



North Carolina Peace Corps Association
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NCPCA 2018 Activities

In 2018, 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 and Durham. Regular NCPCA events also included Steering Committee meetings, which occurred during the months of January, March, May, June, August, September and October. Please see highlights of special events below. The year concluded with the NCPCA's Holiday Party and Annual Meeting on December 8th at the home of Glenn and Ruth Sappie in Raleigh.

NC Peace Prize 2018 Award Event, February 25, 2018

- Peace Prize is a \$1000 grant plus a commemorative pottery vase, winner selected among 501c3 nonprofit orgs with budget <\$500K who apply. (Org budget increased to \$1M for 2019)
- Awarded to [Learning Outside](#), of Carrboro, offers hands-on outdoor learning programs that provide children with what they really need: time spent outdoors learning, exploring and discovering in the natural world. The non-profit organization gives children experiences in the outdoors that enhance their lives and learning, and that instill in them a love of the natural world and a lifelong commitment to stewardship. Serving individuals who do not have access to quality outdoor learning experiences is key to Learning Outside's mission.
- Award ceremony at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church with guest speaker Gene Nichol, UNC law professor, PCV Dad and frequent contributor to the Raleigh *News & Observer's* Op-Ed pages

Peace Corps Night

- June 30 at the Community Church in Chapel Hill – Theme: Welcoming Refugees Into Our Community
- We had 55 members and guests, a delicious international buffet, and we raised a little over \$1,000 for the [Njoben Wolof Water Project](#) in The Gambia, a project of NC PCV Rachal Katerle.
- Scott Phillips, (RPCV Ukraine 2003-05), Director of the Raleigh office of the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), was our guest speaker.

Collaboration with the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants – Raleigh (USCRI)

- In June the Steering Committee voted unanimously to enter into a 1-year pilot program to collaborate with USCRI on activities to aid refugees and to give our members opportunities to volunteer with the non-profit. The idea for the cooperation came from four of our members who have been actively volunteering with refugees for years. Two activities arose from the program this year:

- We co-sponsored a meet-the-RPCV-author event on August 22 with Madeline Uraneck, author of [How to Make a Life: A Tibetan Refugee Family and the Midwestern Woman They Adopted.](#) Tenzin Kalsang, the Tibetan refugee who adopted Madeline, also spoke and invited Tibetan refugees from this area to play music and to lead the 35 attendees in a dance. Margaret Riley organized this event from scratch and even hosted the two visitors in her home. USCRI team assisted with the event.
- Ruth Sappie and Amy Blackwell put together a Halloween party for refugee kids living with their parents in a Raleigh apartment complex. The cross-cultural activities such as decorating pumpkins, eating snacks, playing bean bag toss and of course getting treats for their baskets were a huge hit!

Membership

- NCPCA has 131 active, dues-paying members as of 11/12/18. There are also an additional 425 individuals who belong to our Facebook group. We have an overlap of ~60 dues-paying members who also belong to the FB group.
- In October the Steering Committee voted to move to an Affiliate Group Pro package with the National Peace Corps Association and to adopt its Community Building Platform. Work is underway to transition to a new website and membership records are already being kept in the cloud.

Happy Hours

- Held every month in Raleigh, attendance from 5-10
- Durham happy hours began in April after an extended hiatus. Andrew Davis has been coordinating the events which move to different venues monthly, attendance ~10

International Dinners

- Held in January, February, April, and October. Steering committee put them on hold for the summer due to attendance drop-off; changed to having a member host the dinners at a restaurant serving the cuisine of host's country of service. Dinners resume in January.

Fall family picnic

- Held at Lake Crabtree County park on September 29
- Well attended---45, including RPCVs, guests, and kids. We had plenty of burgers, dogs, and potluck dishes to share. We heard a few PC war stories and also hosted lots of mosquitoes!

Book group meetings

- Held every other month
- Attendance is booming, often 15 or more participants. The Google Group serving for communications has over 80 members.

Peace Corps/Rotary Partnership

- Formed as a result of national Peace Corps/Rotary Partnership
- Work done to set up a Speakers' Bureau; communication with Rotary district stopped after the new Rotary year in July. 2019 Steering Committee to decide whether to offer the Speakers Bureau service under the NCPCA banner.

Communications

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