



United Nations Association of the USA

Pomona Valley Chapter — Southern California Division

UNA-USA PV Chapter September monthly meeting September 19, 2017 7:00 PM Rose Hills Theater, Pomona College, Claremont

Welcome

Bertil Lindblad, Chapter President, welcomed 100 members and guests while apprising them of the opening of the UN General Assembly and the consideration of UN reforms to collaborate with other organizations on global issues.

Charlene Martin, Chapter VP-Programs, informed the audience that materials and representatives of local grassroots groups were in the lobby.

Chapter Event

October 26, 2017 72nd Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations 7:00 PM

Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College "Global Goals - Local Leaders" Local organizations that attend to the UN Sustainable Development Goals will be honored.

Program

Dr. Tanja Srebotnjak, Hixon Center for Sustainable Environmental Design, Harvey Mudd College was introduced by Dan Peterson. Her topic, "Top-down v. Bottom-Up Climate Change Action: Is the Paris Agreement worth keeping?", considered the plans and efforts of sub-national and foreign entities to successfully implement changes that will lower green house gas emissions after the withdrawal of the United States from the accord. Over a span of 25 years, nine summit meetings on emissions culminated in the Paris agreement. Although the goal of accord will not meet the needed lower emission standard, the accord has led to signatory nations taking action. The recent withdrawal of the United States has prompted a groundswelling of activities to replace much of the federal government's work. Srebotnjak advocates keeping the Paris accord as it is "a truly global agreement" with political implications for low-carbon policies. It can galvanize action on all levels and can be a stepping stone for future binding agreements. In this way, local, small-scale, bottom-up activities can be merged into national and international frameworks. Srebotnjak admitted that the effort to reduce greenhouse gases would be easier if the United States led. A question/answer session followed.