

PPCA NEWSLETTER

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Happy May, newsletter readers! We are pleased to announce we hope to have the new website up and running by June! See below for opportunities to proudly carry a flag with other RPCVs, to win Timbers or Thorns tickets, to scramble up a mountain with Peace Corps friends, and so much more.

There are so many ways that we can engage with each other and support the shared values of Peace Corps service. Please send any feedback or events wished to be posted in the next newsletter to newsletter AT crpca.org. Pictures are always welcome, and I hear they are worth one thousand words! - Tony Ricciardi, editor

<< Test First Name >>, your membership expires << Test Expiration Date >>. See bottom of page for how to renew.

Grand Floral Parade 2019

***We have an exciting opportunity this year to march in the GRAND
FLORAL PARADE!***

1. All participants get a free t-shirt, with the **new logo!** If you would be interested in a shirt for the parade- or just in general! - please email newsletter AT crpca.org with your interest, quantity, and size(s). They are still in design, but leaning towards navy polo or pocket T-shirt.
2. As a member of Portland Peace Corps, you get **first** choice. Sign up before **May 11th** to ensure the **best chance** get the flag of your country before we send it out to a wider audience! The early bird gets the worm - or flag, in this case!
3. We need your help with recruiting! Whoever recruits the most RPCVs to the parade wins a pair of **free Timbers or Thorns tickets!** Just e-mail president AT crpca.org with the names of folks you recruited.

If interested in holding a flag and adding to the impressive collection of countries Peace Corps served in, follow the link [here](#) to sign up!

Let's make this the biggest parade yet!

PPCA May to July Events

May 2019

Thursday 5/09, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club - Hosted by Lee Norris, [3748 SE Salmon St](#) in Portland, 503-236-0998. The book to read is ***The Fox Was Ever the Hunter*** (1992/2016) by Herta Müller (2009 Nobel Literature Prize). Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

Saturday 5/11, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering – Venue TBD. Please bring a dish to share for the 6:00 pm potluck dinner. At 7:00 pm, after announcements and introductions, we will have a program on **Antipoverty Advocacy**. Please see the full announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. **PLEASE contact president AT crpca.org ASAP if you're willing to host this gathering.**

Wednesday 5/15, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede – Conquistador Lounge, [2045 SE Belmont St](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

Thursday 5/16, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Writers Workshop – Hosted by Bill Stein, [4308 SE Lexington St](#) in Portland. Please confirm your attendance by calling 503-830-0817 or e-mailing membership AT crpca.org. Both beginners and experienced writers welcome. Please bring both something to read (memoir, fiction, non-fiction, poetry) and a snack/drink to share.

Saturday 5/18, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT crpca.org.

Monday 5/20, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night - Wayfinder Beer, [304 SE 2nd Ave](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company.

Wednesday 5/22, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Restaurant Gathering - Akadi PDX, [3601 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd](#) in Portland. Enjoy Burkinabé/Ivoirienne cuisine in Portland. RSVP required to restaurant AT crpca.org.

Thursday, 5/23, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity: Oregon Food Bank - [7900 NE 33rd Dr](#) in Portland. Repack and label bulk dry food in a lively, active environment. You'll be repacking foods like rice, pasta, apples or potatoes into family-sized packages, either working at tables or around bins. See our [Oregon Food Bank service page](#) for more information, and then RSVP to Tom DeMeo at service AT crpca.org or 503-267-3943. Last minute volunteers are always welcome.

Wednesday 5/29, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Salon Francophone - Crêperie Chez Machin, [3553 SE Hawthorne Blvd](#) in Portland. Salon Francophone is a gathering of French speakers. *Tous les niveaux sont bienvenus*. RSVP requested to francais AT [crpca.org](#).

June 2019

Friday 6/07, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Parade Practice Picnic - Willamette Park, [SW Macadam & Nebraska](#) in Portland. Please bring a dish to share to the potluck picnic. After we eat, we will practice marching with the flags. Participation is strongly advised for all who've never marched with us, and all of our members, friends and family are welcome, whether marching or not. We will gather near the playground at the south end of the park. Parking is free after 5:00 pm.

Saturday 6/08, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm - Grand Floral Parade - A four mile walk from Veterans Memorial Coliseum to Lincoln High School proudly hoisting the flags of our countries of Peace Corps service. Signup NOW for an available flag at <https://tinyurl.com/MarchWithPPCA-GFP2019>. For more information see the full announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wednesday 6/12, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club - Hosted by Ann and Roger Crockett, [1922 NE 12th Ave](#) in Portland, 801-388-8235. The book to read is *Mating* (1991) by Norman Rush. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

Saturday 6/15, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT [crpca.org](#).

Monday 6/17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Salon Francophone - Hosted by Gabriella Maertens, [13302 NE Sacramento Dr](#) in Portland. Please bring a dish to share to the potluck dinner. Salon Francophone is a gathering of French speakers. *Tous les niveaux sont bienvenus*. RSVP requested by phone/text to 832-561-4004.

Wednesday 6/19, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede – Cha! Cha! Cha! Mexican Taqueria, [4727](#)

NE Fremont St in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

Monday 6/24, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night - Wayfinder Beer, [304 SE 2nd Ave](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company.

Thursday 6/27 to Sunday 6/30 - Family Campout 2019 - Champoeg State Heritage Area's Group Tent Area on the south bank of the Willamette River. This is the first repeat venue in the eleven year history of our family campouts; we chose to return to the birthplace of Oregon as it's just 30 miles southwest of Portland. See our Family Campout 2019 page for information on how to register. The price this year is \$12 per adult for up to three nights of tent camping.

July 2019

Tuesday 7/02, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club - Hosted by Bill Stein, [4308 SE Lexington St](#) in Portland, 503-830-0817. The book to read is ***Dream of Another America*** (2018) by Tyler McMahon (RPCV El Salvador 1999-2002). **Participating in our discussion will be Tyler McMahon, the book's author, via Skype.** Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our Book Club page for more details.

Saturday 7/20, 7:30 am to 10:30 am - Service Activity: Clay Street Table – St Stephen's Church, [1432 SW 13th Ave](#) in Portland. Serve breakfast to the homeless. Volunteers RSVP to service AT crpca.org.

Monday 7/29, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night - Wayfinder Beer, [304 SE 2nd Ave](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company.

Antipoverty Potluck Program

PLEASE contact president AT crpca.org if you're willing to host this gathering!

The program at our **Saturday, May 11th Potluck Gathering** will consist of two organizations fighting poverty: **ONE** (presenter Carolyn Barber) and **RESULTS** (presenter Randy Splitter).

ONE is a campaigning and advocacy organization of more than nine million people around the world taking action to end extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa.

We believe the fight against poverty isn't about charity, but about justice and equality.

Whether lobbying political leaders in world capitals or running cutting-edge grassroots campaigns, ONE pressures governments to do more to fight AIDS and other preventable, treatable diseases in the poorest places on the planet, to empower small-holder farmers, to expand access to energy, and to combat corruption so governments are accountable to their citizens. Cofounded by Bono and other activists, ONE is strictly nonpartisan.

ONE's 9 million members are critical to this work. They come from every walk of life and from across the political spectrum. They're artists and activists, faith and business leaders, students and scientists. They take action day in, day out — organizing, mobilizing, educating, and advocating so that people will have the chance not just to survive, but to thrive.

ONE teams in Washington, D.C., New York, London, Johannesburg, Brussels, Berlin, Paris, Ottawa, and Abuja educate and lobby governments to shape policy solutions that save and improve millions of lives — and which every year are under threat from cuts and other priorities.

RESULTS is a nonpartisan citizen advocacy organization of ordinary people (founded in 1980) working to end extreme poverty in the United States and around the world. We have grassroots groups in Portland and throughout the country and

partners in Canada, UK, Australia, and other countries.

Focusing on healthcare, education, and economic empowerment, we work with members of Congress to fund successful, cost-effective programs that help people to help themselves. Internationally, we promote programs like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), and the Global Partnership for Education, all of which have received strong bipartisan endorsement. Domestic programs which we support, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, and SNAP (food stamps), reduce the poverty rate almost by half.

2019 Northwest Regional Campout

hosted by Southern Oregon RPCVs

Thursday, August 1 to Sunday, August 4

Aspen Point Campground @ Lake of the Woods in beautiful Fremont-Winema National Forest

Register today at <http://tinyurl.com/RegionalCampout2019reg>

Then pay \$15 per adult at <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/>

Thursday opportunity: Mazamas climb of Mt McLoughlin led by PPCA's Bill Stein. Bill will be choosing the climbing team in the first half of May, so apply today [at https://mazamas.org/activity/instance/4419/](https://mazamas.org/activity/instance/4419/) if this interests you. This climb is a scramble. The only required equipment is hiking boots, climbing helmets, and trekking poles.

