

Friends of the Dominican Republic



Cyber News - Issue #52 - April 2010

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President's Corner -

The year has started out with a great deal of Board activity in several areas:

First, we have identified major FDR work programs for the year: Membership, Community Challenge Fund, Program Support Fund, 50th Reunion Planning, Third Goal, and Web Site Improvements. Program leads have been busy updating and improving the web content specific to their program with more to come over the next few months. Please visit the website and provide your comments on what would make it more useful to you.

Second, the Board has approved an increase in the maximum Community Challenge Fund (CCF) Grant to \$2,500, representing the first increase since the CCF began 6 years ago. The increase will help cover increased costs of construction materials but will also require a continuing strong fund-raising effort.

Third, to help with FDR activities in the DR, improve liaison with PCVs, and keep the Board current with in-country happenings we have a new in-country "DR Committee" whose members live and work in the DR.

Through the year, there will be opportunities for volunteering, so please contact me if you would like to be more involved:

John Epler, DR 65-67 president@fotdr.org

Click her to join FDR and receive the Cyber News:

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

* * Time Sensitive Item * *

National Peace corps Association Board elections are underway **until Sunday May 16**. Only NPCA members are eligible to vote. Rachelle Olden, Former PC-DR Staff and RPCV-DR (2004-2008) was nominated by Friends of the Dominican Republic. Rachelle has also served with PC Response Liberia and as a Recruiter in Washington, D.C. and is employed by District of Columbia Schools. To support Rachelle's candidacy, go to <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2010BoardElections#vote>

Board Membership Changes

iMuchas Gracias! Thank you to **Roger Weiss** for your dedicated service and accomplishments as FDR President. As immediate Past President, Roger will continue to serve Friends of the Dominican Republic as consultant to the President and on the 50th Reunion committee.

Your **new 2010 FDR Board Members** are already busy with their responsibilities as *Directors at Large*:

- Morgen Kimbrell 88-89 PCV will assist with Cyber News Database Processes.
- Lawrence Deutsch 73-76 PCV will work with our Invitee Match and RPCV Mentoring Program.
- Steve Johnson 67-69 PCV will serve on the 50th Reunion committee.

Our officers and committee chairs:

- John Epler has moved up from Vice President to serve as President. He continues to chair the Community Challenge Fund
- John Evans continues as Treasurer (and DR 50th Reunion Chair)
- Kathryn Hanowell as Secretary
- Janice Jorgensen as Membership Chair
- Neil Ross, founding President, as History Committee Chair
- Art Johnson heads up the Web Team
- Bill Miller leads the Third Goal program
- Jim Shrefler continues as CyberNews editor
- Mariellen Malloy Jewers is our NPCA/PC DC liaison
- Aaron Arnoldy in the DR heads our new DR Committee

50th Anniversary Reunion - Santo Domingo - February 2012

Peace Corps will celebrate 50 years of continuous service in the Dominican Republic in 2012. The 50th Anniversary Reunion will be a momentous and historical occasion for Americans and Dominicans who have or will have been a part of the 50 years of Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic. Friends of the Dominican Republic, in cooperation with Peace Corps/DR and our sister organization, Fondo Quisqueya, has the lead in planning and hosting this event. We intend this reunion to be the best ever!! We will build it around opportunities to reconnect, remember, and celebrate the service and accomplishments of Peace Corps DR and our Dominican hosts.

The proposed dates are February 9-12, 2012 (Thursday through Sunday). Mark your calendars! Reunions to celebrate our Anniversaries began in 1987 for the 25th Anniversary. Since 1997, reunions have been celebrated every five years, with the lead rotating between FDR and Fondo Q. The agenda has evolved to a format which begins with registration and an evening reception on Thursday, followed by two full days of meetings and workshops on Friday and Saturday, a party/social evening on Saturday and a few optional activities on Sunday. Visits to service sites have been encouraged before and after the formal Reunions to explore what RPCVs actually accomplished or instigated during service. Some training groups organize gatherings during or after the Reunion, which generates amazing connection and buzz.

Speaker presentations and workshops are the heart of the reunions. Dominican artisans and coop representatives discuss their organizations and sell foodstuffs such as coffee, cacao, and honey, as well as items such as hats, tee-shirts, gemstones, jewelry and crafts.

Most attendees seemed satisfied with this format, yet we received comments that the conference was too compressed, and that there wasn't enough time for informal interactions between participants, Returned and current Volunteers, and Dominicans. We would like to have your opinion on the desirability of extending the 50th Anniversary agenda by one day. If this were to happen, the registration and opening reception would move forward to Wednesday, February 8th. In addition, if there is sufficient interest, we may offer more optional activities before and after the formal conference.

We have prepared a brief questionnaire, and your input will assist us in planning the 50th anniversary celebration. Please click on the following link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TN2H6BF> which will take you directly to the survey. This will only require a few minutes of your time. Thanks for your participation! Please note the deadline for survey completion is May 31, 2010. In addition to completing the survey, feel free to send your ideas on how to make this a great experience for all to John Evans, RPCV 67-69, at jequijote@verizon.net

What will be the Theme for the 50th Anniversary? Help us decide!

