



**Dr. Liane Hentschke**  
Executive Director

## From the Executive Director

Greetings from the Tennessee World Affairs Council! As we mark 18 years of TNWAC, this milestone offers a timely opportunity to reflect on where we are and where we're headed. On September 26, our Chairman, Karl Dean, opened a special strategy session of the Board of Directors, welcoming Ralph Schulz, former President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, to facilitate a high-level conversation on TNWAC's strategic direction.

We are fortunate to have a visionary Board, committed to advancing TNWAC's mission and expanding our impact across Tennessee.

These planning sessions will continue in the coming months, leading to the launch of a new strategic and operational plan that will guide the Council into its next chapter.

September was an exceptional month for our Distinguished Speakers Series. We hosted two outstanding keynote speakers: Robin Quinville, who offered critical insights on the evolving landscape of transatlantic security; and Brian Katulis, who provided a sharp analysis of U.S. policy shifts in the Middle East. Both sessions delivered the kind of deep, informed discussion that defines TNWAC programming.

Looking ahead, October promises to be one of our busiest months yet, with:

- Two Distinguished Speakers
- Two webinars
- A Global Eats dinner
- And a Happy Hour sponsored by Trinetix

These events offer fantastic opportunities to connect, exchange ideas, and experience Nashville's rich multicultural community, including its diverse culinary offerings. Check our website, [tnwac.org](http://tnwac.org).

We hope to see you at an upcoming event, and as always, thank you for being part of the TNWAC community. Become a member today!

All the best,

## Explore International Careers

### PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS OFFICER

As a Peacekeeping Operations Officer, you help design, coordinate, and monitor international missions that support peace and security. You'll work with multiple UN bodies, including mission leadership, military and civilian components, and local governments, to ensure that missions meet their mandate goals. Key tasks include conflict mediation, assessing security and human rights risks, liaising with stakeholders, and adapting operations to evolving ground realities.

### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS / DEVELOPMENT POLICY OFFICER

In this role, you support sustainable development by analyzing macroeconomic trends, advising governments or UN agencies on policy, preparing reports & recommendations, and helping integrate the UN 2030 Agenda into national and regional strategies. You work on topics like poverty reduction, inclusive growth, trade policy, and social protection, often collaborating across technical disciplines and geographic regions.

## Volunteer Spotlight:



### Janet Reyes

Meet Janet Reyes, a dedicated TNWAC volunteer whose passion for global engagement shines through in everything she does. Originally from

Havana, Cuba, and born in the United States, Janet is completing her graduate degree in International Business at Belmont University, with graduation scheduled for this December. Her ambition to become a U.S. diplomat drives her commitment to understanding international affairs. Through attending TNWAC programs and connecting with experienced diplomats, Janet continues to deepen her knowledge of global issues and strengthen her skills for a future career in diplomacy. Thank you for all your support!

## Did You Know?

The World Trade Organization (WTO) brings together 164 member countries, representing over 98% of global trade. Its mission is to create a fair, transparent, and predictable system of international trade by administering agreements, settling disputes, and promoting economic cooperation worldwide.

## Sponsor Highlight

We extend our sincere thanks to Holland & Knight for their generous sponsorship and steadfast support. Their dedication to education, civic engagement, and global awareness strengthens our mission to connect Tennesseans with the world. Thanks to partners like Holland & Knight, we can foster informed dialogue, empower students, and prepare the next generation of leaders to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and complex global landscape.



*Thank you for your support!*

# Guest Columnist

*The views and opinions expressed in our guest column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tennessee World Affairs Council.*



## Why Global Engagement Matters for Tennessee

One of my passions is staying connected to the global conversations that shape our world. For more than 30 years, I've been involved with World Affairs Councils in different parts of the country, and I've seen firsthand how they enrich communities by making international issues accessible and relevant. In today's environment, those issues aren't abstract. They directly affect our local economy, our security, and our future leadership role among world nations. That's why the work of the Tennessee World Affairs Council (TNWAC) is so important to me.

