

**PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**

August 2018

To be a member of PCIA, one agrees to support the goals and objectives of PCIA and provide contact information for inclusion in the membership directory. There are no dues although donations are encouraged and appreciated.

As of August 2018, the PCIA “master list” contained 1831 names. This list includes those who served as volunteers or staff in Iran, spouses, friends of Iran, etc. At present we are adding names and years of service provided by the National Peace Corps Association, most of which are duplicates of names we already have. According to the Peace Corps, there were 1758 who served as volunteers in Iran. The PCIA master list contains names of 1491 volunteers and 67 staff members. The master list also contains the names of 221 who are deceased.

The master list currently has 544 people who have agreed to have their contact information included in the membership directory. It is anticipated the next directory will be published in November and emailed to members.

In addition to states and zip codes, geographic distribution names on the master list based on time zones reveals that 476 are in the Eastern Time Zone, 206 are in the Central Time Zone, 119 are in the Mountain Time Zone and 307 are in the Pacific Time Zone.

The master list is maintained by Doug Schermer and Genna Wangsness and is considered one of PCIA’s most valuable assets. We believe it is the most complete and accurate list of those who served in Iran in existence.

**PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018
IMPACT**

1. Organization Overview

The Board enhanced capacity by:

- Adopting guiding principles for the Advocacy Bulletin;
- Benefiting from \$3,500 in Open Society Foundations support to generate media coverage around our advocacy campaigns; and
- Exploring funding and technical assistance for PCIA activities. Carolyn Yale and Andy Mott made initial contacts with non-profit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. Networking continues.

2. Advocacy Bulletins

The Advocacy Bulletin (AB) was set up to provide more in-depth coverage of Iran issues than found in the mainstream media, help keep readers better-informed regarding Iran and its people, Islamophobia, terrorism, potential threats for blow-up in the region, and to protect the Iran Nuclear Agreement (JCPOA). Paul Barker (Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran 71-76) is the AB editor and has created an exceptional monthly publication, which is sent to all members. Contributions by PCIA members by AB issue follow:

- June 2017: Carolyn Yale (Shiraz 74-76), Tehran Terrorist Attacks Condolences
- July 2017: Alex Patico (Firuzkuh 1968-69), Muslim Travel Ban
- Sep. 2017: Bill Beeman (U. of MN), Countering JCPOA Misstatements
- Oct. 2017: Tom Huf (Babolsar, Mashad, Tehran 67-71), JCPOA Facts
- Nov. 2017: Senator Interviews by Ed and Stella Seiders (Noshahr, Chaloos 62-64), Doug and JoAnn Meyer (Semnan, Karaj 67-68); Tom Huf and Kathleen MacLeod (Tehran, Gorgan 64-66); Jeff Curtis (Somehsari, Qeshm 67-70) engaged Wyden on an airplane and by letter
- Dec. 2017: Jeff Gritzner (Ahwaz 62-64), The New Middle East Policy
- Jan. 2018: Tom Huf, book review “Losing an Enemy...” by Trita Parsi; Paul Barker, “What did Ahmadinezhad Say About Israel?”; Jeff Gritzner, Disinformation About Iran
- Feb. 2018: Kathleen MacLeod and Andy Mott (Shiraz 65-67), JCPOA Action Deadline; Tom Huf, Trump’s INARA Decision; Bill Beeman, Iran’s Isolation
- Mar. 2018: Carolyn Yale, Impact and Advocacy Alerts; Brad Hanson (Khaaf, Shiraz 73-76), Tillerson Out, Pompeo In; Tom Huf, Advocacy for Diplomacy; Paul Barker, Trita Parsi
- Apr. 2018: Tom Ricks (Mashhad 64-66) Iran/Israel War in Syria
- May 2018: Georg Peknik (Arak 69-71), My Heart’s Take on the Iran Nuclear Deal; Paul Barker, Trump Vandalizes Iran Deal and PCIA Advocacy Options; Bill Beeman, What JCPOA Critics Miss; Carolyn Yale, Where Does PCIA Advocacy go from here?
- June 2018: Andy Mott, Movie review, Shock and Awe; Tony Agnello (RPCV Afghanistan), Peace Corps Alliance for Intercultural Understanding (PCAIU); Tom Huf, Iran and North Korea JCPOA and Diplomacy; Carolyn Yale, Restoring Relations with Iran.

