



Recognition Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

4:00pm to 5:00pm

Location

Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

Virtual Meeting Credentials:

To request a meeting invite please send an email to dhs.serveillinois@illinois.gov

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** –Amy Rueff, Chair
2. **Roll Call** – *please type your name in the chat*
 - a. John Gremer, Amy Rueff, Carolyn Roberts, Andres Fernandez, Jacob Jenkins, Cecilia Maciel Martinez
3. **Approval of Minutes**- Minutes approved.
4. **Serve Illinois Update**- Jacob Jenkins Volunteer Program Manager
 - a. Downstate Volunteer Programs Coordinator has been hired and will begin on January 16, 2024.
 - b. Volunteer Team has a new intern from UIS, her name is Krista Bivens.
 - c. Holiday Cards for Veterans: over 10,000 cards distributed.
 - d. Holiday Cards for Seniors: Over 9,000 cards distributed.
 - e. Partnered with various communities, schools, and legislators for these initiatives.
 - f. **Volunteer Recognition Report** – Jacob Jenkins
 - i. Will continue with volunteer pop-ups throughout the year.
 - ii. A goal this year is to recognize the Cairo, Illinois community for their grocery store initiative.
 1. Andres Fernandez & volunteer team will go recognize Cairo when the weather is better.
 2. Disaster Relief in the Cook County area due to historic flooding in July.
 - a. Main communities are North Lawndale and Austin neighborhoods.
 - b. Will collaborate with various partners to assist with volunteers.
 - c. John would like to assist as a volunteer.
 - d. Recruit case managers & volunteers for mold remediation with World Renew.
 - e. John used to coordinate disaster relief so will assist and has connections for volunteers to assist.
 - g. **Governor's Awards Updates**
 - i. GVSA- Cecilia Maciel



1. GVSA Report
 2. Date- April 25th (Discuss Time Change)
 - a. Motion for the Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards ceremony at South Shore Cultural Center was approved for an evening event.
 3. Applications: 96
 4. All have been judged- currently reviewing scores for winners.
 5. Event location- South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago.
 6. Two Winners will be selected for each category.
 7. Proposed GVSA guest policy change.
 - a. Motion to change Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards guest policy to one guest per winner plus the person who nominated them was approved.
- 5. AmeriCorps 30th Recognition**
- a. Pop-ups will be occurring throughout the year to recognize individuals as Honorary AmeriCorps members.
 - b. **Sunday, January 14th, 2024 @ 11:30 AM:** Recognizing Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church of Faith at 4501 S Princeton Ave Chicago recognizing LaTasha Morris as an honorary AmeriCorps member for her help with the 9/11 event and holiday cards for seniors. We will also be recognizing the church themselves, Rev. Don Gardner, Rev. Wilbert Taylor Sr., and Thomasina Tatum.
 - c. **Monday, January 15th, 2024:** Attending Jack and Jill Western Cook County Chapter MLK Day of Service event to recognize the chapter for their outstanding work, recognize Zoie Alexandria Joseph and Hudson Davis for exceeding their service hour requirements, and Kimyada Wellington as honorary AmeriCorps member for her assistance on 9/11 and her work in the community, specifically with this chapter.
 - i. Harmony Community Church, 1908 S. Millard, Chicago 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
6. **Next Meeting** – April 9, 2024 @ 4:00 PM.
 7. Public Comments - None
 8. Adjournment
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