



**CT RPCV**  
CONNECTICUT RETURNED  
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

## **Executive Board Virtual Meeting**

Monday, March 3, 2025 8:00 – 9:00 pm

### **Meeting summary for CT RPCV Board Meeting (03/04/2025)**

#### **Quick recap**

The meeting primarily focused on the proposal of recording meetings for documentation purposes, the reporting on the Annual Secretary of State Report filing and payment, and the potential for future fundraising events. The group also discussed the need for more board meetings, the revision of bylaws, and the treasurer's report for the quarter. Lastly, they explored volunteer opportunities, updates to the Connecticut RPCV website, and an upcoming event at a school in Connecticut.

#### **Next steps**

- John to schedule a meeting with Benny to review website updates and address questions.
- Allegra to create and send out an e-blast newsletter including information on the Peace Corps Park donation, Google form for Iris volunteer opportunities, and a call for a new newsletter editor.
- John to reach out to Ng to confirm if she's okay with being added to the website as a board member.
- Benny to start working on website updates that don't require board input.
- John to follow up with AI regarding the scholarship committee update.
- Allegra to post information about the Fairfield middle school speaking opportunity on Facebook.
- Maureen to send Allegra information about the Fairfield middle school event for the e-blast.
- John to send Allegra pictures from the Iris run for the e-blast.

- Maureen to send Allegra pictures from the Darien Book Aid for the e-blast.
  - Kathy to send Allegra the Google form for Iris volunteer opportunities.
  - John to continue following up with Andrew (Peace Corps recruiter) regarding potential events.
  - Board members to review Benny's document on website updates and provide feedback.
  - John to reach out to donors about potentially returning or reallocating funds from the canceled Welcome Corps project.
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## **Summary**

### **Exploring AI Transcription for Meetings**

The meeting involved the proposal of recording meetings to document key points more efficiently. Maureen shared her experience of accidentally using the AI transcription feature during a meeting on Sunday, stating that it sometimes accurately captures discussions while other times not. The team agreed that the AI transcription could be useful for managing meeting notes. Kimberly was welcomed back to the board and approved as the new recording secretary. The meeting also served as a catch-up session, with the team discussing various topics from the past few months.

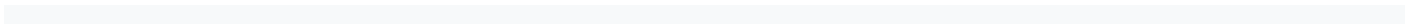
### **Annual Secretary Report Payment and Fundraising**

Jonathan and Allegra reported on the progress of the Annual Secretary of State Report filing and payment, with a \$50 fee paid. Jonathan also mentioned reaching out to individuals who donated significant amounts to the refugee project to discuss potential refunds or redirection of funds. Allegra provided clarification on the tax-related handling of donations. The group also discussed the potential for future fundraising events, with Jonathan noting the success of the recent Irish run for refugees. Lastly, they emphasized the need for a social media events coordinator, with Benny expected to join the meeting later. The Connecticut RPCV Bylaw update was also mentioned.

### **Board Meetings and Bylaw Revisions**

Jon proposed the board have more meetings this year, totaling six. A meeting would be held prior to the annual picnic. He also suggested revising the bylaws to clarify that the address listed in the bylaws should match the corporation's filing with the state. Questions arose about the definition of an associate member, which currently requires election or appointment. The group agreed to simplify the definition. There was discussion about how to deal with people interested in joining the group, concluding that only those who can answer a certain question about the group's visibility would be allowed to join.

### **Treasurer's Report and Expense Breakdown**



Mike presented the treasurer's report for the quarter, starting from January, showing a starting balance of \$5,783.78, expenditures of \$2,871, and a total income and transfers from the Vanguard account of \$9,095. The current balance in the account is \$11,966.06, with a Vanguard account balance of \$80,316.49. The overall balance, including the current balance and the Vanguard, is \$92,282.55. Mike clarified that general expenses are around \$300 per quarter for recurring fees, and the variable is the community service grants. Jonathan requested a breakdown of one-time expenses, quarterly, and annual expenses for future meetings.

### **Reviewing Alternatives and Scholarship Program Updates**

Jon expressed concern about the value they were getting from certain alternatives. He sought to gather more information and thanked Mike for his efforts in compiling data. Jon queried about any other questions or concerns related to the topic. No updates were provided on the scholarship committee as Jon was awaiting a response from AI. He also mentioned that he had met with the scholarship recipients and they had been invited to an event in New Haven. Maureen provided an update on the Community Service Fund, mentioning the last three grants awarded in 2024 and a plan to get a picture of a project in the Dominican Republic. She also mentioned that no other requests for awards had been made. Jon suggested that expenses should be approved by the board of directors, and he and Jonathan will review the bylaws to address this.

### **Volunteering for Iris Organization Support**

Kathy explained the situation with Iris, a company that lost 80% of its budget due to the end of federal grants. The client base remains, but the staff is significantly reduced. Kathy and her team are coordinating volunteers to assist Iris in various departments, including legal and office operations. The goal is to continue providing services to clients while maintaining the capacity of the remaining staff. Volunteers are being assigned to specific tasks via a Google form, which Allegra agreed to share with her community. Jon and Maureen also expressed interest in volunteering and asked about promoting the initiative on Facebook and Mailchimp. Kathy confirmed that she has a letter ready for volunteers and asked for the contact information of volunteers from the welcome core group.

### **Volunteer Opportunities for Members**

The group discusses two volunteer opportunities. First, they explore helping refugee families through Iris, which offers flexible, short-term tasks that can fit various schedules. Kathy explains the process and mentions the possibility of group activities like office moves. They also consider promoting this opportunity to their larger membership. Second, they discuss a request from Louise Cox to donate to the new Peace Corps Park in DC. The group decides to create a campaign to engage their membership for both opportunities, potentially through their newsletter, Facebook page, and Mailchimp.

### **Connecticut RPCV Website Updates Discussed**

The group discusses updates to the Connecticut RPCV website. Benedicte, who previously managed the website, is preparing to make final updates before stepping down. She requests input from the board on various aspects like updating board member information, handling the newsletter section, and managing the contact form. Jon and others agree to review Benedicte's document and schedule a meeting to go through the changes. The group also briefly mentions upcoming events, including a potential second story slam in October and a request from a middle school teacher in Fairfield.

### **Connecticut School Event on March 14th**

The group discusses an upcoming event at a school in Connecticut on March 14th featuring speakers from Africa, including a drummer from Black Panther and one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan. They decide to post about it on Facebook to find volunteers. Allegra agrees to create an e-blast newsletter within 48 hours, incorporating photos from recent events like the run with Iris and the Darien Book Aid project. The group also mentions the Peace Corps Connect event in DC this summer and expresses concern about the uncertain future of Peace Corps and other development organizations.

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