

# WORLD ROOTS



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June & July 2009

Newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison

## Message from the President

Me ma wo akye! (Twi - I give you all greetings)

Summer is a good time to expand your social outlook. Madison always has plenty of street festivals, concerts from the Square to the Terrace to the local parks. And two members, Marisa Trapp (China, 2004-06) and Shauna Wells (new member) are reviving the monthly Friday night social events at the Terrace. Please turn out for the first of the First Friday events on August 7, starting at 6:30pm. Look for the blue tablecloth on the Union Theater patio, next to the usual Terrace crowd.

Troy Rutter (Honduras, 1988-90) set out the RPCV table to display calendars and posters at the Atwood Avenue Summerfest, and reported back with sales of 50 calendars, 1 set of posters, and 11 names to add to the listserv. He will be looking for people to help staff the table again for the next event - the Willy Street Festival on Sunday, September 20. Be sure to contact him when he sends out the call for help.

The week before the Willy Street festival will be the RPCV annual meeting and picnic, at Tenney Park on Sunday, September 13. Helene Pesche (Cameroon, 1979-82) is once again putting together a well-organized event. Old members and new are welcome to this potluck - bring your family or friends. There are lots of great reasons to come:

- A chance to connect with friends.
- Fantastic food - this group knows how to cook!
- Renew your dues - save a stamp.
- 2010 calendars at the super-friendly member rate - last chance!
- Vote for new officers - out with the old, in with the new!
- Get an update on what the group has accomplished in the last year.
- Find out how you can help with group projects, from the Calendar Committee, the Poster Committee, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, and more.
- Special guest Nanayaa Kumi, from Peace Corps Response (formerly known as Crisis Corps) in Washington DC will give a *brief* presentation to the group on the program, and be available to answer your questions about reentry via this short-term, goal-oriented service in Peace Corps countries. Opportunities for educators are new to the Response program; see [www.peacecorps.gov/response](http://www.peacecorps.gov/response) for a preview.

What other social events do we offer? There is the monthly first Thursday ethnic dinner. Tom Brodd (Ghana, 1996-98) continues to organize these fun food fests at a different restaurant every month.

Make sure you pay attention to the listserv messages to learn more about a wide variety of social events. If you're not on the listserv, send me an email ([kateschachter@yahoo.com](mailto:kateschachter@yahoo.com), Ghana 2004-07) and I'll be glad to set you up. The listserv also is an easy way to scan for other ways to help support the group fund-raising efforts. Did you know that over \$820,000 has been raised in the 21 years of calendar production, and every penny has gone to worthy projects all over the world? Many of you have voted \$1,000 to PCPP projects each year - this is a significant benefit of paid membership. Help us maintain this and other funding ventures. And have fun doing it at the same time!

*Kate Schachter*

**The PICNIC announcement on page 9 is designed to be printed out and posted anywhere RPCVs might see it.**

## Dates in Brief\*

### August

- 4 - Poster Comm Mtng, Char
- 6 - International Dinner
- 7 - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Social, Mem Un\*
- 19 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 23 - Book Club\*
- 25 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home

### September

- 1 - Poster Comm Mtng, Char\*
- 3 - International Dinner
- 4 - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Social, Mem Un\*
- 11 - Calendar Packing Party
- 13 - PICNIC, Tenney Park\*
- 16-19 World Music Fest Mem Un
- 19-20 Willy St. Fest, Willy St. \*
- 22 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home
- 27 - Book Club

### October

- 1 - International Dinner\*
- 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Social, Mem Un\*
- 6 - Poster Com Mtng, Char\*
- 20 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 25 - Book Club
- 27 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home
- 31 - Halloween Party?

