



CT RPCV
CONNECTICUT RETURNED
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Executive Board Virtual Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024 – 7:30 pm

Attending

Jon Martin
Benedicte Naudin
Jillian Winterkorn
Maureen Shanley
Michael Hilton
Tom Burns
Jon Martin
Allegra Itsoga
Kathy Sheppard
In-Jee Lee
Sarah Porter
Leslie
Thomas Fornan

Opening Business

- Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm
- Board approved meeting minutes from November 6, 2023. Allegra voted to approve, Maureen seconded, Board approved.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- February 27, 2024 – Trivia Night in Branford
- May 6, 2024 - 7:30 pm Zoom
- July 20, 2024 – Summer Picnic at Allegras
- August 5, 2024 - 7:30 pm Zoom
- November 4, 2024 - 7:30 pm Zoom

Reports

- President

- a. Jon Martin was voted in as the new president. This is his first meeting as President. Jon welcomed introductions from the group, including guests.
- Treasurer
 - a. \$5,650 in our Bank of America account
 - b. \$78,159 in our Vanguard account
 - c. Account is doing well, we started with \$76k and have been using it for the Community Funds. 2016 we received money and have given away \$30k.
 - d. Question on fiscal year. Mike responded it's Jan to Dec.
 - e. Question on income. Mike responded we get donations, we have raffles and fundraisers. Maureen responded that hosting benefits are a lot of work and we were fortunate that money was donated.
- Community Service Fund
 - a. Maureen provided overview of how service fund works.
 - b. No one has submitted an application this year or in 2023, the Peace Corps website does not have any Peace Corps Volunteers from Connecticut requesting funds.
 - c. Bene mentioned the webpage has all the projects we supported.
 - d. Mike discussed that people are welcome to submit from anywhere in CT.
 - e. Jillian explained that we allow \$4k in Community Service grants a year. \$2k scholarship money. Maureen confirmed we didn't use the money in 2023. The Board agreed if money was not spent in 2023 it could be used for 2024. That would leave a \$8k for projects in 2024.

Items for Discussion

- Welcome Corps
 - a. Sarah Porter and Kathy Sheppard gave introduction to Welcome Corps. They would love for CTRPCV to partner with Welcome Corps. Welcome Corps was modeled after Canadian group which works really well, it is not government, it is a resettlement agency. Kathy has strong background in resettlement and working with communities. Iris and Welcome Corps are a perfect match, they think it will work well with the CTRPCV mission. Community sponsorship is the best way to resettle a family because the family gets better support, is connected with the community and gets the attention they need.
 - b. Kathy and Sarah shared a video.
<https://youtu.be/xh2Odj3zaDo?feature=shared>
 - c. Jillian gave recap that we need a communications campaign to CTRPCVs to see what interest there is. That needs to come from Sarah. The Board discussed where we would do this and thought New Haven, Bridgeport or Hartford would be ideal depending on interest. Also, we understand there is a cost of a few thousand per person.

- d. Sarah said a committee around 20 people is ideal and that they've worked on communication that they can put out there. Jon asked how many contacts we have, Allegra & Bene confirmed we have a list of 638 people, last newsletter was opened by 38%. Sarah said that we can use other outlets as well and work closely with Iris. The goal is to send a dedicated newsletter related to this with an interest form. Bene said a dedicated email blast can be designed in anyway, the newsletter has a format to it. Sarah will prepare survey and context
- e. Maureen mentioned that through her work with Quest for Peace they do have donations including new clothes, dishes that we could access.
- f. New Haven is the most active CTRPCV group. Board agreed that would be the best spot for sponsoring first family.
- g. Allegra asked if we need the funding before they assign a family. Sarah said it's around \$2,200 per person and we could say we want a family of three, 60% of funding is required up front. Allegra asked what happens if we don't reach out goal, do we give it back, we need to be clear about how we handle funds. Allegra wants to make sure we use the right language. Sarah will follow up.
- CTRPCV trivia nights are going well. Sarah Porter said she is getting a group of six at trivia nights and the next one is Feb 27, 2024.
- Story Slame
 - a. In-Jee is organizing a story slam in Sept. They want to turn it into Peace Corps recruitment drive and make it a fundraiser to support PC projects in the field. In the past, they presented 3 projects and the winner of the Slam gets funded. In-Jee will write blurb for newsletter that Bene will include.
 - b. Sarah shared podcast on Story Slam that NY group worked on.
 - c. In-Jee is having trouble finding a venue. The venue they choose wants too much money. In-Jee is going to write a blurb to discuss event for the next newsletter. They want someone who can waive fee, has sound equipment and parking. Bene suggested library, church, cultural center or historical society. In-Jee said ideally someone would be good to have a relationship with a place, if someone has a relationship and can make some inquiries that would be really helpful. Jon knows someone who owns New Park Brewery.

Close Meeting