



MNRPCV News

Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Serving RPCVs and the Community

Fall 2010

August - September - October

2009-2010 MNRPCV Board

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Mission Statement

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

Ahecha Paraguay

by Rachel Newby (Paraguay 2007-09)

[Note: A version of this essay was originally written for the Third Annual Peace Corps and NPCA Information and Communications Technology Contest, recognizing outstanding activities designed by serving PCVs and their counterparts and communities in the use of information and communications technology. Ahecha Paraguay received an MNRPCV Grant in spring 2010.]

Fernando's day starts before dawn with breakfast and the walk to his family's fields with his father. After a full morning of manual labor, Fernando takes the muddy path to his elementary school in Alto Paraná, Paraguay. Each school day follows the same pattern of copying and memorization of the lessons on the blackboard. After school, he and his brother return home to change out of their school uniforms and then head back out to join a pick-up soccer or volleyball game with their cousins and neighbors. Then they must return before dark to help with their grandparents' garden. Fernando's is not a unique story. He possesses great potential, like every other youth in the community, but its realization will require nurturing and self-confidence. Ahecha Paraguay was born out of three Peace Corps Volunteers' observations of similar stories throughout Paraguay.

Ahecha Paraguay is a participatory photography project designed to provide Paraguayan youth the opportunity to develop their creativity and self-confidence, as well as gain new life perspectives through the lenses of digital cameras. Ahecha means, "I see" in the indigenous language of Guaraní. The project provides a kit of digital cameras to PCVs who administer photography workshops within their local communities. The two-month-long workshop is structured to provide a minimum of 16 hours of hands-on camera work for each participant, along with a classroom review and discussion of other peer and professional photographs. Volunteers teach the basics of photography through pre-composed highly interactive workshops that promote discovery, creativity, and analysis. Ahecha Paraguay also includes photo exchanges between participating communities as a means of fostering understanding of other peoples and pride in one's own work. Ahecha Paraguay culminates on an annual basis with national exhibitions in the capital, Asunción, of selected photographs from every community.

The Ahecha project expands participants' horizons by exposing them to a novel technology, letting them view their everyday environments through an artistic lens, and providing them a window into other Paraguayan communities through photo exchanges. One participant noted, "Ahecha is a project that helps us see things in a different way by using photography. Things can sometimes seem small, minimal, or insignificant, but with photography small things become enormous!" Ahecha Paraguay offers participants an opportunity to step away from their daily routine, gain a technical skill, obtain one-on-one attention and mentoring from an adult, and be provided the space necessary to develop their creativity. While the most tangible results of the project are the photographs and the youths' newly acquired technical skills, the underlying success of the program is the notable increase in participants' self-esteem.

During workshops, participants are encouraged to capture images they feel represent aspects of their lives; their participation fosters confidence in their photos, in speaking publicly, and in teamwork. Through the in-site-exchange, participants and community members are able to gain a greater appreciation for different parts of their country. The exhibitions at the end of the Ahecha workshops create personal, community, and national pride. Youth development is critical to local and national community development because youth who have self-worth will make healthier life decisions.

Since its inception, Ahecha has conducted eight cycles, totaling thirty-two community projects. The PCV's workshops average between five and fifteen youth, for an approximate involvement of 220

Continued on page 3





The Corner Board

Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05), MNRPCV President

We are near the end of the MNRPCV Fiscal year (August to September) and looking forward to the Annual Meeting and Picnic on September 12. This is the time when we elect a new Board of Directors, so I invite anyone who is interested in joining this energetic planning group to sign up as a Board nominee. (See details on page 3 in this issue.) We have had a great Board the past year (2009-10). Everyone has been willing to come forth and say "I'll do it" giving us an active schedule of activities during the year and plans for the next year.

I want to thank all of the 2009-2010 Board Members: Gary Bank, Community Service; Jack Bardon, Speakers' Bureau; Greg Hochstetter, Treasurer; Jamie Hopkins, Secretary; Anne Kanyusik, VP to May 2010; Maggie Kozak, Social Chair; Miriam Krause, Communications Chair and NEWS Editor; Rachel Newby, Member-at-large; Renada Rutmanis, Membership Chair; and Christi Williams, Fundraiser Dinner Coordinator and VP.

