



**UNA ★ USA**  
Johnson County Chapter

News and Events

c/o JC UNA  
308 E. Burlington St, #245  
Iowa City, IA 52240

September 2020

## Board of Directors

Nancy Allendorf (2020)  
Mercedes Bern-Klug (2021)  
Bob Burnham (2020)  
Nittaya Burnham (2020)  
Joyce Carman-Baldus (2020)  
Barbara Eckstein (2021)  
John W. Fuller (2020)  
Katy Hansen (2020)  
Jean Lloyd-Jones (2020)  
Britta Loftus (2020)  
Jean Paul Mugemuzi (2021)  
Jim Olson (2020)  
Dorothy M. Paul (2020)  
Blake Rupe (2021)  
Janice Weiner (2020)  
Bev Witwer (2020)  
UI Campus Chapter  
Carolina Herrera

## Board Nominations

We are seeking potential nominees to serve on the Johnson County Chapter Board of Directors. We especially want to diversify our board so that it reflects the population of Johnson County. For more information and to submit names of possible nominees (you or someone else), please email the chapter at [johnsoncountyuna@gmail.com](mailto:johnsoncountyuna@gmail.com). The election for the board will be held by mail ballot prior to the annual meeting.

# Calendar of Events

**September 17-18, 9:00 am**



*Craig Mokhiber*

**Craig Mokhiber**, Chief, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking as part of the **Iowa Aging Summit**, hosted by the UI School of Social Work, Aging and Longevity Studies Program. We are invited to take part in any or all of this virtual conference.

To register and receive the Zoom link, Sept 17 and 18, visit: [iowaaging.org](http://iowaaging.org)

**September 21, 12:00 Noon**

**International Day of Peace.** Mayor Teague of Iowa City is asking all residents of Iowa City and Johnson County to observe a minute of silence on September 21, the International Day of Peace.

**UN Week in October:** United Nations Day joint event with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council. Date and speaker to be announced

**November 8, 1:30 pm**



*Shane Loeffler*

**Johnson County UNA Annual Meeting, Keynote Speaker: Shane Loeffler**, climate activist, Antarctic researcher, Polar and Geospatial Research Center, University of Minnesota

Email: [johnsoncountyUNA@gmail.com](mailto:johnsoncountyUNA@gmail.com) for for Zoom link

## From the President

by Jim Olson

Our work is more important than ever.

Although the Democratic Party Platform contains positive language on U.S. leadership at the UN, no speaker at the party's national convention mentioned the world body, aside from the promise to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement (that's good, but only a first step).

Day One of the Republican National Convention featured Nikki Haley denouncing the UN as a place "where dictators, murderers and thieves denounce America and then put their hands out and demand that we pay their bills."

The Democrats' near silence and the Republicans' anti-UN rhetoric ignore the reality that most Americans believe the UN is a useful organization. The Better World Campaign's most recent public opinion poll shows that 88% of America voters believe that it's important for the U.S. to maintain an active role within the United Nations.

With the U.S. elections on the horizon, it is important for every citizen to make a plan to vote. It is also important to tell current officeholders and candidates that there is a constituency for constructive U.S. leadership in the United Nations.



# Trump Withdraws U.S. from WHO

by Katy Hansen

President Trump and his fight against the World Health Organization (WHO) was widely reported in the news. The WHO is another of President Trump's favorite whipping boys so he can remain blameless for not dealing with Covid-19.

Trump is withdrawing from the WHO. The process takes about a year, but hopefully the next president will stop the process and bring us back in.

The United States was instrumental in creating the WHO in 1948. The WHO has eradicated smallpox worldwide, nearly eradicated polio and expanded basic health care services worldwide in low income countries. When the world is experiencing a global pandemic, it seems unreasonable to withdraw from the international organization dealing with health issues and coordinating the international response.

All United Nations organizations operate under the guidance of its 193 member states, and it is not always easy to manage everyone's interest. Furthermore, all the UN agencies are set up to find the truth and not simply the views of the

major funders.

