



TUCSON COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

July 2017

Dear Members and Friends of TCFR:

We can be proud of the work TCFR does. TCFR promotes understanding of foreign policy and international relations by presenting talks by experts in the field and providing a non-partisan forum for discussion of current issues. At a time of serious challenges abroad and political divisions at home, TCFR is a valuable, objective resource for this community. That we do this entirely with volunteers is remarkable.

Maintaining the high quality of our programs is always the top priority. But this year the Board also concentrated on raising the profile of TCFR in the community and on the basic “blocking and tackling” of running the organization.

**Publicity and Outreach:** We want people in the community to know we exist so they can benefit from, and contribute to, what we offer. A TCFR ad appeared nightly for two months last fall in a rotation of ads on the screen of The Loft Cinema, a nonprofit “art house” theater. That low-cost advertising allowed us also to place our informational “rack cards” in The Loft lobby during those months and gave us sustained visibility with an audience likely to be interested in TCFR programs.

We issued media releases in advance of our events and opened one program to the general public. We arranged for three of our speakers to be interviewed on “The Buckmaster Show,” a local radio program. We started a blog called “At the Water’s Edge” on our web site to encourage discussion of international issues among TCFR members and the public. We have attempted to recruit corporate members, but that effort has not yet been successful.

The Board believes these efforts are necessary to ensure a stable and vital membership over time. We have seen progress; we reached our bylaws-imposed limit of 150 members this spring (we start all over again September 1). We had a total of 1,046 attendees at our nine 2016-17 events, for an average attendance of 116 per event..

**Finances:** The Board has placed greater emphasis on financial reporting and analysis this year. This is essential for effective management of the organization, but it also helps us in identifying and developing additional resources for potential new activities. A president’s letter sent last December asked members to consider year-end, tax-deductible donations to TCFR. The letter elicited a good response for a first try. A list of

our donors appears below. A summary of TCFR's financial results for the 2016-17 fiscal year, which ended June 30, can be found at the end of this Annual Report.

**Administration and Events:** The Board has expanded its system of committees, and TCFR members who are not on the Board have volunteered to serve on committees. This increased use of committees is intended to improve operational efficiency, spread the workload, increase member involvement, and provide a structure for succession planning and back-up capabilities. Volunteers are always welcome.

We have also worked more closely with venue staff to improve service at our events. In order to provide more reliable sound quality for events, we recently purchased a portable audio system that will debut at our September 2017 program; see more about that below.

As noted at the outset, we do all this with volunteers! And who are those volunteers? Every one of you. If you serve on the Board or on a committee, if you bring a guest to a dinner or ask a question of a speaker or complete a survey for selection of future topics, or if you just show up and share in the congeniality of your table, you are contributing to the success of TCFR. You are helping to promote understanding of foreign policy and international relations in Tucson and beyond. Thank you, and congratulations for a job well done!

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Thompson  
President  
[robert.thompson865@gmail.com](mailto:robert.thompson865@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## TCFR's 2016 - 2017 Programs

TCFR presented seven dinner programs and two luncheons this season. The topics and speakers were:

- "ISIS Update: Importing and Exporting Radical Islamic Terrorism," **James Kitfield**
- "Foreign Policy in the Next Administration: Challenges, Changes, and Continuity," **Tyrus Cobb, Ph.D.** and **Igor Zevelev, Doctor of Sciences**
- "Can the European Union Survive the Refugee Crisis and Potential Member Exits?" **James Hollifield, Ph.D.**
- "Foreign Policy Wisdom from the Arroyo Café," **David Fitzsimmons**
- "How the Legacies of WWI Still Shape Our World," **Michael Neiberg, Ph.D.**
- "How to Deal With a Nuclear North Korea: Negotiations, Containment, or Preemption," **Scott Snyder, M.A.**
- "The Paradox of Saudi Arabia: Western Ally and Exporter of Radical Islam," **Simon Henderson, MBA**
- "Turkey: Strategic Partner or Lost Ally?" **Amb. W. Robert Pearson, J.D.**
- "Growing Threats from Cyber Warfare," **Chris Demchak, Ph.D.**

All our speakers appear without fee or honorarium (TCFR pays travel expenses). We are grateful for their generosity.

### **If a Tree Falls in a Forest . . .**

If a speaker can't be heard, has communication taken place? Since TCFR is in the business of presenting excellent speakers, we must have excellent audio equipment. If you have attended TCFR events for a few years, you know that imperative has not always been satisfied. The audio equipment we have used has been supplied by the event venues, and it occasionally has fallen short. We owe to our speakers and to TCFR members reliably excellent sound quality. After considerable discussion and research it was decided at the May Board meeting to purchase our own portable equipment for use at our events. The cost of the system we are purchasing is \$3,864 (which is not yet fully reflected in the summary financial statements you will find below).

