



Common Ground

IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS

SUMMER 2018

We are fortunate to have such an active Returned Volunteer group here in Idaho. With over 60 dues paying members and 40 regular participants to our social and volunteer activities, the IRPCVs represent a way to stay connected to the vision and mission of Peace Corps while socializing and serving with those who live close to home.

The IRPCVs have sustained active participation for twenty something years and have been lucky to continually attract new members and those interested in serving on the board. 2018 is no exception. We are happy to welcome new members to the board and are sincerely grateful to those who have chosen to remain active despite conducting busy lives full of work, family and other community service. You can read our board member bios within this newsletter and are always welcome to reach out with suggestions, questions or feedback.

This year we also said good-bye to a long-time board member, Connie Collins, who served in numerous positions on the board for many years, most recently as the Treasurer/Membership Chair. Connie dedicated countless hours (years, really) to ensuring board members had the tools they needed to keep the group moving forward and in compliance with our 501c3 status. Her organization and institutional knowledge was invaluable to us as we transitioned through new presidents, vacant positions and busy schedules. Although Connie is no longer a board member, she remains an active member and is helping us by storing the Peace Corps parade tax in her garage for the unforeseen future. We are grateful for her commitment to the group and are hopeful that she is able to enjoy her newly freed-up time.

Also included within the pages of this newsletter are countless social activities throughout the remainder of the year. Something members may find lacking, however, are volunteer opportunities. As many of you know, we had to end our volunteer commitment with the Idaho Foodbank due to lack of participation. With that in mind, please reach out to board members with your ideas and opportunities for service—we welcome members who are willing to maintain connections with community groups and can offer opportunities for both one-time and longer term service. Please contact Katie Miller, the Board President, with ideas.

Members are also welcome to join quarterly board meetings to pitch ideas, as a new member, Jess Llbis, recently did. Because of Jess' vision, we are now offering a cooking class at JUMP for those interested in learning about the culture and food of Malawi. The long term vision, however, is that other returned volunteers will want to promote the 3rd goal by offering a class about the culture and food of their host country. The sky is the limit for us and our group and we remain open to continually evolving and developing the group.

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Mark your Calendar!

JUNE

June 22—rescheduled Bon Voyage @ Cassia Park, 6pm

JULY

4th of July Parade and picnic

Jul 15—Board Meeting @ Lila's House, 10:30am

OCTOBER

Oct 7—Board Meeting @ James' House

NOVEMBER

Holiday Parade (date TBD)

DECEMBER

Holiday Party (date/location TBD)

JANUARY 2019

*Membership Dues are due
January 31st, 2019*



New Foodbank Volunteer Opportunity

My name is Luis Islas and I am an IRPCV from Peace Corps Madagascar 2015-2017! The reason I am contacting you is because a great volunteer opportunity just opened up at The Idaho Foodbank and I thought maybe some fellow IRPCV's might be interested? The Idaho Foodbank is looking for individuals to volunteer their time with the Mountain Home Country Music festival. In exchange for individuals volunteering their time, the festival will not only donate \$10 per volunteer (equivalent to 50 meals) to The Idaho Foodbank but volunteers who sign up for a 4hr shift on a single day will receive one single day general admission wristband for the day they are volunteering. Volunteers signing up for 12hrs total (one shift 4hrs per day) receive two 3-day general admission wristbands.



If you are interested and available, just go to: <https://goo.gl/bYSALy> and sign up!

Bar/Restaurant Nights

July 14th: Clairvoyant Brewery (2800 W. Idaho St.) -- 4:00 pm

August 9th: Thursday Thunder (Boise Spectrum 7609 W. Overland) -- 4:00 pm

Sep. 15th: Telaya Winery (240 E 32nd St, Garden City) -- 4:00 pm

October 20th: Sakana Japanese Sushi Bar (925 S Vista Ave) -- 5:00 pm

Nov. 17th: White Dog Brewery (705 W Fulton St.) -- 4:00 pm



President:
Katie Miller
 Guatemala 08-10
 208.957.1219
madermade@gmail.com

Katie served in the department of Sololà, Guatemala from 2008-2010 working in Sustainable Agriculture. Though she may be slowly losing her Spanish vocabulary, she's kept one thing from her service; a husband! Katie met her husband Nic, then serving as a PCV as well, during her service. Now they live in Boise and are raising two boys. Katie joined the IRPCV board in 2018 to help promote PC and encourage others to experience the impactful joys and challenges of PC service.