\* More Inside

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## ***RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts***

### **Elected Officers**

President	Kate Schachter	234.1795	<a href="mailto:kateschachter@yahoo.com">kateschachter@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Lee Row	232.9065	<a href="mailto:leerow@sbcglobal.net">leerow@sbcglobal.net</a>
Secretary	Meghan Meeker	630.7707	<a href="mailto:meghanmeeker@yahoo.com">meghanmeeker@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Ana Zambie	234.0281	<a href="mailto:annzam2001@yahoo.com">annzam2001@yahoo.com</a>
Board Member	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	<a href="mailto:zeltner@chorus.net">zeltner@chorus.net</a>
Board Member	Char Thompson		<a href="mailto:charkt@charter.net">charkt@charter.net</a>
Deadwood/Book Club	Mary Ann Feutz	(262) 224.3753	<a href="mailto:mafeutz@uwalumni.com">mafeutz@uwalumni.com</a>

### **Event Chairs**

Family Brunch	Clare Vogel Friedrich		<a href="mailto:vogelclare@gmail.com">vogelclare@gmail.com</a>
Freeze for Food	Rick Lackey	213.8878	<a href="mailto:meisa@charter.net">meisa@charter.net</a>
	Peter Joyce	245.0626	<a href="mailto:peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net">peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net</a>
Tabling Events	Troy Rutter	245.9964	<a href="mailto:txrutter@att.net">txrutter@att.net</a>
International Dinners	Tom Brodd	251.6193	<a href="mailto:twbrodd@aol.com">twbrodd@aol.com</a>
MorePeaceCorps	Judy Figi		<a href="mailto:salonesix@aol.com">salonesix@aol.com</a>

### **Other Contacts**

Calendar Coordinator	Tom Brodd	251.6193	<a href="mailto:twbrodd@aol.com">twbrodd@aol.com</a>
Calendar Customer Service	Ken Coffeen	224.1164	<a href="mailto:kencoffeen67@tds.net">kencoffeen67@tds.net</a>
Business Manager			
Donation Coordinator	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	<a href="mailto:zdogg47@gmail.com">zdogg47@gmail.com</a>
Global Education	Helene Pesche		
Membership	Heather Hempel Gomez	843.3973	<a href="mailto:rpcvmsnmembers@gmail.com">rpcvmsnmembers@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Lee Row	232.9065	<a href="mailto:worldrootsnews@yahoo.com">worldrootsnews@yahoo.com</a>
Peace Corps Recruiter	John Sheffy	262.1121	<a href="mailto:peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu">peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu</a>
Registered Agent	Terry Stark	233.9140	<a href="mailto:terry.stark@yahoo.com">terry.stark@yahoo.com</a>

### **Listserv**

RPCVs of WI – Madison [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv\\_madison/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/)

### **Websites**

RPCVs of WI – Madison <http://www.rpcvmadison.org>

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

Thanks to Kim Malueg!

PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701

### **FIND ARCHIVED GROUP INFORMATION**

Are you looking for old meeting minutes, copies of newsletters, group photos, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws? Newsletters are posted on our website, but most of these other items are posted only on our Yahoo! Group pages.

Meeting minutes are added to this area, for ready access by anyone. If you want to know how to access these files, or how to use the listserv to its fullest advantage, contact Kate Schachter, 608.234.1795 or [kateschachter@yahoo.com](mailto:kateschachter@yahoo.com) for a mini-training at a local coffee shop with Wi-Fi access.

# Meeting Minutes

## July 15, 2009 Union Terrace

Tom Brodd, Ken Coffeen, Jack Laun, Meghan Meeker, Lee Row, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, Char Thompson & Walt Zeltner attended.

### Announcements

#### *Annual General Meeting & Picnic*

Helene Pesche is coordinating the Annual General Meeting & Picnic, where we will have an opportunity to elect the 2009-10 group officers, renew memberships, get 2010 International Calendars and International Posters, and enjoy a potluck with international cuisine. It will be held at the Tenney Park Shelter (1414 E. Johnson Street, Madison) on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 10:00 PM.

#### *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator*

We still need a volunteer to lead the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, which will plan activities celebrating Peace Corps's golden anniversary in 2011. Interested candidates should contact Kate.