Southern Oregon RPCVs prepared this terrific FAQ about the first regional campout they're hosting.

How do I reserve a campsite in the group site?

When you register, please make sure you indicate you are staying in the group site (and pay via paypal or by check). Individual spots within the group site will be available on a first come, first serve basis when you arrive.

If I'm not camping in the group site, do I need to register?

Yes! Registering will help us keep track of how many of us will be attending and will make sure you get emails with updated information.

If I'm not camping in the group site, what do I need to pay?

If you are not camping in the group site, there are no fees. There will be a donation can on the table in the mornings to help us offset the costs of coffee, tea, wood for the campfire, etc.

What happens if there are forest fires?

We are hoping that this will not be an issue. However, there are several sites to check the smoke/fire levels.

For smoke, try this DEQ site:

<https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map>

The official website of Southwest Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry: <https://swofire.com>

Oregon Department of Forestry

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/FireStats.aspx>

How do I check the weather?

Accuweather: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/lake-of-the-woods-or/97601/weather-forecast/2187894>

Or use your favorite weather link – type in Lake of the Woods, Oregon, or

Use the latitude/longitude: Lat: 42.38N, Lon: 122.21W

How do I get information about the group campsite?

Go here: <https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

Are there other campsites nearby for RV's or with other amenities?

Yes. They tend to fill up quickly, so do it sooner rather than later.

There is some information on additional campgrounds here:

<https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

and here:

www.recreation.gov

How do I check travel conditions?

Weather cam at Tripcam.us

<http://tripcam.us/webcam/oregon/roads/southern-oregon/hwy-140-at-lake-of-the-woods>

ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) also has lots of information

at: <https://www.tripcheck.com/>

Accuweather: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/lake-of-the-woods-or/97601/weather-forecast/2187894>

What should I bring?

- Something to share for the **potluck Friday night**
- You will be on your own for all meals except the potluck, so you'll need whatever you normally bring when camping for kitchen and camping comfort. Remember a personal first aid kit, some sunscreen and insect repellent, etc.
- Tables are limited in the group site – if you want one for your personal space, please bring it.
- **You will need your own plates, cups, and utensils for communal coffee, tea, and potluck**
- **Please bring your own camp chairs for the regional meeting and for sitting around the campfire.**
- Water safety gear for kids

- Boats and other water toys (there are boats for rent from the marina, too)
- Musical instruments are most welcome!
- Stories to tell

What about campfires in the group site?

We will have one fire ring for the group site, and organizers will provide wood. Please don't bring wood from home – it potentially also brings insects and diseases to the forest. The organizers will provide wood for group campfires. Individual fires within the group site will not be allowed due to fire and safety concerns.

Are pets allowed?

Yes, as long as they are kept on a leash.

What about activities?

There will be information coming via emails about places to hike and other activities.

Is the group site near the lake?

Yes! We are right on the lake.

Is there a lifeguard there?

No. We are responsible for our own swimming safety.

I want to fish – what do I need?

A fishing license and gear. Fishing licenses may be purchased at the marina.

Are the amenities nearby?

Yes. Check here: <https://lakeofthewoodsresort.com/camping/>

If I have more questions, who do I contact?

Email us at: southernoregonrpcvs@gmail.com

Family Campout

hosted by Portland Peace Corps Association

Cannot wait until the beginning of August for the 2019 Northwest Regional Campout? Or maybe you need a campout in *preparation* for a campout? Then check out the following:

Family Campout 2019

PPCA's campouts are where our families hike, swim, boat, and play together and where friends old and new share stories, songs, food and drink around a campfire.



Our 11th Annual Family Campout will take place **Thursday, June 27 to Sunday, June 30, 2019** at [Champoeg State Heritage Area](#)'s group tent area on the south bank of the Willamette River. This is the first repeat venue in the eleven-year history of our Family Campouts; we chose to return to the birthplace of Oregon as it's just 30 miles southwest of Portland.



Schedule

- **Thursday, June 27:** Check in as early as 4:00 pm.
- **Saturday, June 29:** Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by campfire tales and songs. Day visitors welcome!
- **Sunday, June 30:** Check out by 1:00 pm.

