



# Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

## Annual Board Retreat Meeting Minutes January 07, 2012

### Welcome and Introductions

Present: Mari, Adannaa, Jennifer, Mary, Jessica G., Juli, Christine, Jessica O., Kristin, Kelly, Wendy W., Lorie, Amalia, Dan, Alethea (guest)

Absent: Wendy M., Amanda, Bob, Adrienne

### Board and Committee Positions

Reviewed rolls/positions on the Board. See Appendix A. Suzanne Cooper is interested in helping. Part of the Membership Committee's role is to follow up with new people and connect. Reach out to Chad to see if he's still interested in heading the Social committee.

Still need a Communications Chair and a Programming Co-chair. Will send out an email to the general membership to see who might be interested.

### Review of 2011 Goals

- More member participation in volunteer activities.  
There was more membership in 2011, but we want to see more participation. There were about 20 volunteers at each of the 5 volunteer events (Trees Atlanta, Community Gardening and 3 days of a Habitat Build).
- Focus volunteer activities.  
The theme was "Building Healthier Communities". It was broad enough that our events fit into it. Received kudos from the NPCA office about creating a theme to carry out through the year.
- More creative use of board and membership.
- Explore neighborhood activities/sub-groups. There has been a suggestion from some AARPCV's about having activities for volunteers living in different neighborhood regions in Atlanta.  
*Example:* A group in Virginia Highlands may go out to dinner once a month.  
This is too narrow a goal for the Board to take on.
- Possibly more social groups that meet once a month.  
*Examples:* Book clubs, dining groups, hiking groups, etc: The day of the week could be changed each month or each quarter so more members could attend the activities.  
This is too narrow a goal for the Board to take on.



## Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

- More awareness and use of the AARPCV website.  
Many people link with AARPCV via Facebook, which directs them to the website.
- Donate more money to worthy causes.  
We were successful via supporting Habitat for Humanity.  
Received certified mail from Peace Corps Mozambique for the project we funded.
- Continue fundraising efforts, including another silent auction.  
Met this goal too by hosting 2 silent auctions and 2 wine tastings.

### Discussion of 2012 Goals

- Take pictures at every event.
  - Create a drop box to put the pictures.
  - Have a picture from every event.
- Create a theme for this year that focuses on what our members have done after their Peace Corps service. Really want to focus on Peace Corps' third goal: helping Americans understand the people and cultures of other countries.
  - Potential ideas: Peace Corps in our community; Supporting who we are; Highlighting, recognizing, sharing; Peace Corps: the journey continues; Highlighting who we are; Legacy of leadership: continuing to serve; Legacy of leadership: our membership, our service, our impact; AARPCV: Our Membership, Our Service, Our Impact
- Recruit a Communications chair to update our website, maintain facebook page, linkedin group, Peace Corps Connect, twitter account. Try to link social media together such as twitter and facebook.
- Raise \$5,000 in fundraising.
- Create a calendar app instead of selling physical calendars.
- Create a template email with AARPCV logo.
- Add the website link to every communication: [www.aarpcv.org](http://www.aarpcv.org)

### AARPCV Business

- Calendar Sales 2011
  - Mari still has about 50 calendars left in her possession.
- Committee Reports: Complete reports postponed until next meeting.



## Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

- Treasurer's Report: Currently there is about \$9,700 in the bank.
- International Committee: There are 5 projects listed, each asking for at least \$1000.
- Membership Committee
- Mentoring Committee
- Program Committee
- Volunteer Committee
- Communication
  - Listserv: Bob maintains the listserv.
  - Facebook: Juli maintains the account.
  - LinkedIn: There is an account but it's inactive. Juli has the account information.
  - Twitter: Mari maintains the twitter account.

### 2012 Calendar & Event Planning

- Board meetings set for every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- Theme: something around highlighting volunteers; AARPCV: Our membership, our service, our impact
- Quarterly Potlucks

At the potlucks we'll highlight one or more volunteers and what they've been doing.

