

West Cascade Peace Corps Association 2011 Annual Report

WCPCA's mission:

The primary mission of WCPCA is to pursue the third goal of the Peace Corps as mandated by Congress in 1961, "To promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people."

Introduction:

The WCPCA board of directors met monthly in 2011 to conduct the organization's business. Meetings were announced in the newsletter, listed on the website's calendar, and open to the full membership. The board held the annual membership meeting required by the constitution on December 4th and those who attended elected the 2012 board.

This report summarizes the board's work in 2011 to develop the organization, serve the membership, and reach out to the general as well as the Peace Corps community in Lane County. In 2011 the Peace Corps celebrated its 50th anniversary and WCPCA worked to give our community ample evidence of our presence as an active nonprofit organization and as representatives of the 200,000 Americans who have served the cause of peace by serving others for 50 years.

Members of the board took office in January. At its first meeting the board set goals to achieve with the support of the membership. The goals were published in the January newsletter and are listed below with the work done to achieve them. Following a discussion of the goals the report will address communications, membership, financial status, affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association, and outreach activities.

Goals for 2011:

Goal #1: Continue bimonthly potlucks with a program

We sponsored potlucks in January, April, June, August, October, and December that included a wide variety of programs. Local RPCVs, Chris Chapin and Audrey Squires, spoke at the first two and we learned about their Peace Corps programs in Kazakhstan and Guatemala respectively.

In June we joined Justin Overdeest the U of O Peace Corps recruiter to cosponsor the annual NOM party, which celebrates new local nominees to the Peace Corps. The NOM party's program included musical performances by U of O international students and talks by Eugene's mayor, Kitty Piercy, (RPCV, Ethiopia, 1964-66), and the new U of O Peace Corps recruiter, Hannah Klausman, (RPCV, Mongolia, 2006-08).

In August we had a poolside picnic without a formal program. In October we had a speaker, Enrique Fernandez, who described the complexities of the Hispanic population in the US. In December we asked members attending the potluck to share a photo and a story from their own PC programs.

The potlucks in June and October were held at the Wesley Center near the U of O campus to encourage students to attend. The other potlucks were held at members' homes. Thirty to fifty people attended each potluck.

As Vice President, Maggie Keenan was primarily responsible for planning the potlucks and programs.

Goal #2: Award a minimum of \$2,000 to humanitarian projects

In April and July the board funded two Peace Corps Partnership projects: Expanding Educational Resources, a high school language resource center in Kyrgystan, with \$960, and Sustainable Cookstoves, an adobe stove project in Peru with \$1,000. The PCVs involved are from Oregon and Washington respectively.

In August the board committed \$500 to fund School of Leadership-Afghanistan (SOLA) in memory of Artis Spriggs who was a member of WCPCA and a PCV in Afghanistan (1967-69) and who died in 2010.

In September the board awarded two grants of \$500 each to projects of Oregon PCVs who are serving in Peru and who are WCPCA members. One request was for Camp ALMA, a leadership camp for girls, organized by Annie Embertson from Roseburg, and the other was for a 2012 calendar project, Powerful Peruvians, that features female entrepreneurs in Peruvian villages, of which Dani Reuter of Portland is one of the organizers.

In December, 2011, the WCPCA board awarded \$300 to the Peace Corps Partnership project, "Gender Empowerment Weekends," in Ukraine. One of the project's organizers is Anne Falla, an PCV from Newberg, OR, and a recent OSU graduate.

The board awarded a total of \$3,760 to humanitarian projects in 2011 thus exceeding its goal. The projects are listed and described in full on the "Projects" page of the website. Projects that received a grant from distributions of the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund are described below.

The two projects that received funds from the 2011 distributions of the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund are School of Leadership - Afghanistan and Sustainable Cookstoves. Notice of the source of the funding was sent to the organizers of each project and a letter describing the projects was sent to Tricia Tate and Natalie Brinkman on 11/14/11. Their donations were the primary source of the funds that originated the endowed account and an annual letter to them listing the projects funded by the distributions is required by the terms of the gift.

