

Minutes of the WCPCA board meeting
April 27, 2014

Board members attending: Juliet Bender, Bart Briefstein, James Cloutier, Julia Harvey, Jennifer Knowles, Denise Silfee, Dorothy Soper

Guests: Charles Goldsmith, Justin Overdevest, Moriah Turnidge

Julia presided at the meeting and began with introductions of the two new board members, Denise Silfee and Bart Briefstien. Julia appointed the new members in March and the board ratified her appointment via email. Elke Richers has resigned from the board.

All those present introduced themselves and Julia welcomed our guests.

1. Moriah is a U of O senior and prospective PC applicant and came to learn about the way the board works. She expressed an interest in talking to individual board members about specific aspects of their service. She passed around a sign up sheet for those interested to provide her with contact information.

2 Denise explained that she is interested in activating and maintaining the WCPCA Facebook page. Denise is an administrator of that page and proposes to use it to publicize WCPCA activities and welcome ideas for new activities from local RPCVs. The board very much encouraged her interest. Denise will decide whether to maintain the page as a group page or switch it to an organizational page.

3. Juliet described plans for coming programs and explained that Denise would be helping with program planning and arrangements.

The NOM party to celebrate those newly invited to be Peace Corps trainees will be on Friday, May 30th, 6-9 pm, Many Nations Longhouse at the U of O. This party is a long tradition and is organized by WCPCA and the office of the U of O Peace Corps recruiter. It will be a potluck with a program.

Plans now are to have an icebreaker activity, a panel presentation, and an introduction of the trainees. Juliet explained that she, Laurette, and Denise are thinking of ways to involve the trainees more in the program, possibly inviting them to prepare questions for the panelists.

Two summer outdoor gatherings are being planned. On July 27th there will be a barbecue/potluck at the farm of Rolly and Wayne Thompson. Rolly will give a short talk about her and Wayne's work with raising llamas and sheep for their wool and Rolly's work with wool and weaving activities. This effort is an outgrowth of their work as PCVs in Peru.

On August 23rd there all be a hamburger/hot dog roast and swimming party at the home of Bob Watada and Rosa Sakanishi. The board decided to make this a purely social gathering without a program. (Note that the date of this picnic has been changed to August 16th.)

There will be an October potluck. The program will be a piano concert by a Brazilian student at the U of O whose education since first grade has been funded by SHISKI, the NGO founded by WCPCA member Bob Crites. The potluck will be at the Sopers' home.

There will be a December potluck but there are no specific plans at this time.

The board thanked Juliet for her work and Denise for agreeing to work with her.

4. James reported that the WCPCA's work for Food for Lane County at Chefs' Night Out was very successful. Fifteen people volunteered and the clean up effort was accomplished quickly. WCPCA has received a very kind thank you note for the work from the volunteer coordinator of FLC.

5. Julia reported that the WCPCA organized the regional meeting of the northwest RPCV groups in Eugene on April 10th was very successful. The event was attended by representatives from Portland and Seattle to which was added the Skype presence of representatives of the RPCV groups in Boise and Spokane.

Many ideas about RPCV organizations and activities were shared. There was a general agreement to maintain the annual regional meeting. The Portland RPCV group has applied to cosponsor with NPCA the annual NPCA national gathering in 2015. If Portland's application is selected, the regional meeting in 2015 may take place at the national gathering.

Julia and Gary met with one of the Spokane organization's board members on Friday night. He was in Eugene for a workshop and couldn't attend the regional meeting.

Gary took minutes of the regional meeting and they will be circulated to the other organizations and posted on the WCPCA website.

6. The board voted to give \$100, as budgeted, to Paulette Thompson for her travel expenses as the western delegate to the NPCA board.

7. Bart circulated the treasurer's report to the board in advance of the meeting. The board discussed it briefly and voted to approve it.

8. Jenn gave the board an update on the membership. WCPCA currently has 130 members in the following categories:

- 58 individuals
- 35 people who have a family membership
- 18 active PCVs
- 3 students
- 15 first year members
- 1 honorary member

Of the members, individuals pay \$15 for an annual membership; families pay \$22 per family; members in the other categories pay no dues.

Jenn also reported that in recent months eight new people have joined; there have been 22 renewals; and 11 people have not renewed.

