



**SEAPAX**  
BRINGING THE WORLD HOME  
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**SEAPAX Board Meeting Minutes**, Sunday, January 27, 2013, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the University District Library

In Attendance: Simone LaPray, Aileen Ly, Lori Espe, Lillian Baer, Scott Ramos, Joana Ramos, Shahida - Shahrir, Fred Kaplan, Paulette Thompson, Dina Davis. Absent were: Catherine Swanson and Carey Homan

Arriving after 4:00 Tod Haggard, Larry Kaye

Lillian called the meeting of the board to order at 3:10, and Tod and Larry came at 4 for the Meet and Greet.

1. **Board Elections** were discussed. Call for nominations will be published in the newsletter as well as on the social media sites (Yahoo, Facebook) and the SEAPAX website. Scott, Shahida and Dina will coordinate on the message.

Nominations will close Feb 28; voting begins the following Monday, March 4, and will continue until March 22. Aileen will count the votes, as she did last year.

Since only paid members can vote, Lori suggested asking renewing members to send SEAPAX an email if they are renewing via NPCA since it takes some time for NPCA to get back to us.

Current board nominations are as follows:

President – Simone LaPray

Vice President – Lillian Baer

Treasurer – Carey Homan

Membership – we need a candidate

Secretary – Dina Davis

At large representatives –Shahida Shahrir,+ two

Book Club coordinator

The next board will select, continue, confirm coordinators for: Grants and Events

New blood is needed! The newsletter will encourage others to sign up, run for any/all positions.

Persons already interested in running or being nominated by others include: Joana Ramos, Mike Wong, Jean Lanz, Jaren Reed.

The **current board** will meet one more time, **Feb 24**. The **new and old Board** will meet together for a transition on **April 7**. Dina volunteered to secure meeting locations.

## 2. Events:

a) Aileen needs to put in our application for picnic space and campgrounds for summer SEAPAX picnic and Camp out. Seward Park and Magnusson Parks are proposed for the picnic. Aileen will email the group for input on the camp out location. The picnic is proposed for July 13, the camp out for August 17.

Shahida presented the following events.

b) Peace Corps Week is 2/24 – 3/2. Shahida and Lillian met with former PCV and Ambassador Christopher Stevens's sister Anne, a former State Department colleague, and Amie Bishop, close friend of Chris Stevens as PCVs in Morocco, to discuss SEAPAX participation in organizing an event to honor Ambassador Stevens. It was decided that we cannot get a new activity organized in time for PC Week. (Note other, non-SEAPAX activities will be organized in coming months).

c) One World Now is an organization promoting languages in schools; students learn Chinese and Arabic and subsequently go to countries that speak those languages for experiences abroad. Shahida will follow up on her contact at OWN to see if SEAPAX can facilitate connecting RPCVs with OWN during PC Week, or in other periods. Note that Paulette is very familiar with this organization and can be helpful in facilitating the SEAPAX connection

d). Shahida is organizing a salsa night at the Century Ballroom. Feb 21 is the tentative date.

e) The newsletter and social media should seek input from the general membership for locations for Pub nights and/or Eats Out. The board welcomes any member who has a program/events idea and would like to propose to SEAPAX.

3. Regional Meeting in Idaho is over the weekend of March 1-3 and Simone is representing SEAPAX there. SEAPAX will contribute \$150 for travel costs, and Simone will report back to the board on the activities at the meeting. There is surely going to be a number of interesting activities for SEAPAX.

## 4. SEAPAX registration and legal status:

a) Joana reported on renewing registration and legal issues with regard to SEAPAX status as a non-profit in this state. For many years now (and as former board President), she has been the SEAPAX "*registered agent*" for reporting purposes. Joana discussed the reporting requirements to IRS and State

authorities. The board asked her to continue this role, and to be responsible for renewing SEAPAX with NPCA, with Aileen as a backup.

b) Joana has offered to provide an information session and training on SEAPAX legal responsibilities to the new board this year.

e) Relationship with NPCA: note that SEAPAX is not an affiliate, rather a member, of the national organization: no geographical or country of service groups are an affiliate, which has tax-exempt implications.

c) Joana will also reach out to the board and others for information that might be necessary for the updates and annual reporting process (e.g. Aileen for financial information, secretary for previous reports, etc.).

d) A reminder that one of the future activities of the [new] board might be to initiate a revision the organization’s By-Laws to reflect current realities. There has not been time to date.

5. **Membership:** Lori presented data and recommendations on current membership, as follows:

**Membership Statistics**

	6/1/12	1/31/13	Notes 1/27/13
Total Members	799	775	
Active	73	81	Exp 1/31/13 or longer, 16 will expire by 4/30/13
Expired in past year	87	55	Exp 1/31/12 to 1/31/13
Expired past 1-3 years	68	37	Exp 1/31/10 to 1/31/12
Older than 3 years	87	107	Exp before 1/31/10, “Oldest” is 4/30/07
No Exp date	484	496	includes some current RPCVs
Top Country of Active	Guatamala(4)	Sierra Leone (5)	
Top Country of Total	Kenya	n/a	Didn’t prepare this stat, too many with multiple countries
Total Mailchimp Recipients	775		
Total “opened”	310		
“Current-ish”	48		15% of those “opened” are current-ish members
Not current-ish	262		85% of those “opening” the newsletter are not members
“Current-ish” Members NOT on Mailchimp		around 40	

**Recommendations 1/27/13**

- 1) Clean up the database
  - \*Change SEAPAX format to match order of NPCA list (add SEAPAX-specific columns to the end?)
  - \*Remove entries that do not have an expiration date
- 2) Board should decide whether to “increase membership” vs “increase involvement”
- 3) Clean up Mailchimp

4) Consider eliminating paper membership form; opt for NPCA preferred (with option to “contact us” if needed)

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The new Board should discuss the recommendations for changes at a future meeting. Lori will not continue working in the Membership position but is willing to help the next volunteer.

6. GRANTS committee: Simone presented briefly the suggestion that SEAPAX grants focus on local projects, rather than Peace Corps Partnership projects. Two grants are currently before the Grants committee and it was decided that the Grants Committee will make their recommendations and present them to the Board. This committee has been holding regular meetings and doing reports on their activities.

7. New **SEAPAX logo**: Dina showed logo graphics and requested approval of the new SEAPAX logo. It was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

8. **Communications**: Scott, SEAPAX webmaster, brought up the need to coordinate information between the Website calendar, newsletter and social media sites. Discussion will be continued at a future Board meeting. The board seemed favorable to the creation of an appointed position on the board for Communications. This individual would coordinate all information-sharing, e.g.: Website, Facebook, Yahoo Groups, Google Groups, Twitter, calendars, etc.

9. The **candidates** for the new Board stood and briefly presented themselves to the group which included 2 members who had come to Meet the Candidates.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted

Dina Davis

SEAPAX Secretary

Items on the agenda that we did not have time to discuss included:

- Confirmation of the list of items for the upcoming newsletter and suggestions for more;
- RPCV mentoring, and who might take over this responsibility from Catherine;
- Presentation of the financial report by Aileen; Carey was not present;
- Seapax participation in fundraisers, such as the YWCA luncheon, One World Now, etc.
- Responsibility for and preparation of the current Annual report (perhaps Joana since it is necessary for the tax and registration process);
- Creation of a Speakers' bureau (see Events committee in future meetings).