

WORLD ROOTS

Newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison



Volume 28 Issue 8
August 2007

Message from the (Vice) President

Madison RPCVs,

Since coming to the RPCV monthly meetings beginning in February of this year (when I returned from Ghana), I've observed that attendance is usually a handful or two of people. The exception is when there is something big on the agenda, like making decisions on how to allocate money from calendar sales, and there might be 20 or 30 people at the meeting (many of them representing their project). While this makes it fairly easy to move through decisions, I often wonder if we're truly representing the wishes of the group.

I've also heard, both directly and indirectly, that there has been a fall-off in attendance in part because people feel they have little to contribute, or find the agenda to be of no interest, or the meeting drags on. Of course, there are also those who just can't attend at the time we have it.

It is largely because of the low attendance that we decided to stop fooling ourselves, and call the monthly meetings "Executive Committee meeting (open to all)." This was identified during the Strategic Planning process, and initiated at the July meeting. The "open to all" is a key point, as we both need and desire the input of as many people as possible. The long-term objective is to review the overall meeting structure, and make General Membership meetings relevant, succinct and official, perhaps as quarterly or yearly meetings. Our first such General Membership meeting will be at the September 30 picnic, and we hope to set a good example of how to hold such meetings in the future. For those of you who are Willy St. Coop members and have (*continued p. 2*)



Site of the July 2007 Calendar Unveiling – Tom's House

Dates in Brief*

August

- 1 - Dinner, Taqueria Guatemala
- 4 - Atwood Summerfest
- 8 - Executive Com. Mtng
- 10 - TGIF Memorial Union
- 26 - Listserv Training
- 28 - Calendar Com. Mtng

September

- 7 - Calendar Packing Party
- 12 - PC GIM Red Gym
- 14 - TGIF Memorial Union
- 16 - Willy St. Fair
- 19 - Exec Com Mtng – Red Gym
- 25 - Calendar Com Mtng
- 30 - Picnic

October

- 10 - PC GIM Red Gym
- 12 - TGIF Memorial Union
- 17 - Exec Com Mtng Red Gym
- 23 - Calendar Com Mtng
- 27 - Halloween Party?

November

- 9 - TGIF Memorial Union
- 14 - PC GIM Red Gym
- 21 - Exec Com Mtng
- 27 - Calendar Com Mtng

*Details and Contacts inside

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RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts

Elected Officers

President	Mary Ann Feutz	(262) 224.3753	mafeutz@uwalumni.com
Vice President	Kate Schachter	442.0432	kateschachter@yahoo.com
Secretary	Volunteer Opportunity! To see your name here, contact the Vice President		
Treasurer	Ana Zambie	234.0281	azambie@matcmadison.edu
Deadwood/Social Coordinator	Laura Buchs		llbuchs@hotmail.com

Event Chairs

Family Brunch	Clare Vogel		clvogel@wisc.edu
Freeze for Food	Rick Lackey	213.8878	meisa@terracom.net
	Peter Joyce	245.0626	peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net
Tabling Events	Troy Rutter	245.9964	tdrutter@usgs.gov
International Dinners	Dawn Schroeder	243.8475	

Other Contacts

Calendar Coordinator	Another Volunteer Opportunity! Please contact		
	Rochelle Goedken	434.7924	rgoedken@students.wisc.edu
Calendar Customer Service	Ken Coffeen	224.1164	kcoffeen@tds.net
Business Manager	Rose Ann Scott	241.0845	roseannscott@yahoo.com
Donation Coordinator	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	zeltner@chorus.net
Global Education	Marc Brand	255.1339	brand@madison.k12.wi.us
At Large	Don Sauer	(505) 412.2357	donsauer@cybermesa.com
	Anne Riordan		ACMS, CPO Box 695 Ulaanbaatar-13, Mongolia (Via China)
Membership	Brad Hinkfuss	242.9573	iambrad@chorus.net
			217 Cory St., Madison 53704
Newsletter Editor	Lee Row	232.9065	rowhome@sbcglobal.net
Peace Corps Recruiter	Greg Pepping	262.1121	peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu
Registered Agent	Terry Stark	233.9140	terry.stark@dot.state.wi.us

Listserv

RPCVs of WI – Madison

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

Websites

RPCVs of WI – Madison

<http://www.rpcvmadison.org>

NPCA

<http://www.rpcv.org>

Peace Corps Online

<http://www.peacecorpsonline.org>

Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>

VP Message (cont)

attended the annual meeting, think of how those general membership meetings are held.

The Executive Committee can't control all the factors that decide whether people will attend a meeting, but we **can** control the meeting and agenda itself. To that end, I am committed to making sure monthly meetings start at 7:00, or as soon thereafter as we identify some sort of quorum. That is, I won't hold a meeting if I'm the only one there! A quorum at this point consists of maybe four people, and ideally should have more than one officer. Summer has been a bad time for attendance, and we are short a Secretary, but that is the goal. That is also my promise to you. Once meetings start, we will do our best to finish in an hour, so we have time to do all those much more interesting things.