I am proud of the 2009-2010 Board and gratified by the welcome praise we received from Peace Corps Staff Members, Kristin Wegner and Carolyn Cruz from Chicago. They were here for the Nomination and Send-off Party on July 22, planned by our local recruiter, Marianne Midwinter. They were very impressed by our ongoing activities and our use of online communications. They said that we stand out among RPCV groups in the region with our website, listserv, and networking site involvement. Kudos to our current communications volunteers, Miriam Krause and Elsa Frettem and to all past communications folks who have helped us get to this point.

Although the Board has the usual titles, as seen above, that is only part of the story. We also had teams to deal with ongoing efforts, such as the calendar sale, and special projects. Our Anniversary Team, consisting of Board Members Jamie Hopkins and Rachel Knewby and past MNRPCV leaders, Mary Adams and Nancy Erstad, are researching MNRPCV history to gather objects and stories to celebrate the MNRPCV 30th Anniversary in November 2010 and the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary in 2011.

We had an opportunity for active involvement with Walker Art Center at their Global Games Day on May 1. Board Member, Jamie Hopkins, Paul Sagstetter, and Douglas Neal demonstrated origami and helped the children who came to their table make their own paper figures. Hopefully MNRPCV will find more ways for community involvement and to make our presence known next year as we celebrate Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary.

Editor's Note: We are always looking for new voices to appear in the MNRPCV Newsletter. As members of MNRPCV, this is your publication, so feel free to submit material!

We would love to see letters to the editor, photos, news articles, anecdotes, or anything else related to MNRPCV.

For more information or to send a submission, contact Miriam at mok4747@yahoo.com or 763-412-9315.

2011 International Calendars

Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05)

The 2011 Returned Peace Corps Volunteer International Calendar celebrates 50 years of Peace Corps Service and the countries that have hosted us. Photos this year are from the first 13 countries to host volunteers: St. Lucia, Sierra Leone, Chile, Thailand, Philippines, Tanzania, Malaysia, India, Colombia, Ghana, Pakistan and Brazil. The calendar commemorates important Peace Corps dates as well as the (un)usual celebrations and holidays. The calendars are produced by our neighbors, the RPCVs of Madison, WI.

MNRPCV will be holding three Calendar Open Houses to kick-off the calendar sale. Join your fellow RPCVs for snacks and conversation at one of these informal events. You can purchase calendars



for you own use or check out calendars to sell.

South Minneapolis Open House: Wednesday, October 6, 4:30 - 8:00 pm at the home of Christi Williams, 3604 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis (612-825-7203)

North Minneapolis Open House: Saturday, November 13, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the home of Mary Adams, 2807 Fremont Avenue North, Minneapolis (612-521-0649) madams@ccfcu.org

St. Paul Open House: Saturday, October 16, 2:30 - 6:00 pm (right before the Fundraiser Dinner!) at the home of Elsa and Bernard, 669 Summit Ave, St. Paul (651-428-1765) elsa@gonzalez.com

Calendar Depots

You will also be able to purchase calendars or pick up calendars to sell at any of the above locations during the sale. Don't forget to contact the depot person in advance to make sure she is home.

The calendar price is still **\$10.00**. MNRPCV uses all of the proceeds for the MNRPCV Grants Program. Last year's sale of the 2010 International Calendars was very successful: thanks to all of the calendar sellers and purchasers, we raised \$1860 for grants (see our cover story and page 4 for news from some of our grant recipients). We can do even better this year! RPCVs and anyone interested in and supportive of Peace Corps will want to use and keep this special Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Calendar. Contact janebardon@yahoo.com if you have questions about the calendar sale or want to have calendars mailed to you at an additional cost.



Ahecha Paraguay (Cont. from p. 1)

participants to date and still counting. Ahecha Paraguay is a secondary project in which a Volunteer from any sector can participate. Of course, these figures do not include all people who viewed the in-site exhibits or the national exhibits in Asunción.

Limits should not exist in art or in potential. After Fernando participated in Ahecha Paraguay, the new exposure to technology and art broadened his learning environment from endless repetition in a classroom setting to formulating creative and comprehensive reasoning about the relevance of his work. His efforts culminated in the presentation of his work on the national news during the annual exhibit in Asunción. Without Ahecha, Fernando would not have had the opportunity to share the extraordinary from his ordinary life, where the insignificant became significant simply by using a digital camera. Most importantly, Fernando gained the confidence that will fuel him on his journey through life.