Goal #3: Develop a fundraising plan and pursue fundraising projects

The fundraising projects this year were selling tee shirts and calendars. James Cloutier designed a tee shirt to celebrate the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary and approximately 100 were printed. Some were used as gifts but most were sold at \$15 each. Shirts were sold at the March 1st events, on the website and at potlucks, and by individual members. There were three printings: 50 shirts in 2/11; 25 shirts in 6/11 and 24 shirts in 10/11. Net proceeds were approximately \$700.

We are selling 200 of the 2012 international calendars produced by the Madison, WI RPCV group. This is the 25th year of the calendar's production. Anticipated net proceeds are approximately \$1,500.

Both items are being sold on the website as well as at potlucks, by individual members, and for the calendars at a few stores.

Goal #4: Encourage and support opportunities for members to participate in local service projects

A large delegation of WCPCA members worked as a clean up crew for two major fundraisers sponsored by Food for Lane County, Chefs' Night Out in March and Empty Bowls in October. James Cloutier organized this activity.

Goal #5: Plan local activities for the celebration of "Peace Corps 50 in Eugene"

WCPCA sponsored two gala activities on March 1st to celebrate the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary: a noon rally in downtown Eugene and an evening of Latin music at Cozmic Pizza. Both events attracted crowds. Wayne Thompson and Maggie Keenan organized these events and Maggie wrote the article that appeared as an insert in the *Eugene Weekly*. The cost of the insert was a donation to WCPCA by the publication.

In addition there were substantial articles about local RPCVs in the *Eugene Weekly* and the *Eugene Magazine*, and the *Oregon Quarterly*. An article by WCPCA member, George Jeffcott, appeared on the op-ed page of the *Register Guard*. WCPCA members gave several panel presentations about the "Peace Corps at 50" to local organizations: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the U of O, the League of Women Voters of Lane County, the Southtown Rotary, and the National Association of Retired Persons. A presentation at OASIS is scheduled for February, 2012.

In the spring the U of O Peace Corps recruiter organized a display in the entry of the Knight Library on the U of O campus that featured the stories of several local RPCVs from across the five decades of the Peace Corps' history.

Communications:

The website and newsletter are the main avenues of communication that WCPCA uses to reach its membership and others in the community who are on the email list. This is primarily Felicia's responsibility and this year Keith helped with the task. Felicia continued to develop the website including creating a special page to list activities for the 50th. James provided artwork for the website.

Felicia and Keith edited the monthly email newsletter, *Reconnections*, that was distributed to all members as well as those on the organization's email list who are not members. Felicia organized and distributed the December 2010 edition of the membership directory. She added short biographies of members to the directory. The membership directory exists only as a .pdf document. It includes the names of members in good standing only and is distributed only to members via email. Those who wish to have a paper copy may print their own.

All WCPCA members with the exception of three have email accounts. Paper copies of the newsletter and the membership directory are mailed to these three members at an annual cost of approximately \$15 each. Thus one must note the substantial savings realized by the use of email to communicate with members and also to maintain a separate emailing list of approximately 150 individuals.

Felicia also manages our PayPal account. This allows people to pay membership dues online and to purchase calendars or other merchandise online.

Felicia Kenney and Keith Beyer handle the communications activities.

Membership:

Annual dues for an individual are \$15 and for a family \$22. We have three categories of membership which require no dues: student, active PC trainee or PCV, and a first year member no matter the years of service. The dues level and free membership terms for PCVs and PC trainees and first year members mirror practices of NPCA. However only WCPCA has a special membership available for families.

As of November WCPCA has 139 members of whom 26 are "first year" members including PCVs and PC trainees and 12 members are students. This means that 38 members don't pay dues. There are 45 individual memberships at \$15 for annual dues and 28 family memberships at \$22 for annual dues.

