



newsletter

of the Maine Chapter (founded in 1990)
of the United Nations Association



Spring 2004, Vol. XIII, No. 1

11 Columbia Street, Augusta, ME 04330

Officers

President

Wendy Hazard, Belgrade
495-2675

Vice-President

Bruce Stedman, Westport
882-7387

Secretary

Lydia Sparrow, Brunswick
725-5477

Treasurer

Robert S. Howe, Harpswell
622-4466

Immediate Past President

Thurston Holt, Cape Elizabeth
799-8290

Directors

Anne Brautigam, Brunswick
725-4483

Isabel Denham, Yarmouth,
846-5931

Julia Edwards, So. Portland
799-5827

Tom Ewell, Portland
772-1918

Suzanne Hedrick, Nobleboro
563-7041

Lynn Kuzma, Portland
780-4347

Thesil Morlan, Waldoboro
832-6863

Al Niese, Woolwich
443-8613

David Pearson, Kents Hill
685-3749

Ken Rodman, Waterville
872-3000

Mary Lee Rushmore
New Harbor, 677-3647

Trudi Schneider, Georgetown
371-2152

Herschel Sternlieb, Brunswick
726-7675

Jack Swift, Georgetown
371-2567

Phil Thompson, Portland
871-7171

Sarah Walton, Augusta
622-1993

MODEL UN—2004 (“MEMUNC—2004”)

A separate letter has been sent from president Wendy Hazard to all Chapter members and other friends, seeking financial support for the Model UN 2004 Conference (MeMunc 2004). The Board of Directors has increased our pledge of support to this most important activity in our program from last year's \$3000 to \$5000 for 2004. We need the unstinting support of all Chapter members if we are to reach this goal. The World Affairs Council of Portland also supports the Conference. The largest single source of financial support is the participating students and schools.

The Conference will be held at the Gorham Campus of the University of Southern Maine, May 18-20, 2004. The Board is justly proud of this annual event, the largest—and most expensive—in the chapter's calendar. This year we expect 350 students from 20 high schools around the state (over 270 students participated in the 2003 exercise).

This year the roster of committees and topics has been expanded:

Security Council

Involvement in Iraq
UN role in Liberia

General Assembly 4th Committee (Special Political Decolonization)

Conflict Diamonds
Tibet—Self Determination rights

UN Commission on Human Rights

Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Female Genital Mutilation

Special Session on Food

Biopiracy
Right to Food and Water

continued on next page

The Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the UNA Maine.
Editor: Bruce Stedman • Production Manager: Selma Sternlieb

African Union (formerly the Organization for African Unity)

Women's Rights
HIV/AIDS crisis

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Iraq v. the United States (legality of the use of force)

MeNUNC Press Corps

Responsible for covering and reporting in the Conference newsletter ("MeMunc Junk") the results of the conference.

The African Union and the International Court of Justice appear for the first time in the MUN committee list. In the case of the ICJ, the students, instead of representing specific countries, will act as ICJ judges.

In preparation for the conference students at participating high schools are studying the politics, economics and policies of the countries they will be representing, and are preparing position papers on the issues to be discussed, all under the guidance of experienced USM students who have taken

the responsibility for the coordinating, planning and execution of the Conference.

Members of the UNA-Maine Board who act as coaches to the various committees and organs are unanimous in their praise for the conduct of the Conference and the enthusiasm on the high school students who have the opportunity to learn about the issues and to hone their parliamentary and negotiating skills in reaching the goals of the nations they represent.

To those UNA members and others who ask, "What can I do to further the goals and understanding of the United Nations in these troubled times?" One answer is loud and clear: SUPPORT MEMUNC 2004! Contributions are tax-deductible may be made payable to UNA-Maine with the notation MeMunc 2004 and mailed to Bob Howe, Treasurer UNA Maine, 11 Columbia Street, Augusta 04330. The need is great. Please act now!

Death of an Old Friend

Trudi Schneider reports that Ethel Schwalbe died last December 23rd in Steuben, Maine. She was a member of the UNA-USA since 1/1/60. She also was very active in the State League of Women Voters, producing the monthly "Voter" for years. She was a life-time member of the League, having been a member for over 50 years. Ms Schwalbe was a strong supporter of the UN, concentrating her attention on the environment, world population, civil liberties, poverty, handgun violence and was an active promoter of death with dignity. She was an honorary member of the Washington Hancock Community Agency Board of Directors.