### Financial Report

In the absence of Treasurer Ana Zambie, Kate distributed copies of the cash flow statement for June 2009. The ending balances on June 30<sup>th</sup> were as follows: \$69,765 for the International Calendar, \$2,243 for the group, and \$2,263 for the International Poster Project. Tom will check with the Calendar Committee about donating \$70,000 to the Peace Corps Partnership Program. Also, Kate reminded us to submit expense reimbursement requests to Ana before the fiscal year ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Old Business

#### *Colombia Support Network*

As part of the 2009 Gift-Away, the Colombia Support Network requested \$2,000 to support community development and peace-keeping work by the Citizens Movement in Tiquisio, Colombia. During the April meeting, we tabled this proposal until the Colombia Support Network could send a representative to provide more details about the project. Jack

Laun came for that purpose today and clarified that our donation would be used to purchase educational supplies for flood-damaged schools in Tiquisio. Lee motioned to donate \$1,500 to this project, Char seconded, and all approved.

#### *Dane Buy Local Membership*

In the May meeting, Rick Brooks suggested that our group join Dane Buy Local (DBL), as a way to sell the International Calendar through local businesses. Rick intended to send us information about Dane Buy Local for publication in the newsletter, but Lee reported that it has not yet arrived. This delays our plan to vote on DBL membership at the August meeting.

#### *Member Privacy Policy*

Kate presented copies of the draft Member Privacy Policy, which enables members to restrict their



contact information from being shared with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and the Peace Corps Recruiter Offices. Kate explained that NPCA sells RPCV contact information to commercial interests, whereas Peace Corps does not. After discussion, we decided not to share any member contact information with NPCA, until they allow individuals to opt-out of having their information sold for commercial purposes. Lee motioned to amend our Member Privacy Policy based on this decision, Char seconded, and all approved. Kate will prepare a revised version for review at the August meeting.

### New Business

#### *NPCA Group Leaders Forum*

Kate shared the highlights from the NPCA Group Leaders Forum in Washington, D.C., which she attended at her own expense (although she sold enough copies of the 2010 International Calendar to almost cover baggage fees). Kate attended several workshops, learning about

1. NPCA's proposed transition from a dues-paying to alumni membership model
2. The Global Connections project, funded by the UPS Foundation, to promote the global skills of US high school students
3. The Africa Rural Connect project, funded by the Gates Foundation, to create a collaborative online space for improving the livelihood of Sub-Saharan farmers
4. The disheartening statistics of limited NPCA involvement from RPCVs
5. The Peace Corps Connect networking site
6. Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activity ideas
7. Options for marketing the International Posters via NPCA
8. The fundraising opportunity centered on "I Bring What I Love," an acclaimed film about Youssou N'Dour. Anyone interested in working to bring this film to Madison should contact Kate. Kevin Quigley of NPCA joined others in praising our group for its stellar fundraising and projects.

#### *Donation to NPCA for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

NPCA has requested a \$500 donation from every RPCV group for the Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Kate suggested donating \$1,000 from available group funds. After discussion, we decided to give \$500 now and consider giving another \$500 later in the year. Kate will include this proposal in the upcoming newsletter, so that it can be voted upon in August. Lee

suggested reserving the second \$500 for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, vs. sending it to NPCA.

Tom reported that the Calendar Committee has sold approximately 18,000, or about half, of the 2010 International Calendars. Ken confirmed the receipt of \$27,700 in payments. Considering that vital positions still need to be filled on the Calendar Committee, Char, Tom and Ken agreed to identify prospective volunteers and make calls to request their assistance. Tom announced that the Calendar Packing Party will occur in early September.

#### *International Poster Project*

Char reported \$450 in new sales of the International Poster. The Poster Committee has sold close to 200 poster sets. Interest is picking up, now that the posters are featured on our group's website at:

[www.rpcvmadison.org/weall.php](http://www.rpcvmadison.org/weall.php)

and on the Peace Corps Connect discussion forums. Orders have come from as near as Kentucky and as far as Singapore.

