



**Board Meeting**

**November 12, 2016**

Hosted by Glenn Anaiscourt in Concord at his house  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch and Presentation (optional)  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Board Meeting

**Present:**

*In Person:* Glenn Anaiscourt, Jane Ferguson Flout, Dorothy Herzberg , Lie Njie, Vern Philips, Terry Vogt;

*Via Conference Call:* Amy Ross, Noah Brod, Jacqueline Sloves

**Absent:** Meredith Vostrejs, Ella Dowell, Nichole Clark

**Guests:** Pete Johnson and Susan Neyer

Pete is a co-founder of NorCalPCA and Chair of the Membership Committee; and Susan is a member of the NorCalPCA Grants Committee

**Social Component:**

Glenn provided lunch and gave an informal presentation on Native Americans. A discussion ensued about how NorCalPCA might become involved in helping to recognize Native American culture and traditions as well as celebrate Native American Day, which this year took place on September 23. The discussion inspired other ideas such as recognizing Navajo veterans for their service on Veterans Day as well as Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for their service.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous board meeting in October will be available by the next board meeting on December 10, 2016.

**Post-Election Reflections**

Jane Ferguson Flout invited the board to participate in a brief period of silent meditation before Lie Njie facilitated a time of conversation and sharing by board members in the wake of the presidential election. Board members appreciate the time to express their thoughts and feelings. The question arose about whether NorCalPCA should issue a statement in light of the post-election results and board members present unanimously agreed that it would be appropriate to issue a statement affirming our values of peace and cross-cultural education; and invite others to participate in our mission. Vern Philips volunteered to take the lead in drafting such a statement for the board's review.

### **Volunteer Appreciation**

A proposal from Jayma Brown, NorCalPCA's Volunteer Coordinator and former NorCalPCA president, was shared with the board. Jayma, who was not present at the board meeting, has proposed hosting a NorCalPCA volunteer appreciation gathering at her home perhaps in January, inviting board members as well as other NorCalPCA volunteers who have served on committees, hosted events, etc. Jayma would like the board's feedback as to their support of this idea and a date and time that would work for everyone.

#### **Discussion:**

Board members expressed enthusiasm about having a volunteer appreciation gathering of some kind both at Jayma's home as well as at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January. A variety of ideas were offered about how to honor outstanding volunteers and perhaps use the gathering as both a volunteer appreciation event as well as a fundraising opportunity. For example, since NorCalPCA no longer charges membership dues for NorCalPCA, we could perhaps invite people to become donor members. The board agreed to spend more time digesting these ideas and present a plan at the December 10, 2016 board meeting for a volunteer appreciation gathering including dates.

### **Treasurer's Report on Fundraising and Financials**

#### *Fundraising*

Terry Vogt, NorCalPCA's Acting Treasurer of the Board, underscored the need for creative fundraising ideas to increase the number of NorCalPCA's members who will become donors at whatever level since we are no longer charging membership dues. The board affirmed the work of new board member Noah Brod who identified through LinkedIn a significant potential pool of individuals who might be interested in joining NorCalPCA. Terry suggested that the fundraising committee develop a script for review by the board about what NorCalPCA is; and the benefits of being a member of NorCalPCA. A list of potential new members could be divided up and board members could each take three names a month to call and ask them to join NorCalPCA, using the script.

#### *Financials*

Guided by the board's desire to move NorCalPCA's bank account from Wells Fargo Bank, Terry is laying the groundwork to open a new bank account for NorCalPCA at Beneficial State Bank, a socially responsible nonprofit bank operating in California, Oregon and Washington. NorCalPCA's Wells Fargo bank account will be closed once the new account is opened. Beneficial State Bank was established in 2007 through the vision of Tom Steyer and Kat Taylor, a Bay Area philanthropic couple widely recognized as leaders in social change (to learn more about Beneficial State Bank visit <http://beneficialstatebank.com>).

