



Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon/Portland

April 1993

Volume 12
Number 4

Officers

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Joan Swee 252-2295
Laura Paxson

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Not occupied

Newsletter

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Volunteers of
Oregon/Portland
P.O. Box 802
Portland, OR 97207

Submissions for the April 1993
newsletter should be received
by March 25th. Mail to

Mike Waite
4711 NE 112th St.
Vancouver, Wa 98686

Lebanese Dinner

Where: Al Amir restaurant, 223 SW Stark
When: Sunday, April 18
Time: 5:00
Price: \$10.00. Tip is extra



LEBANON

We'll be enjoying a terrific Lebanese dinner April 18 at the Al Amir restaurant in downtown Portland. The Mideastern menu will be lentil soup, hummus, tabouli, Kabobs (you choose lamb, beef, chicken or kafta), rice, and pita bread. Those who ate at Al Amir after the last regional meeting know how delicious and plentiful the food is.

If you're interested in attending call Leigh Knox at 591-9114 by April 15. If you get her answering machine please be sure to give your name, number of people attending, and a number you can be reached at. If you haven't been to a restaurant meeting before, now is a good time to come and meet a few other returned volunteers. You're sure to meet people with common interests. See you there.



Also this month is the 3rd Annual Blitz Weinhard Mingle. \$1.00 gets you all the beer you can drink responsibly. Come on over for a relaxing night with good friends. April 29. More details on the next page.

BRENDA'S CORNER

THE STARLIGHT PARADE

If you would like to march in this year's Starlight Parade on Saturday night, June 5th, **call me before Sunday, April 25th to reserve your spot** in the lineup. Priority will be given to those who haven't marched before. Previously, the size of our group has been limited by the Rose Festival Committee. However, I am willing to call them for permission to increase our numbers if there are additional RPCVs who'd like to participate. Because we invested in eight "holsters" last year (you know, those white straps worn over the shoulder with a pocket for the flag pole) and because this year's parade theme is "Among My Souvenirs" we propose the following entry: two people in front carry our new gorgeous banner; eight people carry flags from countries of service and at least a dozen or so RPCVs carry memorabilia like masks, baskets, or whatever, in keeping with the souvenir theme. Remember that: (1) You must wear traditional clothes or costumes from your country of service. (2) You must provide and carry your own lantern, and (3) every interested person needs to let me know you want to march before Sunday, April 25th. Furthermore, Do you have a flag from your country of service we can borrow for the parade? In the past, one of the recruiters from the Seattle office procured them for us, but he has since left that position so no one there now has any idea where the flags came from.... Can we use yours for the evening? Got a van or truck? Can you help transport us to and from the staging area downtown from/to my house on SE 28th and Burnside? My number? 236-5838 [Brenda Michel]

The zipper is patented. April 29th, 1913

Jerry Seinfeld's Birthday. April 29th, 1950's (I don't know the year)

Blitz Weinhard Beer Bash. April 29th, 1993 Thursday evening For these reasons, and any others you may have, we should celebrate. So, plan to attend our 3rd Annual Blitz Weinhard Beer Bash on Thursday night, April 23rd from 6:30 -11 p.m. The Hospitality Room is located at 1133 West Burnside Street, very near Powell's Bookstore. Look for the unmarked wooden door with the decorative lamps illuminating both sides of it. Bring your friends and munchies to share. It's a dollar per person donation if you wear zippers and two dollars if you don't, for all the beer and soda you can drink.

Pacific NW Regional Meeting

The next regional meeting will be Saturday, May 1st in Seattle. If you'd like to attend, call Mike Waite or Brenda Michel or Dick Swee for ride (or other) information.

175th Annual Founders Day Potluck and Dance

Sunday, May 23rd at Fulton Park Community Center on SW Miles just off Barbur Blvd. Same time, same place as in the past. Here's the tentative plan:

Set-up: 2:30-3:00

Eat and eat some more: 3:00-4:00

Talk show/meeting: 4:00-4:30

Entertainment: 4:30-5:30

Clean-up 5:30-6:00

"RPCVs Just Wanna Have Fun" Summer Camp-Out

August 20-22. Wallowa Lake Campground, in the far northeast corner of Oregon. Our contribution to the communal meal: Portland campers bring veggies, fruit, beverages. RPCVs from Idaho also plan to be there and treat us to a pancake breakfast.

1992 Annual Report Summary

An Investment In The Future

During the past year the National Council focused its resources on its newly defined mission and goals to build a new structure and create new initiatives. The Council's mission is to be the network for the people who have served in the Peace Corps and to "bring the world back home" through education and advocacy programs.

