



# MNRPCV's Newsletter

*Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
Serving RPCVs and the Community*

Fall 2000

## 2000-2001 MNRPCV Board

Michael Smith  
- *President*  
Liberia  
Mary Adams  
- *Vice President*  
Latvia  
Jim Riess  
- *Treasurer*  
Brazil  
Richard Earle  
- *Secretary*  
Guatemala  
Elsa Frettem  
- *Communications*  
India  
Karen Nikolai  
- *Speakers Bureau*  
Cameroon  
Jamie Hopkins  
- *Social Chair*  
Ukraine  
Scott Eckert  
- *Community Service*  
St. Vincent &  
Grenadines  
Keith Pearson  
- *Membership*  
Marshall Islands  
Kelly Wesemann  
- *At Large*  
Mauritania  
Deb Most  
- *At Large*  
Latvia

## Mission Statement

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

## The Corner Board

by Mike Smith



To all of my fellow RPCV's, current or potential Volunteers, their Families and their Friends, I give to you a good greeting and a warm welcome!

My name is W. Michael Smith and I am currently serving as your newly elected president of the Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group. I know that a lot of you may have already met me as I have been active in this group for several years. We could have been teammates on one of the MNRPCV sports teams, or perhaps we participated in a community service function together. And as we are all social creatures, we may have even conversed at one of the many MNRPCV social events. But with my luck you will probably remember me as that klutzy photographer fellow from last year's NPCA conference who turned out the lights during the President's .... oops. THAT was an accident! Really, I swear! Besides, it was a silly place to put that light switch.

What I am trying to say is this. Ever since joining this group I have tried to stay involved in more ways than one. Further, more than a few of you will know that I am more than willing to help out where my talents are needed the most. Suffice to say that the main reason for my doing what I have done [and continue to do] is that it is in my nature. Besides, I have had a lot of FUN too! And I promise, that as your president, I will continue to stay as active and involved in this group as I have been in the past.

Now with that in mind...I have a question to ask of each and every one of you. [Uh-oh...here it comes.] Do you recall your reasons for wanting to become a Peace Corps Volunteer? I am talking about the reason(s) that helped you to make that two year (or however long) commitment to serve as a volunteer. Do you remember those reasons? I will ask you to hold those thoughts for awhile and hear me out.

Did you know that since 1961 there have been over 171,000 Volunteers and Staff who have served in 134 countries around this globe? Wow! That is a lot of people with a variety of backgrounds to help spread the Third Goal of the Peace Corps. What Third Goal? You remember, 'To bring back to the people in this country a greater understanding of other peoples and their cultures'. That third goal. And did you also know that this next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps? Do you see where I am going with all of this?

All I am asking is this. What do you think that we as a group should do about the 40th Anniversary and the Third Goal? Have a party? Do more community outreach? Ignore the whole thing because of we are too busy? What do YOU think we should do? Think about it awhile. And when you are done thinking about it... tell me. Not only because I sincerely want to know, I also want to do something!

michael smith, Liberia '80-'82  
[w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com](mailto:w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com)  
651-633-0197



---

## **Job Opportunity: Community Organizer**

The Lyndale Neighborhood Association (LNA) is looking for a visionary and experienced community leader to serve as it's part- to **full-time Community Organizer**.

The Community Organizer is responsible for coordinating volunteer management systems and playing an active role in the coordination of activities and outreach of the Social Service Providers Council. The Community Organizer also serves as a member of the Lyndale Working Futures consulting team which provides technical support to organizations and institutions in the Lyndale Neighborhood, and the Neighborhood Working Futures consulting team which provides technical support to neighborhoods and community-based organizations throughout Minnesota.

### **A competitive candidate will have:**

- 3-5 years of organizing experience;
- 3+ years of professional experience in a community-based setting;
- Volunteer involvement in community/neighborhood-based organizations;
- Experience working with diverse populations; second language preferred;
- Well organized performance-based orientation;
- Strong leadership and facilitation skills;
- Extensive computer proficiency;
- A passion and love for the building of a healthy community.