#### *2009 Gift-Away*

Walt expects that Mike and Marcy Reed will be able to join us at the August meeting to present their Gift-Away proposal for the Mujer a Mujer Domestic Violence Shelter in Mexico. This proposal was tabled in the April meeting, because the Reeds were unavailable to answer questions. Walt noted that even if the Reed's project is approved next month, we will still have sufficient Gift-Away funds to accept proposals for a second round of donations at the October meeting.

#### *MorePeaceCorps*

Kate reported that the MorePeace-Corps campaign continues to move forward. President Obama has nominated Aaron Williams, RPCV Dominican Republic 1967-70, as the new Peace Corps Director.

#### *Archiving Project*

Char reported that Amy O'Shea is in the process of filing our group's records in archival boxes. Once properly arranged, these archives will be transferred from Char's house to the Peace Corps Campus Representative's office. This office will be moving to a new location,

yet unknown to our group. Kate is reaching out to John Ferrick, Associate Director of International Programs in the UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to discuss the office site change and other topics like attracting more UW students to join our group. Char will follow up with Amy about training our group's Board on how to maintain the archives.

#### *Social Committee*

Kate will lead the first meeting of our new Social Committee on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM on the Memorial Union Terrace. She invites us to come and brainstorm ideas for planning and promoting social events.

#### **Third Goal Opportunities**

##### *PCV Recruiting Event*

Our group helped Carrie Teiken, of the Peace Corps Regional Recruiter Office coordinate a recruiting event in Madison on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The event was a success, with over 50 people attending.

##### *Atwood Summerfest*

Troy Rutter is seeking volunteers for the RPCV table at Atwood Summerfest from 1:00 to 7:00 PM on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Tom passed around the sign-up sheet.

Char motioned to adjourn the meeting, Judy seconded, and all approved.



## *Poster Committee*

### **June 9, Char's House**

Phyllis, Stephanie, Helene and Char attended

Char reported that Judy @ WNPJ is glad to share table at Farmer's market but according to the Capitol Police we are not allowed to sell anything. We want to choose a date nearer the beginning of school to pass out order forms. The WECA (Early childhood) conference is in the Dells Fri- Sat. October 23-24. The cost of a table is \$150. After discussion it was decided to check back with some friends in child care to see if they think it is worth being there.

The WEAC large, statewide teachers' conference in Milwaukee this year is October 29-30. The cost of a table is \$300. Phyllis

encouraged us to share the cost with the Milwaukee group to get exposure. Char will follow up with the Milwaukee RPCV group. We will check with Kate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal/Connected PC postings. We replaced Amy Zavala's damaged posters.

#### *Web*

Everything has been sent to Kim for the web site. There will be a button to download each photo's information individually as well as by poster group, but not all five at once. Stephanie will check back with Kim, asking if is there is anything else we can do to support her. Helene offered childcare.

#### *Marketing*

Phyllis passed around a handout. We discussed getting some of the favorable feedback we've gotten on the web site as well as some of the letters we have received. Phyllis will get the logo from Kate. Phyllis will follow up on sales to stores, catalogs, libraries, and private schools. Helene will follow up on the public school lists. Char will follow up on RPCV groups. As soon as the web site is complete we will send out the letters. We will check with Rochelle & Troy about the upcoming festivals but do not expect to sell many tubes there - our presence will be more for exposure.

#### *Accounting*

Char passed out a handout. We are on track with the business plan. We have turned in \$3,261 to the RPCV group treasurer, which we can use for future expenses. We have donated 70 tubes. We discussed future sales at various levels and the resulting funds that would be available at each level of sales. We looked at the sales projections for next six months. The summer will be quiet but fall will be busier.

#### *Next Year's Topics*

We reviewed topics and considered some word changes. We expect to decide on photo selection topics in late October so Stephanie can choose photos, get photographer permissions, etc. for printing in February.

The next meeting will be the first Tuesday of month - i.e. July 7<sup>th</sup>.

## July 7, 4506 Regent St

Phyllis Noble, Kate Schachter, Stephanie Motz, Helene Pesche, and Char Thompson attended.