Service Chair:
Sonya Gregor
 Mexico 07-11
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sgreegor@gmail.com

Sonya served along with her husband, Dave, in Mexico (2007-2011). They both worked on environmental projects with SEMARNAT, the Mexican federal agency comparable to the EPA in the U.S. Sonya specifically developed and implemented solar cooking projects in 16 rural communities in the state of Queretaro, and loved working with the women of those communities. She found the people of Mexico to be incredibly kind, generous, loving and fun! Sonya and Dave have lived in Boise since 1990. They have 2 daughters and 3 grandsons. They have been members of IRPCV since 2011, enjoying the special community of returned Peace Corps volunteers, the opportunities to serve the community, and the promoting of Peace Corps.

Secretary:
Chelsea Krema
 Costa Rica 11-14
 208.216.9909
kremac@gmail.com



My name is Chelsea Krema and I am the newly elected Secretary of the IRPCV board. I served as a Rural Community Development Volunteer in Costa Rica from 2011-2014. My first day in country was March 1, 2011 - the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps. Another interesting fact is that my site was named for the popular breakfast food in Costa Rica: Gallo Pinto. I stayed in Costa Rica through 2017 and taught kindergarten at a bilingual international school in Monteverde. I met my (now) husband during my service, he is from Nicaragua. We moved to Boise in the summer of 2017 and decided to join the IRPCVs to build community. I love to hike, camp, practice yoga and bake bread!

Treasurer/Membership Chair:
Steve Randolph
 Kenya 77-80
 208.412.2135
smrandolph52@gmail.com



Steve Randolph served in Kenya 1977-80 as a horticultural officer for the Ministry of Agriculture. He remains connected to Kenya as board member for the Makindu Children's Program which assists several hundred orphans and vulnerable children near the area he served. Steve received a BS degree at Oregon State in 1977 and his Peace Corps experience helped fool Cornell into giving him a teaching assistantship that led to a masters degree in '83. Upon receiving his masters, he moved back to Oregon and worked in anti-poverty world, mostly at Oregon Food Bank, for nearly 30 years. He retired to Boise four years ago to be near kids and grandsons and has been a IRPCV member for a couple of years and enjoys meeting PCV folks and hearing their stories of service and travel.



Past President:
Aaron Hueth
 Kazakhstan 07-09
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My name is Aaron Hueth and I served in Kazakhstan from 2007-2009. I remember having such a positive effect of the community that I served in that they let me paint the outdoor basketball court at the city stadium and I got to paint a big "BOISE" in the center court! Gotta represent Idaho! I have been a member of the group for 8 years and am involved because I want to have a positive impact on the community and help out when I can. My favorite IRPCV event has got to be the Christmas Party because so many people come and it's great to catch up with everyone. Also fun to see people's reactions to the different presents. I love how this group is so involved in each other's lives and actually cares about

Service Chair:
Lila Cabrera
 Paraguay 90-93
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Lila Cabrera served in Paraguay 90-92 and El Salvador 93 - 94. One of the most memorable things from my service was owning and taking care of a horse. I am a member of the IRPCV group because when I moved to Boise with only my husband and baby, the group was like a family for us and continues to be that to this day, 19 years later. I like all the events that we do, can't pick one as a favorite. My husband David Snyderman and I served together in both countries.

IRPCV 2018 Executive Board



Education Chair:
James Watson
Cameroon 97-99
chefwatson13@gmail.com

Raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee, James studied English and journalism at the University of West Florida. He served as a TEFL teacher in Cameroon from 1997-1999. After returning from a Peace Corps, he worked as a journalist in Tennessee covering politics for five years. In 2004, he took a role as a hospital marketing and communications professional, and has continued in that profession with positions in Wyoming and Oregon until he took his present role over marketing for St. Luke's in 2016. Along with IRPC, James also serves as a weekly tutor at the Learning Lab, is an Idaho Shakespeare Festival board member and is in year two of the Leadership Boise program.

Website Editor:

Matt Anders

Kazakstan 95-97

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I served in Kazakstan from 1995 to 1997. Peace Corps was a great experience for me. I have been a member of IRPCV since 2011. I created the current IRPCV webpage in 2012 and have maintained it ever since. I am a member of IRPCV to fulfill the third goal of Peace Corps and spend time with other RPCVs. IRPCV events enable me to learn about other cultures through the Peace Corps experiences of others. My favorite IRPCV event is Bon Voyage because it reminds me of how exciting it was for me to leave for my Peace Corps service.

Newsletter Editor:

Chloe Ross

Malawi 10-12

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Chloe served as a health volunteer in a village in Malawi, known for being the "Warm Heart of Africa." While there, she shared meals with her neighbors, chatted in the local language, Chichewa, on the mat, and carried water on her head. Chloe returned to Boise after her close of service and works for the Boise City Government. She has been an active returned peace corps volunteer in Boise since 2013.



Now Seeking Candidates: IRPCV Vice President

Glen Blumhorst, NPCA president, in his latest letter to NPCA stated the following:

"Affiliate groups are the drivers of change in the Peace Corps community. Acting on our own, we can certainly make a difference in the world. But when we join together, our potential for change-making expands exponentially. So engage with an affiliate group today. If you are already a member of a group, we ask that you find ways to help that group live up to its full potential."

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are such an affiliate group and we are asking you not only to join, but to volunteer to serve on the IRPCV Board. The service terms are 2 years. Maybe you have ideas about the direction of IRPCV and its activities? Choose a position where your talents can shine. Present board members will mentor you. Open positions are **Vice President**. Below are our general responsibilities. If you would like to have a description of a specific position, contact Chelsea Kramer at XXX :

- Attend all board and general membership meetings and present report
- Check board-related emails on a regular basis; reply in a timely manner
- Help cover shifts at our Peace Corps promotion table during public events
- Promote IRPCV to RPCVs
- Promote IRPCV to family, friends and the public
- Promote IRPCV annual membership to RPCVs

If you are a former board member, a newly returned RPCV or a long standing-member, please make a commitment to serve today. Contact: Katie Miller by madermade@gmail.com if you are interested.

Peace Corps Malawi Pilot Class at JUMP

Jess Libes, Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi, hosted an event at JUMP highlighting the food and culture of Malawi on June 5th. She started the evening with a slide show about her experience as a PC Volunteer in Malawi and ended with a demonstration on how to prepare authentic Malawian food. Based on feedback from the pilot participants, she will adjust the content for the official class on July 10th. If you are interested in learning about this small, peaceful African country, you can sign up at <https://jumppcmalawi.eventbrite.com/> to attend that class.

Furthermore, if you are looking for a 3rd goal opportunity, consider conducting this class about YOUR country! Contact Jess for more information at jess.libes@jumpboise.org



IRPCV Memberships

Peace Corps service continues long after Volunteers leave their posts. President Kennedy stated that the third goal of the Peace Corps is to "strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples." This is a life-long commitment you made when you joined the Peace Corps. The easiest way for you to meet this goal is to join Idaho RPCVs. Together we can strengthen the understanding of other cultures in the State of Idaho. The annual dues are a pittance - just \$15 per year (less than a single dinner at a restaurant)! So there is no acceptable excuse for not joining us. If you live in Idaho and you served in the Peace Corps join IRPCV!

Thanks to all who have renewed your IRPCV membership. Renew or join online at www.idahopeacecorps.com. You can also mail your annual payment to Steve Randolph at 1011 N. 5th St, Boise, ID 83702. First time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!



BOISE'S PRIDEFEST

IDAHO'S LARGEST LGBTQ

CELEBRATION



2018 IRPCV Grant Recipients

Girls on the Run is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.

Meeting twice a week in small teams, the group teaches life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The curriculum is taught by certified Girls on the Run coaches and includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large.

Running is used to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness, and build confidence through accomplishment. Important social, psychological, and physical skills and abilities are developed and reinforced throughout the program. At each season's conclusion, the girls and their running buddies complete a 5K running event which gives them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. The result—making the seemingly impossible, possible, and teaching girls that they can.

The money IRPCVs granted to Girls on the Run will allow the group to provide scholarships for two girls at Lowell Elementary.



Style Her Empowered (S H E) is a nonprofit organization co-based in Boise, Idaho and Togo, Africa focused on improving access to education for girls in Togo. We believe in a world where every girl is empowered with the resources, skill set, and confidence she needs to obtain her education and determine her own future. The group helps girls continue their empowerment journey by teaching them to sew their own school uniforms, sponsoring full-tuition scholarship, and providing year-round mentoring and empowerment programs. SHE currently serves 65 girls aged 6-23 in the village of Notse, Togo. For the 2018-2019 school year, they are on track to double their impact with over 120 girls enrolled in the program. The grant from IRPCV would be used to purchase additional sewing equipment for our Togo office. All girls training in their facility currently share 2 sewing machines, so the first priority will be purchasing additional machines from Lome, Togo. Following that, remaining funds will be used to purchase additional sewing supplies such as scissors, cutting mats, irons, fabric, needles and thread for the training facility. SHE is committed to supporting the local economy in Togo, so they source as many materials from local markets as possible.

African Ladies in Idaho (ALID) is forum and a vibrant network of African Women in Idaho coming together to share their values and support one another to make a positive impact in the community.

ALID's mission is to provide support and inspiration to New Migrant & Refugee Women with their families, to help integrate, gain independence, promote quality of life, and contribute positively in the community. They also aim to help with education of women refugees on how to live functional lives in their new environments: financial, legal, health, child care, career paths and many other ways that could provide easy integration. The 300 dollars IRPCV granted to the group will go towards a projector, dry erase whiteboard materials and table calendars. All materials will assist the group in hosting events and welcoming new members to the group.



**IDAHO RETURNED
PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS**

www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com