MNRPCV 2010-2011 Board Election

Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05), MNRPCV President

The MNRPCV Annual Meeting and Potluck will be Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 4:00 pm. The business meeting will be at about 5:15. We have again been invited to the home of RPCV and long-time MNRPCV member Rhoda Brooks at her home on the shore of Lake Minnetonka. (See details on back page.)

The Annual Meeting will include the election of the Board of Directors for the coming year (2010-2011) and reports from the 2009-2010 Board of Directors about the past year's activities. Any RPCV can volunteer to be a candidate for the Board or nominate another RPCV with his/her consent. Nominations should be made to the MNRPCV Secretary, Jamie Hopkins, jamiehop@gmail.com (612-723-6886). You do not have to be present at the Annual Meeting to be a candidate. All Board Members must be members of MNRPCV (either paid or "first-year-free"). Board Members serve one year terms between annual meeting elections (there are no term limits!).

We have an "open" board, which means that Board Members are elected without designating a specific position. The election of officers and appointments to committee chairships and other positions will take place at the first meeting of the new board after the Annual Meeting. A list of positions is available at www.mnrpcv.org. We invite you to join us on the MNRPCV Board of Directors. It is a great way to have direct input into plans for the coming year, to learn about board operations, to share in the responsibility of managing a small non-profit organization, to add to your resume, and to be part of a small group of your fellow RPCVs. If you have questions about the MNRPCV Board, contact janebardon@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report

Gregory Hochstetter (Peru 2007-09)

Right now we have \$5,774.03 in our US Bank account. In our City County Federal Credit Union we have \$6,038.36 and in our microenterprise account we have \$3,217.40. So altogether right now we have a total of \$15,029.79.

As for an update on our year-to-date totals, we have a total of \$6,246.40 for income which mostly comes from our calendar sales, membership and fundraiser dinners. The year-to-date totals for our expenses are \$2,640.93 for calendars, newsletter printing, postage and supplies for events; and we gave \$2,674.82 for our grants and contributions to the Jeremiah Program.

We are going to be ordering the calendars soon to raise funds for our grants, so get ready to ask all of your friends and family to buy calendars, because the income helps support the grants to Peace Corps Volunteers in the field and other development projects. Maybe this year we can form a strategic alliance with the Girl Scouts to increase sales, but if that falls through I am sure everyone will help out. This year we will be ordering more due to the increase in demand from last year, and the fact that it is Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary!

If you have any questions you can contact me at greghochstetter@hotmail.com.

Speakers' Bureau

Jack Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05)

For the May, June and July, 2010, period, I have reports of ten Peace Corps speaking engagements. This includes speeches by:

Kathy Westerman (Uganda 2008-10)
Jack Conrad (Swaziland 1984-87; Togo 1987-89)
Ryan Egan (Peru 2005-08)
Katie Silus (Albania 2006-08)
Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05)
Jack Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05)

There may have been additional Peace Corps speaking engagements that I did not hear about, so make sure to send me any outstanding and future reports. This is an important part of our Third Goal outreach – thank you very much to all of our speakers!

And from **Marianne Midwinter**, our Field Based Recruiter for the Twin Cities, special thanks go out to all RPCVs who helped out with recruiting events this summer:

May 25: Britta Hanson
June 22: Alyssa Poucher, Jennifer Nelson, Katie Silus
July 20: Jennifer Nelson, Mary Adams, Greg Hochstetter
July 22: Dick Anderson, Kathy Westerman

Nomination Party: Jack Bardon, Ryan Egan, Kathy Westerman, Katie Silus, Jane Bardon
Spasiba bolshey to everyone who has assisted me with events. I feel lucky to have such a fantastic group of RPCVs who are enthusiastic about Peace Corps!



