



# Western Montana RPCV News

MARCH 2014

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1

## Upcoming Events:

**NOM POTLUCK!!!  
Saturday, April 26,  
6 PM 84 Brookside.**

**2014 GOAT CHASE  
JUNE 13, 14 & 15!!!!  
2014!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Flathead Lake!!!!**

**JULY POTLUCK ON  
THE JOCKO!!!!!!  
TBA**



*RPCV story tellers at the 'story slam' on the U of M campus organized by Amber Gladney for Peace Corps Week. From left to right, Cory (Mongolia), Stassia (Peru), Bridget (Ethiopia), Amber (Mali), Russ (Ecuador), Jeff (Botswana) and Brian (Micronesia).*

### President's message:

*Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70 -72)*

It is time to welcome spring to western Montana and the Western Montana RPCVs while recognizing the contributions and activities of the WMRPCVs in the past few months.

First I want to thank Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa MacKenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) for once again hosting a great Christmas Party/Potluck, which had a great turnout. A special thanks go out to Bunny and Bruce Sims (The Philippines 73-76) for hosting a special potluck in February in conjunction with the visit of Helen Lowman, the associate director for Volunteer recruitment and selection at Peace Corps. The event was very well attended and we got to hear from and share a lot with Helen and the other Peace Corps staff from Seattle.

Amber Gladney (Mali), the Peace Corps Rep. on campus deserves congratulations as well for all of the events she has been coordinating on campus and with the WMRPCV community. The picture above was taken at the Peace Corps Story Slam she organized on campus during Peace Corps Week.

Also thanks to all of the people who did class presentations during Peace Corps Week and to Bunny Sims who coordinated the speakers with the teaches. Thanks also go out to everyone who sold the International Calendars for our only fundraiser. We sold all 350 and are deciding which projects to support in the upcoming year. A big thanks to Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76), our amazing treasurer who not only keeps track of all of our accounts but presents the state of our financial status, membership and donations for the year. These reports are on pages 3 and 4. One final big thank you to all of those who volunteered at the Peace Corps information table during the International Food Fair and Cultural Fair. We talked to many prospective volunteers.

Finally, don't forget the following upcoming events. On Saturday, April 23 Lynne and Otto Koester (Ethiopia 68-70) are once again hosting the NOM party. And the great Goat Chase Retreat will be June 13-15.

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The WMRPCV Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the non-profit Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. All dues paying members receive a copy and are encouraged to participate in it's creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to:

Dennis Bangs 1729 North Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801,  
<[wmrpcv@yahoo.com](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)>

All newly returned volunteers will receive two free copies before they are requested to join.

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## **The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:**

Shane and Carol McFarland from Corvallis who were in Lesotho.  
Eric Mokom from Panama who was in Cameroon.

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### **NPCA Advocacy:**

*Otto Koester (Ethiopia 68 -70)*

In the recent past Congress voted on two bills for which the National Peace Corps Association had asked former volunteers to advocate. One was the Peace Corps Equity Act, the other Peace Corps budget for FY 2014. I'm pleased to report that both bills passed.

The Peace Corps Equity Act now makes it possible, as has been the case for military service women, for female volunteers to have the option of receiving abortion services in instances of rape, incest and life endangerment while serving overseas. The bill passed both houses of Congress by a wide margin.

The Peace Corps budget finally approved by both houses of Congress is for \$378 until the end of the 2014 fiscal year. This was the same amount requested by the Obama Administration before the sequestration — \$22 mil. more than was recommended by the House of Representatives and \$6 mil. less than approved initially slated by the Senate. Peace Corps staff had been worried that the compromise finally agreed upon would be less.

Many kudos and thanks to Tish Herries, Gerry Blackman and Peter Baker for taking the time to meet with staff members of Sen. Baucus, Sen. Tester and Rep. Daines to speak on behalf of these bills. All three representatives voted in favor of the Peace Corps Equity Act, and Sens. Baucus and Tester also supported the final budget bill. Rep. Daines unfortunately dissented.

Peace Corps is required to submit its FY 2015 budget request to the White House in March, and the Administration is scheduled to send its request to Congress in August. If you would be interested in becoming involved in the NPCA advocacy process for the next next budget round, please contact me at <<[ohkoester@gmail.com](mailto:ohkoester@gmail.com)>>. Many thanks.

### **Peace Corps Staff visit Missoula**



In February, Helen Lowman, Associate Director for recruitment and selection from Peace Corps Washington and a number of staff people from the Seattle recruiting office visited Missoula. They did recruiting events on campus along with Amber Gladney, the local recruiter as well as honoring the University of Montana and its various schools and programs which have supported the recruiting efforts of Peace Corps over the years. In addition to the Masters International Programs that the U has run for years it now houses a special Peace Corps preparation class.

After her day at the University Helen and the staff from Seattle shared a potluck evening with the Western Montana RPCVs at the home of Bunny and Bruce Sims (The Philippines 73-76). She shared a lot of updated information about what the current status of Peace Corps is and answered a lot of questions from the large and enthusiastic group of RPCVs. We were pleased and honored to have had Helen visit with us and share her insights and experiences in the Peace Corps, which are many.

