

West Cascade Peace Corps Association 2012 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 peoples on the part of Americans." The organization operates as a public charity in accordance with its 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS.

Introduction

The 2012 WCPCA board of directors held eleven board meetings to conduct the organization's business and six potlucks attended by the general membership. Two potlucks were designated "general membership meetings" for business purposes. Specifically, at the October potluck, members attending voted to amend the constitution. At the December 7th potluck members attending elected the 2013 Board of Directors. The dates and times of board meetings and potlucks were announced in advance in the newsletter, listed on the website's calendar, and open to the full membership.

This report summarizes the board's work in 2012 to pursue its mission while developing the organization, serving the membership, and reaching out to the general as well as the Peace Corps community in Lane County. Members of the board were elected in early December, 2011, and later that month held a joint meeting with the outgoing board to plan for the coming year. At its first meeting in January the board set three goals for 2012 which were published in the February newsletter and are listed below followed by a summary of the work performed to achieve them. At this meeting the board also approved a budget for the year.

Following a discussion of the goals the report will address recommendations to the 2013 board, membership, communications, financial status, fundraising, and affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association.

Goals for 2012

Goal #1: Organizing activities to serve the Peace Corps' third goal, to "promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans."

Easther Chigumira of Zimbabwe attended board meetings from January through June to gain experience in serving on a non-profit's board for the class on Board Governance that she was taking at the U of O. Keith Beyer and Dorothy Soper attended the concluding ceremony at the U of O to honor members of this program. Easther has returned to Zimbabwe to conduct research for her PhD in geography. We hope to see her when she returns to Eugene in the fall of 2013.

Six potlucks were organized, each with a program:

February 10: Tom and Nancy English's home; program: Serena Parcell, Swaziland, 2008-2010.
April 13: Dorothy and Dave Soper's home; program: Amy Small, Jamaica, 2008-2010.
May 4: NOM (nominees) party at the Wesley Center; program: international students from the

U of O; Jennifer Knowles, Macedonia, 2009-2011; overview of the Peace Corps by Hannah Klausman, U of O PC recruiter, and Lisa White of the Seattle PC office. The U of O Recruiter's Office and WCPA cosponsored this event.

August 18: Potluck/afternoon picnic at the home of Bob Watada and Rosa Sakanishi; our hosts barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs; program: Kerry Davis, Vanuatu, 2009-2011 and Jennifer Knowles, Macedonia, 2009-2011.

October 12: Nancy and Walt Meyer's home; program: Kourtney Rusow, Senegal, 2008-2010.

December 10: Joyce Leader's home: slides from several members' Peace Corps service shown with brief descriptions offered by the volunteers.

The primary audience for the potlucks is the local Peace Corps community but prospective volunteers are invited by the U of O recruiter, new PC trainees and their families are honored at the NOM party, and the public is invited to five of the six potlucks through announcements in local media.

Board members Maggie Keenan and Josette Green coordinated the potluck program.

Presentation to OASIS, February: Three WCPA members gave a presentation to this organization, offering an overview of current PC work as well as descriptions of their own PC programs. Julie Olson, Hannah Klausman, and Dorothy Soper took part.

Peace Corps' birthday, March: Birthday celebration at Cozmic Pizza organized by Wayne Thompson. Seven RPCVs sang "Happy Birthday" at the appointed moment.

Food for Lane County, volunteer activity, April: Vince Ceccacci organized the participation of approximately ten WCPA members to be a clean up crew for the Food for Lane County fundraiser, Chefs' Night Out.

Country Fair, July 13-15: Andrew Dempsey-Karp organized the WCPA presence in the Peace and Justice booth at the fair for the second year in a row. Several community members signed up to be added to the WCPA email list.

Sponsoring the northwest RPCV groups' annual campout, August 2-5, Sunset Bay, OR: Sam Greer organized and managed this event over a year's period. WCPA took its turn in this revolving responsibility which included providing the Saturday night dinner for 50 campers. A page was added to the website to provide information and accept reservations. WCPA advanced approximately \$700 to reserve the campsites and pay for the Saturday night dinner. Registration fees collected from the campers covered these costs and the advance was fully repaid to the organization.

Eugene Celebration, August 24-26: Continuing a tradition of more than 20 years, WCPA entered a delegation in the Saturday morning parade and maintained a booth in the Community Causeway on both Saturday and Sunday. The parade entry, organized by James Cloutier, featured the organization's flags and banners as well as the venerable cardboard taxi. The latter was retired after the parade and a replacement should be considered.