Through TNWAC, Nashville (together with Knoxville and Memphis) has a forum for timely, thought-provoking dialogue. The Council convenes foreign policy experts, diplomats, business leaders, and others influencing our community, giving Tennesseans insights that are often only available in academic halls or major global cities. This opportunity keeps us well-informed and better prepared to understand how international developments connect to our lives here in Middle Tennessee. For me, staying engaged fuels my excitement for Global Nashville, a city defined not only by music and hospitality but increasingly by healthcare leadership and its role as a preferred destination for global companies, talent, and innovation.

The Council's upcoming programs illustrate this momentum. In October, Mike Honious, former President & CEO of GEODIS Americas, will explore how resilient logistics systems fuel America's economy, security, and independence—and why supply chains are now a national priority. Soon after, CMA CEO Sarah Trahern will highlight how Nashville's signature cultural export is booming worldwide, strengthening our global brand and opening new opportunities for artists. And in November, Commissioner Stuart McWhorter will outline Tennessee's strategy for international investment, underscoring how state leadership, business, and community partners work together to make our state a trusted player on the global stage. Together, these conversations reveal the convergence of international logistics, cultural influence, and government strategy—all reinforcing Nashville's rise as a city of global consequence.

As a TNWAC board member, I've seen firsthand how these discussions strengthen our city's identity as a global hub and equip us to thrive in a world where the local and International are inseparably linked.

But this mission depends on support. TNWAC is a nonprofit, and its programs are possible only through the generosity of people who believe it matters for Tennessee to stay engaged globally. If, like me, you believe our region benefits when we understand and embrace our global connections, I invite you to make a gift today.

**Bill Diebenow**

Member of Board of Directors





## Board Member Highlight: **Celeste Wilson**

This month, we are honored to highlight Celeste Wilson, a dedicated Board member whose career has been deeply rooted in strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship. From her early experience as an exchange student in Japan to earning degrees in Japanese studies from Duke University and Johns Hopkins SAIS, Celeste has cultivated a lifelong commitment to cross-cultural understanding.

In addition to her international work, Celeste brought her talents to the United Way of Greater Nashville, where she led the Tocqueville Society major donor program for over a decade. Her blend of global perspective and community impact makes her an invaluable asset to TNWAC's mission.

## SEPTEMBER RECAP

Thank you to all who joined us for our two Distinguished Speaker Series Luncheons at Bass, Berry & Sims.

We were honored to welcome Robin Quinville, Former Director of the Global Europe Program at The Wilson Center, who provided valuable insights on Europe's shifting defense posture, NATO's evolving role, and the transatlantic response to Russia's aggression.

We also had the privilege of hosting Brian Katulis, Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy, who shared perspectives on U.S. foreign policy priorities, global challenges, and opportunities for international cooperation.

Additionally, on September 19, we were delighted to host Lori Becker, a prominent figure in Nashville's civic and business community, for a special webinar. Her session offered thought-provoking perspectives on leadership and community engagement. If you missed it, you can watch the full recording here: [Watch on YouTube](#).





Curious about what you'll experience at a TNWAC Distinguished Speakers Series Luncheon?

Check out our introductory program [video here!](#)

## Last Month, We Welcomed:



**5 NEW MEMBERS**



**7 NEW DONORS**

## This Month's Highlights

Our events bring together leading voices shaping today's global challenges. If you missed it, don't worry—you can still catch the highlights in this short video recap.



### Careers at State: Updates to the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT)

The U.S. Department of State has revamped the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT), debuting from October 18 to 25, 2025, with new logic and reasoning sections, streamlined requirements, and closer alignment with diplomatic service needs.



## 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.





## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



### ANTARCTICA DIRECT: SAIL AND FLY THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Nov 07 - Nov 16



### CUBA AND ITS PEOPLE ~ HAVANA

Nov 28 - Dec 05

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 Global Country Music Scene in 2025

Sarah Trahern (*Chief Executive Officer,  
The Country Music Association - CMA*)

OCT 15



### HAPPY HOUR & NETWORKING EVENT Enjoy drinks and small bites while exploring Trinetix's new media studio, collaboration space, and event venue in Brentwood.

OCT 23



### GLOBAL EATS

The Russia-Ukraine War – Ripples  
Across Central Asia, Influences  
from the Past, Implications for the  
Present and Future

Featured Speaker: Mark Reese (*President &  
CEO, Suhbat LLC*)

OCT 28

## TNWAC 2025 Programming Goals

