

Centre County UNA Council of Organizations 2010 Orientation

United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)

- 175 Chapters nationwide and 20,000+ members
- 100 affiliated national organizations - COO
- UNA affiliated with World Federations of UNA's in 100 nation

Mission of UNA-USA at the National Level – dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing Americans to support the ideals and vital work of the United Nations and increasing their knowledge of international issues

UNA-USA is a Membership Organization:

1. 175 Chapters and Divisions provides education and opportunities for Americans to have a voice in building US leadership in the UN
2. Advocacy and Policy Division establishes “Advocacy Agenda” for the year and formalizes a process for Americans to easily voice support for or opposition to positions on international issues related to the UN
3. Publishes “The Interdependent” magazine – great articles on international issues
4. By-weekly e-newsletter “World Bulletin” highlights current world events and provide updates on the work of the Centre County Chapter

Direct Service Programs:

5. conducts Model UN programs across the nation
6. Raises funds to clear minefields – “Adopt a Minefield”
7. provides school based support for HIV-AIDS children in African nations

Mission of Centre County UNA-USA – Build understanding of and support for the ideals and vital work of the UN by involving the community in educational and advocacy initiatives

1. Clearing minefield in Mozambique
2. Studying and advocating for passage of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
3. Supporting UN education in Centre County schools by conducting a study of current education and providing books to elementary school and libraries
4. Sponsor and Co-sponsor events/international issues
5. Advocating for the ratification of CEDAW, Convention to eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women
6. Additional projects listed in Centre County brochure
7. Established Centre County UNA Council of Organizations

Mission of UNA Council of Organizations at the National Level – a collaboration of 100+ nongovernmental organizations with formal affiliation with the UN whose membership reaches millions of Americans – interested in education, religion, human rights, health and women’s issues and share the common goal of making the American public more knowledgeable about global issues and the UN and its crucial role in international peace and sustainable development.

The Council mission is to:

- **Educates** about the United Nations and its agencies and programs
- **Build community** by encouraging organizations to network among themselves, thereby strengthening their individual and collective efforts to promote public education on matters related to the United Nations
- **Mobilize** to promote effective US policies on the UN and US fulfillment of its international commitments
- **Engage** member participation in activities related to the UN and promote recognition of Council members in the work of the United Nations
- **Small staff in Washington and Executive Committee**
- **Every member of the COO has a formal affiliation with the United Nations**

Mission of Centre County UNA Council of Organizations (COO) – Educate, Build Community, Mobilize and Engage.

In 4 to 5 meeting each year between May and October:

1. exchange ideas and learn about the mission and activities of COO members
2. collaborate with each other to address mutual goal of making the American public more knowledgeable on international issues and the UN
3. Develop an effective United Nations Day celebration
4. Develop and support a project that amplifies theme of UN Day Dinner and provides opportunity for attendees and the public to have a tangible impact; for example: Solar Box Cooker Project
5. Hold one program annually to heighten awareness of international issues and/or role of the United Nations – CCUNA will provide speaker, if requested

Responsibilities of Centre County COO Representatives:

1. Help others learn about your organization and its international or UN focus
2. Inform your organization about other COO members and the work of the Centre County COO
3. Conduct a successful UN Day Celebration
 - a. Public Relations: Displays at Webster's, newsletters, CDT, Voices, write guest editorials, Commissioners Proclamation
 - b. Registration, table centerpieces, display flags
 - c. Develop a project that amplifies the theme and gives other the opportunity to have an impact - SBC
4. Encourage your members to support project
5. Invite members to UN Dinner
6. For your annual program with an international theme, seek a speaker from UNA-USA or COO if desired

History of COO in Centre County – how it evolved:

1. In 2005, President Don Sherman applied for and was awarded a coalition-building grant from national office of UNA-USA to establish a Centre County Council of Organizations. The following steps were taken:
 - a. Reviewed list of 100 COO members
 - b. Identified 22 with Centre County affiliates
 - c. Invited all to luncheon; 40 attended

- d. Each spoke about their UN or international efforts
 - e. Great feeling that “like-minded” people were together in same room
 - f. 15 committed to form COO
2. Early Structure - Strong focus on working together for dinner plan, choose theme, speaker, menu, etc.
 3. CC COO was so successful, the national COO office wrote article was written to encourage the development of others COO’s across the nation
 4. In the past 3 years, COO has evolved and spends less time focusing on the specifics of the dinner, menu, etc. and now gets involved in education on the dinner theme for the year and develops an educational project that amplifies the theme and gives the audience and the public an opportunity to have an impact.
Ex: Solar Box Cooker Project

THE CENTRE COUNTY COO HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL – HOW ABOUT OTHER AREA COO’S ESTABLISHED WITH 2005 COALITION BUILDING GRANTS?