Thirty-six members joined or renewed their membership in WCPCA through NPCA in 2011 of whom half pay dues. NPCA rebated to WCPCA \$270 in dues in 2011. A total of \$1,431.76 was received in dues in 2011. This sum includes rebates from NPCA.

Projections for 2012: If all members who currently pay dues renew their memberships in the same category WCPCA should receive approximately \$1,400 in dues. If 25% of those with a “free” membership pay dues of \$15 as an individual, WCPCA should receive an additional \$120 for a total of \$1,520. We hope that all of the members who don't pay dues will stay affiliated since their presence contributes to the organization's vitality. Dorothy Soper has been the membership chair this year.

Financial status:

Account balances at the end of 2011 were the following:

OCCU:

Checking account at OCCU: \$2,140

Savings account at OCCU: \$4,037

Restricted funds' account at OCCU (including distributions from the memorial fund): \$621.

Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation, November 1, 2011: \$25,903

Distributions from this endowed account may be used only to fund humanitarian programs. Annual distributions are approximately \$1,125 with checks of equal amounts received in June and December.

Legal framework:

WCPCA has the status of a nonprofit charity with the IRS having received a 501 (c) (3) designation in August, 2008. Thus dues and donations to the organization are tax deductible to the full extent of the law for those who join or donate. The organization is registered with the Oregon Department of Justice as a nonprofit charity. Note that awards made by the organization must be to other organizations that have the 501 (c) (3) status. The US Peace Corps has this status and that covers grants made to Peace Corps Partnership projects.

The Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund was established at the OCF in October, 2009, at the level of \$25,000 primarily with gifts from Tricia Tate and Natalie Brinkman but also with funds from the WCPCA general account.

The board treasurer, Dale Morse, handles financial activities, accounting, and government reporting responsibilities.

Affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association:

WCPCA continued its affiliation with NPCA this year for which the annual fee was \$90. This affiliation keeps the board abreast of national initiatives, allowed us to list our 50th events on the NPCA website, and has secured 24 new memberships for WCPCA in 2011. Many WCPCA members belong to both organizations and choose to renew for both using NPCA online access. In addition, within the last year most of our “first year free” memberships have come from NPCA as people joining that organization decide to join WCPCA as an affiliate with the same membership categories.

WCPCA has taken initial steps to join the mentoring program for newly returning RPCVs that is cosponsored by the Peace Corps and the NPCA. More work is needed to develop this activity.

Outreach Activities:

Participation in the “Peace and Justice” booth at the Country Fair in July. This was organized by Andrew Dempsey-Karp and several WCPCA members took part.

Participation in the Eugene Celebration in August by having an entry in the parade and sponsoring a booth. Parade participation was organized by Nick Bosustow, Wayne Thompson, and James Cloutier. Miriam Aiken and Vern Delk organized the booth which was staffed over the weekend by several WCPCA members.

Supporting the U of O Peace Corps recruiter by helping to staff the Peace Corps booth at the campus Street Faires in the spring and fall and helping to sponsor the NOM party to celebrate those newly nominated to the Peace Corps in the spring.

Participation in a panel discussion of Peace Corps service in the spring at the Knight Library in the spring.

Participation with a booth in the annual "Africa Day" sponsored by the International High School in Eugene.

Organizing a discussion group for the local Peace Corps community, Salon Ougadougou, that meets twice per month. Felicia Kenney is the primary organizer.

WCPCA Board of Directors in 2011:

Officers:

President: Dorothy Soper
Vice President: Maggie Keenan
Secretary: Wendy Nelson* and Miriam Aiken
Treasurer: Dale Morse
Communications Coordinator: Felicia Kenney
Ex officio: University of Oregon Peace Corps Recruiters:
Justin Overdevest and Hannah Klausman

Members at large:

Keith Beyer
Nick Bosustow
James Cloutier
John Hofer*
Jack Meacham
Wayne Thompson
Bob Watada

*Wendy and John resigned from the board during the course of the year.

This annual report was prepared by Dorothy Soper and approved by the WCPCA board on January 9, 2012.