

10th Annual Summer Picnic

The UAA 10th Annual Picnic was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, September 12. Over 50 alumni and guests joined the two-hour fun event that enabled the participants to see and hear from friends and colleagues around the country about their post-retirement activities, catch up with others through the chat room, play a game of Scavenger Hunt at home, and compete for awards for different activities. If you are interested in learning more and in viewing the picnic, [click here](#).

We enjoyed comments by two of the founding members, **Aaron Williams** and **Stacy Rhodes**, who called on all to toast the UAA, its members, USAID, and the picnickers. Other alumni spoke about their interesting post-retirement activities in equally interesting places. The speakers were: **Patrick Fine** (NC) in the East, **Elisabeth Kvitashvili** (CA) in the West, **Connie Carrino** (VT) in the Northeast, **Rose Marie Depp** (OR) in the Northwest, **Ken Yamashita** (FL) in the Southeast, **Dirk Dijkerman** (AZ) in the Southwest, and outside CONUS, **Monica Stein-Olson** (Alaska), and **Kelly Kammerer** and **Nancy Frame** (France).

We also enjoyed an in-home Scavenger Hunt for four items – artwork from a foreign country, foreign currency, USAID branded item, and the name of a country where USAID Foreign Service National or trainee attained a high position there. While the three judges – Board co- chairs **Nancy Tumavick** and **Anne Aarnes** and Board member **Terry Brown** – determined the winners, the picnickers were entertained by members who displayed and described the most unique treasure they found in the hunt.

The Winners of the creative awards unique to this picnic were:

- **Hoarder Award**, presented to **Gerry Britan** and **Nancy and John Pielemeier** for scoring the most points in the Scavenger Hunt.
- **Rare Hoarder Award**, presented to **Trisha Moser** and **Aaron Williams** for finding the most unique treasure in the Scavenger Hunt.
- **Traveled the Farthest Award**, presented to **Kelly Kammerer** and **Nancy Frame** for “traveling the farthest”-- via Zoom--to enjoy coronavirus-free time with friends.
- **Founding Fathers Award**, presented to **Patrick Fine**, **Stacy Rhodes**, and **Aaron Williams**, three of the four UAA founding members, of the **USAID Alumni Association**.
- **Where’s Waldo Award**, presented by **Beth Hogan** to **Connie Carrino**, **Rose Marie Depp**, **Dirk Dijkerman**, **Patrick Fine**, **Kelly Kammerer/Nancy Frame**, **Elisabeth Kvitashvili**, **Monica Stein-Olson**, and **Ken Yamashita** for sharing their post-retirement lifestyles.
- **Zoomtastic Background Award**, presented to **Aaron Williams** for the best background via Zoom during the picnic. Presented by Zoom Expert **Carol Dabbs**.
- **Fashionista/Fashionisto Award**, presented to **Howard Handler** for most outstanding beard and

for reminding us that the “look” is everything, even at a virtual picnic. Presented (after the event due to technical difficulties) by Judge Nancy Tumavick.

An open discussion period followed the awards ceremony, including questions about: the current status of UAA plans to establish chapters in alumni cluster areas outside the DC region; ideas to reach out to the next administration concerning the UAA’s strategic plans and programs; and if the UAA will continue to hold Zoom events like this one even after the coronavirus restrictions subside.

The UAA Executive Committee wants to express its appreciation to the Picnic Organizing Team, consisting of: **Tom Nicastro** as Host and **Bette Cook** as Moderator, who kept the program moving almost on time; **Barbara Bennett, Beth Hogan,** and **Jim Bever,** the Speakers Search Team who presented interesting speakers from all areas of the country and abroad; **Miles Toder,** Game Director, who single-handedly developed the Scavenger Hunt process, rules, treasures to be found, and scoring points; **Nancy Tumavick, Anne Aarnes,** and **Terry Brown,** the Judges who along with Miles Toder determined the winners of the Hunt; **Nancy Tumavick** as Toastmaster Scheduler who invited two founding members to make opening and closing comments and toasts; and **Carol Dabbs** and **Ven Suresh** as Zoom Masters who guided the team through holding this first-time virtual event.

We greatly appreciate the broad attendance by alumni from around the country and the world, as well as many local alumni who normally are unable to attend because of health or other reasons, to this very successful, socially interactive, and fun event. If you were unable to join us, we hope you will do so for future events. We hope you enjoyed the picnic and invite you to join us next time.