Directions from Portland

Take I-5 south to exit 282A (OR 551: Canby/Hubbard). After 0.7 miles, turn right (west) onto Arndt Rd. After 3.5 miles, turn left onto Butteville Rd. From there it's well-signed and 3.5 miles to Champoeg. Once inside the state park, follow the signs to the group tent camping area.

Pricing

Please pay on our [Checkout page](#).

- **Per adult (age 18+):** \$12
- **Per child:** FREE

Reservations

After paying, please send an e-mail to president AT crpca.org with the following information:

- **Names:** First and last names of every person who will be in your vehicle.
- **Vehicle:** Make/model and license plate number (if known).
- **Nights:** Which nights you plan to camp with us (Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday).

Questions?

Contact Phyllis Shelton at president AT crpca.org or 503-704-6298.

Peace Corps Connect 2019

hosted by NPCA and The Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association (HoTPCA)

Following the conference theme “Innovation for Good,” this entrepreneurship pitch competition will celebrate amazing ideas that could change the world through social innovation. Two awards will be given: one by a panel of judges and one through an audience choice award. The deadline for

submissions is May 15, 2019. [View contest guidelines, submit and application](#), and [register for the conference](#).

Advocacy Corner

by Tabatha Rood, Advocacy Coordinator

Keep on Third Goaling!

What is the best way to advocate for the Peace Corps? Share your stories and experiences with strangers, family, friends, children, everything! Our very own Kitty Kaping and Chuck McConnell will be offering guidance on the art of storytelling, and we hope that lots of RPCVs in the Portland area participate in learning, as well as becoming ambassadors for the Peace Corps through stories every day. Stay tuned for more information on how you can refine your story, and please continue to share your host country's culture with the American people, to prevent the spread of xenophobia!

Good news!

Advocacy coordinators recently gathered a record number of 41 Senator's signatures for the Dear Colleague Funding letter circulated in the Senate in support of robust funding for the FY 2020 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. Johnny Isakson and Diane Feinstein lead the charge for the letter, which describes the direct and indirect impacts of Peace Corps volunteers, and the return on the investment in the agency as a whole.

Feel free to reach out with any questions to advocacy AT crpca.org, and see you around soon!

Tabatha Rood

PPCA Advocacy Coordinator

PPCA Board Meeting Highlights

compiled by Erin Gettling, Secretary/Scheduling Coordinator

Portland Peace Corps Association

April 14th, 2019 Business Meeting Minute Highlights:

Grant Awards:

- **\$1,250 to Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund** toward recording stories of community history in Lumwana West, Zambia
- **\$1,000 to Bamcashea** toward building capacity for shea butter processing in Bamboi, Ghana
- **\$750 to Yakote Women Farmers** toward organic agriculture trainings aimed at Nabdam district farmers in Zanlerigu, Ghana

Board Member Elections:

- **President: Phyllis Shelton** (Honduras 1986-1988). Contact Phyllis or president AT crpca.org or 503-704-6298 to suggest a topic for a business meeting, or to nominate yourself for a board position.
- **Secretary: Erin Gettling** (Ukraine 2003-2005). Contact Erin at secretary AT crpca.org to request business meeting minutes.
- **Treasurer: Brenda Michel** (Sierra Leone 1986-1988). Contact Brenda at treasurer AT crpca.org to inquire about payments or calendar/t-shirt shipping.
- **E-update Editor: Tony Ricciardi** (Lesotho 2015-2017). Contact Tony at e-update AT crpca.org by any Thursday at 5pm to submit community or job announcements for the weekly e-update sent to our members.
- **Newsletter Editor: Tony Ricciardi** (Lesotho 2015-2017). Contact Tony at newsletter AT crpca.org by the 27th of each month to submit content (announcements, images, interviews, recipes, poetry, prose, etc.) for our monthly newsletter.
- **Webmaster: Drew Lebowitz** (Panama 2005-2008). Contact Drew at webmaster AT crpca.org if you'd like to submit content for PPCA's forthcoming redesigned website.
- **Advocacy Coordinator: Tabatha Rood** (Ghana 2014-2016). Contact Tabatha at advocacy AT crpca.org to share your advocacy priorities for the interests of PCVs and RPCVs.

