



A Special Issue of the Open World News

WASHINGTON, DC – The new year got off to a busy start for the Center, as we hosted four major events between Jan. 30 and Feb. 16. Not only did we conduct two major annual meetings—one for our Board of Trustees, the other with our 2012 National Grantees—but we also held our first Local Host Coordinator Open House and welcomed our first Serbian participants to the United States. Highlights from these events are featured below and on Facebook.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Open World’s Board of Trustees gathered on Feb. 6 for its annual meeting, the first with **Walter Scott, Jr.**, as chair. Scott honored founding chair Dr. **James Billington**, saying that his “erudition, common sense, and leadership have benefited Open World and our country.” On the meeting agenda were the 2012–2015 strategic plan and the young professionals initiative for 25- to 30-year-olds.



Sen. Ben Nelson (NE), center, Board Chair Walter Scott, Jr., right, and Executive Director John O’Keefe before the board meeting.

NATIONAL GRANTEES

Executive Director O’Keefe presented the 2012 Grantee of Merit Award to Supporters of Civil Society in Russia on Jan. 31, during Open World’s annual National Grantee Meeting. Among the topics explored at the meeting were Congressional relations and Open World’s identity as an independent legislative branch agency, pre-arrival communications, and tips for hosting 25- to 30-year-old young professionals. The 2012 Grantees are:



Toby Gati, left, and Thomas Rhodenbaugh, right, of Supporters of Civil Society in Russia accept the 2012 Open World Annual Grantee of Merit Award from Executive Director O’Keefe.

- Archangel Committee
- Center for Safe Energy
- Council of International Programs USA
- FHI 360
- Friendship Force International
- Friendship Force of Greater Lansing
- Georgia to Georgia Foundation
- Graduate School USA
- Institute for Global Health
- International Affairs Council
- International Rule of Law Consortium
- Keystone Human Services International
- Linkages of Rochester
- Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization
- Rotary International
- Supporters of Civil Society in Russia
- U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
- Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association
- World Services of La Crosse

HOST OPEN HOUSE



Mendy Nitsch, left, of the Maryland Sister States Program, with Open World Budget Officer Jane Sargus at the Open House for Open World local host coordinators held Feb. 14.



Sondie Frus, center, of GlobalJax in Jacksonville, FL, with Executive Director John O’Keefe, left, and Open World Program Manager Jeff Magnuson.



Josephine Perini, left, of the Rochester International Council, with Open World Program Manager Vera DeBuchananne. Perini recently hosted a Russian accountable governance team.

SERBIAN ARRIVAL

Open World was excited to welcome its inaugural group of Serbian participants to the Library of Congress for orientation on Feb. 16. The group of 24 included civil society leaders, higher education specialists, and museum managers. Individual delegations were then hosted in Louisville, KY, Kansas City, MO, Los Angeles, CA, and Akron, OH.



Serbian museum managers visiting the Long Beach (CA) Museum of Art watch as Director of Collections Sue Ann Robinson, far right, shows how the museum keeps hard-copy records of its permanent collections.