



Western Montana RPCV News

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 17
6 PM
Potluck/Christmas Party 525
Fairview**

**JANUARY POTLUCK
TBA**

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD
FAIR
TBA**

**JUNE 9,10,11
2017 Goat Chase**



On October 6, fifteen Peace Corps Volunteers were sworn in by Ambassador John Hoover in Port Loko after 9 weeks of living with Sierra Leone host families learning local culture, language and to practice teaching. At the ceremony, Mr. Joseph Sesay Director of Education, Port Loko, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, told a moving story of how a Peace Corps Volunteer had played a critical role in keeping him in school when he was a young child. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for Peace Corps," he told the volunteers and guests. These volunteers join 8 Response Volunteers who had arrived in March making a total of 23 Americans currently serving as teachers across Sierra Leone.

President's message:

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Happy holidays everyone. I am putting the above picture in our newsletter because this was the first group of volunteers back in Sierra Leone after the Ebola outbreak, and we have a lot of people in our group who served Sierra Leone and still have contacts there,

On to more local topics I want to thank Joe Elliot (Kenya 71-73) and Nancy Volle for hosting the September Potluck where we got introduced to Terri Nichols, the new Peace Corps representative on campus. Also thanks to everyone who attended the potluck at my place on October. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and most of you can make it to the December potluck/Christmas Party at Jim and Melissa's on December 17.

Also thanks to the people who attended the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center's Peace Party and fundraiser in the name of the Western Montana RPCVs. We once again had a great turnout and were happy to support such a fine organization.

And finally, don't forget that we still have calendars left to complete our fundraiser. The calendar order form is on page 5 and a thank you from one of our projects last year is on page 3.

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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 its creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to:

Dennis Bangs 1729
North Ave. West,
Missoula, MT 59801,
<wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

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

OFFICERS:

President/ Newsletter
Editor: Dennis Bangs
549-1631
wmrpcv@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Mary Younger
251-2292
mmjyounger@aol.com

Missoula Area Rep:
Tony Hoyt 726-3384
humbird2@blackfoot.net

Helena Area Rep:
Julie Dietrich Kelly
(406) 444-1344
jdnmk@yahoo.com

Emissary Contact Bunny
Sims 728-4316
bbsims2@yahoo.com

Campus Representative
243-2839
peacecorps@umontana.edu

*The following is from the spring of 2015, but I thought it would be a nice thing to share.
The editor*

Governor Bullock Announces Montana as First State in the West to Become Employer of National Service

Montana Encouraging AmeriCorps and Peace Corps Alumni to Explore Careers with State Government

Helena, MT—Today, Governor Steve Bullock announced that Montana is the first state in the west, and the second in the nation, to become an Employer of National Service. As an Employer of National Service, the State of Montana is taking steps to encourage AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni to apply for careers with Montana State government.

“AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni in Montana have an invaluable work ethic and transferrable skills to communities throughout the state, all while embodying the commitment to help their neighbors in need,” said Governor Steve Bullock. “I am proud that the state is taking steps to keep these dedicated Montanans in Montana, so that we can engage an energetic workforce and build a more effective government.”

Governor Bullock made the announcement alongside Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and [Community Service](#) (CNCS), the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, during their keynote addresses at the annual [ServeMontana Symposium](#) yesterday evening. They were joined by AmeriCorps members serving in Montana, the Commission on Community Service, and AmeriCorps VISTA alumni. “By taking this step, Montana is making a smart move to attract talented, dedicated, and experienced leaders to work in state government,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “I applaud Governor Bullock for his leadership in making Montana an Employer of National Service. His actions send a signal around the country that Montana wants AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni to put their skills and experience to work on behalf of all Montanans.”

“Returned Peace Corps volunteers and AmeriCorps alumni have the skills, dedication and commitment that employers today are looking for,” Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “The state of Montana has a rich history with the Peace Corps, and we are grateful for Governor Bullock’s support to further our collaboration so volunteers can continue their service in Montana communities.”

Altogether, more than 1.1 million Americans have served in AmeriCorps and Peace Corps. Since 1994, more than 8,800 AmeriCorps members have served more than 8.5 million hours in Montana. This year, 520 AmeriCorps members are providing intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing community needs across Montana.