Peace,



Meeting Minutes



July 11, 2007

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee (and all interested individuals) of the RPCV group was called to order at 7:18 pm on July 11, 2007 at the Memorial Union Terrace by Vice-President Kate Schachter.

Present:

Members: Laura Buchs, Ken Coffeen, Tom Kenney, Lee Row, Kate Schachter, Karl Stark, Ana Zambie, Walt Zeltner

Guest: Mary Dunn (RPCV Romania 2000-2005)

Agenda

Old business

On-Line purchases of group product

Identify timelines and responsibilities for strategic goals

Change Vice-President position to President-Elect

Changes to RPCV Madison listserv

Financial report

Open Issues

Ken said the camping event at Blackhawk was a great time. There were 10 adults and 3 children.

Laura said the calendar table at the Farmer's Market was well-received. Many people stopped by to ask when the new calendars would be available.

Lee said she has information on using Amazon.com to sell our calendars. There are two programs, Associate and Affiliate. She will take this up with the calendar committee to find out whether to proceed. She said Kim is checking into PayPal.

Kate said that Cafepress.com is an on-demand, on-line printing service that is an option for selling 'stuff' such as t-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, etc. to group members. Anyone can submit artwork and then anyone can order product as they wish. NPCA is using this site. Lee said she would evaluate it, and also look into local t-shirt printing costs and quantity requirements.

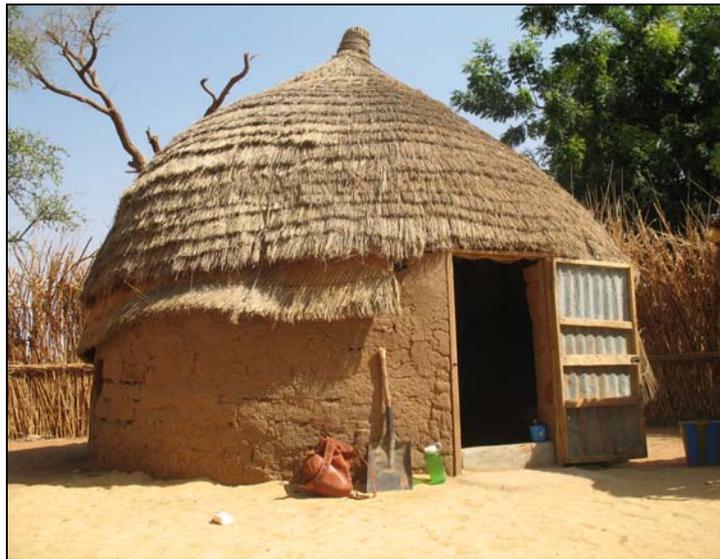
We discussed how to assign responsibilities and timelines for the **strategic goals** that were voted on at the last meeting. Kate will prepare a sign-up list and bring it to the calendar unveiling party on July 21. Some things are underway:

Enhance website: Laura expects to have all web content to Kim by mid-August, since she leaves at the end of August. She welcomes input from anyone who would care to assist. Buck Trawicky and/or Bob Cowell were mentioned as people who might be approached to write some background/history of the group for the site. Kate will get a copy of the membership list from Brad Hinkfuss and contact them.

Newsletter: Laura said that Clare Vogel was interested in helping with the newsletter. Lee will contact both Kristy Torres and Clare and see what can be done to revive the newsletter. Ken will contact Brad Hinkfuss and arrange to get the Wisconsin State Historical Society back on the mailing list to receive our newsletter.

Purposeful hospitality outreach and training: Lee is interested in spearheading some efforts to welcome new RPCV's into the group.

We discussed changing the Vice-President position to a President-Elect,



with a minimum two-year time commitment in total. Tom moved that we proceed with immediate implementation, and Laura seconded. Kate indicated she is not averse to assuming this responsibility immediately. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Kate gave a demonstration of the changes to the **listserv**. New features were activated for all Members, including:

Calendar – Can be used to post meetings and gatherings to avoid date/time conflicts



Database – Several databases are possible, including Inventory, Orders, Recipes, etc., but so far only an Address Book database has been set up.

Files – To post documents such as Constitution and Bylaws, Strategic Planning info, Meeting Minutes, etc.

Members – Provides a listing of listserv members (currently 165).

Other features that might be interesting, but of less key interest include Polls, Photos, and Links.

Anyone can post to any of the new features. There was some concern about privacy and listing contact information in the Address Book. However, the listserv can only be viewed by RPCV Members, and Kate understands that it is vetted so that only RPCV's (or qualified friends or spouses) can sign up. The features can be accessed at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/.

Financial Report: Ana was introduced to the group as the new Treasurer. Tom Kenney has passed all relevant information to her. She reported that it cost \$46,000 to print about 32,000 calendars, per the invoice in front of her. We have money, and the books are in good condition.

