

Information Packet

2012

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC
PO Box 75085 Washington, DC 20013
| www.rpcvw.org | [facebook.com/RPCVW](https://www.facebook.com/RPCVW) | twitter.com/RPCVW

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC



About RPCV/W

"Bringing the Experience Home"

We are a volunteer-run organization representing the sizable community of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and groupies who live and work in Washington, DC. We do this chiefly by:

1. Holding social events such as happy hours, parties, field trips, and other fun, interest-based activities. Any member may start a club and utilize our network to organize it.
2. Helping local nonprofits engaged in community development meet their needs for volunteer assistance by holding regular service projects and partnering toward shared goals.
3. Helping our members advance their careers through structured professional development events and by establishing a vibrant, organized network of mentors in various industries.

From time to time, we also engage in events of a symbolic or historic nature, such as marching in a parade or participating in a public ceremony. Membership is open to all who share a passion for community service, professional development, and international engagement. The first year is always free; afterwards, dues are \$15.00 per year.

2012-2013 MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as a resource to RPCVs and friends in the Washington DC area through social events, community service projects, and professional development programs that embody the 3rd Goal and spirit of the Peace Corps.

AFFILIATIONS

RPCV/W is not the Peace Corps, nor do we donate to overseas Peace Corps programs. For information about Peace Corps, please visit www.peacecorps.gov

RPCV/W is a Member Group of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). To learn more about the NPCA, visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org

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What We Do

In addition to organizing regular social events for our members, RPCV/W divides its long-term programming into four areas:

Community Service



RPCV/W is committed to supporting local organizations engaged in community development in the DC area. We are all volunteers at heart, and our members enjoy coming out on a weekend to help out a worthy cause. Keep an eye on our events for our next volunteer day.

If you would like to suggest a project, please send an email to communityservice@rpcvw.org

Professional Development



We believe that all RPCVs should be able to network freely, and encourage our members to make time for their peers who are looking to climb the ladder. To this end, we host regular networking events in panels, and we are organizing a vibrant network of mentors in dozens of different workplaces who are willing to sit down for coffee with a qualified applicant or someone interested in their work.

www.rpcvw.org
NPCA Member Group

PO Box 75085
Washington, DC 20013
501 (c)(3) Fed. ID: 52-1194965

Partnership for Peace



Each year, we officially sponsor a grassroots nonprofit that shares our [goals and values](#). In addition to awarding them a cash grant based on the proceeds of our yearly fundraiser, we advertise their events through our social network and help them organize volunteers for their activities.

To learn more about Partnership for Peace, send an email to vicepresident@rpcvw.org

Signature Events



As our numbers grow, so does our role in the community. RPCV/W is often called upon to plan and participate in major public events. From parades to public-speaking, our services are always in demand. On September 28, 2011, RPCV/W organized a large public event at Arlington National Cemetery to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, which hosted over 5,000 participants.

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2012 – 2013 Calendar of Events

Thursday, October 11 Board Meeting	Wednesday, March 20, 2013 Peace Corps Town Hall
Saturday, October 13 Field Trip to Polyface Farm	Thursday, March 21, 2013 Social Event
Thursday, October 18 Happy Hour on H Street	Saturday, March 23, 2013 Possible Special Event
Saturday, October 20 Community Service Project	Thursday, April 4, 2013 Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 7 Peace Corps Storytelling	Saturday, April 6, 2013 Cherry Blossom Picnic
Thursday, November 8 Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 9, 2013 Professional Development Event
Saturday, November 10 Community Service Event	Saturday, April 20, 2013 Wine Tour
Tuesday, November 13 Professional Development Panel	Saturday, April 27, 2013 Community Service Event
Sunday, November 18 Thanksgiving Day Outreach Dinner	Thursday, May 2, 2013 Board Meeting
Saturday, December 1 Community Service Project	Sunday, May 5, 2013 Spring Bike Ride to Great Falls
Thursday, December 6 Board Meeting	Saturday, May 11, 2013 Community Service Event
Saturday, December 8 Tour of the US Capitol Building	Tuesday, May 14, 2013 Professional Development Event
Thursday, January 10, 2013 Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 15, 2013 2013 - 2014 Board Election Information Session
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 Professional Development Event	Thursday, May 23, 2013 Social Event
Monday, January 21, 2013 RPCV/W Marches in the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Parade	Sunday, May 26, 2013 Wreath Laying at Tomb of JFK
Thursday, January 24, 2013 Social Event	Thursday, May 30, 2013 Board Meeting
Saturday, January 26, 2013 Community Service Event	Friday, May 31, 2013 RPCV/W Camping Trip
Thursday, February 7, 2013 Board Meeting	Saturday, June 8, 2013 March with RPCV/W in the 2013 DC Pride Parade
Saturday, February 9, 2013 Community Service Event	Wednesday, June 12, 2013 Deadline for Board Nominations
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 Professional Development Event	Monday, June 17, 2013 Early Online Voting Begins
Saturday, February 16, 2013 Social Event	Thursday, June 20, 2013 Social Event
Thursday, March 7, 2013 Board Meeting	Friday, June 21, 2013 Storytelling Event
Saturday, March 9, 2013 Community Service Event	Thursday, June 27, 2013 Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 Professional Development Event	Sunday, June 30, 2013 Election Day RPCVW Annual Summer BBQ and Elections

