



MNRPCV's Newsletter

Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Serving RPCVs and the Community

Spring 2000

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Liberia

Mission Statement

To serve Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the community by providing service to others and fostering appreciation of cultural diversity.

The Corner Boardby Scott R. Eckert

Greetings from the Community Service arena. Spring is upon us and that signals the beginning of a new area of community service. Taking care of our environment is an important part of community service. With that idea of community in mind, MNRPCV's will be involved in Earth Day, April 22. We will be meeting at West 25th and Cedar Lake Parkway to assist the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board clean up Cedar Lake. We will meet at the site at 9:00 AM and work till around Noon. Bring gloves and dress appropriately. They have lined up refreshments for all the participants as part of a citywide Earth Day clean-up effort. This will give us all an opportunity to "touch base" after the Winter and make plans for other get togethers in the coming months. Families are welcome as well as friends. Come one, come all!

That's just the beginning of what I hope is an active community service program. MNRPCV's will begin May 20th performing volunteer environmental service at Theodore Wirth Park. E-mail me at sconan@go.com to let me know you are interested or call at 612-561-4305 so I can begin putting together the work crew.

A variety of projects are planned including, prairie plantings, woodland plantings, trail construction and a real favorite...Buckthorn removal. Tools will be provided. One Saturday each month we will be working about three hours or so to assist the park board in taking care of this beautiful and somewhat neglected park. They can really use our help. The benefit for us is we get to spend some time working together on a project which brings us all together, caring for natural resources and helping to create recreational opportunities. I'm trying to round up a sponsor or two to supply us with refreshments and munchies. Any ideas?

Later in the summer a Habitat for Humanity

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Membership Alert

We have been working closely with the National Peace Corps Association to figure out how in the heck our membership numbers have decreased. As a result of the August 1999 conference held in Mpls/St. Paul, we had hoped to see a significant increase in the number of MNRPCV members, but instead, the membership has decreased from over 300 to just over 200 members! We are aware of database problems at the NPCA and feel some of the decrease in numbers may be resulting from technical difficulties. If you (or someone you know) has NOT been receiving their newsletters and WorldView magazine, and think you HAVE sent in your check to the NPCA, please contact Gigi Felix at membership@rpcv.org or 202-293-7728, ext 15.

Since we are a "joint dues affiliate group," the annual membership fee for an individual is \$40 and this includes membership in both the Minnesota RPCVs as well as the NPCA. The NPCA handles all processing of our memberships, sending us rebate checks and membership lists on a monthly basis. For \$40 per year, members receive regular MNRPCV newsletters, the award-winning WorldView quarterly magazine, 3/1/61 (the national Peace Corps alumni newsletter), support worthy local and international projects, teach our neighbors and students about the developing world, get together frequently on a social basis and welcome newly-returned RPCVs. Membership is FREE for the first year after CoS. Membership forms are included in every MNRPCV newsletter, at www.rpcv.org or from your membership chair, Keith Pearson at 612-789-3851. Be sure and circle MINNESOTA as your affiliate group on the back of the membership form!

We are your Peace Corps Connection!

\$ MNRPCV Treasurer's Report

Curt Rahman – Treasurer

January through December 1999- Profit and Loss

Total Income	\$7,858.52
Total Expense	\$6,668.29
Net Income	\$1,190.23

Ending checking account balance \$6,819.75

The final figures are in for the conference in 1999, we will be collecting \$23,700 from the NPCA in Monthly installments of \$5,000 beginning in March. Anyone interested can get a full accounting by calling me at 612-207-5411

I have served on the board for three years and will be turning over the reigns this fall. Someone with financial background that knows computer based accounting programs will be needed. If you are that kind of person, please call me to discuss your possible volunteer involvement. I will train anyone willing and will provide software. Here is your chance to learn quicken or quickbooks!

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Rahman



Africa Beckons for Our Advocacy - Jack Conrad

The National Summit on Africa was held in Washington, D.C. on February 16-20. It was a culmination of two years of regional summits on Africa. I had the privilege of attending the Summit as one of twelve members of the Minnesota delegation. The focus of the gathering was on an American "dialogue and celebration" of Africa, with Africa and America representing "partners in the new millenium." Summit participants included President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, Nigerian Vice-President Abubakar Atiku, Lord David Owen, Jesse Jackson, former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, several acting and former members of Congress, several African-American mayors, the Reverend Leon Sullivan (organizer of the Civil Rights March on Washington), and a host of others from both Africa and the U.S. In all, over 5,000 delegates and attendees were on hand.