- Volunteer Events

Volunteering will be related to what volunteers are doing. Even if a volunteer has a project abroad, we will do an activity in the Atlanta area that is related. For example, Jennifer is on the Board of microfinance project that sells jewelry made by women in Ghana. We could volunteer with the Refugee Sewing group. Jennifer would like to poll the general membership to see what people are doing.

Volunteer Organizations: Medshare, Global Growers Network (Burundi Network, Wendy), Willie Wilkerson – Habitat; Trees Atlanta, Tara Project, Refugee Family Service, International Community School – a good way to highlight RPCVs who are teachers, Tara Project, ASAP (related to Africa), Books for Africa.



## Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

- New Member Events
  - Mentor Events?
  - New member brunch on January 28 and pumpkin carving event on October 20
- Special Events
  - Wine Tastings: Sometime late Feb/early March and in October
  - Summer social/silent auction: June
  - Holiday party
- Bylaws are updated and the Procedure Manual is a work in progress.
- See Appendix B for a 2012 Calendar

### Peace Corps Regional Update

Alethea Parker is the Public Relations Specialist at the Atlanta Regional Office. The regional office has a wider network and it is important for AARPCV to maintain a strong relationship with them.

Peace Corps as an agency had a 50 budget cut and so it has become more competitive to become a volunteer. There's a hiring freeze. Peace Corps is looking for volunteers with more education, agriculture, and environmental backgrounds. There's also a longer wait in terms of volunteers starting. The regional office puts out a quarterly newsletter. Make sure to get the newsletter by updating contact information at <https://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.returned.staycon.updaterec>.

### Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be February 8, 2011 at 6:30PM at TBD. We will also hear from the various committees.

Christine will present potential international projects and Jennifer will see what potential domestic projects we might fund for this year, which will be presented at the annual general meeting on Saturday, February 11.



# Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

## APPENDIX A: Board and Committees

Position	Name
President	Maricarmen Smith-Martinez
Vice President	Jessica Otieno
Secretary	Adannaa Alexander
Treasurer	Dan Williams
Advisory Committee	Juli Powers
International Committee	Christine Jolley
	Jessica Gershick
Membership Committee	Bob Gerzoff
	Kelly Callahan
Mentoring Committee ( <i>Subcommittee</i> )	Adrienne Gilbert
Program Committee	Lorie Burnett
	<b>Co-Chair Needed</b>
Volunteer Committee	Jennifer Owens
	Wendy Worthington
Archival Project	Wendy McLaughlin
Communications Committee	<b>Chair Needed</b>
	Mary Novonty
Social Committee	??
Special Events Committee	Amalia Stephens
	Kristin Unzicker
RSPH Liaisons	Amanda MacGurn



# Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

## APPENDIX B: Calendar

**2012**

*AARPCV: Our Membership, Our Service, Our Impact*

### **Jan**

Sat 7: Board Retreat

Sat 28: New Member Brunch

*Peace Corps Communications*

### **Feb**

Wed 8: Board Meeting

*Theme finalization & Peace Corps week*

Sat 11: Annual General Meeting

*Possibly PC Projects Speaker?*

Mon 27-Sat, Mar 3: Peace Corps Week

### **Mar**

TBD: Wine Tasting (*possibly end of Feb*)

TBD: Volunteer Event

Wed 14: Board Meeting

### **Apr**

Wed 11: Board Meeting

Sat 14: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Potluck

### **May**

Wed 9: Board Meeting

### **Jun**

Sat 9: Summer Social

*Silent Auction*

Wed 13: Board Meeting



# Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

## **Jul**

Wed 11: Board Meeting

## **Aug**

Wed 8: Board Meeting

## **Sept**

Sat 8: Volunteer Event

Wed 12: Board Meeting

Sat 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Potluck

## **Oct**

TBD: Wine Tasting

Wed 10: Board Meeting

Sat 20: New Member Social

*Pumpkins & Bonfires*

## **Nov**

Wed 7: Board Meeting

Sat 10: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Potluck

## **Dec**

Sat 1: Volunteer Event

Wed 3-7: Board Dinner

*10,000 Villages Shopping Event*

Sat 8: Holiday Party