



WORLD ROOTS

Newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison

Volume 30 Issue 8
August 2009

Message from the President

A post-Labor Day greeting to everyone!

The Labor Day weekend was for me what I've decided to call a "Full Moon Manoomin." *Manoomin* is the Ojibwe word for "the good berry," or wild rice. I had the great pleasure of sharing the weekend with friends and family on Little Rice Lake near Crandon. It was indeed a full Corn Moon on Friday, 9/4, at 11:04 UT (according to my RPCV calendar). Fifty person-hours went into collecting between 300-400# of manoomin, which will probably dry, parch, and thresh out to about 40% of that. The value was in the camaraderie, the outdoor camping/canoeing, and the overall experience. As we know from our PC experience, it's not always about how much money one saves...or creates!

I found myself reflecting on the labor-intensive harvest processing that I observed in Ghana - the palm, soy and peanut oils, shea butter, soaps, peanut butter, soymilk, corn leaching and drying for banku - the list goes on and on. My Oneida friends were respectful of, but surprised at, the amount of labor still required in different cultures today.

For those of you who voted on Africa Rural Connect for my Ghanaian friends' soya milk production proposal, a thousand thanks. Literally. Kingsley and Florence came in at 3rd place, and won \$1,000 in the first round. They process soymilk in their kitchen and sell it to schools and businesses in Tamale, and expect to make a down-payment on a pasteurizer to extend the shelf life of the product. If you haven't contacted your African friends to get their projects posted on ARC, please be sure to do so soon. There are two more rounds of voting, then in November there will be a grand prize of \$20,000, to be awarded to one of the Top 40 projects, judged to be of most value. (The panel of judges is impressive, including the names I know: Carol Bellamy and Angelique Kidjo.) And you can still vote on their project...voting still counts, though they will not win any of the remaining monthly awards. Go to <http://arc.peacecorpsconnect.org/view/415/soymilk-production-expansion> to vote or to learn more. From the Updates menu, you can also hear live interviews with the three winners, who discuss their projects, their hopes, their dreams for Africa.

We have *many* opportunities to participate in the group, from two elected positions of Vice President and Secretary, to help with fund-raising activities on the calendar and poster committees, to help identifying ways to have fun! We're not all about work in this volunteer organization, and we welcome any interested person to take a step into the heart of the group. As I discovered when I went to Washington DC in June and received many, many thanks and honors from NPCA in the name of the group for our intensive fund-raising activities, it is also very rewarding. We have identified a way to formally honor active participants, and will share more information on this during and after the PICNIC/POTLUCK/ANNUAL MEETING this Sunday, September 13 from 4-7pm.

See you at Tenney Park!

Peace,



Dates in Brief*

August

- 4 - Poster Comm Mtng, Char
- 6 - International Dinner
- 7 - 1st Friday Social, Mem Un
- 19 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 23 - Book Club
- 25 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home

September

- 1 - Poster Comm Mtng, Char*
- 3 - International Dinner
- 11 - Calendar Packing Party***
- 13 - PICNIC, Tenney Park***
- 16-19 World Music Fest Mem Un
- 19-20 Willy St. Fest, Willy St. *
- 22 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home
- 27 - Book Club

October

- 1 - International Dinner*
- 2 - 1st Friday Social, Mem Un*
- 6 - Poster Com Mtng, Char*
- 20 - Gen Mtng, Red Gym
- 25 - Book Club
- 27 - Cal Com Mtng, Tom home
- 31 - Halloween Party?

* More Inside

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RPCVs of WI – Madison Officers & Contacts

Elected Officers

President	Kate Schachter	234.1795	kateschachter@yahoo.com
Vice President	Lee Row	232.9065	leerow@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Meghan Meeker	630.7707	meghanmeeker@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ana Zambie	234.0281	annzam2001@yahoo.com
Board Member	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	zdogg47@gmail.com
Board Member	Char Thompson		charkt@charter.net
Deadwood/Book Club	Mary Ann Feutz	(262) 224.3753	mafeutz@uwalumni.com