3. Action Alerts (AA)

An email alert system was set up to respond to late-breaking and fast-moving legislative and related political matters that don't mesh with the schedule for monthly Advocacy Bulletins. The process is at the earliest stages of development; AAs are sent to subscribers.

4. **Advocacy Campaigns**

- **Iran Nuclear Agreement**

The attendees at the PCIA Annapolis Conference and the Board approved a Statement supporting the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, also known as the Iran Nuclear Agreement. The Statement was posted on our website, National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)'s blog and included in NPCA's Nov 17 WorldView magazine. This authority for PCIA action initiated a campaign, led by Andy Mott, to urge President Trump to remain in the JCPOA. This campaign was the priority for the Impact component for the rest of 2018-19.

- **Secretary of State Pompeo Nomination**

Brad Hanson provides a detailed review in the March 2018 Advocacy Bulletin of the changes in foreign policy from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Mike Pompeo. He urged that hard questions be asked of Pompeo at his April Senate Confirmation hearings including the connections between actions to weaken or dismantle the JCPOA. A link to Bill Beeman's Critique of Pompeo Hard-Line Speech was listed in the June 2018 AB. Due to Pompeo's hawkish views about Iran, the Advocacy Committee urged PCIA members to contact members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to advocate for diplomatic solutions over military action.

5. **Media Program**

- National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), assigned a talented media consultant, Mike Kieran, to work with the JCPOA and Pompeo hearings campaigns. He helped draft Op-Eds, provided templates for letters to editors, and promoted our media opportunities, such as 1A on NPR, Washington Journal on C-Span, and On Point. Mike distributed our press release via PR Newswire which was picked up by more than 100 online news outlets, including 70 newspapers.
- PCIA member media actions include:
 - Skip Auld, interview with NPR Baltimore Morning Talk-Show host Sheilah Kast
 - Skip Auld, Letter to Washington Post regarding the Pompeo nomination
 - Patrick Auld, son of Skip Auld, Letter to Milwaukee Post
 - Stephen Baker, (Malawi RPCV), Letter to Florida Times Union
 - Nora Barker, Letter to Eugene Register Guard
 - Paul Barker, Letter to Eugene Register Guard, shared edited Op-Ed with CNN and DEVEX
 - Fran Bowman (Philippines RPCV), Letter to the Sacramento Bee on the Pompeo hearings
 - Steve Gottlieb (Shiraz 65-6), 5-minute radio commentary on WAMC
 - Steve and Jeanette Gottlieb (Noshir, Hamedan 65-67), Op-Ed to Albany Times Union
 - Brad Hanson, Meeting with Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA)
 - Brad Hanson, Letter to the Washington Post, Withdrawal from JCPOA raises Questions
 - Tom Huf, Letter to the Boston Globe, Cost of Unraveling the Iran Deal
 - Fraser Lang (Isfahan 68-70), Letter to Providence Journal, R.I.
 - Sussana Lewis (Kerman 67-69), Letter to Sentinel and Enterprise, Fitchburg, MA
 - Kathleen MacLeod and San Diego RPCV s joint letter to San Diego Union Tribune
 - Bob Metzler (Hamadan 65-66), Letters to Vermont senators and Congressman

Steven and Marjorie Moore (67-68), Letter to Press Herald, Portland, ME
Andy Mott and Genna and Roger Wangsness (Shiraz 65-71) letter to Orlando Sentinel
Bruce Nelson (Taft, Yazd 72-74), Comments to KQED in San Francisco
Jackie Spurlock (Abadeh, Riz 74-76), Letter to Portland Oregonian
Carolyn Yale, Commentary to the San Francisco Chronicle

- NPCA created a 2-minute YouTube video of the PCIA campaign (May 2018 AB), which was placed on Facebook and the internet and an online petition to connect with senators, which was circulated among Friends of Afghanistan and PCAIU.

