



Board Meeting
Saturday, October 22, 2016
12:00-2:00pm
Hosted by Amy Ross in Santa Cruz

Present:

In person: Lie Njie, Amy Ross, Terry Vogt, Meredith Miller Vostrejs, Glenn Anaiscourt, and Marilyn Hyde (Grants Chair), Noah Brod (Member)

Via conference call: Jacqueline Sloves, Ella Dowell, Vern Phillips and Glenn Blumhorst (NPCA President)

Absent: Jane Ferguson, Dorothy Herzberg, Nichole Clark

The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm.

Approval of minutes

The September Board meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Grants Committee Recommendation

Marilyn Hyde, Chair of the Grants Committee, presented a recommendation of 5 projects to fund for 2016, requesting the NorCal Board of Directors vote to approve the release of grant funds totaling \$7,350.

Out of 12 proposals reviewed, the following 5 projects were selected to fund:

- \$2,000 for the African Library Project (ALP) a local no-profit that works with PCVs, to purchase 30 sets of HIV/AIDS readers for use in school libraries in southwest Kenya.
- \$2,000 to the Dokotoro Project, a volunteer organization founded by Mali RPCVs based in Richmond, CA led by NorCal Member Matt Heberger, to translate and publish the book Where There Is No Doctor (Hesperian Health Guides) into Bambara.
- \$2,000 to Build a School in Burma, founded by RPCV Andrew Lederer of Los Altos, CA, to build two new school latrines and provide potable water.
- \$850 to Young Community Health Workers in Tsarasambo, Madagascar, a club of young people facilitated by Health Adviser and current PCV Jenna Smith from Pacifica, CA, for gardening tools and materials, art and mural supplies, and readers in their Malagasy language.
- \$500 to the Children's Center in Baluti Village, Blantyre, Malawi, proposed by Hayward, CA RPCV Elaine Low, RPCV Malawi 2007-2009, for windows and other building infrastructure.
- A project approved in 2015 but did not have its fund released will also be receiving its previously approved \$2,000 for composting latrines in Panama.

Grants Committee Members are: Theresa Cameranesi, San Francisco; Dorrie Dodge, North Bay; Jillian Geissler, San Francisco; Marilyn Hyde, Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay, Committee Chair; Rick Kaye, North Bay, Agriculture and Gardening Consultant; Dick Morten, San Francisco; Susan Neyer, East Bay; Meredith Miller Vostrejs, Board Liaison; Tara Trepanier Gill, South Bay.

Marilyn also noted the grants committee raises funds through calendar sales and donations, which may be suffering due to lack of e-newsletters to raise awareness. The Board agreed to assist with grants PR in the end-of-year paper newsletter.

Action: The Board unanimously approved the release of \$7,350 for grants, with a minor correction in the handout from Marilyn re a discrepancy in project #5 info.

Peace Corps Connect

Lie provided a recap of the Peace Corps Connect conference, which had 600 participants, panels, advocacy day and peace walk. NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst called in to thank NorCal PCA for a strong delegation and contribution to PCC, and the launch of Silk Start which will help affiliate groups nationwide. Glenn read a letter sent to NorCal PCA by Joby Taylor, Chair of NPCA Board, thanking us for partnering with NPCA to launch the new membership model and database, and strengthening relations between NPCA and affiliate groups. The next PCC conference will be in Denver August 3-4, 2017 (Note new dates!)

Thanksgiving RPCV Event

The annual Thanksgiving event will take place on 11/19/16, 12:30pm - 6:30pm @ Paul and Susan's house in Mountain View. Space is limited; this is only for recently returned volunteers (within 18 months) and two facilitators. Currently attendance is 1/3 full.

➔ Encourage recent RPCVs to RSVP to Lie ASAP.

Open Board Positions

Due to Justina Wu and Tara Trepanier Gill's resignations, effective immediately in October, there are two open positions on the Board until elections in January. Lie recommended filling the at-large vacant seat with Noah Brod, an active member and recent transplant to the Bay Area, having most recently returned from his Peace Corps service in El Salvador where he served with his wife Hilary.

Action: The Board unanimously approved Noah Brod to fill the at-large board director position until the AGM elections in January.

