



Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

6:30 pm

Location: Home of Kelly Callahan, 1037 Bouldercrest Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

Present: Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, Christine Jolley, Jessica Otieno, Adrienne Gilbert, Kelly Callahan, Emily Hlavaty, Rachel Maher, Heidi Koester, Jennifer Owens, Adannaa Alexander, Nick Smith, Bob Gerzoff, Juli Powers, Kristin Unizicker, Chad Montabon, Lisa Dickman, Lorie Burnett, Amalia Stephens

Recent Events

- **New Member Brunch – 1/28/12**
 - **Welcome New Members!**
Nick, Kelly, Emily, and Lisa joined the meeting after learning about it at the New Member Brunch.
 - **Summary**
The brunch went really well; 46 people attended, which is possibly the largest turnout for a new member event. Kelly Callahan, the host, gave a special thanks to all those who brought food and attended. Thanks to Mary for covering photography at the New Member Brunch! A summary and pictures from the event has been posted on the website at www.aarpcv.org.

Note: Every event should have a write up and pictures; this is the Committee Chair's responsibility. If there is a donation involved it is also the Chair's responsibility to send the letter and copy treasurer@aarpcv.org (who will make the payment) to the person/organization. Send pictures and summary to president@aarpcv.org and secretary@aarpcv.org.

Bob shared that there have been a lot of RPCVs who have recently signed up to become members. Currently, there are 209 members (paid and unpaid).

Upcoming Events

- **Annual General Meeting/ First Quarter Potluck – 2/11/2012 – 5-7pm**
 - Home of Kristin Delca, 1114 Bouldercrest Dr. SE, Atlanta 30316
 - Presentation of Peace Corps Partnership Projects
 - Presentation of 2012 Theme and Membership spotlight
- **Wine Tasting & Silent Auction – 2/25/2012 – 5-7pm**
 - Home of Kristin Unizcker, 138 Kirkwood Road, #7, Atlanta 30317
 - "Best wines you've never heard of..."
 - \$30/person cash or check
- **Second Quarter Potluck – 4/14/2012 – 5-7pm**
 - Location
 - Speaker
 - Volunteer Event for 2nd Quarter

Vice President's Report – Calendar Distribution

There are approximately 30 calendars left. Mari will bring them to the Annual General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dan was unable to make the meeting, so the report will be given at the next meeting.

Committee Updates

- **International**

Christine presented 5 potential projects to fund via the Peace Corps Partnerships Project in order to make a recommendation to the membership during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 11, 2012. The projects included:

- New Way, New Life, Bulgaria, program for deaf children
- IT for Success, Costa Rica, project to get computers and furniture for an elementary school
- Girls Magazine & Leadership Conference, Costa Rica, leadership and empowerment project
- Healthy Homes, Peru, project to improve cooking stoves
- Camp MAKE, Ukraine, project to empower youth to be agents of change

A discussion took place with regard to 1) sustainability of the project, 2) the volunteer's COS date, 3) the community's contribution and 4) AARPCV's theme for the year—to highlight its membership, and 5) Peace Corps focus areas, which are aligned with the 8 Millennium Development Goals: end poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, child health, maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships.

Finally, a motion was made to partially fund (\$500) Healthy Homes and fund the remaining \$77.39 of the Girls Magazine and Leadership Conference. A vote was taken and all voted in favor. These two projects will be presented to the membership at the AGM on February 11, 2012 for a vote.

- **Mentoring**

Adrienne was able to make a connection between an old and newly returned volunteer at the New Member Brunch.

There was a discussion about how best to distribute emails related to member and non-member events, whether via individual emails or putting several emails into one. Bob welcomed suggestions and also noted some of the limitations.

- **Program**

Lorie and Heidi corresponded with a member about hosting the 2nd quarterly potluck in her apartment complex in Buckhead. The potluck will be held on 4/14/12 from 5-7 pm.

- **Volunteer**

Jennifer sent an email to the membership about showcasing what RPCVs having been doing to help communities since their service. So far she has received 3 responses. To elicit more responses she will create a form that members can fill out at the AGM. The volunteer committee and program committee will coordinate to ensure members are highlighted during the subsequent potlucks.

The volunteer event with MedShare for the 1st quarter was cancelled because they did not have enough spots to meet our needs. Those present made suggestions for Hands on Atlanta and Open Hand. AARPCV member, Kim Beasley, is a Community Partnerships Contractor at Hands on Atlanta. The 2nd quarterly volunteer event is scheduled for some time in May.

- **Special Events**

Amaila solicited volunteers to bring light snacks and to help out at the event to greet attendees and accept payment, pour wine, etc. Although, a silent auction was mentioned in the invitation, the decision

was made *not* to conduct the silent auction during the wine tasting; any items will be collected to be used at a later date.

AARPCV member Amber Davis is a photographer and jewelry designer in her spare time, and she is interested in partnering with AARPCV to sell jewelry at an event and donate a portion of the proceeds to the group. A suggestion was made to have a big fundraiser later in the year in which we have a silent auction and various members who are involved in making crafts (i.e. jewelry, artwork, etc.) could sell items and donate part of the proceeds to AARPCV.

Other Business

- **Communications** (to be discussed at next meeting)
 - Email communications – logo & links
 - Social Media
- **Member Group Renewal** (to be discussed at next meeting)
 - New Position: Advocacy Liaison (NPCA)
- **AARPCV tee shirts** (to be discussed at next meeting)
- **Bob Gerzoff Connection – I Ready by 21** – (to be discussed at next meeting)

Peace Corps | National Peace Corps Association

- **National Day of Action – 3/1/2012**
 - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/>
 - advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org
- **Peace Corps Week – 2/27/2012 – 3/2/2012**
Trying to get a press release out around this week if possible.

Reminders & Guidelines

- **Event planning**
 - Send save-the-date for any event at least 3-4 weeks prior and finalize details at least 2 weeks prior.
- **Photos**
 - Take pictures at every event!!!
 - Contact Mari at president@aarpcv.org for access to the AARPCV Photo Dropbox.
- **Event Summary**
 - Submit event summary and photos within one week after event.
 - If applicable, submit donation information to Dan.
 - Write letter to accompany donation and e-mail to organization
A template is available by emailing Mari, president@aarpcv.org
 - cc: Committee Co-Chair, Dan: treasurer@aarpcv.org, Mari: president@aarpcv.org

Next meeting: Wednesday, 3/14/2012, 6:30 pm