MNRPCV 2010 Grant Recipient Reports

Miriam Krause (Samoa 2000-02)

Oyate Nipi Kte (The People Shall Live)

*Wazyatawin, Ph.D. (Oyate Nipi Kte Founder and Director)
(Received a grant of \$500 in spring 2010.)*

I am writing on behalf of Oyate Nipe Kte to express our gratitude for the recent contribution of \$500 from Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to our nonprofit, Oyate Nipi Kte, for the Dakota Land Project. [...] Our dream is to purchase a land base in which Dakota people may establish new communities within our homeland based on sustainability and adherence to our ancient ways of being. We hope they will be lands on which we can resume traditional practices of wild-ricing, sugar-bushing, hunting, and foraging, where we can grow our traditional gardens, reconstitute our traditional forms of governance, practice our spirituality, educate our children, and throughout all these activities, speak our language. Your donation will help contribute to the realization of this dream.

Wopida eciciyapi ye! I give you thanks!

Senegal Irrigation Initiative

*Andy Jondahl (PCV Senegal) & Angela Michalek (Senegal 2005-07)
(Received a \$750 grant in spring 2009)*

[...]we wanted to extend our kindest thanks for your support of the Senegal Irrigation Initiative. Without your generous contribution, we would've been unable to move forward with the project. Updates will be posted on Andy's blog at <http://projectirrigationinitiation.blogspot.com>. The first well in the town of Faraba was recently completed and we're moving forward with the others.

Youth Engaging Society (YES)

(Received a \$300 grant in spring 2009)

Rosa Werthwein (YES, RPCV Ukraine 2003-05) sent a booklet (both paper and electronic copies) to MNRPCV detailing the activities of this youth organization in Ukraine. Let us know if you would like to read it in either format.

H2O For Life

Patty Hall (H2O For Life)

Thank you for your generous donation to Stillwater Junior High's Water for Sudan project. The students at Stillwater learned about the trials of the "Lost Boys"; the world water crisis and how they could take action to make a difference. As Peace Corps Volunteers you know how powerful that is! H2O For Life appreciates your support. Every penny will go towards Stillwater's partner project in Sudan.

Ruth Alliband (India 1966-68)

[Note: Ruth submitted the grant application for the Stillwater Junior High School's H2O For Life – Water for Sudan Project to help construct a deep well near Wau, Sudan. The project was awarded an MNRPCV Grant of \$300 in spring 2010. The previous note is from the H2O for Life representative; the following is from Ruth.]

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I went to the funds transfer ceremony in Sara Damon's classroom on Wednesday, April 28. The school superintendent, school principal, representatives of H2O For Life, and some other teachers and resource people as well as about 40 junior high students were there. It did seem like achieving their fund-raising goal was a big deal for the students. Some of the students (maybe the minority) were quite articulate about what the fundraising process had meant to them.

I have to hand it to Sara. She had faith from the beginning that the kids would reach their goal, and she had a plan (which didn't include money from MNRPCV). She referred to our contribution as a "surprise." At the end of their fundraising they had raised \$700 more than the required \$5,000. It was announced that the extra money would be seed money for their fundraiser for a second well next year.

I asked one junior high girl when she knew that the class would meet their goal. She said, "When I heard we had raised all the money." Someone else said they felt like they were nearing their goal when the Sunrise Rotary Club of Stillwater pledged money to them. I think it made a big impression on the kids that they went to the Rotary Club themselves and made presentations about their project, requesting money. I asked if they knew that their gift would save lives. They kind of looked down and shuffled their feet. It brings tears to my eyes that somewhere in a dusty village in southern Sudan a well will be dug in the next few months that will have Stillwater Junior High inscribed on the well curb.

Thanks to the MNRPCV Grants Committee for your belief in this effort and for your contribution to Sara Damon's geography class Water For Sudan fundraiser.

Global Games Day at the Walker



Jamie Hopkins entertaining children at Walker Art Center Global Games Day on May 1.



Volunteer Sendoff

Jack Bardon (Turkmenistan, 2003-05)

The Peace Corps sendoff celebration on July 22, 2010 was a huge success, with about 80 people present. This included an amazing 18 returned Peace Corps volunteers who introduced themselves, mingled, helped-out, and in general provided an experienced view of Peace Corps service. The audience included approximately seven applicants, twelve nominees, and eight invitees as well as friends and excited family members, all hungry for information.



