

# **West Cascade Peace Corps Association, 2014 Annual Report**

## **Mission**

The mission of WCPCA is:

To promote humanitarian and educational programs in connection with accomplishing 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."

The organization operates as a public charity in accordance with its 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS.

## **Introduction**

This report summarizes the board's work in 2014 to pursue its mission by serving the membership and reaching out to the general as well as the Peace Corps community in Lane County. This annual report summarizes the primary business, social, outreach, and service activities conducted, and lists awards made to humanitarian projects. It includes an update on the organization's financial and membership status, its work to communicate with the local Peace Corps community, and its affiliation with the National Peace Corps Organization (NPCA).

The names of board members and others who fulfilled significant responsibilities for the organization in 2014 are listed at the end of the report.

## **Business**

The board of directors held five meetings: February 23, April 27, June 16, September 28, and November 23. Board meeting minutes are posted on the website.

The updated membership database was uploaded onto a PC that the organization owns and that is reserved for the use of the membership chair. Membership chair, Jennifer Knowles has reported that the new system is working well.

The membership form on the website has been updated to include space for separate entries of information by each person of a couple. The change responds to the situation that many couples have different last names and contact information.

Creation of a new WCPCA FaceBook page by Denise Silfee, spring 2014. The original FaceBook page, which was of a different type, was deleted.

Hosted on April 12, the meeting of northwest RPCV groups; representatives from Portland and Seattle attended as well as representatives of WCPCA.

Fundraising through the sale of international calendars and tee shirts.

Amendments to the constitution and bylaws were approved by the membership at the October 24th potluck at which there was a brief general meeting. The changes streamline the documents and describe more fully the integration of the website and the use of email with WCPCA activities. The following addition was made to the list of purposes of the organization, "Provide social and networking opportunities for RPCVs and their families." The amended constitution and bylaws are posted on the website.

Revised the "Business Format" page which provides an orientation to the board's work for new members. The document is posted on the board page of the website.

Members of the 2015 board of directors were elected at the December 5th potluck in a brief general meeting.

### **Social Activities for the Lane County RPCV Community**

The primary socializing activities organized by WCPCA in 2014 were seven potlucks, gatherings organized through WCPCA Facebook page, and book group meetings. A few details are listed below:

#### **Potlucks:**

January 24: Holiday gathering at the home of Joyce Leader with showing of slides by WCPCA members; election of the 2014 board. The December potluck had been cancelled due to snow.

April 4: Potluck at the home of Charles Goldsmith and Juliet Bender. Laurette Garner talked about her role at the PC representative at the U of O and her PCV service in Madagascar.

May 30th: NOM party at the Many Nations Longhouse, U of O campus, to honor newly invited PC trainees. The event was cosponsored by WCPCA and the U of O Peace Corps representative.

July 27: Picnic at the farm of Rolly and Wayne Thompson; Rolly spoke about her work with women involved in the wool industry in Peru.

August 16: Swimming party and BBQ at the home of Rosa Sakanishi and Bob Watada.

October 24: Home of Dave and Dorothy Soper; for the program Priscilla Dantas talked about growing up in Brazil; and gave a piano concert.

December 5: Home of Nancy and Tom English; for the program there was a gift exchange with gifts reflecting Peace Corps experiences. The potlucks were organized by Juliet Bender, Elke Richers, and Denise Silfee.

**Book group:** The group reads books by Peace Corps authors and meets in members' homes in months when no potluck is scheduled. Activities were organized by Patty MacAfee.

## **Outreach and Service Activities**

U of O Street Faire booth organized by Laurette Garner, U of O Peace Corps representative: Helped staff the booth in the spring, May 7-10, and fall, October 15-17.

For most of the year a WCPCA crew gathers once each month to package donated food at Food for Lane County's warehouse. Patty MacAfee organized this activity.

Chef's Night Out, April 8: Fifteen volunteers from WCPCA participated in the clean up crew in this Food for Lane County fundraiser. James Cloutier organized this activity.

Regional meeting of the northwest RPCV groups: Hosted by WCPCA, April 12.

Country Fair, July 11-13: WCPCA represented in the Peace and Justice booth. Activity organized by Justin Overdeest.

Eugene Celebration, August 23: Entry in the parade. Organized by James Cloutier.

Festival of Eugene, August 22-23: Booth on both days. Organized by Dorothy Soper.

September 7: Talk by the Eugene PCV who was evacuated from Guinea due to the Ebola outbreak; organized by Julia Harvey.

Empty Bowls, September 27: Fifteen volunteers from WCPCA participated in the clean up crew in this Food for Lane County fundraiser. James Cloutier organized this activity.

Local RPCVs described their service in a series of presentations during the summer and fall at the U of O's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). The PC community was invited via the newsletter. The series was organized by Bart Briefstein.

November 20: The showing of a movie, Posh Corps, which was made by an RPCV of South Africa, and is about the Peace Corps experience in that country. The movie was shown on the U of O campus and the general Peace Corps community was invited via the newsletter and Facebook page. About 30 people attended. A modest admission fee and donations covered the cost and yielded a profit of \$100 which was deposited in WCPCA's restricted savings account at OCCU. Funds in this account may be used only to fund humanitarian projects. The program was organized by Gary Cornelius.

## **Donations to humanitarian programs**

WCPCA made grant awards to six humanitarian projects in 2014 as follows:

Classroom "Curiosidades", Mozambique, \$635; Summer School Programs, Mexico, \$500; Bio-intensive Family Gardens, Paraguay, \$500; Mbazwana Primary School (MPS) Sanitation Project, in South Africa, \$500; and Ecotourism in Rural Madagascar, \$200, and Local Ultrasound Machine in Nicaragua, \$100. Total awarded: \$2,435. Project descriptions are on the website.