Event Chairs

Family Brunch	Clare Vogel Friedrich		vogelclare@gmail.com
Freeze for Food	Rick Lackey	213.8878	meisa@charter.net
	Peter Joyce	245.0626	peterjoyce@sbcglobal.net
Tabling Events	Troy Rutter	245.9964	txrutter@att.net
International Dinners	Tom Brodd	251.6193	twbrodd@aol.com
MorePeaceCorps	Judy Figi		salonesix@aol.com

Other Contacts

Calendar Coordinator	Tom Brodd	251.6193	twbrodd@aol.com
Calendar Customer Service	Ken Coffeen	224.1164	kencoffeen67@tds.net
Business Manager			
Donation Coordinator	Walt Zeltner	873.5257	zdogg47@gmail.com
Global Education	Helene Pesche		
Membership	Heather Hempel Gomez	843.3973	rpcvmsnmembers@gmail.com
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Peace Corps Recruiter	John Sheffy	262.1121	peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu
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Listserv

RPCVs of WI – Madison http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

Websites

RPCVs of WI – Madison

<http://www.rpcvmadison.org>

Thanks to Kim Malueg!

International Calendar

<http://www.rpcvcalendar.org>

NPCA

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>

Peace Corps Online

<http://www.peacecorpsonline.org>

Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>

Our address

PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701

FIND ARCHIVED GROUP INFORMATION

Are you looking for old meeting minutes, copies of newsletters, group photos, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws? Newsletters are posted on our website, but most of these other items are posted only on our Yahoo! Group pages.

Meeting minutes are added to this area, for ready access by anyone. If you want to know how to access these files, or how to use the listserv to its fullest advantage, contact Kate Schachter, 608.234.1795 or kateschachter@yahoo.com for a mini-training at a local coffee shop with Wi-Fi access.

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2009

Memorial Union Terrace

Holly Banaszak, Tom Brodd, Kenneth Coffeen, Heather Hempel Gomez, Meghan Meeker, Gloria-Luz Nelson, Omar Nelson, Helene Pesche, Kate Schachter, Judy Stadler, Sara Schwartz, Char Thompson, Ana Zambie & Walt Zeltner

We removed the Domestic Violence Shelter (Juarez, Mexico) discussion and vote from our agenda, because the Mike and Marcy Reed were unable to attend.

Announcements

50th Anniversary Coordinator

We still need a volunteer to lead the 50th Anniversary Committee, which will plan activities celebrating Peace Corps' golden anniversary in 2011. Interested candidates should contact Kate.

If you plan to attend the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Washington Sept. 22-25, 2011, Anne Baker, VP of the NPCA, suggests making your hotel arrangements now.

Feingold Listening Session

Kate reported that Brian Chelcun, from Senator Russ Feingold's office in Washington, D.C., will speak to interested group members on August 28th from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in Peet's Coffee Shop at the Memorial Union, UW Campus. During this listening session Brian wants to hear our concerns related to Peace Corps funding and legislation. He will also share Senator Feingold's position on MorePeaceCorps and the Peace Corps Expansion Act.

Financial Report

Cash Flow Statement

Treasurer Ana Zambie distributed copies of the cash flow statement for July 2009. The ending balances on July 31st were: \$79,927 for the International Calendar, \$2,153 for the group, and \$3,361 for the International Poster Project.

NPCA Donation for 50th Anniversary

After confirming that we have sufficient funds in the group account, Kate moved that we donate \$500 to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) to support the 50th Anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. September 22-

25, 2011. Helene seconded and, after discussion, the group approved unanimously.

Old Business

Annual General Meeting and Picnic

We discussed the planning for our Annual General Meeting and Picnic, to be held on September 13th at the Tenney Park Shelter. Judy Stadler will print labels to mail a flyer to all current members, encouraging them to attend the meeting. Heather Hempel Gomez will prepare an up-to-date membership roster to assist with renewals during the meeting. Kate will print membership forms with the new privacy policy attached, so that all members have an opportunity to complete them. Ken Coffeen will bring a bulletin board to display volunteer opportunities within the group; Kate and Tom Brodd will prepare the listings.

