



## 2015 Group Building Grant from RPCVs of WI-Madison: Monthly Webinar Series

### Final Report

**Summary:** The NPCA affiliate group webinar series supported by RPCVs of WI-Madison featured nine webinars on eight topics between November 2015 and June 2016. This report lists the webinars presented and the ongoing plans to continue the webinar series, which was well received by groups.

**Webinars presented:** The following is the final schedule of webinars presented. See the appendix for a complete listing of topics, along with descriptions and presenters (many of whom were other group leaders sharing their best practices). Links to all supporting material and recordings of each of the webinar are on the Affiliate Group Network page of our website here: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/affiliate-network#webinar>

- **Wednesday, November 11 (repeated Tuesday, November 17):** NPCA's New Membership Model and the Peace Corps Community Fund
- **Thursday, January 28:** National Day of Action in Support of Peace Corps – Opportunities for Affiliate Groups
- **Thursday, February 11:** Engage and Strengthen your Group at Peace Corps Connect
- **Saturday, March 12:** Legal Considerations 101: Non-profit status and tax filing
- **Thursday, May 19:** Interested in Hosting a Peace Corps Story Slam?
- **Wednesday, May 25:** Amazing Technology Resources for your Group
- **Wednesday, June 15:** Peace Corps' New Look
- **Thursday, June 23:** Building an RPCV Support Network

#### Lessons learned and adjustments made:

The webinar series proceeded as planned with a few minor exceptions.

- **Webinar topics and scheduling:** Topics identified through group surveys and with input from the Affiliate Group Network Advisory Committee guided our original planning. We anticipated scheduling webinars for the year well in advance. However, additional topics arose out of urgent needs/inquiries from groups, time-sensitive opportunities and unanticipated new directions, including the new NPCA membership model and launch of the Peace Corps' new look. Group-led topics need more lead time and are generally not as time-sensitive. We're building those into the next grant proposal.
- **Technology:** The original plan was to subscribe to GoToWebinar at a reduced rate offered by TechSoup. However, by switching to Zoom (as recommended by one of the groups), we not only saved money, we also demonstrated a platform that is much more accessible to groups. (Just a few minutes into the first webinar, participants were already asking about Zoom and how they could use it themselves.) Most groups could benefit from the free version of Zoom, but as our webinars were scheduled to go beyond the 45-minute maximum on that plan, we opted for the \$14.99/month version (which is still within reach for groups that need longer meetings).
- **Honoraria:** Presenters were happy to participate and share their best practices without compensation, so we did not use that line item and instead devoted more effort for materials development and project management.

#### Next steps:

The webinars were well received from groups. We plan to continue with monthly webinars and will be applying for additional funds in the next grant request.

Thank you to the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison for your support of our capacity-building resources for affiliate groups, helping us in our efforts to enable affiliate groups to thrive!

**Financial Report**

	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Remaining Funds</b>
Materials development and project management	\$4,400	\$3,326	(\$1,074)
Honorarium for Group Presenters		\$700	\$700
GoToWebinar subscription	\$180	\$474	\$294
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,580</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>(\$80)</b>

## Appendix: Full Descriptions of Webinars Presented

### **Wednesday, November 11 (repeated Tuesday, November 17): NPCA's New Membership Model and the Peace Corps Community Fund**

**Presenters:** Anne Baker, NPCA Vice President; Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, NPCA Affiliate Group Network Coordinator; Kate Schwanhausser, NPCA Membership and Development

*What are these membership changes and how will they impact affiliate groups? How will the Community Fund strengthen your group and the broader community? Sign up for one of our webinars to learn more and to get your questions answered.*

### **Thursday, January 28: National Day of Action in Support of Peace Corps – Opportunities for Affiliate Groups**

**Presenters:** Jonathan Pearson, NPCA Advocacy Director; JM Ascienzo, Government Relations Officer

*National Day of Action (March 3) is a great way to engage your members in important advocacy work in support of Peace Corps. Whether your group members can come to DC or not, they can help make a difference for current, returned and future Peace Corps Volunteers. It takes just a few minutes. And it is fun!*

