



#### Board Members

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##### **Newsletter**

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##### **Past President**

Aaron Hueth

# Common Ground

IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

WINTER 2020

## Idaho RPCV Annual Meeting

February 16, 2020

4-6:00 pm. Waterfront District Club House  
3640 N. Willowbar Way, Garden City,

We will be voting in new board positions/members, open nominations for the annual grant and discuss what is in store for 2020!

Bring your comments, suggestions and concerns. We want to hear from you

ANNUAL



DUES

Dues are now due. Annual dues are only \$15.00 per year. Current dues are behind from last year.



## 2020 Memberships!

As always, if you haven't already, please renew or join online **NOW** at [www.idahopeacecorps.com](http://www.idahopeacecorps.com). You can also mail your annual payment to **Steve Randolph** at **1011 N. 5th St, Boise, ID 83702**. Dues are **\$15.00** per year,

**Remember, first time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!**



**Congratulations  
to the Peace Corps'  
2019 Top States!**

*District of Columbia holds No. 1 spot for third year in a row; Massachusetts enters top ten per capita.*

WASHINGTON –Peace Corps released today its 2019 rankings of the top volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas across the United States.

“I commend the community leaders from these top states for their continued support of the Peace Corps,” said Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen. “Volunteers make a powerful impact when they share their unique hometown perspectives with the communities they serve abroad. Serving with this agency is an opportunity for all Americans to develop the skills they need in a global world.”

The four lists are: Top Volunteer-producing States per Capita; Top Volunteer-producing States Overall; Top Volunteer-producing Metropolitan Areas per Capita; and Top Volunteer-producing Metropolitan Areas Overall.

## **2019 Top States – Per Capita (# of Volunteers per 100,000 residents)**

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) District of Columbia – 18.2 | 7) New Hampshire – 4.1 |
| 2) Vermont – 8.1               | 7) Colorado – 4.1      |
| 3) Montana – 5.1               | 8) Maine – 3.8         |
| 4) Virginia – 4.5              | 9) Washington – 3.6    |
| 5) Maryland – 4.3              | 9) Massachusetts – 3.6 |
| 6) Oregon – 4.2                | 10) Minnesota – 3.5    |

WINTER 2020

# 2019 Top States – Total Volunteers

- 1) California – 851
- 2) New York – 413
- 3) Virginia – 384
- 4) Texas – 368
- 5) Florida – 341
- 6) Pennsylvania – 293
- 7) Illinois – 279
- 8) Washington – 271
- 9) Maryland – 259
- 10) Massachusetts – 247



The parade taxi has been decommissioned and in lieu of the taxi, the board is asking every parade participant to acquire and fly their country flag at upcoming parades. Multiple flags waving along the parade route is bound to attract attention and generate excitement.



Bring a 3 x 5 ft flag of your host country to fly alongside the American Flag. You can find them [here](#) for less than \$10.

We currently have 14 flags from: USA, Pride, Mexico, Paraguay, Ukraine, Belize, Macedonia, Senegal, Malawi, Jamaica, Thailand, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Ghana





## Keep Peace Corps Independent and Internationally Trusted.

Please join the Peace Corps community in protecting the independent, non-political Nature of the Peace Corps by opposing legislation that would make Peace Corps subordinate to the Department of State under the direction of the Secretary of State.

By safeguarding Peace Corps' status as an independent agency, we can help to ensure that it will not be used to promote short-term goals of the Secretary of State or whichever administration is occupying the White House. The international perception of the Peace Corps' independence is imperative for its continued success, which is based on mutual respect and trust of the host countries.

The board of the Idaho Returned Peace Corps organization has signed and submitted a letter in opposition. We would like each of you to contact your senators by email or by phone to ask them to oppose this bill.

Senator Rick Scott of Florida introduced Senate Bill 2320 in July of 2019.

