



Quarterly Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2023

3:00pm-5:00pm

Locations

Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m52e5f5a3e417554596c759bf5ef322d6>

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 2. Roll Call
 - a. Commissioners: Anne Schuman, John Gremer, Cathy Leonis, Natalie Furlett, Amy Rueff, Andres Fernandez, Benjamin Kagan, Scott Clarke, Bridget Hayman, Curtis Peace, Ami Copeland, Allison Angeloni, Rosie Drumgoole, Amanda Elliot, Marci Johnson, Carolyn Roberts, Tiffany Holmes, John Gremer, Brooke Jones, Howard Lathan.
 - b. Staff: Andrea Spellman, Cecilia Maciel, Katrina Ellis, Cory Blissett, Kimberly Doyle, Teesha Pendleton, Toni Terry, Allison Miller, Jacob Jenkins, Davida Fanniel.
 - c. Guest: Hina Mahmood.
 - d. Commissioners NOT Present: Ami Copeland, Ashli Nelson, Carmen Ayala, Carolyn Roberts, Jennifer North, Rachael Dietkus, Shawn Gunnoe, Shawn Healy, Shelley Long.
 3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 2022 Meeting
 - a. John Gremer approved the minutes from the last meeting. Anne Schuman 2nd the approval of the minutes.
 - b. Hina Mahmood let us know she, Natalie, and Cory are working on updating Commissioners on the governor's website. Hina let us know they are interviewing for the Executive Director position.
 4. Elections
 - a. Chair
 - i. Scott Clarke handled the election of the Chair to prevent a conflict of interest.
 - ii. Cathy Leonis nominated Natalie Furlett for Chair. Anne Schuman seconded the nomination. There were no objections.
 - b. Vice Chair
 - i. Natalie Furlett nominated Cathy Leonis as Vice Chair. Anne Schuman seconded the nomination. There were no objections.
 5. AmeriCorps Update – Shawn Gunnoe
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- a. Shawn was not able to attend, but let us know there are no updates at this time.
6. Serve Illinois Foundation Update – Brandon Bodor
 - a. Was not able to attend.
 - b. Anne Schuman let us know the balance of the Foundation is \$24,744.05.
 - c. 501c3 was renewed.
7. Staff Reports – Serve Illinois Staff
 - a. Calendar of Events (Cecilia Maciel)
 - i. AmeriCorps Week – March 12th-18th, 2023.
 - ii. Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards- Tentatively April 27th, 2023, in Springfield at the Hoogland Center.
 - iii. National Service Summit – May 19th, 2023, in Springfield, Illinois at the Bank of Springfield Center.
 - iv. Points of Light Conference – June 14th-16th, 2023.
 - v. Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference - July 7th, 2023, at Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation in Springfield, Illinois.
 - b. Volunteerism and National Service Days Updates (Jacob Jenkins)
 - i. MLK Jr. Day – Justice Learning Lab was a success.
 - ii. Global Service Youth Day – April 28th-30th, 2023.
 - iii. Memorial Day – May 29th, 2023.
 - c. DHS Staff and Leadership Update
 - i. New Staff Introductions (Cory Blissett)
 1. Kristen Bethke – AmeriCorps Program Manager
 2. Davida Fanniel - National Service Program Manager
 3. Stacie Reichensperger - National Program Officer
 4. Rachael Tuxhorn - Administrative Assistant II
 5. Heather Cropp - AmeriCorps Program Specialist
 6. Kimberly Doyle – Data Analyst
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Natalie Furlett
 - i. Executive Director Search Update
 1. Hoping to have someone in place by March 2023.
 - ii. AmeriCorps Committee Chair Opening
 1. There is not currently a chair for this committee.
 2. Allison Angeloni anticipates taking over this chair.
 - b. Finance & Governance – Scott Clarke
 - i. Need to engage Executive Committee in review of bylaws.
 - ii. Let Scott Clarke know if there are any edits for the bylaws.
 1. Bylaws are available on the Serve Illinois Website (<https://serve.illinois.gov/bylaws.html>).
 - iii. Make sure we are in line with auditing principles.
 - iv. Need to make sure committee members are taking the required trainings on OneNet.
 1. If they are not, they may be dismissed.
 2. Cory Blissett is working on helping to make OneNet more accessible.



