



RPCV's of West Michigan is established to help returned volunteers network locally and nationally, to continue volunteering with local and international service projects and to promote global education and understanding in West Michigan.

President's Memo

2012 - Momentum Builds

Thanks to all who made it to the Annual Gathering Potluck this December. You all made it a great turnout. The food was great and the fellowship was also super. We accomplished a lot this past year.

Our work days with ICCF were well supported in April and May. This has become a yearly event and you have made light work of the landscaping jobs for homes made ready for low to moderate income families.

We had a great turnout for the International Potluck Dinner. We have begun inviting the families of recently returned volunteers as well as the RPCV community which has made this a special event.

The board proposed that Lenore Bonilla take over the Secretary position for Donna Fiebelkorn, who has moved to Marquette. The group approved this change with a vote at our December meeting. We wish Donna well and hope to see here occasionally once the snow melts. The rest of the board remains the same: Mark Coleman, President, Ken Schilling, Vice President, Vickie Craig, Treasurer.

The calendar for 2013 is posted and was emailed with more information to be updated as the details fall into place for each specific event. The major events are listed on the last page. We look forward to similar sequence of events in 2013 as in the past several years. For now our International Potluck is March 2.

We need a location for our next Garage Sale in 2013. As you recall, we have had a very successful yard/garage sale every other year for 10 years or more. Our last one was in 2011 and is also the last one that we will have at our Madison St. location. This seems to be the easiest event to plan as a fundraiser. If you have a potentially good location, or another good idea, let me know. September has been a good month for this.

Thank you to all who renewed their membership with our group either locally, or nationally, this past year. Also, thank you to those who donated calendars, pickles, honey and more for resale to the group. We deposited \$237 from our December event. Thanks.

rpcv west michigan

rpcvwestmichigan.org



2012

Membership:

Please renew your membership, if you have not already done so, by visiting:

peacecorpsconnect.org

or

rpcvwestmichigan.org and download, print and mail in the local membership

Info

Stay Informed:

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CALENDAR FOR 2013

- February 24 - March 2, Peace Corps Week

- March 2 6:00pm International Potluck - Welcome/Sendoff at Our Savior Lutheran, 2900 Burton SE

- April / May Local Projects with ICCF Saturday Morning, 9am - 12pm

- August - Picnic 1pm, GR

- Nov - International Restaurant

- December 7 - Annual Meeting 6pm



We supported a library project in the Dominican Republic this past year through the Peace Corps Projects initiative. Our connection to the project was very local and we had a first hand update on the success of the work to date by the Peace Corps Volunteer from the site who was home for the holidays visiting family. She brought back photos and a big "Gracias" from the children in the village. This was the highlight of the December gathering.

I was one of 115 RPCV groups in the country who signed on a letter, on our group's behalf, to President Obama concerning Peace Corps funding and nominations for the next Director. Though support for Peace Corps is assured, there is no guarantee that the funding levels will be high enough to support a strong program. Also, it is clear that a returned Peace Corps volunteer is best suited for the Director position.

Lastly, we have had our thoughts with Sue Celadilla, who was president, and one of the key founders, of this group for many, many years before myself. Sue was in the hospital with an aortic aneurism. She is recovering at home, but didn't expect to be in that situation at 65, she said.

Mark Coleman, President

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