The meeting will begin at 6 PM, as people finish their meals. Nanayaa Kumi is coming to speak briefly about Peace Corps Response (formerly Crisis Corps). Donna Page will promote RPCV Art Exhibit, proposed as one of our group's 50th Anniversary activities in 2011. Kate will report on group activities and accomplishments since last September. Ana will give a financial report. Tom and Char Thompson will give reports on the Calendar and Poster committees respectively. We will end the meeting with elections for the 2009-10 Board.

Member Privacy Policy

Kate presented copies of our Privacy Policy, which will enable members to opt out of sharing their contact information with the Peace Corps Recruiter Offices. We will not share any member contact information with NPCA until it permits us to opt out of having our contact information sold to businesses for marketing purposes. Kate motioned to approve the revised Privacy Policy, Char seconded, and all approved.

Committee Reports

Membership

Heather gave a brief update on membership. She will follow up with other organizations (e.g. Friends of Ghana) to determine

whether signed privacy policies need to be kept on file.

Calendar Committee

Tom reported that David Marshall will serve as the Photo Coordinator with assistance from Teresa Cousins. Holly Banaszak will take over Kenneth Coffeen's role processing calendar orders. There will be a thank you party for Rose Ann Scott and Jo Thomson on August 28th at Alan Weiner & Sandra Belozercovsky's house. The Packing Party will be held on September 11th at Alan Weiner's warehouse on Hwy 14 in Middleton.

International Poster Project

Char reported \$314 in new sales of the International Poster, bringing the total sales to over \$4,000. Char and Phyllis expect major sales at two large teacher conferences in October.

2009 Gift-Away

Walt reported \$6,800 in available funds. We will accept proposals for additional Gift-Away donations until September 15th. After that, any unused funds could roll over to Peace Corps Partnerships. He suggests that we discuss this option at the October or November meetings. Mike and Marcy Reed were not able to join us and speak about their Domestic Violence Shelter project in Juarez, Mexico, so this proposal remains tabled.

MorePeaceCorps

Kate reported that Judy Figi encourages us to thank Rep. Tammie Baldwin and Sen. Russ Feingold for their support of Peace Corps funding.

Archiving Project

Char reported that Amy O'Shea will soon complete the archiving project. Judy is seeking a complete set of calendars for the archives. She was directed to Pam Halpin.

Social Committee

Despite misty weather, Kate reported a successful gathering for the first Friday Social on August 7th at the Memorial Union Terrace.

Third Goal Opportunities

United We Serve (Serve.gov)

Kate highlighted United We Serve, the Obama Administration's new initiative to promote volunteering within the US. Kate has tried

posting some of our group's volunteer opportunities on the Serve.gov website, but she is experiencing technical difficulties that have yet to be resolved.

Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting precipitously as raindrops began to fall.



Poster Committee

August 4, 2009

Char's home

Festivals & Conferences:

Thanks to Troy & Helene we had a very visual presence at the Atwood festival. The wind and music volume did not always cooperate. The question came up about single poster sales as the two daughters of a purchaser both wanted the same one. Char spoke with their mother and suggested she check with SERRV first and then will get back with a committee decision. We agreed to set aside 2 tubes for single sales. A single poster would be \$10.

Char has filled out the forms for a table at the WECA conference in the Dells Oct. 22-24. Ana has the form to add the check to mail out. We have been told there were 1,200 teachers last year. Char has volunteered to be there. We will also offer to sell calendars and lots of free bookmarks, etc. would be desirable. Char will follow up on the Montessori association and Helene will follow up on UW preschool lab.

Phyllis has delivered the forms for a table at the WEAC conference in Milwaukee Oct. 29-30. Char will follow up so that Ana also mails out that check and will check with the Milwaukee RPCV President to see if they could provide a table and any participation.

Internet Connections:

Fine tuning the website may include adding a source: [2009 World Fact Book](#) to the overview and in future on each page. It would be desirable to have all five posters on the overview and then a link directly to the order form people can see what they are ordering quickly. Next time we print the order form we will clarify a

point about media mail (7-10 days).

Kate has posted a request for volunteers on SERVE.gov.

We need to keep a conversation going on Peace Corps Connect and Global TeachNet. Char will send Kate information about conferences as a prime way to reach teachers.

Phyllis will follow up with Ken Swift on a minor change in the write-up on his teapot photo.

Marketing and Sales:

Phyllis has received a few responses to her questions to teachers. One said no rush on the next series, one said 6-8 posters, and one said definitely all 15.

The Learning Store only has shelves for posters in the 11x 17 format. Kate suggested they be asked if they would list and sell the posters and have us drop ship the posters.

The Tucson RPCV group will be discussing a bulk purchase at their August meeting. The New Mexico group sent out a notice on their listserv and we have already received orders.

Iowa - Kate actually purchased posters as UNA and not RPCVs. Char will connect with Bonnie Block to see if other UNA chapters would like to make similar purchases.

Phyllis connected with the Catholic School and will have more contacts in the near future. We received orders from a Mississippi church school.

Phyllis will follow up on Chicago Teacher development, an MATC contact and CCBC.

Helene suggested and Char will check with Tom Brodd regarding possible enclosure on the one page order form in the packing party especially if the other side could also be used.

Accounting:

Char passed out a sheet with the accounting information on it. We have turned in \$3,710.77 not including the August amount, to the RPCV group account and we have \$110.90 in petty cash. We have sold 260 poster sets, and donated 73. With average sales of

the balance of the posters at \$20/set, the result would be another \$13,180.

Miscellaneous

We were sorry to hear that Phyllis will leave in December, but understand her desire to carry out her planned retirement activities.

Next meeting will be the first Tuesday of the month - i.e. Sept 1, at Char's.



Announcements

Fall Giftaway

Message from Walt Zeltner

This past spring we considered several requests for donations from the proceeds of the sales of the 2009 calendar. After processing these requests, we have about \$6,000 remaining for additional donations. Therefore, at our October 2009 general meeting we will entertain additional requests for donations to specific projects that align with the objectives of Peace Corps.

Requests should be submitted by e-mail on our standard donation form, which I can provide if you email me at zdogg47@gmail.com. (Note that my old e-mail address has been discontinued.) Although this form was available on our website for the spring giftaway, the link to it is not currently active. The request must be received in time to be published in our newsletter before the October meeting or it cannot be considered. Please email the completed form to me at the address above and to our newsletter editor at

worldrootsnews@yahoo.com.

Although we prefer to fund overseas projects, we will consider domestic projects as well. We will not pay for travel expenses and will generally not consider funding scholarships. Further information is provided on the donation form.

Street Festival News

From Troy Rutter

Our next tabling event is the Willy Street Fair on Sunday, September 20 from 11 AM to 7 PM. Call 245.9964 or e-mail trutter@att.net if you want to help at our table.

Thank You

Dear RPCVs of Madison,

My village of Tourningal and I are forever grateful for your unstinting donation to the community and women's center. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and thank you from the community that has already started to benefit from the beautiful new center!



The official inauguration was the 17th of June. The PC Director of Cameroon was in attendance along with many elites, dozens of women (a first in the area) and hundreds of spectators. Since the ceremony the center has been in full swing: meetings are held for women's groups each week, a large cultural ceremony was held



(where the center held over 300+ people!!) The final party for my camp (and skits) was held there, and women have begun to learn how to sew!



All in all it has already been put to good use and hopefully will last this village many years to come!

The amount of thanks I received was incalculable - daily people mention the new center. It is the talk of the community and of the country too!

I look forward to being an RPCV of Madison someday and only hope to contribute to communities like you all do.

Thanks again, much peace,

Ali Starling
PCV Tourningal, Cameroon 09

NPCA News

Africa Rural Connect Selects First Round of Winning Ideas for Online Contest to Lessen Rural Poverty

Washington, D.C. - Africa Rural Connect (ARC) is a new online community that connects individuals with life-long commitments to Sub-Saharan Africa. Hosted by The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), ARC announced today the first round of winning ideas for participants in its online contest on how to help rural Africa.

