

GROUP QUESTIONS FOR LEGACY DISCUSSION

Each group will take a question, then answer, expand, and look for ways FON or individual FON members can take action on the theme. Feel free to disagree with any premise, and always look for other things we can do (actionable alternatives):

1. Many of us have described Peace Corps or similar service as a life changing event. That's nice and perhaps a cliché. So what does this mean in terms of action for individuals and FON as an organization? Can we channel all the varied experiences we have gathered since our Nigeria service into things we can do as an organization?
2. Can and should we commit to helping Nigeria, as we do now, with our project funding? This often involves small but targeted and directed grants to groups carrying on what some see as in the Peace Corps tradition. What else can we do with the dues we pay and the time we commit? For example, is there a role we should play with Nigerians in the U.S. (we already have a small program at Brandeis University) or with universities developing West Africa programs?
3. Should FON involve itself as a political advocacy group that could, for example, seek greater funding for the Peace Corps or international development? We have stories to tell, but most of our stories are quite old (like some of us are). If we have a 10-minute sit-down with our Member of Congress, what can our FON experiences bring to the conversation? Can our FON experiences or FON's resources enhance our conversations with public officials, NGOs, etc.
4. FON as an organization will disappear if we keep the same membership profile. Should we strive to be a larger organization with membership beyond our base of Peace Corps alumni? Or is our value really that unique subset of experiences from a time when we were carrying the torch handed us by JFK as we ventured out into a world that loved America (mostly) and welcomed its kids?