New Business

A working committee should be formed to review the Constitution and By-Laws and make recommendations for improvement. It was recommended that this be brought up at the September meeting (with the picnic) when there will be more people to get involved. Laura will 'electronify' the Constitution and By-Laws, as only a hard copy exists, created from a 5-1/4" floppy that

may or may not be available. She will post it on the listserv.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm by Kate Schachter. The next general meeting will be at 7 pm on August 8, 2007 at the Memorial Union.

Minutes submitted by: Kate Schachter, Vice-President

Minutes reviewed and approved by: Laura Buchs (Acting President), Ana Zambie (Treasurer)



Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2007

Opening:

The Executive Committee (and interested individuals) meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm at the Memorial Union Lakefront Café.

Present:

Members: Laura Buchs, Brad Hinkfuss, Tom Kenney, Helene Pesche, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, Terry Stark, Walt Zeltner

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as announced.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Financial Report

The financial report shows we have made some calendar sales and gave Peace Corps Partners \$70,000. Calendar sales continue and finances look good.

Old Business

Strategic Plan: Judy prepared a worksheet to identify people to work on our strategic issues. (See Strategic Plan Action Steps, page 7.) Some questions that came up:

Is there anyone in the group with librarian skills who can help with record archiving? Kate will send an email out to ask. A Wiki site or listserv archive were mentioned, and will be investigated.

Does PC-Minneapolis still pay the group for outreach we do? This might include the Farmers Market, Atwood Summerfest, the Willy St. Fair, Africa Fest, etc. Kate will investigate further.

Website update: Laura will submit website materials to Kim before she leaves August 15. We discussed changes to the member application form. Walt will take care of these and send to Laura. Kate will meet with Burt, Kim, and Sandra Belozarcovsky to identify a timeframe for completion and rollout.

New Business

Group registration: Terry brought the registration forms to be filed with the State of Wisconsin. Kate will complete the forms and Terry will be reimbursed for filing fees.

Nominations for newsletter editor: Several people were nominated for the newsletter editor position. Kate will contact them.

Nominations for Secretary: No names were submitted, but it was



suggested that we try to find a new RPCV who would be willing to take on this task.

NPCA membership: NPCA requested names of our members. Providing member names would require that we add an opt-out statement to our member application form and names sent to Washington would be marked to be kept off their database. Laura has already told NPCA that we will not provide member names. Brad said that despite best intentions, this information available on the internet would result in names being sold to mailing lists and people being spammed. Names will not be made available to NPCA nor any other entity, and should not be posted on our listserv.

Member Data: Since our hard copy directory is three years old, Brad and Walt will work on an update, perhaps after the September picnic, for distribution at the Christmas party.

Table Events, Africa Fest: Helene had not heard from the organizers about a table. As the Africa Student Association wants to use the calendars as a fund-raiser, and they will have a booth at the event, we would undercut their sales. We will withdraw our table request from this event. It is expected they will purchase 25-50 calendars to re-sell.

Table Events, Atwood Summerfest: About 25-30 calendars were sold, and it was a good event. People showed up to help at the table, though they hadn't signed up in advance.

Table Events, Willy St. Fair: This event is September 16, 11 – 7. To volunteer to sell calendars and greet people, call Troy at 245-9964.

Picnic: Helene has paid the \$80 reservation fee for the picnic area, Sunday, September 30. It may not be necessary to reserve in future as it is a late Sunday afternoon and evening event. Brad will prepare a postcard mailing with details.

PC Award: At an event on July 25 at the Mekong Restaurant, Matt Smith and John Hrivnak from the Peace Corps Partnership Program in Washington presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation for funds we have provided to PCVs. We gave them a check for \$70,000 for the next year. Money will be assigned to



specific projects upon our request. In addition, Rose Ann Scott discovered a matching grant program for which up to \$25,000 in grants to water and sanitation projects would be matched. We voted that \$25,000 of the \$70,000 contribution be used for this kind of project, to leverage our contribution, effectively making a contribution of \$95,000.

Matt and John indicated that they have budget money to get out into the field more often, and were willing to return to Madison. Perhaps they could attend the September picnic and talk about the state of the PC budget in the current administration. We should discuss other ideas with Greg Pepping.

Meeting Date: Greg Pepping, the campus PC Rep, moved the General Information Meeting (GIM) to the 2nd Wednesday of the month, conflicting with our meeting time. We unanimously agreed to move our meeting to the 3rd Wednesday of every month, beginning September 19.

Congratulations: Tom Kenney has taken a new job as Assistant Director at the UW Medical Research Department. Laura Buchs leaves on August 15 for four months in Guatemala.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Plan for the General Membership meeting at the September 30 picnic.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm. The next general meeting will be at 7 pm on September 19, 2007 at the Red Gym. Walt will contact Greg about getting room reservations at the Red Gym for the upcoming meetings.



Treasurer's Report

Please thank Tom Kenney for his excellent service as Treasurer. In true Peace Corps spirit, he stepped forward when the group really needed him.