The Council made a substantial investment in its future through membership promotion and organizational development. We established more effective operating systems, improved WorldView magazine, sponsored a wonderful conference, increased the membership from 7,000 to nearly 10,000 and raised funds for future programs and services.

The Ford Foundation provided a grant of \$50,000 to enable the Council to create an advocacy network and to support organizational development. The plan for building the advocacy network has been developed, a strong advisory group has been created, and the membership response has been excellent.

Through the cooperation of affiliate groups, the Council updated and upgraded its data base to include nearly 50,000 names and addresses of former volunteers. It also produced a high quality membership campaign that will be the basis for a long term membership development strategy.

With the election of Bill Clinton as President, the National Council focused on the selection of an RPCV as the new Peace Corps Director and on policies and priorities regarding the Peace Corps,

foreign assistance and the proposed national service program. The *Washington Post* called the National Council a "powerful" lobby on the Peace Corps Director issue.

Most of the education functions of the RPCV community are carried out locally by affiliated groups, but the National Council continued to facilitate their work by distributing information about model programs and with the publication of a tremendously valuable Speakers Bureau Kit. The Council also helped coordinate the participation of former volunteers on the *Today Show*, and it expressed important information on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

The Council closed the year with \$91,368 in the bank of which \$16,457 was unrestricted. The Council raised \$417,634, and it spent \$432,494 for a net loss of \$14,860 (cash based). The deficit was due primarily to two factors: 1) the Council paid off its outstanding debts, and 2) it made a substantial investment in membership development. The campaign will produce a positive revenue return in the future. The accrual based financial report will indicate a higher loss in 1992 as much of the income for membership and special projects will be reported as deferred revenue.

This was a landmark year. We finished as a larger, better organized, more effective and growing organization. On the other hand, we remain under funded, our communication with and support for members and groups can still be improved, and our program and service portfolio needs further development. We begin 1993 with tremendous new challenges, opportunities and commitment.

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Richard Murphy, Secretary

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Maury Sterns

Staff:

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Cheryl Bartz, Program Director
Sue Ueberhorst, Membership Dir.
Maria Nazareth, Finance Manager
Michael Learmonth, Adm. Asst.
Kimberly Hellmann, Mem. Asst.
Towanda Pettaway, Data Entry
David Arnold, WorldView Editor



1993 Plan For Action

Expanding the Peace Corps alumni network, better communication and effective advocacy will be the top priorities for the National Council in 1993.

Our membership should surpass 10,000 early in 1993, but that is just the beginning. With a larger data base, more attractive programs and better marketing, the National Council should progress rapidly toward 15,000 or more members. The 1993 Conference in Berkeley, with inspiring speakers and wonderful reunions, should attract more new members.

To improve communications, the National Council will publish a special new newsletter supplement to the *Group Leaders Digest* which member groups will be encouraged to reproduce as part of their own newsletters. It could reach 15,000 people several times per year. In addition, as soon as funds permit, the Council plans to increase *WorldView* publication to 6 issues per year.

The **advocacy network** is the most significant new initiative for the National Council. The Peace Corps family knows and understands the needs and opportunities of developing countries better than anyone in America. We have an obligation to the people we served as volunteers and staff to be their voice. We will be vocal advocates for sustainable development. Workshops will train members in grassroots advocacy,

and a special newsletter will be produced to inform members of the network and to stimulate action.

We will also work with the Peace Corps to accentuate the **third goal** (bringing the world back home) and develop meaningful programs to implement it. Now that there are 140,000 returned volunteers with a viable national network, the third goal can and must become a high priority for the agency.

We are also engaged in the development and promotion of new **national and community service** initiatives. The Peace Corps has been cited by President Clinton repeatedly as the metaphor for service. The people who have served in the Peace Corps can provide unique leadership in the development and implementation of a new national and community service program.

In addition to these major programs, we will address other issues of interest to RPCVs. These include seeking **medical benefits** for former volunteers with service related disabilities, and working more closely with country of service groups to help them provide support for Peace Corps and other projects in their countries.

Unfortunately, none of the Council's new initiatives can be achieved without substantial new **funding**. Membership dues cover less than 20% of the budget. The rest comes from donations and from government contracts and foundation grants. Therefore, much of the energy of the board and staff will, as always, be devoted to fund raising. We plan to not only cover our costs, but also to begin to build a reserve fund for long term effectiveness and security.

