

The Daily VAC-ricrat

Special: The O'Malley Administration

O'Malley's True Value

Incumbent president O'Malley made her way into the office by making promises to increase wages for all and provide bajajis for all transportation in towns. While she hasn't made it clear how she will accomplish these goals, the American people don't seem to care. The main reason behind this, is the group of quality individuals she will be

bringing into her cabinet. In the final months before the election, she showcased these individuals at her rallies, and the American people fell in love. Because of this, we have chosen to focus on her cabinet members in order to highlight some of the talent President O'Malley will be bringing to the White House.



Meet Your New Treasury Secretary, Yovitha

Yovitha has worked hard to promote her image as a hard working business woman, and it's paying off. In response to demands by the American people, she has released a public statement concerning Robbie's Memorial Fund. She stated, "Yes, money from the Fund may be used to fund an open grant, as well as a new grant." Many people took to Twitter after this statement to express their excitement.

Her statement also addressed issues experienced by volunteers with grants in the peer-review process. She advised Americans to contact the chair of the Grants Committee, as the chair is in charge of ensuring a rapid peer review process.

"Grants r so swt, Imma get sum paper for my sick water project. #Grants #Money #PokemonGO - @PokemonGoLuvr78



News from the Chief

Chief of Communications Leif Davenport has never been busier than he is today. "Nothing is more important to this administration than clear, transparent communication between our offices and the electorate," Mr. Davenport stated in our interview. "President O'Malley is determined to address all issues important to the American people." *Chief* (ha) amongst these problems revolves around allegations that key members of staff are looking for greener pastures. "To my knowledge, no members of this office are interested in working anywhere else. Our APCDs remain firm in their commitment to the President's goals, as is Director Joel Onditi."

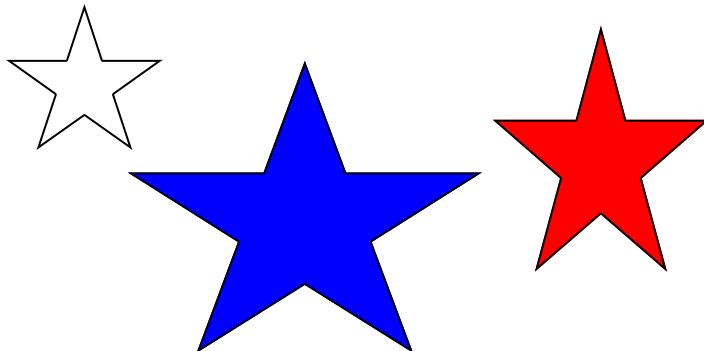
Our conversation quickly turned to the nature of trainings. Many Volunteers have called for an increase in time spent on technical aspects (i.e. permagardening and ESL teaching techniques) during earlier parts of their service such as PST and EST. While possible, "It would be extremely difficult to add additional sessions, especially for PST," he said. "There are a large number of required sessions on topics like cultural integration, lan-

guage, safety and security, and Peace Corps Global; the rest of the time is in high demand by our post's numerous committees." The short of it is that PST is focused on preparing Volunteers for their first three months of service, with EST and ISTs being the time to focus on developing technical skills for projects. But what about concerns regarding the selection process for TOT? "The next TOT application will be more explicit about what our staff looks for in a Resource PCV. Volunteers will be made aware of the steps in the selection process and criteria beforehand."

Volunteers have been reporting difficulty with the expectations of their community regarding money received both during trainings, and through grants. When asked, the Chief said "This is an issue that needs to be resolved on multiple fronts. Remember, it is the Volunteer's responsibility for his or her site's development. This includes the explanation and reiteration that Volunteers are primarily focused on sustainable development. That being said, my office will investigate ways to discuss with counter-

parts the possible implications to Volunteers of 'flashing' training money around at site. We recognize that the authority of training managers can be used to assist Volunteers with continuing healthy dialogues with their communities." With grants, Mr. Davenport stressed that APCDs do not encourage the idea that PCVs are simply repositories of money on any visits to sites. "This is an issue that every Volunteer, at every post, experiences more or less constantly. The best defense is continuous dialogue amongst PCVs, APCDs and community leaders."

Extension Volunteers have not been forgotten! "I've been hearing that extension Volunteers are having difficulty adjusting to aspects of their new positions. When it comes to the VRF, don't worry about hitting all the indicators or trying to parse which ones 'technically' fit under your job. As long as you have filled in the qualitative sections well for actions taken, this administration will be satisfied."



Can you find the Chief here? We sure can't!

Joint Press Release from the Surgeon General (PCMO) and FDA (Nancy)

Some questions have been raised in recent days about the role of this office in the nation's (PCV's) health care. The Office of the Surgeon General (PCMOs) would like to clarify some crucial points.

- When it comes to medical confidentiality, this office is greatly committed to patients' rights. However, there are some situations where medical confidentiality MUST be extended to select staff members (i.e. Country Director) and this staff member may then be required to take further action. This information is outlined early on (PST) and we understand that sometimes it can be forgotten. Therefore, measures are being taken by staff to make certain that sections of key documents are clear and to reiterate this information as often as possible at later trainings.
- It can be frustrating at times when it takes a long time for the FDA (Nancy) to complete approval for medications or when those approvals are incomplete or inaccurate. However, it is also the responsibility of the

nation (PCV) to follow up on their specific concerns. When using MedLink, ALWAYS fill in your delivery information in the "special comments" section. This means your address (the one Nancy has access to is often incorrect so it is best to clarify beforehand), the name of the PCV who will be picking up the order in Dar, or when you will be coming to Dar to pick the order from the office.

