



Hello FCRPCV, this is Jan Miller, Botswana, I hope that everyone is starting the New Year with hope and vision. We as your FCRPCV Board are excited to help you celebrate our New Year with a bounty of activity that we have planned for 2017. We met at my home for the better part of the morning, and early afternoon on January 14th.

all but three members were able to attend our mini retreat, and we are pleased with our efforts. In case you don't remember who your FCRPCV Board members are, their pictures are posted at the end of this letter.

We worked hard to schedule local events to improve our ability to network, and support each other. That calendar is provided below. Most importantly we spent time discussing a potential Annual Signature Project that we would use to mobilize our membership, contribute to the First Coast community, but most important fulfill our 3rd Goal responsibilities.

Bernadette Miron, Colombia, joined us and led this discussion which quickly led us to focus on the plight of refugees in our community. We brainstormed ideas after reviewing details posted on the NPCA web site on a new Affiliate Group focused on the refugee problem worldwide.

[see below](#)

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/committee-support-refugees>

Steve Baker, Malawi, added to this discussion by highlighting a recent PBS Frontline Documentary which emphasizes finding the human story behind refugee journeys, as a way to engender understanding and ultimately assist in refugee assimilation. The ideas in the documentary may be very helpful as we work to develop our focus for our Signature Project. The link describing the PBS video can be found below,

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/finding-the-human-stories-in-europes-refugee-crisis/>

Frances Luna, Niger, and past FCRPCV President, works at Catholic Charities, locally, resettling the more than 400 refugees that come to Jacksonville annually. Frances was very helpful in providing context for what might be possible as we start to plan. There are many things we can do as a group. I am sure you might have some ideas. Please let us hear from you. Helen Covington, Tunisia, made a motion, passed unanimously, that we as a Board

decide, soon, on an Annual Signature event related to the 3rd Goal focused on the Refugee population on the First Coast. A sub-committee, chaired by me and composed of Bernadette Miron, Steve Baker, Phil Stantial, Sierra Leone, (& many other countries as staff), Rosemary Calhoon Takacs, Paraguay & Guatemala, & Frances Luna are on it. Stay tuned as we formulate more specific plans.

Peace Corps Week is February 26- March 3, corresponding to a local celebration of the World of Nations March 3-5 at Metropolitan Park. Keep this date on your calendar, and stay tuned for FCRPCV involvement. Meanwhile, if you have any plans to organize activities that week, please let me know.

March is also a time to participate in Advocacy activities organized cross the 50 States. We will visit our new Congressman & Senators at their local offices

[See below](#)

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/road-warrior>

Our 2017 Calendar is as follows:

2/17/2017 Friday, Lunch at Clara's at the Cathedral 11:00-1:00 pm
RSVP frances.a.luna@gmail.com

3/10/2017 Friday, ADVOCACY day in Jacksonville Visits to Congressman & Senators
11:00-1:00 pm RSVP damiron@comcast.net

4/5/2017 Wednesday, HAPPY HOUR 5:00-7:00 pm Five Points Area Host Phil Stantial

5/6/2017 Saturday, CINCO DE MAYO Pot Luck 1:00- 5:00 pm at the Miron Home RSVP
damiron@comcast.net

6/16/2017 Friday, Partnership Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm Tom Bliss, Host Restaurant TBD

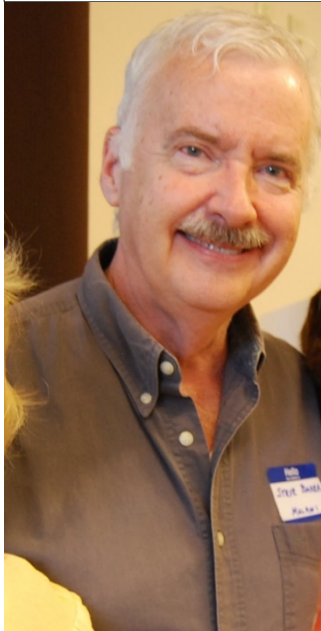
8/9/2017 Wednesday, HAPPY HOUR 5:00-7:00 pm Beaches Area Host Joan Lipp

9/15/2017 Friday, Lunch at Clara's at the Cathedral 11:00-1:00 pm RSVP Rosemary
Calhoon Takacs Rtakacs2@bellsouth.net

10/14 or 21/2017, Pot Luck at the Lipsey, Black Creek Compound, in Middleburg, 2:00-
5:00 pm

11/12/2017 Sunday, Annual General Meeting, 2:00-5:00 pm Location TBD

All of the above brought to you by your FCRPCV, 2017 Board of Directors



FCRPCV, Inc Board for 2017, standing from the left, Helen Covington, Tunisia, Frances Luna, Niger, David Miron, Colombia, Sarah Allred, Benin, Tom Bliss, Fiji, Chris McMillan, Zimbabwe, Phil Stantial, Sierra Leone, Seated from the right, Richard Lipsey, Sarawak Borneo, Jan Miller, Botswana, and Rosemary Takacs, Paraguay & Guatemala. On the right side panels, Steve Baker, Malawi, Tracie Thornton, Gabon

Kind regards,

Jan Miller
FCRPCV President
Botswana RPCV 2011-2013

Check out our updated website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ferpcv/>

PLEASE Like us and follow us on Facebook: **FIRST COAST RETURNED PEACE
CORPS VOLUNTEERS**

FCRPCV, Inc. is a non-profit organization which serves as an alumni group of returned Peace Corps volunteers, friends and family with the express purpose of promoting the Peace Corps and educating our fellow citizens about the countries where we have served. There are over 200 returned volunteers on the First Coast who have served in over 66 countries.