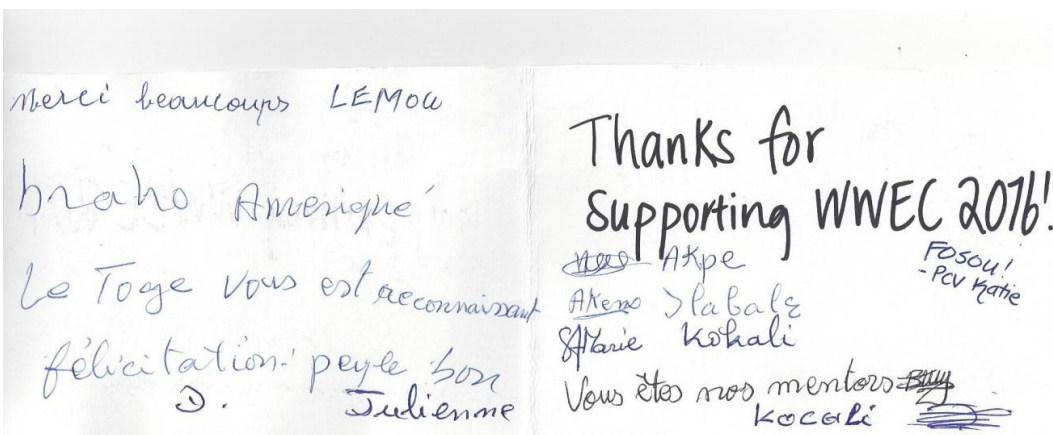
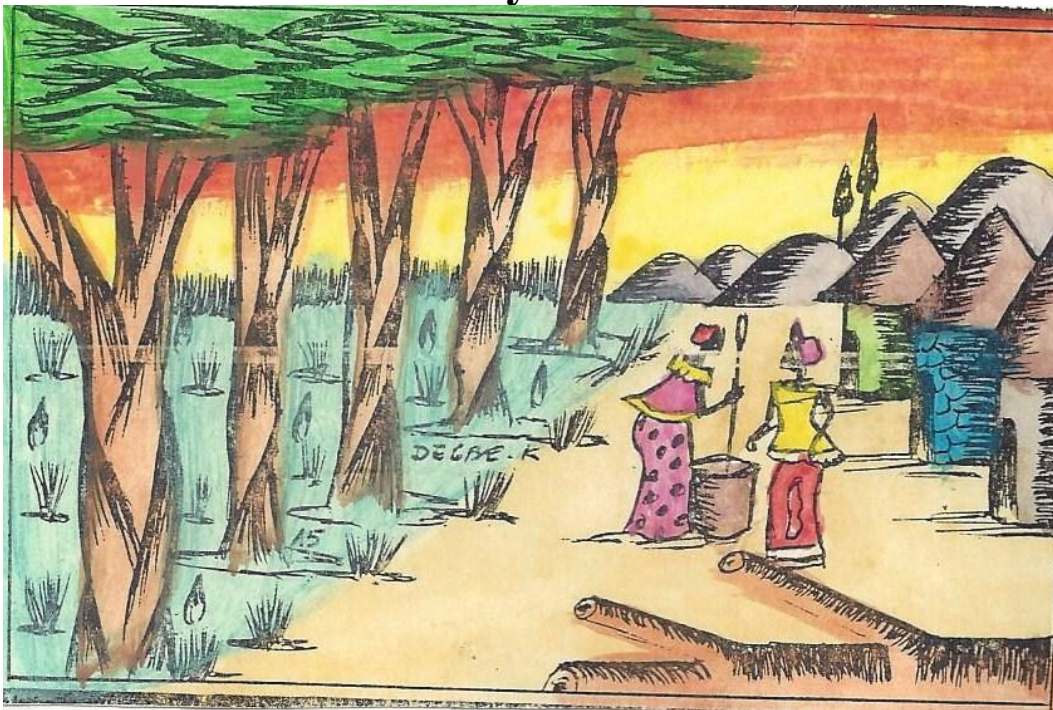
Approximately 40 citizens from Montana are currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers around the world. A total of almost 1,400 Montana volunteers have served in the Peace Corps since it was established in 1961. In 2014, Montana ranked 7th in the nation per capita for sending Peace Corps volunteers, with Missoula ranking 2nd per capita among metropolitan areas.

Since its launch, more than 170 companies, nonprofits, and public agencies have signed on as Employers of National Service. Virginia was the first state to sign on. Disney, Comcast, CSX, Sodexo, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the cities of Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Nashville have also signed on to be Employers of National Service.

Togo | Let Girls Learn | Women's Wellness and Empowerment Conference 2016

The Women's Wellness and Empowerment Conference (WVEC) is a national conference held annually in Togo. WVEC is a 10-day conference that invites enthusiastic women who have shown leadership potential in their respective villages to attend seminars and skill-building sessions relating to gender equality, women's rights, and health. The theme for WVEC 2016 was "Female Leaders for a Better Future." WVEC 2016's goal is to create capable mentors for current and future generations as they raise girls' enrollment and completion of school.

