



Western Montana RPCV News

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SATURDAY, APRIL 29. 6 PM. 100 ERIKA CT.

The “send off party” for the newly nominated PCVs

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 5:30 - 7:00 at Imagine Nation Brewery, 1151 West Broadway. Meet the Seattle Peace Corps Recruiter

**JUNE 9, 10, 11!!!!!!!
THE GOAT CHASE**



Jeanne Younger going to work in Honduras

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Happy spring everyone!!! Before I thank those that hosted previous potlucks and other events I would like to make special mention about one of our memorial WMRPCVs who died last fall. Jeanne Younger (Honduras 86-88), seen in the photo above, was a vital part of our group almost from the beginning. After having a few small gatherings in the late 80’s a few of us decided to attend the National Conference of Returned Volunteers in Eugene, Oregon in 1990. Jeanne, her daughter, Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76), Dave McGoldrick (Zaire 86-88) and I drove out for the 3 day event. We were all impressed with Jeanne’s enthusiasm for life and people. It was quite a reunion when she met some of the volunteers she had served with just a few years earlier.

When we returned, we decided to become an affiliated group of RPCVs and joined the NPCA. Jeanne lived in Helena and was our representative from Helena for years. She and her husband, Al Carpenter (Honduras 86-88) attended the first Goat Chase Retreat and were responsible for getting many of the other Helena RPCVs to attend. She met Al while in Honduras and they got married shortly after returning. She also was instrumental in selling a ton of International Calendars in Helena. She sold them to the other RPCVs as well as to her many friends and neighbors. And because she was so personable she had many friends.

Continued on next page.

Inside this Issue:

President’s Message	P1
PC Ranking	P2
Donations	P4
Goat Chase Reg.	P5

Continued from previous page.

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

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She continued to be critical to the smooth running of the kitchen at the Goat Chase and the success of the calendar sales in Helena up until shortly before she moved to Missoula to be close to Mary for the last couple of years of her life.

She will be missed. Not only for her “kitchen duties” but her amazing love of dancing, especially leading the conga line when “Hot, Hot Hot” played at the retreat.

Other notes from the President.

Thanks to Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa MacKenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) for hosting the amazing Christmas Party in December and thanks to Joe Elliott (Kenya 71-73) and Nancy Volle for hosting the January potluck. Thanks to all the folks who participated in the “story slam” for Peace Corps Week and to Bunny Sims (The Philippines 73-76) for organizing the class speakers and all who did classroom presentations.

Finally, Don’t forget the “send off” party for the newly nominated volunteers will be Saturday, April 29 at Mary’s place at 6 PM. A few more reminders will come on the email list.

The following press release came out at the beginning of the year and later another one came out showing that the U of M ranked number 7 among medium sized Universities for recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers in 2016.

Washington, D.C. Metro Area reclaims no.1 spot for first time since 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 20, 2016 – The Peace Corps today released its 2016 rankings of the top volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas across the country. For the first time in six years, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria is the largest metropolitan-area producer of volunteers, bumping longtime leader New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island to no.2 on the total volunteers list this year. Vermont and California remain no.1 on the respective per capita and total volunteer-producing states lists. Montana has also made impressive strides this year with Missoula, Montana making its first appearance since 2011 in the no.1 spot for top metro areas per capita and The Treasure State climbing to no. 3 on the list of top states per capita.

For the first time, the District of Columbia and surrounding states appear on this year’s top states per capita rankings with D.C., Maryland and Virginia sitting at no.2, no.7 and no.8, respectively. This is Maryland’s first time in recent history on both the top states per capita (no.7) and total top states (no.9) lists. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (no.6) joined fellow rankings newcomers Idaho Falls, Idaho (no.5) and East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania (no.10) on the top metro areas per capita. This year is the sixth-consecutive year that Washington State has appeared in all four ranking categories and, for the first time, shares the honor this year with Virginia and Maryland.

“During my time leading the Peace Corps, I have seen the tremendous impact that volunteers have when they share their unique hometown perspectives with the communities they serve,” said Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. “Volunteers represent our nation’s rich diversity by coming from all corners of the U.S. They are able to share our nation’s rich cultural heritage with communities around the world, leaving a legacy of peace and friendship that is timeless.”

This year’s rankings follow the launch of a refreshed Peace Corps brand platform that embraces a digitally focused communications approach to make the agency more accessible to all audiences across the United States through the platforms they already use. Sweeping reforms in the application and recruitment system ensure that Peace Corps continues to build a volunteer corps of Americans from all walks of life. Applicants will now find a simplified, more personal application process, and can learn more by visiting the Peace Corps website and connecting with a recruiter.

Below find the nation’s top 10 volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas for 2016. View the list of volunteer numbers from all 50 states here.

