2016 Group Renewal for NPCA from **Mountain Laurel RPCVs of N.E. PA**

Website: www.cse.lehigh.edu/~edk/PC/

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Our group is very small (if not the smallest) in NPCA—fewer than 20 regulars; some of us are from service in the 1960’s, but we represent all decades and geographical areas.

In 2015, we continued meeting about 9 or 10 x/year at different ethnic & affordable restaurants, where we hope to attract new RPCVs from the area. Usually there are prospective PCVs (esp. college seniors) or parents of PCVs already in country, in addition to the “usual suspects”. These dinners are organized by Ed & Janice Kay, John & Fran Kennedy, or Bruce Whitehouse. Attendance ranges from 5 to 20+. These dinners are mainly for social purposes with a little business thrown in when necessary.

Bruce Whitehouse and Ed Kay have helped organize on-campus (Lehigh University) Peace Corps Recruiting sessions. Also, Bruce gave a talk at a local high school through the WorldWise Schools outreach program.

In the Fall of 2015, 50 calendars were ordered from the Madison, WI, RPCV group. We sold 47 and gave away 13\* to students who came to a Peace Corps recruiting meeting or otherwise showed interest in the Peace Corps. The profit from this annual sale (I think it was the 10th year) was $367.79. This amount was disbursed in January of 2016, so recipients will be reported next year.

From the profits of last year’s sale (disbursed in January of 2015) plus what was left in the bank account, we funded 4 worthy causes for a total of $470:

Liberian Assistance Program $100

Mali Health Org. Project $100

Post Secondary Ed.for Girls in Burkina Faso $100

Uttarakhand (India) day care project $100

Heifer International $70

We also regularly make micro-finance loans through Kiva.org, re-lending money for new projects as others are paid back.

I had to change banks from Wells Fargo to USAA, due to exorbitant service fees.

Ed Kay is the liaison for Peace Corps.gov, and he organizes meetings or panels whenever the Peace Corps recruiter comes to the Lehigh Valley.

\*Due to damages in transit in the USPS, Madison sent us 10 freebies.