Please welcome Ana Zambie as our new Treasurer. She and Tom are still working out the transition and we will resume our regular Treasurer's reports next month.

Ana asks anyone who has had expenses for the group to please get receipts for reimbursement to her as soon as possible. August 31 is the end of our fiscal year and it would be great to begin with a clean slate. Ana's e-mail: azambie@matcmadison.edu.

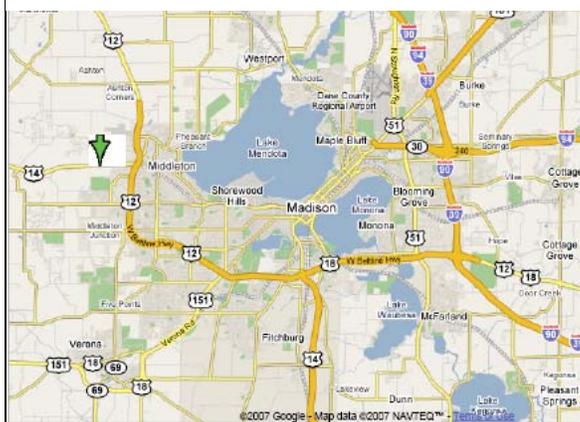
Calendar News

This past month there has been something to interest almost everyone involved with the calendar. The fun continues with the annual **Calendar Packing and Pizza Party** Friday, 6 PM September 7 at the Weiner Warehouse, 7182 US HWY 14, Middleton. Directions are below.

The **2008 Calendar was successfully unveiled** at Tom Brodd's home (page 1) Saturday, July 21. It doesn't get much better than this annual party which featured beautiful weather, a lovely venue (including a porch swing!), delectable food (page 4), good friends, and a look at the 2008 calendar.

Troy Rutter worked his usual magic with the tabling equipment on Saturday, August 4 at the **Atwood Community Summerfest**. He was ably assisted by Tom Brodd, Pat Halpin, Phyllis Noble, Helene Pesche, Lee Row, Terry Stark, and Karl Stark.

Packing Party Directions



Take University Ave west through and out of Middleton past the last stop light. Continue until Hwy 14 is no longer divided. Go .3 (three tenths) of a mile further on the 2-lane Hwy 14. There is a very tall and slender sign that says "Westside Warehouse" on the right (north). That's it. Turn right at the red post.

Peace Corps brochures were perused and handed out, bookmarks and post cards were dispersed, and more than 25 calendars were sold.

The next opportunity to oversee our table will be at the **30th Annual Willy St. Fair**, Sun., Sept. 16. Troy has reserved our usual shady spot on the south side of the 900 block. More information about the Willy St. fair activities and fun at <http://www.cwd.org/community/wsf/wsf.aspx>. You can sign up to help by calling Troy at 245.9964.

The next **Calendar Committee meeting** will be held at 7 PM, Tuesday, August 28th at 2714 Oakridge Ave, Madison. Phone Rose Ann Scott at 241.0845 for additional information.

The Calendar Committee needs a new Coordinator. Rochelle Goedken, who has ably led this project for so many years none of us can remember how many, has moved and cannot continue to head this important activity. Rochelle tells us this is not a difficult job and mostly involves dedication to moving the well-tested process along. Many calendar committee members with experience will guide and inform you if you are interested in taking this on. If you are considering volunteering for this, please talk to Rochelle at 434.7924 or to Rose Ann Scott at 241.0845.

Members can buy calendars for \$4 each up to and during the Picnic Sept. 30. They will also be available at the September meeting

Phone Rose Ann Scott or Ken Coffeen, 224.1164, if you require a large quantity.

Calendars are available from Rose Ann, Ken, and Troy, 245.0064, on the East side and from Sophia, 233.7886, on the West side of Madison.

After the Picnic, calendars will cost members \$5 each. You *must* be a member to buy them at these prices.

Group Honors

On Wednesday, July 25, Matt Smith and John Hrivnak of Peace Corps' Partnership Program pre-



sented an Achievement Award to RPCVs of WI-Madison for outstanding support of the Partnership Program. Our Business Manager, Rose Ann Scott, took the opportunity to present this year's contribution to the Partnership Program, a check for \$70,000, to the Peace Corps representatives. The exchange was applauded by about 25 members and friends at the Mekong restaurant in Madison's Gateway Mall.

Rose Ann also announced to the assembled group that the Partnership Program has opened a Water and



Sanitation Fund and that the Wallace Genetic Foundation will match the first \$25,000 dedicated to the new fund. The group voted overwhelmingly to apply \$25,000 of our \$70,000 contribution to the new fund in order to secure the matching Wallace contribution, making our effective total contribution \$95,000.

The dedication of \$25,000 to water and sanitation means that we still need

to allocate \$45,000 to other projects over the next year. Each member is encouraged to choose up to \$1,000 in Volunteer-proposed projects to fund. To see available projects, go to www.peacecorps.gov and click on



“Donate Now,” choose one, and inform Rose Ann. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact Rose Ann, who can assist you.

The Peace Corps Partnership Project is part of the Office of Private Sector Initiatives, a major source of private funds for demonstration and direct assistance projects for Volunteers. To ensure true partnerships a community must make a 25% contribution to the total project cost and outline success indicators. This ensures community buy-in and a greater chance of long-term sustainability and success.

Henry A. Wallace was the founder of the Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company. In 1959 he and his wife Ilo established the Wallace Genetic Foundation to promote long-term conservation of the soil and the environment. Today the foundation seeks to fund organizations whose work promises to provide long-term national or global benefit.

According to the Peace Corps Office of Private Sector Initiatives, RPCVs of WI-Madison provides almost 10% of total Partnership Program funding.



Announcements

Help Wanted!

RPCV Group Secretary

Our group needs a responsible secretary. This should be someone who can attend meetings regularly. It is also the responsibility of the secretary to find a replacement if he/she is not able to attend a meeting.

The basic job description:

Takes and disseminates minutes of monthly meetings.

Takes charge of all documents, records, papers, etc. that belong to the group.

Chairs meetings in the absence of the president and vice president.

Conducts correspondence as directed.

Reads important correspondence at meetings.

With membership coordinator, notifies members of events and special meetings and maintains membership rolls.

If you would like to be the secretary or would like to nominate someone for this office, please contact vice president Kate Schachter at 442.0432.

Calendar Coordinator

The Calendar Committee needs a Coordinator. This position requires:

Chairing the monthly Calendar Committee meeting.

Following the well-documented calendar production process and reminding committee members of deadlines.

Serving as the contact person for production questions.

Working with Committee members to set policy and production standards and procedures.

Rochelle Goedken, who has coordinated the calendar for many years, insists that this is not a difficult job, but that it does require close contact with the rest of the Committee. Because she is no longer resident in Madison, she cannot coordinate the calendar. Thus, this is an urgent need!

Please contact Rochelle at 434.7924 or Rose Ann Scott at 241.0845 for more information or to volunteer as soon as possible.

Archivist/Historian

Our group has a number of papers, legal, organizational, and historical, which need organization. Ideally the person taking up this challenge would have librarian skills, but someone with good organizational skills could put our papers and electronic documents in good order so they would be available to us when we need them.

If this challenge interests you – and it is an interesting job – please contact Kate Schachter at 442.0432 or Walt Zeltner at 873-5257.

Cat Sitter

Like cats but don't want the permanent responsibility for one? This is your lucky day. Rose Ann Scott needs a temporary home for a nice cat for three weeks. Call her at 241.0845 to take advantage of this opportunity!

RPCVs of WI – Madison & the Internet

Members have doubtless noticed that both in meetings and in the newsletter we increasingly refer to e-mail messages, websites, listservs and electronic documents. While those who use these ways of communicating cannot imagine not doing so, we realize there are some members whose work or studies do not require them to be electronically connected or proficient in using electronic communications. For that reason we want to assure those without internet connections that documents and communications are available to them, but that they need to let us know that they need information on paper or by telephone.

Beginning this month the newsletter is available online, via e-mail and by mail. The new registration form asks you to tell us which you prefer. If you have already joined or renewed, please phone Lee Row at (608) 358.9010 to indicate your preference.

For those members who have access to the Internet, we have a number of new ways of communicating and making information available:

Listserve/Yahoo! Groups

We have formed a Yahoo! Group, which provides us with a listserv that allows each of us to send e-mails to the entire group at the same time. This is most often used to alert members to meetings, events or information useful to anyone.

If you have not yet joined the group, go to

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/ and click on “JOIN NOW.”

If you do not have a Yahoo mail account, you are directed to sign up. If you have a Yahoo mail account, you need to sign into it and request access to our listserv. A message will be sent to our group moderators and if you are a member of RPCVs of WI-Madison, an RPCV or someone with a good reason to be added to our group, you will be approved and will be able to send and receive messages and access the documents on our group site. You have the choice of receiving messages as they are posted to the list or as a “digest,” which sends all messages posted the same day in one e-mail. Please note that you cannot attach files to messages. Attachments should be loaded to the “Files” area in Yahoo! Groups.

Yahoo! Groups Features

Also available at our Yahoo! Groups site are:

Files

As we cannot attach documents to our e-mails, this is where we place them to share with the rest of the group. To read or add files, click on "Files" in the left panel of the group page. You then have the option to read files already there or to add files you want to share. Files currently available are Meeting Minutes for July and August, our Mission Statement, the group Constitution, Strategic Goals, and a Strategic Plan Needs Survey.

Photos

All are invited to create albums and load photos to this area!

Links

Find links to a number of interesting Peace Corps and RPCV sites.

Database

Add your contact details here or look for information about other members.

Polls

We don't have polls here yet. Our constitution requires that we vote in person or by proxy.