### *Updates*

Kim is adding more to the web site. We want to thank her very much, as the initial information made a huge difference in being able to announce the poster sets at the NPCA Group Leaders Forum.

We discussed the Milwaukee WEAC conference - Phyllis volunteered to be there. We will find out the deadline for table registration and coordinate with the Milwaukee RPCV group.

Kate was in Washington, D.C. at the NPCA Group Leaders Forum on June 27<sup>th</sup> and presented the posters to 40+ group leaders. There was positive feedback and all the order forms disappeared. She met with Anne Baker on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Anne had several creative ideas on how to promote the posters. She has put us in touch with Global TeachNet co-editors Angine Wilson (reviewer of grades 9-12 materials) and Susan Nyer (reviewer of grades K-8 materials), who may be willing to write critiques of the materials and help generate ideas and education discourse on how to use the posters in the classroom. She also recommended creating a Discussion Forum in Peace Corps Connect (PCC) for the Group Leaders Forum to promote sales, and on the Global TeachNet Forum to promote classroom ideas. (Within two days of setting up these two forums, we received an order from Singapore and comments on the discussion forum.)

NPCA has received a grant from the UPS Foundation to partner with the Globalist, an e-zine that is developing a global education initiative. Kate will explore that exposure opportunity. Anne also suggested we look into applying for a regional grant to collaborate with the Midwest RPCV groups to get the poster sets into the classrooms. Kate is in contact with Allegra Troiano, NPCA Board member for our region, about how that might work.

The WE ALL topics seem to match Montessori concepts, so we have another target audience to follow up. Char will check into the US Association and local schools.

We went through the categories of addresses in the School directory that Helene provided. Phyllis is going to take a sample to show the Cooperative Children's Book Center. We discussed the other states' DPIs and how best to work with local RPCV groups. If they are not going to connect with their state organizations, then we will, so that the information can get out via their equivalent of Wisconsin's Friends of International Education.

Phyllis and Margot met with Mark Lilleleht, Outreach Coordinator for Global Studies at the UW. He will place an article in newsletter for teachers and we will follow up on the October conference.

Helene offered to find an appropriate contact at MATC.

Phyllis brought marketing letters addressed to five school supply catalogs. Char printed out some of these for RPCV groups. These were combined with order forms and mailed out. Char will produce more soon. It will probably take several months for groups to make decisions but with Kate's Washington, D.C. promotion and our web presence, the word should begin to circulate.

Kate updated entries into the accounting program and Char will generate reports before the general meeting next week so funds can be turned in. Kate will develop a spreadsheet so we can follow up on our contacts.

The next meeting will be first Tuesday of the month - August 4<sup>th</sup>.

## *Calendar Committee*

### **May 09, Tom's House**

The calendar job openings were reviewed and Lee said that a "Help Wanted" issue of the World Roots would soon be out, covering the open positions.

The group agreed to rent a storage unit for the calendars that have been stored in Rose Ann's house in the past. The agreed location is at, Park Street Storage, 1814 S.

Park St, (phone 204-93110). Tom and Ken will have keys and access to the stored calendar, making accounting for the calendars and inventory control easier.

On the sales/marketing front around half of the calendars have been shipped, roughly around 18,000.

The calendar unveiling party has been set for July 11 at Toms' house.



## *Announcements*

### **Fall Giftaway**

*Message from Walt Zeltner*

This past spring we considered several requests for donations from the proceeds of the sales of the 2009 calendar. After processing these requests, we have about \$5,000 remaining for additional donations. Therefore, at our October 2009 general meeting we will entertain additional requests for donations to specific projects that align with the objectives of Peace Corps.

Requests should be submitted by e-mail on our standard donation form, which I can provide if you email me at [zdogg47@gmail.com](mailto:zdogg47@gmail.com). (Note that my old email address has been discontinued.) Although this form was available on our web site for the spring giftaway, the link to it is not currently active. The request must be received in time to be published in our newsletter before the October meeting or it cannot be considered. Please email the completed form to me at the address above and to our newsletter editor at [worldrootsnews@yahoo.com](mailto:worldrootsnews@yahoo.com).