### **Compensation:**

The salary is negotiated based on experience and prior salary history. The salary range is \$23,000-\$35,000 with full benefits.

### **Please submit a resume, references and a written statement organizing philosophy by Friday, November 17 to:**

Judy Decker  
Community Organizer Search Committee  
Lyndale Neighborhood Association  
3537 Nicollet Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

For additional information call 612.824.9402 x12

LNA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. [www.lyndale.org](http://www.lyndale.org)

---

## **Membership - Is It Time to Renew?**

As you know, 2001 is an important milestone for the Peace Corps, and the 155,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. It marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its establishment! An important way to celebrate this is to stay connected through the MNRPCV and NPCA.

### **Members Note:**

As a member you should receive not only this quarterly MNRPCV Newsletter and monthly MNRPCV Happenings, but also the 3/1/61 newsletter from NPCA and the NPCA Worldview magazine. If you are a member but don't receive these, or if you would like to join, please contact Membership Chair Keith Pearson, (612) 789-3851 or [keith.pearson@juno.com](mailto:keith.pearson@juno.com).

### **NPCA offers you:**

- o Membership in the affiliated group(s) of your choice (please choose Minnesota as one)
- o 4 issues of World View magazine
- o 4 issues of 3/1/61
- o Membership in the Emergency Response Network, a database of members available for short-term volunteer assignments in emergencies or overseas development opportunities
- o Opportunities to make "bridge-building" contacts with people in Iran, Cuba, and Libya
- o Participation in an advocacy network working to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000; to increase resources devoted to responsible U.S. engagement overseas and to enhance U.S. support for human rights and democracy overseas
- o Access to the "Members Only" section of the NPCA Web page (this will soon be closed to the casual viewer)
- o And so much more

Please visit the NPCA website at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org) to see what else we do, who we are, and what our groups are doing. You may also renew on line with a credit card, as well as update your personal information.

We look forward to welcoming you as a continuous supporter of the Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the National Peace Corps Association.

Sincerely,

The MNRPCV Board



## Community Service Change of Guard

Greetings from Community Service

What a year it has been! Together we have successfully undertaken group projects and taken part in several individual community service opportunities. As always, Habitat for Humanity was well received by participants and the homeowner. It was great seeing the number of MNRPCV's who helped make the house "come alive."

This year began a new kind of community service: Conservation Community Service. This was designed to give MNRPCV's an opportunity to take care of the outdoors part of our community. We put in three hours each month and accomplished a lot. We planted prairie plants and removed exotic vegetation from oak savannas and established prairies. We even took time out for a refreshing dip in the lake and had a potluck at the exclusive Wirth Lake Picnic Shelter. After working throughout the spring and summer at Wirth Park it's hard to deny that the natural world, of which we are a part, is an important facet of our community.

Finally, while thinking about facets and all; the Twin Cities, in fact the upper Midwest is quite a jewel. That's one reason I hate to leave it behind. I have accepted a position in Portland, Oregon with my employer and will be leaving 3 December. I prepare to leave excited but it's bittersweet. I'm leaving behind a lot that I'll miss.

Becoming involved with MNRPCV has been a wonderful experience. I look forward to meeting RPCV's in Portland. I only hope they are as welcoming and just plain, good people as MNRPCV's are.

So, thank you all for your support, I have enjoyed working on the Board and I wish you all the best, and Peace.

Scott Eckert



## 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 HOTLINE (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, DC.  
20038 fax 202/293-7754 phone 202/293-7728



## ***Annual Meeting, Picnic and Board Elections - August 2000 at Rhoda's***



Being at Rhoda's is a lot like being "up north". Except you don't have to drive so far to get there. Pot luck was great, as usual. Conversation was the main order of the day, then Board Elections.





## Annual Meeting, Picnic and Board Elections - August 2000 at Rhoda's



Out-going President, Deb Most, with the "slate" of candidates. That Slate looks suspiciously like a Plate, Deb!

