



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



**Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 1:30 PM  
Remote Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/94436746215?pwd=cjJVrkJEN0dGVG5sS2I5YWExU3BBQT09>

**By Phone: (669) 900-6833 Passcode: 768498**

**Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix, Arizona**

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) was convened on August 12, 2020, in a virtual meeting space, 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 (10)	
Kim Rice	Robert Ashcraft
Donna McBride	Tori Carlson
Michael Hammett	Zanquetta Gray
Donna Davis	Tyler Butler
Donna Martin	Thomas Winkel
Members Absent (3)	
Helain Day	Alex Gabaldon
Lillian James	
Staff & Guests (12)	
Emily Litchfield	Kim Brooks
Randy George	Ali Chana
Melissa Hosten	Jennifer Flannery
Nancy Dean	Annie Reifsnyder
Celia Robidoux	Kiran Pendyala
Melissa Elliott	Chris Gibbs

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Commission Chair Donna Davis welcomed attendees and asked the Commissioners, guests and staff to introduce themselves. The commission welcomed two new commissioners.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes from January 20, 2021 were reviewed. **Commissioner Donna McBride** moved to approve the minutes with the addition of the missing names. **Commissioner Tori Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### 4. Updates

- **AmeriCorps Director Emily Litchfield** provided an AmeriCorps Program Update. The State Formula RFGA will be closing on March 26, 2021. Additionally, National Service Recognition Day is coming up on April 6, 2021. Governor Ducey has issued a proclamation and National Service Programs throughout Arizona have coordinated to request proclamations from mayors. There is also a virtual social hour for current and former members planned for the evening of April 6; more information to follow.
- **AmeriCorps Training Administrator Randy George** provided an update on the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Volunteerism & Civic Engagement. The Summit was held virtually March 15 – 18, 2021 featuring twelve workshops in the areas of National Service, Community Volunteerism and Innovative Community Solutions. The smallest workshop had 40 attendees and the largest had over 110 attendees. Attendees came from all over Arizona as well as California, New Jersey, Texas, Utah, Massachusetts and Colorado. More information will be available in May after the evaluation forms have been reviewed.
- **Zanquetta Gray**, Senior Portfolio Manager at the AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office provided an update from the AmeriCorps federal agency. Zanquetta shared information about the [new agency appointees](#). Zanquetta also shared that the passage of the American Rescue Plan has resulted in an agency budget increase of \$1 billion dollars. Information on funding distribution and the impact on programming in Arizona will be forthcoming. Lastly, Zanquetta expressed thanks for the Arizona Summit that took place last week. Members of the Regional Office staff, programs from other states in the region as well as VISTA and Senior Corps projects in Arizona were able to attend and found the information very valuable.

### 5. Business

- **Commissioner Robert Ashcraft** and **consultant Nancy Dean** discussed the future of the Service Enterprise Initiative in Arizona. After serving as a program incubator over the last 5 years, GOYFF will step down from serving the administrative function and ASU Lodestar Center will take over. After several months of stakeholder interviews, it is determined that there is support from the community to continue offering the SEI curriculum and ASU Lodestar Center would be a good organization to support this going forward. Two items to be addressed as the process moves forward are equitable access to the training for rural communities and small nonprofits.
- Representatives from four current AmeriCorps State & National Programs discussed successes and challenges experienced during the pandemic. All programs identified the pandemic as a significant opportunity for growth including new and expanded community partnerships and new opportunities for virtual service delivery and training.
  - **Jennifer Flannery, Arizona Supreme Court**, shared successes of identifying virtual service activities such as sewing face masks for the community and also increasing their virtual training database. The biggest challenge has been the full closure of the service sites for non-essential staff and volunteers for the last 12 months.

- **Melissa Hosten, UA STEMM Program**, shared successes of expanded services from one county to ten counties and also increasing the number of high school students engaged as AmeriCorps members. Challenges include internet accessibility for some members, supervisors and service recipients.
- **Melissa Elliott, Area Agency on Aging**, shared a successful partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank having AmeriCorps members delivering over 5,500 emergency food boxes to vulnerable adults at home. Members who were not as comfortable serving in-person have been doing phone wellness checks for over 2,900 clients weekly. The largest challenge has been operating their 'seniors serving seniors' program model as older adults are the most vulnerable to covid-19, though AmeriCorps members have been willing to fill the need.
- **Celia Robidoux and Annie Reifsnyder, AZ Serve of Prescott College**, shared successes of partnering with tribes for members to act as resource navigators, connecting tribal members to basic needs as well as partnering with Community Food Bank to deliver emergency food boxes at a variety of locations around Southern Arizona. They have also developed a program for delivering food to members, in addition to providing food to the community. The biggest challenge has been the ability to generate necessary cash resources to support the project; there has been some creative problem-solving in this area.

#### 7. Next Commission Meeting:

The Commission will meet again on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 1:30 PM. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to approve the selected State Formula applications for submission to the federal agency.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made for adjournment by **Commissioner Michael Hammett**. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Donna McBride**. The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Dated the 24th day of March, 2021  
 Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism  
 Respectfully Submitted By:  
 Emily Litchfield  
 AmeriCorps Director

#### Links Shared

<https://goyff.az.gov/content/service-enterprise-initiative>

<https://lodestar.asu.edu/content/arizona-service-enterprise-initiative>

[https://www.azfamily.com/news/continuing\\_coverage/coronavirus\\_coverage/maricopa-countys-area-agency-on-aging-sees-spike-in-need-during-the-pandemic/article\\_0bdd5530-8c36-11eb-94e6-c3410a69eb5e.html](https://www.azfamily.com/news/continuing_coverage/coronavirus_coverage/maricopa-countys-area-agency-on-aging-sees-spike-in-need-during-the-pandemic/article_0bdd5530-8c36-11eb-94e6-c3410a69eb5e.html)