

**2006 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CENTRE COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF UNA-USA**

**Events and Projects**

2006 was a tremendously successful and productive year in the life of Centre County UNAUSA. At our annual business meeting in January, we thanked several long-term board members who completed their years of service and welcomed three new board members. We reviewed the success of our projects identified in our 2005 Common Objectives and initiated the planning process which resulted in the development of our Chapter's 2006

**Common Objectives (see attachment).**

In February, President Norma Keller and fellow board member, Dr. Lewis Jillings, Director of Internationalization at Penn State, headed up a Public Issues Forum entitled "How Do We Create Stability Around the Globe. Well attended and televised, this forum provided our Chapter the opportunity for public recognition and public education on important initiatives concerning global stability.

In early May, President Norma Keller was a conference speaker at the First National Summit on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child held at American University in Washington, D. C. Because of the major education and advocacy work done on the CRC in 2001-2003 in Centre County, Pennsylvania - where more than 3,000 individuals studied the treaty, 2,000 people signed a petition, 1,000 letters were sent to PA Senators in Washington and 17 faithbased and community organizations entered into a comprehensive process of formal "endorsement" of the CRC - Centre County UNA-USA was asked to teach others about how to develop and implement a "grassroots strategy" that would lead us forward to eventual ratification of the CRC.

At the UNA-USA national meetings in June, Norma Keller received approval to represent all of UNA-USA chapters on the national committee to provided education on the CRC and advance its ratification in the United States. Norma had attended meetings for the past three years in Washington but had hoped that UNA-USA would endorse the work of this national committee and be formally recognized as a member of this national group. George Garland provided the approval to do so.

In June, Centre County UNA-USA held a very well attended public meeting focusing on MDG # 5, Maternal Health and Well Being. Presentations were made by Dr. Mala Chinoy and Dr. Alawia Suliman of the Milton Hershey Medical Center who spoke in "Humanitarian Emergencies: Global Maternal and Child Health Challenges and Proposed Solutions." Also in June, Norma Keller and Vice President Bonnie Willey had the opportunity to attend UNA-USA national meetings in Washington where they learned about the work of other chapters as well as share the accomplishments of Centre County PA UNA-USA. It was during these Washington meetings, that several members of Pennsylvania Chapters discussed holding a first ever, statewide meeting which subsequently occurred in September 2006. Since each of

Pennsylvania's six Chapters are a significant distance from each other, they had not had the opportunity to work together as a group, share common objectives and consider the possibility of mutually supported projects.

On September 17, representatives of five of PA's six Chapters met in State College for a five hour meeting, attended by National Membership Chair, George Garland. All Chapters learned from each others experiences and the possibility of some joint projects were discussed. Unfortunately, there was no representative from Pittsburgh in attendance.

Throughout 2006, Centre County UNA-USA's Council of Organizations continued to grow, adding two new member organizations for a total of seventeen. The role of the Council is to take on the primary planning responsibility for the each United Nations Day celebration in October and to work within in their own respective organizations to conduct at least one educational program on the United Nations annually. At three council member monthly meetings, UNA-USA speakers made presentations on MDG # 5: Maternal Health and Well Being. The current membership of the Centre County UN-USA Council of Organizations includes:

Altrusa International of Centre County  
American Association of University Women  
Centre County UNA-USA  
Friends Meeting  
Global Connections  
Hadassah  
Harris Township Lions Club  
League of Women Voters of Centre County  
Sorooptimist International of Centre County  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
St. Paul's United Methodist Women  
State College Area Family YMCA  
State College Lions Club  
State College Evening Rotary Club  
State College Downtown Rotary Club  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
University Baptist and Brethren Church

In September, Norma Keller was asked to conduct a telephone interview with Jessica Hartle of the UNA-USA Washington Office to discuss the formation of our Council of Organizations. The text of the interview was made available online at UNA-USA to support other Chapters in considering such an undertaking. Our Chapter was subsequently asked to participate in a workshop at the March 2007 biannual convention to educate others about the formation of a Council of Organizations.

In October, Centre County UNA-USA and its Council of Organizations was pleased to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Continuing our emphasis on MDG # 5, Maternal Health and Well-Being, our Chapter invited Jane Roberts, co-founder, of the "34 Million Friends Campaign" to be its guest speaker. Despite bipartisan Congressional agreement, and against the recommendation of its own State Department investigative team, the current administration had not

released the \$34 million that Congress has allocated annually to the United Nations Population Fund. In response, two women, Jane Roberts and Lois Abraham, began searching for 34 million Americans to contribute \$1.00 each to support UNFPA programs. In the four years that have passed, more than \$127 million Congressionally allocated dollars have not been released to save the lives of women, in developing countries and especially in African nations. Of all United Nations countries, 171 of 191 regularly support the United Nations Population Fund.