Thank you card:



Above is a thank you letter from one of the projects our calendar sales supported last year. For more information on the projects the calendar sales support please go to the website <www.wmprcv> and look under the "Projects" page. Also don't forget that there are still some calendars left to sell. You can see the order form on page 5.

The following is an email from Erin Ericson, the regional recruiter for Peace Corps in Seattle who is leaving her position. Erin has been a treat to work with as an important connection between Peace Corps, the University of Montana and the Western Montana RPCVs

Dear Western Montana RPCVs,

Greetings from Seattle. As the Montana Regional Peace Corps Recruiter (for one more day) I am truly honored and fortunate to have connected with many active Western Montana RPCVs over the last 5 years. As many of you already know my position with Peace Corps ends on Friday, November 18th.

Future Montana Peace Corps Recruiter contact: The Seattle Regional Peace Corps office is in the process of hiring a new recruiter in the next few months to cover the states of Montana & Idaho. As soon as this person is hired on and on board the future Montana recruiter's name & contact info can be found at www.peacecorps.gov/recruiters.

In the meantime, anyone from Montana interested in learning about becoming a PCV (or with any general questions) can reach out to Terri Nichols, the University of Montana Campus Representative. If Terri is unavailable (off for a well deserved break), please contact the Seattle Peace Corps office at 206-553-5490 or seattle@peacecorps.gov.

UM Peace Corps Representative, Terri Nichols: Thank you all so much for bringing her into your fold and collaborating with her on multiple events at UM and in the Missoula community - especially upcoming Peace Corps Week and the Send Off party this spring.

Special thanks to El Presidente for life, Dennis Bangs for his leadership and support. Also to the Koester's for generously opening their home to RPCVs and future PCVs over the years. Lynn has also been amazing in establishing multiple partnerships with Peace Corps at the University of Montana including the former Peace Corps Master's International program and more recently a new Peace Corps Fellows graduate partnership with the UM's Global Youth Development program. Thank you for being a Peace Corps partnering advocate. Thank you to the Missoula area RPCVs who have driven long distances to cover the Peace Corps table at career fairs (ie: Tony Hoyt), been RPCV panel guest speakers, inspired youth in local high schools, volunteered in your community - all the while never shy to share your story. So many of you are "third goal" superstars and it's equally wonderful and humbling to see you in action! Missoula is # 2 in the nation per capita for producing Peace Corps Volunteers... because of all of YOU!

Thank you all for your Big Sky worthy warm hospitality and elaborate support collaborating with the Peace Corps recruiters and staff. The best part of this job has been getting to know many of you closely over the last few years. I am so grateful that I leave this position with some wonderful friends for life and I wish you all the best this life has to offer.

In sincere gratitude and lasting friendship,

ERIN ERICKSON
Regional Recruiter, ID | MT | WA
Returned Volunteer, Moldova 2007-2010
West Regional Office - Seattle
206.239.6624



Jeannette Rankin Peace Center Peace Party:

Once again 10 members of the Western Montana RPCVs participated in the annual fundraiser for the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center Peace Party. Not only is it the main fundraiser of the year for JRPC, but it is a lot of fun, with food, music, a silent auction and a live auction. Thanks again to all of the WMRPCV members who supported this fine organization and event.





The International Calendar Project began in 1987 as a way to share Peace Corps experiences with home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we live. The Calendar pictures are windows into our memories and introduce you to the people who welcomed us so warmly into their communities. Nearly every day lists important festivals, birthdays, and holidays from around the world. Since 1961 more than 200,000 Americans have spent time serving in communities overseas. The International Calendar is designed as a teaching aid, introducing varied life styles, terrain, foods, occupations, and crafts from around the world. The Calendar always features countries in which the Peace Corps is currently active or has been hosted in the past.

The Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group is proud to be a part of this partnership and has supported humanitarian efforts in Montana as well as in other countries. If you have a project you would like considered for a donation, please contact us at www.wmrpcv.com.

Cost is \$12 per calendar plus \$3 shipping and handling. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check payable to **“Western MT RPCVs”** to:

Mary Younger, WMRPCV treasurer
 100 Erika Court
 Missoula, MT 59803

2017 International Calendar Order Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ email _____

Please send me _____ calendar(s) @ \$15 each (shipping included)

Enclosed is my check total for \$ _____.



December 2016

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 _____

For NPCA membership options go to <<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/>>
Membership in the NPCA is complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community —
serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff,
former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so
long as we have accurate service and contact information for you.

_____ WMRPCV only, \$15.00

_____ WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50

_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

****Membership dues expire in June of each year.****

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