6. **Iran Nuclear Deal Coalition**

PCIA affiliated with an informal Iran Nuclear Deal Coalition to advocate collectively to keep the U.S. in the agreement. The coalition consists of PCIA, Diplomacy Works (DW), the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), Arms Control Coalition, Friends National Committee on Legislation (FNCL), Indivisible, Move-On, Win without War, J Street, the Truman National Security Project and the Ploughshares Fund. Strategy conference calls were held with DW's Jess Sarstedt and FCNL's Kate Gould.

7. **Educational Programs**

PCIA members were involved in or attended the following educational programs:

- Atlantic Council symposium on European and Regional JCPOA Perspectives attended by Tom Huf (Oct 17 AB)
- Middle East Institute Panel on Recent Protests in Iran, attended by Brad Hanson
- Kate Gould Reflections on JCPOA in Eugene OR, attended by Paul Barker
- Atlantic Council Forum on the Economic Sanctions Initiative, attended by Skip Auld and Brad Hanson (May 2018 AB)
- Forum on Iran 6/29/18, Portland Oregon; panelists included PCIA members Jeff Curtis, Jackie Spurlock as moderator, an investigative journalist and representatives from NIAC and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

8. **Kermanshah Earthquake Relief**

The deadliest earthquake in the world in 2017 occurred in Kermanshah on 11/12/17, killing 630 people. PCIA members asked to contribute to the relief and reconstruction effort, which is complicated by controls on financial transfers to Iran. NIAC identified four certified NGOs which are legal for Americans to donate to Iran: Child Foundation, Children of Persia, Moms Against Poverty and Relief International. In addition, PCIA members Vida Bourbour Schultz and her brother, Sassan, traveled to the devastated area to bring in family-financed buildings for school children to resume their schooling.

----- Submitted by Kathleen MacLeod

PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION
HISTORIAN ANNUAL REPORT
July 2018

Historic

Since 2011, efforts have been made to locate the history of Peace Corps in Iran. Countless people have participated in this effort. Searches have resulted in a wide range of records. The total number of names in the database is 1769 (*18 July 2018*). Information has been located on 1431 volunteers and 67 staff. Known deaths number 182 volunteers and 18 staff. The database contains a wide variety of documents, biographical books from training; newsletters; photographs; old volunteer lists; old articles on volunteers and their work; et al.

The historian has created binders containing: documents that list the names of each volunteer by group; obituaries of those who have died; and biographical training booklets by group number. These documents are kept up to date and displayed at PCIA conferences. Attendees spending time looking through the binders are able to offer valuable historical information. The historian has written articles and a memorial column for KhabarNameh for the past six years. She assists the KhabarNameh editor as a proofreader.

Current

The historian continues to work on all of the above. In addition, she is compiling a written record of Peace Corps Iran's history. To adequately write the history, research is being conducted to gather additional information as needed.

Written chronologically, the document starts with Iran's request for volunteers and the establishment of the Peace Corps in Iran, including the history of Peace Corps offices and staff. This is followed by the history of each Iran group, in two parts: the sixties and the seventies. The era of the 1960s and the era of the 1970s reflect differences in training that occurred. From 1962 to 1969 training was conducted mostly in the U.S. Starting in 1970, training occurred only in Iran, resulting in a completely different form of training. Examples of volunteer experiences and reflections are being included in the history of each group. Plans are to have a draft of the document done by the time of the 2019 conference (*inshallah*). At that time, attendees will be able to review the history of their group and offer comments, suggestions, additional historical information, and corrections. Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, who is interviewing volunteers and writing a scholarly history of the Peace Corps in Iran, has been consulted prior to beginning this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Genna Stead Wangsness, Historian

PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION

TECHNOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

August 2018

STATUS OF PCIA TECHNOLOGY USE

While PCIA membership is located primarily in the United States, we have members in every continent except Antarctica. Therefore, effective use of electronic communications is vital to our success.