The dates are set and planning is underway but we need a theme! We intend a celebration for all members to enjoy and we need a conference theme that will be meaningful to all who have been a part of this 50 year Journey. Please send your suggestions to the conference chairman at jequijote@verizon.net

JFK Library Accepts Andy Hernandez Documents

Many of you know that our respected and beloved first Peace Corps - DR Director was Andres Hernandez (1962-64) of Santa Rosa, New Mexico. You also know that establishing an organization based on a new idea for American service, especially during the time of great civil uncertainty (--immediately after the fall of Trujillo --) was an immense accomplishment. Therefore, we are pleased to report that the archivist of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library has accepted Andy's offer to donate his personal files into the Peace Corps DR collection. In typical Andy fashion he said, "I am honored to have my DR correspondence and photos placed in the Kennedy Presidential Library".

Andy celebrated his 98th birthday on February 4th in his New Mexico home, stating "I plan on attending the 50th anniversary conference in 2010, God willing."!

You can ensure that your own original letters, documents and photos of your Peace Corps service are preserved by donating them to the same DR collection at the Kennedy Library. Your family will continue to have access to them and, importantly, so will historians. For updated information about donating to the Kennedy Library, visit the history section of FDR's web site at

<http://www.fotdr.org/dnn/PeaceCorps/PCDRHistory/tabid/93/Default.aspx>.

Neil Ross, DR 62-64

PCDR 50-Year History Needs your Stories

In less than 24 months we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in the DR. We intend that an important part of this event will be the publication, including development of a DVD, of our stories and photos, integrated with a historical timeline of the events in the DR and USA that affected our work and service. You are invited to contribute to this 50 year history in one of two ways:

- **Contact FDR directly:** Tell us a story or two of what you did and experienced in the DR. Our goal is one or more stories from each PCDR group. Stories and photos will be organized chronologically by year starting in 1962. For more information, contact Neil Ross at history@fotdr.org.

- **Submit to Peace Corps' Digital Library**

An alternative to sharing your stories and photos in our 50-year history is to post them in the Peace Corps new, easy to use Digital Library at

<http://collection.peacecorps.gov/index.php>

This resource provides a searchable collection of select electronic Peace Corps materials from 1961-present. It consists of materials from the Peace Corps archives and contributions from current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps's goal is to collect stories and photos from each country where Peace Corps has served, and from each decade of Peace Corps history.

We will be copying DR stories from that site into our PCDR history as well as other

public sources. So, either write a story for our Friends of the DR or contribute to the PC Digital Library. We are collaborating together for the common history.

Neil Ross, DR 62-64

Spreading the Word of the 50th: We need your help!

Fifty years of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic! What an achievement to be proud of and to celebrate! Friends are working with the Dominican government and Peace Corps DR to plan the 50th Anniversary in 2012, a Fiesta of Recognition, Reconnection, Recommitment!

We need to identify all of our RPCVs-DR and to locate Dominican counterparts. *But, our first step is to make sure we have all of our 4000 + RPCVs- DR in our database. We currently have over 2600.*

To contact as many RPCVs-DR as possible, we need you to help to do the following:

- Get **everyone listed** (including the deceased)
- Get everyone's **contact information** listed **correctly** in our data base
- Get everyone's **training/service group noted**
- **Identify a key contact** in each service group to volunteer to:
 - get the word out to the rest of the group.
 - help plan meaningful activities and recognition for the RPCVS and DR counterparts of their training/service group.

What group were you in? Do you know?

From 1962 until the 90s, groups were just numbered 1, 2, 18, 34, 44, etc. For example, DR 21 trained together in Puerto Rico and did service in the areas of rural community development, education, or maternal/child health/family planning 1967-1969.

*Since the 90's the groups have been numbered according to the fiscal year and order of arrival in that fiscal year (not necessary the actual year!). This is how it now works: The DR is known in PC-HQ (Washington) as 517. Someone arriving in November of 2003 would be formally known as **517-04-01**. "04" is the fiscal year. "01" denotes first group. Again, this means when they went to the DR, November 2003 was in fiscal year 2004 and their group was the first one arriving in FY 04. If they had arrived in March 2004 and were the second group after the November group, they would be 517-04-02. You can find your Group number on most official communications you have from Peace Corps.*

(Note: a few PCVs arrived individually and were never part of any group.)

What you can do:

Find your group number and log in to <http://fotdr.org> and **update** your information. If you get stuck logging in at the site; email me, Janice Jorgensen, at membershipdirector@fotdr.org for assistance.

If you have contact with **any** DR RPCVs, **please forward this** to them or otherwise tell them to be sure to get registered in the FODR database.

- If you are a dues paying member, you can **look up your friends** and colleagues on our database. One great benefit of submitting the \$15 annual membership fee is this database access via the FDR website www.fotdr.org.

