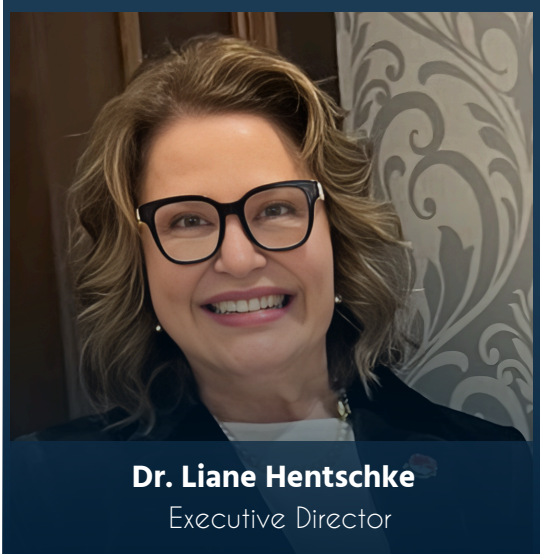




# May 2025 Newsletter



**Dr. Liane Hentschke**  
Executive Director



LEARN MORE



## From the Executive Director

Dear TNWAC Members and Sponsors,

The month of May has been marked by significant activity, including an international visit to Qatar aimed at exploring potential partnerships, not only for the Tennessee World Affairs Council, but also for other councils within the U.S.

I would like to highlight the Qatar Foundation as a particularly inspiring organization. Deeply committed to educating young people, including those with special needs, the Foundation prioritizes research and development in its mission to advance Qatar as a knowledge-based society. Qatar is home to campuses of prominent American universities such as Carnegie Mellon University and Georgetown University and continues to play a meaningful role as a diplomatic mediator in global conflict resolution efforts.

We are also honored this month to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors: Ms. Carolyn Buccerone, Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel at AllianceBernstein. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Carolyn as she joins TNWAC in our mission to promote global affairs education.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Admiral Michael Rogers for his keynote address, delivered in partnership with the Pinnacle Partners Forum Series. Moderated by Karl Dean, the event was attended by more than 220 individuals eager to deepen their understanding of global affairs and the implications for our nation's future.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin announcing our Summer/Fall 2025 season of the Distinguished Speakers Series in June, along with new developments in our education initiative, *Student Leaders Without Borders in Schools*.

Thank you for your continued support,

## Explore International Careers

### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

They serve as journalists who report news from abroad, covering international events, conflicts, politics, and cultural stories. They work for newspapers, TV stations, or online media, providing firsthand accounts and in-depth analysis from the field. Foreign correspondents often live in or travel to foreign countries, navigating language barriers, political tensions, and challenging environments to deliver accurate and timely information to audiences back home.

### INTERNATIONAL LAYWER

They specialize in legal issues that cross national borders, such as trade, treaties, human rights, immigration, and international disputes. They may work for global law firms, governments, corporations, or international organizations like the UN or WTO. Their work involves drafting agreements, advising clients on international laws, and representing parties in global legal matters. International lawyers often navigate complex legal systems and cultural differences to help resolve conflicts and ensure compliance with international regulations.

## Welcome our newest Board Member!



We are thrilled to welcome **Carolyn Buccerone** (*Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel* at AllianceBernstein), as our newest board member!

Before joining AllianceBernstein, Carolyn served as Legal Counsel at UBS. She earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law in 2004.

## Last Month, We Welcomed:



(2) new members

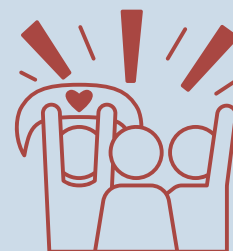


(1) new donor

## May Event Stats:



(1) webinar



(2) in-person events





## Guest Columnist

"To Know the World" has been the World Affairs Council's slogan and, indeed, the unwritten mission statement since its founding in 2007. A then recent NatGeo survey validated conventional wisdom that Americans' knowledge of the world fell short of what should be expected of the sole global superpower's citizens.

Since then the global landscape has been turned upside down. America's influence, prosperity and security in a very dangerous world requires citizens who are knowledgeable about global issues. A Council on Foreign Relations study showed we could answer just over half of global questions correctly and only six percent scored 80 points.

Knowing the world is not an abstract hobby for elites and academics. America's situation in the world of 2025 — economic turmoil, threats of conflict, undermined alliances — all augur for world smartness. It's all the more important when false information, deceptions and lies fill the media universe. How, for example, should people sort through questions like, who really pays expenses stemming from foreign goods tariffs or what is the impact of funding cuts to life-saving humanitarian aid abroad?

How then will Americans navigate a complex world with just half the knowledge necessary? It's time to address global studies programs and activities in our schools, expand public speaker programs, ask our elected officials to openly discuss their positions on global issues and to change the score. It's time for Tennesseans to get a passing grade, to "know the world."

**Patrick Ryan, LCDR, USN(Ret)**

President Emeritus and founding President of TNWAC

## Board Member Highlight: Jim Shepard



TNWAC invited Jim Shepard to serve as its first Chair of the Board from 2017-2022, as the organization expanded its programs and established itself in its new home in Nashville. Jim's international business leadership experience was key to building TNWAC's focus, which he said was to "connect us to the world at a time when America faces serious and sometimes grave challenges economically, politically, and militarily."

He has also served as Chairman of the International Business Council of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2017. Jim currently serves on the Tennessee Advisory Board of the US Global Leadership Coalition.



## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



### DISCOVER THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

June 25 - July 1



### GREECE, CROATIA & ALBANIA

June 28 - July 5

REGISTER NOW



## Support TNWAC

As a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, our mission is to **promote international awareness, understanding**, and connections to enhance the region's global stature and to prepare Tennesseans to thrive in our increasingly complex and interconnected world.

1

Bring a friend to one of our events and encourage them to join us as a member!

2

Introduce our team to an expert in your network to join us as a speaker in 2025!

3

Encourage businesses you love to join TNWAC as a corporate member or sponsor!



### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

**The Frontlines of Trade Why  
Global Supply Chains Are  
America's National Interest**

Mike Honious (*President and CEO,  
GEODIS' Americas region*)

REGISTER  
NOW



## Sponsor Highlight

**BASS BERRY SIMS** PLC

Bass, Berry & Sims is committed to delivering exceptional legal counsel with integrity, innovation, and a deep understanding of its clients' industries. With a legacy of excellence and a forward-looking approach, they serve clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to dynamic startups across a wide spectrum of sectors. Their team of experienced attorneys is dedicated to providing strategic solutions that help clients navigate legal challenges and achieve their business goals.

*Thank you for your support!*

## TNWAC 2025 Programming Goals

