

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community. Engaging the world.



NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Vol. 29, Issue 8

www.crpca.org

IT'S YOUR TURN

by Bill Stein, CRPCA President

Your CRPCA board, fueled by beer and chocolate, motored through final edits to our bylaws in July. Once they've been signed into effect, we'll print them in the newsletter. The new bylaws are more flexible and pave the way for our continued growth as an organization. No longer will we be locked into doing activities a certain number of times per year. Given today's strong interest, events such as potluck programs and restaurant gatherings will occur more frequently than in the past; you've already been seeing this with our service activities. With more member involvement, we'll soon offer a greater array of social activities.

I hope to see many of you at the regional RPCV campout Aug 21-23. I'll be on my way back from a three-week family road trip. We have three great events before then, thanks to Anne Kimberly, Dane Pikkola, Jessica Matthews and Brendan Williams. Please see our events calendar; you're asked to RSVP soon for Bridge Pedal and the Food Bank event.

Two events I'm looking forward to are CRPCA's first budget committee meeting Aug 27 and our annual planning meeting Sept 20. Here's how you can help (and you thought I'd never ask!)...

Please contact me (garba@aracnet.com) if you're willing to serve a partial term (through April 2010) as a CRPCA board member. We're anticipating five board position openings at our Sept 20 meeting (Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Networking Coordinator, Service Coordinator, Social Co-Coordinator). All of these positions provide opportunities to apply your creativity. That's something I've discovered lately that I crave, and in this I'm sure I'm not different from other RPCVs.

Please send any great ideas you may have regarding ways CRPCA could raise or spend money to Phyllis Shelton (phyllisshelton@cs.com) by Aug 24. We'll consider them in our preparation of a proposed budget, which will be discussed and voted on Sept 20. A couple things you can look forward to are payment for dues and merchandise by credit/debit card and more member discounts at events.

I can promise a special rate (free!) for whoever steps forward to design our fundraising event flier and our next fundraising product. Please talk to Courtney Martin (cemartin79@yahoo.com) or Jenn Dederich (jdederich@yahoo.com) if you're willing to share your graphic design skills.

We're seeking organizers for the new activities in which our members expressed interest through our recent surveys. Please contact me if you're willing to plan book discussions, film viewings, game nights, family events, attendance at community events (lectures, concerts, ballgames, etc.), team sports, or outdoor activities (hike, backpack, bike, ski, snowshoe, water sports). Note that there will be a preparation, safety and liability focus to discussions of outdoor activities.

On or about Aug 24 I will appoint committee leaders primarily from among folks who aren't current board members. Committees that form will be announced in our September newsletter along with an invitation for more committee members. My hope is that each committee will meet (or at least talk by e-mail) in early Sept. The ultimate goal is to have a plan to propose at our Sept 20 planning meeting, where the guiding principle will be to avoid date conflicts between CRPCA events.

Several members have written recently asking for events outdoors or on a particular side of the Portland metro area. One way to guide us would be to join one or more of the above committees.

I am reminded every month what a resource our organization is in this community. Many of you have made CRPCA strong in the past. All of you are called to make it even more relevant to current, former, and prospective members.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2009

Sunday, 8/09, EARLY! - Bridge Pedal 2009. This is the one time each year when Portland's Willamette River bridges are open to bicycles. It's a wonderful community event, and CRPCA has a team for the first time! First, [choose which ride you want to do](#). With our CRPCA team discount, the 11-bridge ride (37 miles) costs \$30, the 8-bridge ride (24 miles) costs \$20, and the 6-bridge family ride (14 miles, kids free) costs \$15. You'll get our team discount no matter which ride you choose, but you must register no later than the day before the event. On the [Bridge Pedal registration page](#), click the button for "team member" and accept the liability waiver. On the following page, choose your ride, then enter CRPCA team password **BPT284**. Once you've successfully registered, you'll have instructions for where and when to pick up your ride tags. On ride day, you're free to ride at your own pace, but if you want to attempt to start the ride with other CRPCA members (with the caveat that it can be chaotic at the start point), contact our team coordinator Anne Kimberly, at kimberla@reed.edu, home 503-234-4094, or cell 503-929-1470.

Tuesday, 8/11, 6:30 pm - Restaurant Gathering at [Malay Satay Hut, 2850 SE 82nd Ave](#) (Suite 104 at far end of mall) in Portland. Lots of room, inexpensive to moderate, very extensive menu, bring the kids. RSVP not necessary.

Tuesday, 8/18, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank in NE Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for location, RSVP info, and additional details.

Fri-Sun, 8/21-8/23 - Regional RPCV Campout. [Bridge Creek group campground](#) in the Wenatchee National Forest, eight miles from Leavenworth, WA. It's a five hour drive from Portland; [choose from three routes on Google Maps](#). Cost \$10 per adult, includes dinner Saturday. This event is expected to fill to capacity; reserve today by e-mailing [Scott Ramos](#). Attendees, please check the [SEAPAX website](#) for more information. If you seek a ride or can offer one, CRPCA's carpool coordinator is Dane Pikkola, dane9@yahoo.com, 971-544-1727.

