Farewell Message from Outgoing President

It has been an honor to serve as president of our RPCV group for the last three years. I want to thank the many individuals who gave of their time and talent to advance our activities supporting Peace Corps and its ideals. We do good work, and we have fun together. As I hand the gavel to Clare McNamara, I'm excited for our group to continue moving forward under her able leadership.

Warm regards,
Meghan
Meet the new Board of Directors elected at the Annual Summer Picnic in September:

Margaret Rusch, Cambodia 2012-14, Board Member (At Large)
Michael Schon, Dominican Republic 2010-12, Board Member (At Large)
Darlene Schmidt, Jordan 1998-2000, Treasurer
Rebecca Biely, Moldova 2002-05, Secretary
Harry Bennett, Belize 2002-04, Vice President
Clare McNamara, Tanzania 2006-08, President (2015-16)
Walt Zelter, Kenya 1972-74, Board Member (At Large)
Meghan Meeker, Guatemala 2005-07, Outgoing President (2012-15)
Annual Picnic & Business Meeting
by Helene Pesche

The Annual Meeting Potluck Supper was held at Mc Gaw Park, Fitchburg, WI on Sunday September 13, 2015. It was a beautiful late summer day! Approximately 60 to 70 individuals attended with a dozen new RPCV-Madison members present; and three babies! Mingling, swapping stories and greeting new faces began with the brewing sub-group of the RPCV calendar committee provided a summer home-brew beer.

After sharing summer salads, garden vegetables, steaming ethnic dishes and enticing homemade pie and other desserts, we began the annual meeting. Amid cheers, we recognized our attendees during each decade served; and by continent. Three women were volunteers in early 1960's: Phyllis (Nigeria), Elizabeth (Brazil) and Margot (Ethiopia). Guatemala had the largest participation by country-of-service. Eastern Europe heralded the newest returnees! A sister-in-law was warmly welcomed from Moldova. Sadly we did not speak Russian; but smiles were shared and her infant nephew
admired.

Committee reports from our treasurer, Darlene; 2016 and 2017 calendar news from Justin; WE ALL posters funded 4 educational groups with $500 each was summarized by Madeline; and Tom explained Peace Corps Partnership. Eight members were random winners to earmark $500 to a current Peace Corps Partnership of his/her choice. Walt handed out a member survey about the April 2016 Gift Away. Kate and Troy announced the Sept 20 RPCV tabling event at the Willy Street Fair and 11 AM parade.

The slate of candidates was enthusiastically approved for the 2015-2016 Board and Officers of the RPCV-Madison, WI group. We were grateful to Meghan, RPCV-
Guatemala, for serving as President for the past 3 years; and for her extensive organizational contributions. The gavel was passed to Clare, new President, RPCV-Tanzania. The event concluded as the sun went down.

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**Expanded Africa Fest 2015**

By Troy Rutter

The newly expanded Africa Fest was held in Madison's new Central Park on August 15. It was a very festive celebration featuring music, food, crafts, and story-telling from all over the African continent. Scot Simspon, Pat Halpin, Harry Bennett, Tamara England-Zelensky, Kristy Torres, and Jorge Soler helped staff our table. Throughout the afternoon, many people came up to the table to tell us how a Peace Corps volunteer influenced them when they were growing up in Africa. It was energizing to hear first-hand accounts of the impact Peace Corps volunteers can have.

Special thanks to Anita and Dean Makuluni for sponsoring our group. Photo is from the Parade of Nations procession of flags.
Educators or community organizers who are doing multicultural outreach...basically, Third Goal work...may apply for a $500 Global Diversity mini-grant. You can get details and how to apply are available at http://rpcvmadison.org/weall/grant.

The next deadline for proposals is midnight, November 30. I’m sure you can find someone in your community who would benefit from some seed money to kick off an event or project! It is not required that the applicant be an RPCV.

For our first grant review, which ended August 31, the Poster Committee received seven requests, and sent $500 each to these four schools and their projects:

**Patrick Marsh Middle School, Sun Prairie, WI - Global Reading Challenge**
**Cuba City High School, Cuba City, WI - Global Understanding Through Literature**
**Torres Elementary School, Chicago, IL - Torres Counts World Map Project**
**Unity Elementary School, Balsam Lake, WI - Third Grade World Fair**
Summer Nationwide Bike Challenge
By Kate Schachter

Back in our May newsletter, we mentioned the bike challenge that the Tennessee RPCVs issued to us. All summer long, we were in friendly competition in a nationwide Bike Challenge, through the National Bike Federation.

Results:

- Wisconsin - Rank 254, Points 32,331, Miles 18,471, 16 riders
- Tennessee - Rank 758, Points 7,966, Miles 4,646, 8 riders
- National - 1,665 teams, 92,391 riders, 37,721,322 miles
- Top-ranked team, Gainesville FL - 1,381,744 Points, 871,604 miles, 502 riders

So, Wisconsin "won." But Tennessee won, too, because the prize to the best team was
NonCompetitive Eligibility status on an application to our Global Diversity MiniGrant (we disqualified ourselves). They have promised to submit a proposal for evaluation.

Special thanks to Harry Bennett, Troy Rutter, and Don Sauer, who rocked the miles this summer!

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April Giftaway -- WORT Challenge Grant
Written By Kate Schachter Submitted by Walt Zeltner

This April during the Giftaway we voted to donate $250 to WORT. This was setup as a matching pledge and a challenge to "all friends and family of Peace Corps Volunteers, and to anyone admires Peace Corps." On top of the group $250, an additional $260 was raised from six members of our group, so the total was $510.

Here are the results, with sincere thanks from Susan Sheldon at WORT:

"Kate, the pledge drive went great! $500 was matched out of the $510 challenge grant offered by the group of RPCVs of Madison, helping PanAfrica to set a new pledge drive record for their show, $1650 (the first week of the pledge drive) as well as inspiring 4 listeners to become first time donors. Wow! I've copied Linda, one of the PanAfrica co-hosts on this, because I know she wanted to make sure to thank you as well.

The second week of the pledge drive PanAfrica did $295, so you can see what a big difference the challenge grant made in inspiring people to pledge. Thank you so much! I have loved the RPCV of Madison since I worked for SERRV and found out all the things you do."
It's time to **RENEW** your **MEMBERSHIP** for the current year! Dues are $15 individual/$20 per household. Get the form here: [http://rpcvmadison.org/about-rpcv-wi-madison/join-us](http://rpcvmadison.org/about-rpcv-wi-madison/join-us)