



Board Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Hosted by Noah and Hilary Brod

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Alameda, CA

Present:

In Person: Lie Njie (The Gambia, 2005-08), Noah Brod (El Salvador, 2013-15), Vern Philips (Morocco, 1972-74), Glenn Anaiscourt (Gabon, 2002-06), Terry Vogt (Brazil, 1968-71)

Via Conference Call: Jane Ferguson Flout (Benin, 1988-90), Ella Dowell (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2011-15), Meredith Vostrejs (Eastern Caribbean, 1995-97), Amy Ross (Paraguay, 2009-11; Santa Cruz)

Absent: Dorothy Herzberg (Nigeria, 1961-63)

Guests included NorCalPCA board candidates as follows:

Martha Stein (Ecuador, 2001-03);

Holly Uber (Cameroon, 2002-04);

Lila Holzman (Panama, 2012-14);

Jeff Wendall (Moldova, 2008-2010);

Kristen Borash (Madagascar, 2013-15);

Gary Chen (Ethiopia, 2009-13);

Michael Hotard (Kazakhstan, 2008-11);

Sandrena Frischer (Ecuador, 2014-16).

Other guests included Hilary Brod (El Salvador, 2013-15) and Isaac Pearlman (Peru, 2005-07).

Social Component: Noah and Hilary provided El Salvadoran treats before the meeting; afterwards board members and candidates adjourned for a meet and greet at a nearby brewery.

Approval of Minutes

Board member Glenn Anaiscourt made a motion to approve the November 2016 minutes and the December 2016 minutes with changes recommended by Ella Dowell regarding Silkstart and Pete Johnson regarding calendar sales. The board unanimously approved the November and the December minutes.

Welcoming Board Candidates:

Board President Lie Njie welcomed board candidates and introduced them to current board members. Each person present introduced themselves, their country of service and where they live now.

Silkstart Update

Lie Njie described the new website platform, Silkstart, to board candidates, describing its benefits including having a third party now running our website so NorCalPCA no longer has to handle our own IT; and allowing us to have a tiered membership model from free to higher donation levels.

Elections

There are 13 applications for the 9 open board seats. The board seats can go up to 15 total seats per the organization's bylaws. Considering that there are more applications than open seats, we could have alternates for positions so if a regular board member is not present at a meeting their alternate can vote in their place. If a board member resigns, his or her alternate can step into the vacated seat. As well someone may wish to have a role outside of the board such as chairing a committee. The election for the new board members will occur at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 28, 2017.

Lie Njie briefly described board requirements: (1) board members are expected to attend the monthly board meeting. If the draft bylaws are approved by the membership at the AGM: if a board member misses one-third of the meetings in any six-month period they are automatically terminated from the board; (2) in addition to attending the monthly board meetings, board members are expected to contribute 10 hours of additional time each month; (3) every board member hosts one board meeting.

Action

Lie Njie moved to increase the board seats from 13 to 15; Terry Vogt seconded the motion; and the board unanimously approved.

Newsletter content for Annual General Meeting

The communications platform of the NorCalPCA website is now ready to launch the digital format of the annual newsletter. Lie Njie asked for every board member to submit an article by next week.

Finances

Terry Vogt, Board member and Treasurer, reported NorCalPCA's total revenue to be \$48,508.32 with \$17,000 of that amount restricted to grants and \$30,000 to be invested in series of funds previously agreed by the board as reflected in the September 2016 minutes. NorCalPCA is planning on moving our banking from Wells Fargo to First Beneficial Bank. Terry said a description of NorCalPCA's financial position and investments will be included in the upcoming newsletter.

Board member Vern Philips asked if there was an income stream from the new tiered membership model. Terry responded that donations have so far been better than the same period last year and anticipates the results will continue to improve as we develop a dedicated marketing plan. Under the old membership plan, about 450 people from a 4,000-member mailing list paid a flat \$20 fee. The new tiered system allows for free membership with tiered upgrades. Without a lot of push a number of members are now contributing \$50 to \$150.

Speakers Match

Vern Philips talked about the importance of the Third Goal to get out into the community and do outreach about Peace Corps to increase Americans' understanding of other peoples and cultures through our Speaker's Match program which matches RPCVs with local schools and other community groups that want an RPCV to share their Peace Corps experience. Board member Meredith Vostrejs said she has not been successful in her volunteer role of connecting people to the Peace Corps'

national Speakers Match program because she has not been able to give it the time it deserves. She noted that NorCalPCA's Speakers Match program needs more attention. Vern Philips observed that the work required to run the program is why NorCalPCA previously had a paid position to coordinate the program. NorCalPCA transitioned the program from a paid staff person because it was not financially sustainable for NorCalPCA to support paid staff. The board agreed to publicize the need for a volunteer to coordinate the Speakers Match program as well as have sign-ups for this opening at the Annual General Meeting. Lie Njie said he would talk to Jayma Brown, NorCalPCA's former board president and current volunteer coordinator for the organization, about this need.

Planning for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Festival of Cultures

Lie Njie applauded the outstanding leadership of Glenn Anaiscourt as well as all the NorCalPCA members who have stepped forward so far to support the planning and implementation of the Annual General Meeting and Festival of Cultures. The AGM/Festival is scheduled January 28, 2017 at the Mission Pool and Playground Clubhouse in San Francisco. Glenn Anaiscourt went step-by-step in describing the list of material and volunteer needs of the event and recruited volunteers to help during the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Lie Njie to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm, seconded by Meredith Vostrejs, and unanimously approved by the board.