2000-2001 Board (minus two). Back Row: Elsa Frettem, Mary Adams, Jim Riess, Dick Earle. Middle Row: Karen Nikolai, Kelly Wesemann, Jamie Hopkins. Kneeling: Mike Smith, Deb Most. Not Pictured: Scott Eckert, Keith Pearson.

Rhoda Brooks and her husband Earle were featured in this September 1964 National Geographic. (That's her on the cover!) The article describes their Peace Corps life in Ecuador.



Here they come - P.C.N.G. (that would be Peace Corps Next Generation).





## NPCA Update

As some of you know I am currently the Heartland Representative to the National Peace Corps Association Board. In August, I attended the NPCA Annual Meeting in Shawnee on the Delaware, Pennsylvania. I want to quickly update you on what happened at that meeting.

### *Advocacy Resolution Passed*

The Mission of the NPCA is to “continue to work for world peace, understanding and well-being with an emphasis on bringing the world back home.” At this year’s President’s Forum the Board passed the resolution that a major advocacy focus of the NPCA will be increased funding for the international health care programs, especially in the areas of tuberculosis control, HIV/AIDS prevention, and women’s health care programs.

### *40th Anniversary of Peace Corps in 2001*

The NPCA is very busy planning for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration next year. The Celebration will not be just one event but an entire year to commemorate the event with the highlight being the NPCA National Conference in Washington DC September 20-23. Affiliate groups all over the country will be planning events in their own areas to celebrate.

### *New NPCA Website*

One of the most exciting events of the meeting was the unveiling of the new improved NPCA website at <http://www.rpcv.org>. It has more information on the NPCA than ever before and it allows you to renew your membership on line. There will be a secured “Members Only” section with online publications, directories and other special opportunities. Check it out when you have a chance.

If you have any questions on what is happening in the NPCA, please feel free to contact me.

Deb Most  
NPCA Heartland Representative  
[debmost@prodigy.net](mailto:debmost@prodigy.net)



## Calendars for Sale - While They Last!

Remember to get your 2001 Peace Corps Calendars. Contact Mike Smith (651-633-0197) or [w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com](mailto:w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com) for details. \$8.00 each.



## Did You Know...?

- \* The NPCA recently revamped their website at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org) - go see what they did! Now you can join online, or update your name, address, etc. online. We use their database for our mailing list, so please make your changes there.
- \* There are more MNRPCV photos on [www.mnrpcv.org/MNRPCVPhotoAlbum.html](http://www.mnrpcv.org/MNRPCVPhotoAlbum.html)  
Do you have some to add? Contact Elsa Frettem (651-222-1765) or [elsa@gonzalez.com](mailto:elsa@gonzalez.com)
- \* Many geographic and country of service groups have web sites, also. To find them (including us!) follow the Affiliate Groups link on the NPCA site, [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org).
- \* If you are a member of our email list, [mnrpcvEmailList@eGroups.com](mailto:mnrpcvEmailList@eGroups.com), you can read archived messages, check the calendar and review the files on [www.egroups.com](http://www.egroups.com). But you have to register there first. Not a member? Join from our site: [www.mnrpcv.org/ContactUs.html](http://www.mnrpcv.org/ContactUs.html)



## ***Toastmasters International - Join Us!***

There is a small group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the Twin Cities that have decided to launch a new Toastmasters International club. This club is of special interest to MNRPCV members because its founding father, Dan Grundtner, is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and he has consciously tried to recruit new members from the ranks of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. This is your chance to become a Charter member of a Toastmaster group!

There is room for more people to join (actually, anyone who wants to can join—Peace Corps Volunteer experience is not a prerequisite to membership). The best way to proceed is to just show up!

We always meet on Thursday evenings 7 - 9 p.m. During the month of November 2000, we will meet the 2nd, 16th and 30th. And in December we meet only once on the 14th. Then our next regular meetings will be scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month beginning with 4 January 2001.

