

Cyber News - Issue #47 - February 2009

President's Corner

This is the time of the year when we are organizing the board and preparing for elections. The most important topic is the filling certain roles and so the Classified Ads are moved up to the top spot. Take a look at the positions and consider contributing to the effort.

The DR Committee becomes particularly important as the Reunion in 2012 approaches. We are already making preparations. We know of around 30 RPCVs living in the DR, but we hear rumours that many more live there, so pass this Cyber News on to them and get them connected with the group.

The NPCA has launched an interesting venture with a social networking site so groups and individuals do not need to set up isolated Yahoo Groups or Facebook pages to try to connect. Groups, Countries, Cities, and individuals are at one site, yet can create some privacy as desired. Check our page and sign up here.
<http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/group/dominicanrepublicpcvs>

Don Clark, the current PTO in the DR is moving to be Country Director in Paraguay. We thank him for the assistance to FDR and wish him well in the new role.

Roger Weiss president@fotdr.org

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FDR has several openings on the board. This is a working board which takes care of all the functions of FDR or organizes committees to assist with projects. We will have elections for the board in the near future.

SECRETARY – Take minutes at the board tele-conference the first Sunday of each month at 9 PM Eastern Time, as well as at other official meetings of FDR. If not available, then arrange for an alternate. Post the minutes to the FDR Board Yahoo site. Organize the files on the FDR Board Yahoo site. Handle the storage of corporate documents. Manage filing of yearly registrations with Virginia and NPCA. Male or Female.

CYBER NEWS MAILER – Convert the completed issue into PDF format. Download a current database into FileMaker Pro and create a listing with valid email

addresses. Export the list to G-Lock EasyMail. Import the Cyber News issue into G-Lock and send it. Collect the bounces and forward to the Membership Director. Forward replies to the appropriate officer, or answer directly. Familiarity with computers and software is needed. Significant hours are needed every few months when an issue is to be sent.

DR Committee Chair- Gather information and news of the DR and Peace Corps for the board and the Cyber News. Get acquainted with the DR RPCV community. Chair the Committee in the DR and help organize the reunions in conjunction with the board, FQ, and PC DR. The next reunion is in 2012.

There is one additional board position with no currently assigned role. Roles can be negotiated.

DR Committee (not board members) assist with the 50th Reunion for 2012 and enhance the DR RPCV community and connection with FDR.

Email with your interest in working on a committee or the board with your PC experience and other history plus qualifications to president@fotdr.org .

Challenge Fund reaches new milestone.

As a result of generous donations to the Challenge Fund made at the end of the year and the first two months of this year, the Fund has reached its goal of raising \$125,000 to earn the matching funds that have been provided to us. To all of you who have contributed, thank you all so very much! You have been part of an amazing and, according to Peace Corps officials, unprecedented accomplishment.

As we have built up the fund over the past five years, we have used the resources to fund some great projects. Over \$50,000 has been allocated to 28 individual projects meeting basic community needs in some of the poorest communities of the Dominican Republic. These projects have made a major difference in improving the health and/or standard of living in the communities assisted.

As we celebrate reaching this plateau, we find ourselves short of reaching our goal of sustainability. The use of funds for projects over the past years and the current economic downturn has eroded our sustaining funds.

The unanticipated loss of capital in our conservative investments of the funds has resulted in our not being able to sustain the level of project funding unless additional on-going resources are available.

Many of you have made multiple and on-going annual donations. To continue to fund projects at the level we have in the past two years (10 projects per year), on-going contributions will be needed. We hope you will continue to support the Challenge Fund so we can reach as many needy Dominican families as possible.

Mentoring: Don't Be a Fish Out of Water



Do you ever feel like a fish out of water or remember what it was like? Whether you are just coming home from Peace Corps or you've been back a while, the RPCV Mentoring Program is for you. Tap into the experience of someone who knows what you are going through. Help someone with the transition back to the U.S.

NPCA's RPCV Mentoring Program is really taking off. This online system allows PCVs just returning from service ("mentees") to be matched with those who have been back a while ("mentors") for assistance with readjustment, career options and engagement in Third Goal activities. We have mentors and mentees already signed up that need to be matched! This is a great way for new RPCVs to be introduced to the area and for local RPCVs to keep in touch with a country of service or connect to some place new via the newly returned PCV. To learn more (and to register as a mentor or mentee), visit www.rpcvmentoring.org.

FDR is participating in the Mentoring Program to recruit mentors and mentees, as well as to administer our part of the program. If you sign up you probably will be referred to us to create a match between mentor and mentee.

Infante Sano: RPCVs Working to Improve Maternal and Newborn Health in the DR

Two DR Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Sarah Henry (RPCV Cambita 2002-2004) and Jacquelyn Caglia (RPCV Jaibón 2003-2005), are continuing their work in the Dominican Republic by working with Infante Sano, a

non-profit organization with a mission to improve maternal and newborn health in the Dominican Republic. Maternal and newborn health in the DR is a conundrum. More than 95% of women receive prenatal care and deliver in hospitals, but health outcomes remain poor. Maternal mortality in the DR is eight times higher than in other more developed areas of the Americas and the newborn mortality rate is four times higher..... Read the rest of the story at: www.fotdr.org/dnn/CyberNews/tabid/287/Default.aspx

Events on the Horizon

Friends of the Dominican Republic Board and Annual General Membership meetings will be held in Seattle, WA, this summer. The General Membership meeting time-frame is Saturday, August 15th and further details will be posted at www.fotdr.org.

FDR, Fondo Quisqueya, and PCDR are preparing for our Reunion in Santo Domingo in early 2011, This is also the 50th Anniversary of PC in the DR. Stay in touch for details.

Careers

USDA Funds Graduate Students in Food and Agricultural Sciences

CSREES awarded more than \$3.4 million to train the next generation of policymakers, researchers, and educators in the food and agricultural sciences. CSREES administers the funding through the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship grants program. Specifically, the National Needs Fellowship provides funding to support graduate training through a student stipend and a cost-of-education allowance to the institution. In addition, fellowships and travel allowances for special international study or thesis/dissertation research are granted to support traineeship programs that encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete degrees or obtain post-doctoral training in areas identified as a national need for the development of scientific and professional expertise. Visit the CSREES Newsroom to read.

www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2009news/01081_national_needs.html

CONTACT US! 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.com by selecting Cyber News in the top menu bar.

Your Donations are the *combustible* that keep FDR's *Program Development 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/ .

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.