



North Carolina Peace Corps Association  
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## NCPCA 2017 Activities

In 2017, the North Carolina Peace Corps Association (NCPCA) brought area RPCVs together through a variety of events including an RPCV book club, international dinners, and happy hour events in Raleigh. Regular NCPCA events also included Steering Committee meetings, which occurred during the months of January, February, April, June, July, September, October, and November. Please see highlights of special events below. The year concludes with the NCPCA's Holiday Party and Annual Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Glenn and Ruth Sappie in Raleigh.

### **NC Peace Prize 2016 Award Event, March 11, 2017**

- Peace Prize is \$1000 grant plus a commemorative pottery vase, winner selected among 501c3 nonprofit orgs with budget <\$500K who apply
- Awarded to International Focus, a Raleigh organization that hosts international exchange programs and an annual International Festival
- Award ceremony at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church with guest speaker Tom Vitaglione (RPCV Malawi 1964-66, a highly-recognized children's advocate)

### **Peace Corps Night**

- July 29 at UU Fellowship Church in Raleigh and attended by 82 RPCVs and guests
- Raised funds to support Cookstoves for Panama, a project by a NC volunteer, Eli Wittum
- Speaker from EPA (RPCV Jim Jetter, Fiji 1982-84) on energy-efficient cook stoves around the world; award-winning 2016 Peace Corps videos were another highlight

### **Survey Monkey poll of membership**

- Polled member and non-member RPCVs to get input on priorities for future, favorite kinds of events, ideas for new projects. 48 responses received, results help inform Steering Committee planning for 2018

### **Membership**

- NCPCA has 134 active, dues-paying members as of 11-17. 50 of these active members also belong to the Facebook group. There are also an additional 289 individuals who belong to the Facebook group, but who do not pay dues to NCPCA.
- Membership director performing due diligence on SilkStart database

### **Meetings with congressional representatives to urge support for the Peace Corps budget**

- Ivan Browning and Peggy Schaeffer met with US Rep George Butterworth's district office staff
- Kate Gavaghan, Ivan Browning, and Bob and Judy Page met with US Rep. David Price
- Kate Gavaghan, Myron Fountain and Ivan Browning met with George Holding's district office staff

### **Happy Hours**

- Held nearly every month in Raleigh, attendance from 5-10
- On hiatus in Durham, awaiting new coordinator

### **International Dinners**

- Held nearly every month in diverse local international restaurants (Indian, Cuban, Mexican, Guatemalan, Greek....) Usually attended by 5-12 members

### **Fall family picnic**

- Held at Lake Crabtree County park in September
- Well attended-- 57! , and featured story-telling

### **Book group meetings**

- Held every other month
- Attendance is booming, often 15 or more participants

### **Welcome Sign project**

- Jane Benbow and Peggy Schaeffer collaborated to sell yard signs saying "No matter where you're from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in 3 languages
- Sold about 75 signs to NCPA members and others and raised \$200 for 2 local refugee resettlement agencies

### **Peace Corps/Rotary Partnership**

- Formed as a result of national Peace Corps/Rotary Partnership
- Partnership committee has drafted action items for 2018, including a RPCV Speakers' Bureau that could be tapped by 37 District 7710 Rotary Clubs

### **Communications**

- Monthly and as-needed e-newsletters
- Maintained website: <http://ncpeacecorps.org/>
- Posts to [Facebook Group Page](#)