Terry also advised opening an investment account at Schwab to house NorCalPCA's Legacy Fund investments under one roof since Beneficial State Bank does not offer investment banking. NorCalPCA's Legacy Fund is invested in four mutual funds, including the Calvert NPCA Microenterprise Fund, which provide NorCalPCA with long-term annual investment income (for further details on these investments see NorCalPCA's September 10, 2016 Board Minutes).

#### **Action:**

Lie Njie made the motion to approve establishing NorCalPCA's investment account at Schwab and bank account at Beneficial State Bank. The motion was seconded by Glenn Anaiscourt and unanimously approved by the board.

### **Funding for Camping Trip**

NorCalPCA member Sarah Stever wrote to the board saying that she is interested in planning and leading a camping trip for RPCVs through NorCalPCA. Her initial thoughts are for a Saturday night in June 2017 with a campsite less than two hours away and limiting the number to 16 with the potential to expand to 50 people. Sarah is happy to work with the board to provide more details and an estimated budget submitted prior to funds approval. She is looking for funding to cover basic costs of car rental, gas, and cost of camp site.

#### Discussion:

The board thought this activity fit well with NorCal's desire to encourage members to help lead activities that engage NorCalPCA members. The board discussed providing a modest advance to help the group leaders cover their initial expenses with the understanding that the group leaders will help fund their costs by asking for and collecting a small donation from participants.

#### Action:

Glenn Anaiscourt moved that NorCalPCA provide an advance of about \$300 to cover initial expenses for the camping trip that will be offset by donations collected from participants by the group leaders to cover costs. The motion was seconded by Vern Philips and unanimously approved by the board.

### **UPDATES**

#### **Silkstart and Yahoo Email Lists Updates**

NorCalPCA members can post their own events on the website. Ella Dowell, NorCalPCA's contact for the website, built the new Silkstart platform for the convenience of our members and administrators and because of its additional functionality. We hope the new platform will encourage members to create an account on our new website and log in. Ella will be closing down the old Yahoo email lists by December 2016 since they have been used only infrequently the last year.

#### **Historical Digital Assets**

In answer to questions about the location of historical digital assets now that the website has been successfully migrated to Silkstart, Lie Njie explained that the archive of photos is accessible on NorCalPCA's Flickr account; and that assets such as newsletters, eblasts, and event postings from the past 6 to 12 months are accessible on the new website. Information older than one year was not migrated because it would have required more than one hundred hours and been too labor-intensive to do so. The old website has been shut down. NorCalPCA's Google drive, which is accessible by the board, includes a host of archival material including pdfs of past newsletters and events as well as internal legal documents and contracts.

#### **Changes in Bylaws**

The Bylaws Committee, comprised of all those who expressed an interest in participating, specifically, Pete Johnson, Glenn Anaiscourt, and Lie Njie, have crafted proposed changes to the bylaws. These proposed changes, detailed in the minutes from the October 2016 board meeting, would allow for greater flexibility in setting the date of our Annual General Meetings, to account for our new membership model, and to clarify processes for certain board decisions requiring a two-thirds majority vote. The Board will review and vote on the proposed changes to the Bylaws at the December 10, 2016 board meeting. The membership will then vote on them before and during the AGM.

#### **Newsletter**

Lie Njie will be sending out the NorCalPCA Annual Newsletter to reach our readers before Christmas.

Now that the new website is up, Lie asked the board to consider whether we still want to have the monthly e-connection separate from the weekly events email or to combine them? He also would love to have volunteers help in getting and managing content for these communications.

**Annual General Meeting**

Glenn Anaiscourt updated the board that we are still looking for a location in San Francisco for the Annual General Meeting in January. He has checked out several sites and is still in search of an affordable and convenient option.

**NorCalPCA Annual Holiday Party Update.**

This year Hilary Jacobsen and NorCalPCA board member Noah Brod (El Salvador 2013) will be hosting the Annual NorCalPCA Holiday Party with a pool-side winter BBQ at their clubhouse in Alameda on Sunday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. All RPCVs are welcome and encouraged to attend. Noah will tend the BBQ and encourages people to bring side dishes and drinks and to RSVP.

A motion was made by Lie Njie to adjourn the meeting shortly after 3:00 p.m. and seconded by Jane Ferguson Flout.