



Western Montana RPCV News

Volume 6 #4

December, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, January 14
January Potluck at Russ
and Shannon's 236
Dixon 6 PM

Peace Corps week
March 1 - 8

JUNE 8, 9, 10 2018 !!!!!!!
THE GOAT CHASE ON
FLATHEAD LAKE



Christmas Party & White Elephant gift exchange

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President's message

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

The end of the year in western Montana sees the end of another year of activity for the Western Montana RPPCVs. I want to begin by thanking the hosts of the recent potlucks. Bruce and Bunny Sims (The Philippines 73-76) hosted the October potluck with a Halloween focus. Thanks to their enthusiasm and graciousness they got a good turnout, even though it was a long drive into the country for lots of folks. Once again Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa Mackenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) hosted the December potluck with a great turnout and a fun White Elephant gift exchange.

Thanks also to all of the people who sold the international calendars for our annual fundraiser. We sold over 300 calendars again this year so we were able to support numerous causes including a project in Morocco by PCV Micah Marshall. I have included a thank you letter from him with a picture on the inside of the newsletter.

On a final note I want to thank you all for all of the nice things you have said to me over the years about this newsletter, but I have decided I need to let someone else take it over. I have enjoyed doing it but I feel like it is time for someone else to bring a new and creative perspective to our quarterly communication.

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:

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

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Festivities at the October/Halloween Potluck

One of our own at First Friday Art Walk:

First Friday photo show.

Diann Stewart (Uzbekistan 04-05) will be the featured artist at the Berkshire Hathaway offices on January 5th as part of the First Friday art walk in downtown Missoula starting at 5 pm. Following is a statement about the show.

Photographer Diann Stewart
"People from Around the World"

Photographer Diann Stewart documents her travels over the last 50 years in 55 different countries. "I have learned to see the world through a photographer's eye, which helps me see all the beauty and wonder around the world."

I will also have a slide show running showing my nature pictures. The pictures will be up all month so if people can't make First Friday they can come sometime during the month.

Thanks, Diann



From Micah Marshall

Hello RPCVs of Missoula,

I hope this message finds you all well. During the November school break 20 youth, 5 Moroccan counterparts, a fellow PCV and myself successfully summited Mt Toubkal- the final part of our hiking project. I couldn't have been prouder of all the kids for making it to the top of the highest mountain in North Africa. The manager of the upper refuge commented on how the hikers that come there are always just European tourists, accompanied by Moroccan guides, and upper class Moroccans. It was a once in a lifetime experience for us all.

The hike took 4 days and was about 40 kilometers long. We couldn't have asked for better weather, it has been unseasonably warm and dry. We had crisp clear days all the way to the top. Different leadership activities were completed each day, including a gender roles discussion with our mixed gender group of students and counterparts. In the final night we had a discussion about the change we saw in ourselves after completing the program and what we now know about our abilities after conquering a 4,000 plus meter high mountain. It was by the far the best week of my Peace Corps Service.

Thank you all so much for your contributions to our program. Here are some pictures from our trip.

From Peace Corps

December 14, 2017

Peace Corps Announces Top Volunteer-Producing States and Metropolitan Areas in 2017

WASHINGTON – The Peace Corps today released its 2017 rankings of the top volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas across the country. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is again the largest metropolitan-area producer of volunteers, after losing that designation to current No. 2 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria in 2016.

For the second straight year, Missoula, Montana, holds the No. 1 spot for top metro areas per capita, followed by No. 2 Charlottesville, Virginia, which last made the annual rankings in 2011. Ithaca, New York (No. 3), Fort Collins, Colorado (No. 5), and Ann Arbor, Michigan (No. 9), also returned to the per capita metros list in 2017.

The District of Columbia became the No. 1 state per capita while California retained its No. 1 position on the total volunteer-producing states list. Washington State, Virginia, and Maryland appear in all four ranking categories.

“Peace Corps volunteers come from all corners of our nation to create grassroots level change in our world,” said Peace Corps Chief Executive Officer Sheila Crowley. “Volunteers share their hometown values and perspectives with the host communities they serve, an intercultural exchange that leaves a legacy of peace and friendship. We are deeply grateful to the extraordinary communities in the US which produce citizens with such a strong sense of purpose.”

The Peace Corps is unique among service organizations because our volunteers live and work at the community level. Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Applicants can apply to specific programs 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 2017. View the list of volunteer numbers from all 50 states here.

2017 Top States – Per Capita (# of volunteers per 100,000 residents)

1. District of Columbia – 8.8
2. Vermont – 6.7
3. **Montana – 4.9**
4. Oregon – 4.3
4. Rhode Island – 4.3
6. Virginia – 4.2
7. Maryland – 4.1
7. Washington – 4.1
9. Maine – 4.0
10. Colorado – 3.9
10. Minnesota – 3.9

2017 Top States – Total Volunteers

1. California – 873
2. New York – 485
3. Florida – 355
4. Virginia – 352
5. Texas – 327
6. Illinois – 325
7. Washington – 300
8. Pennsylvania – 296
9. Michigan – 266
10. Maryland – 250

MISSOULA #1 AGAIN

2017 Top Metropolitan Areas – Per Capita (# of volunteers per 100,000 residents)

1. Missoula, MT – 11.9
2. Charlottesville, VA – 9.9
3. Ithaca, NY – 9.8
3. Boulder, CO – 9.8
5. Fort Collins-Loveland, CO – 9.7
6. Burlington-South Burlington, VT – 9.5
7. Olympia, WA – 7.9
8. Madison, WI – 7.4
9. Ann Arbor, MI – 7.3
10. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV – 7.2

2017 Top Metropolitan Areas – Total Volunteers

1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA – 418
2. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV – 403
3. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA – 273
4. Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI – 258
5. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH– 182
6. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA – 175
7. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI – 174
8. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD – 154
9. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA – 147
10. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA – 126

*Peace Corps data current as of September 30, 2017. 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.

About the Peace Corps: The Peace Corps sends Americans with a passion for service abroad on behalf of the United States to work with communities and create lasting change. Volunteers develop sustainable solutions to address challenges in education, health, community economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their Peace Corps experience, volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 230,000 Americans of all ages have served in 141 countries worldwide.



Western Montana RPCV News

1729 North Avenue West
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV

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 \$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**