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**UNA-USA Southern New York State Division** 

Dear UNA-USA Southern New York State Division Board Members, Members, Volunteers, Interns and Friends,

Happy Holidays, warm winter greetings and best wishes for 2011.

I am writing to follow up on our Annual Meeting, held last week.

1/ **NEW BOARD MEMBER:** We voted to elect Michele Clarke-Ceres to the Board. She brings great enthusiasm for working with us to enhance our programs and membership. Her knowledge of the UN, as well as her great participation with the Division and several chapters as the NY State Governor's Honorary Chair for UN Day make her a great addition to the board.

2/ AREA COUNCILS OF ORGANIZATIONS: Aaron Etra, Co-Chair of the UNA-USA Council of Organizations (COO), and Robert Klein, a member of its Executive Board, joined us to present information about the COO. A copy of the Manual for Area Councils of Organizations has been sent to the Board. If you would like to have a copy, please email me.

We need to decide whether we want a Division-Wide COO, or whether individual chapters will want to establish county-wide COOs. This can be discussed at our <u>next board meeting</u>, <u>scheduled for January</u> 24.

3/ MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE / MEMBERS DAY AT THE UN - FEBRUARY 11, 2011: Save the Date, and plan to attend. Registration information will be available soon on the www.unausa.org website, and we will post this on the Division's blog.

An exciting list of speakers has been invited, and we look forward to their participation. A list will be published soon on the Division's blog and on the UNA-USA website.

The theme of the conference is "The United Nations and America: Relations in a Complex World." Panel discussions will focus on energy and climate change; new dimensions in health, gender and development; Africa, investment and the UN; and Afghanistan: Is a negotiated settlement possible? Meron Demisse, chair of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation group, is putting together an excellent lunchtime session on international careers. You are also invited to a parallel discussion on chapter development and skills. This will be a mainly open discussion, with lots of time to share information.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer with the conference, please get in touch with George Garland, Executive Director of the Conference: <a href="mailto:gagarland@gmail.com">gagarland@gmail.com</a>, or call him at (917) 736-5388.

4/ **UPDATES ON THE DIVISION BLOG**: <a href="http://unasouthernny.wordpress.com">http://unasouthernny.wordpress.com</a> We continue to publish John Carey's UN Week. If you have information to contribute, please send it to me.

5/ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DEVELOP DIVISION CHAPTERS:** The Division is seeking volunteers to assist with the following areas: Mid-Hudson Valley; The Bronx; Nassau and Suffolk. If you have some time, please get in touch with me and I will put you in touch with others working on these areas.

On behalf of the Board of the Southern New York State Division, I wish you a wonderful Holiday season and hope you enjoy celebrations with your family and friends.

Warm regards,

## Ginger

Jeanne Betsock Stillman President, UNA-USA Southern NY State Division

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http://unasouthernny.wordpress.com (blog)

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