News Bites from UN Wire

Again, we publish here excerpts from UN Wire's daily news bulletins. We have tried to select interesting items which were not widely publicized in the mass media. We encourage members who find these items of interest and have internet capacity to subscribe to UN Wire, available at <http://www.unwire.org/subscribe>.

11/26/03. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA WILL EXPAND ITS COOPERATION with the UN and its representative bodies, Vice Premier Wu Yi said yesterday to the newly appointed UNDP resident coordinator, Khalid Malik.

continued on next page

News Bites from UN Wire, continued

12/29/03. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A UN BUDGET OF \$3.19 BILLION FOR 2004-05. The amount was slightly less than Secretary General Kofi Annan had requested, and with considerably fewer staff members than Annan wanted. The new budget strengthened efforts for human rights, crime prevention and criminal justice, and humanitarian, economic and social activities.

01/07/04. TWENTY-SIX NGOS RECEIVE ASSOCIATIVE STATUS WITH UN. Forty-four others were dropped from the list of NGOs approved for association with UN's Department of Public Information. With this action, a total of 1,407 NGOs are associated with DPI. The newly approved NGOs are advocates for many issues including human rights, aging, nuclear disarmament, indigenous peoples, youth, health care and development. 32 of the groups that lost associative status were based in the United States.

01/08/04. MASS EXTINCTION LOOMS BY 2050. Global warming could force one-fourth of the globe's plant and animal extinction by 2050, according to a study published today by Leeds (UK) professor Chris Thomas and a team of scientists, called Feeling the Heat: Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. According to the Washington Post, the study marks the first time that the scientific community attempted to compute the costs of the effect of climate change on a global scale.

1/08/04. BUSH CRITICIZED FOR OVERESTIMATION OF IRAQ'S WEAPONS CAPABILITY, in an announcement by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Foundation also said that Washington should bring UN inspectors into the hunt for weapons programs. The New York Times

reported that the Bush administration has withdrawn a 400-member military team whose job was to hunt for military equipment.

1/08/04. US BUDGET DEFICIT MAY BRING WORLD UPSET, according to the International Monetary Fund, which said that the rising US deficit and imbalance of trade could cause world-wide financial instability.

1/09/04. SPIRALING CONSUMER APPETITES IS UNSUSTAINABLE, according to the annual report "State of the World 2004," released yesterday by the World Watch Institute. The rapid rise in appetites for goods and services is unsustainable and is eroding the quality of life for people worldwide. In the United States, the rate of consumption is ramped up every year, with house sizes an average of 38% larger than in 1975 and refrigerators 10% larger. For the first time, more Americans owned cars than were licensed drivers to operate them.

1/16/04. BUSH DEMANDS CHANGES IN WORLD HEALTH CHALLENGE TO OBESITY, according to a Washington Post report. The Bush administration announced yesterday that it will demand significant changes in a WHO initiative to tackle obesity, saying that the plan is based on faulty scientific evidence and exceeds the organization's mandate. According to the WHO, about 1 billion adults worldwide are overweight and at least 300 million are obese. In the United States, more than two-thirds of the adults are overweight and nearly one in three is obese. (The American fast food industry is said to be unhappy with the WHO initiative.)

To Contact Your Congressional Legislators

Senator Susan Collins

172 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: 202 224-2523 Fax: 202 224-2693
e-mail: senator@collins.senate.gov
Local Office
11 Lisbon St. Lewiston 04240
784-6969

Senator Olympia Snowe

154 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: 202 224-5344 Fax: 202 224-1946
e-mail: olympia@snowe.senate.gov
Local Office
2 Great Falls Place, Auburn 04210
786-2451

Representative Tom Allen

1717 Longworth House Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: 202 225-6116 Fax: 202-225-5590
Local Office
234 Oxford St. Portland 04101
Tel: 774-5019 Fax: 871-0770
e-mail: rep.tomallen@mail.house.gov

Representative Michael Michaud

437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: 202 225-6306 Fax: 202 225-2943
e-mail: rep.mikemichaud@mail.house.gov
Local Office
179 Lisbon St., Lewiston 04240
782-3704

Maine Chapter of the UNA/USA
11 Columbia Street
Augusta, ME 04330

