



# The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

## Vote World Parliament

— democratic world parliament through a global referendum —

[www.VoteWorldParliament.org](http://www.VoteWorldParliament.org)

Vote World Parliament co-presidents are Ted Stalets and Jim Stark

[www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com](http://www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

This site, above, is for the VWP companion book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

### Issue #36, February, 2011

(This issue and all previous issues are posted at <http://voteworldparliament.org/about/newsletter/>)

#### **THE SCORE**

*As of February 14, 2011, 21,658 people have voted. So far, the votes are 95.4% in favor of creating a democratic world parliament.*

#### **Quotes of the month**

**There is an emerging second superpower, but it is not a nation. Instead, it is a new form of international player, constituted by the “will of the people” in a global social movement.** James F. Moore, *The Second Superpower, Extreme Democracy*

**There are two superpowers in the world: the United States and global opinion.** Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the U.S. National Council of Churches (in 2003)

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#### **News in brief**

##### **Publicity breakthrough:**

**WANGO to promote global referendum to members**

by Ted Stalets

“WANGO” stands for the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations. It is an organization that brings NGOs together in the cause of peace and global well-being. In early February, with the press release for the portable voting booth well underway, we received this very encouraging email from Rick Swarts (WANGO secretariat): “This is a

very interesting initiative, Ted.... If you send us your press release, we will send it out in our next *Enews*, which reaches **50,000** members and subscribers, as well as link it to the home page under WANGO NGO News.”

This decision will provide an immense surge of publicity for the global referendum. In concert with other publicity initiatives, we expect 2011 to be the year when voting jumps from a handful of votes per day to hundreds or even thousands per day. For more about WANGO, see [www.WANGO.org](http://www.WANGO.org).

### **Flushing out the opposition**

by Jim Stark

We finally made enough of a noise to annoy the opposition! One of our long-time friends, John Kintree, noticed an article online about VWP, entitled “**A most dangerous idea.**” The article calls VWP “dangerous,” “scary,” “disturbing,” “several bubbles off plumb” (meaning a few kernels short of a cob, or wacky), “a fringe organization,” “more than disturbing,” “frightening” and “un-American.” The full article (and John’s rebuttal) can be seen at [http://thedailysentinel.com/opinion/editorials/article\\_cf665356-3491-11e0-89d9-001cc4c03286.html](http://thedailysentinel.com/opinion/editorials/article_cf665356-3491-11e0-89d9-001cc4c03286.html).

This was a relatively low-key “shot across the bow,” as the saying has it. There is every possibility that their next volley will be better aimed and more harmful in its intent. Part of me says, “Good, the battle is joined,” but another part of me wonders if our people are tough enough to not wilt under a barrage of (supposedly) withering criticisms and name-calling. Time will tell. Personally, for my part, I will hold my fire ... mostly because I am extremely busy trying to get a municipal campaign organized (see “second front” article below).

Here is Brian Coughlan’s response (published on the site above):

So many Americans find democracy frightening, it’s really rather odd. Human beings have been governing themselves through elected representatives for millennia. We have a U.S. Congress serving 300 million people, an EU parliament serving 500 million and an Indian Parliament legislating on behalf of over one billion. A global parliament is simply the same thing on a larger scale. You may have heard of the concept, Ken—democracy? By attempting to deny billions of people the right to representation at the global level, Ken Bonner has embarrassed himself; the only “un-American” visible is the disgraceful author of this article.

### **Opening a “second front” for the VWP campaign—municipalities**

by Jim Stark

The aim of our work at Vote World Parliament (VWP) to date has been to try to collect two billion or so “yes” votes on a ballot intended to authorize the creation of a democratic world parliament. That goal remains, but VWP is opening up a “second front,” where we will try to apply our “bottom up” strategy through existing political institutions. In short, **we are aiming to get a resolution calling for a global referendum on a democratic world parliament passed by the UN General Assembly by mobilizing city and town**

**councils!** (See draft United Nations resolution at <https://voteworldparliament.org/allies-initiatives/draft-un-resolution/>.) “Can’t be done,” you say? Read on.

In the 1980s, I headed Operation Dismantle, a Canadian NGO set up to promote gradual and balanced nuclear disarmament by the then-superpowers, the USA and the USSR. We got one city council to agree to piggyback a local referendum (using our ballot wording) onto the next municipal election. We parlayed that one victory into a whole campaign. In the end, more than 200 cities and towns held referendums in conjunction with their next elections, at their own expense (a couple of cents per voter). We got millions of votes and educated a nation. The full story is at <https://voteworldparliament.org/about/books/>: click on Part #1 of my book *Cold War Blues* (it’s free) and scroll down to Chapter 8, which is entitled “Municipal Referendums.” And remember, *there was no Internet back then!*

This time, the goal is a democratic world parliament, and this time, we are global rather than national. And we don’t have to ask municipalities to actually conduct referendums either (which cost tax dollars), since we have the Internet for that (which is free). For a background paper on this new “second front,” send a request to [jimstark@webruler.com](mailto:jimstark@webruler.com).