She served as a volunteer in Thailand and after a short time in the private sector joined Peace Corps staff. She served as associate director and director of Peace Corps China and acting director in Mongolia. After which she served three years as regional director for the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia region where she oversaw Peace Corps programs in 21 countries.

# Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2013 Donations

## International:



### Mano a Mano: Bolivia

*Building effective infrastructure projects for the long-term*



### Camp H.E.A.L:

**HIV/AIDS Awareness Youth Leadership Camp**



### Ukraine

Peace Corps Partnership Project



### Heifer International:

#### Gift of a Goat



**Women's Global Ed Project:**  
Education for girls to help fight global poverty



### Resource/Education Center:



### Philippines

Peace Corps Partnership Project

**International Book Project:** Promotes literacy, education, and global friendships





**Montana:**

**Flathead Food Bank - Kalispell  
 Habitat for Humanity of Missoula  
 Helena Food Share  
 Missoula Aging Services  
 Missoula Food Bank  
 Montana Food Bank Network  
 Poverello Center – Missoula Homeless  
 Shelter**

WESTERN MT RPCV Membership Profile February 2014	
NPCA: 23 regular 8 free 1st time members 31 members	
Western MT RPCV only: 35	
TOTAL: 66 Members	
Missoula Area:	37
Western MT:	16
Helena Area:	7
Bozeman Area	2
Great Falls area	2
Out-of-State	2

**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
 2013 Financial Report  
 Submitted by Mary J. Younger, Treasurer (Cameroon 1974-76)**

**BALANCE:** Year End 2012 **\$2,816.16**

**INCOME:**

2013 Retreat Registration	\$1,380.00
Int'l Calendar Sales	
2013 Calendars	250.00
2014 Calendars	3,792.00
Western MT RPCV Dues	630.00
Member donations-NPCA Database	100.00
NPCA Member Dues	385.00
NPCA Dues Rebates	90.00

**2012 INCOME** **\$6,627.00**

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$9,443.16**

**EXPENSES:**

Donations	
International	\$1,220.00
Montana	1,100.00
Goat Chase Retreat	
Facility	1,155.00
Food	180.99
Entertainment	300.00
2014 Calendar Fundraiser	
Calendars	1,750.00
Postage	140.00
WMRPCV Website/Newsletter	309.00
NPCA Individual Dues	420.00
NPCA Affiliation Dues	50.00
NPCA Database Support	250.00
Office/Potluck Supplies	64.32
Postage	98.50

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **-\$7,037.81**

**BALANCE: YEAR END 2013** **\$2,405.35**

**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Eighteenth Annual  
GOAT CHASE RETREAT  
JUNE 13 -15**

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will celebrate the dynamic returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Western Montana and the remarkable beauty of western Montana. We will once again be coming together to honor the camaraderie and good work of our group on the shore of scenic Flathead Lake at the United Methodist Camp. The camp is located on the west shore of the lake, just north of Rollins, Montana. Detailed directions and an agenda will be sent upon receipt of the completed registration form.

Rustic cabins, a variety of recreational facilities, and a lakeside bonfire site make a wonderful setting for reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Everyone must provide their own bedding and no alcohol or pets are allowed on the grounds. There are cooking facilities in the cabins and a large lounge and communal kitchen for the grand international potluck on Saturday night. Saturday and Sunday's breakfasts are included in the registration fee. Saturday's lunch is on your own. **This year we are going to continue with the tradition of a mini-international potluck for the Friday night meal. Tony Hoyt is going to recruit people to cook an international potluck for Friday night. He needs volunteers who are willing to cook their dish and have it ready to serve for Friday night. If you want to present your meal on Friday, contact Tony at <[humbird2@blackfoot.net](mailto:humbird2@blackfoot.net)>** Saturday night we share an extravaganza of food prepared by each of us in all of the many individual kitchens. We also encourage people to dress in typical dress of the countries in which they served, to add an even more international flair to the evening. Receipt of registration will be confirmed in writing and this is when we will let everyone know about the Friday night meal.

The registration fee of \$75 includes the use of the many recreational facilities the camp has, from canoes to volleyball and ping pong. It also includes use of the conference center where we meet and have our meals. For those of you with families you will note on the registration form a detailed breakdown of fees for the separate age groups.

**If you have any questions you can email them to <[wmrpcv@yahoo.com](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)>.**

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**2014 Goat Chase Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps country and years of service \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps job title \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults, age 13 and above x \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children between 5 & 12 x \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children under 5 free \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Registration Fees \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

WMRPCV only \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs and send to:**

**Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803**

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# Western Montana RPCV News

1729 North Avenue West  
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV OR NPCA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps country of service \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Corps job title \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\*Membership dues expire in June of each year unless you are an NPCA member through the Western MT RPCVs.\*\****

- \_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV only, \$15.00
  - \_\_\_\_\_ National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV \$50.00
  - \_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Free membership to all serving Peace Corps Volunteers – This membership, good for service term plus one year after COS, can be activated online by PCVs in the field.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ First time free - Any RPCV who has never been a member before may join for one year for free.
- TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs and send to:  
Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803**