Bay Area International Development Meetup

The group Bay Area International Development Meetup requested to partner with NorCalPCA and receive \$50/year to support their meetup costs. The group was established five years ago and is currently managed by Hannah Katz. It currently has 1,672 members and has events about twice/month. Learn more at:

<http://www.meetup.com/Bay-Area-International-Development-Group/>

The Board discussed the pros and cons of providing funding for another group, and decided that the opportunities for RPCV networking and potential increase in NorCal membership was worth the small investment.

Action: The Board unanimously approved the release of \$50 to the Bay Area International development Meetup group.

AGM Planning

The 2017 NorCalPCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Saturday January 28. Glenn and Lie volunteered to be on the AGM planning committee; other volunteers are needed! Themes were discussed, including the "PC Experience" following the lifecycle of a PCV. Suggested activities include: festival of cultures, computers to display silk start/new web site, refugees topic, food, music, and optional post-event bar crawl and overnight at the hostel. A key goal is to attract RPCVs across generations.

➔ An affordable, centrally located venue in SF still needs to be found.

Bylaws Change Committee

Last December the board agreed to ask the membership to update the bylaws at the 2017 AGM, including removing the hard requirement currently in the bylaws that the AGM be held always on the last Saturday of January. Other changes have also been proposed this year to reduce confusion. Bylaws changes need to be sent to the membership 30 days before the AGM and voted on at the AGM. Glenn will be leading a "Bylaws Committee" to draft and then propose the suggested changes to the membership via email at least 30 days before the AGM.

➔ Anyone wishing to participate in this committee should contact Glenn.

SilkStart Website Update

Ella provided a brief update on SilkStart. NorCal and Members are posting events on the website. We want to continue welcoming member events, however it has been identified that we would like to identify the affiliated RPCV and provide guidelines for posting. Ella drafted member event guidelines for the Board to review. The Board agreed to allow Ella to post guidelines, taking into account Board feedback, and identify where best to insert the guidelines online. The Board also requested a disclaimer be included so NorCal is not responsible for member events.

Board Elections

A key goal of the upcoming Board elections is to make them more participatory. Ideally we will have more than one candidate for each opening; those that do not win a seat can still contribute their skills and passions through volunteering. Lie is running the Board election committee, which includes advertising the elections, developing the ballot online and in-person, and running the election at the AGM. The deadline to announce candidacy will be 12/15/16.

The Board discussed desired skills/needs for the incoming Board: treasurer, communications, speakers match, regional reps, young professionals, grants liaison. The importance of harnessing Board members' skills and passions and retaining members was also noted.

- ➔ Each Board Member is encouraged to have Board info sessions in their regions and promote robust participation in the upcoming elections.
- ➔ Lie will coordinate a call-in meeting/webinar for potential candidates.

Membership/Donation Drives

Membership dollars are down to due to the change in membership structure. A membership/donation drive is needed; a big end-of-year push is planned.

- ➔ Terry will coordinate a paper membership push before end of year.

Financial Updates

Terry will support finances until a new treasurer is elected, to replace Tara. The Board thanked Tara for her amazing work getting the finances and budget in order. Terry was also thanked for his time and donations to cover the bookkeeping expenses. By the next meeting Terry will: set up an investment account, make the Calvert micro-enterprise investment, and identify alternatives to Wells Fargo (ideally to a bank more mission-driven and with an online portfolio for investments). Thanks to Tara and Terry our taxes will be filed ahead of schedule.

Beyond Borders

The conversation about the status of Beyond Borders (BB) vis-à-vis NorCal PCA and the ownership of BB assets continued. NorCal has most videos through last month but does not have access to passwords and control of the BB You Tube, Google and Mail Chimp accounts. The Board agreed that the BB assets belong to NorCal, and felt it needed to take a firm stand to ensure ownership and control of BB assets and accounts on behalf of BB participants to date that have participated in and signed waivers for this as a project under NorCal PCA. The Board discussed the pros and cons of legal action, arbitration and negotiation.

Glenn read an email from Justina and Will on behalf of the BB team. It stated: the BB team believes they own the video content yet say it is ok with NorCal embedding videos in the NorCal website from my[e.g. Will's] youtube account; BB do not wish to use a NorCal URL; and have not made a decision about becoming a legal entity.

Action: The Board unanimously approved to: 1) immediately stop the BB team's access to You Tube, Google and Mail Chimp accounts; 2) Draft a legal letter (Glenn will coordinate) paraphrasing the facts as we see them regarding NorCal ownership and access to BB assets to date; and 3) Terry will meet with the BB team.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.