclosed.

**Please send checks, payable to "CGSMN," to Mary Rose Goetz,
1712 Humboldt Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403.**

BALLOT (for CGS members only): Check the following spaces as you wish. I hereby cast my ballot for:

___ all the candidates listed for the officers' posts and Board of Directors (see list on page 4):

___ all of the candidates except for the following: _____

___ the following write-in candidates (please state position): _____

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF CGS, MN CHAPTER

N.B. One must be a member to vote, but does not have to attend the dinner to do so. Ballots appear at the bottom of page 3 and should be sent to Mary Rose Goetz at 1712 Humboldt Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

PRESIDENT: CLAUDE BUETTNER. A life member of WFA/CGS since the 1970s, Claude, the incumbent President, has also served numerous terms in other offices of the Minnesota Chapter. His international perspective was shaped by living in the Middle East and South America for four of his formative years. Working in industrial sales, he continues to travel widely for both business and pleasure and is a firm believer in international education.

VICE-PRESIDENT: RICHARD LEE DECHERT. Retired after many years as a staffer at Twin Cities Public Television, Lee continues to be a researcher, writer, organizer and consultant for local and national media organizations. His activism extends also to the Resource Center for the Americas, WAMM and Friends for a Non-Violent World.

SECRETARY: JOHN GROOS. Retired from the Minnesota Department of Education after serving many years as Director of the State Special Education Program for handicapped children, John is a current member of the CGS Board and coordinates its "Partners" program. He feels strongly about social justice issues and is active in church and community task forces advocating social change.

TREASURER: DENNIS DILLON. Retired after 38 years of work on educational testing and survey research and a co-founder of two companies, Dennis is active in peace, justice and sustainability pursuits for the Basilica parish, the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (directing Peace Island project) and the Network of Spiritual Progressives.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

CHARMAGNE CAMPBELL-PATTON. Charmagne is Program Manager for World Savvy Minnesota, a non-profit agency that engages youth in world affairs and fosters global citizenship. Previously, she worked for several peace-oriented NGOs in Washington, DC; and has traveled widely in Africa for Global Youth Partnership. She has an M.A in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University and holds a pre-doctoral fellowship.

JIM NELSON. Retired as Finance Manager after 42 years in the aerospace industry, Jim has also long been a hobby farmer producing native plant seeds. He is an avid volunteer in a number of conservation and civic organizations and is a past President and Vice-President of the Minnesota Chapter of the World Federalist Association.

ROSA MARIA DE LA CUEVA PETERSON. A native of Mexico, Rosa Maria has been an editorial photographer and Spanish language consultant since 1977 helping others to get a better understanding of the world. She has traveled widely on six continents, co-directed study abroad programs in Colombia and Ecuador, developed a global awareness project and taught computer-familiarization to non-English-speaking students in St. Paul public schools.

VERLYN SMITH (term to begin in January 2010). Retired pastor of Grace University Lutheran Church and former Twin Cities campus pastor and Regional Director of National Lutheran Campus Ministry (in ten Western states). Verlyn has been both President and Vice-President of the Minnesota Chapter of the World Federalist Association.

ADEPEJU ("PEJU") SOLARIN. Graduate student pursuing Master of Liberal Studies degree at University of Minnesota, doing research on restorative justice, conflict resolution and human rights. Born in Minneapolis, but raised in Nigeria, she has also lived in Le Havre, France, Peju works as an associate editor for the journal, *Crime and Justice*, published by the University of Minnesota Law School.

Thanks to OUTGOING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Verlyn Smith (as Vice-President, Lee Dechert (as Secretary), and Board Members John Groos and Kathryn Sharpe; and also to **CONTINUING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:** Claude Buettner (President), Dennis Dillon (Treasurer) and Board Members Dick Bernard, Mary Rose Goetz, Earl Holdridge, Gail Hughes, Bharat Parekh, June Parrott, Randy Roberts, and Joe Schwartzberg..

The world no longer has a choice between force and law. If civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

“WORLD AFFAIRS CHALLENGE,” A COMPETITION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER

Gail Hughes, CGS Board Member

At last! After eons of spelling bees, Trivial Pursuits and formal debates that may ask contestants to argue positions they may not believe, at last there is a competition that requires students to think critically and independently about issues that matter. In a time when the very survival of our planet is at stake, it is appropriate that Minnesota students should participate in an activity that relates to such fundamental problems of war, poverty, and global warming. On Saturday, April 25, they had such an opportunity, thanks to the “World Affairs Challenge” held at Macalester College under the auspices of World Savvy, a welcome new addition to the state’s educational community. (See *Editor’s note below.*)

I was privileged to attend the event, staffing a literature table on behalf of CGS. This year’s theme, was “Six Billion on the Move: Human Migration in a Global Society.” Teams of middle and high school students from the Twin Cities area competed in four activities: an oral presentation on a topic of their choice relating to the theme; a descriptive poster display; a global awareness multiple choice test; and an oral response to a real-world scenario. Volunteer judges rated the teams on the posters and presentations. I played hooky from my table to attend the better part of three Junior Division (6th-9th grades) team presentations: South High, my son’s *alma mater*; Blake and Breck. I chose the last two assuming that students from these elite private schools would be well prepared and would demonstrate how well the best students could do. I was impressed by the students’ seriousness and professionalism and the creativity of their presentations, especially Blake students Andreas Loken and Asad Rahmattullah. Both conveyed a depth of understanding about their topic, “Drug Trafficking from the Front Lines.” In a mock interview, Asad played the role of a Mexican applying for immigrant status due to drug-related violence in his home region. He said that many farmers turned to drug trafficking when crop prices dropped too low to make a living. After their session I complimented them for going beyond describing a problem to probe for underlying causes and asked how many layers of “Why?” questions they could answer in relation to the problem. I was delighted to learn that they were familiar with the impact of NAFTA on Mexican farmers.