Five of the above are Peace Corps Partnership projects and are directed by PCVs from Oregon. The sixth is a project organized by a WCPCA member to serve the community where he recently worked as a PCV. All awards were made to organizations that have 501 (3) (c) status with the IRS. Note that the Peace Corps has such status and this covers the Peace Corps Partnership projects.

## **Membership**

Members may join WCPCA either directly or through NPCA. Those joining directly may send a check or use the membership form on the website to pay through PayPal. In 2014 approximately 30 members paid dues through PayPal which deducts a 4% fee for processing payments.

For those who join and pay dues through NPCA, rebates are sent electronically to the WCPCA checking account at OCCU for the full membership dues payment. There are delays of 2 to 6 weeks between a payment from a member and the receipt of a rebate. NPCA does not charge for this service. NPCA has a “first year free” option for members but none of the other options that are available through WCPCA.

Below are the membership numbers in April and at the end of the year. Note that those with “individual” and “family” memberships pay annual dues of \$15 and \$22 respectively. Membership categories in which no dues are owed are first year, student, honorary, and active PCV.

**Membership directory:** In March the board published a membership directory as a .pdf file which was distributed by email. The document lists members only and is distributed to members only. New members who joined later in the year received a copy of the 2014 directory and will be listed in the 2015 directory. The directory is a networking tool for members. In 2014 Dorothy Soper and Jennifer Knowles served as editors for the membership directory.

The membership numbers below come from April, 2014 and early January, 2015. The latter reflect the full membership at the end of 2014. Total revenue from membership dues was \$1,147.

### **April, 2014, membership status:**

58 individual memberships, 35 people who have a family membership, 18 active PCVs, 3 students, 15 first year members, and 1 honorary member. Total: 130 members.

### **December, 2014, membership status:**

53 individual memberships, 32 people who have a family membership, 19 active PCVs, 5 students, 13 first year members, and 1 honorary member. Total: 122 members.

## **Communication**

**Website:** WCPCA maintains a website of which the URL is [www.westcascadepca.org](http://www.westcascadepca.org). The website lists all current activities and includes a business page on which are posted all of the board meeting minutes, up to date financial statements, the most recent filing with the IRS, reports for the current year and archives of these documents for past years. Using the website,

individuals may join the organization or renew their memberships, view a listing of humanitarian programs funded by WCPCA, shop for WCPCA products, and read the newsletter. Deb Jones is the web mistress. The website is hosted by Site5.

**Newsletter:** WCPCA published a monthly e-newsletter with Deb Jones and Dorothy Soper as coeditors. The newsletter is emailed to WCPCA members as well as a like number of individuals who are interested in the organization but have not joined. Currently there are approximately 300 names on the email list.

**Emails:** Occasional emails are sent to the full email list. Dorothy Soper had this responsibility.

### **Financial status**

At this writing, 2/14/15, the final financial report for the organization is not available due to the resignation of the treasurer in November. The figures below are accurate as of 11/30/14.

Balance in WCPCA accounts at OCCU, 11/30/14:

Checking: \$1,767.....Regular savings: \$2,760..... Restricted savings: \$63

Principal in the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund, WCPCA's endowed fund managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, as of 9/30/14: \$31,277. Annual distributions of approximately \$1,100 from this fund may be used only to support humanitarian programs. Distribution checks are received twice a year and are deposited in the restricted savings account at OCCU. The second check of the 2014 distributions from this fund to WCPCA had not been received when the figures above were recorded.

Fundraising activities in 2014: Sale of international calendars. Final figures not available.

Total income from membership dues: \$1,147.

Donations: In 2014 WCPCA received \$261 in donations of which \$200 was requested by the donor to be deposited in the Beryl Brinkman Memorial fund and \$161 was requested by the donor to be deposited in the OCCU restricted savings account.

The organization also received two in kind donations of \$250 in value: a laptop computer for the membership database and a revision of the membership form on the website.

The complete financial statement of 12/31/14 will be posted on the website. The website archives include financial statements of previous years.

### **WCPCA's affiliation with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)**

WCPCA renewed its affiliation with NPCA. This affiliation has been in place since the late 1980s and gives WCPCA a connection to the other 140 affiliates of NPCA as well as the organization's advocacy work. Members of WCPCA may also join or renew their membership through NPCA. The affiliation fee is based on the organization's size. WCPCA pays \$100 per year for the affiliation.

Approximately twenty-five WCPCA members maintain their WCPCA membership through the national organization and WCPCA receives several new members through NPCA each year. Often the latter are PCVs just concluding their service. WCPCA follows NPCA's practice of offering a year's free membership to first year members. As an affiliate of NPCA, WCPCA must publicize NPCA activities of interest to all RPCV groups.

### **Members of the Board of Directors, 2014**

President: Julia Harvey

Vice President: Juliet Bender

Secretary: Gary Cornelius

Treasurers: Dale Morse and Bart Briefstein

Ex officio: University of Oregon Peace Corps Representative, Laurette Garner

At large board members: James Cloutier, Jennifer Knowles, Elke Richers (resigned in April), Howard Schuman, Denise Silfee, and Dorothy Soper

### **Responsibilities beyond or other than board membership**

Calendar sales: Gary Cornelius

Membership chair: Jennifer Knowles

Newsletter coeditors: Deb Jones and Dorothy Soper

Program coordinators: Juliet Bender, Elke Richers, Denise Silfee

Web mistress: Deb Jones

Report submitted by Dorothy Soper, 2/14/15