

Minutes of the Pomona Valley Chapter UNA-USA May 17, 2016 Meeting Napier Common Room, Pilgrim Place campus 5:30 PM

Welcome: Mel Boynton, Chapter President, welcomed approximately 30 members and guests, inviting them to enjoy the refreshments provided by Katie and Bob Gerecke, while thanking them.

Announcements:

- Two of our PV Chapter's interns, Leyth Swiden and Julius Kellinghusen, have graduated and, according to Mel, their plans include travel followed by attendance at Georgetown University and work with the State Department (Leyth) and participation in the Peace Corp (Julius).
- A sign-up sheet for providing refreshments was passed around with Marjorie Bray volunteering for June 21, Betsey Coffman for July 19, Charlene Martin for September 20, Adnan and Barbara Aswad for October 18 and Sally Seven for November 15.
- There are now 80 members in our PV Chapter.
- Free copies of two books were given to those desiring them: *The United Nations: Come along with me!* by Nane Annan and *Blessed Are They Who Work For Peace: Anthology of Peace Poems* by California children.
- Mel urged any non-members to join.
- June 12 – 14 – Annual National meeting, “Leadership Summit”, at the NEA headquarters in Washington DC. Mel, Art Sutton and Sylvia Whitlock will attend.
- **June 21 Chapter Meeting will feature a report from those who attended the Leadership Summit. In Napier Common Room at 5:30 PM.**
- Mel and Art are part of the tour to Israel and Palestine led by Rizek and Alice Abusharr.

SDG Review: Catherine Stickney, a new member of the chapter, shared information about Goal #4 which has ten targets subsumed within it. The goal is “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. Catherine focused on consequences of addressing the targets, especially: a reduction of poverty and birthrate along with gender equity. UNESCO directives are aimed at governments being primarily responsible for addressing the goals.

Program: Charlene Martin, Chapter Program Chair, introduced Interim Associate Vice President Dan Lewis and three of the Cal Poly MUN team: Carly Owens, Paola Quezada and Steven Zhang. The students described their individual experiences at this year's conference where they were assigned to represent Mexico. Carly, participating for her third year, was a lead delegate and worked “behind the scene”

monitoring the conference. She was additionally assigned the role of rapporteur, reporting on the World Food Program and its effect on women farmers in Mexico. Paola was awarded an “outstanding position paper” on Habitat III – Sustainability. Steven shared his ambivalence with his assignment of small arms, along with his changes of focus/study as a result of his MUN experiences. Marc Scarcelli, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Cal Poly, also participated in the meeting. During the Q/A that followed the presentation, topics included:

- Team members did not travel to Mexico nor did they meet with UN Delegates from Mexico however the Mexican Consulates were helpful with preparations.
- With increased methods of reporting, efforts at reducing the trade in small arms that Mexico receives, mostly from the United States and Russia, can be addressed. The escalation of violence, with its relationship to drug trafficking was talked about.
- NAFTA, although a “wash” for the US, is of benefit to Mexico as it wants to engage with the world, open its borders, etc.
- Globalization, i.e., McDonalds, subsistence crops, GMO penetration, preserving heritage crops and changing transportation links are intertwined.
- The MUN experience, which is a simulation of the UN, consists of extensive research and writing concise papers prior to the conference. The preparation results in the creation of resolutions with the goal of getting or them passed at the meeting. These resolutions are then passed on to the United Nations. MUN lacks the tension of the real UN. The Cal Poly students thought this year too many resolutions were passed with the attitude, “You vote for mine and I’ll vote for yours”.
- The purposes of MUN are diplomacy, national affairs and international relations. The students shared the impact of their participation in the academic competition: their awareness of being global citizens and consideration of career opportunities.
- Papers will be on the MUN website. 400 colleges, from across the globe, participated in this year’s simulation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Carolee Monroe
Secretary