Monday, 8/31, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the [Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a beer and a bite to eat among good company. You can usually find us in the front room. Kids welcome until 9pm.

September 2009

Tuesday, 9/15, 6:30 pm - Restaurant Gathering at [Salvador Molly's, 1523 SW Sunset Blvd](#) in Portland. Pirate cookin' international cuisine. Moderate prices. Kids welcome. RSVP to Dane Pikkola, dane9@yahoo.com.

Thursday, 9/17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank in NE Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for location, RSVP info, and additional details.

Sunday, 9/20, 3:00-7:00 pm - Annual Planning Meeting and Potluck. Location at the home of Linda Centurion, [3940 SE 47th Ave](#) in Portland. All are welcome to the 3-6pm CRPCA business meeting, where we will decide on a budget for 2009-2010 and plan our fundraising, service, and social activities for 2009-2010. The meeting will be followed by a 6pm potluck; there will be no after-dinner program.

Monday, 9/28, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the [Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a beer and a bite to eat among good company. You can usually find us in the front room. Kids welcome until 9pm.

WANT TO HOST A POTLUCK in 2009-2010

If you want to put dibs on hosting the 10/11, 12/13, 2/07, 3/14, 4/11, 5/16, or 6/13 potlucks, per <http://www.crpa.org/events.html> Please e-mail Madeleine at mgmader@yahoo.com.

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter is published monthly by the CRPCA for the benefit of its members. The CRPCA serves Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and others in Oregon and southwest Washington who share an interest in serving the cause of peace and global development.

To join CRPCA and/or the National Peace Corps Association, please visit www.crpa.org/join.html. Newsletter submissions are due by the 25th of each month. Send by mail to P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or e-mail to: mgmader@yahoo.com.

CO-SERVICE COORINDATOR UPDATE

(aka your Oregon Food Bank organizing gurus)

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered with us at the Oregon Food Bank this year! We have been extremely humbled and impressed by the large volume of people willing and eager to join us at these fun and meaningful events. We originally planned to schedule our service events every other month, but due to the overwhelming interest, we are now scheduling them monthly. Alright us!!

At our last event on Saturday, July 18th we had a great time digging into the starchiness of potatoes and pasta. We worked to repackage bulk food items into smaller portions for distribution to families in need. Each event provides the opportunity for a unique, yet similar project, and the Oregon Food Bank is able to accommodate most physical limitations, so just let us know if that's a concern to you. It's exciting to see the amazing work they do and have a small part in helping make it all happen.

Join us at either OR BOTH! Of our next OFB events:
Tuesday, 8/18, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. RSVP by Tues., 8/11

Thursday, 9/17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (RSVP by Thurs., 9/10 to Jessica at rosematthews@gmail.com or 971-678-8510

Also - anyone **interested in taking over the position of Service Coordinator?** It's a lot of fun!! Brendan and I are moving in September and would love to get the position filled before we leave so we don't leave a gap in planning and organizing events.

Happy volunteering!
Jessica Matthews and Brendan Williams

SUPPORT UKRAINE COMMUNITY and PCV

Andi Mason is a Eugene native wrapping up her Peace Corps service in northern Ukraine after three years working with an organization in a small town. One of her last projects is to organize an outdoor school and camp for students in her region this summer. At the camp, students will learn about outdoor skills and have the opportunity to compete in a nation-wide contest. She's written a grant and is looking for some much needed support! If you wish to contribute to the project, please follow the link to the grant and donate. \$20 will make a difference! <https://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resourcesdonors.contribute.donatenow>

Questions? e-mail Kelsey kelseykins15@gmail.com or check out Andi's blurb on the Partnership grant website. Help an Oregonian and her Ukraine town.

NEW PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR

President Barack Obama nominated National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Board Member Aaron Williams (RPCV Dominican Republic 1967 - 1970) to be the next Peace Corps Director. His Senate confirmation hearing was July 28.

White House press release:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-Intent-to-Nominate-Aaron-Williams-as-Director-of-the-Peace-Corps/

NPCA Press release:

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/press/Williams>

FRIENDS OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

I am looking for very specific volunteers who want to volunteer in Portland and Vancouver to fight poverty and hunger. As people with experience in international humanitarian work, RPCVs are well suited for this opportunity.

My name is Brooke Barron with Friends of the World Food Program. We are a nonprofit based in Washington D.C. that supports the work of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). In 2009, WFP hopes to provide life-saving assistance to 100 million people in about 80 countries. The Friends of WFP works to build support for WFP in the U.S. We do this through fundraising, advocacy and awareness about the issue of global hunger and WFP.

A year ago, the Outreach Department launched a grassroots volunteer program: the WFP Committee program. Our goal is to find local volunteers with an interest in humanitarian affairs who want to serve as volunteer community leaders. Check our website for www.friendsofwfp.org and look at our information on becoming a WFP Committee Leader. In September there's two-month training session starting. If you might be interested in getting involved with the WFP Committee program, please let me know. I can be reached at outreach@friendsofwfp.org or 202.530.1694.

