

Regional Meeting of the Northwest RPCV Groups
4/30/11
Spokane, Washington
At the Home of Kevin and Kay Dixon

Present

Aileen Ly, SEAPAX; Paulette Thompson, SEAPAX; Darryl Johnson, SEAPAX; Dale Morse, WCPCA; Kevin Laughlin, IRPCU; Joe Hindman, NPCA Rep; Gabriella Maertens, CRPCA; Joana Ramos, SEAPAX; Anna Montgomery, INPCA; James and Maria Beebe, INPCA; Bob Hager, INPCA, Trisha Kessler, INPCA; Delores Schwindt, INPCA; Martha Haynes, INPCA; Sue Bracken, INPCA; Anna Montgomery, INPCA; Kevin and Kay Dixon, INPCA; Vickie Scott-Woodley INPCA.

The meeting followed a potluck hosted by INPCA membership, was facilitated by INPCA President, Bob Hager. Introductions included sharing PC experiences.

Group reports included structure of each organization and projects.

INPCA <<http://inpcanet.net>>: Eastern Washington and North Idaho. This PC organization is 10 years old. We have a President, VP, Sec., Tr, and Past Pres. The Board is made up of officers and committee Chairs, and meets quarterly. Primary fund raising is calendar sales and membership contributions. Hosted First Friday events featuring PC exhibits November thru April at the Express Personnel Professionals and downtown business and was a part of the Art Walk, with a 50th Anniversary open house March 4th. The Pullman-Moscow area hosted their anniversary with a potluck in Moscow March 1st.

INPCA puts out their newsletter twice yearly. Website INPCA.org includes current calendar, articles and blogs. Contributions are made in support of the Village Bike Project, Paraguay Children's Fund and many local service organizations including Second Harvest, World Relief and participation at the Fall Folk Festival, KSPS public TV telethons, and PC recruiting events. The yearly "Send Off Party" potluck for PC volunteers is a very successful event held in the Spring. Social events include potlucks, a summer picnic, the Indian Powwow and First Friday at a local Pub, with dinner.

Our biggest challenges are recruiting new leadership from year to year, attracting younger PCVs and fund raising.

SEAPAX: Organization Pres. VP, Sec. Treas. Their 50th anniversary was at the library with about 250 attendees, which included effective multi generational participation. There were exhibits, workshops and speakers.

Activities include book club, NPCA Global Education, potlucks, pub nights and sharing information about other community events. Projects include restoration of the heron habitat at Discovery Park. They are very successful with calendar sales, selling 250.

Included in her report, is information on their organizational structure in answer to discussion about the value of becoming a 501(c)3.

At the state level, SEAPAX is both a nonprofit corporation (of the type called a "nonprofit public benefit corporation") and a registered charity. Due to our small size (and no paid staff) & small revenues (under \$25,000/year), we are exempt from the additional requirement of holding a charitable solicitation license, and have chosen to take the additional optional step of being officially registered as a charity which is exempt from this requirement. This means that we are 1) recognized as a registered charity and 2) authorized to solicit funds from the public. We decided to do this b/c our grants program requires that applicants show that their respective groups are properly vetted, and we felt it important to apply the same standard to ourselves.

The incorporation and charity registration processes are separate and done with two different branches of the WA Secretary of State: the former with the Corporations Division and the latter with the Charities Program. At the federal level, charities need to register with the IRS, so we are a registered charity. Small, all-volunteer charities like SEAPAX are required to report to the IRS each year, and we file the annual Form 990-N or e-postcard, which is the form required for the registered charities in this category. We are thus a tax-exempt as a charity, but donations to us are not tax deductible for eligible donors. Small charities also have the option to apply to become 501(c)3 organizations, but it is not required. This status is mostly of interest to groups that are seeking to receive grants and/or large monetary donations, as a requirement of the donor. The c3 process is lengthy, complicated, and costs several hundred dollars.

It can be possible to function as just an informal association, which it seems that INPCA may be. Technically, if a group solicits donations, it needs to take these official organizational steps, and it is increasingly recommended as an accountability measure. Also, since 2007, nonprofit organizations cannot open a business bank account in WA unless they are 1) incorporated and have a state UBI (Unified Business Identifier) and 2) have a State of WA Master Business License. It is not clear if this requirement is being applied retroactively.

There is a lot of excellent information on how to organize & run nonprofit groups, starting with some resources specific to WA State. To get started, Joana recommended the following:

1) WA Secretary of State Charities Program <<http://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/>>

-- periodically holds workshops on organization and governance topics for charitable organizations

2) WA Association of Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO)
<<http://waaco.org/>>

-- in addition to many resources, groups can apply for pro bono legal assistance. Groups must be incorporated to be eligible to apply. WAAACO attorneys can help groups to revise and update their by-laws and articles of incorporation.

-- WAACO publishes The Washington Nonprofit Handbook: How to Form and Maintain a Nonprofit Organization in Washington State which can be downloaded from their website.

3) Spokane Public Library

<<http://www.spokanelibrary.org/index.php?page=research&cat=findthebest&id=26>>

4) Inland Northwest Development Council <<http://www.indc.net/default.asp>>

5) Spokane directory <<http://www.spokaneevents.com/directory/nonprofit.php>>

Oregon WCPA www.westcascadepca.org Dale Morse reported that Eugene held their 50th anniversary at the downtown Plaza beginning at noon with a rally and ending with a party. The event with excellent Media coverage included speakers, music, and dancing. They had a PC supplement publication in the paper paid for by community sponsorships. Activities include potlucks. The Board meets monthly and puts out a newsletter. They have 14 leadership positions.

Fundraising includes art sales of work by RPCV member's wife, t-shirts sold on-line

Columbia River CRPCA <CRPVA.org> report by Gabriella included the 50th anniversary party at the Museum of PC Experience (their site includes a link to this on-going exhibit) Which was started in 2010. They marched in the Starlight Parade and will march 4.2 miles in the Grand Floral Parade (was Rose Parade). Sat. June 11th, with flags of all PC host countries. People interested in participating go to their website parade@CRPCA.org. Housing for PCVs will be available thru Richard Ireland.

Their organization has Pres., Sec and Treas. Plus a board of 11 Committee Chairs

They will host the 3rd annual local campout 7/1-4 at Beacon Rock State Park. See website for details <www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark+Beacon%20Rock&Subject+all>

They have a writer's group meeting monthly, story telling (public Speaking) Book Club, Job Support. They contribute to the Oregon Food Bank (OFB).

The CRPCA's Permanent Legacy Service Project raised \$750 for Habitat project with 15 volunteers on the build site.

The PLSP meets quarterly and give out grants from \$1500 to \$3000 to both local and international service projects.

Idaho IRPCU <<http://idahopeacecorps.com>>Kevin Laughlin reported their organization held their anniversary at the Idaho State Historical Museum with a series of events from March 12 thru April 23rd with over 230 guests, including Idaho Attorney General and Boise Mayor.

All events and activities are reported in the four issues of the Common Ground Newsletter. They sold 370 calendars.

Highlights:

- participation in the “one stop” resource expo, with over 2000 attendees.
- Worldview feature article about Katie Painer, Paraguay 00-02
- Habitat for Humanity build
- Keynote presenter at Portland State University
- Participated with PC recruiter at area events
- Held meet and greet to start a local NPCA chapter in Idaho Falls
- Participated in Go In Peace Fellowship, worship service honoring PCVs.

Regional Campout: Welcome to the 21st Annual West Regional RPCV Campout. Celebrating 50 years of Peace Corps

Dates: August 4-7, 2011 (Thursday through Sunday night)

Place: Grayback Gulch Group Campground

<www.recreation.gov/camping/Grayback_Id/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRS0&parkId=70097&topTabIndex=CampingSpot>

Located 36 miles northeast of Boise, ID on Idaho Highway 21- Ponderosa Pine Scenic Highway - just 2 miles south of historic Idaho City (easy to find - honest!).

Schedule:

Aug. 4 (Thurs.) - Arrive and settle in for a good time

Aug. 5 (Fri.) - Go sightseeing, take advantage of many recreation opportunities (see Activities page) or just hang out at camp - maybe a drumming circle in the evening

Aug. 6 (Sat.)

4:00 PM - Regional Meeting

5:00 PM - Gather for a social hour. Bring your own liquid refreshments & hors d'oeuvres to share.

6:00 PM - Dinner and Peace Corps birthday cake served by Idaho RPCVs

Time to be announced - Entertainment by Rosalie Sorrels – You are in for a treat! Rosalie is a world renowned folksinger-songwriter/storyteller extraordinaire
www.rosaliesorrels.com

Aug. 7 (Sun.) - More time for sightseeing, recreation & relaxation

Aug. 8 (Mon.) - Checkout by 1:00 PM, please. See you next year! 'Bye

Regional Representative Report by Joe Hindman

Joe read the letter from PC acknowledging the exemplary series of events and celebrations of local organizations.

The New Regional Office Manager is Janet Allen in the San Francisco Regional office and the Seattle office.

You are encouraged to recommend a potential volunteer online at
<www.peacecorps.gov/increasepeace>

If you are interested in participating in a Peace Corps celebration at an upcoming Seattle Sounders FC (soccer) game contact Melanie Forthun at mforthun@peacecorps.org

Keep abreast of PC news and activities <www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv.info>

An update on NPCA initiatives such as the proposed Commemorative on the Washington Mall.

The activities planned in Washington DC for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of PC.

The state of the PC Budget for 2013, and the NPCA's advocacy efforts.

The upcoming elections (mid May) for our new regional representative.

The current budget/finances of the NPCA.

The Folk Life Festival (featuring PC) on the Mall in late June/early July.

The 20/20 expose on PC.

Joe's service ends and we are looking for a new regional representative. Contact Joe

<JoeHondo@hotmail.com> for information on responsibilities and opportunities.

Darryl Johnson shared his credentials and experience in consideration for his

Candidacy for National Peace Corps Association Board – 2011

Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand in the early years was challenging and fulfilling – a life-changing experience. I was an ESL teacher in a provincial-level secondary school where my students gained some exposure to the wider world, and I learned a lot from them, from the other teachers, and from the community. When my assignment there concluded, I joined the U.S. Foreign Service, where I served for 40 years in various US embassies and consulates, mostly in Asia. In fact, my last post was as Ambassador to Thailand, which gave me a unique opportunity to re-connect with people from the town where I had taught. Now retired, I am teaching part time at the University of Washington, my alma mater, while also serving on several NGO boards working on public health, providing Asian language fellowships, supporting the World Affairs Council and remaining active in other organizations. I have also re-connected with the Peace Corps through the NPCA, where I have been serving on the Board for the past year (2010-2011) representing RPCVs who served in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the past year, I have also connected with the Seattle area RPCV organization, SEAPAX, which is quite active. Having become more familiar with these activities, and with the dedicated people who serve the wider community, I have decided to seek the position on the NPCA Board that represents the Western region. Having served on the Board for the past year, I am familiar with the work the NPCA does, and I am also familiar with how much more there is to do following this 50th anniversary year, especially in the areas of membership, funding and mission. So I seek your support and guidance as I place my name in nomination.

Darryl N. Johnson

Encourage your membership to support Darryl. He is an exceptional candidate, and important to have a representative from the Western region.

Nonprofit and Charities Educational Symposium

<http://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/TrainingSignupForm.aspx?s=1>

There is a link to flyer & location details on this page. The program runs all day, and will be held at Spokane Falls Community College. While the website seems to indicate it may be filled, I'd would recommend that you call and/or show up. Esp., with a free program, there may be no-shows and space will open up.

The SoS Charities page is also a very good general place to get started learning about the governance topics, and it contains useful links too.

Notes:

Question for people about how they indemnify themselves from claims if someone is hurt at a PC event. Answer, if we become an affiliate member of NPCA we can be insured. Most indicated that we have little or no exposure as a service organization protected under the good samaritan law.

Question about recruiting and fund raising. How to increase awareness. It was agreed that Facebook has become a critical communication source, especially for reaching younger individuals.

The 2012 Regional meeting will be in Seattle. The 2013 in Boise.

General Discussion Notes:

Washington State Incorporated Public Benefit is a non-profit organization providing resources for organizations.

Here are resources from Joana Remos she referred to in our meeting

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Respectfully recorded

Vickie Scott-Woodley
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