I borrowed a copy of the global awareness test to examine the questions, afraid that I would be faced with questions requiring memorization of minutia. I was pleased that most asked about things that all “global citizens” should know, such as the role of the UNHCR



Student competitors with Senator Amy Klobuchar

(United Nations High Commission on Refugees). However, some questions did refer to obscure international news that even well educated people would be unlikely to recollect. When I inquired about those items, I was told that one of the program’s goals was to encourage students to keep abreast of current events, which was certainly a worthy goal.

Unfortunately, I was unable to see the posters, listen to the keynote address by Nyango Melissa Nambangi, or attend the scenario presentations. But the scenario concept struck me as especially useful in requiring students to collaborate in generating creative solutions to authentic global problems. It is an activity that promotes the purpose of CGS in being solution-oriented.

Tests and competitions reflect social priorities. Minnesota’s first ever “World Affairs Challenge” is a step to celebrate. It conveys to students and teachers that an understanding of world affairs is important and that we, as global citizens must be well informed. We must continue to think about what global citizens need to know and be able to do. And ensure that our educational systems will prepare the next generation of citizens with the tools they will need to save the world.

Editor’s note: *World Savvy, founded in 2006, is a global education nonprofit organization with offices in the Twin Cities, New York and San Francisco. The event described in this article was well covered on TV and in the press. The Minnesota Chapter of CGS feels fortunate that the Twin Cities Director, Charmagne Campbell-Patton has agreed to join its Board of Directors and hopes that this will result in greater student outreach in the years ahead.*

*Annual Meeting
June 18
J. Brian Atwood
Not to be missed!
See page 3 and
mark your calendar.)*

DESIGNS FOR A WORKABLE WORLD

Joe Schwartzberg, CGS Board Member

As many readers of this Newsletter are aware, I have been working for some time on a book entitled *Designs for a Workable World (DWW)*. I've so far completed more than 200 pages of that work (including a couple of dozen full-color maps and other graphics) and believe I'm roughly halfway to completion. This note is to inform you of what I'm trying to accomplish.

The purpose of *DWW* is to suggest ways of improving virtually every major component of the United Nations system once the will to do so is generated (as I expect it will). The work focuses on structural, rather than procedural, issues and the ways by which they affect decision-making. I do not believe, however, that there is only one way by which institutions can be improved. Instead, I usually suggest several possibilities, pointing out the pros and cons of each. I also indicate why each would improve on the existing system. This non-dogmatic approach, I believe, will have greater credibility than one espousing only one approach.

Though I am supportive of the UN, because it's the only universal agency that we presently have to deal with a host of global issues, I am also acutely aware of its many systemic deficiencies. To begin with, except in the case of the Security Council, UN decisions are not legally binding; and, even the Security Council decisions are frequently ignored. Strangely, while few individuals would wish to live in a community with no law enforcement capacity, at the global level, most accept a system of international anarchy, with minimal binding law and no institutionalized agency to enforce the UN's legal decisions. This legal deficit must be and can be corrected. Think about it. When disputants cannot settle disputes by law, the only alternative is to settle them by force or economic coercion. Thus, the powerful inevitably prey on the weak.

There is also a serious democratic deficit. The UN is an association of states, with no role for individual citizens. The General Assembly is not the equivalent of a parliament. And while the UN proclaims the "sovereign equality of nations," the fact is that the permanent members of the Security Council, the so-called P-5, are much more equal than all the

rest. They alone are immune from sanctions from the UN because they enjoy the right of the veto, an anachronistic, self-assumed privilege resulting from their being the principal victors in World War II, which ended 64 years ago. But the world has changed enormously since then. The Soviet Union is no more and Japan and Germany have attained much greater economic strength and world influence (outside the UN) than the UK or France. Yet, in this and many other respects the sclerotic UN Charter has not been amended to reflect present realities. (The word "environment," for example, is nowhere mentioned in the Charter.)

Additionally, one must now question the factuality and utility of the idea of the "sovereign equality of nations." In the UN General Assembly the least populous nation, Tuvalu, with only 10,000 inhabitants, has a vote equal to that of China, with a population of 1.3 billion. It's no wonder then that the GA was not given the power to make binding legislation; no one would regard as legitimate the decisions of a body whose weaker many members have vastly greater voting power than those with most of the world's population and wealth. The antidote to this problem is a system of rationally weighted voting that takes into account not only the fact of sovereignty, but also population and national contributions to the UN budget. Many of the proposals put forward *DWW* are, in fact, recommendations for weighted voting systems tailored to the functions performed by specific UN agencies.

Virtually all nations are zealously protective of their sovereignty. But few realize the degree to which that sovereignty has been eroded in our globalized world. National boundaries are increasingly incapable of insulating states from the harmful consequences of environmental pollutants; trafficking in narcotics, small arms, and human beings, terrorism; subversive cultural influences and many other external threats. They have yet to realize that **global problems require global solutions**. Such solutions are what Citizens for Global Solutions and *DWW* are seeking to promote.

CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please read the vision and mission statements on page one of this Newsletter.

If you like what we are trying to do, and/or if you enjoy coming to our programs, you should consider joining as a way of showing your support and adding to our institutional influence.

The price of membership is minimal, just \$25 for an individual membership or \$30 for a couple.

A check for your first year's membership payable to CGS, Minnesota should be sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Dillon, at 210 West Grant Street, Apt. 414, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2244.

Should you wish to renew your membership, you will then be billed by our national office.

Gifts above the amount for membership will also be welcome and put to good use.