WCPA sold calendars and shirts at the booth and met prospective volunteers as well as local RPCVs who expressed interest in the organization. The booth remains one of the primary vehicles for the organization's gaining new members; several people signed up to be added to the WCPA email list. Dorothy Soper coordinated this activity.

Discussion group, Salon Ouagadougou met twice per month.

Bookgroup organized: A new bookgroup dedicated to reading and discussing books by RPCV authors or Peace Corps related in some way was organized by Patty MacAfee. The group plans to meet every other month. The first meeting was in September.

An article entitled "The Peace Corps, going strong after 50 years" by Deb Allen was published in the October issue of *Northwest Boomer and Senior News*. Deb attended the WCPCA summer picnic where she interviewed several WCPCA members and took photos to learn about the organization in preparation for writing the article.

Goal #2: Funding of humanitarian projects

The 2012 budget allocated \$2,000 to fund humanitarian projects. This amount includes \$1,226 which WCPCA received in distributions from its endowed fund, the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund, invested at the Oregon Community Foundation. Distributions were received in two equal amounts in June and December and may be used only to fund humanitarian projects.

WCPCA granted a total of \$2,635 to the following four projects:

Vanuatu Rural Water System Development, \$1,000; this is a Peace Corps Partnership project organized by PCV, Nick Karr, of Oregon. Funds came from distributions of the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund and this information was sent to the project director.

Guitar Workshop in Rwanda; \$835; this is a Peace Corps Partnership project organized by PCV, Tyler Russ, of Oregon.

Bridging the Gap: A Computer Classroom in Rural Costa Rica, \$500; this is a Peace Corps Partnership project organized by PCV, Rachel Huguet, of Portland, Oregon.

Casa Materna Sustainability Project in Nicaragua, \$300; this is a Peace Corps Partnership project organized by PCV Anna Steeves-Reece of Eugene, Oregon. Funds came in part from distributions of the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund and this information was sent to the project director.

Full descriptions of the projects are on the *Projects* page of the website. The board may make awards only to projects or organizations that have a 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS. Peace Corps partnership projects have this status through the Peace Corps. The board has shown a preference for funding projects that are organized by PCVs from Oregon.

At the end of the year a letter was sent to the two primary donors to the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund to tell them of the projects awarded funds from the distributions. Providing this information is a condition of our receipt of their gifts.

Goal #3: Supporting the University of Oregon's Peace Corps recruiter

The Peace Corps recruiter at the U of O, Hannah Klausman, is an ex officio member of the WCPCA board. This year WCPCA worked with her to help staff the Peace Corps booth at the U of O Street Faire in May, to cosponsor the annual NOM party to honor new PC trainees and their families in May, and to help staff the Peace Corps booth at the October U of O Street Faire.

Hannah, in turn, has taken part in WCPCA sponsored activities, joining a panel of presenters to OASIS in February, organizing the program for the NOM party, and helping to staff the WCPCA booth at the Eugene Celebration.

Recommendations from the 2012 board to the 2013 board

At its September board meeting the 2012 board recommended to the 2013 board that it scale back its activities including the number of board meetings. At the October 12th potluck, which was also a general membership meeting, the board proposed an amendment to Article VII of the constitution and the membership approved. The amendment strikes the second sentence of the article, which had required monthly board meetings, and substitutes following the sentence, "Board meetings shall be held as necessary and are open to the full membership." With this change the 2013 board is free to schedule its meetings to reflect its needs.

Membership

WCPCA annual dues for an individual are \$15 and for a family \$22. There are four 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 the free memberships for PCVs, PC trainees, and first year members mirror practices of NPCA. However, only WCPCA has a special membership available for families. The "first year free" membership program has brought the organization a significant number of new members including those who joined through NPCA.

Total membership in December, 2012, was: 137.

Membership in the four categories was the following: individuals: 60; family: 41; first year: 25; PCV or PC trainee: 7; student: 4

One hundred one members paid dues either directly to WCPCA or to WCPCA through the NPCA. Total dues paid to WCPCA in 2012 was \$1,598. The income from dues covered WCPCA's basic operating expenses of \$1,056.

In February the 2012 membership directory was published and distributed to the membership via email as a .pdf file. Only members were listed and only members received the directory.

Miriam Aiken handled membership responsibilities and Felicia Kenney maintained the membership database and created the membership directory.

Communications

The website at www.westcascadepca.org and monthly email newsletter were the main avenues of communication that WCPCA used to reach its membership and others in the community who are on the email list. This enables WCPCA to maintain a high level of communication at a low cost.

