



WORLD ROOTS

Newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison

Volume 31 Issue 3
March 2010

Message from the President

How much did you give to charity last year? Did you have a connection to your donation, or was it just something you checked off at work? Are tough economic times making it more difficult to give as much as you'd like?

Our group offers such an easy way to make a meaningful contribution - and a substantial one. Membership means that you can choose a project from the Peace Corps Partnership list - or multiple projects if you like, and donate \$1,000.

Is there an area that you're passionate about such as the environment or girls' education or maternal health? Or would you prefer to choose a project in your Peace Corps country or to support someone from your state?

It's your choice and you can exercise it at every RPCVs of WI-Madison meeting or e-mail me at calendarmail@yahoo.com and let me know what you've chosen. Heather Hempel Gomez, our membership coordinator keeps me up-to-date on who our members are. So, if you are a member in good standing, come to a meeting and donate or go to www.peacecorps.gov and click on "Donate" to see the list of projects, make your choice and then let me know.

The April meeting offers another opportunity to support a worthy cause. April is the month of our long-standing Giftaway. Each year we reserve about \$15,000 for projects proposed by our membership. We vote on the recipients at our April meeting. You will find this year's list of projects in this issue of World Roots. Review them now to get first impressions. Representatives of the projects will be at the meeting to answer your questions and concerns. Come and vote on your favorites.

Hope to see you there,

Lee

PS; If you're not sure you are a member or if you'd like to join or renew, contact Heather at rpcvmadisonmembers@gmail.com to sort it out.



Dates in Brief*

March

- 5 - Peace Corps Day at East
- 6 - International Fest - Overture
- 10 - Deadline for Proposals!
- 17 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 21 - Book Club
- 25 - Poster Com Mtng, Char*
- 28 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home

April

- 1 - International Dinner
- 6 - Poster Com Mtng, Char*
- 18 - Friends & Family Brunch*
- 21 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 25 - Book Club, Mary Ann
- 25 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home

May

- 1 - Poster Comm Mtng, Char*
- 6 - International Dinner
- 19 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 23 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home
- 23 - Book Club, Judy S.

* More Inside

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RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts

Elected Officers

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Event Chairs

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Listserv

RPCVs of WI – Madison http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

Websites

RPCVs of WI – Madison	http://www.rpcvmadison.org	Thanks to Kim Malueg!
International Calendar	http://www.rpcvcalendar.org	
NPCA	http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/	
Peace Corps Online	http://www.peacecorpsonline.org	
Peace Corps	http://www.peacecorps.gov	
Our address		PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701

Coffee/Tea and 50th Anniversary Talk

What are we doing for Peace Corps' 50th birthday? Well, so far we've been talking about an art exhibit, a conference with the African Studies Department at the UW-Madison, and a 50th Anniversary Edition of the International Calendar. The Milwaukee RPCVs would like to do something together - should it be camping? Or a picnic? Or a cultural event? Do you have more/better ideas? Join the discussion at Michelangelo's Coffee House, 114 State St. Saturday mornings from 10 to noon. Coffee, tea, good food, internet connections, nice tables!

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2010, the Red Gym

Attendance

Tom Brodd, Kenneth Coffeen, Heather Hempel Gomez, Annabel Ipsen, Jack Laun, Kelly Maynard, Meghan Meeker, Judy Reed, Lee Row, Walt Zeltner, Jane Furchgott and Julie Preisler

Call to Order

President Lee Row called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM in the Red Gym on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

Richland Center-Santa Teresa Sister City Project

Jane Furchgott of the Richland Center-Santa Teresa Sister City Project gave a photo presentation about El Torrero, the Nicaraguan community that has been assisted by donations from our group to construct latrines and wells, improve their school building, and build a small health clinic. This year, the Sister City Project is requesting a donation to provide water pumps and filters.

Peace Community Project

Jack Laun of the Colombia Support Network reported that the Freeze for Food Fundraiser proceeds have been used to support the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado in Colombia. With this support, the Peace Community has purchased cows, established a fish pond, produced compost as fertilizer, provided meals during the community's annual meeting, and set up an agricultural training center.

Liberian Assistance Program Event

Judy Reed encouraged us to attend the "Iron Ladies of Liberia" film presentation on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Edgewood College auditorium. This film goes behind the scenes with Ellen Johnson, Africa's first female head of state. The event is being coordinated by the Liberian Assistance Program (LAP) to raise funds for a school project in Cow Field, Liberia. Judy and her friend, Jane Scharer, started the LAP after they visited the Liberian village where Judy served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Our group

provided initial funding, which encouraged Judy to form the LAP.

Palestinian Events

Ken Coffeen announced two upcoming events: 1) "Momentum for Gaza" slide presentation on the Gaza Freedom March (Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 PM at Edgewood College); 2) "Building Hope for the Children" benefit dinner commemorating the life of Rachel Corrie (Sunday, March 21 at 4:30 PM at First United Methodist Church).

