



AFFILIATE GROUP NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING (AGNAM)

via Zoom

September 26, 2020

1. **Call to Order** – *Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, NPCA Board Chair*

Welcome and introduction: The Meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM ET by Maricarmen Smith-Martinez. Member-elected board directors (divisional representatives), as well as the newly-elected Affiliate Group Network Coordinator (AGN-C), Hannah Wishart, introduced themselves. Maricarmen thanked outgoing member-elected board directors Tom Potter (Southern Tier) and Keith Beck (West) for their service on the NPCA Board and to the affiliate group community.

Maricarmen reviewed the priority objectives for the Affiliate Group Network (AGN):

- To connect affiliate groups and to share best practices
- To provide group leadership with direct insight into NPCA capacity-building initiatives, projects, and opportunities
- To keep groups connected throughout the year

2. **Affiliate Group Network Introductions** – *Various*

Participants introduced themselves by name and Affiliate Group(s) representation via the Zoom chat. NPCA staff and additional board directors were also introduced.

3. **Member Group Voting Delegates** – *Anne Baker, NPCA Vice President*

Anne Baker announced that 36 affiliate groups were officially represented with a voting delegate who had pre-registered and was in attendance.

Eligible Voters List:

1. Gloria Levin (Amigos de Bolivia y Peru)
2. Loren Hintz (Amigos de Honduras)
3. Debra Pinkney (Black RPCVs in the DMV)
4. Suzanne Marks (CDC Peace Corps Work Group)
5. Don Spiers (Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers)
6. Leo Cecchini (Ethiopia & Eritrea Returned Peace Corps Volunteers)
7. Scott Lewis (Friends of Eswatini)
8. Joseph Permetti (Friends of Kenya)
9. Sarah Morrison (Friends of Liberia)
10. Michael Anderson (Friends of Malaysia)

11. Tim Resch (Friends of Morocco)
12. Shane Meckler (Friends of Mozambique)
13. Jim Clark (Friends of Nigeria)
14. Maggie Reuter (Friends of Paraguay)
15. Kim Herman (Friends of the Dominican Republic)
16. Martin Havlovic (Friends of Togo)
17. Katy Hansen (Iowa Peace Corps Association)
18. Kirsty Morgan (Kansas City Area Peace Corps Association)
19. Nicole Lewis (Maine Peace Corps Association)
20. Patricia Wand (Museum of the Peace Corps Experience)
21. Lila Holzman (Northern California Peace Corps Association)
22. Charlene Loriston (Northern Virginia Returned Peace Corps Volunteers)
23. Jackie Spurlock (Peace Corps Iran Association)
24. Rebekah Rohland (Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association)
25. Charlie Hunt (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado)
26. Caroline Mackenzie (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii)
27. Julia Velonjara (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madagascar)
28. Renee St. Jacques (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeastern New York)
29. Charlotte Stein (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, D.C.)
30. Martin Havlovic (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison)
31. Alexandra Smith (Returned Volunteers of Buffalo, NY)
32. Evelyn Ganzglass (RPCV Oral History Archives Project)
33. Kate Schachter (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for Environmental Action)
34. Emily Whitfield (Sacramento Valley Returned Peace Corps Volunteers)
35. Danielle Choi (San Diego Peace Corps Association)
36. Brad Cleveland (Seattle Area Peace Corps Association)

Approval of 2019 minutes: The motion to approve the minutes of the [2019 AGNAM](#), which had been circulated electronically in advance, was made and seconded, then approved with one abstention.

4. NPCA Leadership Town Hall – Glenn Blumhorst, NPCA President and CEO

Glenn referred group leaders to his presentation earlier in the day for the Annual General Membership Meeting and responded to individual questions from group leaders in attendance.

5. World Café Sessions – Introductions

The Affiliate Group Network Advisory Committee developed four breakout sessions designed to help affiliate groups thrive and engage for impact. The breakouts were introduced, then this main meeting concluded. Participants joined their World Cafe session of choice for the remainder of the time.

Affiliate Group Approaches to Social Justice

- Why is this important for our community — especially now?
- How have affiliate groups approached social justice issues — from racial justice to working with refugees, as well as tackling climate change and more? How have they taken action?

- What are we trying to achieve in the near term? What are our ultimate goals?

Building a Bigger, More Engaged Affiliate Group Community

- How do affiliate groups recruit, engage, and retain members?
 - Evacuated Volunteers
 - Recently Returned Volunteers more broadly
 - Volunteers preparing for departure
 - Current Volunteers (when they return to the field)
- Affiliate groups have the opportunity to make themselves known in their communities and can be a trusted source for expertise when it comes to interacting with other cultures.
- Use the strengths of your membership to build a group with greater impact.

Inclusive Organizational Change: Setting Up Your Group for Success

- Building a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- How can your group tackle inclusive organizational change in a way that will make your group better and stronger?
- How can inclusive organizational change engage your current membership and board — and how can it help you recruit new members and leaders?
- How can you recruit board members who are passionate and engaged?
- Creating a roadmap with ways to achieve each milestone

Expanding Intergroup Communications and Engagement

- The Affiliate Group Network is vast, and each group has different strengths. How can groups leverage one another's strengths to build a more vibrant community?
- What is the value of affiliate groups working together and sharing ideas?
- What formal or informal structures can help foster more intergroup communication?
- Online communication brings advantages and disadvantages. How do we leverage platforms to connect with other groups?
- Fostering authentic relationships: How can groups connect outside of projects and engage in networking and team-building activities?
- We're hosting weekly leader "lunches." How do they help you network? How do ideas shared help you address challenges? Could this forum be altered/extended in any way?

6. Wrap-up and Next Steps – Hannah Wishart, AGN-C

Hannah shared some of her insights and observations from today's discussions and from the weekly Affiliate Group Leaders Lunches. Next steps:

- Affiliate Group Network Advisory Committee (AGNAC) formation and meeting schedule
- Affiliation, Reaffiliation, and Expectations

7. Adjournment – *Hannah Wishart, AGN-C*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm ET and participants joined World Cafe sessions from 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET.