

IRAN PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Iran Peace Corps Association is an independent, not-for-profit organization of returned volunteers, staff, and their associates who served in Iran from 1962 to 1976.

Goals and Objectives

The sole purpose of the organization is to increase American understanding of Iran based on the Peace Corps experiences of its members. The organization exists in the spirit of the goals of the Peace Corps and emphasizes local, one-to-one efforts in achieving its ends.

The Iran Peace Corps Association seeks to:

- develop its members by locating former volunteers, staff, and their associates; documenting their experiences and impressions of Iran; and encouraging them to build or rekindle friendships with one another
- inform its members of current developments relating to Iran through bulletins, newsletters, bibliographies, cultural events, and national gatherings
- call on its members to take community action such as writing letters, placing articles, addressing groups, and devising programs that allow Americans to learn more about Iran
- assist Iranians who may need the help of IPCA members, in the spirit of reciprocating kindnesses Peace Corps volunteers and staff encountered while living in Iran

Membership

Membership in the Iran Peace Corps Association is determined by annual dues. Four dues categories exist: founding member, family member, single member, and special member. All paid members receive the directories, newsletters, bulletins, and invitations to special events.

Founding members receive special recognition for their financial contribution. They help to offset the start-up costs associated with newsletters, projects, and group gatherings incurred in IPCA's inaugural year. Family members receive two single memberships but only one copy of any printed material. Mailings will be sent to one address only. Special members determine their own fee according to what their income allows.

At the conclusion of the dues year which corresponds to the annual calendar year (January 1 - December 31), members will receive a financial report. The dues structure given below applies to the organization's first year:

FOUNDING MEMBER	\$100
FAMILY MEMBER	\$30
SINGLE MEMBER	\$20
SPECIAL MEMBER (what member can afford)	\$__

In addition, special projects may require individual solicitations during the course of the membership year.

Administration

Volunteers administer the day-to-day details of the Iran Peace Corps Association. Every effort is made to adhere to publication and correspondence time schedules. The products and services IPCA provides will be professional and businesslike.

Dues paying members will receive the published list of members' names, addresses, and phone numbers. Names are collected from a variety of sources and are only as accurate as those sources. The list will be used for IPCA-related purposes only. The published directory contains only the names of members who wish to be included.

Affiliation with the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

While the Iran Peace Corps Association is an independent organization with its own purposes and activities, there are certain benefits in affiliating with the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. By far the greatest advantage at the present is the exchange of information on "Friends of" groups and the projects they have designed and undertaken.

Affiliation with the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will give IPCA a greater voice in NCRPCV's activities and ultimately, will guide that organization toward providing IPCA with specific services. Those services might include greater visibility; large scale promotional campaigns to locate former volunteers, staff members, and their associates; administrative and computer assistance; liability insurance; and the identification of funding sources.

Presently, affiliation only requires that ten members of IPCA also belong to the National Council. A space for joining that organization is included on the membership form. A space is provided to indicate whether each person is already a member of NCRPCV.

Proposed Projects

A newsletter will allow us to share our experiences and views with one another. It will inform us of current developments in Iran. This publication will also be a conduit for information on Iranian cultural events happening in the United States, Persian language training and publications, and Peace Corps/Iran-related topics.

Periodic bulletins will advise members of specific action that needs to be taken to influence public opinion and votes in Congress.

IPCA will organize national reunions so that its members can meet, socialize, and exchange information on themselves and Iran. IPCA will hold these gatherings in accessible locations across the country and send out notice sufficiently in advance.

IPCA will publish a book compiled from the individual reminiscences of its members who lived in communities across Iran and worked, side-by-side, with Iranians. This site-by-site portrait of Iran will document American impressions of all aspects of life in Iran and serve as a public awareness and fundraising instrument.

IPCA will conduct a study of the needs of Iranians residing in the United States and of incoming refugees and determine how IPCA members can best assist them.

Concluding Remarks

Peace Corps/Iran volunteers and staff have lived experiences that are unique and deserve to be known by others. The need to put these experiences to use in waking Americans up to what Iran really is has never been more pressing. The Iran Peace Corps Association is the organized effort of these individuals to maintain contact with one another, to continue learning about Iran, to assist Iranians in learning about America, and to affect positive change.