Help us be a reconnection resource for all Dominican Republic RPCVs and current PCVs. We want to plan the best reunion ever for you and your fellow RPCVs and Counterparts. Please help!

Janice Jorgensen, DR 66-68

Third Goal Project - American, Dominican and Haitian Boy Scouts join forces in Aid Effort

Seven Narragansett Council Boy Scouts from southern Rhode Island [ages 15-17] just returned from a two week tour of the Dominican Republic attending Scout events, including home stays with Scout families in Santo Domingo, Moca, Santiago, Puerto Plata and Jarabacoa.



We visited the Peace Corps Office and had a briefing by Director Romeo Massey and 4 Volunteers. A few days later we spent a morning white water rafting on the Yaque del Norte with 2 Volunteers, and in the afternoon visited their site in La Angostura [beyond Monabao] where we ate a campesino meal prepared by their village counterparts. We heard Dominicans explain how Volunteers since 1993 have helped the village for the first time build a water system serving all the homes, construct more sanitary latrines, help each family build more efficient, healthier cook stoves, create their own micro-hydro power plant, and now begin developing a new income source though eco-tourism; a remarkable PC success story.

As a service project, our Scouts brought \$5,500 in donated cash to the DR and purchased tools, food and medical supplies for Haitian earthquake relief but with a Scouting connection. We bought the supplies for the Dominican Scouts to transport to the Haitian/Dominican border, where Haitian Scouts met and took our purchases for distribution to earthquake survivors in outlying villages not being serviced by the main international relief agencies. BSA Scouts helping Dominican Scouts helping Haitian Scouts to give relief - Baden-Powell would have been very pleased. In many ways, our visiting Scouts and leaders celebrated BSA's 100th with an international good turn. Siempre listo.

See additional photos at

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=147834&id=598049645>

Neil Ross, DR 62-64

Are You Connected?

NPCA has started a social network site where you can look up various sorts of groups and many of your friends.

Friends of the Dominican Republic has a page at

<http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/group/dominicanrepublic>

FDR is also on Facebook

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=138204071776

CONTACT US! Do you have a news piece, announcement, photo, or suggestion for the next Cyber News? Sent it along to the FDR Cyber News editor at CyberNews@fotdr.org
Visit Friends of the Dominican Republic online at: www.fotdr.org

Cyber News is distributed by email and includes website links to more in-depth articles. View past editions of the Cyber News at www.fotdr.org by selecting Cyber News in the top menu bar.

Your Donations are the *combustible* that keep FDR's Program Support Fund and the Community Challenge Fund supporting Volunteer projects. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, all donations to FDR are tax deductible.

Keep your Membership up to date: FDR dues are only \$15 per year!

Pay dues and donate with credit card or Pay Pal at www.fotdr.org, or mail dues & donations, payable to "Friends of the Dominican Republic," to FDR Treasurer, John Evans, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

FDR is an affiliate of the **National Peace Corps Association** (NPCA). NPCA dues are \$35 per year! Add that to your check for FDR membership and send to either FDR or to NPCA Membership, 1900 L Street NW, Suite 404, Washington, DC 20036 (designate FDR as your affiliate group). You may join or renew membership for both FDR and NPCA online at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/renew.

Fondo Quisqueya- FDR collaborates closely with our sister organization, Fondo Quisqueya. Like FDR, Fondo Q is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Fondo Q provides scholarships for low income Dominicans at all levels below university, including vocational and non-traditional education. Fondo Q welcomes your support. For complete Information about Fondo Q, visit their website: www.fondoq.org. Contributions may be sent to Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

Send changes in postal or e-mail addresses to Janice Jorgensen:

MembershipDirector@fotdr.org. Better yet, make the additions and changes to any of

your data on the website.

To Unsubscribe: If you do **NOT** want to receive future editions of the FDR Cyber News, please send a request to Janice Jorgensen: MembershipDirector@fotdr.org and ask to be removed from the e-mail list.

Want to Know More About FDR? General Information, Board Membership and Bylaws are available on the Website -

General information about FDR, our programs and interests start at the home page of our web site:

<http://www.fotdr.org/default.aspx>

Specific information about the organization and current board membership can be found at:

<http://www.fotdr.org/dnn/AboutUs/tabid/76/Default.aspx>

You can also find the bylaws on the above page, or go directly to them by clicking here:

<http://www.fotdr.org/dnn/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=diIUyyFVAL4%3d&tabid=76>

Are You Connected?

Peace Corps Connect is getting returned PCVs back in touch with fellow volunteers.

FDR members have been working to get the word out to other members and other former DR Volunteers. If you choose to connect, you will likely encounter some old acquaintances, and maybe hear some memory jogging stories!

If you have not yet joined the PC Connect, please do so at <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org> Also, please invite your RPCV and former staff friends to also connect. Also, Dominican RPCVs have a page at <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/group/dominicanrepublic>