



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

AND THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



2010 Annual Meeting--Council of Chapters and Divisions Summary

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UNA-USA Chapter and Division members from all over the country gathered in Washington, DC from June 6-8th for the 2010 Annual Meeting. This year will mark the beginning of a proposed strategic alliance between the United Nation Foundation and the United Nations Association. The overall sentiment of those in attendance was both excited and inquisitive as both organizations began to explain what the proposed alliance would entail. The meeting was also marked by a variety of interesting panels that ranged from how UNA chapters can better function and expand membership to panels on the UN, the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), climate change and other key issues facing today's global community. One of the highlights was Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addressing the participants on issues facing the UN and the importance of U.S. involvement.

The first day of the meeting covered topics pertinent to the strengthening of the organization's grassroots base. Membership trends were discussed, and although membership decline was noted, the 2010 Membership Drive has seen success for participating chapters. It is hoped that it will continue being successful through its end date, July 15, 2010. The UN Day theme, "Engaging America in the Millennium Development Goals," was also announced and the importance of UN Day both as a fundraising tool for chapters and a tribute to the organization was emphasized throughout the conference. Large and small chapters broke out into separate panels to discuss strategies and issues relevant to their needs, and Facebook and Twitter, as well as newsletters were noted as important and successful. Skill sessions focusing on: advocacy, education, events, communication and fundraising closed the day and provided members with tools to make their chapters stronger and more efficient.

The second day was markedly different from the first and started with the key-note speaker, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, addressing those in attendance. With Ambassador Thomas Pickering moderating, the Secretary-General spoke on the importance of advocacy, and grassroots support for the UN. Issue panels were in session for much of the afternoon discussing key issues such as climate change, human rights, the Millennium Development Goals, the nuclear agenda, and UN disaster relief. Another highlight was the impromptu box lunch that allowed members to delve deeper into the proposed strategic alliance with the United Nation Foundation. Edward Elmendorf (President/CEO of UNA-USA), Peter Yeo (Vice President for Public Policy at the United

Nations Foundation/Executive Director, Better World Campaign) and Mike Beard (Director, Better World Campaign) were present to address questions and comments. The enthusiasm and excitement for the alliance was continued in the Council of Chapters and Divisions Annual Meeting during which a resolution endorsing the alliance was voted for unanimously. The day ended on a high note with an awards reception honoring various chapters for their growth, as well as Latha Nehru, Kathy Pham, and Rev. Richard Harris for their involvement within UNA-USA.

On the third and final day, members met for a breakfast and briefing by Jessica Hartl, Alan Averyt, Steve Dimoff, and Edward Elmendorf for their upcoming “Day on the Hill” congressional meetings on the third day. Members were unleashed on Capital Hill to discuss key issues such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), and U.S. funding for the UN with their congressional representatives. The Board of Directors Annual Meeting was held in the afternoon, in which John Whitehead presented Richard Lugar with the Congressional Leadership Award, honoring him for his outstanding efforts at increasing U.S. involvement in the UN throughout the years.

The 2010 Annual Meeting can only be described as a success. All three days were filled with honest enthusiasm and hard work, making the conference fruitful and beneficial to all.