Although we prefer to fund overseas projects, we will consider domestic projects as well. We will not pay for travel expenses and will generally not consider funding scholarships. Further information is provided on the donation form.

### **Street Festival News**

*From Troy Rutter*

The Atwood Summerfest was yet another successful outing. We gave out information about the Peace Corps, sold many calendars

and posters to grateful customers, and signed up 11 new prospective members.

Thanks to Meghan Meeker, Scot Simpson, Sharon Isensee, Char Thompson, Teresa Cousins, and Tom Brodd for helping at our table. Special thanks to Helene Pesche for bringing all the posters and helping set the table. Our next tabling event is the Willy Street Fair on Sunday, September 20 from 11 AM to 7 PM. Call 245.9964 or e-mail [txrutter@att.net](mailto:txrutter@att.net) if you want to help at our table.



### The RPCV 2009 Summer Campout

*From Terry Stark*

The weather was perfect for the RPCV Summer Campout this year. Our small group enjoyed a grassy, level, wide-open camping area with a large shelter for dining.

My six-year old daughter Gabriela was so excited at the prospect of camping and this year the weather was on our side. She had fun exploring Token Creek County Park, kicking the soccer ball with Karl and talking with Ken, Sharon, Troy, Kristy and her friends who visited for the Saturday afternoon potluck dinner. That night the traffic noise from I-94 did not even bother

her, although it kept me awake for a while.

The next morning Ken and Sharon gave Karl, Gabriela and me a walking tour on the boardwalk and pathways of Token Creek County Park. Very nice! And thanks to Ken for teaching me how to identify Black Walnut trees.

The campout was pleasant albeit not remote. When we finally decided to leave, it took only minutes to get home. Will we have nice weather again next year? Let's hope so!



## Thank You's

### Liberia Education

In 2007 Judy Reed and Jane Sharer visited Liberia where Judy had been a Peace Corps Volunteer



in the 60s. Impressed by local efforts to provide education and rebuild their communities, Judy and Jane offered what help they could to the Liberians they visited. They also made a request in last year's Giftaway - for a mimeograph machine and money to help build a school. Friends and neighbors also

contributed. Teachers were able to make copies and a school building began to materialize.



Jane says they were so inspired by contributions that they formed a 501(c)(3), the Liberian Assistance Program (LAP), and have a plan to continue helping with school construction, school supplies and furnishings and with scholarships for Liberian students. You can read about it and see photos on their website:

[www.liberianassistanceprogram.org](http://www.liberianassistanceprogram.org). They also mention our group on the website! Included here are some photos Jane sent recently.

### Belize Latrines

Josh Cain writes:

Hello, my name is Joshua Cain. I'm a PCV in Belize. I wanted to finally say Thank You!!! for donating to my PCPP grant. All of you helped out a lot in helping us construct a community center latrine.



We finished up the construction at the end of March. The latrine is one large structure with two toilets.

The villagers all did their parts during construction.

It's amazing at how fast you can dig a 5 foot hole when you have 50 men!!! The latrine will be put to use during any activity at the center.



I have enclosed a CD with pictures of the construction. Hope you enjoy them and



Token Creek County Park

Photo by Ken Coffeen

that they bring back memories of your service.

Once again, Thank You very much!!!



In Peace, Josh Cain

## NPCA News

### NPCA launches

#### Africa Rural Connect (ARC)

Supported by a nine-month grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ARC is a state-of-the-art work collaboration tool that enables collaboration between people who share the desire to support small farmers in rural Africa. These include returned Peace Corps Volunteers, development professionals, non-governmental organization workers, scholars, and members of the African Diaspora. In the United States alone, the African Diaspora is comprised of more than 1.8 million people from virtually every African country and every level of society.

