

Wisconsin National and Community Service Board

Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2014

Present: Christine Beatty, Lisa Delmore, Kathleen Groat, Bob Guenther, Tony Hallman, Paula Horning, Jim Langdon, Angela Ahlgrim, Jane Moore and India McCanse

Not Present Amy McDowell, Scott Jones, Scott Fromader, Bob Griffith, Michael Hinman, John Scocos

Staff present: Tom Devine, Amy Porter, Jessica Kewin, Casey Sweeney and Steven Yule

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Chair Kathleen Groat.

Introductions

The Commission members and Serve Wisconsin staff introduced themselves. New State Director, India McCanse introduced herself and described her background and experience.

Meeting Minutes

Jane Moore moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 19, 2014. Second by Angela Ahlgrim. The board unanimously approved the June 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

Set Next Meetings Date

- o Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at the Department of Military of Affairs in Madison, WI

Serve Wisconsin Updates

- **20th Anniversary Event:** Board Chair Kathleen Groat described the AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary Event that was held on September 12, 2014 in Oshkosh WI highlighting keynote speaker Major General Donald Dunbar. Board Vice Chair, Lisa Delmore described the September 11th Meals of Hope Service project which packaged 46,464 meals. Both described each event as a positive and inspiring reflection of National Service in Wisconsin.
- **2013-14 Member Survey Results:** Program Officer Jessica Kewin shared the results of the 2013-2014 member survey results. Overall, this survey revealed a positive trend for AmeriCorps programs in Wisconsin with an overall response rate of 68%. It was agreed that Serve WI staff will create a five-year trend summary for the 2014-15 survey presentation next year.
- **AmeriCorps Symposium:** Board member, Paula Horning and Lisa Delmore shared their experiences at the 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Symposium in Washington D.C. Both found the symposium insightful and took away many lessons.
- **CNCS Updates:** CNCS State Office Director India McCanse shared some news from the State Office. She described the partnership between the State Office and Serve WI, the creation of an InterCorps Council of AmeriCorps members, Mayor's Day planning, as well as the potential development of a partnership between Senior Companion Program and AmeriCorps members. India also spoke about Operation AmeriCorps, the recent Senior Corps NOFO, and the difficult year VISTA programs had with recruitment. For more regular updates from CNCS it was suggested that the Board sign up for [e-mail updates from CNCS](#):

- **Filling Board Positions:** Serve Wisconsin Executive Director Tom Devine explained that there are currently 5 Board vacancies and 4 pending nominations. The WNCSB particularly struggles in filing the AmeriCorps Board position. Board member Paula Horning has agreed to assist Tom Devine in the recruitment of new Board members. Board members were encouraged to send any prospective board member recommendations to Tom Devine. Jane Moore, Paula Horning, and Angela Ahlgrim have terms up in 2015--all are planning on continuing. Bob Guenther's term is up in 2015—Serve WI is in the process of finding a replacement.
- **State Service Plan:** Tentative completion date for a new State Service Plan set for June 2015; the committee will begin work on the new plan in January 2015. The board was urged to think of the direction they would like the service plan to go. Thus far efforts have been successful in aligning commission grant, Volunteer Generation Fund, and AmeriCorps with State Service Plan.
- **Upcoming RFP:** Program Officer Jessica Kewin explained that the 2015-16 AmeriCorps*State Request for Proposals based off the Corporation's 2015 Notice of Funding Opportunity will be released on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. The timeline for this RFP was provided to the board. Serve Wisconsin has 16 continuation applicants and 10 formula applications; new programs will likely apply.

Funding Criteria Consideration

Lisa Delmore motioned to approve that "*public or private nonprofit organization registered in the State of Wisconsin*" be added to the portfolio criteria for competitive consideration.

Adding this funding criteria will make the current process for ranking applications for competitive consideration language state the following:

New and Re compete applications to the federal level for competitive review, CNCS requires state commissions to rank proposals. The Board must prioritize the proposals based on their relative quality.

Average application score and fit in Wisconsin's portfolio criteria for all applicants plus performance scoring for existing programs will be considered for ranking of competitive applications. Fit in Wisconsin's portfolio criteria includes, but is not limited to: program location, program focus, cost efficiency, public or private nonprofit organization registered in the State of Wisconsin, and staff capacity.

This motion was seconded by Jane Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Generation Fund Vote

Jane Moore motioned to approve the 2014-2015 Volunteer Generation Fund grant with Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee for \$17,330.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved via e-mail for Serve Wisconsin staff to submit and award the Volunteer Generation Fund grant to the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee for the 2014-2015 program year. The Executive Committee's approval is advisory and temporary for implementation until approved by the full Board (Article IV Membership, Section 3 – Wisconsin National and Community Service Board Bylaws). The motion to approve 2014-2015 Volunteer Generation Fund grant with Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee for \$17,330 was seconded by Angie Ahlgrim. Motion passed unanimously.

2015 Commission Support Grant

Due to delays by the Corporation, the 2015 Commission Support Grant was not prepared at the time of this meeting. Tony Hallman motioned to approve the 2015 Commission Support Grant once completed. Paula Horning seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Update from Executive Director of America's Service commissions (ASC): Tom Branen

Tom Branen updated the Commission on new AmeriCorps Initiatives, ASC happenings, the current climate of the US Senate and House of Representatives and future opportunities for AmeriCorps.

Application Activity

Board members engaged in reviewing a portion of an AmeriCorps application and discussed the peer review scoring process. This activity offered insight, understanding, and perspective into the AmeriCorps application process, how applications are assessed, and how peer review scores are generated.

Roundtable Discussions

Round table discussions were broken down into the following categories: Volunteerism in Wisconsin with Jessica Kewin & Bonnie Andrews; AmeriCorps Application Scoring & Ranking with Steven Yule and Casey Sweeney; Serve Wisconsin & Board Relations with Tom Devine; and AmeriCorps in Wisconsin with & Amy Porter and India McCanse. Each topic for the roundtable discussions was taken from the July 2014 WNCSB survey.

Service Enterprise Discussion

Bonnie Andrews from the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee gave an overview of what the Service Enterprise Initiative is, its goals, and information about the pilot year. She is currently recruiting 7 new organizations to participate in 2014-15 program and she invited the board members to suggest organizations in Milwaukee area to participate. Moving forward Service Enterprise Initiative will expand beyond Milwaukee.

AmeriCorps Jeopardy

The board divided into two teams and competitively reviewed Serve Wisconsin AmeriCorps history and facts.

Adjourn

The October 2014 WNCSB meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.