Jane Roberts proved to be an outstanding speaker and to honor her work, our Centre County Chapter announced the launching of a six month "34 Million Friends Campaign" to augment and support the work of Jane Roberts. During Jane's four-day visit in Centre County, she spoke on radio shows, a television interview, addressed several classes at Penn State and was a guest speaker at Milton Hershey Medical Center. Our Chapter raised more than \$1,500 for UNFPA and additional funds which we have no clear data on were sent directly to UNDP. During January 2007, plans were underway to continue to support the work of 34 Million Friends through Mother's Day initiatives in the faith-based churches and organizations.

Additional efforts to celebrate UN:61 in Centre County included:

- Worked with local newspaper to print two Editorial Page pieces on the United Nations in October
- Worked with public television, C-Net, to televise UN:61 dinner celebration and to show 3 United Nations videos on October 24th
- Provided scholarships for 20+ international students from Penn State to attend UN:61 dinner; in all, 22 countries were represented. To decorate the banquet room, flags from every home country represented in the audience were hung – many internationals requested that their photos be taken beside their flags.
- Worked with Penn State's Program on Internationalization to publicize UN:61 activities and display UN books in student lounge
- Local libraries conducted a month long display in both child and adult area of libraries, which featured UN books and posters
- Created child "coloring project" depicting UN theme and distributed to youth centers across Centre County
- Obtained the cooperation of four local businesses to do two-week window displays with a United Nations and international theme
- Centre County Commissioners proclaimed October 24 United Nations Day and attended UN:61 dinner to read and present proclamation

In December 2006, Centre County UNA-USA held a "People Speak Forum" entitled "Working Together with the World on Energy and Global Climate Change." Headed up by three expert panelists from Penn State University, the forum was attended by more than 100 people and was recorded and subsequently televised many times by C-Net, the public broadcasting station.

### **Education**

In October 2005, Centre County UNA-USA was awarded a \$ 1,200 grant from the Centre County Community Foundation (CCCF) to provide education on the United Nations in the five school districts of

Centre County. The grant awarded was in response to the results of a countywide survey conducted by Centre County UNA-USA which pointed to the significant lack of education about the United Nations at all levels in local schools. The first step of implementation in the grant was the distribution of 25 copies of the book, *Come Along With Me*, by Nan Annan, for use in the 25 elementary schools in Centre County. The books were presented to school superintendents and librarians of the five local school districts and some public librarians. The remainder of these grant funds were to be used for the purchase of United Nations educational materials for use in secondary schools. As 2006 drew to a close, the Education Committee was disappointed that they were unable to distribute these secondary school materials but hoped that they could recruit new members for the committee who could help carry out this task in 2007.

An additional Education Committee initiative for 2006 was to continue to have board member Lewis Jillings, head of Penn State's Department of Internationalization sustain an effort to influence Pennsylvania state education boards and commissions to include the United Nations in mandated curricula to a greater extent Membership.

In 2006 we had established a goal of a 10% increase in membership, 12 individual or groups. We achieved that goal with 15 new individual membership and 2 group memberships, however, our overall total membership decreased because Penn State's Humphrey Fellowship Program discontinued the practice of enrolling all of its international students as members. The two group memberships, Harris Township Lions Club and State College Area YMCA, joined the Chapter and serve as members of the UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

#### **Finance and Development**

In 2006, Centre County UNA-USA sustained a balanced budget which generated revenue to pay for Chapter activities in 2006. We maintained a balanced budget throughout the year, with \$9,077.60 in revenue and \$ 7,559.82 in expense, leaving a balance of \$1,517.78 for the reserve fund, totaling approximately \$ 5,587. Our Chapter continued to encourage contributions to Centre County UNA-USA Endowment within the Centre County Community Foundation. While dollars raised in past years total approximately \$ 30,000, only two contributions totaling \$ 55.00 were added to our CCCF assets this year, however, the interest earned and subsequently used to support our 2006 programs was more than \$ 1,400. In 2006, our Chapter was also successful in obtaining a Pennsylvania Sales Exemption. This was a lengthy and arduous process but one which ultimately saves our Chapter from payment of sales tax. It was submitted in June and approved in September and used for the first time to save our Chapter \$288 on UN Day Dinner expense.

#### **2007 Objectives**

For your information, I am attaching the Chapter's 2006 and 2007 Common Objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Keller, President  
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