

NORVA Northern Ohio Returned Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER - Fall 2008

Message from the Co-Presidents

At the March NORVA meeting, the attendees elected new officers for this year. With Cinda (the past president)'s move to Columbus, we implemented some structural changes in the leadership of the group that we hope will facilitate the beginning of some exciting new times for NORVA. One of the biggest changes was in the roles of President and what used to be President-Elect. Each position used to consist of a 2 year term. The group decided to change the structure to having two Co-Presidents with overlapping two-year terms. Although the change went into effect right away, it will still need to be finalized with an amendment to the NORVA by-laws at the annual meeting.

We also came up with some committees to help manage all of NORVA's events throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve either as an officer or a committee chairperson! Here is the current NORVA leadership:

Co-President: Christy Bartley (El Salvador 02-04)

Co-President: Joseph Staviscak (Peru 02-05)

Secretary: Annabel Khouri (Kenya 96-98)

Treasurer: Kendra Daniel (Bulgaria 04-05)

Membership – Mary Lou Haag (Niger 77-80)

Service Projects– Maureen Gallagher (Burkina Faso 96-98),

Natalie Elwell (Moldova 94-96) , Carolyn Myers (Thailand 74-77)

Community Outreach – Debra DiFranco (Kazakhstan 2001-2003)

Social Activities – Amy Tomon (Senegal 04-06) and Maureen Gallagher

Funding Projects – Mary Lou Haag (Niger 77-80)

Fund Raising – Jared Bartley (El Salvador 02-04)

Another big change for our group this year is that we did not participate in the 2008 Air Show as our fundraiser due to some disagreements with the Air Show staff regarding our involvement last year. Instead, we have come up with some other very exciting events, listed all throughout this newsletter that I hope everyone will enjoy!

All in all, the NORVA leadership team is looking at this year as a time for rebuilding the base of this group. We want to revitalize our website and membership lists and plan events where the size, location, and involvement level can meet the needs of our members throughout Northeast Ohio. Please make sure your contact information is up to date (see pg. 4) and consider joining us in helping to make NORVA something exciting for all Northern Ohio RPCVs!

Yours in service,
Christy Bartley and Joseph Staviscak , Co-Presidents

HIGHLIGHTS

We have lots of exciting events this fall and we'd like everyone to get involved!

Check out our newly updated website www.norvaohio.org for information on these and all other upcoming NORVA events!

NORVA 2nd Sunday Meal

NORVA prepares and serves a meal to the community on the 2nd Sunday of every month. We need 10 volunteers at each meal. Our next one is: Sunday, Oct. 12, 2-5 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church 16400 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

Walking Tour of Asia Town

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-7:15pm
E-mail Amy Tomon for more details (narvaq@hotmail.com)

Peace Corps Nomination Party

Monday, Oct 27, 5-8 pm at Case Western Reserve
RSVP necessary (jandcbartley@yahoo.com)