In speeches, discussions, and open debates, African leaders and U.S. policymakers on Africa explored the historical context and diplomatic priorities that guide U.S. foreign policy toward Africa. Plenary sessions and panel discussions offered participants an opportunity to expand their knowledge of Africa and its relations with the U.S. Over 2,000 delegates, many who were participants in the six regional summits, worked long hours to draft and adopt a National Policy Plan of Action for U.S.-African relations which was presented to President Clinton at the Summit's closing. President Clinton, in his opening address, asserted that "It is no longer an option for us not to know about the trials and triumphs of people who share this small planet. We can no longer choose not to know. We can only choose not to act. Americans must choose, when it comes to Africa, to make a difference." He also urged Americans to get involved in pressing issues facing the continent—opening trade, reducing debt, providing education, increasing literacy, improving health, and ending conflict—in the context of globalization.

Membership Form

If you are interested in joining our group, please send in the following membership registration form.

Yes! I want to be a member!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____

e-mail _____

Work Telephone _____

Country/Years of Service _____

Annual MEMBERSHIP (includes both NPCA and - MN Local Group- membership) \$40 FOR INDIVIDUAL/\$55 FOR FAMILY

INCLUDE JOB HO TLIN E (listing employment opportunities in the U.S. and abroad) \$30

INCLUDE OVERSEAS POSTAGE (if applicable) \$20

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THE NPCA IS ENCLOSED

PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD:

MC VISA

EXP. DATE _____ CARD# _____

SIGNATURE _____

NPCA, 1900 L Street, NW Suite 205, Washington, D.C.
20038 fax 202/293-7754 phone 202/293-7728



Upcoming National RPCV Events

August, 2000: Have you and your family made your summer vacation plans yet?? How about a weekend at an old-fashioned resort in rural Pennsylvania, meeting leaders of RPCV groups like ours and hearing ideas about what makes groups work well and how to solve problems?? These opportunities and more will be features of the 2000 Presidents' Forum, to be held Friday to Sunday, August 11-13 at Shawnee Inn, in Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA. For those of you who haven't been there before, the Inn is a delightful site that offers not only commodious meeting spaces but also numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation, on land and water. The Inn is owned and operated by RPCV Ginny Kirkwood and her family. The gathering will be graciously hosted by the Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association. More information regarding lodging and registration will be available soon – camping is available!

2001 – 40th Anniversary of Peace Corps
by Barbara Ferris, Chair, 40th Anniversary Task Force Morocco, 80-82

The 40th Anniversary task force is working to organize the many parts that will be the “whole” of the 40th anniversary year long celebration of the establishment of Peace Corps. The theme for the 40th is “What Can We Do For Our Country?” Some RPCVs have sent ideas and suggestions that have been great and others are thinking about it. We need your thoughts and ideas to ensure that the 40th is a raging success!

The kick-off celebration in early March 2001 will be a “Volunteer Day” in communities across the country wherever local RPCV groups are located. The idea behind Volunteer Day in communities across the country is to raise the visibility of our extraordinary membership and illustrate the fact that RPCVs continue to serve in our communities to improve the quality of life for everyone.

So, I hope that each RPCV group is beginning to make plans for Volunteer Day activities. We would like to list your activities in the annual calendar produced by the Madison RPCVs, but the only way to do this is to have the information by May 1, 2000. [Note to MNRPCVs: Please send your ideas to Scott Eckert, Sconan@go.com or 612-561-4305]

Also, the 40th Anniversary team at NPCA is trying to raise money to provide some financial support for your Volunteer Day activity. Forthcoming will be a grant application and other information in terms of how much money will be available for disbursement. (If you have suggestions as to corporations, foundations or individuals in your communities who may have an interest in supporting the 40th, please let us

know how to contact them and we will move forward.)

Again, thank you for your ideas, thoughts and suggestions to insure that the 40th celebration is a huge success – I am really looking forward to working with each and every one of you over the next 14 months to make it happen!