#### About Africa Rural Connect

Africa Rural Connect is, quite literally, global collaboration. We are leveraging technology to enable anyone in the world to build upon the ideas of others. The ARC Project introduces and encourages a new form of collaboration. When you read someone's idea for Africa, not only can you comment on it and endorse it, you can rewrite it by adding information from your own personal experience and insights. That's why we need you.

### Africa Rural Connect is global collaboration

The more people that get involved, the more creative the plans will become, and the greater exposure of the best ideas to improve agriculture in rural Sub-Saharan Africa.

This is the time to help individuals – we have the technology, motivation, and experience.

This is the space to make connections with other people who care about Africa. The humblest farmer can have the idea with the greatest impact. We believe there is untapped collective wisdom that just needs a space to ignite. This is a growing movement. Through the online contest, we will jumpstart the ideas formed in this community and we will continue to work together to share best practices, develop the ideas to implement them and make a better world. No idea is too grand – no contribution is too small. Share your story – we will hear you.



For more information about Africa Rural Connect, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

#### What about the contest? How do I win?

- ARC awards the best ideas up to \$3,000 each month from August to November.
- There will be four rounds in the contest.
- On the 15th day of every month, the highest rated plan will win \$3,000, the second place will win \$2,000 and third place will win \$1,000.

- Ten Round Winners will be selected based on community endorsements and interactions and given a special badge every month.
- The top 20 of the 40 Round Winners at the end of the Contest will be nominated to the final round for a chance to win the \$20,000 grand prize. We will announce the grand prize winner in early December.
- The top ten leaders of each round, as with all other participants, can continue to work on their plans until the Contest ends.
- The more endorsements your idea receives, the better its chance to go on to the final round! Spread the word to the people you know who care about Africa to tell them to sign up on ARC to endorse your plan or make it better!

<http://arc.peacecorpsconnect.org/>



The MorePeaceCorps campaign has been very active in lobbying the Congress for \$450 million vs the \$345 million proposed by President Obama.

The \$450 million figure is the first of three significant increases in the PC budget campaigners think it will take to improve and reform Peace Corps. There were a number of exciting events as the House Foreign Affairs Committee endorsed the higher figure and it was retained in the House budget. Unfortunately, Senator Patrick Leahy and others opposed the proposed increase in the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee and the Senate version of the budget retained the smaller figure. Since the House came in at \$450 million and the Senate with \$373

million, there is a discrepancy. When this happens, there is a "conference" to resolve the discrepancy. This will happen when Congress returns after the August recess.

In the meantime, Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) has introduced the Peace Corps Improvement and Expansion Act of 2009 which combines a reform and growth strategy for the Peace Corps. To read about it and get involved, see the MorePeaceCorps site at [www.morepeacecorps.org/](http://www.morepeacecorps.org/).



A rally for a Bold, New Peace Corps took place at Freedom Plaza in Washington D.C. on Saturday, June 13. Laurence Leamer's article on *The Huffington Post* summarizes what happened at the rally. Visit the website [www.morepeacecorps.org](http://www.morepeacecorps.org) to view photos.

## Peace Corps News

### New Peace Corps Director



RPCV Aaron Williams (Dominican Republic 67-70) has been confirmed to become the 18th Director of the Peace Corps. The United States Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination in one of its final actions before a five week recess.

"The Peace Corps community is thrilled with Aaron Williams' rapid confirmation," said NPCA President Kevin Quigley. "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Aaron and eagerly look forward to working with him to build a better and bolder Peace Corps that realizes much more of its promise."

During a non-controversial hearing on July 29th before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) - also a Dominican Republic RPCV - indicated his hope the confirmation could come before the August recess and said on several occasions he is excited at the prospect of working with Williams. That sentiment was echoed by Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) who told Williams "I commend the President on your appointment."

Harris Wofford introduced Williams during the hearing, drawing comparisons to Peace Corps founder Sargent Shriver, adding "I am sure he would recognize Aaron Williams as the kind of leader the Peace Corps needs today."

## This August, share your WATER stories!

Water is one of our world's most precious resources.

How was water an important part of your service?

