

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 2015 to pursue its mission by serving the membership and reaching out to the general as well as the Peace Corps community in Lane County, Oregon. 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 2015 are listed at the end of the report.

Business

The board of directors held five meetings: January 11, April 5, July 2, September 27, and November 1, 2015. Board meeting minutes are posted on the website and kept in hard copy by the board secretary.

The updated membership database was uploaded in 2014 onto a PC that the organization owns and that is reserved for the use of the membership chair. Membership chair Nicky Ulrich reports at most meetings that the new system still has "bugs" that she is attempting to work out. The board is considering significant changes in how the data base is maintained and in how the website operates.

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

The board also voted in 2015 to increase dues from \$20 annually for an individual, and \$25 for a family, effective 10/1/15. There had not been an increase in several years.

Quota:

56%
of 36700kb used.

Creation of a new WCPA Facebook page by Denise Silfee, spring 2014, continues to be successful, especially as a way to communicate with younger RPCVs. (The original Facebook page, which was of a different type, was deleted).

Fundraising occurred through the sale of 100 international calendars, tee shirts, books and events. WCPA started a new, small book return program in which Book Group members donate books, after they've been read, to WCPA for resale to other members who may not want to commit to group attendance, but may be interested in individual books. Secretary Gary Cornelius coordinates this effort by bringing a selection of books to each WCPA event. By the end of 2015 the chapter had earned about \$40 via book sales. Books were sold for \$4 each or three for \$10.

No new amendments to the constitution and bylaws were approved by the membership at the November 15, 2015 potluck, which doubled as a brief general meeting of the membership. The changes voted for/approved in 2014 -- streamline the documents and describe more fully the integration of the website and the use of email with WCPA activities continue to be effective, for the most part. Also, the addition of the following statement continues to be seen as appropriate: Provide social and networking opportunities for RPCVs and their families. The amended constitution and bylaws are posted on the website.

In keeping with the desire to attract younger members, especially those with young families, to activities we started "pub nights" that occur approximately monthly at various local breweries. There also was a winery visit/tour in October to a local vineyard that drew about 30 participants, including some children and members who had rarely, if ever, attended events. A couple of board members, including Laurette Garner, the UO PC recruiter, also arranged participation in a summer kickball league through the city recreation department that was popular with both young and old. Also at the 11/15 potluck/general membership meeting a slate of members/officers for 2016 was presented and all were unanimously elected, and Dale Morse was elected treasurer.

Social Activities for the Lane County RPCV Community

The primary socializing activities organized by WCPA in 2015 were five potlucks, gatherings/pub nights organized through WCPA Facebook page, Book Group meetings, a pizza outing at Roaring Rapids Pizza, the aforementioned winery event, and the annual BBQ/swim party at the rural home of Bob and Rosa Watada. In May we also participated in a send-off event -- what used to be called the "Nom Party" -- with the UO PC recruiter. (Changes in 2015 in

the PC application/ screening process make the "nominee" concept no longer workable).

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 and Josette Green.

Two summer regional campouts were organized and were available for WCPCA to participate in.

Outreach and Service Activities

U of O Street Faire booth organized by Laurette Garner (spring) and Nicky Ulrich (fall) U of O Peace Corps representatives: RPCVs helped staff the booth in May and October.

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 in April: about 15 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 did not occur in 2015.

Oregon Country Fair in Veneta in July: WCPCA representatives worked in the Peace and Justice booth.

Eugene Celebration did not occur in 2015

Empty Bowls in September: About 15 volunteers from WCPCA participated in the clean-up crew in this Food for Lane County fundraiser. James Cloutier organized this activity.

Donations to humanitarian programs

WCPCA made grant awards to 4 humanitarian projects in 2015 as follows: Women's Biodiversity Seminar, Panama, \$300; Women's Sewing Project, Tanzania, \$204.02; Maternity Ward, Zambia, \$400; and Let Girls Learn/GLOW Camp, Gambia, \$750 -- TOTAL: \$1604.02. There was consensus that we should donate as much as possible in the near future to Let Girls Learn projects, First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative. Our most successful fundraising event in several years, a curry dinner event called "Curry for a Cause", cleared about \$1900 after expenses, most of which will be used to support Let Girls Learn projects.

All of the above are Peace Corps Partnership projects and are directed by PCVs from Oregon. 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.

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.

Membership numbers are that about 125 people are affiliated with WCPCA in one fashion or another including individual or family memberships, first year, student, honorary, and active PCV.

Membership directory: Under a new software program still having bugs worked out, a membership directory will be distributed every few months instead of just annually, by email. Members can update changes online. The document lists members only and is distributed to members only. The directory is a networking tool for members. Total anticipated revenue from membership dues was about \$1,200.

Communication

Website: WCPCA maintains a website of which the URL is 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 a web-hosting company.

Newsletter: WCPCA published a monthly e-newsletter with Denise Silfee editing for most of 2015, and Laurette Garner taking over at the end of the year, as Denise took a 10-month position with the U.S. Department of State in Sudan (but retains her place as a board member, participating via email as she can). 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. Nicky Ulrich had this responsibility.

Financial status

See accompanying XL financial spreadsheet

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 155 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, 2015

President: Julia Harvey
Vice President: Juliet Bender
Secretary: Gary Cornelius
Treasurer: Patty Mac Afee (with Dale Morse scheduled to return for 2016)
Ex officio: University of Oregon Peace Corps Representative, Nicky Ulrich
At large board members: James Cloutier, Denise Silfee, Wayne Thompson, Laurette Garner

Responsibilities beyond or other than board membership

Calendar sales/book sales: Gary Cornelius
Membership chair: Nicky Ulrich
Newsletter editor: Denise Silfee in 2015 (with Laurette Garner taking over in 2016)
Program coordinators: Juliet Bender, Wayne Thompson

Report submitted by Gary Cornelius, Secretary, 3/24/16