After one particularly bad sound experience last winter, TCFR's president wrote to members and promised that the Board would look into ways to avoid such problems in the future. He received many responses to that letter, most of them encouraging. A couple members even volunteered to contribute to the cost of an audio system, were we to purchase our own equipment. We do not intend to solicit donations to defray the cost of the audio system, but they would certainly be gratefully accepted. Look (and listen) for the new audio at our September event.

### **TCFR Dues Will Increase for 2017-2018**

At its April meeting the TCFR Board voted unanimously to increase dues for the coming season to \$100 for an individual membership and \$130 for a family membership. Dues for term membership (under 36 years of age) and corporate membership will not increase. Look for our membership renewal letter and form in mid-August.

TCFR has experienced net losses in three of the last four years. The fourth year was 2014-15, in which we received substantial donations and pre-payments for TCFR's 50th Anniversary program held in October 2015 (without which there would have been a net loss that year, too). We cannot sustain the organization with consistent losses.

The Board looked at twelve other foreign relations organizations in comparable metropolitan areas. Their dues structures varied widely, but only two had individual dues under \$100, and one of those two did not offer a "discounted" family membership. Dues in the twelve organizations ranged to a high of \$265 (individual) and \$380 (family), with most in the higher end of the range. Even with our increased dues for 2017-18 the cost of TCFR membership will be less than the cost of membership in nine of the twelve comparable organizations.

Also at the April meeting the Board voted unanimously to raise event (meal) charges to \$45 per person, beginning with the April 2017 event. We have consistently lost small amounts (e.g., \$200-\$500 a month) on our programs. Our goal is to break even on events, and this small increase in event charges should allow us to do that, at least until the venues raise their prices. The \$45 charge is also in line with meal charges by the twelve comparable organizations.

The Board believes these increases are necessary to provide TCFR with a sound and sustainable financial base.

### **2016 - 2017 Executive Board and Officers**

We appreciate the many hours invested by our Executive Board on behalf of TCFR. The following served on the Board in the past year:

Robert Thompson, President  
Thomas Volgy, Vice President  
Gary Guertner, Vice President, Program  
Christine Shea, Treasurer  
Cody Nicholls, Secretary  
John Bryant  
Ellen Citron  
George Gluski

Marvin Goldberg\*  
Anita Korhonen  
Roy Morey  
Linda Mount  
Sven Olson  
Donald Shepperd  
Elliott Weiss  
Virginia Yrun

\* Took office as of June 1, 2017

### **Thanks to Our Donors!**

The following persons made donations to TCFR beyond their annual dues in 2016. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Jack & Georgiana Boyer  
Arch Brown  
George & Ellen Citron  
Leanna Campagno  
Gene & Sandy Gerner  
George & Peggy Gluski  
Robert Hamilton & Eleanor Staley  
Gerry & Elinor Hallowell  
Bob & Jo Anne Hungate  
James Kolbe  
Boyd & Rose Matchett

Roy & Delores Morey  
John & Jan Mueller  
Sig Olney  
Donald & Shirley Peterson  
Larry & Susan Ring  
Peter Salomon & Patricia Morgan  
Creston & Elise Collins Shields  
Joy Thompson  
Robert & Carolyn Thompson  
Thomas Volgy & Susan Douglas  
Virginia Yrun & Howard Shore

The following firms made valuable in-kind contributions to TCFR, as they have for many years:

Duffield Adamson Helenbolt, P.C., Attorneys-at-Law  
 Robert E. Fee Law Offices

## Summary Financial Statements

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>	
As of June 30, 2017		July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017	
<u>Assets</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$13,731	Dues	\$12,583
		Donations	2,265
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>13,731</b>	Program Revenue	36,460
		Other Income	235
<u>Liabilities &amp; Equity</u>		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>51,543</b>
Liabilities	0	<u>Expenses</u>	
Equity		General & Admin.	3,600
Retained Earnings	13,794	Speaker Travel	9,123
Net Income	<63>	Program Expense	38,883
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$13,731</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>51,606</b>
		<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>&lt;\$63&gt;</b>

For a copy of complete financial statements or IRS Form 990-EZ, send requests, in writing, to:

TCFR  
 Attn: Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 32076  
 Tucson, AZ 85751

TCFR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Tucson Committee on Foreign Relations  
P.O. Box 32076  
Tucson, AZ 85751

[tcf.org](http://tcf.org)