



# United Nations Association of the USA

Pomona Valley Chapter — Southern California Division

UNA-USA PV Chapter Anniversary Celebration of the Chartering of the United Nations “Global Goals Local Leaders”  
October 26, 2017 7:00 PM Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College, Claremont

Bertil Lindblad, Chapter President, welcomed 130 members and guests to the local observance of the chartering of the United Nations 72 years ago. He stressed the critical need for the United Nations to act as a global forum and advocate for humanity. The Sustainable Development Goals as proposed by the UN target specific issues. The Pomona Valley Chapter’s celebration recognized three local organizations that address the issues.

Charlene Martin, Chapter Program Chair, first recognized local participants in Model United Nations. She then called on representatives of the three local organizations for their work:

*Inland Valley Hope Partners* “Feeding the Hungry and Homeless since 1968” (addresses homelessness and hunger): Tim Constantine, Chairman of the Board, talked about the vision and mission of the organization that serves 75,000 people annually. Charlene also recognized volunteers in the audience from the Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program (CHAP).

*Refugee Resettlement Teams* (provides transitional support to refugees in the Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys): Judy Kohnen, Co-Chair #2, spoke of the needs of refugee families and the local communities’ efforts to assist the families.

*Students for Sustainability* (promotes sustainability through reduced energy consumption): Tom Erb, Senior Project Manager, Pomona ’18, shared the efforts of student volunteers in the Claremont Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP).

Mel Boynton presented to each organization a framed Certificate of Appreciation from the United Nations Association of the Pomona Valley.

Dan Thomas, Special Advisor for Communications and Advocacy, UNICEF, gave a 25-year history of the planning and implementation of the global development goals which are part of the activities of the United Nations in securing international peace and protecting human rights. Films and a power point presentation reinforced the concept that all humans should do more than survive - we should thrive.

Mel Boynton, UNA-USA National Advocacy Chair, asked everyone with a smart phone to join him in messaging our Members of Congress to advocate for funding of the United Nations.

Major support for the event was provided by the International Relations Program and the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs at Pomona College. Additional financial contributions came from John Faranda, Katie Gerecke, Betty Hagelbarger, Charlene Martin, Carolee Monroe, Mel Boynton and Rizek and Alice Abusharr. Professional music was provided pro bono by Claudia Lennear and Glenn Kishi.

The hard-working planning committee consisted of Chair, Charlene Martin, Bertil Lindblad, Betty Hagelbarger, Mel Boynton, Claudia Lennear, Adnan and Barbara Aswad, Katie Gerecke, Rizek Abushaar, Laura Bouamrane, Kiroko Kimora and Bob Zeng.

Information tables from local organizations were available as were UNA materials.



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Respectfully submitted,  
Carolee Monroe, Secretary