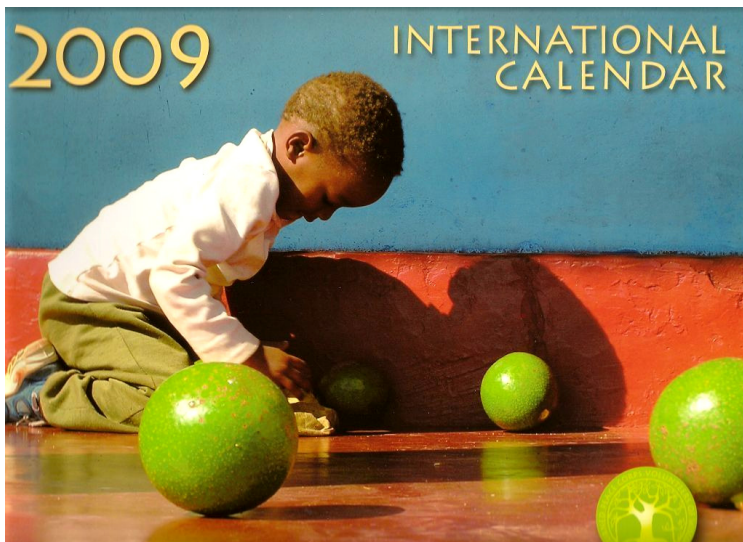
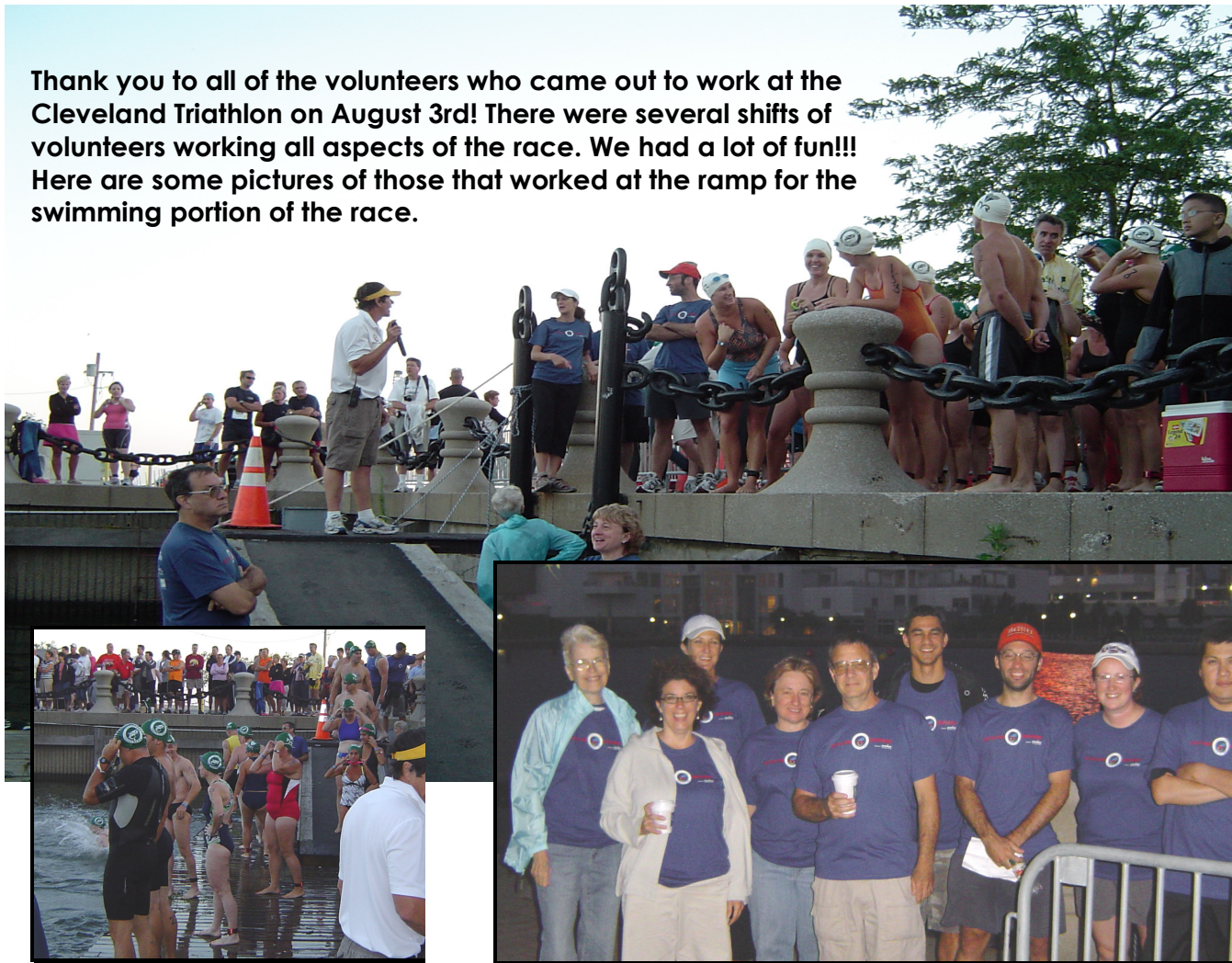
NORVA Fall Fundraiser

"Soups of the World"
Nov 13, 5-8 pm (see insert)

Save the Date!

