



Arizona  
Governor's  
Commission  
on **Service** and  
**Volunteerism**



**Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism**  
**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting [Link](#)**  
**Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix, Arizona**

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) was convened on March 23, 2022, via hybrid meeting, Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the GCSV:

**Members Present (9)**

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Robert Ashcraft</b> | <b>Donna Martin</b>  |
| <b>Donna Davis</b>     | <b>Helain Lewis</b>  |
| <b>Michael Hammett</b> | <b>Tori Carlson</b>  |
| <b>Chris Gibbs</b>     | <b>Kimberly Rice</b> |
| <b>Thomas Winkle</b>   |                      |

**Members Absent (4)**

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Alex Gabaldon</b> | <b>Donna McBride</b>    |
| <b>Tyler Butler</b>  | <b>Jennifer Manhoff</b> |

**Staff & Guests (4)**

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Emily Litchfield</b>  | <b>Lillian James</b>  |
| <b>Ali Channa</b>        | <b>Shayne Johnson</b> |
| <b>Olivia Christiani</b> | <b>Nicole Cozzi</b>   |

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Commission Chair Davis** called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. Quorum present.

**2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

**Commission Chair Davis** welcomed attendees and asked the Commissioners, guests and staff to introduce themselves.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Tabled)**

Meeting minutes from June 24, 2022 were not approved as commissioners needed more time to review.

**4. BUSINESS**

**Chair Davis** shared three announcements:

- The Arizona SUpreme Court AmeriCorps Program shared that a recent AmeriCorps alum, Andrea Ciminello, was killed in a car accident in early July. Andrea served at Pinal County Adult Probation in the Summer of 2021 where

she was subsequently hired. Andrea was recognized posthumously as 'Rookie of the Year' for the department. Our hearts are with Andrea's family, friends and co-workers.

- **Commissioner McBride** was recently recognized as Best Writer/Author by the Best of Pinal County 2022. Congratulations to Donna!
- The week of July 17th was National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. Chief Justice Robert Butinel recognized AmeriCorps members, in addition to staff, in a letter stating "The AmeriCorps program provides much needed support to our communities while serving as a springboard for participants into full-time roles in government and public safety."

**Emily Litchfield, AmeriCorps Director**, introduced two new staff members, Shayne Johnson and Lillian James. Shayne and Lillian in addition to Ali Channa will serve as Program Administrators, each supporting a portion of the AmeriCorps portfolio in addition to supporting special projects such as the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards and Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. **Ms. Litchfield** also shared highlights from the Commission Annual Report for the 2022 State fiscal year. Highlights include serving over 16,500 children and youth and nearly 1,300 veterans, active-duty military and their families. An additional 2,100 individuals received independent living support services and more than 870 individuals receiving job training and placement services. The full report is available [here](#).

**Ex-Officio Commissioner Jennifer Manhoff**, Senior Portfolio Manager with the AmeriCorps Agency's Mountain Region Office, was not present for the meeting. **Ms. Litchfield** was able to provide the following updates on her behalf:

- The Mountain Region West team was in Arizona last week for the Rural Policy Forum in Winslow, Arizona. They also took time to visit with the AmeriCorps Team at GOYFF and several AmeriCorps VISTA and Seniors Programs. **Commissioner Ashcraft**, who met with regional office staff in his role as an AmeriCorps Seniors grantee, noted that there is a mutual respect between the federal agency staff and the AmeriCorps Team at GOYFF with everyone focused on a common goal of supporting the needs of Arizona.
- The [Volunteer Generation Fund Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is currently open. The focus of this work is volunteer engagement and capacity building. The deadline for applications is September 13, 2022.
- The [FY2023 Notice of Funding Opportunities for both AmeriCorps State and National and Public Health AmeriCorps](#).

**Ali Channa** provided some program updates as the program year is set to conclude at the end of the month. Overall programs are doing well, though there are some challenges with recruitment which are being seen at a national level.

**Commissioner Ashcraft** gave an update on the Service Enterprise Initiative, formerly a program through the GOYFF which many commissioners were involved in. The program is alive and well in Arizona and staff at ASU Lodestar Center are working on renewal certifications for 10 programs.

Next the commission heard from two guest speakers. The first was **Nicole Cozzi**, Assistant Program Director with AmeriCorps NCCC - Southwest Region. **Ms. Cozzi** shared about the [AmeriCorps NCCC](#) and that they are currently seeking project proposals for the new program year. Projects should have enough work for 8-10 full-time members and be 6-12 weeks in length. Examples of past projects include tax assistance, summer programs for youth and environmental stewardship. The only 'cost' to the community is that housing needs to be supplied for members for the duration of the project. The second guest speaker was **Olivia Christiani**, interim communications director for GOYFF. **Ms. Christiani** provided an overview of the [Governor's Youth Commission](#) (GYC), which has a new year beginning this month. The GYC currently has representation from all counties in Arizona except for Apache, Graham, Gila and Mohave; commissioners were asked to assist in seeking applicants from these areas. **Commissioner Rice** asked about the application timeline (February - May with selections taking place in June and July) and the age of commissioners (10th - 12th grade). **Commissioner Martin** was impressed with the service hours completed by the GYC in the last year (over 5,300 hours) and suggested consideration of special recognition for the GYC as part of the

standing Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards. Additionally, Commissioner Martin suggested that GYC members be informed of the opportunity to receive the [President’s Volunteer Service Awards](#).

**5. UPDATES**

The annual program orientation will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2022. There will be a commissioner engagement activity in the morning.

The GOYFF is hosting Lighting Arizona Purple on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM on the House Lawn. This event is to launch Domestic Violence Awareness month.

It is time to begin building the timeline for the annual Summit. **Ms. Litchfield** suggested the option of building a work group to include both commissioners and other stakeholders, which was supported by the commission.

Commissioners interested in participating should connect with **Ms. Litchfield**. Additionally if there are suggestions of who should be part of the committee, those can be directed to **Ms. Litchfield**.

**6. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

The next convening of the Commission is on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Proposed agenda items include annual report highlights and information regarding the annual Summit.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made for adjournment by **Commissioner Martin**. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hammett**. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 PM.

Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022  
Governor’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Emily Litchfield  
AmeriCorps Director