Members

A comprehensive list of current members of our Yahoo! Group. As of August 20, there are 170 members. Members need not be dues-paying, but are required to declare why they want to be part of the listserv before being added to listserv membership.

Calendar

Check here for dates of interest. There's also a Calendar of Events in the "Files" area.

Kate Schachter will be conducting a listserv training and overview session at 2 PM on Sunday August 26 at Panera on Cahill Main in Fitchburg. She invites requests for additional training sessions. Contact her at 442.0432/kateschachter@yahoo.com.

Our Website

RPCVs of WI-Madison maintains a website at www.rpcvmadison.org. It contains information about our group, activities, the newsletter, Calendar information and resources and links to other Peace Corps sites. It is maintained by Burt Preston and we plan updates this fall. Please contact Kate if you would like to help.



New Improved RPCVs of WI-Madison? Strategic Planning

On Saturday, April 28, 14 members met at the Memorial Union to begin a strategic planning process for RPCVs of WI-Madison. Members were asked to review mission statements of other RPCV groups and suggest elements they would like to see in our mission statement. Participants were also asked to complete and exercise to list strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats they believe our organization faces.

At the planning session the group drafted this mission statement which was approved at the June 13th meeting:

We are a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and other individuals who promote Peace Corps ideals by: supporting a social network for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers; promoting cultural understanding and awareness of international issues; supporting the Peace Corps' mission and active Volunteers; collaborating and volunteering with non-profit organizations aligned with our goals.

At the April session, the planning group also identified the following strategic goals:

Goal 1: Improve administration of the organization

Action Steps

Form Executive Committee (At minimum President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) to handle most administrative functions at a monthly meeting:

- Relations with NPCA/UW Madison
- Central record keeping-archive
- Grant proposal review, first screening
- Community relationship clearinghouse
- Communications oversight
- Finance, including insurance
- Public relations & membership, including member interests/talents survey, member recruitment
- Officers succession planning, leadership training
- Recruiting (PC) assistance

Enhance website to allow notices, calendar, minutes, links, bill paying. If necessary, pay a webmaster to create functionality we need.

Change general program meeting (at least twice a year—spring and fall) to allow for decisions on major issues (such as election, calendar events, donations decisions).

Goal 2: Support a social network for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Action Steps

Enhance ways of communicating: website, Isthmus calendar, Listservs, newsletter, postcards.

Create opportunities to be involved in ways preferred by RPCVs: softball, volunteer opportunities, Be a Buddy and Bring a Buddy to events, purposeful hospitality training. Provide t-shirts and hats to build sense of community.

Goal 3: Promote cultural understanding and awareness of international issues

Action Steps:

Continue calendar project, possibly expand to online photo database with new education venues (libraries).

Organize and advertise speakers, digitize speakers' photos and streamline ppt presentations; provide common branding (t-shirts, hats, introductory narrative) for all speakers.

Identify new opportunities in Dane Co. for international education: (children's fair, Int'l Music Festival, Film Festival, Food Fair)

Goal 4: Support Peace Corps mission and active volunteers

Action Steps:

Continue funding PC Partners and discretionary groups from calendar proceeds.

Send post cards e-mails to those in active service.

Assist with PC recruiting in tech colleges, among older prospects.

Goal 5: Collaborate and volunteer with non-profit organizations aligned with our goals

Action Steps:

Continue and expand partnerships, collaboration with other non profits such as International Student Association, UN Association, etc.

These strategic goals were also approved at the June 13th meeting and various individuals have made significant progress in addressing them. This is obviously a continuous and collaborative process and we must, of course, respect the provisions of our Constitution in order to maintain our 501(c)(3) status. To take part in this exciting process, complete the Skills and Interests Survey on page 9.



Celebrating 26 years!
RPCVs of WI-Madison

PICNIC

Sunday

September 30, 2007

Potluck Dinner @ 5:30

Tenney Park Shelter

1414 E. Johnson

Rain or Shine

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

All RPCVs, Families & Friends Welcome

Registration Forms

International Calendars

Door Prizes



Volunteer Interests & Skills Survey

Contact Information

Name _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail Address _____

Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____

Availability

During which hours are you available for committee assignments?

Weekday mornings Weekend mornings
 Weekday afternoons Weekend afternoons
 Weekday evenings Weekend evenings

Interests

Which aspects of the strategic plan interest you?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Administration of the Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations and membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NPCA & UW relations, record-keeping archive | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer succession planning/leadership training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant proposal screening | <input type="checkbox"/> PC recruiting assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community relationship | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic objectives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Website improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finances, including insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting format |
- Support a Social Network for RPCV's
- Communications (listserv, Isthmus calendar, postcards, etc.)
 - Social Networks (Friday Socials, dinners, softball, purposeful hospitality, movies, t-shirts/hats, etc.)
- Promote cultural understanding and awareness of international issues
- Calendar project
 - Speakers Bureau
 - New opportunities in Dane County for promoting the Third Goal
- Support Peace Corps mission and active volunteers
- Continue funding PCPP and discretionary groups from calendar proceeds
 - Send postcards or emails to those in active service
 - Assist with PC recruiting in tech colleges, among older volunteers, etc.
- Collaborate and volunteer with non-profit organizations aligned with our goals
- Expand partnerships and collaborations with other non-profits

Special Skills or Qualifications

Summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities, including hobbies or sports.

