Dear WACHH Members and Friends,

These past months have been a time of change with many challenges. We started the 2019-2020 Program year with record membership and high attendance at our first ten Friday Speaker events. We also successfully completed Fall Forum, the Model United Nations (MUN) conferences and Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) competition, three Evening Speaker Series events, and most of the Great Decisions discussions. Then, Island life came to an almost full stop.

As we look to the 2020-2021 Program Year, we will begin our Friday Speaker presentations using high-quality webinars until First Presbyterian Church can once again welcome us in-person. Our new lineup of 14 outstanding speakers will provide valuable insights for a new or continuing administration, unique views on global issues, and expertise on technology and cyberspace.

We know you value the experience of being part of a large, local audience interacting with fellow Council members and asking thoughtful questions. We recognize that remote technology is not a complete substitute, but we are committed to offering the best available webinar format with an interactive Q&A for members to participate in real time. So, keep your enthusiasm as we bring you excellent speakers addressing critical topics of our times.

Currently, we are proceeding with Fall Forum and Great Decisions with the hope that these small groups will be able to meet in safe surroundings. The Evening Speaker Series is in the planning stages and Model UN and Academic WorldQuest await school decisions as to their start dates. Thank you, loyal and understanding Council members.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we begin an exciting new program year. Stay safe and healthy!

JOHN GILBERT
Board President

In lieu of our Annual Meeting this year given COVID-19 restrictions, we have decided to publish an Annual Report. We hope members will enjoy reading this summary of Council programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To keep members abreast of developments in international affairs, including U.S. national interests, through educational programming and participation in Council-sponsored events.
- To reach beyond the Council’s membership to the wider community to provide information on international affairs and its effect on global policies.

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Notable! Remarkable! Extraordinary!

These are the words that come to mind when we think of the WACHH 2019-2020 season.

First, we completed our 39th year of bringing you educational opportunities, a notable milestone for any organization to achieve.

Second, we had a record number of members—1170 to be exact! Thank you, our extraordinary members, for telling your friends and family about our program. Your referrals are our #1 source of new members.

Third, we averaged a record number of attendees—over 600 people per Friday event at the church (high 750/low 500). Remarkable!

And last, despite that nasty pandemic’s efforts to shut us down, we were able to quickly adapt to the situation and still provide our members the opportunity to hear the final three speakers.

It wasn’t always smooth sailing, but we are adjusting to our ever-changing environment and will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure we provide you with the highest quality programming possible. Honestly, we can’t wait until we see you all back at First Presbyterian Church and hope that will be soon. In the meantime, we will be video recording all our Friday programs in their entirety and members can log into our website and view them at any time from any place.

We thank you for helping us get through this challenging year, and hope you will renew your membership for the upcoming year. We look forward to celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2021 and are planning some fun activities to commemorate our legacy.
Note from the Treasurer:
During our fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, WACHHI’s cash receipts were $2,700 greater than cash expenditures. The favorable variance is due largely to reduction in expenses resulting from COVID-19 impacts. Three Friday speakers were presented remotely with a reduction of travel and venue rental cost, and the National AWQ competition in Washington D.C. was cancelled. Otherwise, expenses would have exceeded revenues by a substantial amount. Expenditures are depicted in the accompanying chart with fixed compensation cost allocated to expense categories. Neither revenues nor expenses include the immeasurable value of the unpaid hours and services of our volunteers, committee and board members.
Looking Forward

WACHH is a membership driven organization that relies primarily on dues to fund our programs. We are unlike many other Councils across the United States that are affiliated with universities or funded through corporate sponsorships. We keep dues affordable in order to make our programs available to everyone in our community. Our members get immense value for their membership. So, tell your friends and neighbors about WACHH and the quality programs we offer and encourage them to join today. Without members, there is no Council!

MEET JORDAN

“I loved participating in the National Academic WorldQuest competition in Washington, DC in 2019. It was a bigger setting, with more competitors, and the questions were harder. It was cool to meet other AWQ students from around the country with similar interests.

By being a part of this program, I realized that you can have fun learning about current events and world politics. I am more interested in the topics that we studied, especially South Korea and Qatar and will continue to follow them in the news.”

Jordan Wilhelm
Member of the Bluffton HS Team
Winners of Beaufort County AWQ competition in 2019 & 2020
Leadership

Board of Directors
John Gilbert, President
Regina Silletti, Vice President
David Borghesi, Treasurer
Colin Moseley
Joan Apple Lemoine *
Jeff Stokes
Ivan Bennett
Cathy Robine
Rick Mitchell

*World Affairs Council of America Board member

Committee Chairs
Friday Speaker Series - Colin Moseley
Membership - Joan Apple Lemoine
Development - Rick Mitchell
Great Decisions - Lee Wilwerding
Fall Forum - Colin Moseley
Academic WorldQuest - Ivan Bennett
Model UN - Regina Silletti
Evening Speaker Series - Jeff Stokes
Summer Forum - Lynn Miller & Michele Dallas

Staff
Maureen Korzik, Executive Director
Tracey Mrozek, Administrative Assistant

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All our wonderful volunteers whose help is greatly appreciated.

"We have to be the best global citizens that we can be." - Thomas Friedman