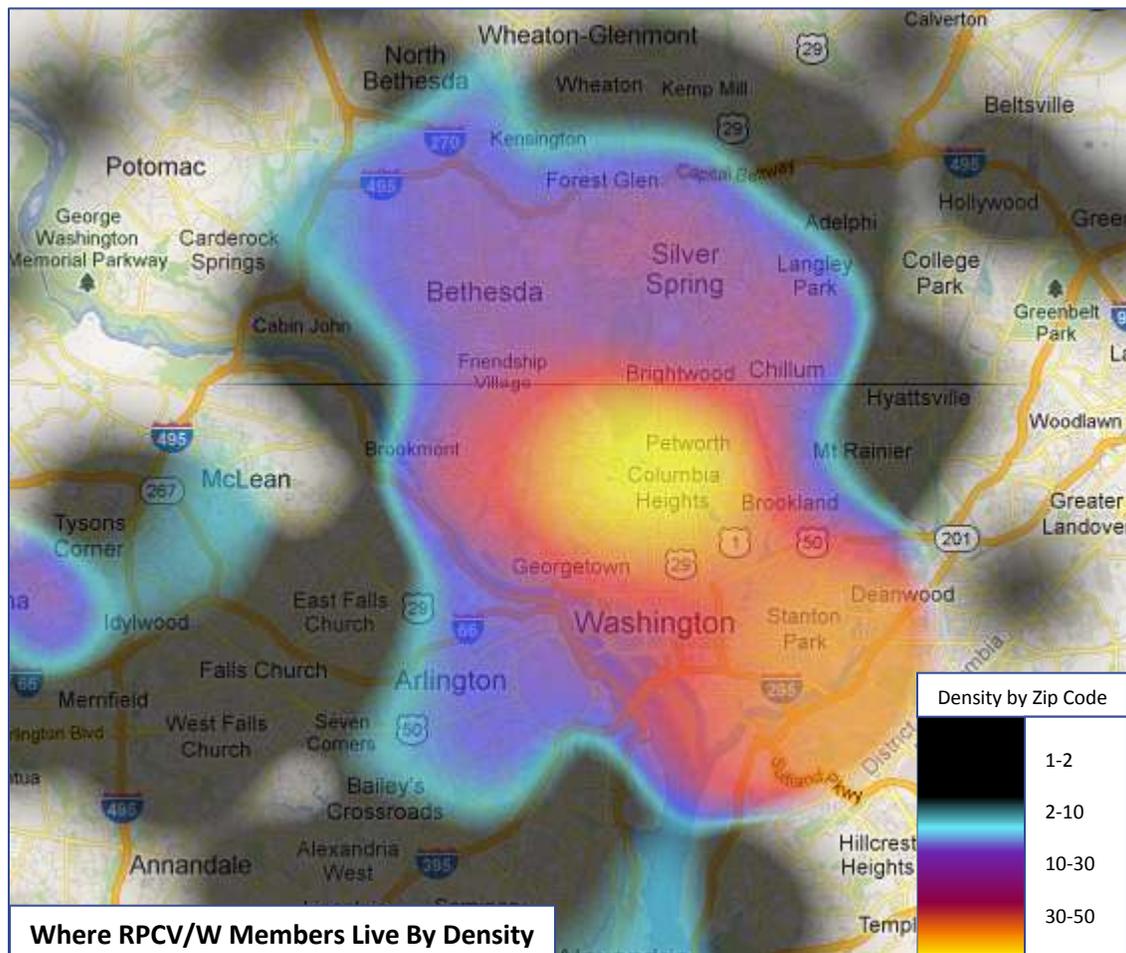
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Who We Are



Demographic Summary

There are over 5,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers living in the Washington, DC Metro area. RPCV/W includes over 700 of them. According to our latest survey, most of our members join to network, make friends, and to become familiar with the DC Peace Corps Community. 83% of our members attend at least one event throughout the year. 85% read our weekly email newsletter. Many have made friends, participated in fun events, and gotten involved with worthy volunteer projects. A few have gotten jobs, found mentors, and even met a significant other through our network.