Updated Events Calendar

AUGUST						
First Saturday	Aug. 4, 2007	Atwood Summerfest	Atwood Ave		Troy Rutter	245.9964
Second Wednesday	Aug. 8, 2007	Executive Committee Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Kate Schachter	442.0432
Second Friday	Aug. 10, 2007	TGIF	Mem Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	262.1121
	Aug. 26, 2007	Listserv Info & Training	Panera, Cahill Main, Fitchburg	2 PM	Kate Schachter	442.0432
Fourth Tuesday	Aug. 28, 2007	Calendar committee meeting	2714 Oakridge	7 PM	R. Goedken	434.7924
SEPTEMBER						
	Sep. 7, 2007	Calendar Packing Party	Weiner's	6 PM	Rose Ann Scott	241.0845
Second Friday	Sep. 14, 2007	TGIF	Mem Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	262.1121
	Sep 16, 2007	Willy Street Festival	Willy St.	11-7	Troy Rutter	245.9964
Third Wednesday	Sep. 19, 2007	Executive Committee Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Mary Ann Feutz	
Fourth Tuesday	Sep. 25, 2007	Calendar Committee Meeting	2714 Oakridge	7 PM	Your Name here?	
	Sep. 30, 2007	Annual General Picnic/Meeting			Helene Pesche	238.2792
OCTOBER						
Second Friday	Oct. 12, 2007	TGIF	Mem Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	262.1121
Third Wednesday	Oct. 17, 2007	Executive Committee Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Mary Ann Feutz	
Fourth Tuesday	Oct. 23, 2007	Calendar Committee Meeting	2714 Oakridge	7 PM	Your Name here?	
Last Saturday	Oct. 27???	Halloween Party???			???	
NOVEMBER						
Second Friday	Nov. 9, 2007	TGIF	Mem Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	262.1121
Third Wednesday	Nov. 21, 2007	Executive Committee Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Mary Ann Feutz	
Fourth Tuesday	Nov. 27, 2007	Calendar Committee Meeting	2714 Oakridge	7 PM	Your Name here?	
DECEMBER						
First Saturday	Dec. 1, 2007	Fair Trade Holiday Festival	MATC	All day	Troy Rutter	245-9964
First/Second Sat	TBA	Holiday Party			Laura Buchs	
Second Friday	Dec. 14, 2007	TGIF	Mem Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	262.1121
JANUARY						
Jan. 1	Jan. 1, 2008	Sheboygan Polar Bear Plunge An old tradition to be revived?	Sheboygan Lakefront	1 PM		

News from NPCA

Summarized below are several articles from the NPCA website <http://www.rpcv.org/>. For details of these stories and more RPCV information, check it out!

2007 PEACE CORPS WRITERS AWARDS

Publisher of www.peacecorpswriters.org, Marian Haley Beil (Ethiopia 1962-64), and editor John Coyne have just announced the winners of the 2007 Peace Corps Writers Awards for books published during 2006. The winning books and authors are:

Paul Cowan Non-Fiction Award

Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali (Kris Holloway (Mali 1989-91)

Maria Thomas Fiction Award

Whiteman by Tony D'Souza (Cote D'Ivoire 2000-02, Madagascar 2003-03)

Award for Best Poetry Book

Wild Women with Tender Hearts by Patricia S. Taylor Edmisten (Peru 1962-64)

Award for Best Travel Writing

Ginseng, the Divine Root The Curious History of the Plant That Captivated the World by David A. Taylor (Mauritania 1983-85)

Award for Best Children's Book

The Roaring Twenty: The First Cross-Country Air Race for Women by Margaret Blair (Thailand 1975-77)

The Moritz Thomsen Peace Corps Experience Award

(for best short description of the Peace Corps experience)

Maid in Morocco by Orin Hargraves (Morocco 1980-82), March, 06

Winners receive a special citation and cash awards from Peace Corps Writers, an Associate Member of the National Peace Corps Association. Congratulations to all the winners and all the RPCVs who published books in 2006.

Senate Bill 732 The Peace Corps Volunteer Empowerment Act

On July 25th the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the Peace Corps Volunteer Empowerment Act proposed by Senator Christopher Dodd.

Summary of SB 732:

Authorizes appropriations for seed funding for Peace Corps Volunteers to carry out approved demonstration projects.

Authorizes charitable fundraising by Peace Corps Volunteers.

