



**National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)
Group Leaders Forum (GLF)
September 24, 2011
Shriver Hall, Peace Corps Headquarters, Washington, DC**

Call to Order – Kate Schachter

Kate Schachter called meeting to order at 10:05 am and presided over the meeting.

Establish eligible voters list – Anne Baker

A total of 48 member groups were represented in person by the following individuals who signed in as official voting delegates on behalf of their member groups:

Joseph Sullivan (Alaska Returned Peace Corps Volunteers); Jeff Fletcher (Amigos de Bolivia y Peru); Juli Powers (Atlanta Area RPCVs); Frank Yates (Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Friends of Ghana); Kathy Kacen (Chicago Area Peace Corps Association); William Stein (Columbia River Peace Corps Association); Maureen Shanley (Connecticut RPCVs); Chris Polen (Friends of Azerbaijan); Arleen Cheston (Friends of Colombia); John Evans (Friends of the Dominican Republic); Jac Conaway (Friends of the Eastern Caribbean); Beth Shearer (Friends of Fiji); Meg Rice (Friends of Guatemala); Vanessa de Bruyn (Friends of Jordan Association); Jency Richards (Friends of Kenya); Jon Keeton (Friends of Korea); Jim McGeorge (Friends of Liberia); Thaine Allison (Friends of Malaysia); Tim Resch (Friends of Morocco); Katy Hansen (Friends of Nigeria and Iowa Peace Corps Association); Maureen Herman (Friends of Paraguay); Patty Bruzek (Friends of Sierra Leone); John von Reyn (Friends of Swaziland); Carolyn Nickels (Friends of Thailand); Alan Olson (Friends of Uganda); Kirsty Nattor (Kansas City Area Peace Corps Association); Emily Coble (North Carolina Peace Corps Association); Lucy Weiger (Northern California Peace Corps Association); Carol Belanger (Peace Corps Friends of DR Congo); Amy Chien (Peace Corps Friends of Haiti); Carol Guernsey (Peace Corps Panama Friends); Quincy Stewart (Peace Corps Volunteers of Phoenix); Paula Larson (Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association); Ann Bozick (Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association); Valerie Hopkins/Ariane Burger (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado); Debbie Lawler (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Carolina); Barbara Junge (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida, Inc.); Rich Towsley (Rochester RPCVs); Janet Duncan (RPCVs of Greater New York); Geraldine Gillio (RPCVs of New Jersey); Donna Fiebelkorn (RPCVs of Western Michigan); Kate Schachter (RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison); Darryl Johnson (Seattle Area Peace Corps Association); Angela Harris (Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers); James Cloutier (West Cascade Peace Corps Association); Margaret Davis (Western North Carolina RPCVs).

Approval of Minutes from 2010 GLF Meeting – Kate Schachter

In a motion made by Jeff Fletcher and seconded by Joe Sullivan, the minutes of the 2010 GLF meeting were accepted without corrections, by unanimous vote.

Group Capacity Building Tools—Anne Baker

Anne presented on connection and capacity building tools. Based on surveys of member group leaders, persistent issues for groups include how to grow and maintain membership and how to get and keep good leaders. She used the following mnemonic (MEMBERS) to highlight particular suggestions.

- **M:** All groups should take advantage of all NPCA **MEMBERSHIP** options, as appropriate. These include the standard one-year and first year (from COS) free membership options, but also the 2-year serving volunteer and the first time free options.
- **E: ENGAGE** with other groups; Use the Ning forum.
- **M:** Thanks to support from the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison, we'll be starting a group **MENTORING** program to help groups connect with others more experienced. When we survey you about this, please say what you can help with and/or what you need.
- **B:** (Anne asked the audience for suggestions for this one) **BROADCAST, BUILD, BE ACTIVE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BRING IT HOME**
- **E: EXCHANGE** dues and data – NPCA updates the lists of new members and pays rebates monthly. Group administrators can access reports of their members in the NPCA database anytime. Groups should be timely in submitting their dues and data with NPCA as well, at least monthly.
- **R: REASON FOR BEING.** What is the purpose of your group? Each group should have something compelling that keeps people engaged.
- **S:** Data **SHARING** – All member groups can and should sign the agreement with NPCA annually to download the list of all individuals (subject to NPCA's privacy policy) who meet the geographic criteria for membership in the group.

Open Discussion:

- The Colorado group is starting a new email Listserv to discuss group issues. A sign-up sheet was being circulated through the room. (RPCVs of Colorado)
- Some groups successfully use Skype and similar technology (e.g., FreeConference.com) to engage board members all over the country. (Friends of the Eastern Caribbean, Friends of Korea, Friends of the Dominican Republic)
- Friends of Morocco set up a meeting group in DC that includes 60% Moroccan Diaspora and has 180 members using Eventbrite and Meetup.com (Friends of Morocco)
- Friends of Korea has two host country nationals on their board (Friends of Korea)
- Some groups are planning trips to return to their countries of service. How do we connect to PCVs when travelling?
- It can be hard to get the 30-50-year-olds to pay dues. Can NPCA provide three bullet points for how the \$35 membership dues is used? We could use those talking points to encourage membership. (Friends of Paraguay)
- The new Pittsburgh Area group is looking for examples of bylaws and membership database suggestions. (Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association)
- How does NPCA select its advocacy issues and can those be expanded beyond Peace Corps issues (e.g., for the MDGs)? (Iowa Peace Corps Association)
- Can NPCA have sponsorships for interns or assistants (e.g., for advocacy)? (North Carolina Peace Corps Association)
- Perhaps change the mentoring program to not just be for people who are back less than one year. (Columbia River Peace Corps Association) Staff response: Agreed! It's in the works already.

Move to adjourn

In a motion made by Darryl Johnson and seconded by Jac Conaway, the meeting adjourns, by unanimous vote, at 10:59am.

Notes taken: Molly Mattessich, Manager of Online Initiatives, National Peace Corps Association