The event was organized by our Minnesota Peace Corps field representative, Marianne Midwinter, who was the main speaker and chaired the evening's festivities. In addition, two recruiters

from the Chicago office were present to help facilitate proceedings and answer questions (Krisitn Wegner and Carolyn Cruz). They showed several video clips of Peace Corps service in the field, and a panel consisting of Kathy Westerman (Uganda 2008-10), Ryan Egan (Peru 2005-08), Katie Silus (Albania 2006-08), and myself (Turkmenistan 2003-05) answered audience questions.

Publicity for our returned Peace Corps group was outstanding. MNRPCV President Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-05) gave a five-minute presentation about the activities of our organization. Twenty-three individuals gave us their contact information, including many who are soon to depart for international service. Our goal is to continue reaching out to PCVs in the field and those recently returned. Cooperation between the Peace Corps office and MNRPCV on this event was excellent, and we look forward to working together more in the future.

Community Service Events

Gary T. Bank (Kenya 1995-97)

Tuesday, August 17 is the next Jeremiah 'Cook for Kids' event; full details coming soon on the listserv.

Some people want to canoe, and here is your chance. RSVP to Kriste is necessary; experience canoeing etc. is not necessary; a spirit for adventure and a desire to help and enjoy the river is also important. Friends of the Rum River will be hosting its annual "Fun in the Rain or Sun Clean up the Rum" Saturday, September 11th, from Mille Lacs Kathio State Park about 8 miles down to Lake Onamia. The event is open to anyone, no cost, lunch and cleanup equipment provided, plus some watercraft available and shuttle service.

Contact person: Kriste Ericsson, Facilitator - Friends of the Rum River - 612-309-5838

If you have any Community Service questions, contact me at gtbank@msn.com.

MNRPCV P.O. Box 6413, Minneapolis, MN 55406

The MNRPCV Toastmasters Advantage

Ruth Alliband (India 1966-68)

Participating in the MNRPCV Toastmasters group* has many advantages, including but not limited to:

Regularly scheduled socializing with RPCVs: The MNRPCV Toastmasters Club affords members a way to work social time with other RPCVs into their calendar on a regular basis.

Opportunities to tell our stories: Do you find yourself telling the same one or two Peace Corps stories all the time, and keeping all the other ones in reserve because you think they might not be as entertaining? At MNRPCV Toastmasters, we get to tell the less-used stories, learn to articulate them better, and maybe pick up some new insights about them.

Opportunities to appreciate others' stories: Club members, regardless of whether they have RPCV affiliation**, lead interesting lives and have traveled. Every meeting brings new information.

Skill-building: I can't say enough about the alchemy of Toastmasters, which subtly transforms our abilities in speaking and leadership. We can see it happening in others, right before our eyes.

Volunteering opportunities: We find opportunities to help others beyond our club. MNRPCV Toastmasters have staffed Speechcraft classes at Twin Cities RISE (Minneapolis/St. Paul-based job skills transfer program) and at Patrick Henry High School in the Camden neighborhood of North Minneapolis. These classes are 8-week short courses, building confidence in public speaking and evaluation/analysis skills for participants.

Buliding the Toastmasters community in the international diaspora: Members of MNRPCV Toastmasters have mentored or sponsored two ethnic Toastmasters clubs: Zaj Lus Dragonspeakers, the first Hmong-majority Toastmasters club in the world, and Ralph Smedley Toastmasters, whose members are from the African diaspora. Additionally, another club member has been active in Los Lagos, the Spanish-language Toastmasters club.

* Meetings are the first & third Thursdays of every month, 6:45-8:45 pm at Roseville City Hall.

** ~40% of club members are foreign nationals, Peace Corps volunteer wannabees, or are at the club because it works for their schedule or they have friends in the club.





Social Calendar Fall 2010

Maggie Kozak (Burkina Faso 2004-06)

Monthly

TOASTMASTERS: 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 pm

Improve your public speaking skills with Toastmasters! Meet at the Roseville City Hall on the NW corner of Lexington and County Road C. See the receptionist in the main building for room location. Contact Brian Ahern at 651-497-7168 or at BJA85@hotmail.com.