40th Anniversary Conference

The next national conference will held in Washington, DC area in 2001, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebrations. Cori Welborn and the Washington DC RPCV group will be hosting the conference; they are using the very thorough MRNPCV bid document and final 1999 conference report as resources! More information on conference dates and location will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

NPCA Board Rep. Position Open!!!

The geographic regional position for the Heartlands area (IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, SD and NE) is coming up for election, and the nominations period will close on May 1, 2000. In order for a candidate to be listed on the NPCA ballot, he/she needs to be nominated either by an affiliate group (such as MNRPCVs) or by petition with 10 signatures of paid NPCA members. The ballots will then be mailed out to paid NPCA members on May 15 and due back to the NPCA by June 30.

The term for NPCA Board positions are for three years, and there is a limit of two consecutive terms. Basic responsibilities of Board members include the following:

- < Attend Board meetings (two per year, held in various locations around the U.S.)
- < Serve on at least one Board committee
- < Represent the NPCA to constituents and the community
- < Recruit new NPCA members
- < Help make fundraising contacts with other organizations
- < Make a personal financial commitment to support the NPCA.

Please consider nominating candidates whom you feel can contribute to the leadership of the NPCA, to RPCVs in general and to our communities.

More questions?? Contact Judy Marcouiller, JudyM1@compuserve.com or 612-781-7831.



MNRPCV Funding Guidelines

The Board of Directors of the MNRPCV adopts the following guidelines and criteria concerning the funding of outside groups or projects.

Guidelines:

Proposals should be no longer than two pages (typed) in length and no more than \$2,500 in amount requested.

There is no established format, but proposals should highlight; need(s) addressed, feasibility, local involvement, funding requirements, cost projections and plan for administration. (*In cases of PCVs, please include projections past your term of service.)

Review of projects will take place once a year in the spring. **Deadline for submittals is May 15th**. Occasional exceptions may be made, and applications considered at other times in the year if, a) additional funding remains; or, b) an exceptional proposal is presented requiring immediate attention.

Yearly budget for funding of proposals is not to exceed \$5,000 for each of the next two years. Upon which time the board will again revisit their funding criteria and budget limitations.

All proposals should be directed to: *President of MNRPCV*
P.O. Box 6413
Minneapolis, MN, 55116

Or, electronically to: president@mnrpcv.org

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One recurrent theme expressed by attendees representing Africa, NGOs, and the U.S. alike went beyond the fact that Africa matters. In the words of Summit president, Leonard Robinson (a speaker at last summer's NPCA conference in St. Paul), "We must never allow Africa to be marginalized again." He emphasized that "As the cradle of human evolution it deserves our priority attention to help it realize its promise." Reverend Sullivan stated clearly that rather than criticize various groups and their powerful congressional lobbies, we should emulate them. The veteran preacher recalled civil rights protests and traced his work across Africa to persuade participants to back their concerns about Africa with effective political action.

This is where we in the Returned Peace Corps community come in. Our role in getting out the message to Congress cannot be overstated: that we want more emphasis placed on the U.S.'s relationship with Africa. Tell them to continue to support bills like the African Growth and Opportunity Act (an imperfect yet helpful first step towards aiding struggling African economies). Tell them that it is important for America to continue to invest in Africa as a means of helping Africa overcome its own pressing problems. The time has come for us to once more stand up and be counted. Contact your representatives to voice your concerns today: <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/> <http://www.house.gov/writerep> Or call me for their address: (651)-683-9380.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference once again.



Upcoming MNRPCV Social Events

Earth Day Event

Help Clean Up Cedar Lake. Bring Gloves.
Families are welcome. Any questions call
Scott Eckert - 612-561-4305 April 22 9:00 -
12:00 PM Cedar Lake Park West 25th and
Cedar Lake Parkway

Famous Dave's Ribs N' Blues Brunch

(3100 Hennipen Ave South, MPLS)

Sunday, April 30 at 12:30pm

Hosted By: Mary Adams

612-521-0649 for details.

Metro Happy Hour Matt's Bar (3500 Cedar Ave S. MPLS)

Hosted by Steve Coury 612-627-9112

May 11 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Golf Outing (Theodore Worth Park)

May 27 9:00 AM

Hosted by Erik Streed 612-37-1995

Call to action:

We need hosts for more social events!