Location of the meeting: Fairview Community Center at 1910 County Rd. B, just west of Fairview in Roseville.

- Take Hwy 36 to the Fairview exit, go south one long block to the stop sign. This is County Road B.
- Turn right, go past the church on the corner to the school on the left. This is the Fairview Community Center.
- Come in through the center door, Entrance 2, and look for the receptionist, who will have a sign of where to go.

If you wish, you can call or write a short email message to any one of the following people:

Richard Earle (952-929-6943) Richard\_Earle@msn.com  
Dan Grundtner (651-487-3068) danielrg@uswest.net or  
TrisTara Yakima (651-649-1710 x 113)  
tyakima@mhponline.org.

Hope to see you all there!

## ***Mark your calendars!***

We were glad to have such a large turnout at our “Welcome Home/To Minnesota” happy hour! A good half dozen newly returned volunteers (even only two weeks back) from Mali, Benin, and Nicaragua made appearances and were greeted by about twenty other MNRPCVs. Hope all can make it to future social events:

### ***Happy Hour***

Thursday, November 9th, 5:00 p.m.

Try out St. Paul’s newest brew pub and upscale eatery. Come to the Vine Park Brewery, 242 West 7th Street (kitty corner from McGovern’s bar), downtown St. Paul. Happy hour specials are available until 6:00 p.m. and include \$2 taps and \$1 off select appetizers. Stay for dinner if you like! Host: Lori Pommerenke, 651-489-4303.

### ***Metro Dinner***

Wednesday, November 29th, 6:30 p.m.

Come meet other MNRPCVs at the Black Forest Restaurant for some tasty German fare. Black Forest is at 1 East 26th St. (Nicollet and 26th) in Minneapolis. Call host Mary Adams at 612-549-6120 with questions and to RSVP. If you don’t get a chance to RSVP, come anyway!

We are looking for some folks to host social events!!!

If you’ve wanted to go bowling, go to a happy hour, art museum, etc., now is your chance to get a crowd to accompany you. Just pick the date, time, place, double check that it is indeed available, and contact Jamie Hopkins, Social Chair to get the word out.

It s coming.

We can t stop it.

So let s get out there and enjoy it!!

What is it? Why SNOW, of course.

Plan now to come to the  
ANNUAL SKI WEEKEND

Early February, 2001

Details next month.



## **Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 9, 2000**

**What:** Annual MNRPCV Holiday Party

**When:** Saturday, December 9th, 6:00 pm

**Where:** The home of Charles and Teri Stander  
533 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102  
The Stander's phone number should you get lost: 651-293-1776  
(Dale Exit off of I-94, South on Dale then left (east) on Portland for a block and a half. Portland is one block north of Summit.)

**Who:** YOU! family, friends, etc. Kids are welcome!

**What to bring:** This will be a pot-luck affair so please bring a dish to share from your contry of service.

**What else:** Also, please bring a food-shelf donation. All food gathered will go to the Hallie Q. Brown-MLK Center. They are in particular need of food high in protein (tuna fish, peanut butter, stew, beans). Cash donations could also be forwarded.

**Questions?** Would you like to help plan this event? Call Jamie Hopkins, Social Chair at 612-870-2559.

### **Fall 2000 Table of Contents**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Corner Board - Mike Smith                  | Page 1      |
| Job Opportunity                            | Page 2      |
| Membership Info                            | Page 2      |
| Community Service                          | Page 3      |
| RPCV Membership Form                       | Page 3      |
| Annual Meeting, Picnic,<br>Board Elections | Pp. 4 and 5 |
| NPCA Update                                | Page 6      |
| Calendars for Sale                         | Page 6      |
| Did You Know...?                           | Page 6      |
| MNRPCV Toastmasters                        | Page 7      |
| Mark Your Calendars                        | Page 7      |
| December 9 Holiday Party                   | Page 8      |

MNRPCV  
P.O. Box 6413  
Minneapolis, MN 55406