

WCPCA Board Meeting, 1/10/16, New Day Bakery, call to order at 6:10 p.m. by Julia

PRESENT: Julia Harvey, president; Gary Cornelius, secretary; Dale Morse, treasurer; Nikki Ulrich, membership coordinator/UC PC recruiter; Patty Mac Afee, Laurette Garner . . . **ABSENT:** Wayne Thompson, James Cloutier, Juliet Bender, Denise Silfee (currently working in Sudan)

- 1) **Nikki discussed software/website issues**, an ongoing problem for some time – she says there are two options for dealing with the access problems: change to a Google program she is familiar with, or pay to meet with someone from NetCorps. She recommends, and there is consensus, to move away from Site 5, our ISP/host, and believes the larger solution is to redesign the website in ways to address the problems. Board agrees w/the suggestion to put an article in the next newsletter seeking assistance from the membership to re-do the website. Nikki will write the article.
- 2) **Discussion about the annual “nom party”** (which isn’t really an accurate description any longer since changes in Peace Corps’ screening process have eliminated nominees as we have always defined them. Rather, it would recognize anyone who is interested, who had applied, who is awaiting word from PC, etc.). Agreed it will be in May and that a budget of \$300 should suffice. The Longhouse is not available this year, so Nikki will see if Gerlinger Hall is available, on a week-day night, 6-8 p.m., exact date to be determined. One idea for a program is a panel of RPCVs to talk about their experiences and answer questions.
- 3) **Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service**. . . Nikki is seeking students, RPCVs and others to participate in a project on 1/18/16 for about two hours in concert with the City of Eugene on a community garden.
- 4) **Planning/discussion about events for 2016**, such as the usual several potlucks, including:
 - one in March with a presentation by an RPCV who lives in Florence and has volunteered to present about recent volunteer work in Guinea (Sandy Belson, Samoa 2000-03) . She served in Guinea as a PC Response volunteer. We could find a place for her to stay overnight;
 - a 2-night camping trip for RPCV families at a Lane County area group camp, possibly in August;
 - another wine event in the fall. Sweet Cheeks Winery in rural SW Eugene is mentioned as a possible site;
 - Schedule more of the increasingly popular pub nights;
 - Another “Curry Dinner for a Cause” in the fall since we were successful with the one in December, date to be determined.
- 5) **Laurette will take over the newsletter**, effective immediately, with Denise in Sudan with spotty Internet access.

- 6) **Book Group meetings are scheduled** for the year, starting with February's "Thirteen Months of Sunshine," about service in Ethiopia, 1962-64; and March's "To Make a Difference, A Peace Corps Memoir," by WCPCA's own Julie Woods Olson.
- 7) **Register Guard op-ed or letter** -- Gary discusses an email conversation he had w/WCPCA member Dorothy Soper, who suggested a letter to the editor or an op-ed piece, over the name of the WCPCA Board, showing that many local RPCVs served in countries with Muslim populations and had good experiences. She suggests this because of all the discussion, at many levels but especially by presidential candidates, about statements suggesting Muslims should be banned from entering the U.S. There is considerable discussion about this and ultimately there is consensus that individual RPCVs are encouraged to write about their own experiences, if they choose, but that the board is not comfortable at this time submitting an essay on behalf of WCPCA.
- 8) **Curry dinner and calendar** sales reports: The dinner is declared a success. We cleared just over \$1900 after expenses. . . . Gary also reports we sold all 100 of our PC calendars, the last four tonight at the meeting, clearing, per Patty, \$625.
- 9) **Treasurer's report** – Patty reports \$2262.99 in the checking account; \$1994.60 in the savings account; \$2669.86 in restricted funds, and \$28,560.22 in the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund, the proceeds of which help fund PCP Projects. . . other sources of income include membership dues: \$1204.19; book sales: \$182.99; and donations: \$461.25. Dale Morse will now assume treasurer duties, including prep of a proposed 2016 budget for consideration at the next board meeting. . . Julia will write to Tricia Tate, long-time friend of Beryl and honorary WCPCA member, to report status of the memorial fund. . . it's also suggested it would be a good idea to profile Beryl in an upcoming newsletter.

ADDENDUM: In an email vote 12/9/15, Gary, Patty, Denise, Nikki, Wayne and Juliet voted in favor of a motion to fund the GLOW/Let Girls Learn project in Gambia, to the tune of \$750, by C. Bremner, a PCV from Southern Oregon. This was the project identified as the one to benefit most from the 12/5/15 curry dinner fundraiser. Motion passed 6-0.