



MARCH 1994

# RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF OREGON/PORTLAND

• Volume 13 • Number 3 •

## NPCA Board Nominations

Six elected seats will open on the NPCA Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting, July 30, 1994. The directors, who are responsible for the general management of the NPCA, meet once in the summer at the Annual Conference and once in the winter at a location chosen by the board. The term of office is three years.

Nominations opened February 22. Nominations must be received in the NPCA office by 6 p.m., April 19, 1994. Positions are open only to general members (former Peace Corps volunteer or staff). Nominees may run in only one category.

- One Regional Representative position is open for the Northwest. Regional representatives may be nominated in two ways: 1) A letter signed by the President or Secretary of an NPCA Affiliated Group certifying that the nominee was selected to be the candidate of that group; or 2) As an at-large candidate by a petition signed by a least ten other general members living in the same region.

- Two Country-of-Service/Interest Group Representatives will be elected. A candidate for Country-of-Service/Interest Group Representative may be nominated by a letter signed by the President or Secretary of a Country-of-Service/Interest Group certifying that the nominee was selected to be the candidate of that group.

Petition forms are available from: National Peace Corps Association, 2119 S Street NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Phone: 202-462-5938; Fax: 202-462-5873

Phyllis Shelton (Honduras 86-88) is asking for a nomination from RPCVs of Oregon/Portland for the Northwest Region. If anyone else is interested, please contact Brenda Michel immediately.

## From the President

Hello Sweetheart: There's always so much to tell you. Thank you for reading this. Thanks for taking what you read here under consideration. I came home from Sierra Leone in November of 1988. George Bush was being sworn in as President of the United States. Lately, I've been asking around, "Do you still think about your Peace Corps life even though it's been so long ago?" ["so long ago" is relative, I know.] Much to my relief, because I was thinking I was weird, everybody I've asked has said "yes" more or less. Those who served in the '60's qualify their yes with descriptions of how their impressions and remembrances have changed through the decades. I have a Sierra Leonian friend who just went home to Freetown for the first time since he left Africa for America 10 years ago. Next time he goes, we both think I should go with him.

In no particular order here's the poop: The Blitz Weinhard Brewery has permanently closed the Hospitality Room. There won't be any more "all the free beer you can drink" March beer bashes for us or anybody else. This is a very sad day indeed. We may want to consider a happy hour get together to commiserate. All you have to do is pick the place, date and time, call or write Robin (the newsletter editor) with the details. She will publish it in the April newsletter and then people will show up and we'll have a wonderful time and we'll start a new kind of tradition to replace the Beer Bash one. I am reminded of that famous slogan: Just do it.

The suggestion that we change our name to the Columbia River Peace Corps Association has met with some resistance. One RPCV wrote to say that while it may be appropriate to change our name to "Columbia River" because it's a better descriptor of our membership area, he believes it would be a serious error to change the name to "Association" because it

*continued on page 2*

*From the President, continued from page 1*

would dilute a special bond we share — “Returned Peace Corps Volunteers” says something special about the people who are our members. Perhaps we can take a vote over the next months and announce the final decision in May when we install new officers.

Speaking of which, the annual Founder’s Day Potluck and Picnic will be at Blue Lake Park on May 22nd (1st choice) or May 15th. Blue Lake Park is located east of the Portland International Airport, along Marine Drive, near 223rd Avenue. Mark your calendar now because the weather will be so fine and the food and company so heavenly, you won’t know what to do with yourself but have a great, GREAT time all day long. It’s \$3 a car load with many fun activities for all ages within the park.

The date for the next West African Pigout will be Saturday, November 12th. We’re looking for a more spacious venue. Any suggestions? Please step forward with them if you have them!

The “RPCVs Just Wanna Have Fun” Regional Campout will be at Ogden Lake near LaPine, Oregon, south of Bend on August 19-21st. The fee will be \$10 per person, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Mike and Mary Lynn Waite have more information about the site. They are VERY excited by the possibilities. It’s going to be another wonderful weekend.

I sent a fax to the National Peace Corps Association (and mailed the hard copy) describing our plan for International Volunteer Day on March 5th. You know the story: We sold the Madison group’s calendars and raised \$300. We donated the money to the Community Energy Project at Christmas time. We added value to our monetary contribution by volunteering our labor. A large group of us will weatherize homes for the CEP on March 5th — the significance of which is that:

The National Peace Corps Association and the Peace Corps Office of Third Goal Programs (a new PC division to focus on the third goal) announced they are working together to establish an RPCV International Volunteer Day in early March to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the executive order which created the Peace Corps. The actual anniversary date is March 1st, but Washington DC is planning the first event for March 5th, the first Saturday in March. Wash. DC is encouraging groups to schedule community service programs and to promote them as part of the international celebration. The plan is to make it a low-key activity this year in order to develop the concept and work out the kinks. We will then have a full year to create a much larger scale program for next year. I wrote to tell them all about our plan. Perhaps by the time you read this the first Columbia River RPCV International Volunteer Day will have already taken place. If so, thank you. Next year will be even better.

Our sweatshirt design was a big hit at the Regional Meeting in Eugene on Feb. 19th. Thank you Jo Cameron and Mark Morton! We’ve got a winner!!! \$15 each while supplies last.

I attended the Homowa Foundation for Afrikan Arts Board meeting a few nights ago to ask Obo Addy and his drummers and dancers to join us in the Starlight Parade. Parade applications are due at the end of March. This year’s parade theme is “View From My Window” and will be held June 4th. Furthermore, I encouraged the Homowa Foundation to appear in the parade even if they would prefer to march alone, i.e., not with us. They will take my invitations under advisement and get back to me in the near future. Another idea is to invite international students from PSU and the U of Portland to join us. Anybody have insight into how we’d go about reaching them collectively? Or, if you are planning to march, do you know someone in Portland from your country of service who would be willing to walk with you in the parade? Is anyone willing to help me with the application and planning process?

## **Nomination Party at PSU**

Our March event will be a gathering on Monday night, the 14th from 7-9 pm at the PSU Campus Ministry. Snacks and beverages provided.

The purpose of this Nomination Party is to gather together nominated applicants, invited applicants and interested others in one friendly location to talk/mingle with RPCVs. Recruiters from the Seattle Regional Office will be present to answer questions about the process of becoming a volunteer.

We need you to talk honestly and openly about your Peace Corps experiences. You will also need to eat and drink a lot so we don’t have a lot left over.

See you Monday night, March 14th. The PSU Campus Ministry is located on the corner of Montgomery and Broadway Streets downtown, very close to the skybridge with “Portland State University” emblazoned on it.

## AmeriCorps Comes to Oregon

Nearly 200 community service leaders, coordinators and volunteers from all over the state gathered in Portland recently for a one-day conference launching a statewide effort to promote community service in Oregon.

Most of them came to learn about AmeriCorps, the new federal initiative at the heart of the 1993 National and Community Service Trust Act. Proposed by President Clinton and enacted last September by Congress, AmeriCorps has been described as a domestic Peace Corps — it will provide thousands of Americans over the age of 16 minimum wage stipends, health and child care benefits, and education awards of up to \$4,725 per year in exchange for one or two years of full- or part-time community service.

The conference, titled *Building Community: The Essence of Citizenship in Oregon*, was hosted by Citizenship 2010, a coalition formed by Secretary of State Phil Keisling in 1992 to promote citizenship in Oregon.

The Act requires the governor of each state to appoint a community service commission. Governor Barbara Roberts will appoint a new commission in order to make Oregon eligible for federal money for administrative expenses, better meet strict federal guidelines regarding commission make-up, and improve Oregon's chances under AmeriCorps' competitive grant process.

The bi-partisan Commission will be responsible for developing a comprehensive state service plan, providing ongoing technical assistance to grantees and potential grantees, selecting programs to be a part of a state application for AmeriCorps funds, and recruiting Oregonians to participate in funded programs.



## Starlight Parade

Are YOU planning to walk in this year's Starlight Parade, Saturday night, June 4th? Call Brenda 236-5838 and tell her so. She needs to know our numbers by Sunday, 3/27 for our proposal to the Rose Festival Committee.

Furthermore, if you are planning to walk in the parade, do you know a host country national who would walk with you? Leave that message on her machine, too.