August

METRO DINNER – Bona Vietnamese Restaurant: Thursday, August 19, 6:00 pm

Come and meet Minnesota PCV Ellen Jefferys-White who is currently serving in Senegal. She works with a group called Senegal Gender and Development (SeneGAD) and will be home on leave this August. She will tell us about the projects she is working on throughout Senegal. She would like to get MNRPCV involved with SeneGAD.

Location: 815 Washington Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis - (612) 331-5011

Contact person: Jane Bardon, janebardon@yahoo.com

RSVP if you can (it helps to let the restaurant know how many to expect) but come anyway.

September

MNRPCV ANNUAL MEETING and PICNIC – Saturday, Sept 12, 4:00 pm

See back page for details

HAPPY HOUR – Kitty Kat Club: Wednesday, Sept 15, 5 pm

Celebrate the start of a new school year (or not) with fellow RPCVs in Dinkytown, near the U of M East Bank.

Location: 315 14th Avenue SE, 55414

Contact person: Miriam at mok4747@yahoo.com or 763-412-9315

October

METRO DINNER – Chimborazo: Saturday, October 2, 6 pm

Join us for fabulous Ecuadorian food in Northeast Minneapolis!

RSVP if you can by Sept 27 – it's a small place and we want to warn them we're coming.

Location: 2851 Central Ave, Minneapolis, 55418

Contact person: Miriam at mok4747@yahoo.com or 763-412-9315

FUNDRAISER DINNER – Saturday, October 16, 6:00 pm

Once again Elsa and Bernard are opening their doors for another Fundraiser Dinner benefiting the MNRPCV Grants Program. The theme this time is Indian food and we are hoping to have a good variety of regions covered. I am now recruiting cooks, so let me know if you have a recipe you are willing to whip up for the occasion, and don't forget to bring a friend! We are raising money for our grant program and we love to meet new people. Contact me (Christi Williams) directly if you have questions or are willing to help out: 612-825-7203 or quiltzilla@gmail.com Poland TEFL 1996-98

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November: SAVE THE DATE: It's MNRPCV's 30th Birthday, and we're throwing a party! Friday, November 12, 7-9pm at Padilla Spear Beardsley in Minneapolis. Details to follow.

MNRPCV 30th Anniversary

Jamie Hopkins (Ukraine, 1996-98)

You've all heard about the Peace Corps 50th anniversary by now, but did you know that our own MNRPCV will be celebrating a birthday this year? The Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Articles of Incorporation were signed on December 18, 1980. The signers were Leon Erstad, Nancy Erstad and Sharon Goodyear. Nancy and Leon are still members of MNRPCV, and we see Sharon at social events. We will be looking for other people who were involved in the early days of MNRPCV and for items of interest to display at a special MNRPCV Anniversary Event. If you have documents, photos, or other items to share, please contact jamiehopkins@gmail.com. We are hoping to get prints of photos or copies of documents that we can keep. The MNRPCV 30th Anniversary Event is planned for the evening of November 12. We'll keep you posted with details via our listserv: mnrpcvEmailList, website (www.mnrpcv.org), and Facebook and PeaceCorpsConnect pages.

If you do not yet belong to the MNRPCV listserv, you can sign up at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mnrpcvEmailList/> (or click on the link to mnrpcvEmailList on the homepage of our website).

Our next issue of the NEWS will be all about **MNRPCV's 30th Birthday!**

Watch the Winter MNRPCV News for:

- * Article by Russ Petricka on the local RPCV community before 1980
- * Account of the beginning of MNRPCV in 1980 by founders Leon and Nancy Erstad
- * List of all of the presidents of MNRPCV since 1980
- * Details of the MNRPCV 30th Anniversary Celebration in November

If you have comments, critiques, reminiscences, etc., about our group's origins or history, please send them to NEWS editor Miriam at mok4747@yahoo.com.

MNRPCV Membership Application/Renewal

NAME _____ Today's Date _____

Current PCV (yes/no) _____ RPCV (yes/no) _____ COS Date _____

Host Country and service dates _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Has your contact info changed? _____

Home Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell or other) _____

Email: _____

Membership in MNRPCV and NPCA is FREE for all currently serving PCVs. Free membership is also offered to all RPCVs for one calendar year from the time they first join MNRPCV and/or NPCA. Please fill out the form and mail it to us anyway so that we can put you on our mailing and contact list. RPCVs in the US will receive our newsletter, MNRPCV NEWS, by postal mail. PCVs in the field will have online access to the newsletter.

