

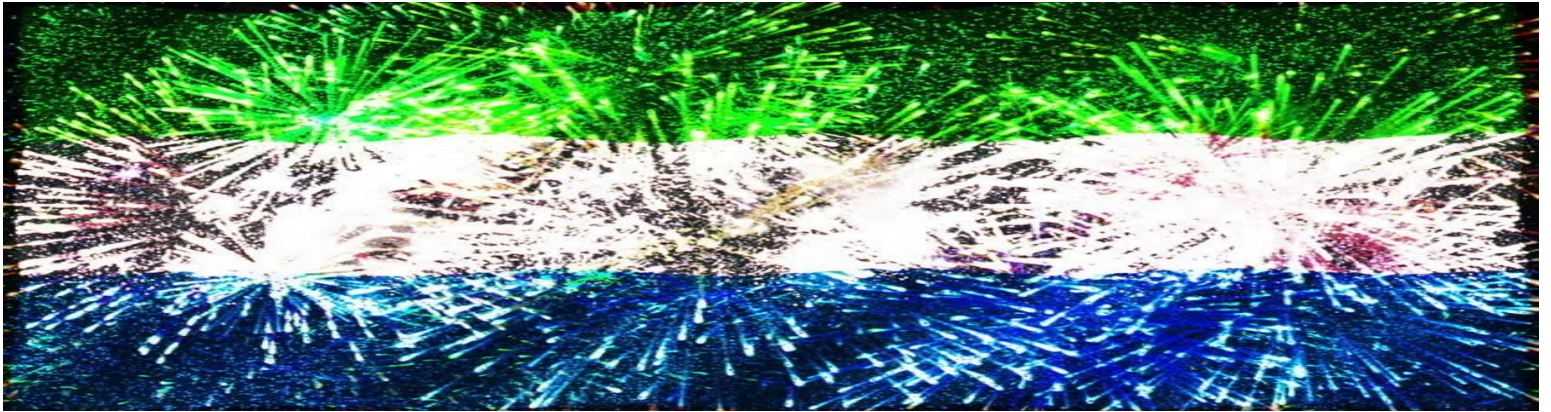


Friends of Sierra Leone
PO Box 15875
Washington DC 20003-0875

Spring 2017 e-Newsletter

Happy Independence Day!

Mama Salone celebrates 56 years of this month.



If this newsletter was emailed to you, the subject line contains your membership renewal date. Go to our membership page (<http://fosalone.org/mbrs.php>) to renew, join, or donate.

***Note: The National Peace Corps Association no longer charges an annual membership fee. If you have paid your FoSL membership through the NPCA website in the past you may continue to do so if you choose.

Contents:

- Annual Meeting
- FoSL Elections
- Project Committee Report

Freetown Annual Meeting

The Friends of Sierra Leone Annual Meeting will be held in Freetown from July 18th through July 21st. You can still register and attend, but registration closes May 31st. The registration form is available on the website at www.fosalone.org and follow the link.

The meeting will be based at the Sierra Lighthouse which has been the site of two previous meetings. Activities include our regular business meeting as well as updates from guests representing various offices and organizations in Freetown. We will also have a walking tour of historical Freetown and visits to both the Big Market and Victoria Park. Depending upon the weather, we will spend a day traveling to Bunce Island where we will listen as Amadu talks about the history of this special place. Peggy is working on setting up a day of service to continue that Peace Corps spirit in all of us. We will end with a relaxing day at River #2 and a closing dinner at the hotel.

For those who arrive early, we will offer an additional excursion at participants' expense to visit the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

The theme of this year's meeting is looking at Sierra Leone as a tourist destination. It is past time for Salone to take her place among the "must see" spots in both West Africa and the world. We all know what Sierra Leone and her people have to offer and we need to spread the word.

We hope those of you who have been debating whether or not to attend will decide to join us. You won't be disappointed!

Friends of Sierra Leone Elections

We will be holding elections for the Board of FoSL in a few weeks. You will be able to vote between April 27th and May 15th. You must have paid your yearly dues to FoSL to be eligible to vote.

We are trying something very different this year in that you will be able to cast your vote online. If you are eligible (membership paid up), you will be sent information on how to access the online ballot.

If you need to pay for your membership, you can go to <http://fosalone.org/> to pay.

If you are not sure if you are paid up or not, and received this newsletter by email, just look at the subject line to find your membership expiration date.

Please contact Patty Bruzek at bruzekkp@comcast.net if you have questions.

Please contact before April 27th, as Patty will be out of email contact for 2 weeks after that.

Project Committee

The FoSL Board approved three projects for funding last December; an agriculture project in Kambia District, construction of latrines and hand-washing stations in Kailahun District, and funding of education for primary school girls in the Kissy and Kingtom dumpsite communities outside Freetown. Each project received \$2000.

Earlier this month, we received an application from a current Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenema District, seeking \$3000 to add 2 classrooms and a library to their junior secondary school. The board has elected to consider PCV applications as soon as received, since their two-year term might expire before their project is completed.

The projects committee has also received 3 applications for regular projects, and is likely to get several more before the April 30 deadline. With only about \$6400 in our projects account, we would be very limited in what we could fund. So, if you can help us with a donation, large or small, we may get enough cash to again fund 3 projects for this term.

We appreciate your faithful support in the past, especially through the Ebola epidemic. But, there is still much work to do in Salone. We try to select the best of these community-based groups to fund. These projects are often overlooked by large NGO's, but can offer these underserved people opportunities not otherwise available. Your donations are tax-deductible and 100% of your money goes for projects in Sierra Leone. Thank you for your support.