"The site was created on the premise that the real solutions to Africa's problems will ultimately come from the ground up," says Molly Mattessich, manager of Africa Rural Connect and a former Mali Peace Corps Volunteer. "By creating a series of monthly contests, people are encouraged to share their ideas, big or small, and collaborate on developing answers to help farmers and strengthen agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Launched last month, ARC (www.AfricaRuralConnect.org) is a resource for discussing issues, identifying problems, and building viable solutions to some of Sub-Saharan Africa's most entrenched problems. Visitors to the site are encouraged to post their best ideas on how to help rural Africa where each month the best posts are selected by participants on the site.

This month, first, second and third prize winners were determined based on the number of endorsements they received from participants on the site and seven other participants received an honorable mention. The top three received a prize winner badge that appears on their ideas page on the ARC Web site, and the first, second, and third prize winners receive \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively, to help implement the plans. The seven runners-up receive a round winner badge that is also affixed to their page and are still eligible to compete for subsequent prize money in other rounds. All monthly round winners will compete in the final round later this year when one winning idea will be selected and awarded \$20,000 to implement their plan.

This month's winners are:

1st Prize \$3,000 project seed money:

Zitnet Agricultural Network Centres
Summary of idea:

This project aims to use appropriate information communication technology to make information available on-site and in real-time in remote areas of Africa to make rural markets work more efficiently, driving greater economic value from agricultural activities. This in turn would benefit the economic and social livelihoods of the poor farming communities which dominate the local economy.

2nd Prize \$2,000 project seed money:

Solar Energy Revolution in West Africa

Summary of idea: This project aims to start a solar power energy revolution across West Africa by targeting key areas of health, education, livelihood and skills training. This project with the

strategic implementation of solar power installations will provide greater opportunities in Benin, Mali and Sierra Leone.

3rd Prize \$1,000 project seed money:

Soymilk production expansion in Ghana

Summary of idea: This project aims to expand soymilk production in order to increase access and availability of high-protein dietary substitute.

ARC leverages the connections and experiences of the African diaspora and Peace Corps Volunteers in order to better understand the needs of Sub-Saharan African farmers. The site is distinct because it introduces and encourages a new form of collaboration. When users read each other's ideas for development in Africa, not only can they discuss them and endorse the ideas, they can also make modifications to them by contributing from their own personal experience and insights.

"We want to convert ideas posted onto our site into viable plans that are actually implemented on the ground in Africa," adds Mattessich. "Between returning Peace Corps Volunteers, the African diaspora and others with experience working in Africa, we already have a wealth of knowledge on the site, but we hope these contests will encourage that many more people to participate."

To bring your best ideas for Africa to the ARC community, please visit www.AfricaRuralConnect.org.

Peace Corps News

Happy Birthday

Office of Private Sector Initiatives!

This year, the Peace Corps' Office of Private Sector Initiatives (OPSI) celebrates 40 years of facilitating partnerships between interested citizens in the United States and Peace Corps volunteers to support the communities in which they serve.

OPSI's mission is to build enduring financial alliances with the private sector to connect donors with community-based projects where

volunteers serve. One hundred percent of the donations that go to OPSI are directly allocated to a Peace Corps project selected by the donors. Originally, OPSI was known as the School to School program and facilitated funding by U.S. schools to build schools in communities where Peace Corps volunteers served.

The first year of the program saw 40 schools break ground for construction, and by 1971, over 1,300 schools were founded in 44 countries. The program changed its name to the Partnership Program in 1977, to better represent the diversity of projects funded, and now approximately 250 projects are successfully completed each year.

From Peace Corps Online:

Memo to Incoming Director Williams

PCOL has asked five prominent RPCVs and Staff to write a memo on the [most important issues facing the Peace Corps today](#).

Issues raised include the independence of the Peace Corps, political appointments at the agency, revitalizing the five-year rule, lowering the ET rate, empowering volunteers, removing financial barriers to service, increasing the agency's budget, reducing costs, and making the Peace Corps bureaucracy more efficient and responsive.

*Joanne Roll writes: A Memo to Aaron Williams, Director of the Peace Corps

*John Coyne writes: Ten Steps For The Next Peace Corps Director To Take To Improve The Agency, Save Money, and Make All PCVs & RPCVs Happy!

