

Updates from **UNA Maine**. Our UN Association Chapter's mission is to inform, inspire and mobilize United States support for the principles and vital work of the United Nations.

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UNA ★ USA

Maine Chapter



USA Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be Keynote Speaker on June 7. Plus, learn about how and why to urge our representatives in Congress to fully support the UN.

There is still plenty of time to sign up for the UNA-USA sponsored "**Week of Action, June 6-11**". The "week" starts off both Sunday and Monday at 4 PM, with advocacy training, and live programming, including keynote speaker **Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield** on Monday addressing the US Administration's top priorities for American engagement at the UN. Early Tuesday morning (8:45 AM to 10 AM), UNA-USA staff will help us gear up for virtual meetings with our Senators/their staff (at pre-arranged times, between 10 AM and 2 PM). On Wednesday, a similar morning gathering will prepare us for meeting with our House representatives/their staff either that day and/or Thursday. On the final day, Friday, from 4 PM to 5 PM there is a Closing Celebration. To read more about this opportunity, and to register, visit: <https://unausa.org/events/2021-week-of-action/>

At least three board members from the Maine Chapter are already registered. You will not be alone for any meetings, and you can choose your available times. UNA-USA staff will help. If you are not currently a UNA member, you may join at the same time you register for this program. Please be sure to indicate "Maine" as your chapter!

MEET THE AMBASSADOR!



Linda Thomas-Greenfield, age 68, born in Baker, Louisiana, the oldest of eight children, was sworn in as our 31st Ambassador to the UN on February 24, 2021. She joined the US State Department in 1982 and rose to become assistant secretary of state for African affairs, from 2013 to 2017. Throughout her career she has represented the US in such countries as Liberia, Pakistan, Kenya, Nigeria and Jamaica. She also worked on refugee and migration issues, at the US mission to the UN in Geneva. She has been described by her former supervisors as brilliant, a skilled diplomat, and is known for her compassion, kindness, and commitment to democracy, good governance, human rights and anticorruption.

MAINE MODEL UN CONFERENCE (MeMUNC) MAY 13-14, 2021

- Thanks to the **University of Southern Maine**, and **MeMUNC Director Timothy Ruback**, and sponsors named below, the Conference returned from a one year hiatus, in a new form!
- An experimental, fully-online year due to Covid -- and while smaller than in the past, it was an enthusiastic group of High School participants from all over Maine. This year brought out a larger percentage of freshman participants, which bodes well for future years.
- Participants were greeted in the opening ceremonies by pre-recorded welcomes from: Dr. Nirav Shah of the Maine CDC; Henry Beck, Maine State Treasurer (and former Model UN participant); Representative Chellie Pingree; Senator Angus King; Senator Susan Collins; Glenn Cummings, President of University of Southern Maine; Reza Jalali, Executive

Director Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center; the board of the Maine Chapter of the United Nations Association; and the USM students who comprise the MeMUNC leadership team.

- At MeMUNC, while all individual participants learn by doing, schools compete for awards – granted to delegates and delegations who excel in their written work, their oral debate, and their display of diplomatic abilities. Congratulations to this year’s winners of MeMUNC’s Best Delegation Awards: Freeport High School (Best Small Delegation: Portugal) and Greater Portland Christian School (Best Large Delegation: Germany).
- A great big thank you to MeMUNC’s sponsors: **Central Maine Power** [conference sponsor]; **Hancock Lumber** [day one sponsor]; **UNUM** [day two sponsor]; **Canon**; **Vitalius Real Estate Group**; **Aroma Joe’s**; **Fedco Seeds**; **Fruits of Our Labor**; **The World Affairs Council of Maine**; and the **Maine Chapter of the United Nations Association**.
- MeMUNC is looking forward to returning to a live event at USM Gorham in 2022.

MEMBERSHIP DUES, BENEFITS, and DONATIONS.

Membership in the Maine Chapter UNA-USA goes through the National office in Washington D.C. Dues payments are split 50/50 between our Chapter and the National office. Membership entitles you to participate in free National programming, use of National resources, and regular messaging from National. Our UNA Maine Chapter warmly welcomes new and returning members (under age 26 is free). Directions for payment electronically or by check are available through our website: <https://unamaine.org/join-us>. Please be sure to indicate MAINE as your chapter preference when paying. If you have any questions at all about membership please contact us at: info@unamaine.org Last year there were challenges with the record keeping, but National is working hard to get things in order. You can update your personal contact information with National here: [UPDATEUNA](#) National is also now providing an option for automatic, recurring membership.

PLEASE do not send donations for the Maine Chapter through National. We welcome donations to the Maine Chapter electronically via our website, or by check mailed to our PO Box 262, Brunswick ME 04011. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Thank you!