NOTE: Back in 1983, these municipal referendums were considered to be “consultative,” and not legally binding. Still, that campaign was very much worth doing. Now we are after a global mandate from the entire human race, and while this point will be argued both ways, we think once we’ve got such a mandate in hand, no one will dare to say “no” to our whole species, which is to say a global mandate is as good or better than “legally binding.”

### **The new Swedish connection**

VWP received a most welcome email from high school teacher Per Norbäck, who is now also a member of the city council of Vallentuna (a suburb of Stockholm). He heads up a group called Demoex, which stands for “Democracy Experiment.” For more details, see <http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Swedish+online+party+stirs+municipal+democracy+in+Vallentuna/1076153931670>. Per wrote to say how impressed he was with our concept of a global referendum on the creation of a democratic world parliament, and VWP is now working with Per and Demoex to launch the “second front” mentioned above. As the new municipal campaign goes forward, we will likely ask our two Swedish Board members (Brian Coughlan and Torbjörn Tännsjö) to become involved with the Vallentuna group.

### **VWP website now “as secure as a bank”**

by Ted Stalets

The security of the Vote World Parliament website has been enhanced with additional authentication and encryption capabilities. Just as banks use SSL (Secure Socket Layer) to protect the safety of monetary transactions, the VWP website now possesses identical protection. Essentially, as one votes using the referendum ballot, personal information cannot be intercepted and read by anyone other than the voter and VWP.

SSL enhancement for the VWP website provides for 1) authentication of the website, 2) verification of the website visitor, and 3) encryption for secure communication between the website and the website visitor. As the global referendum initiative is now poised to take off, the security provided by SSL encryption was a necessary addition.

### **New Board member**

Lucy Law Webster is now a member of the Board of VWP. Here is her mini-bio:

Lucy Law Webster has been an active world federalist since 1947 when she started a chapter at Princeton Day School. Later, at Wellesley, she organized a New England Council of Student Federalist Chapters, and served as the National Chair of the United World Federalist Student Division. After graduating, she was invited to become the Secretary General of the World Student Federalists based in Amsterdam. In 1982, Lucy started a 14-year period in the UN Secretariat, mainly as a Political Affairs Office in the Disarmament Department where she edited two publications, drafted speeches, and prepared UN documents. When she left the UN due to its mandatory retirement age, she worked as Director of Economists for Peace and Security, where she now serves on the Board. She is currently the Executive Director of the Center for War/Peace Studies and the senior Vice President of the Council of the World Federalist Movement. Lucy has an MS in International Relations and an MA in Global Political Economy and Finance.

### **Half of all human adults now use the Internet**

The number of Internet users worldwide has mushroomed to reach the two billion mark, the head of the UN's telecommunications agency, Hamadoun Toure, said on Wednesday. For more on this, see <http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-01-internet-users-worldwide-billion.html>.

### **Reminder: how to embed the VWP voting booth on your site or Facebook page**

To see the portable ballot on a website, go to [www.LifeProfilesBooks.com](http://www.LifeProfilesBooks.com) and click on the graphic link. These graphic links are available in 53 languages (via Google Translate; see <http://voteworldparliament.org/shadowbox/getballot.html>). For detailed instructions on how to embed a voting booth, see [www.screencast.com/t/HrNYQeofwod0](http://www.screencast.com/t/HrNYQeofwod0) for a video on this, and [www.voteworldparliament.org/votingboothinstructions.pdf](http://www.voteworldparliament.org/votingboothinstructions.pdf) for an illustrated static presentation. There are four small icons on the bottom of the ballot, for Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in and Blogger. The ballot installs in these applications automatically if you click on the appropriate icon and then log into your account.

### **Letters**

This article is from <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/opinion/edit-page/Birth-Of-Global-Democracy/articleshow/7328171.cms>). It mentions the UNPA, but I thought you might find the paragraph below of particular interest.

Cheers,

Larry (Larry Kazdan is Vice President of the Vancouver branch of the World Federalist Movement—Canada)

The International Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) held global elections in 2000 for electing its board of directors. The elections were the first-ever example of direct global democracy in the governance of any global organization. Every voter in the ICANN election had access to the Internet. All social preconditions of democracy such as membership, a communication community, interest aggregation and democratic culture were amply present, dispelling the popular myth that global democracy is impossible.