

Date: July 17, 2009  
From: Ardi Rashidi  
Subject: United Nations Association of the  
United States of America (UNA-USA)  
National Convention report, June 2009

This year's convention was organized with efficiency and effectiveness by the Council of Chapters and Divisions (CCD). The CCD leadership consists of 30 members known as the CCD Steering Committee with three representatives from each of the nine National Regions and representatives from YPIC (Young Professionals for International Corporation). The outgoing CCD Chair under whose skilled leadership the Convention was held, was Larry Levine, from Monterey Chapter, Northern California, and the newly elected National Chair for CCD, is Edward Elmendorf from the National Capital Division.

Changes to our Southern California representation at National UNA-USA for the year 2009-2011 are as follow:

**Ardishir Rashidi:** member of the CCD Steering Committee, Region 9 Director and member of the National Board of Directors of UNA-USA.

**Mel Boynton:** Member of the CCD Steering Committee and Region 9 representative.

**Esther Gellies:** Member of CCD Steering Committee and Regional Representative.

Among the significant changes in UNA-USA leadership is the leadership commencement by Ambassador Thomas J. Miller as the UNA-USA new President/CEO.

Given the atmosphere of change at UNA National, and the USA National levels, the outlook for renewed US leadership on a series of important issues is promising. These issues were presented for adoption at the Convention as Substantive Issues Resolutions a final copy of which is posted on the Division website @:

<http://una-socal.org/materials/UNA-USA-%202009%20Adopted%20Resolutions.pdf>

It will serve the mission of the organization, if a copy of these resolutions is distributed to the Region-wide Membership and through all, to our elected representatives at local and National Government leadership.

In addition to the adoption of the above resolutions, the focus was on the message by the UNA-USA new President/CEO Tom Miller. Given years of diplomatic experience serving the interests of the United States, Tom's introduction to the leadership of the UNA-USA was warmly and enthusiastically received.

Tom's message in essence, was the time has come for the UNA mission to be a vehicle for the 'win-win' relation between the United Nations and the United States.

Why this mission is important, and how can it be achieved, is what Tom reiterated the importance of strengthening relations between the National UNA and Chapters and Divisions on one hand, and strengthening the organization's financial strength through membership and outreach.

Toward these objectives, this fall, on September 31, and on October 1, Tom will be visiting our Southern California Chapters.

To highlight Tom's schedule, at this time, Santa Barbara and Pasadena are two chapters he plans to appear to expand on how we all, can work and achieve a "'win-win' relationship between the United Nations and the United States"

Ardi Rashidi