1. Our **WEBSITE**, www.peacecorpsiran.org provides information about PCIA as well as serving as an archive of past PCIA events. For example, membership and contact forms, conference registration forms, and newsletters, including the *KhabarNameh* can all be downloaded as PDF files. Additional examples include videos of presentations at Austin and Annapolis, a collection of photos and information about travel to Iran.

Here are a few statistics of interest:

- The “World Wide” part of the web is interesting. We have been viewed by people in over 110 countries with the U.S., Canada, UK, Germany, and India being in the top five.
 - We average 800 visits per month, with a peak of 1829 in October 2017 as we closed in on the Conference and Reunion in Annapolis at the end of October.
 - We use WordPress as the website editor and VaultPress as our main back-up program.
 - The website is housed at JustHost which also provides additional security services designed to prevent hacking. Recently we upgraded our security to “https” status, the “s” at the end means secure and is the same as provided by online merchants and banks.
 - JustHost provides email service which means it is easy for someone to “contact us.” We have received many emails from far and wide through that service, including from Iran.
 - Doug Schermer serves as the webmaster.
2. **FACEBOOK** is a key communication means. We have a Facebook page that is open to the general public as well as a Facebook Group to which one must subscribe. Jackie Spurlock manages these Facebook services. There are frequent posts and conversations related to current events involving Iran, the Peace Corps Experience in Iran, and the status of U.S.-Iran relations.
 3. **MAIL CHIMP** is an email service which permits nonprofits to send large batches of newsletters with a simple click. One advantage of MailChimp is that it is easy for people to either subscribe or unsubscribe. Copies of the newsletters are archived on our website.

We use MailChimp to send *From the Field* a monthly newsletter written by Jackie Spurlock. “From the Field” is a reference to a poem by Rumi in which he invites his reader to meet in friendly discussion. The main purpose is to provide members with information from the

board as well as reminders about upcoming events and now letters to the editor from members.

Advocacy Bulletin contains information about current issues and events in the area of advocacy. Paul Barker serves as the editor of this monthly newsletter which is also sent using MailChimp.

4. **ZOOM** is a web based video conference service that permits us to see and hear each other. We use Zoom for monthly board meetings and subcommittee meetings. We also use ZOOM for **Dooreh-ye Ketaab**, our book club discussion forum. With ZOOM we can accommodate up to 50 participants, a goal we hope to reach in the near future.
5. **GOOGLE DOCS** permits work teams to collaborate on documents and archive them for future reference or revision.
6. **INTERNET BANKING** has been very beneficial for us. Our account at OnPoint Credit Union in Portland, Oregon does not have a service fee because we are paperless. In addition, we use PayPal to receive donations and pay various expenses. Yes, there is a PayPal donation button on our secure website.
7. **DROPBOX** is used to back up our most valuable resources, including the list of those who served the Peace Corps in Iran, copies of training group biographies, and the list of those who have died and their respective obituaries. This is in addition to the duplicate copies maintained on our computers and external hard drives.

ISSUES INVOLVING PCIA TECHNOLOGY USE

As an organization we have made tremendous progress in the use of technology to further our mission, goals, and objectives as noted above. Nevertheless, we face some challenges as we look to the future. One major challenge involves the ability of our aging membership to adapt to the latest in technology and learn how to use it effectively. Another challenge is the aging hardware of our members. We have found examples of computers and internet bandwidth that are not able to take advantage of Zoom. In short, PCIA use of technology has been a learning experience for all of us.

--Submitted by Douglas Schermer

PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION 2017 – 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

By Douglas Schermer, PCIA Treasurer

Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through education, outreach and advocacy, and upholds the legacy of the Peace Corps in Iran.