Felicia Kenney and Keith Beyer organized the newsletter initially in 2012. Later in the year Keith worked with Deb Jones and Dorothy Soper on this task. Dorothy and Keith wrote and assembled the newsletter and Deb put it into HTML format for distribution.

Announcements were sent to local media to invite the public to five of the six potlucks.

Felicia manages the website including the PayPal account, maintains the membership database, and produces the membership directory. Through the PayPal account people may pay dues online and purchase calendars and tee shirts. There is an ongoing effort to update the website pages.

All WPCPA members with the exception of two have email accounts. Paper copies of the newsletter and the membership directory are mailed to these two 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.

Financial status

Account balances at the end of December, 2012, were the following:

Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU):

Checking account at OCCU: \$2, 642.63

Savings account at OCCU: \$4,045.61

Restricted funds' account at OCCU (including distributions from the endowed fund): \$121.22.

Funds in this third account may be used only to fund humanitarian projects or to contribute to the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund.

WPCPA received \$1,299 in distributions from the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation. The organization made four grants totaling \$2,635 with funds coming from both distributions of the memorial fund and the general fund.

Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation, August 1, 2012: \$26,416

Distributions from this endowed account may be used only to fund humanitarian programs. The 2012 distributions were \$1,299 with checks of equal amounts received in June and December. WPCPA contributed \$100 to the principal of the fund in 2012.

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

The board treasurer, Dale Morse, handles financial activities, accounting, payment of bills, and reporting responsibilities to the Oregon state government and the IRS.

Fundraising

Ongoing fundraising projects in 2012 were selling international calendars produced by the Madison, WI RPCV group and tee shirts designed by James Cloutier and printed by WPCPA.

Calendar prices to consumers varied from \$8 to \$12 each depending upon the number of calendars purchased. This year we ordered 200 calendars, as has been the case in recent years, and expected to realize \$800-\$1,000 in profit. Profits from calendar sales are placed in the general account but funds are often drawn from this account to award to humanitarian projects.

As of the end of December only 123 calendars of the 200 purchased had been sold realizing a profit of \$294 for the organization. This return is far below that anticipated. The organization will need to continue to market the calendars in early 2013.

James Cloutier designed the "JFK Forever" tee shirts and 70 were printed in the spring. The board set the price at \$20 per shirt and voted to devote all profits to funding humanitarian projects. To date no profit has been realized from the sale of tee shirts.

The board has managed these sales efforts as a whole making the articles available at WCPCA events and advertising them on the website. Patty MacAfee mails shirts that are ordered via PayPal and Dorothy Soper mails calendars.

For 2013 it would be helpful to the sales efforts if one or more individuals took responsibility for these sales and explored other sales opportunities. But it is important, also, to observe that the primary purchases of these items come from the local Peace Corps community.

Affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association

WCPCA maintains an affiliation with NPCA for which the annual fee was \$90. This affiliation gives validity to the organization within the national Peace Corps community and keeps the board abreast of national initiatives. The northwest RPCV organizations are represented on the NPCA board by Darryl Johnson of Seattle.

WCPCA is one of several northwest regional RPCV groups whose representatives meet twice per year. The responsibility to organize these regional meetings rotates among the groups. In 2012 the primary meeting took place in March in Seattle and James Cloutier and Joe Hindman represented WCPCA. The second, more informal meeting, took place at the summer campout at Sunset Bay, Oregon. Patty MacAfee represented WCPCA at this meeting.

The northwest regional RPCV organizations have rotating responsibilities to organize the annual group meetings and campouts. WCPCA organized the campout in 2012, including the general meeting, and will be responsible to organize the spring general meeting in 2014.

NPCA organized an annual national meeting in Minneapolis in June, 2012 and Joe Hindman represented WCPCA at the NPCA group leaders' meeting at this gathering.

WCPCA allocated \$100 to reimburse our delegates for travel expenses to the Seattle meeting. In selecting Joe Hindman as our representative to the summer gathering, we authorized him to use his travel expenses as business deductions for income tax purposes.

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.

NPCA has requested regional groups to select a group advocacy coordinator but no one in WCPCA has been interested in stepping into this role.

One notable outcome of WCPCA's affiliation with NPCA is the high number of "first year free" members that have joined the organization through NPCA.

2012 WCPCA Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Dorothy Soper

Vice President: Maggie Keenan

Secretary: Miriam Aiken

Treasurer: Dale Morse

Communications Coordinator: Felicia Kenney

Ex officio: University of Oregon Peace Corps Recruiter: Hannah Klausman

Members at large: Keith Beyer, James Cloutier, Josette Green

The 2012 annual report was prepared by Dorothy Soper and approved by the WCPCA board at its meeting on 1/14/13.