The median age of our membership is 32, and over half possess an advanced degree. They work in international development and the nonprofit sector primarily. 74% are female and 29% are male. Above all, we're all interested in community development and sharing our stories.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC

Board of Directors

As of 7/1/2012



Chris Austin
President
president@rpcvw.org

Chris Austin is currently serving as President of RPCV/W. Chris served as a Health Resource Education Volunteer in Kenya from 2003-2005, where he led training-of-trainer workshops for primary and secondary school teachers on incorporating HIV/AIDS education into their classrooms.

The President is responsible for giving strategic direction to the Board. Chris runs Board meetings, co-facilitates retreats, troubleshoots organizational challenges, and serves as the face of the organization for media and events. The President also engages peer groups and forges partnerships with organizations that share the vision and values of RPCVW.



Brandon Roche
Vice President
vicepresident@rpcvw.org

Brandon Roche served as a Health volunteer in Lepaera, Lempira, Honduras from 2003-2005. He taught HIV/AIDS education and focused on Men's Health.

The Vice President is responsible for coordinating and co-facilitating strategic Board retreats, as well as ensuring that the organization remains in compliance with DC's rules and regulations regarding non-profits. Brandon also runs and implements our Partnership for Peace program, where RPCV/W picks a local nonprofit to sponsor for the year with a cash grant from the proceeds of our Holiday Silent Auction and volunteer assistance throughout the year.



Liza Cushion
Secretary
secretary@rpcvw.org

Liza Cushion served in El Salvador as an agroforestry volunteer from 2001-2003. Most recently, Liza worked at the World Bank on international forestry and development issues, including climate change.

As Secretary, Liza is responsible for keeping the minutes of each Board meeting and retreat, as well as compiling the annual report in June. The Secretary distributes minutes in a timely manner and keeps detailed records of Board decisions. He/she is responsible for editing and disseminating the weekly newsletter, which shares RPCV/W events and announcements that any member can submit. The Secretary is also in charge of past minutes, reports, articles, pictures, and all other records for the organization.



Chris Polen
Treasurer
treasurer@rpcvw.org

Chris completed his Peace Corps service in Azerbaijan where he worked with the Ministry of Economic Development and USAID.

As Treasurer, Chris is responsible for managing RPCV/W's finances and cash flow. Along with the VP, the Treasurer is also responsible for filing taxes and other financial documents in a timely manner. The Treasurer also compiles a yearly budget which provides discretionary spending for RPCV/W events and programs.

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Jason Smith
Development Director
development@rpcvw.org

Jason served in Bulgaria as a business development volunteer where he consulted entrepreneurs and nonprofits, taught business basics to high school students, and hosted several youth focused projects.

As Development Director, Jason is responsible for keeping RPCV/W funded through non-dues revenues. He works with sponsors and donors, and runs the silent auction at the Holiday Party. In addition, the Development Director is responsible for creating sponsor/donor materials (i.e. letters, forms, thank you notes, packages, etc.)



Laura Mariko Schmitz
Social Director
social@rpcvw.org

Mariko served in Vanuatu from 2002-2004 as an Environment volunteer in Vao, Malekula. She has worked in the international development community for several years and is a DC local.

The Social Director is responsible for coordinating events that hold the organization together. Mariko plans at least 2 social events per month, including happy hours, family events, camping trips, cooking classes, wine tasting tours, field trips, and all manner of fun activities. She coordinates with local venues and encourages members to meet each other and build connections and friendships.



Arvis Layton
Prof- Development Director
professionaldev@rpcvw.org

Arvis Layton served as a Water and Sanitation Engineer in Gracias, Lempira, Honduras, where he designed and oversaw the construction of gravity-fed water systems.

