



Peace Prints

The Gulf Coast Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2009-2010

P.O. Box 980393 Houston, Texas 77098-0393 www.PeaceCorpsHouston.com

A Note from the President:

I want to welcome all of you back to the GCC-RPCV. The board and I had a great 5 hour meeting discussing the next year of activities on August 30, 2009. We hope that you will come to some of our events and reconnects to continue your support for this council. I want to introduce your new board members, Lisa Reynolds, archivist and Allison Lemon will be our new special events coordinator. There is one board position open and that is the treasurer. So, if you would like to volunteer for this position, please let us know by September 30, 2009.

I recently got a confirmation letter from John Culberson thanking me for sharing my support for the Peace Corps Expansion Act that would authorize funding for Peace Corps and increase readjustment allowances for volunteers and leaders. This bill was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 13, 2009. My letter was dated April 14, 2009 so I am not sure if the bill was passed yet. I have recently signed on to Peace Corps Connect; they are now trying to reach a goal of 15,000 members so if you have a chance join it to reconnect with the world of PCV/RPCV.

Our donations to KIVA have been a great success. The GCC-RPCV board decided to pay this KIVA site 10% of the total donation for this organization to keep functioning. We loaned KIVA \$700 two years ago, and thanks to honest people borrowing it from all over the world, it has been recycled many times over. The GCC-RPCV has always been a member of the Citizens for Environmental Coalition (CEC) and recently we found out that we are also eligible to accept donations from the Green Bank. When a new client opens up a \$50,000.00 CD at Green Bank, they have a choice to donate \$50.00 to any of the non-profit group within the CEC list. We were chosen over the summer to accept this \$50.00 check from the Green Bank. Thank you so much to couple that had donated it to us. The board decided to donate it back into a PC Partnership Program. Treasurer report: \$2536.00 in the account.

The fundraiser dinner is going to be on February 28, 2010, here at my house in Meyerland again, it will be an International Theme. We were thinking about charging \$25.00 a plate to non-members and \$20.00 to members, but we felt as though we might not attract as many people. All are welcome. All of the donations are voted on by you as a group and given to a Texan PCV with a PCPP account. We want you to come so please reach Sally Koelzer skoelzer@valtera.com to let her know if you would like to attend and bring a favorite dish.

Due to a great response from our "archive party" idea last year, I purposed that we do this again. We need helpers to be scanning, shredding or organizing documents from the years previous while Lisa Reynolds will be putting them on flash drive. We want to use this night to seal some envelopes to old/new members to remind them of where they stand on their membership dues, too. So, after all of that work I am going to open the floor to one of our own members that shoots documentaries about Peace Corps. His name is Jim McClure. I was flipping around on the television and I came across one of his programs on Albania, I was very impressed and inspired from his program so I asked him to come share some of with the council. Please come help us on November 5, 2009 here at my home in Meyerland. Snacks will be served and BYOB. Please see schedule.

Our region has a new Peace Corps recruiter! Her name is Chanti Koumba and her list of activities in Houston are on our website if you would like to volunteer to help her at any of those locations. I want to say thank you to Linda Tucker that did a great job of recruiting some of the best for Peace Corps.

Stacey Abella may not be our special event contact but she is still a very active woman! She is looking for "art show" volunteers to help her and some colleagues from work to help volunteer on October 10th, 2009, for the morning shift. You get in free and receive a free T-Shirt. Please contact her to volunteer: Stacey_Abella@yahoo.com. The rafting trip was fun in Bandera, TX, that Stacey organized, please see web site for more photos. Dr. Ruth looks great and she is getting married next June, so congrats to Ruth!

Also, Allison Briggs had her baby boy, Caleb! So a big congratulations goes out to her and her family.

Please see the list of reconnects below. More information is to come on the list as we approach each event. Especially for April 2010, I would like to look into the Astros baseball group ticket sales...my idea is for the members to invite a friend to the baseball game that might not ever have a chance to attend a game. I am looking into contacting the director of this International Exchange Student Program here in Houston plus any others. If you have a great community based program that we could ask to invite please share. That is all and I will be in touch!

Sincerely,

Heidi Bacon
President GCC-RPCV
Guatemala 91-93