



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



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 1:30 PM
Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) convened on October 4, 2023, via a hybrid format at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice duly given.

| Members Present (9) | |
|----------------------|--|
| Kimberly Rice | Sandra Ballester (proxy for Thomas Winkel) |
| Robert Ashcraft | Michael Hammett |
| Tori Carlson | Donna Davis (Chair) |
| Donna Martin | Chris Gibbs |
| Helain Lewis | |
| Members Absent (2) | |
| Tyler Butler | Alex Gabaldon |
| Staff and Guests (7) | |
| Emily Litchfield | Kainoa Spenser |
| Jessica Deery | Erin Kruse |
| Russ Dickerson | Dee Person |
| Carla Nuñez | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Davis called the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism meeting to order at **1:39 PM** with **nine** members and **seven** staff and guests present.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

With a quorum met, **Commission Chair Davis** welcomed attendees and asked Commissioners, guests, and staff to introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Chair Davis requested a review of the **May 10, 2023** meeting minutes.

- **Commissioner Martin** had a question regarding attendance at the meeting, as it seemed low.
- **Emily Litchfield**, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) AmeriCorps Director, verified the present Commissioners, which **Commissioner Martin** found sufficient.
- **Commissioner Ashcraft** moved to accept the meeting minutes.
- **Commissioner Martin** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

4. UPDATES

Emily Litchfield shared about her recent service and volunteerism outreach and education efforts:

- August 2023
 - Presented at the [2023 Rural Policy Forum](#) hosted by Local First Arizona to share the work and resources of GOYFF and AmeriCorps while connecting one-on-one with organizations needing support through either capacity building or grants/funding.
 - **Commission Chair Davis** noted that the Rural Policy Forum is a fantastic opportunity to reach rural communities.
- September 2023
 - Attended the monthly meeting of the [Southern Arizona Volunteer Managers Association \(SAVMA\)](#) to discuss the priorities and needs with Volunteer Managers of organizations in Southern Arizona, a

connection made through **Commissioner Ashcraft** and his work through the Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI) at Arizona State University (ASU) Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit.

- Attended the Arizona Town Hall - [Bridging Divides to Build Community](#) to share about the fiscal year (FY) 2024 AmeriCorps Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity, priorities related to civic bridge-building activities, and the ['United We Serve' Initiative](#).

Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF Service and Volunteerism Specialist, provided an update regarding the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC). Membership of the 2023-2024 cohort represents 14 of 15 counties, with Gila County being the exception. The five workgroups continue developing their project plans that they will share for peer-to-peer feedback at the October 21, 2023, Quarter 2 Meeting before moving into the implementation phase. Members are focusing on the importance of community collaboration and involving Arizonans within their local zip codes during the development phase of their planning process. With that in mind, the Distracted Driving Workgroup seeks to partner with organizations to better inform their work.

- **Commissioner Rice** suggested there may be a program at Barrow Neurological Institute; she will follow up.

Commissioner Ashcraft provided an update about the SEI. Tucson has a growing advisory group focusing on the SEI; the groups' continued interest in the SEI keeps the training cost low, allowing more organizations access to attend. He reiterated [Catholic Charities Arizona](#) recently renewed its SEI Certification and has, and continues to be, a vocal supporter of the initiative.

Carla Nuñez, Senior Portfolio Manager (SPM) from the AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office, provided an update from the federal agency. New resources are available to AmeriCorps grantees and subgrantees on [what to do in case of a government shutdown](#). The AmeriCorps Regional Office team spent September traveling across Arizona to connect with AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) and AmeriCorps Seniors projects in Casa Grande, Northern Arizona, and the Navajo Tribal Nation. The [NCCC/FEMA Corps](#) request for concept papers is open and due in January. The AmeriCorps VISTA applications are also open; however, due to recently rescinded ARP funds, program start dates may not occur until 2025.

Emily Litchfield provided a staffing update introducing the new GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator, Jessica Deery. Jessica will take over for Ali Channa, who is going on to serve as a Portfolio Manager at the AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office. Commissioners congratulated Ali, and Shayne Johnson for her promotion to Juvenile Justice Specialist at GOYFF.

Emily Litchfield added the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions has scheduled interviews with two candidates for potential appointments by the end of October.

- **Commission Chair Davis** asked how many vacancies the Commission has.
- **Emily Litchfield** responded three appointments are needed to reach the 15 member minimum required by both federal statute and state executive order. One of those is representation from a 'local labor organization' to meet that federal statutory requirement. She added the Commission may have up to 25 members.
- **Commissioner Ashcraft** commented that philanthropic representation will be essential to supporting the advancement of service and volunteer work across Arizona.

5. BUSINESS

Russ Dickerson and **Erin Kruse** from Northern Arizona University (NAU), Center for Service and Volunteerism presented on the project, Arizona Climate Resilience Corps (AZCRC). AZCRC received \$945,000 in flexible, private philanthropy from the [California Volunteers Fund](#). The monies, combined with \$474,000 in AmeriCorps funding from GOYFF will allow 75 AmeriCorps members to serve in community outreach and education related to climate action projects across Arizona. In addition to the increased number of members in service, these individuals will earn the maximum allowable living allowance of \$35,200. Funding will also waive the partner site cost shares to make the service accessible to more organizations. This program will additionally focus on partnerships with colleges and universities leveraging AmeriCorps positions as paid internship opportunities, thereby increasing equity and access for students needing internships to complete their degree programs.

- **Commissioner Martin** noted the thoughtfulness of engaging with community colleges to increase student equity and opportunity, especially for rural communities.
- **Commissioner Ashcraft** shared the success of another GOYFF-funded AmeriCorps Program- Survivor LINK at Arizona State University - applying the same model with the Master in Social Work degree.
- **Russ Dickerson** added that this pilot program has only a year of philanthropic funds. Commissioners can assist the project by sharing member and partner site opportunities. The project is additive to/connected to President Biden's recent announcement of the [American Climate Corps](#), intending to build an Arizona Climate Initiative more inclusive than just the single AZCRC program.
- **Commissioners Martin** and **Hammett** stated being impressed with the high living allowance as it is critical to a robust recruitment strategy.
- **Commissioner Carlson** added she was impressed with the project and is ready to serve.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield provided an update on the available AmeriCorps funding opportunity. The [FY2024 AmeriCorps National Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is open, and applications are due to the Commission by December 1, 2023; the federal agency will make final funding decisions. An Information Session about the NOFO is Thursday, October 5, 2023; more information is available on the [GOYFF website](#). The AmeriCorps State Formula Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) will also open in Spring 2024; the GOYFF will seek grant reviewers for that process.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield announced planning is on the horizon for the 2024 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards with a target date of early May. Since the 2023 event venue will be undergoing construction, she welcomed location suggestions from Commissioners for the 2024 event.

- **Commissioner Ashcraft** recommended the community space at Westward Ho; he will follow up with information on the room capacity.
- **Commissioner Rice** suggested Scottsdale Community College, having recently attended an event there.
- **Commissioner Martin** proposed Rio Salado or Estrella Mountain Community Colleges.
- **Commissioner Lewis** seconded the suggestions given.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield stated if additional ideas come to mind, to send them to her and include a contact if known.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism will convene on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 1:30 PM**. The importance of making a quorum was strongly emphasized as the primary purpose will be to approve the FY2024 AmeriCorps Competitive NOFO Applications for submission to the federal agency.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martin motioned for adjournment. **Commissioner Gibbs** seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at **3:02 PM**.

Dated the 4th day of October 2023
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily Litchfield
GOYFF AmeriCorps Director