- MedLink is the ONLY way medicines may be ordered. Period. Those with limited internet access should remember that it is possible to use SMS to request them. For the short codes necessary to place the order, write them down somewhere from the email and keep in a convenient place. Additionally, in future versions of the Health Manual, the short codes will be included as an appendix for this purpose. To send this SMS (international), the patient should have international text messages available on his/her phone or at least 1000 Tsh available to send the message. This

money is included in the patient's living allowance every month.

- At key times of the year, the FDA (Nancy) is overwhelmed with orders for some prescription medications. However, the order for that period of time had to be placed from overseas months earlier. Therefore, patients should understand that the allocation of prescription medications is arranged so that everyone receives at least SOME to get them through and that no one goes without. Patients should then re-order depending on how much they received not how much they SHOULD HAVE received.

Our goal is to support the health of the nation as well as we can. By taking these steps, the nation can partner with us in this mission. We want to remind patients that we are available to help them with anything at all- do not hesitate to contact us for any issue, big or small.



CSPAN Watch — July is Heating Up!

Jason “JT” Tyler here again, with the CSPAN analysis you so desperately crave! I’ve been following CSPANPCTZ continuously for the last few years, and I have never seen anything as exciting as the last few weeks:

- That move-in allowance we all want more of? Unfortunately, no can do. If you spent more than you got, submit receipts for approval and reimbursement.
- Airtel. Some don’t like it, but it’s all

we got for now. But once our contract is up next year we’ll let the market fight to decide the most dominant service.

- You’ve sent in a leave request with no answer? Easy! Give Vero one (1) week to say if she’s received it. Still no answer?!?! Send her an email.
- Annual Volunteer Survey. Do it. Get ginger cookies. So fire.
- Think your region merits a bump in the base living allowance? Get a group together, hash out budgets for each, and send ‘em to David.



He’ll evaluate real quick like.

Whew! How’s that for some on-the-floor, bipartisan rumble and tumble? Be sure to keep on reading for more exciting CSPANPCTZ news, or its sister channel CSPANPCTZ2.0-Dar!

Follow me on Twitter: @JTsmooth

Email me : da.real.JT@hotmail.com

Robert S. Lehman Memorial Fund

Peace Corps staff and the entire VAC team would like to remind everyone to take advantage of the Robert S. Lehman Memorial Fund. If you have an open grant, or are thinking about starting a grant, this could give you up to \$500. This fund can be applied to PCPP grants.

This would mean a lot to Robbie’s family back in America, and his family here in Tanzania. If you have a grant you think would be appropriate for these funds, please contact the grants committee or Yovitha for more information. Let ‘s help the Lehman family continue to fulfill Robbie’s passion for service!



Inside the Homeland



After stepping down from his esteemed position as President of the World, Mr. Joel Onditi has really found his stride in his new role as Director of Homeland Security. Here in a rare interview from the prestigious Safe and Secure Times Journal, Joel shares with us the most recent updates in the security world.

Safe and Secure Times: Thank you so much for taking time from your busy schedule of fighting crime to speak with us.

Joel Onditi: It's my pleasure to talk to you. You know I don't need to sleep anyway.

SST: Right out of the gate, we'd like to clear the air and ask if there will be any staff turnovers in the Homeland Security Department.

JO: Haha! No, no. I'm not going anywhere. Although, I did receive a tempting offer to be Diamond Platnumz' personal body guard. His music and lyrics really speak to me, but keeping PCVs safe and secure is my true calling in life.

SST: Well, those PCVs are sure lucky to have you. So let's get down to the big issues starting with response after items are stolen. What kind of assistance can be received for reimbursement or retrieving those items?

JO: Unfortunately this issue is more common than I would like, but luckily we have options. First things first, report early and report often. The sooner my team knows about the theft, the sooner we can contact our connections in the town where the theft occurred to try to and track down items that may still be in the area. Some items such as a D-light can be replaced or reimbursed, and as always, in the event of Living Allowance theft, you may be able to receive a prorated amount to get you through to your next pay check once the police report is processed. For items that are insured (You do have insurance, don't you?), I can supply a letter for the insurance companies to vouch for the unfortunate circumstances.

SST: That's great! So what's the deal with law enforcement doing bus searches? And what's a PCV to do in the event that their bag is to be searched?

JO: These searches started in the fall of last year with the influx of illegal immigrants right before elections. Law enforcement officers are mainly safeguarding the borders (think Kenya and Zambia borders) and are working off leads of suspicious behaviors especially trafficking of drugs and explosives. They are able to pinpoint anyone on the bus, foreigners and locals alike, and under Tanzanian law are allowed to conduct a search of their belongings without giving reason. My advice to you is to carry the copy of your PC Passport containing your work exemption permit at all times, and comply with all searches.

SST: Wow, thanks so much for those tips, Joel. Last question before you go, what's the deal with the duty phone and what can we expect as volunteers who call in times of emergency?

JO: Always call the duty phone immediately in the event of an emergency after hours. The duty phone officer will remain in constant contact with the PCV even after they have brought in a secondary party for added support such as security or medical, to ensure lines of communication remain intact during an emergency. If you call and no one answers, call me and if I don't answer, call someone else. Keep calling PC staff until you reach a person. Remember many emergency events can cause a lot of unexpected distress to the PCV that may present in various ways and various times. I encourage those affected to reach out to medical staff or PSDN to ensure they are processing the event healthfully and get the mental support that is needed.

STT: Thank you so much for your time and updating us on the latest and greatest in safety and security.