*Chuck Ludlam and Paula Hirschhoff write: A Twenty Point Plan to Strengthen and Expand the Peace Corps

*Joby Taylor writes: Let's Reframe Peace Corps service as lifelong

*P. David Searles writes: Revitalize the Five-Year Rule

*President Obama's Transition Team's Roadmap for the Peace Corps

<http://peacecorpsonline.org/>

Each month we dine together at a Madison Restaurant with a particular ethnic focus. Tom Brodd coordinates dinners and sends out notices on our listserv. If you are not online, call Tom @ 251.6193 to get alternative notices.

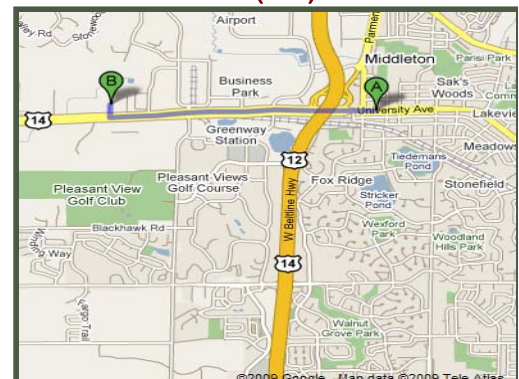
It's Packing Party Time Again!

Every year, for as far back as many of us can remember, we have gotten together in September to put the famous and fabulous International Calendar in envelopes. We do this so that when people order 1-5 calendars, the people at Weiners' warehouse only have to put a mailing label on the envelope and toss it in the mail. It saves us tons of money and time in the heat of the calendar-buying season and once again demonstrates the value of people power.

Plus there's pizza!

Yep - and it's the good stuff. So come on over and lend a little elbow grease for a good cause, get your name in the famous and fabulous International Calendar (2011 version), eat some pizza and catch up on the RPCVs of WI-Madison news.

7182 US Highway 14 # 1010,
Middleton - (608) 831-3554



It's about half a mile from where HWY 14 crosses University Ave to Weiners'. Watch for the PC logo on the right side. If you see only cornfields, you've gone too far!

Served in the Peace Corps? Thinking about it?

The RPCVs of Wisconsin Madison invite you to their

Annual General Meeting & Picnic

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

*At The Tenney Park Shelter**

- ☞ Reconnect ☞
- ☞ Elect Officers ☞
- ☞ Join, Renew ☞
- ☞ Get Calendars ☞
- ☞ Get Posters ☞
- ☞ Relax ☞
- ☞ Bring RPCVs ☞
- ☞ Bring friends ☞
- ☞ Bring the family ☞
- ☞ Bring a dish to pass ☞

Dishes, plastic utensils, etc. will be provided

We will start around 4:30 PM. Details to follow on the listserv. If you haven't already, sign up now!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpcv_madison/

**Special guest appearance by Nanayaa Kumi
from *Peace Corps Response***

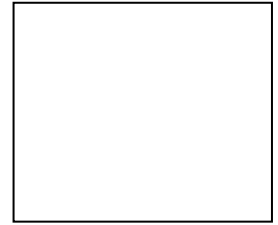
*1414 E Johnson St.

www.cityofmadison.com/parks

Madison Metro Bus Routes 2, 5, 9, 27, 28

<http://trip.cityofmadison.com/>

**PO BOX 1012
Madison WI 53701**



All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison members receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through September of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership in September. Members who join between September and December should pay \$15; members who join between January and April should pay \$10; members who join between May and August should pay \$5. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. You can also join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) through us by paying an additional \$35. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues. ****New RPCVs receive a complimentary year's membership.****

Please note that overseas rates do not include NPCA membership. See above for calculations

- Individual - \$15/\$10/\$5
- Joint - \$20/\$14/\$7 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
- I am also enclosing \$35 for each NPCA membership
- I do not want to join, but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing \$7 (\$15 for overseas) to cover costs.
- I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.
- Overseas Individual - \$24/\$16/\$8
- Overseas Joint - \$29/\$20/\$10

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

I would like to receive my Newsletter on paper, by mail electronically, by e-mail

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone #s (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail: _____

Country of Service: _____

Service Dates: _____

PC Job: _____

Birth date : (Optional - M/D/Y) _____