NORVA Annual Meeting and Holiday Party
Thursday, Dec 4

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to work at the Cleveland Triathlon on August 3rd! There were several shifts of volunteers working all aspects of the race. We had a lot of fun!!! Here are some pictures of those that worked at the ramp for the swimming portion of the race.



Calendars! One for you, and they make great gifts, too!!

This year we have available for purchase the 2009 International Calendar produced by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison, Wisconsin. We are selling them for \$10. Please contact Jared Bartley (neverleaveyourwingman@yahoo.com) to purchase yours! We will also have them available at all events this fall. Checks should be made to NORVA.

NORVA Membership Information

Is your membership current?

There are two possible categories of membership: joint membership in NORVA and the National Peace Corps Assoc. (NPCA), or membership in NORVA alone. If you choose joint membership, it is best to apply online at www.rpcv.org, clicking on "Join/Renew," and following the directions from there. NPCA will forward to NORVA the appropriate membership dues. If you choose membership in NORVA alone, complete the form on page 4, and send it and your dues to the address on the form.

RPCV Mentoring Program — Sign Up Online Now!

The RPCV Mentoring Program is now online and both potential mentors and mentees are signing up! Read below to learn more and to find out how NORVA can benefit and participate.

Background

The RPCV Mentoring program was started in 2007 with a fundamental goal in mind: to connect recently returned Peace Corps volunteers with RPCV mentors.

Via phone, email and face-to-face meetings, these mentors help ease the difficult transition, provide a connection to the RPCV community at large, and say some of the most comforting words in the English language, namely, "I know what you're going through. I've been there."

How it works, in a nutshell

1. Interested mentors and mentees apply by creating their online mentoring profile in www.rpcvmentoring.org. That profile includes not only basic contact information, but also allows individuals to prioritize their particular needs and/or strengths.
2. NPCA staff review the applications and assign each individual to an NPCA member group based on their geographic location and/or country of service.
3. Group mentoring administrators (in this case, the NORVA membership chair) review the profiles of their assigned mentors and mentees and make appropriate matches.



How NORVA can participate

All members of NORVA are invited—and encouraged!—to participate. All RPCVs, even if not members of NORVA, are also invited to participate. Simply go to www.rpcvmentoring.org and create a profile for yourself. As recently returned volunteers sign up and are matched with NORVA, NPCA will notify us, and we'll match them with an RPCV who has registered to be a mentor.

NORVA already has a request from a recently returned RPCV who served in Guatemala!

Membership Form – Please fill this out and mail it to the address below

Name _____ Country of Service _____

Address _____ Dates of Service _____

City/State/Zip _____ Peace Corps Assignment _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail address: _____

Current Occupation/Employer (optional): _____

☐ Do not share my name with other organizations. ☐ I'd prefer to receive all NORVA communications electronically

☐ Please add me to the Google Groups list-serve, so I can get NORVA updates by e-mail ☐ Please continue to send me paper correspondence

Ideas I'd like to see NORVA do in the future: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Joint membership in NORVA (\$15) and NPCA (\$35) = \$50
(Please apply at www.rpcv.org, if possible)

☐ Membership in NORVA alone = \$15

Make check payable to **Northern Ohio Returned Volunteer Association** and mail to:
NORVA, c/o Mary Louise Haag, Membership Chairperson, 5722 Porter Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070



NORVA

Northern Ohio Returned Volunteer Association

6832 Indiana Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44105

Find out more at
www.norvaohio.org

Return Service Requested