The board thanked Jenn for her work and discussed how it might help encourage new members to join and others both to join or renew. We agreed that for the latter item we would like Jenn to send board members a list of those who haven't renewed and are least a month over due. Board members who know people on the list indicated that they would be willing to contact their friends to learn why they left the organization and encourage them to renew if appropriate. Jenn will be sending this information.

Jenn also explained that she needs to purchase Microsoft Professional Suite and Norton antivirus protection for the membership computer. The board authorized her to spend \$36 for these purchases. Once this software is successfully installed on the membership computer we will no longer need to maintain the database on a NetCorps computer.

9. Dorothy explained some issues that came up with the recent publication of the 2014 WCPCA Membership Directory. The directory was developed and maintained by Felicia Kenney for several years. Felicia is no long in Eugene and so this is the first year that someone else worked on it. Dorothy worked with Joe Millon of NetCorps to create a query of the database to yield the information for the directory. That worked well except for entries for couples which did not appear in a correct way and had to be edited by hand.

Dorothy asked for the board's support to list all couples (who pay the \$22 in discounted annual dues) as individuals and so record them in the database. This should permit us to develop a query that will be workable.

Dorothy offered to contact all couples who are now listed together and explain why this change is necessary. She will also talk to Deb Jones about editing the membership form on the website to reflect this change. Jenn will modify the way information is recorded in the database to reflect this change. The board accepted these proposed changes.

10. In discussing humanitarian projects that it might fund, the board talked briefly about a project organized by an Oregon PCV in South Africa, MPS Sanitation Project. We felt that we needed more information. Dorothy had already asked for some additional information from the Peace Corps and is waiting for a reply.

Julia asked Charlie Goldsmith to describe the NGO that he has recently founded with Juliet and Walt Meyer, The Central Mexico Youth Fund, to support the education of young people in Mexico. Charlie explained the organization's activities and noted that it has 501 (C) (3) status with the IRS. In response to the question of how the organization might use a donation of \$500, Charlie explained that he would apply that to the cost of a summer school. Upon hearing this information, the board voted to award a grant of \$500 to the organization.

11. Bart suggested that the organization might try organizing a PUB Night to attract members interested in socializing in this setting. There was interest and a general agreement that this might be successful.

12. Dorothy explained that she is looking for a template for the newsletter and would welcome any suggestions.

13. Bart explained that he is on the curriculum committee of Osher Live Long Learning Institute (OLLI) which is the continuing education program of the U of O. He would like to schedule a series of monthly presentations by recently returned PCVs who would explain their service and show slides to illustrate their work. Presentations would be about 45 minutes long and scheduled on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm.

Bart has scheduled the first presentation on June 4th with Denise Silfee. Jenn offered to give a presentation. Bart would like to identify RPCVs with recent service in Ukraine and there were some suggestions. Bart will prepare an article on this topic for the newsletter.

14. The board agreed to Dorothy's suggestion that it authorize some revisions in the organization's constitution and bylaws to reflect the way business is being conducted. The 2008 constitution contains provisions that the organization has been unable to fulfill.

Dorothy offered to prepare a draft and invited board members to contribute. Dorothy will present a draft to the board at its next meeting. Once the board agrees on proposed changes, the draft constitution will be published for the membership to read. Members will then vote on the draft at the next potluck. A vote would probably take place at the October potluck.

15. Justin explained how plans are developing for WCPCA to share a table at the Peace and Justice booth at the Country Fair, July 11-13. The cost of day passes will rise this year and thus he may have to ask WCPCA for additional funds. Currently \$60 is allocated for this event.

Funding will also be required to print handouts to use at the fair. Justin will use some of the WCPCA banners or posters for decorations. Justin will handle this activity this year. Andrew Dempsey-Karp won't be able to participate as he has in the past. Andrew initiated this activity three years ago.

16. The board okayed changing the price of the JFK tee shirts to \$15 each with all proceeds still going to the restricted account to fund projects. Dorothy will change the price on the PayPal page of the website where the shirts may be purchased.

17. For summer activities we noted that a Gary will order 125 international calendars for WCPCA to sell starting at the Eugene Celebration where WCPCA will have a booth. That event will take place August 22-24.

18. The next board meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 23rd at Dorothy's house.

Julia adjourned the meeting at 9: 10 pm.

Minutes recorded by Dorothy Soper.