

Michigan United Nations Association



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MICHIGAN UNA CO-SPONSORS TALK BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNA LOCATED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (previously Zaire)

Michigan UNA is a Division of UNA-USA, and UNA-USA is one of 110 national UN associations seeking peaceful solutions to global problems. Another of these national UN associations is located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), an African nation struggling against poverty, disease, and internal conflict.



"The Congo Cause" and Michigan UNA have partnered to bring the Secretary General of the UNA-DRC to Michigan. Don't miss this opportunity to hear and meet this distinguished visitor.

Dr. Cissa Wa Numbe holds Master degrees in sociology and anthropology from the University of Lubumbashi, DRC, and a PhD in Peace and Human Rights studies from the University of Bradford, United Kingdom.

Meet and Greet Talk March 14, 2009 2 pm to 3:30 pm

Troy Community Center (Oval Room), 3179 Livernois,

Troy, MI. (Just north of Big Beaver/16 Mile Road)

Please visit: www.TheCongoCause.org for more information.

This event is the official kick-off of the 2009 Mosquito Bed Nets Appeal, **One Net One Life**.

During the "Meet and Greet" with Cissa Wa Numbe, you can hear firsthand about the Congo, why the Congo is important, and how malaria can be prevented by the use of mosquito bed nets. You can also meet The Congo Cause core team who work to organize events, bring awareness, and facilitate partnerships to promote The Congo Cause's mission.

UNA-DRC is supported by The Congo Cause, a grass roots partner that brings awareness to the USA about the challenges faced by the Congolese people. The Congo Cause began as a project within the University of Michigan-Flint *Technology in Education: Global Program*. This program included six classes (Summers 2007 and 2008) with international residency in Geneva, Switzerland.

From March to May of 2009, The Congo Cause will focus on supporting UNA-DRC's malaria prevention project through fund raising for mosquito bed nets. The Congo Cause team has a goal of expanding the mosquito bed nets project into schools, universities and civic groups. As students and others engage in this humanitarian cause, they may increase their sense of global awareness and a fuller appreciation for civic life, while helping to save lives from malaria in Congo.

Many thanks to Diane Western, member of both Michigan UNA and The Congo Cause, for arranging this program.

UNA CHAPTER ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

As many readers are aware, the Detroit UNA Chapter is inactive. There have been no reported activities during 2008, and officer terms have expired.

However, Michigan UNA and UNA-USA place a high priority on reactivating chapter activity in Southeast Michigan. There are roughly 40 paid-up UNA-USA members residing in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, more than enough to have a

formally-recognized UNA chapter.

The visit by Dr. Cissa Wa Numbe presents the opportunity for UNA members and like minded Michiganders to meet and identify themselves. Such interaction may lead to activation of a UNA chapter in Southeast Michigan. In the meantime, the Michigan UNA Division will endeavor to sponsor or co-sponsor "global" events in the Metropolitan Area.

Please continue to convey your event and chapter interests to me.

WEBSITE GOOD NEWS

Both the UNA-USA and Michigan Division websites are undergoing substantial revision.

Check them out at:

www.unausa.org and www.unamich.org.

The original Michigan Division website was created by Steve Chisnell, but it suffered from inattention during the Division's inactive years. In October 2008, the Division officially came back to life--and Diane Western (one and the same) undertook a complete overhaul of the website--and here it is.

Both websites are works in progress. Send me your suggestions for improvement. Problems on unausa.org with presentation of the Michigan Division and Chapters are being corrected.

Our influence on the national website may be limited, but member involvement on unamich.org is VITAL. We must not lapse into website inattention again. We can make the website

into a priceless means of communication between UNA members with each other and with the much larger non-member population of Michigan "globalists." Go for it!

STUDENT ALLIANCE

The Student Alliance is the junior component of UNA-USA. Communication among Alliance members largely takes place through email, and students K-12 as well as college/university undergraduates are eligible for FREE memberships.

How many young Michiganders are members? The answer will be provided in the Michigan UNA March newsletter. There could be more members. There should be more. Start preparing our children (and grandchildren) for a global future now!

Learn more at <http://www.unausa.org/studentalliance>.

Sign up online at

<https://www.unausa.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=390&tab=1>

Lyndon Babcock, President
Michigan UNA

ps: Reader inputs to these newsletters are welcome!