



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



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 1:30 PM
Arizona State Capitol, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) was convened on March 22, 2023, via hybrid format, at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 West Washington Street, 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, Chair
Kim Rice	Carla Nunez
Robert Ashcraft	Michael Hammett
Tori Carlson	Helain Lewis
Tyler Butler	
Members Absent (3)	
Thomas Winkel	Chris Gibbs
Alex Gabaldon	
Staff & Guests (10)	
Emily Litchfield	Wendy Erica Werden
Ali Channa	Shayne Johnson
Kainoa Spenser	Miriam Marguliz
Molly Budhiraja	Lillian James
Neil Minnish	Annie Khurana

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Davis called the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism meeting to order at **1:43 PM** with 9 members and 10 staff and guests present.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Commission Chair Davis welcomed commission members and attendees to the meeting and asked guests to introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Chair Davis called for a motion to approve the **January 18, 2023** meeting minutes. **Commissioner Ashcraft** moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Martin** seconded the motion and the motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

4. UPDATES

Kainoa Spenser, Service and Volunteerism Specialist, announced the status of the upcoming 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT). Awardee recommendations are with senior staff for final review and approval and sponsorship opportunities to support the event are still available for interested individuals.

Lillian James, AmeriCorps Program Administrator, shared that the 2022-2023 Governor's Youth Commission (GYC)'s Quarter 4 meeting takes place on Saturday, April 29, 2023 during Global Youth Service Day. The GYC is planning to partner with the Pueblo Grande Museum on a restoration service project. Additionally, applications to join the GYC for the 2023-2024 school year opened mid-March for 10th-12th grade high school students from all 15 counties to apply.

She requested assistance from commission members to share with their networks to ensure statewide representation. Interested students can learn more about the GYC and how to apply at gyc.az.gov.

Commissioner Ashcraft provided an update on the Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI). He stated that at its base, SEI is efficient and effective volunteer management that fully embeds volunteerism into an organization. **Commissioner Ashcraft** emphasized that SEI is not just an ‘add-on’ to an organization, but is essential to keeping it alive on a day-to-day basis. **Commissioner Martin** and **Commissioner Carlson** stated both of their organizations have recently re-certified as SEI Trainers, sharing support of the initiative based on personal experiences. **Commissioner Lewis** also shared her personal experience going through the curriculum stating it was essential to confronting hesitations of organizational change that had become detrimental to the advancement of its mission.

Carla Nunez, acting Senior Portfolio Manager at the AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office and ex-officio member of the Commission, provided an update from the federal agency. President Biden’s budget proposes a 17% increase to the federal agency with a primary focus on increasing member’s living allowance. There are two federal grant opportunities closing on April 5, 2023: Request for AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Papers and Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 AmeriCorps Seniors Native Nations and Indigenous Elders Senior Demonstration Program. **Carla Nunez** ended her update by sharing that the federal agency released a new [Public Service Announcement \(PSA\)](#) inviting individuals who want to positively impact communities to “Choose AmeriCorps.” The toolkit for promoting the PSA and how to become an AmeriCorps member is available [online](#).

Emily Litchfield, AmeriCorps Director, shared that the federal agency’s messaging aligns with Arizona’s PSA campaign that the commission developed in partnership with the Arizona Broadcasters Association (ABA) and set to launch April 1 to coincide with National Volunteer Month recognized throughout the month of April. Arizona’s messaging will center around how “AmeriCorps is for everyone” and encourage Arizonans that joining AmeriCorps is “a chance to make a difference.” PSA’s will be available in English and Spanish, and will be amplified across Arizona on radio stations, streaming services, as well as on Google and YouTube.

5. BUSINESS

Molly Budhiraja, Founder of My Wish For My Community, shared an overview of her organization and volunteer platform. **Molly** discussed that the driving force behind establishing this need was when she hosted a blanket drive that received local news coverage and led to various inquiries from other youth on how they could get involved. She stated that with this in mind, she learned the necessary coding to initially develop and launch an online platform that reduces barriers for youth to access local volunteer opportunities. **Molly** continued by discussing how she works with local organizations that do not already have an established volunteer program for youth to find opportunities within that organization where youth can be involved. She discussed how her and a team of Student ‘Wish’ Ambassadors lead community wide volunteer events and offer leadership development opportunities on a regular basis. The organization is also certified to verify hours required to receive the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Commissioner Ashcraft inquired how My Wish For My Community defined ‘youth’ to which Molly replied that youth is defined as anyone under the age of 18, though volunteer opportunities are open to all ages and family participation is encouraged. **Molly** ended her presentation by relaying a story of volunteering with her 8 year-old sister and how she hopes her platform creates opportunities for other Arizona families to experience giving back to their community as an entire family unit.

Commissioner Carlson asked about platform logistics. **Molly** stated that users create a profile and login to the platform at which point they have access to a calendar of events. Users can also log service hours that are verified by Wish Ambassadors or board members. She added that she is interested in potentially expanding to the Tucson area as this is a critical need in the southern part of the state.

Commissioner Lewis stated he was very impressed with Molly’s advocacy on behalf of youth in order to reduce barriers to service. He added that her ability to think critically and coordinate with organizations about what is possible is admirable. **Molly** stated how she is also looking into potentially coordinating with schools as many now

require volunteer hours in order to graduate. More information about Molly and My Wish For My Community is available at goyff.az.gov/CSV.

Commissioner Ashcraft discussed the March 13, 2023 visit from AmeriCorps CEO, Michael Smith, to kick-off AmeriCorps Week 2023. There were 70 individuals representing all streams of service across Arizona including AmeriCorps VISTA, National Direct Programs, Seniors and AmeriCorps State & National (ASN). He stated that City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego joined the event and issued a proclamation for AmeriCorps Week while **Emily Litchfield, AmeriCorps Director**, spoke about national service efforts in Arizona. **Commissioner Martin** noted that the event was beautiful and it was great to see Arizona programs and members highlighted. **Commissioner Hammett** echoed this sentiment, stating that the collaborative efforts of the federal agency, Arizona State University (ASU) Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, GOYFF, and the City of Phoenix Mayor's Office was apparent. **Commissioner Hammett** added that the Q&A session with CEO Smith was valuable and seen through his thoughtful responses. **Commissioner Nunez** stated she was grateful for the opportunity to partner and host the event, as well as being able to highlight the incredible work being done by national service members and service sites across Arizona.

Guest Miriam Marguliz, AmeriCorps Seniors Coordinator at the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Center for Service and Volunteerism, shared about their visit with CEO Smith where seven AmeriCorps Seniors members were recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Ali Channa, AmeriCorps Program Administrator, discussed meeting with the Director of Public Health AmeriCorps, AJ Pearlman, at ASU Be SAGE (Sustainability via Active Gardening Education)'s site visit. He stated It was wonderful for the commission to highlight the impact of the program that provides COVID-19 testing, as well as health and wellness education to preschoolers at Head Start Programs and other preschools serving low income and under-resourced communities. **Commissioner Lewis** stated he wondered how inclusivity was built into the curriculum provided by ASU Be SAGE to the schools to accommodate all students attending the pre-school. **Emily Litchfield, AmeriCorps Director**, shared that materials are available in both English and Spanish, and the flash cards that show healthy and unhealthy foods include items such as prickly pear, papaya and tomatillos that are popular in both Mexican and Native American cuisine in the southwest.

6. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next convening of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism will be on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**, at **1:30 PM**, offered in a hybrid format.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Martin** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at **3:32 PM**.

Dated the 24th day of March, 2023
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily Litchfield
AmeriCorps Director