



Milwaukee Peace Corps Association Annual Report 2023





Our Mission

MPCA is a community of former and future Peace Corps Volunteers and families who continue to promote Peace Corps ideals through cultural education and the support of both local and international development organizations. It also provides social activities and emotional support for RPCVs and for those returning from abroad.

Organization Founded: 1968

41 members at the end of 2023

Website: www.milwaukeepeacecorps.org

The idea of community is an important part of any Peace Corps service. There is the literal community which you are placed and must integrate into over your two years. Then there is the community of your cohort in which you enter into service. In the Dominican Republic I also had my regional community of volunteers in my area; we called ourselves La Fuerza, a joke based on a bad wine they sell in the country with a muscle bound man flexing on the label. All of these different communities were support networks which assisted me through my service.

When I entered Santa Maria, I was a toddler. I could walk and talk, but I did not really know how to survive in this place. The community watched over me and taught me how to live and thrive in a completely foreign environment. It would range from an eight year old girl teaching me how to peel sugarcane with a machete to a 70 year old man helping me rewire my single light in my home. This kindness, love, and joy helped me get through the difficult times. Same can be said about my fellow volunteers.

Then comes the time when you must leave your service and return to your home country which is foreign after being away for 27 months. It is a hard experience to return home and explain two plus years in a few sentences. No matter the country you served, or the language you spoke, there is a community that is fluent in your experience and that is the RPCV community. It is a remarkable testament to the Peace Corps experience in which you can find a RPCV affiliate group in every state and most major cities, and even some throughout the world. No matter the decade, sector, or location you served there is a common bond in our experiences as Returned Volunteers.

As the Peace Corps had hummed along uninterrupted for 60 years through good and bad times, the constant had been Returned Volunteers looking for a community to engage with while they resettle back into life in the United States. This was something affiliate groups took for granted, which the pause of service due to the pandemic has brought to the forefront. While service has resumed throughout the world, not having volunteers returning home has led to affiliate groups across the country (ours included) seeing major drops in engagement and support.

I believe we all feel MPCA is an important part of our local community. In this time where the government has identified an epidemic of loneliness, I challenge everyone this year to engage with MPCA, so we continue to be a strong community for volunteers as they return from service. Engagement can be big or small but all acts are important! Join the board if you have the time; renew your membership so we can continue to operate; come out to events; or host your own. MPCA will only exist with YOU!

Yours in Service,

Peter Hulbert
MPCA President
Dominican Republic 2012-2014

MPCA Board of Directors



Peter Hulbert
President

Dominican Republic 12-14



Anne Leplae
Treasurer

Morocco 84-86



Bobbie Zerfas
Secretary

Jordan 07-09



Catharine Swan
Buccowich
Outreach

Cameroon 83-85



Jodi St. Charles
Membership

Zambia 14-16

Paul Kinsley
Historian

Turkey 65-67

Outgoing Chairs

Claire Hackett- Newsletter
Robin Perez- Communications
Jacob Foss- Outreach

Communication

MPCA has made an effort to increase our presence through our social media. Facebook is the area where we have the most direct engagement with our users. We have seen 100% increase in engagement with post on Facebook. We started an official LinkedIn page as well where we have been working to grow our userbase

Traditional email continues to be our largest source to communicate with members. Last year we sent our 23 different newsletters to promote events and opportunities. We are actively looking for a communications board member who would help support of growth.