- **Fundraising Coordinator: Tabatha Rood** (Ghana 2014-2016). Contact Tabatha at fundraising AT crpca.org to offer ideas for raising funds which support our grant program.
 - **Grants Coordinator: Chuck McConnell** (Ukraine 2008-2011). Contact Chuck at grants AT crpca.org to inquire about applying for PPCA grants.
 - **Membership Coordinator: Bill Stein** (Niger 1990–1993). Contact Bill at membership AT crpca.org to join PPCA or to renew your membership.
 - **Networking Coordinator: Kyle Dexheimer** (Tanzania 2014-2016). Contact Kyle at networking AT crpca.org if you seek local employment or wish to help an RPCV find employment.
 - **Program Coordinator: Kyle Dexheimer** (Tanzania 2014-2016). Contact Kyle at program AT crpca.org if you would like to host a potluck gathering or have ideas for programs.
 - **Scheduling Coordinator: Erin Gettling** (Ukraine 2003-2005). Contact Erin at scheduling AT crpca.org to submit details (title, date, time, location, and description) for a proposed PPCA event.
 - **Service Coordinator: Tom DeMeo** (Ghana 1980-1982 & Botswana 1982-1984). Contact Tom at service AT crpca.org or 503-267-3943 to suggest or RSVP for a group service activity.
 - **Social Media Coordinator: Kelly Viernes** (Lesotho 2015-2017). Contact Kelly at socialmedia AT crpca.org or 971-940-6438 to submit content for PPCA's Facebook page.
-

Soccer tickets

Cheer on the Thorns and Timbers with PPCA friends!

At <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/> we are selling tickets to two Portland Thorns (NWSL) games and two Portland Timbers (MLS) games. We will purchase group tickets to any of these games for which we sell 15+ tickets. Also see Grand Floral Parade above for a chance to win tickets! FYI, these game outings were chosen through PPCA member surveys.

- **Wed 7/24/2019, 7:30 pm: Thorns** vs. Houston Dash, \$12 per ticket
 - **Wed 9/18/2019, 7:30 pm: Timbers** vs. New York Red Bulls, \$36 per ticket
 - **Wed 9/25/2019, 7:30 pm: Timbers** vs. New England Revolution, \$36 per ticket
 - **Sat 10/12/2019, 7:30 pm: Thorns** vs. Washington Spirit, \$12 per ticket
-

Rugby Oregon Dinner

by PPCA's Jennifer Miller (Mongolia 2016-2018)

We are so delighted to announce an exciting event taking place on May 4th: SCRUMptious! This fantastically fun and festive rugby dinner includes a live band, dueling chefs, and silent auctions! Events like this are so vital to grow Rugby Oregon's community, foster support for our teams, and grow enthusiasm for this incredible sport. Ticket sales are active now, don't miss your opportunity to attend this positively SCRUMPTIOUS event!

Location: Self Enhancement, Inc. 3920 N Kerby Ave, Portland, OR 97227

Contact information: Jennifer Miller, jennifertonimiller@gmail.com

Ticket Sales Website: <http://www.scrumptiouspdx.com/>

Membership Report

by Bill Stein, Membership Coordinator

On April 30, 2019, PPCA has 219 active members in 184 households, of which 6 members are currently serving PCVs and 34 members are in their free first year.

On April 30, 2018, we had 256 active members in 210 households, of which 5 members were currently serving PCVs and 59 members were in their free first year.

In April 2019 we gained 6 new members: John Earhart (Guatemala 1975-1977 and Paraguay 1980-1982), Drew Lebowitz (Panama 2005-2008), Nate Miller (Senegal 2008-2012), Paige Pelker (Philippines 2019-2021), Catherine Minh Trang Phung (Paraguay 2019-2021), and Janet Edwards Schneider (Colombia 1968-1970). Welcome!

In April 2019 the following 6 members renewed: Marie Ades (Côte d'Ivoire 1967-1969), Mitch Auerbach (Guatemala 1980-1982), Aron Borok (Russia 1995-1997), Kitty Kaping (Ecuador 1974-1976, Peru 2005-2010, and Mexico 2010-2013), Rebecca Mischel (Morocco 2000-2002), and Tony Ricciardi (Lesotho 2015-2017). Thank you!

In April 2019 dues amnesty was extended to 8 lapsed members, of which 3 had been in their free first year.

How to renew your membership

You can mail your check for \$20 (or \$100 for a Supporting Membership) to CRPCA, P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or go to <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/> and click one of the Dues buttons.