## Peace Corps Recruiter Update

by Scott Urbatsch

Here is the complete list of Peace Corps Informational Meetings scheduled in March:

### Nomination & RPCV Party

March 14th, 7-9 p.m., Campus Ministry, 633 SW Montgomery, near PSU, between Broadway and 6th Ave.

### Business Info Meeting

March 15th, 12-1 p.m., Campus Ministry, 633 SW Montgomery

### Environment

March 15th, 7-8:30 p.m., World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Rd, Bus #63

### Education, Health, General

March 16th, 6:30-8 p.m. Martin Luther King Center, 4815 NE 7th, Bus #6

RPCVs are encouraged to attend, to give nominated and interested volunteers a peek into what it was really like to be in the Peace Corps. A special thanks to Jessica Duke and Kathleen Taylor for helping out at the Job Fair at the University of Portland.

## Brazilian Folk Artist to Exhibit Works

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center of Portland is presenting paintings by Brazilian folk artist Ismenia Camargo Faro. This show will run throughout the month of March. Ismenia Camargo has a rich and colorful primitive style based on the culture of the country. Through historical research and her own vast knowledge of Brazilian folklore, Ismenia Camargo brings the past to the present with her brushes and oils.

From a humble background, Ismenia Camargo Faro has seen her paintings hung in many of Brazil's most prestigious museums and art galleries. Internationally there have been exhibitions in Cuba, Venezuela, Australia, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal and Canada through the Congress of International Arts.

The presentation of this collection of Faro paintings will contribute to the heightened awareness of Brazilian cultural roots. For more information call 823-2000.

# Board approves ambitious growth

The NPCA plans significant growth in programs with a \$960,000 budget approved by the board of directors at their Jan. 16 meeting in New Orleans. The 1994 budget represents an increase of 31 percent over last year's budget and depends upon approval of Ford and Kellogg foundation grants.

Here are some outstanding features of the programs approved for 1994.

Board members will become active representatives of their regions and, along with NPCA staff and group affiliates, will hold conferences in each of the 12 regions. In addition to their own agendas, these regional meetings will feature leadership and advocacy training provided by the NPCA. Planning is underway for the 1994 national conference, which will be held in Atlanta.

In April the NPCA will move to larger Washington offices. The computerized data-base of membership will experience major increases and management improvements. And with access to Peace Corps data, the association expects to attract another 3,500 members and to add another dozen affiliate groups by the end of the year.

If funding is approved the NPCA will increase member services with a newsletter of alumni news, affiliate group news, opinions and articles on multi-culturalism, international networks, global education, advocacy, and domestic volunteerism. The newsletter will help define and strengthen the RPCV national network. The NPCA also plans to add more issues of the CONSTITUENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT and WORLDVIEW, if funds permit.

In addition to offering continuing support for the speakers bureaus of our affiliate groups, and of Peace Corps' WorldWide Schools program, the NPCA plans to revitalize our global education programs and start the Global Teacher Network project early this year.

The foundation of the association is volunteerism and the NPCA will seek new and better ways to help our members implement those goals. The NPCA hopes to expand the new childhood immunization, RPCV career guidance projects and Peace Corps awareness in minority communities.

With sufficient funding, the association and the board envision a larger role in America's community service movement. The NPCA recognizes the

potential the organization holds for becoming a clearinghouse for volunteers and volunteer activities here and around the world. With adequate funding, the NPCA could begin this program.

One outstanding example of RPCV potential is the success of one affiliate, the Friends of Liberia. These former volunteers and others who lived and worked in Liberia have become active

participants in election monitoring, relief work and shuttle diplomacy between rival political factions of that nation's government. They are now recognized as a non-governmental organization eligible to receive AID-funded contracts to serve their former host-country.

Friends of Ethiopia & Eritrea is planning similar in-country missions that demonstrate RPCV overseas potential.

## NATIONAL NEWS FOR RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

A January-February briefing from the National Peace Corps Association

### RPCVs hired for communications and membership programs

The NPCA announced one new staff member and two consultants to manage two new member service projects.

David Arnold (Ethiopia, 1964-66) became the director of publications and communications as of January 1. Twyla Jones-Konte and Nedra Hartzell recently signed contracts to operate the newly created early childhood immunization and RPCV career development projects.

