

# Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission Meeting Minutes

## Meeting Notes

NOTE TAKER:		LOCATION:	DATE:	TIME:	DURATION:
Janet Schmidt		In-Person (Lincoln Action Program, Room #164)	01-26-06	12:15 p.m.	1 hr 15 mins
PURPOSE:		ATTENDEES:			
Summer Commission Meeting		<p><b>Present:</b> Pat Beans, Beatty Brasch, Cynthia Buettner, First Lady Sally Ganem, Gary Gates, Mike Kissler, Curt Krueger, Art May, Jessi Moore, Jim Pace, Nancy Wang and Lois Wine.</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Susan Burton, Peter Cales, Debra Hartmann, Gale Jungemann-Schulz, and Janet Schmidt</p>			
AGENDA ITEM	SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ITEMS				
1.	<b>Meeting Called to Order at 12:15 p.m. by Gary Gates, Chair of the Commission.</b>				
2.	<b>Approval of November 17, 2005 Minutes:</b> Cynthia Buettner moved that the November 17, 2005 minutes be approved as sent. Pat Beans seconded the motion and the motion passed.				
3.	<b>Program Presentation -- Lincoln Action CommUNITY AmeriCorps Program:</b> Three AmeriCorps members talked about their national service experience at Lincoln Action Program. The members were: Edin Salkanovic is originally from Bosnia and is currently working with LAP's Supportive Housing Program. Jamila Roach is working as a Head Start Case Liaison. Alsatir Elseid is originally from Sudan and is working with the YMCA at Elliott School in the before school program.				
4.	<b>Executive Committee:</b> The Executive Committee has completed the performance review of the Executive Director and has submitted it to HHSS Human Resources department. There has been much discussion about the administration budget shortfall. It is expected that the Corporation will allow the Commission to carryover \$10,000 of unspent funds from 2005 into 2006. Debra has met with the Gerry Oligmueller in the DAS—Budget office regarding the shortfall. Debra and Cynthia will be meeting with Senator Chris Beutler next week about the possibility of obtaining State funds. Senator Buetler has said he would be willing to help the Commission in this regard.				
5.	<p><b>Organizational Development Committee</b></p> <p><i>Commission Financial Report and Match Report ending December 31, 2005 was distributed and discussed.</i> Pat Beans reported in Committee Chair Rick Nation's absence. The Commission's operating grants have a few outstanding costs from 2005 that have not posted. The program pass-through funds are reflective of financial reporting completed as of December 31, 2005. The fill rates for member service years do not reflect minimum time members who will be hired by programs in the summer. In regards to Commission Administrative match requirements, the Corporation looks at the aggregate administrative match total amount for the entire three years of the grant cycle. The Commission has a \$200,000 match overage due to the Corporation's National PSA Campaign in year one. This cushion of match provides the opportunity for the Commission to focus on obtaining new sources of match for the next grant cycle of 2007-2009. Pat reported on items the Organizational Development Committee is working on: 2006 New Commissioner Orientation and the committee's Strategic Action Plan. Pat announced that Robert Hall has been appointed by Governor Heineman to the Commission to fill the labor representative position.</p>				
6.	<p><b>Outreach Committee</b></p> <p><i>2006 Governor's Conference:</i> The date of the Pre-Conference Cross Stream Training is May 31, 2006 with the Governor's Conference on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the Commission's annual meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lois Wine and Debra Hartmann have met with the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel and discussed preliminary facility needs for the conference. The Governor's Conference will have the two-year theme of "Telling the Story of Service." Terrence McNally will be the Keynote Speaker. A Call for Presenters will be released soon. Carol Schrader has agreed to be the 2006 First Lady Outstanding Community Service Awards Luncheon emcee as well as conducting a workshop on the art of interviewing. Regarding exhibitions during the conference, there will be a poster session call to the business community and</p>				