MEMBERSHIP

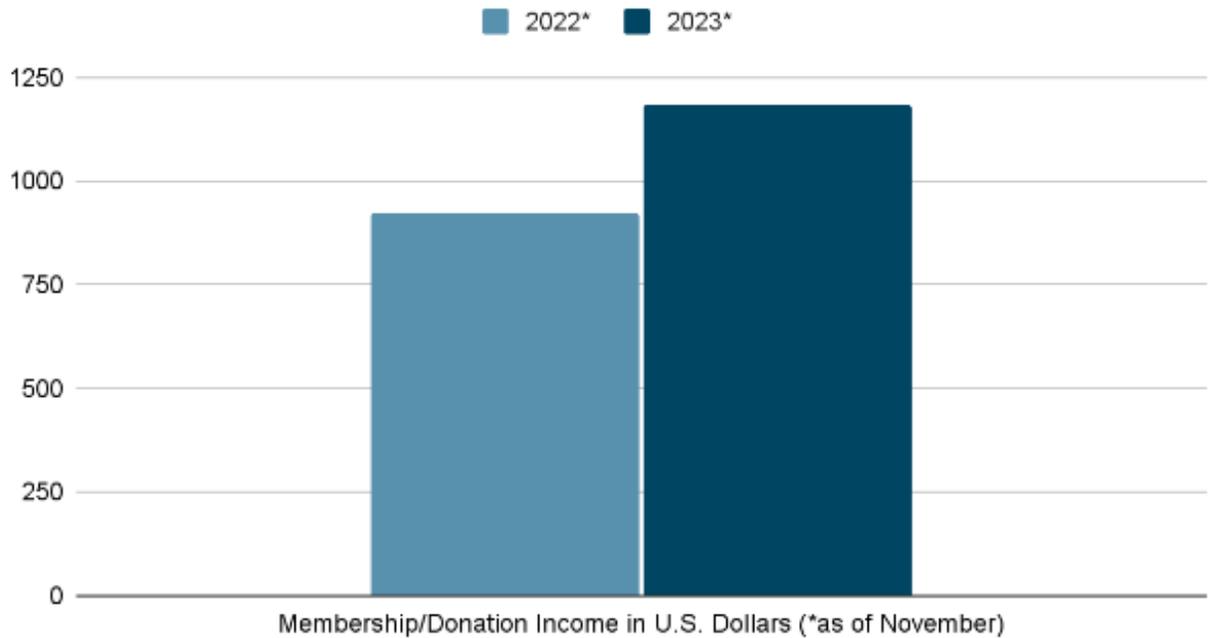
In regards to membership for MPCA, 2023 was a productive year!! Increased membership income boosting the organization's efforts?
Check!

Database cleanup anyone?? Check!

Experimenting with a variety of events and dates and times in an attempt to give everyone a chance to appear??? Also check!

Whether you are our MPCA Member VIP of the year or only receive emails and have yet to attend an event (or it has been a long while...), we look forward to seeing you soon! Sending wishes for peace and happiness for all in 2024!

Membership Dues Fund Our Mission



EVENTS

Story Slam

We continued our summer tradition of Story Slam in June with the theme “Relationships”. Art Bar was a wonderful host for the event where we heard stories that ranged from friends, family, and romantic. All the stories showcased the rich and diverse experience Peace Corps provides. We look forward to continuing this event in 2024!



Summer Picnic

On August 12 we held our summer picnic at Lake Park. RPCVs shared stories, ate delicious food, and enjoyed a beautiful summer day together. We hope in 2024 to have some newly returned volunteers to join us!



Fall Hodgepodge of Events

For fall we tried a few different events to enjoy the season. We went apple picking at Barthel Farm. Hiked a portion of the Zillmer Trail. Tested some cider at Pomona Cider Company. A goal of this year has been to continue to find ways to build community.

Peace Corps Week Fundraiser Lunch

On a sunny March afternoon we came together at Lebni House to celebrate Peace Corps week. The food was plentiful, conversation lively, in a room full of love and joy. We paired the lunch with a fundraiser to support aid efforts for the earthquake which struck both Syria and Turkey. Our community was able to raise \$360 which MPCA matched.



Happy Hours

We continued to hold happy hours throughout the year. We toured around the summer beer gardens, explored breweries, and hit up the market halls. We find the happy hours to be a great way to explore the Milwaukee community.