2016 Top States – Per Capita (# of volunteers per 100,000 residents)

1. Vermont – 8.3, 2. District of Columbia – 8.2, 3. Montana – 5.04., 4 Washington – 4.5
5. Minnesota – 4.3, 6. Alaska – 4.3, 7. Maryland – 4.0, 8. Virginia – 3.9, 8. Colorado – 3.9,
8. Oregon – 3.9, 8. Maine – 3.9, 8. Rhode Island – 3.9

2016 Top States – Total Volunteers

1. California – 916, 2. New York – 449, 3. Virginia – 328, 4. Washington – 317, 5. Florida – 313,
6. Illinois – 301, 7. Pennsylvania – 300, 8. Texas – 277, 9. Maryland – 241 10. Michigan – 239

2016 Top Metropolitan Areas – Per Capita (# of volunteers per 100,000 residents)

1. Missoula, MT – 12.3, 2. Burlington-South Burlington, VT – 8.3, 3. Olympia, WA – 8. 4. Santa Fe, NM – 6.7, 5. Idaho Falls, ID – 6.4, 6. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV – 6.3,
7. Boulder, CO – 6.3, 8. Madison, WI – 6.2 8. Bremerton-Silverdale, WA – 6.2
10. East Stroudsburg, PA – 6.0, 10. Iowa City, IA – 6.0

2016 Top Metropolitan Areas – Total Volunteers

1. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV – 386
2. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA – 379
3. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA – 283
4. Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI – 245
5. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI – 180
6. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA – 178
7. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH – 176
8. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD – 154
9. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA – 140
10. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA – 136

*Peace Corps data current as of September 30, 2016. The metropolitan area data used to determine Peace Corps' rankings are derived from the most current U.S. Census Bureau "Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area" data. Volunteers self-report their home city and state on their Peace Corps application.

Montana NPCA advocacy:

Last month we got a new volunteer for the position of NPCA advocate for the State of Montana. Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) is now in contact with the NPCA advocacy person and will be contacting us when there is a specific action NPCA would like us to partake in. In the meantime, if you want to check out what NPCA is doing you can go to their website <peacecorpsconnect.org>

End of the year reports:

On the following page you can see the report about the international projects that we supported last year from the money we raised selling the International Calendars. The WMPCV group also provided funds for a variety of humanitarian efforts locally as well as in other Montana communities. In addition to the report on the projects, Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76), our treasurer also puts together the financial report for the year and the membership numbers for the year. In order to see these reports you can check out the website at <wmrpcv.com> and go to the 'Financial and Activities Reports' page.

Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

2016 Donations

International:



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

Lesotho | Primary School Expansion Project A remote mountain school serves seven villages and has been in need of expanding for several years because of the steadily increasing student enrollment.

Heifer International:

Bolivia - Gift of a Llama



Nicaragua World Mural Project

Peace Corps Partnership Project – To create a brightly colored world map mural that will increase global literacy in rural Nicaragua. It will provide teachers with a reusable resource to assist in teaching more interactive and globally-oriented lessons.

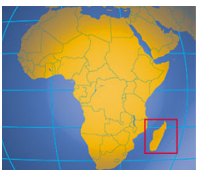
THAILAND GIRL'S EMPOWERMENT:

TECHNOLOGY Peace Corps Partnership - The Girl's

Empowerment: Technology 2017 Project is a multi-phase plan aimed to expose as many Thai youth, teachers and future teachers to computer science in a way that is fun and creative. It has been designed to expand access to education for girls in Thailand as part of the Let Girls Learn Program.



Books For Africa - Books For Africa ships books to people in Africa who are eager to read and learn. **200 Books For Two Classrooms**



Madagascar | Maternity Ward at the Community Health Clinic
Peace Corps Partnership Project

Missoula Medical Aid: Honduras

Missoula Medical Aid works with rural and impoverished communities in Honduras as they seek to improve health and access to health care.



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Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Annual

GOAT CHASE RETREAT JUNE 9-11

The Western Montana RPCVs annual meeting and retreat will be the second weekend of June. We will once again be coming together on the shore of scenic Flathead Lake at the United Methodist Church 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. **We are going to continue with the tradition of a mini-international potluck for the Friday night meal. Tony Hoyt 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 him at <humbird2@blackfoot.net> or 360-9938.**

The registration fee of \$90 includes the cost of lodging, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. For those of you with children you will notice a change in the fee structure. This reflects the changes that come from the camp but still include the use of the many recreational facilities the camp has, from canoes to volleyball and ping pong. It also includes use of the retreat center where we meet and have our meals.

If you have any questions you can email them to <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>.

2017 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 \$90.00 _____

Children between 7 & 12 x \$45.00 _____

Children between 4 & 6 x\$30 _____

Children 3 & under free _____

Total Registration Fees _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: WMRPCV only \$15.00 _____

WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50 _____

TOTAL _____

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

Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803



March 31, 2017

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**