

Date: September 16, 2009

From: Ardi Rashidi

To: Southern California Council of Chapters and Division Members & Representatives

Subject: UNA-USA CCD Steering Committee Report

Dear Southern California CCD Leaders:

I am pleased to inform you of the result of the National CCD and Board meetings held in New York, on September 12 thru. 14, 2009.

Representing our Southern California UNA-USA, were Esther Gillies, Mel Boynton and Ardi Rashidi, who attended the National CCD meeting on September 12th and 13th, and further, Ardi Rashidi attended the National Board meeting held on Monday September 14.

CCD Meeting Report:

From 30 CCD members nationwide, 29 members were present. This level of participation made the two days meeting (9-12 & 13) highly interactive as it addressed relevant issues of concern to the organization. First, let me say that I am happy to have been in the company of Esther and Mel, both of whom made our Division/Region representation so strong that the planning leadership for the next year's Annual Meeting of the UNA in Washington DC, was given to our Southern California UNA. In the past, I had expressed interest that future National meetings to be held in the West Coast, but at this time, I am very glad to let you know that Next years' Annual meeting will be held under the leadership of our own CCD member Mel Boynton. This means, we all have to extend our help to Mel so together with the help of other committee members, surpass the success of last year's convention held in Washington DC, please join me to be on this planning committee to help Mel, as we have to coordinate events in Washington DC, remotely from California between now and the Annual meeting.

1) Substantial Challenges and Opportunities:

1.1 Challenges:

1.1.1 Facing the National UNA-USA is drop in membership and lack of financial inflow. Membership drop will ultimately diminish our influence on our elected representatives on issues we care about.

1.1.2 Also, loss of financial strength at national and local levels will eventually weaken our efforts as a field-active grassroots organization.

These two issues, Membership and finances, were discussed extensively. On membership, the CCD Steering Committee agreed to entertain a raise in dues without curtailing current level of payments to Chapters & Divisions. This issue will be further discussed by Chapter Relations subcommittee and decisions will be recommended in

future meetings. Although, a potential income from a higher membership dues may be helpful, but this will not be adequate to finance the operating cost of the organization to carry on its mission at the current staff level and overhead cost. This situation compels all of us as members to contribute in our own ways, to solutions to this challenge facing the organization.

2) Opportunities:

- 2.1** Our country and administration is valuing the United Nations anew and Vice versa is true.
- 2.2** American leadership at the UN is on the rise, especially in light of the fact that the United States has paid its dues arrear. UNA has been the primary force behind this accomplishment which can help the Organization to be in good standing with potential donors, nationally and internationally.
- 2.3** Increased a sense of partnership between the National UNA and the Chapters/Divisions.
- 2.4** To promote further the most relevant Convention Resolutions through the US government and the United Nations.

Board Meeting Report:

On September 14, a National UNA Board meeting was held at which elected National Representatives were present. At this meeting UNA CEO and President, Tom Miller brought to the Board's attention the declining financial strength of the organization. As the result, Humanitarian programs such as Adopt-A-Minefield, and HERO, will no longer be on the UNA agenda, however, more active, and product oriented educational programs such as Global Classroom, and Student Alliance will be promoted throughout the United States and abroad.

Tom, also emphasized the importance of transparency of leadership and developing relations between the National UNA and Chapters/Divisions. In this regard, the national UNA will help to strengthen the Chapters, and in return, Chapters and Division will strengthen the National office. Toward this goal, Tom will be visiting our Southern California region on September 30th, and October 1st. More detail on Tom's visit will be shared with you in the coming days.

This concludes my report from attending the CCD and the National Board of Directors meeting of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, on September 12, 13 and 14, 2009, in New York City.

Regards,

Ardi Rashidi