	<p>service clubs for displays in addition to AmeriCorps program displays.</p> <p><i>Commission Annual Report:</i> Woodmen of the World's graphic designer, Mike Wilson, completed the design and layout for the 2004 Annual Report. Cynthia Buettner, Committee Chair, encouraged commissioners to send John Manna a thank you note for providing graphic designer services.</p> <p><i>Commission Day of Service:</i> The Outreach Committee has chosen the national service day "Make a Difference Day" for the Commission to support in 2006. The InterCorps Council made up of 2<sup>nd</sup> year AmeriCorps members will be organizing projects for Make a Difference Day. Some possible projects are a Habitat for Humanity Build, a dental clinic for underserved children, and a possible conservation project in conjunction with Nebraska Game and Parks.</p>
7.	<p><b>Program Committee</b></p> <p><i>Grant Review on January 23, 2005:</i> Curt Krueger, Committee Chair, reviewed some highlights of the grant review process this year including an improved way of collecting the grant reviewers' scores. In addition, the new scoring sheet made it easier to compare Peer Reviewers' and Grant Reviewers' scoring for ranking the programs for funding. Some programs were requested to lower their MSY (Member Service Year) cost from \$12,600 to \$11,900 based on past actual cost per member data the Commission staff has been tracking. The programs asked to do this were positive towards this request. Curt Krueger presented two funding scenarios (A&amp;B) that would allow the Commission to manage resources pending the decision of the Commission's federal funder, the Corporation for National and Community Service. Art May made a motion for the Program Committee's recommendation to be accepted by the Commission as its funding plan for 2006-07. Cynthia Buettner seconded the motion. Recommendation accepted and approved unanimously.</p>
8.	<p><b>Cross Stream Reports</b></p> <p><i>Citizen Corps</i> – Debra reported in Susan Burton's absence. On the request of the Lieutenant Governor, Rick Sheey, a video conference was held in December 2005 for County and State Council representatives reported about county program activities. Twenty CERT trainings have been conducted statewide and three disaster response activations have occurred. NVSC Staff member Susan Burton has been recognized nationally for her work with Citizen Corps in Nebraska.</p> <p><i>AmeriCorps Vista &amp; Senior Corps</i> – Jim Pace reported that the Corporation for National and Community Service will be using Senior Corps to support the national initiative of the recruitment of baby boomers as volunteers. A letter was jointly signed by Debra and Jim asking media outlets to run PSA's concerning the recruitment of baby boomers. Currently in the State, there are 6,500 senior volunteers. Overall across the state there are 12 Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP), six Foster Grand Parents programs, four Senior Companion programs. There are 12 VISTA projects that involve 57 VISTA AmeriCorps members in the State. Tekamah will soon begin a Foster Grand Parent and RSVP program.</p> <p><i>Learn &amp; Serve</i> – Mike Kissler reported that he has been involved with completing progress reports and applying for next year's Learn and Serve funding. In conjunction with Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Learn and Serve will be setting up a pilot project in Nebraska called "Project Wild." If things go well with the project, Nebraska Learn and Serve will submit a Small State Capacity Grant to expand the project. Nebraska Learn and Serve has been working with the Consortium for Higher Education and Service learning on various projects.</p>
9.	<p><b>Executive Director's Report:</b></p> <p><i>Association for State Service Commissions:</i> Debra reported that the new Executive Director is Tom Branen. ASC is partnering with TASC/Aguirre to offer training and peer-to-peer opportunities. ASC is offering two Harris Wofford fellowships for two individuals to help fulfill ASC's strategic goals for the year by researching public policy initiatives that benefit state service commissions and by enhancing communication with the ASC membership and partners.</p> <p><i>CNCS News:</i> Debra reported that Rosie Mauk, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, has left the Corporation. The Nebraska Commission will be sending her a thank you gift for her support while at the Corporation. Any commissioner who would like to contribute towards this gift for Rosie, please contact Debra. There is a new Corporation marketing campaign directed at the Baby Boomers. The 2004 and 2005 State Profiles and Performance Reports will be released this Spring. Paul Schrader, Area Manager for CNCS, is planning on attending the Commission's Annual Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p><i>Other:</i> A Citizen Corps Award category has been established through the Commission's partnership</p>

	with the Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Community Improvement Program. Diann Muhlbach will be honored in Omaha by Voices for Children with a "Make a Difference Award" for all her work with Heartland CASA. Gale Jungemann-Schulz has been asked to participate in a panel discussion with the Corporation as it is creating a Statement of Work for the RFP regarding the management of AmeriCorps Childcare Benefits. Peter Cales participated in a national conference on disability inclusion. Janet Schmidt has an effective practice regarding a fiscal training methodology accepted by the National Resource Resources Clearinghouse. Susan and Debra did a taping on Carol Schrader's "Consider This" show at UNO. This can be seen on the UNO website. There was a Governor's Press Conference regarding volunteer opportunities over the Holidays. There were many links on the NVSC website during that time.
10.	<b>Unfinished Business –</b> <i>OIG Audit</i> – The audit has been fully resolved. Gary Gates thanked the Commission and NVSC Staff for all the hard work and the team effort put into making this a successful audit.
11.	<b>New Business: None</b>
12.	<b>Upcoming Important Dates &amp; Announcements –</b> First Lady Sally Ganem said that volunteerism is the backbone of our communities and very important in Nebraska. She thanked the commissioners for their commitment and service. She also thanked everyone for inviting her to be a part of the Commission.
13.	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

**Action Items**

	DESCRIPTION	OWNER	TARGET DATE	STATUS
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Submitted by,

Janet Schmidt  
Fiscal/Office Manager

Approved by the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, \_\_\_\_\_  
W. Gary Gates, Chair