It's easy - pick a spot, call me to arrange a date and to get the word out, then show up. All lines are open...Brad

Please contact me for more details at:

bradmuller@hotmail.com or 651/225-9069)



Lake Maria State Park (Monticello) Hike

(Hwy 94 to Monticello then 8 miles to CR 39 to CR11 Turn North on CR11 and travel to Park entrance)

Saturday, May 13 at 10:30am

Hosted By: Mary Adams

612-521-0649 for details.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe

(MPLS Insitute of Arts; 2400 3rd Ave S.)

Saturday, June 10 at 2pm

\$2.00 Entrance fee

Hosted By: Mary Adams

612-521-0649 for details.

El Norteno (Authentic Mexican) Metro Dinner

(4000 East lake Street. MPLS)

Thursday, June 22 at 6pm

Hosted By: Mary Higgins

MNRPCV Web Site Update

We hope by now you have visited our web site, <http://www.mnrpcv.org>. At the MNRPCV site you can:

See the MNRPCV Group online

Keep up to date on local events

Find out a little more about our organization.

To communicate more rapidly, the MNRPVC group has also created an email list to send current announcements and share information about Peace Corps-related items. You can join the email list from the website, page <http://www.mnrpcv.org/contactUs.html>, or just send an email to webmaster@mnrpcv.org and request to join the list.

Thanks, hope to hear from you soon.

Elsa Frettem, "Webmaster"



Host Family Opportunities

Share your heart, your home and your country. Be a host family!

PAX Program of Academic Exchange is a non-profit educational organization which invites international high school students to the United States. PAX representative Christi Magruder is interviewing families interested in sharing their lives with a young person from another country for the coming academic year. All PAX students have been carefully screened, speak

English, have full medical insurance and come with their own spending money. We work with students from over 20 different countries, including those in Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Asia and South America.

Host families are asked to provide the student with meals, a warm supportive environment and a place to sleep and study. Local support is provided to the host family and student by Ms. Magruder as Community Coordinator. PAX is looking for families who are interested in cross cultural understanding and in helping an exchange student learn more about America.

Anyone interested in Learning More about hosting can contact Christi Magruder at 827-0790 or the PAX Headquarters at 800-555-6211.

Be a Career Information Consultant for RPCVs!

Greetings from Orlando, Florida! How would you like to be a part of Peace Corps history? We are looking for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Training Staff from the Philippines to be cast as “themselves” in the upcoming event we call “BALIKPILIPINAS 2000”, The Peace Corps Philippines Story. Qualifications: Have served in Peace Corps Philippines as volunteers or training staff. Added plus: appreciates a sense of history, Pinoy food, and fun, fun, fun under Florida sun!

We hope that you can provide the answer to that question, “Whatever happened to...and other kwans about you that inquiring minds want to know”. By the way, we also want to meet your family or significant other.

For more information, please contact:

ORLANDO	Guada Gonzales Shaffer	407-354-1106
	Email: SteveGuada@aol.com	
CALIFORNIA	Luchie Maturan Hogan	909-695-3227
	Email: Friday13@iinet.com	
	Mina Sacapano Frank	818-341-7828
	Email: ElminaS@aol.com	
	Tekya Chico Hassrick	323-665-6652
	Email: MTHassrick@aol.com	



Corner Board, Continued from Page 1

project is planned which will give us all an opportunity to test and improve our home construction skills. More on that later. I have also been working with the Hennepin County Library system to launch a literacy program featuring RPCV's. The program would encompass sharing our stories of another country, and a reading session focused on the country of service or region. The library would promote the program and round up books and reading material appropriate to the individual country of service. I am particularly excited about this program. If this proves successful, we could take the program to other library systems.

Finally, I want to put a plug in for RPCV's in the Metro area as well as those in the greater Heartland, who are involved in community service. How can this organization assist? Let me know. Do you need some folks to help plant trees or clean up a playground?. Are you a community activist who needs a hand with a project? Let me know. Remember that we all have been there in one way or another before. Course we all have different definitions of what "there" is. But that's the beauty. I bet you'd find an able crew ready to assist, if we just knew you needed us. OK, so that's it for now. IRIE, One World, One Love. See you on Earth Day!



MNRPCV

P.O. Box 6413, Minneapolis, MN 55406