The [\*Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act: Senate Bill 2320\*](#)

- Transfers the status of the Peace Corps from an independent agency to a subordinate agency within the Department of State. Currently, the Peace Corps has no effective oversight, operating as an independent agency within the executive branch.
- Gives the Secretary of State authority over the Director of the Peace Corps to ensure the agency's work and budget is in line with the foreign policy goals of the United States.
- Terminates all Peace Corps activities in China and prohibits the Peace Corps from operating in countries hostile to the United States.
- Requires the Secretary of State to annually submit a report to Congress on the status of the Peace Corps.



Congratulations to our stellar recruiter, Bethany Martinez who was recognized by the Peace Corps as Rookie Recruiter of the year for “outstanding” new recruiter who has worked for 1 year or less. We are proud of you, Bethany!

### Corona Virus Update

Peace Corps/ China does not have Volunteers serving in Wuhan Province. Peace Corps/China Medical officers have been in communication with volunteers on how to mitigate risks of exposure to the Coronavirus. Peace Corps/China has restricted all Volunteer travel to Wuhan province and has temporarily suspended travel to the People’s Republic of China for visiting Volunteers.

**Bethany Martinez**

**Idaho Field Recruiter**

**Ukraine 15-17**

**208-283-7465**

**[bmartinez@peacecorps.org](mailto:bmartinez@peacecorps.org)**



# Upcoming Events

## WINTER 2020

**February 16,** Idaho RPCV **Annual Meeting**—4-6:00 pm. Waterfront District Club House 3640 N. Willowbar Way, Garden City, ID

**March 1– 6** Peace Corps Week

**March 25-29** Storyfort 2020

**April 17, 2020** Nominations closed for RPCV Grant

**April 26, 1-3 pm.** Idaho RPCV Board Meeting hosted by Kathy Cawrse at 909 N 19th, Boise 83702

**May 9 6:00 pm.** Community Dinner Food Land Market, 710 N. Orchard St.



**FIRST FRIDAY AT 5:00 pm.**

Join us and meet with your fellow RPCV's at the **Sun Ray Café** , 1602 N 13th St, Boise, ID 83702

**Cross Streets:** Near the intersection of N 13th St and W Eastman St **Neighborhoods:** North End



# Budget for 2020

Projected Income	\$3,460.00
Dues	\$1,100.00
Calendar Sales	\$2,000.00
Donations ,general	\$300.00
Donations, special	\$60.00
Projected Expenses	\$3,285.00
Calendars	\$1610.00
Event Fees	\$ 540.00
Grant	\$1,000.00
Other	\$135.00



## Storyfort 2020!

(Date, Time and Location TBD)

**Peace Corps has been invited back to Storyfort to share stories from IRPCVs! This was a great event last year and we are excited to do this event again.**

**This year's theme is Peace Corps Love Stories. We will be looking for three couples to share their stories. Preferably, a couple who served in Peace Corps together, two PCVs who met in Peace Corps and a PCV and HCN (host country national) that met during the PCVs time in their country.!**





The Portland Peace Corps Association is organizing  
the

↻ **2020 REGIONAL Family Campout** ↻

August 6 – 9, 2020 (Thurs thru Sun)

**Deschutes River State Recreation Area**

**Loop G, Group Site A**

**RVers !! Go to the website and reserve your RV spot  
asap. Here's the link:**

[Deschutes River State Recreation Area, OR](#)

◆ **LISTEN UP, I SAY!** ◆

★ **CAUTION** ★

This is not the Deschutes campground at the Cove Palisades State Park near Madras.

This is the Deschutes River Recreation Area, *on the Columbia River*, near Biggs Junction.



Note from your new editor.

My name is Judith Eighmy, I served in Ghana as a Health volunteer in 2017 until I was Medseped due to hepatitis caused by malaria prophylaxis medication. Because my recovery took over 6 months, I was unable to return. . Although my service was cut short, I want to continue to serve so I have volunteered to do the newsletter and hope to help out in other ways. I am somewhat technologically challenged so I do ask for a bit of patience. I would love your input and your help in the production of this newsletter. It needs to be worth reading. My email is [judyeighmy@gmail.com](mailto:judyeighmy@gmail.com).



# **IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**

Peace Corps announces 2019 top volunteer-producing states