

WCPCA Board meeting minutes/January 11, 2015/6 p.m. at New Day Bakery

PRESENT: Julia Harvey, President; Gary Cornelius, Secretary; Patty McAfee, Treasurer; Juliet Bender, Vice President; Denise Silfee, James Cloutier, Wayne Thompson, Laurette Garner (UO PC recruiter); Nicolette Ulrich, Membership Coordinator, and Charlie Goldsmith, WCPCA member

- 1) Julia introduced **new membership coordinator/board member Nicolette “Nicky” Ulrich, whose appointment was approved unanimously.**
- 2) Gary told of hearing from Alan Toth, RPCV from Oakland, CA, whose documentary, “Posh Corps,” was screened here in Eugene in November as a fundraising event for WCPCA. He is now planning a “Top 10 Tour” in 2015, in which he wants to visit the cities of the top 10 universities that recruit the most PCVs, and show the film. UO is one of the 10 and he has invited us to put together another showing of “Posh Corps” as another fundraising opportunity. There are two options: partner with a company called tugg.com, which does most of the upfront work for events like this, with the local sponsor getting 5% of the ticket sales; or doing the upfront work ourselves and getting a much bigger part of the ticket sales. Ideally, it would be part of Peace Corps Week in March, but we might not be able to organize it by then. Another possible time is the first week in May, in connection with the spring UO Street Faire, where Laurette, supported by WCPCA RPCVs, has a presence. There is consensus that this project is worth our consideration. PLAN: Gary will contact Alan about his availability in May and about some of the other details; and Laurette will contact her friend who is a manager at the local Bijou Theater about whether the Bijou might be an appropriate venue for this.
- 3) Gary reported that we have about 35 2015 calendars left, mostly because a couple of longtime purchasers of 10-20 calendars each did not buy this year. There is consensus we should sell the rest for \$5.00 each to try to trim our inventory.
- 4) Laurette reported on activities planned for PC Week in March, including a service project that could include RPCVs, efforts to engage UO professors

who are RPCVs more in educating students about considering PC as an option, and info sessions that could include RPCV participation.

- 5) Discussion about the new newsletter in PDF format, that Denise has developed. It has been positively received, and she is experimenting w/different colors. Submit ideas for content, or actual articles, by the last week of the month. Gary will do an article about calendars. . . . Denise also plans a survey to gage interest in various activities and seek ideas for others. She reports the “pub nights” she has been organizing for every other Friday, have been successful, w/increasingly better attendance.
- 6) The need to develop a 2015 budget for WCPCA is discussed. PLAN: Julia and Patty, our new treasurer, will meet and develop a proposed budget for presentation to the whole board, via email, prior to our next meeting. It’s noted that we need to not wait to send in our annual \$50 fee to the secretary of state to renew our non-profit status. Patty will see to this.
- 7) Discussion of goals for 2015 . . . . starting with considering the pros and cons of increasing member dues, which has not been done for several years. **Motion by Nicky, seconded by Wayne to increase dues from \$15 to \$20 per individual and \$30 per household (for couples, etc), effective 10/1/15. Passes unanimously.** There is discussion that it will be important to educate the membership about why an increase is appropriate and how the funds are used. (We donated to 6 different PCPP projects in 2014).

There were 7 potlucks in 2014 – including the “nom” party and two picnics – and Wayne will take over planning the potlucks, and programs, in 2015. The first will be early March, details TBA. Other ideas for raising money and/or attracting more members: charge \$2-5 at the pub nights, have a pizza night that might attract members with children, a camping weekend, an “out of country trip” (Julia w/do some research), winery visits, have Nicky lead a tour at her demonstration farm project, and, get a well-known speaker for a dinner for which tickets/tables would be sold. Possible speakers mentioned included RPCV Chris Matthews, well-known newsman/commentator; RPCV Peter Hessler, reporter and book author;

and RPCV Kris Holloway, author of “Monique and the Mango Rains,” recent WCPCA book group selection. Patty will research this further.

8) Next meeting: Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at New Day Bakery.

Meeting adjourned 7:41 p.m.

Minutes by Gary Cornelius, board secretary, distributed 1/14/15

**ADDENDUM:** 1/15/15, Denise proposed we respond positively to a request for PCPP funds for 2011 UO grad Chelsea Mackin, serving in Panama. Gary seconded the motion to donate \$300 and Wayne, James, Denise, Gary, James, Julia and Juliet agreed. Motion passed to support this three-day “Women’s Biodiversity Seminar,” which will promote seed saving, home gardening, and selling value-added natural products, so women can increase local biodiversity in an economically sustainable way. The project will help women “create economic opportunities in their respective communities with little start-up costs and multi-functional outcomes.”