As Professional Development Director, Arvis is responsible for developing and implementing RPCV/W's Professional Development Initiative (PDI). The aim of the PDI is to better connect RPCVs with each other along career lines. The Professional Development Director organizes career information events, speed networking events, formal panel discussions with RPCVs representing various industries, and mentoring programs for recently-returned volunteers. Arvis also serves as the point of contact for job-seeking members looking to network and meet other professionals.



Cara George
Community Service Director
communityservice@rpcvw.org

Cara served in Huehuetenango, Guatemala from 2009-2011 as a Municipal Development Volunteer, assigned to the Women, Youth, and Children's Office of a local municipal government, where she worked to increase the presence and organization of civil society, community, and women's groups.

The Community Service Director is responsible for helping RPCV/W members continue their passion for community development. Cara identifies local opportunities to engage in service projects and assists the VP with Partnership for Peace selection and implementation. Cara plans at least one service day per month, and is always interested in finding new partnering organizations in need of volunteer assistance.



Renetta Boyd
Outreach Director
outreach@rpcvw.org

As former Special Events Director and RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Social and Outreach Co-Chair, Renetta successfully planned and coordinated a series of events from book signings to dining experiences with a team of dedicated members. Renetta served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Eastern Caribbean, St. Kitts (2004-2006) assigned to the Department of Youth in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Social and Community Development and Gender Affairs.

As Outreach Director, Renetta is responsible for ensuring that RPCV/W retains a robust membership and for building relationships between RPCV/W and community stakeholders. She manages the RPCV/W membership database and works to streamline membership sign-ups and renewals.

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Manuela McDonough
Special Events Director
specialevents@rpcvw.org

Manuela worked as an Environmental Health Volunteer in Panama from 2003-2005, where she led a community-wide recycling project, facilitated the construction of over 20 latrines, and lead a youth group focused on the prevention of STIs and HIV.

As Special Events Coordinator, Manuela is responsible for the coordination of RPCV/W's three signature events: The Annual Holiday Party, Annual Wreath Laying Event and the Annual Summer BBQ. She works closely with venues, catering, and the Development Director to make sure our big events are affairs to remember.



Chris Robinson
Public Relations Director
publicrelations@rpcvw.org

Chris served in Jamaica from 2007-2009 as a community development specialist. Based in the town of Glengoffe, Chris advised a local civic group and implemented a string of projects in agriculture, small business development, environmental engineering, and rural water supply. During the second year of his service, Chris partnered with agricultural extension officers communities across NE St. Catherine parish, helping farmers organize into functioning groups and embark on similar projects.

As Public Relations Director, Chris runs the website and promotes events via social media. Contact him if you have an event or story you'd like to publicize through our network.

Honorary Directors



Corey Taylor
Inaugural Committee Chair
inaugural@rpcvw.org

Corey served as a Small Enterprise Development Volunteer in Benin, working with farmers and female cooperatives; he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Ohio University.

As a veteran of the RPCV/W Board, Corey was called upon to lead the 2013 Inaugural Parade Committee, which is responsible for securing a place for RPCV/W to march in the next Presidential Parade. It is his job to navigate the complex process and wrangle over 100 volunteers on January 21, 2013.



Jesse Bailey
Historian
historian@rpcvw.org

Jesse Bailey served in Morocco from 2007 – 2009.

As RPCV/W Historian, Jesse is tasked with looking back into our 30 year history and writing the story of returned volunteers who came to DC to live and start their careers. From 1961 to the present, the Historian is responsible for protecting the oral and photographic history of our members and the projects they tackled after returning from the Peace Corps. He will also organize storytelling events for this purpose in the Spring of 2013.

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Join US

Regular Membership: \$15

- Membership is open to all. First year is always free.
- Members are eligible for discounts to special events.
- Members are granted access to our online directory to search for and contact other members.
- Members can register for and attend restricted "Members Only" events.
- Members shape the organization by organizing clubs, electing the board of directors, and assuming leadership roles.

Go to www.rpcvw.org/join to sign up.

Friend of RPCV/W Membership: \$100

This option is ideal for larger organizations and small businesses looking to promote within the RPCV/W community or individuals wishing to make a gift to the organization and display a personal tribute.

- All the benefits of a Regular Membership.
- Organizations may create a profile and publicly promote themselves on our website.
- Individuals may offer a public tribute they create and post on the website.
- Organizations may advertise events and small fundraisers in our active Facebook Group.
- Individuals receive special considerations at major RPCV/W events.
- Businesses may enter into promotional agreements for RPCV/W Members.

For more information on giving or partnering with RPCV/W, email development@rpcvw.org