



ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Online via Zoom
September 26, 2020

Call to Order: NPCA Board of Directors Chair Maricarmen Smith-Martinez called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM Eastern Time. The Chair declared that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the 2019 Meeting: The motion to approve the minutes of the [NPCA 2019 Annual General Meeting](#) held on June 22, 2019 at the University of Texas, Austin was seconded and carried.

Presentation of Awards: NPCA Vice President Anne Baker introduced the two NPCA awards being presented today, both named to honor beloved Peace Corps Directors.

Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service: Mary Ruppe Nash (Loret's daughter) presented awards to two outstanding affiliate groups for projects that promote the Third Goal of Peace Corps, continue to serve host countries, build group spirit and cooperation, and promote service.

- Friends of Korea was honored for their study guide to accompany the "Korean Transformation" DVD. President Gerry Krzik accepted the award on behalf of the group.
- Friends of Tonga was recognized for their community-driven educational program supporting students in Tonga and connecting them to their American friends for direct learning and exchange. President Michael Hasset accepted the award on behalf of the group.

Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service: NPCA VP Anne Baker presented this annual award to Matthew Paneitz, founder and executive director of Long Way Home.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Gretchen Upholt highlighted that our budget is growing steadily each year with operating results consistently positive over the last five years. Contributions have doubled over that time frame and investment revenue has grown, while earned income has declined slightly. Liquid Unrestricted Net Assets (LUNA) is a measure of an organization's operating reserves (or safety net). NPCA's LUNA, while still slightly negative, is on a positive trajectory. Non-profit best practices are to have one to three months of cash on hand and a positive number of months of working capital; NPCA ended 2019 at 1.4 and 2.2, respectively.

President's Report: NPCA President & CEO Glenn Blumhorst provided key accomplishments over the prior year in each of the three pillars of our work as a Peace Corps community.

- I. Advocacy: Help Peace Corps be its best.**
- II. Community: Empower members and affiliate groups to thrive.**
- III. Service: Amplify the Peace Corps community's global social impact.**

- More than 8,000 people celebrated Peace Corps' 58th anniversary at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on September 22, 2019 (Peace Corps Act Day).
- NPCA highlighted "40 under 40" notable RPCVs.
- Over the last four years, Peace Corps' budget has been flat at \$410.5 million. Our message: it's time to give Peace Corps a raise. Representatives of 124 affiliate groups signed our FY2021 Peace Corps budget letter to POTUS, representing 68,000 members of the Peace Corps community. Following a Trump administration proposal of a \$9 million cut to Peace Corps' FY2021 budget, 200 Peace Corps advocates headed to Capitol Hill on March 5, 2020. They held 230 meetings and delivered packets of information about the vital importance of Peace Corps to all 535 congressional offices. Over the following two months, our community sent over 9,000 messages to Congress, resulting in 209 signatures on the "Dear Colleague" Peace Corps funding letter (167 House, 42 Senate) and a \$410 million budget sustained. All living former Peace Corps directors signed a letter defending Peace Corps' independence following a proposal to turn the agency into a bureau of the Department of State.
- NPCA launched *WorldView* magazine on a digital platform to supplement and expand the reach of the 33-year-old print publication.
- A community-wide survey identified that climate change was the global issue that members of the Peace Corps community care most about.
- The coronavirus pandemic led to the unprecedented global evacuation of all serving volunteers. NPCA stepped up to provide transition support (and beyond) with the launch of our new Global Reentry program. We worked to get \$88 million in supplemental support for the evacuated volunteers. The Peace Corps community worked in support of additional new Senate and House legislation around insurance, redeployment and priority in hiring, including an extension of Non-Competitive Eligibility. Evacuated volunteers who lost funding for projects were able to turn to NPCA's Community Fund, which provided over \$40k in grants to 13 projects in its first few months. Protecting Peace Corps' future is our #1 priority.
- The killing of George Floyd served as a catalyst for the Peace Corps community to stand together for change – and to advocate for racial justice. NPCA and our affiliate groups issued statements and commitments to act, encouraging our community to join with Organizations in Solidarity in forging a positive path forward.
- Following the cancellation of our annual conference (scheduled for Seattle in July), we shifted to gathering our community — virtually — in a series of eight town halls, followed by a global ideas summit, entitled "Peace Corps Connect to the Future." The big ideas coming from the community are now compiled in a report informing future plans for the Peace Corps agency and executive branch; Congress; and NPCA, affiliate groups, and the Peace Corps community at large.
- We welcome our newest affiliate group, Black Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the DMV.

Looking ahead:

- The Peace Corps community will advocate in support of Peace Corps funding and reauthorization; and in support of legislation around voting rights and justice in policing.

- Partnerships with TCP Global and Water Charity amplify our global social impact through micro-loans and access to clean water.
- A relaunched NPCA Emergency Response Network will place RPCVs as contact tracers at the state and local level in King County, Washington to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- NPCA's Community Fund will support minority-led enterprises, racial justice initiatives, climate change action and Third Goal activities in excess of \$100,000.
- NPCA's new home and hub for the Peace Corps community — Peace Corps Place — is expected to open in 2021.
- NPCA's Campaign for Peace Corps Ideals brings together “A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps,” the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, and the Peace Corps Commemorative.
- Events range from Peace Corps Week through the Peace Corps Connect conference, with hopes for events to be hosted at Howard University in summer 2021.
- NPCA is launching Peace Corps Community Connect, building a bigger, more engaged community.

Adjournment: The 2020 NPCA Annual General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM Eastern Time.

Mary Owen-Thomas, NPCA Board Secretary

Note: Visit the [2020 AGMM event listing](#) on the NPCA website for the agenda, PowerPoint presentation and links to resources and other information shared in the chat.