More **structural changes** are also needed in 1993. The Board of Directors will propose changes in the By-Laws to improve communication and accountability between the National Council and its members. There will be proposals for new Board election procedures and for a revised dues structure. In addition, the Council will continue its efforts to identify and approve a new name and logo that will invite a more inclusive and larger membership.

The **agenda for 1993** is long and demanding. In 1992 the National Council devoted its resources to rebuilding its foundations. In 1993 we should begin to reap the rewards of that effort and see growth in funding, programs and services.

Bringing the World Back Home

RPCV NEWS



Check out our banner

As mentioned in the last newsletter our group now has a red, white, and blue plastic banner to use for parades and other occasions we participate in. It looks great! The banner resembles the Peace Corps bumper sticker with a flag, and doves. Many thanks to Brenda Michel for taking the initiative and getting it done.

Esprit de Corps

from U.S. News & World Report February 15, 1993

Whether it's a reaction to the greed of the '80's or the recession, applications to the Peace Corps have jumped after more than a decade of decline. Last year, the agency received more than 164,000 inquiries from prospective trainees—a 43 percent surge over 1991—and 17,438 students, technicians and senior citizens ultimately applied for 3,330 slots. The caliber of recruits has gone up, too. Last spring, 1,000 MBAs vied for some 100 positions helping develop business in the former Soviet Union. The corps has yet to fill one key vacancy: the directorship. For the first time it may go to a former volunteer.

Returned Volunteer for Peace Corps

The Washington Post, Jan. 27, '93

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has thrown the towel on her effort to become Peace Corps director, telling the powerful National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers that the job, first held by her uncle, Sargent Shriver, has to go to a returned volunteer. The council lobbied hard against her. Nothing personal, fully qualified and all that, they say, but it's time after 30 years for one of the 140,000 former volunteers to take the jog... There are a number of candidates but the most visible of the pack appears to be Patricia Garamendi, a former volunteer in Ethiopia and a California Democrat who lost a bid for Congress in November and whose husband, John, ran California for Clinton.

Charles R Baquett III, a former volunteer in Somalia who is ambassador to Djibouti, also is mentioned.

Jack Hogan, First RPCV to Head Peace Corps

For the first time ever, the Peace Corps is under the leadership of an RPCV. Jack Hogan (Venezuela 1964-66) was appointed by President Clinton to be the Acting Director until the permanent Director is named and confirmed.

ASAP

African Student Assistance Program was started by three Swaziland RPCVs who want to establish a vocational training center for teaching construction skills and basic small business operation. Students will have 1/3 classroom training, 2/3 hands-on training. Within five years the center will be self-sufficient through the income generated by actual contracts. Future plans include adding woodworking and sewing machine repair and more centers in Sub-Saharan Africa. They are selling t-shirts displaying a silhouette of Africa with the Zimbabwean expression, "If You Can Talk You Can Sing. If You Can Walk You Can Dance. They sell for \$12.95. Contact Chris Helf at (206) 347-3886 or write African Students Assistance Program, Box 601135, Sacramento, CA 95860.

New Affiliated Groups

- ☆ Northeast Mississippi RPCVs
P.O. Box 585
Starkville, MS 39759
Contact: Mark Stopha
(601) 323-5451 (H) 325-3133 (W)
- ☆ Friends of Botswana
1543 Claremont Dr.R#2
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
Contact: Baba Whisler
(717) 428-3919
- ☆ Friends of Burundi
2017 Park Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20010
Contact: Janet Puhalla
(202) 606-3180 (W)
- ☆ Western Montana RPCVs
1729 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801
Contact: Dennis Bangs
(406) 5491631
- ☆ Friends of Tanzania
613 North Carolina Avenue SE
Washington DC 20003
Contact Lynn Heichel Kneedler
(202) 544-1292

CALENDAR

April 18 Restaurant Meeting. Al Amir Restaurant. 223 SW Stark, Portland. 5:00
April 20 Business Meeting. Gabriella's house 254-5161
April 25 Register for Starlight Parade with Brenda Michel
April 29 Blitz Mingle (or beer bash) Blitz Weinhard hospitably room. 6:30-11:00
May 1 Regional Meeting. Seattle
May 23 Annual Founders Day Potluck. Fulton Park.
June 5 Starlight Parade. Portland.
July 1-4 National RPCV Conference. Berkeley, California.
August 20-22 RPCV Regional Campout, Wallowa Lake
July 1994 National RPCV Conference. Atlanta Georgia

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RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
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Apr 1, 1993
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Portland, OR