Treasury

Annabel Ipsen has updated the UPS address and paid the invoice for our calendar shipments. She will be traveling and doing research in Chile this summer, so Ana Zambie has graciously agreed to resume the treasurer duties during Annabel's absence.

Peace Corps Partnership Program

Lee passed around a list of Peace Corps Partnership Programs and invited members to donate \$1000 each toward the project(s) of their choice.

Approval of 2/17/10 Meeting Minutes

Tom Brodd motioned to approve the 2/17/10 meeting minutes, Walt Zeltner seconded, and all approved.

National Peace Corps Association Membership

Lee reported that we have submitted the documents and dues payment to renew our group's membership with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

National Peace Corps Week

Lee reported that 14 of our group members gave presentations to Marc Brand's social studies classes during the Peace Corps Birthday event at East High School.

Peace Corps Family Brunch



Ana has volunteered to jointly coordinate the Family Brunch on April 5th with Claire Friedrich. Claire has prepared a flyer and Ana has lined up three presenters: Scott Nash (Tanzania 2001-03), Melissa Ganshert (Bolivia 2004-06), and Holly Banaszak (Namibia 2006-08). Ana is looking for a fourth presenter who served in Eastern Europe or the Asia/Pacific region.

Membership

Heather Hempel Gomez, our Membership Coordinator, announced updates to the membership roster and submitted dues payments to Annabel.

Poster Committee

The Poster Committee has prepared a set of five new "We All" posters, which will be featured on our group's website. The price for group members will likely rise to \$15. Lee reported that the Madison Public Schools has purchased 50 sets. The Poster Committee had a booth at the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies in International Education Conference earlier in the week, where they sold posters and calendars. Phyllis Noble and Kate Schachter gave a presentation on Peace Corps at the conference.

Calendar Committee

Lee announced that the Calendar Committee has signed an agreement with the Office of Private Sector Initiatives to provide 4,500 calendars for educators who participate in the Coverdell World Wise Schools Program. Tom reported that the committee has shipped 33,220 copies of the 2010 calendar, with total sales at \$145,759.25. They also donated 400 calendars to be included in the welcome packets for participants at

the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies in International Education Conference in March. Lee shared printed copies of the 2011 calendar production schedule, inviting group members to get involved in producing this special calendar that will commemorate the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary by featuring photos from the 13 original countries to accept volunteers. Finally, Tom reported that the Calendar Committee voted to allocate its revenue as follows: \$70,000 for the Peace Corps Partnership Program, \$15,000 for the Special Projects grants, and \$1,000 for the Freeze for Food fundraiser. The committee has not voted on whether or not to allocate funding for the NPCA grant. Remaining funds will be held for production costs.

WORT Radio Opportunities

Lee invited our group members to participate in the WORT Access Hour on April 5th. Ana and Danielle will promote the Peace Corps and share music from Southern Africa and South America. Lee noted that guests are also welcome on the "Third World View" show. For more information about participating, contact Lee or Ana.

Special Projects/Giftaway

Walt reported that we have received 12 Special Projects grant applications, with total requests over \$13,000. We will review these applications and vote to award grants at our meeting on April 21, 2010.

Push for Peace Corps

Lee reported that 118 Representatives have signed the Farr-Petri "Dear Colleague" letter supporting \$465 million for the Peace Corps budget in Fiscal Year 2011.

Peace Corps Times

Lee was contacted by Mark Huffman of the "Peace Corps Times," which is distributed to Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. He is preparing an article about RPCV and Peace Corps Friends groups. Lee provided information about our group and sent photos of our activities.

Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

Lee invited group members to join her at Michelangelo's coffee shop

on State Street every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. She is looking for support coordinating the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary activities. After having been rejected by the Memorial Union, the Peace Corps art exhibit has been offered space at Promega. The Overture Center has also expressed interest in hosting a Peace Corps photo show during the International Fair. Lee continues to participate in the group that is planning the conference on March 25-26, 2011 to honor both the Peace Corps and UW African Studies Program. And, finally, the RPCV group in Milwaukee group has suggested planning a social event with our group to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Adjournment

Ken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM, Judy seconded, and all approved.



Poster Committee

*March 25, 2010
2716 Gregory St.*

Stephanie Motz, Helene Pesche, Kate Schachter, Char Thompson

Conferences and Sales

WCSS went well. We had \$451 in sales. More important was getting out 400 order forms with 400 donated calendars. We had several good conversations - including with one teacher who said, "I've been waiting all year for this next series." The Madison School District ordered another 50 sets. Kate will ask John Sheffy and/or Carrie Teiken if it is possible to get reimbursed for our booth expenses since Phyllis and Kate covered for John's presentation at WCSS.

A WCSS participant suggested we go to the library conferences.

Helene will check out the WEMTA in the Wisconsin Dells, and also find out when the library resource catalog will come out. We will not go to the Early Childhood Conference this year. The big WEAC conference this fall is in Madison, and we will look into splitting the booth fee with the calendar group. Char will go to the Family brunch and sell posters.

Website

The two order forms are up. Kate will help with the text overview. Char will work to get the missing stories to Phyllis ASAP. Phyllis is working on the second series stories, then Stephanie will work with Kim to upload everything. Char will check with a teacher friend about how they use the site. We are confident that revisions and updates will work out, though it is still somewhat confusing if ordering two - one from each series. When a customer orders two sets shipped in one tube, we will offer a break on postage only upon request, to keep the order form simple.

Char mailed out 36 tubes to photographers, with seven more to be sent. We will only send one poster set to each photographer, no matter how many pictures were used.

Accounting

Kate reviewed what she had sent out comparing current funds to business plan. We are doing very well. Annabel will get us her side of the deposits and checks written during Spring Break. With a garage full of inventory and invoices due we will move forward in sales and cash. Char sent an accounting of income and expenses via e-mail.

Char will check with Holly regarding possible credit card orders.

Marketing and Sales

Kate had prepared a draft of a letter to send out as a mail merge to prior buyers. It was approved for mailing, and suggested to add a bookmark and order form.

Kate will promote the second series on Global Teachnet, Connected PC, Ideas.edu and with the NPCA group leaders. Kate will try to do some evaluation of site statistics, etc.

We agreed to propose to the group that sales of the note cards be used to create a fund for the 50th anniversary activities of the group.

Char reported e-mail correspondence with Tools for Change - they have a new catalog just going out and the focus is on Haiti. Multicultural Kids has expressed interest in listing our products if we drop ship the posters. We can do it, but need some more details.



Calendar Committee

*February 21, 2010
1527 Jefferson St.*

Picture Selection

The pictures for the 2011 calendar have been chosen and the picture committee was able to get acceptable pictures from the first 13 Peace Corps countries. Also they have already developed a cover for the calendar, which met with unanimous approval.

Also they said that they already have most of the pictures for the 2012 calendar and have found acceptable pictures from countries that have not yet been in the calendar.

Digital Pictures

It was decided that the committee needs to buy a computer, external drive and appropriate software so we can accept and store digital photo submissions. The committee decided to have couple of members look into the appropriate items needed and to get cost estimates. Holly said that her husband would be willing to do this and Teresa said that she would contact David Marshall to also look into this, as he has said that he was interested in this.

Production Schedule

Teresa said that she would update the production schedule and put the due dates for the various tasks

that need to be done and set a drop dead date for all of the tasks for getting all of the information to Sue Kummer.

Pricing

As we have not increased the cost for mailing of the calendars for several years and those cost have gone up in the preceding years, it was decided to increase mailing costs by at least a \$1. The exact details of the mail pricing still need to be worked out. It was decided to do this rather than increase the price of the calendar.

Credit Card Sales

Since more people are using their credit cards to purchase calendars, the committee decided we need to be able to have people pay by credit card on the calendar website. Lee said that she would look into the options that are available for credit card sales.

Day Block Theme

The day block theme will be significant Peace Corps dates and milestones. Various committee members will look into finding this information. Tom will act as the clearing house for this information.

Sales

Our current sales, as of the latest statement is 33,190 calendars sold for a total of \$145,495

Peace Corps Partnership and Group Giftaway

The calendar committee voted to commit \$70,000 for the Peace Corps Partnership grants, \$15,000 for the RPCV Madison group for the annual Giftaway grants and \$1,000 for the Freeze for Food run.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be Sunday March 28.

Announcements

Hello from your Regional Peace Corps Office!

Thank you for all the support you give to the staff members of our office and to the greater Peace Corps community! Our Regional Recruiters will be out visiting cities across the region this summer, connecting with local RPCVs and looking for great applicants.

Peace Corps Needs English Teachers Now

The Peace Corps is gearing up for volunteer growth, and we need good applicants starting now! Please help us spread the word about Peace Corps service to those with backgrounds in education, English language teaching (ESL), training, youth and community development, health, environment and agriculture, Business, IT, or with foreign language skills. In fact, we currently have several English teaching program openings for applicants experienced in this area or those willing to gain a few months of ESL teaching/tutoring experience to qualify.

For more info, send potential applicants to

www.peacecorps.gov/application,
www.peacecorps.gov/events,
www.peacecorps.gov/minisite/education. Returned volunteer recruiters are available to assist at Chicago@peacecorps.gov, 800.424.8580, opt. 1.

New RPCV Facebook Badges

For those with Facebook accounts, Peace Corps has an exciting new application available - Facebook Peace Corps Badges. Create a profile badge to show your part in the Peace Corps legacy. There are even badges for family and friends.

