



July 2025 Newsletter



Dr. Liane Hentschke
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

July was a month of preparation for what promises to be an exceptional season of the Distinguished Speakers Series. Several of our featured speakers are highlighted in this edition, with more details available on our website. The world is experiencing rapid change—wars and conflicts, peace negotiations, and shifting trade relations—making it increasingly challenging to stay informed. NWAC programs are designed to help our community navigate these developments, bringing leading voices from Tennessee and across the nation to address issues of global importance.

In this issue, we also recognize the Honorable Karl Dean, former Mayor of Nashville, Chairman of TNWAC, and member of the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Councils of America in Washington, D.C. His leadership continues to strengthen our mission and impact.

We warmly invite our supporters to become members of TNWAC. We are preparing new exclusive benefits, including opportunities to meet speakers in informal settings, attend sponsored networking receptions, and enjoy other members-only events. For those whose memberships have expired, we encourage you to contact us to confirm your status and renew your participation.

July also marked the launch of our new volunteer campaign, which welcomed talented students from Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities, as well as seasoned professionals. These volunteers have already begun contributing to projects and bringing new energy to our team.

Thank you for your continued commitment to TNWAC's mission of fostering global awareness and understanding.

Explore International Careers

LEGAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Explore a prestigious opportunity at the United Nations as the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. This high-level role involves advising the Secretary-General on key legal issues and overseeing critical areas such as international law, guiding legal research, treaties, peacekeeping mandates, and supporting critical UN legal bodies like the International Law Commission. Ideal for seasoned legal professionals with extensive international experience, this position offers a chance to shape global governance at the highest level.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSISTANT

As an Emergency Response Assistant, you will support global nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response efforts. This role is perfect for detail-oriented professionals eager to make a difference on the international stage. Responsibilities include coordinating logistics, maintaining emergency response tools and databases, and assisting with training and exercise programs. If you're passionate about global safety and thrive in high-stakes environments, this is a unique opportunity to contribute to international security and crisis response.

Sponsor Highlight

BANK OF AMERICA 

Bank of America's philanthropic efforts focus on fostering economic mobility and opportunity, particularly in areas like basic needs, workforce development, and community development. Thanks to partners like them, we can engage more Tennesseans in global affairs and better prepare the next generation of leaders for an more interconnected and diverse world.

Thank you for your support!

Last Month, We Welcomed:



10 NEW MEMBERS



2 NEW DONORS

Welcome Our New Volunteers!



Jennifer
Gheorghe



Janet
Reyes



Amy
Hilton



Hunter
Wanamaker



Mary Jess
Holt



Ashley
Wickland



Gabriela
Ledesma

Thank you

Save the date & join us at the 2025 WACA Conference!



Join Councils from across the United States in Washington, D.C., as we take stock of the world and explore what balance means in this pivotal moment on **November 19-21**. Standard ticket pricing is open until September 26.

 **REGISTER NOW**



Guest Columnist

TNWAC's summer break will end on Wednesday, August 20 at the offices of Holland & Knight with a lecture by Nonresident Senior Fellow at the [Atlantic Council](#) Dexter Tiff Roberts, who will deliver his take on China's Push for Superpower Status in a World in Turmoil. As the Trump Administration focuses on a more narrow, less multilateral, and pre-World War 2 definition of America's national interest, many experts suspect that our principal rival, the People's Republic of China, will move to fill in an America-sized void.

Furthermore, TNWAC will be hosting two online webinar near the end of August, the first discussing the Greenland and the Geopolitics of the Arctic, a clearly hot topic in the news these days as President Trump has refused to rule out [military force](#) against the vast but sparsely-populated Danish island, and another about Olympics and the geopolitics of global sport.

On September 10 TNWAC will present a webinar with two renowned Polish experts on Russia and Ukraine from the Polish Institute of Eastern Studies (OSW), Tadeusz Iwanski and Witold Rodkiewicz, on the Polish perspective of the War in Ukraine. Since Poland and Ukraine have shared centuries of a highly complex relationship, I believe it is vital to understand the perspective of Ukraine's most critical western neighbor.

Shortly after I returned from Poland in June, the Polish people delivered a shock electoral outcome, handing the Polish presidency to little-known historian and amateur boxer Karol Nawrocki over the haute-monde Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski. On my blog cheekily entitled Waitt, What you can read my [assessment](#) of how Nawrocki pulled off this stunning upset and subscribe to several other entertaining articles about geopolitics penned by yours truly. Happy August everyone!

Samuel Waite

Member of Board of Directors

Board Member Highlight: **Karl Dean**



With great appreciation and pride, the Tennessee World Affairs Council recognizes Karl Dean for his outstanding leadership and steadfast commitment to our mission of connecting Tennesseans with the world. Since joining the Board of Directors in 2015, Karl has brought a wealth of experience, insight, and passion for global engagement that has significantly elevated the impact of TNWAC. As former Mayor of Nashville and a lifelong advocate for civic and international understanding, Karl's perspective has been invaluable in guiding our strategic vision. Now serving as Board Chair, his dedication to public service and global dialogue continues to inspire our work and drive our mission forward.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



ISTANBUL & THE TURQUOISE COAST

Aug 31 - Sep 10



PROVENCE, FRANCE

Sep 6 - Sep 14

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!



AUG 20

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

China's Push for Superpower Status in a World in Turmoil

Dexter Roberts (*Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council*)



AUG 27

WEBINAR SERIES

The power of the Olympic brand and the geopolitics of global sport

Terrence H. Burns (*Chairman and Owner, T. Burns Sports Group, LLC*)



SEP 3

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Truly a Turning Point? Europe's New View of Transatlantic Security

Robin Quinville (*Former Director - Global Europe Program, The Wilson Center*)



SEP 18

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Trump 2.0: US Policy Shifts Amid a Changing Middle East Landscape

Brian Katulis (*Senior Fellow of US Foreign Policy, The Middle East Institute*)

TNWAC 2025 Programming Goals