Requires the Director of the Peace Corps to:

- 1.) **Award grants to private nonprofit corporations and returned Peace Corps volunteers to enable such volunteers to develop programs and projects in the United States to promote Peace Corps goals;**
- 2.) **Increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers with at least five years of relevant work experience, and establish FY2008-FY2010 experienced Volunteer demonstration programs in at least 20 countries;**
- 3.) **Establish a electronic system for promoting improved communication among Peace Corps Volunteers and staff;**

- 4.) **Provide for Volunteer input in senior staff and program reviews;**
- 5.) **Review the Peace Corps medical screening process;**
- 6.) **Seek to secure the right of Volunteers to suspend enrollment in retiree health plans and to resume such enrollment upon service completion; and**
- 7.) **Provide whistleblower and administrative separation protection.**
- 8.) **Provides for a Volunteer Advisory Committee for each country in which Volunteers serve.**

Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to provide tax deduction guidance for Volunteers or Volunteer leaders enrolled under the Peace Corps Act.

Requires the Peace Corps to publish a financial guide for applicants and volunteers.

In their opening statements, Subcommittee Chairman Chris Dodd and Ranking Member Bob Corker expressed appreciation for the Peace Corps but offered slightly different views on the legislation. Dodd said it is "vitally important from time to time to assess the recruiting and servicing of volunteers," and said the bill is to serve as a "jumping off" point for discussing how Peace Corps can do better. He also expressed disappointment about the testimony submitted by Peace Corps raising objections to many elements of the bill and urged the agency to always be open-minded on how to make the Peace Corps more effective.

Current Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter said he does not "believe that S.732, with its constrictive provisions, would contribute to an improved Peace Corps." He referred to administrative, safety, and fiscal concerns, maintaining that legislation is unnecessary.

While the bill used a great deal of Volunteer input, Director Tschetter said it creates "management issues," for example, in the area of grant-making, where mechanisms such as the Peace Corps Partnership Program is already in place and has potential to expand. The Director stated that provisions to fully reimburse volunteers for medical testing would carry an annual estimated price tag of \$10 Million. He also told Senator Corker the \$10 Million difference currently between the Senate and House in

proposed Peace Corps funding is the equivalent of supporting 150 – 200 volunteers in the field and providing Volunteers for one additional country.

Director Tschetter said the agency was not consulted or involved in drafting the bill and the Senators and Director agreed to discuss the bill's provisions further to add greater perspective, as their uniform goal is "to strengthen the Peace Corps."

The Director said medical screening is one of the biggest challenges the agency faces, as screening for applicants currently averages nine months. The Peace Corp initiative to recruit Volunteers age 50 or older has caused the agency to review the screening process.

Senators expressed the need for the agency to streamline the application process and reduce the average length of time volunteers have to wait between application and service.

Director Tschetter stated he was encouraged to see third goal initiatives included in the legislation and agreed this part of the Peace Corps mission is currently the "weakest link."

Former Peace Corps Director Mark Schneider and David Kotz, Inspector General of the Peace Corps also testified. Schneider supported SB732 and made several suggestions for implementation, saying, "Peace Corps is about Volunteers, not staff" and emphasized the most important role for staff is to find ways to help volunteers succeed in their projects.

Inspector General Kotz concentrated on the Peace Corps' medical clearance system, which has been a long-standing problem.

Chuck Ludlum and Paula Hirschhoff, second-time Volunteers who are concluding Peace Corps service in Senegal also testified. They said Peace Corps is "a middle aged bureaucracy where hierarchy and rigid controls prevail." They said Volunteers are at the bottom of the pyramid and there's a need to invert the pyramid in order to give precedence to Volunteer support.

Eastern Caribbean Peace Corps Country Director Kate Raftery urged close review and guidance involved provisions related to expanded grant making and fundraising for volunteers. Raftery said "Many volunteers feel that external funding flies in the face of sustainable development," adding she has seen "good Volunteers transform from being productive grassroots development workers to full-time fundraisers."

Raftery stressed sustainable development as the priority in Peace Corps communities. Ludlum maintained mechanisms to provide donations as small as \$50 can be extremely helpful to communities, and programs such as the Peace Corps Partnership Program are too slow and cumbersome to address certain needs.

NPCA President Kevin Quigley focused his remarks on the importance of advancing a goal of doubling the number of Peace Corps Volunteers and funding for third goal initiatives. On third goal funding, Quigley suggested that rather than looking at the provision as a "zero sum circumstance" that would come at the expense of Volunteers in the field, third goal initiatives could expand general public support for Peace Corps, increasing possibilities for the agency to secure funding levels it requests.

The Senate subcommittee will continue its work on the legislation. Similar legislation is planned to be introduced in the House of Representatives, possibly in September.

*Please note
that the
Executive
Committee
Meeting is
now on the
Third
Wednesday.
The next
meeting will
be on
Wednesday,
September 19
at 7 PM in the
Red Gym*

**Check the Schedule
at the entrance for
the room.**

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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 renewing or joining between September and December should pay \$15; members renewing or joining between January and April should pay \$10; members renewing or joining 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.

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

- Individual - \$15/\$10/\$5
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- Overseas Individual - \$24/\$16/\$8
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