Simply log into your own Facebook account and copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/apps/application.php?id=154900304563&ref=ts> (then click Enter or the Refresh button)

From there, click on "Go to Application" under the logo to access the page where you can build your personal Peace Corps badge to be posted on your profile. Please feel free to pass on this badge information to fellow RPCVs, friends, family, colleagues, or contacts who also want to show support for Peace Corps.

Talking Peace Corps in Twenty Eleven

Wondering what to do in 2011 to honor 50 years of global Peace Corps service? The solution is simple and rewarding!

The 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps is fast approaching, and the

agency is asking RPCVs to make it their personal mission to support the Third Goal by educating their communities about the culture(s) you came to know and inspiring the next generation of Peace Corps volunteers. Consider a series of speaking events at schools, colleges and universities, libraries and clubs. Please begin planning your local presentations and activities! You can receive a Third Goal kit at

www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal/register. If you need Peace Corps handouts, please contact us at Chicago@peacecorps.gov.

Be sure to update your contact info with us at

www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/info to stay advised on 50th Anniversary activities. In addition, visit

www.peacecorps.gov/50 to contribute your own stories and photos from service to the 50th Anniversary Digital Library. The more personal accounts we can collect, the better we can show the tremendous impact Peace Corps Volunteers make abroad and here at home.

Director Announces Increased COS Readjustment Allowance

Effective April 1, 2010, the Peace Corps readjustment allowance that volunteers receive upon completing a full 27-month tour of service will increase from just over \$6,000 to \$7,425, in order to more accurately reflect increases in the cost of living.

Job Info & Peace Corps Response

Anyone interested in working for Peace Corps should check the agency job listings at

www.peacecorps.gov/jobs. Peace Corps offers positions in the nine regional recruitment offices, including Chicago, at its Washington, D.C., headquarters office, and at overseas posts. In addition, keep an eye out for new recruitment field-based positions opening in various cities across the country.

Also remember that recently returned volunteers have noncompetitive eligibility status for employment with the federal government for one year after COS. If RPCV applicants meet the minimum qualifications for a position, they can be hired without going through the standard competitive process, at the employing agency's discretion. RPCVs employed by the federal government can receive credit toward retirement for years of Peace Corps service. Visit

www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv, click on the link inside the "RPCV Non-Competitive Consideration" box.

Looking for even more impressive experience to add to your resume? Consider applying to Peace Corps Response for short-term, high-impact RPCV assignments. Current openings do include Haiti, with additional Haiti PCR programs planned in the near future. See all Peace Corps Response openings at www.peacecorps.gov/response.

Did you know?

The oldest currently serving Peace Corps Response volunteer is 72 years old. She is training nonprofit workers in the Philippines on grant and proposal writing.

Follow Peace Corps online:

www.facebook.com/peacecorps

www.youtube.com/peacecorps

www.twitter.com/peacecorps

www.flickr.com/peacecorps

Save the Date!

The Family & Friends PC/RPCV Brunch

Date: April 18, 2010

Place: Coliseum Bar

Yummy brunch, fun presentations, old and new friends, a chance to tell your best stories!

Details coming soon. Watch the listserv.

Not on the listserv? The address is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/. You can go there to subscribe - and if you need help, please contact Kate at kateschacter@yahoo.com.

Donation Requests from the Proceeds of Sales of the 2010 Calendar

Project Title	Location	RPCV Sponsor	Requested	Donated
Playgrounds for Palestine	Palestine	Lee Row	\$1,200	
Well Pumps for Rural Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Lee Row	\$500	
Clay Water Filters for El Terrero, Nicaragua	Nicaragua	Lee Row	\$1,000	
Knitting Supplies - Afghans for Afghans	Madison/Afghanistan	Kristine Torres/Jo Thompson	\$800	
ENGAGE Global Civil Society Exchange	Thailand	Ron Chance	\$1,500	
Tanzania Development Secondary Schools	Tanzania	Helene Pesche	Equal share	
Bathrooms & Septic Tanks for Liberian School	Liberia	Judy Reed	\$2,000	
Serious Mental Illness Training in Ukraine	Ukraine	Judy Miner	\$1,600	
Education Resources for Guatemala	Guatemala	M. Susan Hundt-Bergan	\$1,375	
Salasaca Library Project	Ecuador	Judy Stadler	\$2,000	
Catalyst Vietnam Aid	Vietnam	Mark Miller	\$1,000	
Food Security for Low-Income Households	Madison, WI	Kate Schachter	\$1,000	
Wisconsin Public Radio	Wisconsin	Lee Row	\$500	
WORT-FM	Madison, WI	Walt Zeltner	\$500	

Number of Requests: 14 Total Authorized for Donations: \$15,000 Total Requested: \$ 14,975 + 1 Equal Share