Membership is \$15.00 per year for all others. RPCVs or former Peace Corps staff members are eligible to be Active Members of MNRPCV. Others may join as Associate Members.

Payment enclosed: \$ _____
(Make checks payable to MNRPCV)

Send this form with your payment to:
MNRPCV
PO Box 6413
Minneapolis MN 55406

You can also join through NPCA (National Peace Corps Association). NPCA membership is \$35 plus \$15 to list MNRPCV as your member group: www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership

Free MNRPCV / NPCA Membership Extended

Jane Bardon (Turkmenistan 2003-2005)

Free membership is now offered to currently-serving PCVs and to all RPCVs who join NPCA and/or MNRPCV for the first time.

NPCA (National Peace Corps Association) has changed their new member policy. MNRPCV will abide by this policy for all of our members, whether they join through NPCA or directly through MNRPCV. The new NPCA policy offers:

1. Free membership to all serving Peace Corps Volunteers – This membership, good for two years, can be activated online by PCVs in the field. They will also still receive “first-time-free membership”(see below).
2. “First-time-free membership” – This replaces the old “first-year-free membership” (for those back from their volunteer service within the past year). Now any RPCV who has never been a member before may join for one year for free.

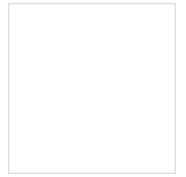
The MNRPCV Board will continue its own new policy of offering free membership to newly returned RPCVs to the end of the calendar year following their COS date if this gives them a longer free membership period.

The MNRPCV Membership List and membership information will be available at the Annual Meeting and Potluck on September 12. Be sure to check your membership expiration date on the mailing label of this newsletter. Those who pay their annual dues to MNRPCV and/or NPCA before their expiration date will save time for our membership committee volunteers! To check your current membership status or to get a membership application, contact MNRPCV Membership Chair Renada Rutmanis at renada21@yahoo.com (434-284-2459).

Welcome New Members!

Summer Lynn Anthony:
Lesotho (2000-2002)
Janice McInerney:
Ukraine (2002-2004)
Kelly Rowe:
Thailand (2008-2010)
Andrew Trowbridge:
Armenia (2008-2010)
Tammy Truong:
The Gambia (2007-2009),
Bolivia (2005-2007)
Bartlett Zukoski:
Central African Republic
(1989-1991)
Marisa VanOsdale:
Senegal (2008-2010)
Rachel Evenson:
Bulgaria (2000-2002)

MNRPCV
P.O. Box 6413
Minneapolis, MN 55406



*Check your mailing label for
your MNRPCV Membership
Renewal Date.*



Annual Meeting and Potluck Picnic, Sept. 12, 4 p.m.

MNRPCV Rhoda Brooks is generously hosting us once again at her home on beautiful Lake Minnetronka for the MNRPCV Annual Meeting and Potluck Picnic. Enjoy eating and chatting with MNRPCV friends while overlooking the lake. Bring the kids! We'll also have a BRIEF business meeting, including election of the Board of Directors. Why not nominate yourself?

Who: You! and your fellow MNRPCVs

When: Sunday, September 12 at 4 p.m.

Where: 859 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior, MN 55331

How: Bring a dish and beverage to share! A grill will be available, if you'd like to bring items to grill. Also bring a folding chair, if you have one.

Why: for FUN, first and foremost! Also to discuss official MNRPCV business, including election of the Board of Directors for 2010-2011!

Contact Maggie if you'd like to car pool or need a ride, at maggi kozak@yahoo.com or 651-387-7581.

Directions: Go out Hwy 394 to 494 south. Take 494 to Hwy 7 and go west. Pass the intersection of 7 and 101 and keep going west on 7 for 3 more stop lights. Go right at the Christmas Lake Road intersection and immediately left on Excelsior Blvd. Go about two blocks. Rhoda's home is on the right across the street from a cemetery. It is a green house at the top of a driveway going up. If you go past Adelle's Frozen Custard, you have gone too far.

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*All events are announced via email on the
mnrpcvEmailList. Join this listserv from
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