- Did you have easy access to fresh water? Talk about the importance of clean water with a day camp.
- Where did your water come from? Post a blog entry with pictures of your local well, pumps, river, stream, lake, or ocean.
- Share stories of your work as a water resource volunteer at your local library.

Visit *World Wise Schools' Water Project* for more ideas!

Go to [www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal](http://www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal) as your one-stop shop for how-to tips and resources for planning a great Peace Corps Third Goal activity! Don't forget to register your Third Goal participation online. Your official participation counts in helping the Peace Corps gain greater support from Congress.

Send us an e-mail at [thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov](mailto:thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov) to share how you have promoted cross-cultural understanding.

### REGISTER TODAY

at

[WWW.PEACECORPS.GOV/THIRDGOAL](http://WWW.PEACECORPS.GOV/THIRDGOAL)

FOR YOUR

### THIRD GOAL RESOURCE KIT

AND THROUGH AUGUST YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE

*WWS WATER IN AFRICA*

BOOKMARKS!

### United We Serve

#### Submit your Third Goal Videos, Photos, and Activity Highlights

Have you organized and put on a small talk or a large event? Inspire others in the Peace Corps community to engage in the third goal by sharing the details of your event - including digital video and photographs. We may share your submission with the rest of the Peace Corps family. Items can be submitted as email attachments to [thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov](mailto:thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov) or mailed to Third Goal/Domestic Programs.

President Obama's summer service initiative - **United We Serve** - is a call to all Americans to join a volunteer effort this summer and be part of building a new foundation for America, one community at a time. This is an excellent opportunity for RPCVs to further engage in a Third Goal activity through volunteering.

Visit [www.serv.gov](http://www.serv.gov), to find service opportunities near you and to post your own projects. Don't forget to register your Third Goal cross-cultural participation at [www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal](http://www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal).

Served in the Peace Corps? Thinking about it?

The RPCVs of Wisconsin Madison invite you to their

# *Annual General Meeting & Picnic*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

*At The Tenney Park Shelter\**

- ☞ *Reconnect* ☞
- ☞ *Relax* ☞
- ☞ *Elect Officers* ☞
- ☞ *Bring RPCVs* ☞
- ☞ *Join, Renew* ☞
- ☞ *Bring friends* ☞
- ☞ *Get Calendars* ☞
- ☞ *Bring the family* ☞
- ☞ *Get Posters* ☞
- ☞ *Bring a dish to pass* ☞

Dishes, plastic utensils, etc. will be provided

*We will start around 4:30 PM. Details to follow on the listserv. If you haven't already, sign up now!*

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv\\_madison/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/)

**Special guest appearance by Nanayaa Kumi  
from *Peace Corps Response***

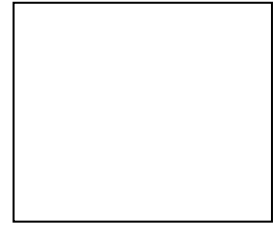
\*1414 E Johnson St.

[www.cityofmadison.com/parks](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks)

Madison Metro Bus Routes 2, 5, 9, 27, 28

<http://trip.cityofmadison.com/>

**PO BOX 1012  
Madison WI 53701**



All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison members receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through September of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership in September. Members who join between September and December should pay \$15; members who join between January and April should pay \$10; members who join between May and August should pay \$5. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. You can also join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) through us by paying an additional \$35. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues. **\*\*New RPCVs receive a complimentary year's membership.\*\***

Please note that overseas rates do not include NPCA membership. See above for calculations

- Individual - \$15/\$10/\$5
- Joint - \$20/\$14/\$7 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
- I am also enclosing \$35 for each NPCA membership
- I do not want to join, but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing \$7 (\$15 for overseas) to cover costs.
- I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.
- Overseas Individual - \$24/\$16/\$8
- Overseas Joint - \$29/\$20/\$10

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

I would like to receive my Newsletter  on paper, by mail  electronically, by e-mail

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

PC Job: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date : (Optional - M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_\_