

Greetings everyone new and old!

Welcome to our new Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and to long time members who continue to support IRPCV. I just reread James Watson's message (Past President) from last year. It was from the heart and reflected the challenges of a year ago and the sorrow of not having an in-person holiday party. We are happy to report that this year we did meet and we celebrated the holiday season on Dec 3. Approximately 40 people attended and shared stories, food and laughter as "white elephant" gifts were traded or kept (at least until someone else wanted it). A good time was had by all and we look forward to more social events in 2022.

This past year Peace Corps celebrated 60 years of service. My husband Chuck and I were PCVs for the 50th year celebration. We were in Botswana and Michelle Obama and her daughters and mother visited southern Africa during that year. In Peace Corps I worked with Mothers For All, a non-profit group dedicated to working with women and children who had been impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The mothers crafted a beautiful blue necklace of handmade paper beads for Michelle which was presented to her by embassy staff. Those of you that had the good fortune of serving during a centennial year must have similar good memories.

I would like to welcome Tiffany Summerlad as our new Secretary for the Board. The position was vacant and Tiffany took up the challenge. Thank you! We are a volunteer group and rely on the good will and generous donation of time of our members.

Our Idaho chapter has been asked to sponsor the 2022 Western Regional RPCV Campout. One suggestion was the Farewell Bend State Recreation Area on the Snake River and the Brownlee Reservoir near Ontario. With late summer smoke from fires and hotter than normal weather, it might be better to hold the event in early July rather than August. We hope those of you who have participated in the past will help out with this event. If interested in helping out, please contact me at mcgeemh@yahoo.com.

We hope to hold our annual meeting in early February with an option for face-to-face or Zoom. At the annual meeting we elect a new slate of officers and approve grant requests for 2022. Most current Board members are happy to extend for another year but the office of Vice-President will be vacant. That position moves into the Presidency the following year. Please consider running for office! If you are interested please contact me at mcgeemh@yahoo.com.

The Board will put together a list of potential grantees for 2022 in January. Please send us your suggestions! Recipients in the past include agencies assisting

refugees and youth oriented non-profit in Idaho. Please send the name of the agency and a short statement of need to me at mcgeemg@yahoo.com.

Happy New Year to all of you and continue to do the good works that you do.