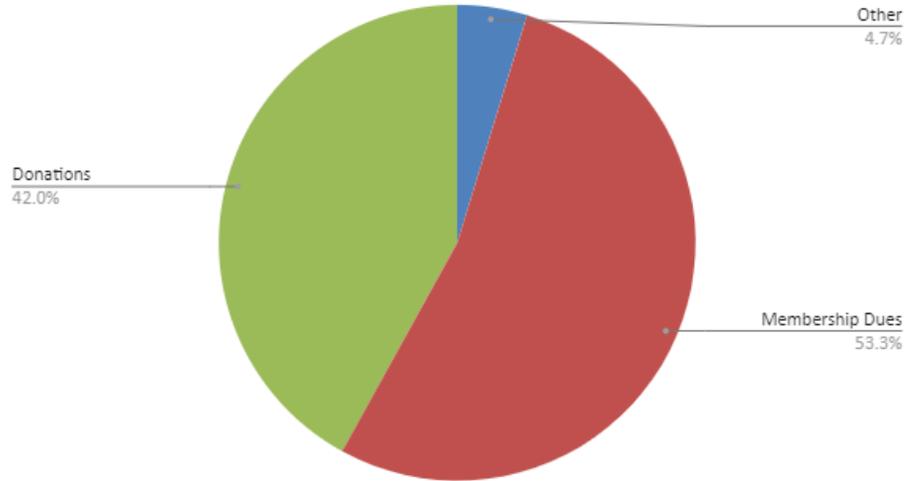
Finances

Balance Sheet:

November 30, 2022: \$4,719

Income:
\$1,417
Membership Dues
755
Donations
595
Other
67

Total Income Nov 2023: \$1,417



Expenses:

\$1,622

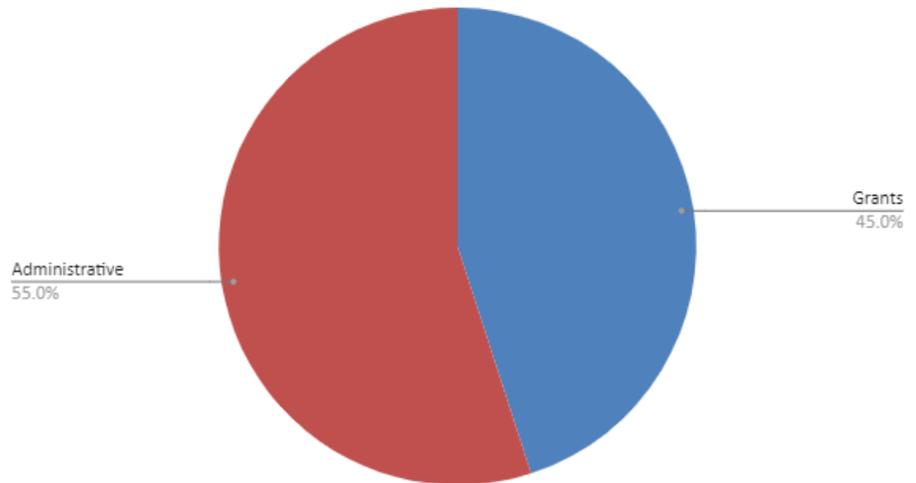
Grants
730
Administrative
892

Gifts and Grants:

\$880

March Grants
730
Giving Tuesday
\$150

Total Expenses Nov 2023: \$1,622



Thank you to our members!

Mark Buccowich
Dan Diliberti
Phillip Browarsky
Anneliese Finke
Kevin Soucie
Thomas Nawrot
Allegra Troiano
Gerald Emmerich, Jr.
Susan Ellsworth
Mary Mueller
Gregory Deuchars
Richard Ferrari Traner
Carrie Buccowich
Steven Pamperin
Virginia Emmons

Suzy Michaels
Ann Diliberti
Gerald Mullins
Judith Larsen
John Ruggini
Bobbie Zerfas
Lynn Debilzen
Chris Wilson
Peter Hulbert
M. Jane Moore
Julia Nawrot
Mike Dickerson
Douglas Armstrong
Carin Paupore
Jen Hoepner

Elaine McDermott
Peter Lee
Molly Matteson
Mark Zachar
Lynn Debilzen
Jodi St. Charles
Jenny Ruggini
Sue Anderson
Steve Pamperin
Robert and Sharon
Richardson
Kyle Borley
Emily Rabe
David Puhl