COO’s elsewhere in the United States

1. While other good things happened, Centre County Chapter UNA is the only COO to emerge from the 2005 coalition building grants
2. There is a Southern California COO Division, which was established in the mid 1990’s
3. In 2009 the national office began the task of establishing area COO’s 2009
4. An organizational manual was developed based upon the experience of Centre County PA and Southern California
5. Efforts are now underway to develop Area COO’s in Columbus Ohio, Philadelphia, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Colorado, Oregon, Houston, Boston

Membership Structure

1. Each member of the Centre County COO joins the Centre County Chapter – this can be done by completing a form on the Centre County brochure or joining on line at www.unausa.org/centrecountychapter
2. First year is \$ 25 (same as an individual) and \$40 thereafter
3. If group member cannot pay dues, an individual joins to represent COO member

Each COO Representative’s service is defined by the COO organizations member:

- Some may be appointed to speak on behalf of their respective organizations – build consensus for decisions
- Some may be appointed to serve carry info back and forth between COO and member

Points to Remember

- We enjoy each other’s company and have fun working together
- We have 4 to 5 meetings a year between May and October
- Meetings generally last 60 to 90 minutes
- Provide great opportunity for NGO’s who share similar missions to work together, accomplish more, and be part of a larger community

Theme for UN Day Dinner Celebrations since the Establishment of the Centre County UNA Council of Organizations:

2005 – UN:60 – The People Speak: The Millennium Development Goals Eliminating Hunger, Poverty and Promoting Health” – panel discussion by three Penn State faculty members

2006 – MDG V: Improving Maternal Health and Well Being; guest speaker, Jane Roberts, Founder of the 34 Million Friends of the UN Population Fund – conducted 6 month campaign to encourage contributions to the “34 Million Friends of the UNFPA,” made presentations to COO members (AAUW and Altrusa), encouraged Mother’s Day discussions among faith-based organizations and newsletter articles on the following issue: for 5 years the US had not forwarded its legislatively approved financial commitment (34 million annually) – the impact of this on maternal health among women in African nations.

2007 – MDG VI: Combating HIV-AIDS, Malaria, and other Infectious Diseases; guest speaker Audrey Braver, Altrusa International UN Representative, “The United Nation’s Role in Combating HIV-AIDS, Malaria and other Infectious Diseases” – invited guests of 5 countries to speak about the impact of Infectious Diseases in their nations

2008 – MDG VII: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; guest Speaker Dr. Donald Brown on “The Ethics of Climate Change: Turning up the Volume.” Chapter held several programs on carbon footprints; LWV conducted a “green tour” of several homes on the same day as the UN Day celebration, Altrusa International made up refrigerator magnet pledges on “My Pledge to Mother Earth and many Council members attended the dinner and arranged for excellent educational materials in the lobby.

2009 – “Improving Women’s Lives in Africa: Surviving Genocide in Darfur, Chad and Congo” – Dr. Lee Ann De Reus, Penn State Altoona. Supporting victims of genocide in the refugee camps of Chad and Congo; Solar Box Cooker Project – raised \$ 5,580 for the purchase of 186 cooker kits. Many council members promoted this project in their respective organizations; Dr. De Reus was speaker at other events as a result of her UN Day presentation

2010 – “Human Trafficking – we do need to narrow down this broad topic

Homework Assignment for June meeting: Give some thought to a tangible project that makes it possible for UN Day participants and others to impact on human trafficking in a small but tangible way; i.e, last year’s purchase of 186 solar box cooker kits reduced the need for women and girls to walk 15 miles to collect firewood for meal preparation where they are vulnerable to assault, rape and murder.

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