The PCIA Mission Statement serves to guide our activities as an organization. While other portions of this annual report will provide more detail about these activities, we know that financial support is essential in realizing our goals and hopes. One of our first achievements after incorporation in Oregon was to secure nonprofit 501 (C) 3 status with the IRS.

DONATIONS NOT DUES

PCIA has followed a “no dues” policy and relies on donations from members to sustain its operations. We accept donations by check, PayPal, through the NPCA membership site, and with Amazon Smile. Scroll down to the bottom panel at www.peacecorpsiran.org to find a donation button for PayPal and a button to set up PCIA as a recipient of Amazon Smile donations. As a nonprofit, donations are tax deductible.

INCOME COMMENTS

Donations from members totaled \$ 3, 524 in the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year. (Note: PCIA uses a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year.) Our largest income area involved the conference in Annapolis which resulted in a total of \$ 19,661 in registration fees and donations.

EXPENSE COMMENTS

As can be expected the largest area of expense involved the conference in Annapolis with a total of \$17,579 for all aspects including hotel fees, marketing, and the tour of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Sustaining the Organization: We refer to it as the “keeping the lights on” budget which includes insurance, ZOOM video conferencing, web hosting and security services, postage, supplies, etc. for a total of \$ 1,976.97. These costs are low for an organization of our size and activity. This is because we make extensive use of technology for communication. For example, the KhabarNameh newsletter is distributed by email and MailChimp (no cost to nonprofits) is used for our two monthly newsletters, From the Field and Advocacy Bulletin.

PEACE CORPS IRAN ASSOCIATION
2017 - 2018 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME - EXPENSE SUMMARY

INCOME	\$ 23,186.20
EXPENSE	\$ 19,556.43
NET GAIN (LOSS)	\$ 3,629.77

INCOME - EXPENSE - BEGINNING - ENDING BALANCES

JULY 1 2017 BALANCES

ONPOINT CHECKING	\$ 18,500.39
PAYPAL	\$ 1,040.83
ONPOINT SAVING	\$ 5.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,546.22

INCOME DETAILS

AMAZON SMILE	\$ 70.65
CASH DONATIONS	\$ 40.00
CHECK DONATIONS	\$ 2,076.65
DONATIONS MADE VIA NPCA	\$ 165.00
PAYPAL DONATIONS	\$ 1,172.50
ANNAPOLIS LIGHTHOUSE TOUR	\$ 1,300.00
ANNAPOLIS REGISTRATION	\$ 14,616.40
ANNAPOLIS SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS	\$ 2,785.00
ANNAPOLIS NAVAL ACADEMY TOUR	\$ 460.00
ANNAPOLIS SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS	\$ 500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 23,186.20

EXPENSE DETAILS

INSURANCE	\$ 1,030.00
HISTORIAN EXPENSES	\$ 165.14
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 100.00
OREGON CORPORATION FEES	\$ 90.00
PAYPAL FEES	\$ 22.45
POSTAGE	\$ 58.80
MISC SUPPLIES	\$ 15.05
WEB HOSTING	\$ 345.63
ZOOM CONFERENCE SERVICES	\$ 149.90
ANNAPOLIS LOEWS HOTEL	\$ 13,847.18
ANNAPOLIS PAYPAL FEES	\$ 83.22
ANNAPOLIS REGISTRATION REFUNDS	\$ 300.00
ANNAPOLIS MISC SUPPLIES	\$ 1,501.87

ANNAPOLIS BROCHURES POSTAGE	\$ 73.63
ANNAPOLIS LIGHTHOUSE TOUR REFUND	\$ 1,365.50
ANNAPOLIS POSTCARDS POSTAGE	\$ 136.00
ANNAPOLIS BROCHURES PRINTING	\$ 129.08
ANNAPOLIS POSTCARDS PRINTING	\$ 142.98

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 19,556.43
----------------	--------------

JUNE 30 2018 BALANCES

ONPOINT CHECKING	\$ 16,907.46
PAYPAL	\$ 6,263.53
ONPOINT SAVING	\$ 5.00

TOTAL	\$ 23,175.99
-------	--------------