*Learn how to engage your group through this webinar, presented by NPCA advocacy staff Jonathan Pearson and J.M. Ascienzo, assisted by affiliate group advocacy coordinators. (If your group doesn't yet have one, learn how to designate one on this webinar, too!)*

### **Thursday, February 11: Engage and Strengthen your Group at Peace Corps Connect**

**Presenters:** Greg Jones, Friends of Nigeria; Patricia Wand, Friends of Colombia; Doug Schermer, Peace Corps Iran Association

*NPCA's annual Peace Corps Connect conference is coming to Washington, DC from September 22-25, 2016. All groups should plan to attend and participate throughout the weekend. How can you capitalize on this opportunity to engage more of your members and strengthen your group?*

*Hear best practices from other groups and brainstorm your ideas, too. There will be plenty of time for Q&A!*

### **Saturday, March 12: Legal Considerations 101: Non-profit status and tax filing**

**Presenters:** Mike Buckler, Friends of Malawi; Dave Keiser, Tennessee RPCVs; Lindsey Smith, Central Missouri RPCVs

*In this webinar, we will hear from affiliate group board members who will share their perspectives and recent experiences with the application for non-profit status and tax filing. Learn about the real benefits of having that 501(c)(3) status and the legal responsibilities your group has to file taxes. Now all made easy!*

#### **Thursday, May 19: Interested in Hosting a Peace Corps Story Slam?**

**Presenters:** **Meleia Egger**, Peace Corps Office of Third Goal; **Mike Madej**, Peace Corps Recruiter; **Melissa Shoemaker**, Chicago Area Peace Corps Association; **Ally Snyder**, Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

*Hear from groups and Peace Corps Office of Third Goal on all the steps, guidelines and tips for planning and hosting a fun successful Peace Corps Story Slam. We have resources and experiences to share (and just in time for Peace Corps Storytelling Contest)!*

#### **Wednesday, May 25: Amazing Technology Resources for your Group**

**Presenters:** **Rosette Nguyen**, Strategic Communications Director, TechSoup and President, Sacramento Valley Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

*Hear from Rosette – in her dual role as an affiliate group leader and with [TechSoup](#) – on how your affiliate group can take advantage of deeply discounted hardware and software and free resources – webinars, forums, etc. She will talk about resources and how NGOs and libraries around the world can access this technology. NGOs save on average \$17,500 with TechSoup, which now serves 236 countries and territories. Whether you're a leader for your affiliate group, a board member, NGO staff member, or supporter of social sector work in your country of service, this webinar on accessing technology and free resources can help your NGO save a lot of money and apply the savings toward its mission.*

#### **Wednesday, June 15: Peace Corps' New Look**

**Presenters:** **Anne Baker**, Vice President, NPCA; **BJ Whetstine**, Director, Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services; **Meleia Egger**, RPCV Group Liaison, Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

*Peace Corps unveiled a new logo and branding on June 1. What does that mean for NPCA affiliate groups, particularly around use of the new logo and old logo, which is now the Peace Corps seal? Join Peace Corps' Office of Third Goal to learn about the new look and logo and what is available for groups. Open Q and A will follow the brief presentation.*

#### **Thursday, June 23: Building an RPCV Support Network**

**Presenters:** **Jonathan Pearson**, NPCA Advocacy Director; **Lee Lacy**, Peace Corps Post Service Health Task Force; **Jeanne Paul**, Southeast Michigan RPCVs; **Christina Donnelly**, Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers; **Valerie Kurka**, Health Justice for Peace Corps Volunteers

*Affiliate group representatives are invited to participate in an important dialogue on Health Justice Awareness Day, Thursday, June 23, 2016 with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and other leaders. The webinar will provide a forum to learn about the healthcare challenges of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) and consider how we can come together as a community to support individuals in need.*

*While some Volunteers experience little or no difficulties, there are too many who faced, and continue to face, significant physical, mental or emotional health challenges stemming from*

*service. Because of that, the webinar event will address the need for wider understanding of these issues, as well as how they can be best addressed.*

*The first half of this hour-long webinar will provide an update and overview on where things currently stand. The second half of the program will include a brainstorming session to consider possible activities and next steps in building a health support network. By working together we will turn the corner and have meaningful impact for members of our community who too often have felt left behind.*