



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



Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 1:30 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 December 8, 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)	
Donna Martin	Donna Davis
Tori Carlson	Donna McBride
Robert Ashcraft	Thomas Winkel
Helain Day	Michael Hammett
Chris Gibbs	
Members Absent (4)	
Jennifer Manhoff	Tyler Butler
Alex Gabaldon	Kimberly Rice
Staff & Guests (9)	
Emily Litchfield	Lillian James
Ali Channa	Shayne Johnson
Kainoa Spenser	Maria Cristina Fuentes
Stephanie Garippa	Melissa Hosten
Sarah Haber	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1:36 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

Meeting minutes from August 10, 2022 were not approved as commissioners needed more time to review.

Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner McBride** seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS

Director Maria Cristina Fuentes of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) offered reflections over the last eight years under the leadership of Governor Ducey. In recognition of the work that has been done by the commission, each commissioner received a commendation from the governor.

Director Fuentes also shared that she will be leaving the GOYFF at the end of the year to join COPA Health.

Commissioners McBride, Ashcraft and Davis thanked Director Fuentes for her support of the work during her tenure.

Commissioner Gibbs shared the need for expanding discussions to include general volunteerism, including Rotary and Lions Clubs. **Chair Davis** asked if future meetings could include agenda items of this nature. **Commissioner Martin** shared that this should be a priority moving forward - amplifying the good work of organizations that are often unrecognized. **Commissioner Hammett** reinforced that this has been brought up several times and emphasized the need to have Volunteerism as a consistent agenda item.

AmeriCorps Director Emily Litchfield introduced three exemplary programs who have demonstrated growth, flexibility and innovation over, at least, the last 6 years. **Sarah Haber**, Program Manager at Arizona Serve, shared that their program was developed by AmeriCorps members and, currently, all staff members have served at least one year with AmeriCorps. Arizona Serve engages volunteers of all ages including high school students and older adults. There is an organizational emphasis on community centered program design, asking potential members and organizations what they want in their community. Commissioner Ashcraft recognized Arizona Serve for their exemplary support with a recent event of the Southern Arizona Volunteer Managers Association (SAVMA). **Commissioner Carlson** thanked **Ms. Haber** for their partnership and providing an AmeriCorps member to support the community outreach that SAVMA is doing.

Stephanie Garippa, Program Director at Maggie's Place, shared their program design highlighting the skills that AmeriCorps members learn in their service including communication, time management, and relationship building, in addition to building a lifelong dedication to service. Maggie's Place provides extensive benefits to members which has contributed to a retention rate average of 95% over the last 5 years. **Commissioner McBride** shared experience in her professional life seeing the impact that Maggie's Place has through their work. **Commissioners Day and Hammett** were appreciative of the anecdotal and qualitative data shared.

Melissa Hosten, Program Director from the University of Arizona (UofA) Center for the Recruitment and Retention of Mathematics Teachers. **Ms. Hosten** discussed the program model and outcome data. The UofA AmeriCorps Program has been particularly successful with member recruitment (90%-100% over the last 6 years) and retention (97% for FY21-22) rates. Last year, the program tutored children in every county in the state including significant numbers in Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties. **Commissioner Ashcraft** commented that the reach is impressive. **Commissioner Davis** expressed the importance of children having the necessary support to succeed in math.

5. UPDATES

Ali Channa, GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator, shared highlights from the FY21-22 program year. 27 programs had an average enrollment rate of 55.73%. Recruitment challenges included the living allowance not rising to meet the increasing cost of living, limited housing availability, and access to transportation. The average retention rate sat at 87%, exceeding the minimum 85% set by the AmeriCorps federal agency.

Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF Service and Volunteerism Specialist, shared an update on the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC). Through the GYC's five workgroups, members have developed project plans for educating and engaging local communities across the state in the areas of distracted driving, domestic violence, education, mental health, and substance abuse. **Mr. Spenser** discussed that he will be responsible for working with the GOYFF AmeriCorps Director to advance the commissions work on general volunteerism topics. **Commissioner Martin** shared that the commission

may want to begin administering the process for the President's Service Award for the GYC and AmeriCorps members. **Commissioner McBride** shared that youth leadership is an important part of the League of Towns and Cities and may be a relationship to leverage in the future.

Lillian James, GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator, provided an update on the upcoming Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. The event will be hosted on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at the Phoenix Convention Center. More information is forthcoming related to registration, sponsorships, and exhibitors. GOYFF is seeking 3-4 additional workshop presenters.

In the interest of time, **Commissioner Ashcraft** will submit his update on the Service Enterprise Initiative via meeting materials to be posted with the minutes of the meeting.

6. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next convening of the Commission will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Proposed agenda items include revisiting the draft of the State Service Plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martin motioned for adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Gibbs**. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Dated the 8th day of December, 2022
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily Litchfield
AmeriCorps Director