Jones-Konte (Senegal, 1990-92) coordinates the early childhood immunization project. She holds a Master's degree in education from Ohio University, where she was a resident director of two upperclass residence halls. In Senegal she developed childhood immunization and infant growth monitoring programs. Her husband, Mouhamadou Konte, teaches French.

Hartzell (Korea, 1973-75) is a career development and training consultant directing the NPCA's new Reconnect project. She worked for five years as a Peace Corps career development specialist, and previously worked as a counselor-administrator at the University of Maryland and Indiana University. She has a Ph.D in education from the University of Maryland. She works on contract with the U.S. Information Agency, the University of Maryland School of Law and Baxter Healthcare.

Arnold has edited *WORLDVIEW* since his return to the United States in 1993 from two years overseas. In addition to editing the magazine, Arnold will start other publications and media contacts to enhance the RPCV network. Planning has begun for a quarterly newsletter for members to build the volunteer and advocacy network among RPCVs.

Arnold spent 25 years working for U.S. newspapers and writing for *TIME*, *National Geographic's TRAVELER* and other magazines. Arnold has a Master's degree from the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri and taught magazine and news writing on adjunct appointments at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

His recent overseas experience includes teaching journalism at the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, on a Fulbright scholarship. With Fulbright and Ford Foundation funding, he set up a publishing and media relations department for the National Museums of Kenya and has consulted on a free and responsible press with newly independent journalists in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda and Malawi before settling in Washington, D.C.

Arnold's wife, Courtney (Ethiopia, 1964-66), works for Recording for the Blind in Washington.

• Calendar of Events •

March 6	International Women's Day Celebration
March 14	Nomination Event, PSU
March 20	Business Meeting at the Swees
May (TBA)	Founder's Day Potluck
Aug. 19-21	Regional Campout
July 1994	National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA
Nov. 12	West African Pigout

Next Business Meeting

Our next business meeting will be at  
the Swee's house, Sunday, **March 20**  
at 10:30 am.

**OFFICERS**

**Steering Committee**

Brenda Michel	236-5838
Margie Hazelton	236-8346
Joan Swee	252-2295
Mike Waite	206-574-7455

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Dick Swee	252-2295
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**Program Coordinators**

Margie Hazelton	236-8346
Pat Greendale	255-1101
Charlene Holzworth	284-3444

**Membership**

JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
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**Restaurant Coordinator**

Joan Swee	252-2295
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**Speaker's Bureau**

Phyllis Shelton	295-1863
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**Newsletter**

Robin Teater	286-0177
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**Development Education**

Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
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**Volunteers of Oregon/Portland**  
**P.O. Box 802**  
**Portland, OR 97207**

Submissions for the April 1994  
newsletter should be received by  
March 25. Please mail to:  
Robin Teater  
7126 N. Delaware Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217

**MEMBERSHIP • ADDRESS CHANGE • RENEWAL FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE:( ) \_\_\_\_\_ hm ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ wk

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

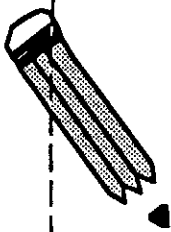
PEACE CORPS COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS: \_\_\_\_\_

PEACE CORPS JOB/SECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Membership
- Membership renewal
- New address, effective: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland and NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)
- Joining RPCVs of Oregon/Portland only (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)
- Joining NPCA only (\$27.50)

Please make checks payable to : **RPCVs of OREGON/PORTLAND**  
And mail to: **P.O. BOX 802**  
**PORTLAND, OR 97207**



# VOTE HERE

## ON PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR RPVC'S OF PORTLAND/OREGON

I vote we keep our name the same:  
**The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon/Portland.**

I vote we change our name to:  
**The Columbia River Returned Peace Corps Volunteers**

I vote we change our name to:  
**The Columbia River Peace Corps Association**

I suggest this instead: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this ballot to:  
RPCVs of Oregon/Portland  
P.O. Box 802  
Portland, OR 97207

Or, if you prefer, leave a "voice mail" vote on Brenda Michel's answering machine at 236-5838

**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS  
OF PORTLAND/OREGON  
P.O. Box 802  
PORTLAND, OR 97207**



Apr 1, 1994  
Marie Hermanson  
[Redacted]  
Portland, OR [Redacted]