- c. Public Policy – Tiffany Holmes
 - i. Prior to Ayoka’s departure, they discussed Hill Day Meetings (to sustain/increase federal funding for National Service).
 - ii. Once a new Executive Director is in place, the goal is to work with them to discuss Hill Day Meetings to advocate for the education of war tax relief.
 - iii. Had also discussed with Ayoka about reaching out to Senator Turner. Tiffany Holmes did reach out to Senator Turner’s office to try to set up a meeting but has not received a response as of this meeting.
 - iv. In December 2022, we had the opportunity to meet with a representative from Congress Woman Cheri Bustos’ office to discuss the appropriations bill.
 - 1. Tiffany Holmes followed up with her office in December.
 - 2. As of this meeting, even though they did speak and we did advocate for funding for CNCS, there is not an update.
 - 3. Tiffany Holmes reached out to one of her contacts to try to see where we are at and who else we may be able to talk to.
 - d. Public Relations – Cathy Leonis
 - i. Allison Miller discussed that the newsletter is about 3/4ths of the way done. The procurement of renewing Constant Contact is still in the works. As of this meeting, news blasts are being sent out via email from DHS.ServeIllinois.News@Illinois.gov. The draft will be reviewed by internal staff, Cory Blissett, and Cathy Leonis prior to being sent out in its final version.
 - ii. The plan is for the newsletter to go out quarterly along with the seasons of the year.
 - iii. Commissioners are asked to send any relevant articles for future newsletters to Allison Miller Allison.Miller2@Illinois.gov.
 - iv. Points of Light Conference
 - 1. Previously, Cory Blissett was asked to look into doing an exhibit at the Points of Light Conference since it is in our home state.
 - 2. Hoping to have commissioners present at this conference to help staff the exhibit.
 - 3. Need to purchase give aways if we are going to have a booth.
 - v. Continue working on our marketing strategies to move forward with promoting AmeriCorps and volunteerism.
 - vi. The PR Committee would like to act as consultants to the other committees if there is going to be a public facing event to help strategize and plan.
 - e. Recognition Committee –Amy Rueff
 - i. Governor’s Hometown Awards will be August 18th, 2023, at the State Fairgrounds.
 - ii. Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards Recognition Event (for 2022 winners) will be April 27th, 2023, in Springfield, IL. The location is to be determined.
 - f. AmeriCorps – Cory Blissett
 - i. The Program Director’s Manual needs to be updated and is currently being worked on. Once updated, it will be available on the website.
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- ii. National Service Funding Opportunities.
 - 1. Applications were due for Public Health AmeriCorps on January 4th, 2023. There were two continuation applications that were submitted to the National Office for review.
 - a. There were 4 new applications that were graded by Cory's team.
 - b. The funding notice for any continuations or new applications will be available in early April.
 - iii. The AmeriCorps Committee to complete the AmeriCorps State Service Plan, which needs to be developed and submitted.
 - a. Cory will meet with the new AmeriCorps Committee Chair and other key members to talk about the State Service Plan.
 - b. Ayoka had initially put the goal submission date as February 2023 which we are now in. The goal is still to have this out in February 2023.
 - c. It will need to go through the proper channels with the board to ensure it is fully reviewed.
 - d. Cory wants to ensure disaster assistance is included.
 - iv. For the 2022-2023 grants there were 2 continuation applications submitted. In early April, we should know if they will continue getting funding.
 - 1. There are 31 existing program providers.
 - 2. Applications for the Formula NOFO.
 - a. Staff will grade and present to the board in Spring 2023 to vote on who will be awarded.
 - b. Must be in egrants by May 17th, 2023.
 - v. Cory wants to look into the recruitment and retention of members.
 - 1. Some of the technical and training assistance may have been lacking before when we were short staffed. Now that we have a full staff, we can provide more assistance.
 - vi. Living allowance and the Cannabis Plan
 - 1. In fiscal year 2024 we will be receiving \$4 million from the Cannabis Plan that will be dedicated towards covering the living allowance of up to 250 AmeriCorps members.
 - 2. Moving into fiscal year 2024, Cory will work with the new Executive Director and the Board to figure out how these members will be selected/how we will recruit them/how funds will get to them.
 - 3. There has been a drop in AmeriCorps members across the board.
 - a. Cory plans to do a statewide tour of all our subgrantees and tour all the different agencies and programs to learn more about them and help to develop relationships with them.
 - g. Strategic Planning – Allison Angeloni
 - i. Considering in the short term to merge the Strategic Planning Committee with the AmeriCorps Committee.
 - 1. Our strategic planning process has been on pause due to previously not having the level of staff needed to put together a strategic plan.
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2. Once the Executive Director comes on, there is hope to resume strategic planning.
 3. The State Service Plan is a large component of the strategic plan and is required by both Illinois and Federal statutes.
- h. New Commissioner
- i. Natalie Furlett introduced Brooke Jones as the most recently appointed commissioner.
 1. Brooke moved here from Tennessee to go to Northwestern University and just recently finished her MBA degree. Her professional work is in supply chain logistics.
- i. Contact List
- i. Anne Schuman requested a list with contact information for both commissioners and Serve Illinois staff. Once the list is updated, it will be sent out to all members.
- j. Renewals
- i. Allison Miller let commissioners know there are many that need to reapply and that she has been communicating with the governor's office. If those who need to reapply choose not to, then they would be removed from the commission. More details to come.
9. Public Comment
- a. No public present.
10. 2023 Meeting Dates
- a. 4/20/2023 3:00pm-5:00pm
 - b. 8/10/2023 3:00pm-5:00pm
 - c. 11/16/2023 3:00pm-5:00pm
11. Adjourn
- a. Cathy Leonis motioned to end the meeting and Amy Rueff seconded the motion. No one opposed.
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