The WHO website provides perhaps the best information about the coronavirus. If anyone wants to find the best information, it is best to look for an independent source, and the World Health Organization provides it to. See: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

On this website you can see the latest news and advice for both the public and health-care workers, technical guidance, updates and the latest research and development. You can also watch the WHO press conferences for the latest updates on the global response to #COVID19, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 15 GMT or 10:00 CDT.

The withdrawal of the United States from the WHO would cut its funding significantly. As a result, what the WHO can accomplish will inevitably be reduced as well.

The U.S. also provides information on COVID-19 at the CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The U.S. website includes significant information on the situation in the United States, but it is not quite as easy to find what you need as with the WHO site.

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## *From the President (continued)*

I write this message in late August during a severe surge of reported COVID -19 cases in our county and two weeks after the

derecho swept across our state. I hope you and your family are healthy and safe.

# The UN Turns 75

by Jim Olson

Representatives of the 193 UN member states will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world organization by holding a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Monday, September 21. The theme will be “The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism.”

A high point of the session will be the formal adoption of a Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, negotiated earlier this year. The declaration states that the UN “has helped mitigate dozens of conflicts, saved hundreds of thousands of lives through humanitarian action and provided millions of children with the education that every child deserves. It has worked to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the equal rights of men and women.”

Yet, the declaration also notes that there have been “moments of disappointment” and the world is plagued with “growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, climate change, and pandemics.”

The declaration calls for “strengthened international cooperation,” and concludes with several paragraphs outlining commitments to protect the planet, promote peace and prevent conflicts, abide by international law, place women and

girls at the center, build trust, and improve digital cooperation. Finally, the declaration pledges to “upgrade the United Nations,” to make it “more agile, effective, and accountable.”

The text states that the declaration is a response to the Global Conversation launched by the Secretary-General to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Here in the United States, UNA-USA hosted community level consultations in all 50 states, engaging nearly 2,000 people. Participants addressed three questions: “Are we on track to secure a better world?” “What kind of future do we want to create?” and “What action is needed for a brighter future?”

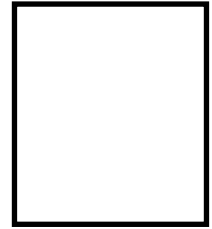
In Iowa, consultations were held with students at Drake University, and Iowans participated in a national virtual consultation in June (a planned in-person consultation in Johnson County was cancelled due to the pandemic). This summer, UNA-USA issued a report summarizing the consultations. Participants expressed a widespread sense of concern: 77% expect a worse world in 2045 based on current trends. Almost half reported that education, reduced inequalities, climate action, and “peace, justice, and strong institutions” are essential. The report

calls for increased activism and advocacy at all levels.

To read the entire report on the U.S. UN75 consultations, visit [unausa.org](http://unausa.org).

*As a founding member of the United Nations, the United States plays a vital role in promoting peace and upholding human rights around the world. Urge your members of Congress to support strong U.S. leadership at the UN.*

**UN75**  
**2020 AND BEYOND**



**Address Service Requested**

**September 15 is the International Day of Democracy**  
**VOTE!**

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

Although the word "democracy" does not appear in the UN Charter, one of the UN's achievements in the last 75 years has been to promote fair and free elections, especially in countries recovering from conflict.

We urge everyone to register and vote in the November 3rd General Election. During the pandemic you

may safely vote by mail. Voter registration forms and absentee ballot request forms are available at:

[johnson-county.com](http://johnson-county.com).

Ballots will be mailed to those who request them beginning October 5th. Then mail in your completed ballot as soon as possible.

**Johnson County UNA Membership Renewal Form**

**Please be certain your membership is up to date!**

Membership Rates: \$50 Regular Member, \$25 Introductory Member

Student memberships are free if application is made through GenUN at <http://genun.unausa.org/>

Please return the information below with your check to the address below. **Make check to: UNA-USA**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Circle: New Renew

Send to: UNA

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