



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



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Boys & Girls Club East Valley Program Service Center, Mesa, Arizona

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) was convened on August 9, 2023, via hybrid format, with notice duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the GCSV:

Members Present (6)	
Kim Rice	Donna Davis, Chair
Donna Martin	Chris Gibbs
Robert Ashcraft	Tori Carlson
Members Absent (5)	
Alex Gabaldon	Michael Hammett
Thomas Winkel	Helain Lewis
Tyler Butler	
Staff & Guests (5)	
Emily Litchfield	Kainoa Spenser
Carla Nuñez	Neill Minish
Suzanne Hogue (public)	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Davis called the meeting to order at **1:33 PM** with **six** members present and **five** absent.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Chair Davis stated quorum had not been reached. Approval of May 10, 2023, meeting minutes will move to the October 4, 2023, meeting.

4. UPDATES

AmeriCorps Director Emily Litchfield provided an update around the fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 AmeriCorps State Formula application submission to the federal agency. The State Formula programs were approved, and notices of funding were distributed for the Formula, National Competitive, and Public Health AmeriCorps Grants. Beginning September 1, 2023, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) will administer 32 AmeriCorps Programs with a total federal investment of \$13.5 million. The largest this portfolio has ever been.

- **Commission Chair Davis** stated she read the Commission's annual report on the [GOYFF website](#), giving Commissioners and GOYFF staff kudos. **Commissioner Ashcraft** concurred, highlighting the growth in federal investments over the last couple of years.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield stated the 2023-2024 Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) cohort was selected, notified, and will convene for their first in-person meeting on August 19, 2023. Applications are still open in four counties: Apache, Cochise, Gila, and La Paz. More information is available on the [GOYFF website](#).

Commissioner Ashcraft provided an update on the Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI). [Catholic Charities Arizona](#) recently recertified and received an endorsement from Catholic Charities America CEO on the positive impact SEI has made on its organization. SEI will be at the [2023 UNITE Annual Nonprofit + Grantmaker Conference](#) hosted by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits to increase initiative awareness and engagement from organizations. **Commissioner Ashcraft** stated the application for [Volunteer Generation Funds](#) from the AmeriCorps federal agency was unsuccessful; additional funding is necessary to expand the reach of SEI.

Carla Nuñez, Senior Portfolio Manager (SPM) from the AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office, provided an update from the federal agency. Congress's passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 resulted in the AmeriCorps federal agency returning approximately \$70 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding; the majority of those dollars were set aside for the 2024 State and National Competitive solicitation and for AmeriCorps VISTA. The in-person AmeriCorps State/National Symposium is November 28-30, 2023. Lastly, information was shared related to the [AmeriCorps 30th Anniversary](#) celebration.

- **Commissioner Carlson** asked if the rescission of ARP funds would affect the tech modernization process of AmeriCorps identifying an eGrants replacement. **Nuñez** responded that the tech modernization process would not be affected. **Commissioner Carlson** also asked if the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Office](#) at the federal agency would be affected by the loss of funding; it would not.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield provided an update on Commission membership and GOYFF staffing. Four recommendations for appointment are awaiting interviews with the [Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions](#). Regarding GOYFF staffing, two vacancies on the AmeriCorps Team are in the process of being filled.

5. BUSINESS

Commission Chair Davis opened a discussion around the 2023 Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. **Commissioner Martin** stated she enjoyed the event; the food was great, and the catering staff was friendly and knowledgeable. She added she was impressed with the workshops she attended and felt there was a variety to choose from with knowledgeable presenters. Lastly, she stated the panel discussion was well done and looks forward to continuing the conversation. **Commissioner Rice** agreed with the previous assessment and added that the registration process was well-organized and had plenty of staff/volunteers to ensure short waits. **Commissioner Carlson** also enjoyed the variety of workshops and felt there was great content, especially for individuals new to volunteer management/engagement. **Commission Chair Davis** stated parking was a challenge but noted this as a problem with the previous venue. **SPM Nuñez** stated she was impressed with the Exhibit Hall and would wind up missing workshop sessions in favor of speaking with exhibitors; this was one of the better events that she's attended with great attendee engagement.

- **AmeriCorps Director Litchfield** inquired about the vision for future Summits; does this continue to be a statewide event? Is there a desire to support existing events by adding volunteer-related workshops to their curriculum?
- **Commissioner Martin** proposed hosting the annual statewide Summit every other year. **Commissioner Rice** added that in the off years, Commissioners or GOYFF staff could table at other conferences discussing service and volunteerism while promoting the next Summit. **Commissioner Martin** added contributing a volunteerism component to other standing events/conferences could be a good idea since workshops could be customized to address various local topics. **Commission Chair Davis** and **Commissioner Gibbs** stated there is a need to serve rural communities but wondered how best to do so. **Commission Chair Davis** stated it is essential to think more broadly about volunteerism and civic engagement beyond AmeriCorps. **Commissioner Gibbs** committed to surveying his contacts for more insight into engaging with and in rural communities. Commissioners want to be more engaged in outreach efforts provided the availability of table materials, packaged presentations, etc.

AmeriCorps Director Litchfield shared upcoming dates of importance. The announcement of the National Competitive solicitation from the federal agency is coming soon, and Commissioners should prepare to assist in promoting this opportunity until it closes, typically around the first week of January. The FY 2024 State Formula allocation is up for competition and opens after the National Competitive solicitation closes. Grant reviewers for the State Formula competition are needed come Spring 2024.

Commissioner Ashcraft requested an update on the partnership with the Arizona Broadcasters Association. **AmeriCorps Director Litchfield** stated she did not have the specific numbers available but knew that the return on investment was high for May and June. She added she would provide materials post-meeting.

Commissioner Carlson shared the Southern Arizona Volunteer Managers Association (SAVMA) is hosting its annual volunteer awards in January 2024. More information is available on the [SAVMA website](#).

6. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting will be on **October 4, 2023, at 1:30 PM**. Proposed agenda items include further discussion on the future vision of the Summit.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at **3:17 PM**.

Dated the 9th day of August 2023
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily P. Litchfield
AmeriCorps Director