LINKED IN

Are you a person with Peace Corps experience who uses the professional online networking community LinkedIn? We have created a National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) group on LinkedIn. You're invited! Joining will allow you to:

- * Reach out
- * Accelerate career and business through referrals
- * View professional profiles in the PC community.

To join NPCA's LinkedIn group go to:

<http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/39717/70C0D3594F04>

AFRICA RURAL CONNECT

Ever feel like you are spent two years of service in Africa and you want to continue putting your experience to use?

National Peace Corps Association launched Africa Rural Connect to offer Returned Peace Corps Volunteers a global online collaboration tool to help reduce poverty. The goal is for RPCVs and Africans to formulate the most creative and practical plans for agricultural development. Collaboration will bring about the greatest ideas for change.

www.AfricaRuralConnect.org. Share your plan now even if it's just the seed of an idea. You could win one of the monthly \$3,000 prizes to help come up with the best idea, or the \$20,000 grand prize to help implement the idea.

Add your skills to the collaboration process. Please spread the word by forwarding the website information to your African colleagues, Africans in the Diaspora and RPCVs.

3rd GOAL with AFS INTERNATIONAL

AFS Intercultural Programs invites the RPCV community to host an exchange student or volunteering as a liaison. AFS works with young people and their families, schools, and communities to help build a more just and peaceful world through student exchange. Make a difference in your RPCV community and the world by: 1) opening your home and sharing your life with an international exchange student, 2) volunteering as a liaison to meet with an exchange student and their host family each month, 3) volunteering to work with schools, local businesses, and organizations in your community. Visit the AFS website to start the [host family application](#) or [volunteer registration](#) process. Otherwise call 1-800-876-2377 or email hosting@afs.org for more information.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ian Crawford, Macedonia 2003 – 2005 * Tom De Meo, Ghana 1980 - 1982 and Botswana 1982 – 1984 * Adrienne Mullock, Moldova 2001 – 2002 * Lisa Plank, FSM/Palau 2004 – 2006 * Radhika Reddy, Burkina Faso 2006 – 2008 * Beth Wager, Macedonia 2003 – 2005 * Rachel and Kevin Belida, Mali 2007 – 2009.

RENEWING MEMBERS

Marilyn Badurina, Togo 1972 – 1976 * Michelle Bowden, Uzbekistan 1996 – 1998 * John Sneed, Burkina Faso 1967 – 1969 * Bill Stein, Niger 1990 – 1993 * Carol McCormac Wild, Senegal 1986 – 1989.

CRPCA BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Bill Stein, Niger 1990-93
503-830-0817, garba@aracnet.com

Secretary:

Brenda Michel, Sierra Leone 1986-1988
503-408-6933, sweetdreams471974@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Phyllis Shelton, Honduras 1986-1988
503-704-6298, phyllisshelton@cs.com

Program Coordinator and Newsletter Editor:

Madeleine Mader, Cameroon 1984-1986
503-333-8462, mgmader@yahoo.com

Web Master:

Your Name Here

Education Coordinator:

Marta Wicke, Mozambique 2001-2003
480-747-3875, martahansen@hotmail.com

Events Co-Coordinators

Amy Evans, Jamaica 2002 – 2004
417-763-9956, amyevans2@gmail.com

Richard Ireland, Haiti 1998-2000
503-246-0479, rireland88@yahoo.com

Fundraising Co-Coordinators:

Jenn Dederich
Dominican Republic 2000-2003
520-906-0387, jdederich@yahoo.com

Courtney Martin

Dominican Republic 2001-2003
520-906-0436, cemartin79@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator:

Elizabeth Samuels, Benin 1975-1977
503-228-7706, crpca@samuels.com

Networking Coordinator:

Your name here

Service Co-Coordinators:

Jessica Mathews, Thailand 2004-2006
971-678-8510, jrosemathews@gmail.com

Brendan Williams, Kenya 2002-2005
971-678-8509, kenyanwilli@yahoo.com

Social Coordinator:

Dane Pikkola, Swaziland 1992-1994
971-544-1727, dane9@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP - - ADDRESS CHANGE - - RENEWAL FORM

CRPCA's \$20 dues confer full membership on one or two named adults sharing an address. NPCA's \$35 dues are per individual.

	Member 1	Member 2
Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Home Phone		
Work Phone		
Cell Phone		
Email		
Country and Years of Service		
PC Job Assignment		
Current Occupation		
Willing to talk about your Peace Corps experience. Check.	<input type="radio"/> Speakers' Bureau	<input type="radio"/> Speakers Bureau
I'm interested in participating in the mentor program. Check	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

CRPCA urges you to support both organizations. Membership is open to all and your contributions are tax-deductible.

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

One free year is offered to all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) residing in our geographic area who were never previously members of CRPCA and who agree to receive newsletters by e-mail.

Annual CRPCA Dues: \$20 FREE initial year membership Newsletter format paper email

National Peace Corps Association

NPCA Annual Dues: \$35 Member 1 \$35 Member 2

Check FREE box for one free year offered to those who closed their service within the last year.

Please mail this form with a check made out to CRPCA for the total of the circles you checked to:

CRPCA, P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207

Columbia River Peace Corps Association
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Mail To: