

**North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service Meeting
Homewood Suites
Raleigh-Crabtree Valley
5400 Homewood Banks Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2009
10:00 AM**

MINUTES

The NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service meeting was called to order at 10 am by Chairwoman Beth Norris. Chairwoman Norris announced that two Commissioners have resigned: Sampson Buie resigned due to health and travel issues; Ray Riffe resigned due to time constraints. Chair Norris welcomed Sue Massey back from battling some health issues.

There was a roll call by Tim Kelly. Commissioners present were: Beth Norris, Jane Carver, Wayne Campbell, Jeff Clark, Michelle Collins, Lynn Doll, Helen Featherson, Megan Grimsley-Smith, Darlene Jacobs, Alice Keene, Zach Jakob, Sue Massey, Linda Povlich, Lee Riddick, Darlene Smith, Thelma Zaytoun, Mike Patterson, Betty Platt, and Axel Lluch.

Commissioners absent were: Ed Drescher, Sandra Wyrick, Lisa Keyne and Carolyn Copelin-Foxx.

Motion was made by Linda Povlich to adopt the July 21, 2009, Commission meeting minutes and passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Norris recognized Lynn Doll, chair of the Program Management Committee.

Committee Chair Doll notified the Commission that the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow One-on-One program was not funded by the General Assembly so they withdrew from AmeriCorps.

Committee Chair Doll gave the Program Management Committee's report on Project CARE and briefed the Commission on the Committee's actions that were under advisement of the Governor's Legal Counsel Office. Findings discovered by the Commission's Grant Compliance Manager warranted actions by the Commission. There was discussion regarding the appeal process and compliance feedback from Legal Counsel and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Program Management Committee recommended that Project CARE's funding be rescinded and their appeal be denied. Chairwoman Norris made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Program Management Committee to rescind the funding to Project CARE and deny their appeal. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Chair Doll reported that two AmeriCorps projects have asked about using federal dollars as a match. The Commission Executive Committee voted to not allow federal dollar match this year. Executive directors of other commissions were consulted and the Program

Management Committee was informed that other states are reluctant to allow this type of match. The Serve America Act offers fixed-rate grants (\$250,000) which negates the need for reporting match to the Commission but does not negate the match itself. North Carolina will not have access to these dollars this year.

Commissioner Reports

East Team Report

Jeff Clark: Focused his efforts on the Page program by delivering fliers/information to three high schools in Carteret County and met with newspaper reporters. His daughter and niece served in the Page program and were pleased. Jeff reported that emergency management pamphlet was very helpful.

Linda Povlich: Met with Kaye and Tate Johnson of the Governor's Eastern Office to identify and recruit county coordinators in eastern N.C. for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. Linda also coordinated with DHHS to help identify opportunities for Sec. Cansler to participate in the United We Serve campaign. The Secretary participated in Meals on Wheels in Wake County, activities at the Wilmington Food Bank and at the N.C. Senior Olympics. He also presented on growing up healthy at a CIS center. On Sept. 8, Linda arranged a meeting with Alicia and Kaye in Bayboro to meet with the Executive Director and other staff at HeartWorks, a non-profit serving children and families in Pamlico County to discuss AmeriCorps funding and the application process.

Megan Grimsley Smith and Michelle Collins: Megan and Michelle reported they have been working with Betty Platt in the state office to improve participation in MLK Day. Senior Corps programs have been targeted for this effort, and they have collaboratively designed a conference call series with Senior Corps project directors. The purpose of the 30-40 minutes conference call series is to share ideas and resources among the Senior Corps programs and to present helpful information on topics related to planning a MLK Day event. In addition, each director will be contacted to provide individual support. The first conference call was held on Sept. 24 and was well-received despite the small number of participants. The next call is Oct. 22, followed by two calls in December. Each call will be centered on a specific topic, and area experts will give a short presentation and hold a Q&A session.

Lee Riddick: Reported he visited Gates County High School to encourage participation in the Page program and plans to work with the school's guidance department. He is working closely with Minor Home Repair programs, a collaboration with the county and 6-10 churches, that performs health and safety monitoring and repairs for older adults and people who are in critical need of home repairs. The goal of the program is to raise \$62,000 for materials. Lee reported he is working closely with local organizations regarding disaster and preparedness preparations.

Sue Massey: Reported in the past she has worked with church groups in ESL tutoring program and she thought they would have to the disband program this year due to lack of community resources. Twenty-five high school students are enrolled in the program; however, each child has an individual student working with them. It was suggested that the program might consider applying for AmeriCorps funding.

Wake Team – Commissioners Carolyn Foxx and Axel Lluch

Beth Norris: Reported she is working with Cathey Ector on the Inclusion Project at Tar Heel Challenge in Salemburg in Sampson County that will include AmeriCorps members, a career fair and service project. She also performed day of service at church with 26 different agencies in a wide range of activities.

Betty Platt: Reported she is working through technical assistance conference calls with grantee organizations for MLK Day 2010 along with commissioners Michelle Collins and Megan Grimsley Smith.

Thelma Zaytoun: Reported she and Alicia went to Chapel Hill to visit a distribution station for people who need food.

Alex Lluch: Participated, along with a bilingual AmeriCorps member, in a Spanish OpenNet TV program about volunteerism. He continues promoting the Page program in Spanish and is going to schools to talk about the program; last weekend he participated in International Weekend by having a exhibit table and sharing materials about the Page Program. He served on 9/11 with the Governor's Military Adviser, Mike Alexander, in Access JobLink's project in Raleigh by preparing packages for military children and delivering to the National Guard Armory, and participated in the peer review for the Governor's Medallion Awards Committee.

West Team – Commissioner Zach Jakob

Jane Carver and Zach Jakob: Reported both are working with the Executive Committee and the appeals process regarding Project CARE. Both have been in communication with their site visit program and look forward to hearing from them to schedule a site visit. They plan to visit local high schools and discuss and learn about volunteer opportunities. Jane Carver stated he had been playing phone tag with her program.

Mike Patterson: Reported on his visit to Project Conserve, which was a great visit. He participated in member orientation and in a site supervisor's roundtable, where they described their programs. He also is working with Salvation Army and discussing volunteer programs.

Darlene Jacobs: Reported she is meeting with the Chief of the Cherokee tribe to discuss AmeriCorps, the Page program and how the Commission can partner with the Cherokee tribe. She also spoke with the superintendent of public schools in Cherokee County about setting an agenda for the Page program. She spoke with Jane Carver about starting their MLK breakfast and tying in a community service project on the same day.

Central Team – Commissioner Darlene Smith

Darlene Smith provided a brief report on behalf of Lisa Keyne in which she indicated NC Campus Compact had participated in 9/11 National Service Day activities and posted their efforts on United We Serve's website www.serve.gov.

Lynn Doll introduced the guest speaker, Betty Beacham, executive director of Project HEART/Wellness Corps Recovery Program, ECU, for a presentation of its program in eastern North Carolina. Project HEART focuses on academics, and Wellness Corps focuses on wellness

and how to combine the two focuses because of the importance for children to be healthy and ready to learn. The statistics in eastern North Carolina are not atypical. Obesity is an epidemic, and this generation might be the first where children will not outlive their parents. The goal is to develop a wellness program that helps children with healthy eating habits and participate in more physical activities. The choices that children make now are critical to their adult well-being. The program uses “tool kits” to teach children: nutrition and physical activity lessons, service projects, individual wellness plans. There are 50 Wellness Corps members in Pitt and Martin Counties. The program focuses on elementary and middle school students and blend existing physical education curriculum with the Wellness Corps curriculum. There was a question and answer session regarding the process of identifying the 50 students to participate in the program, parent involvement, start up of the program and match. The program is looking at potential community partners as they anticipate sustaining the program beyond the one year being funded with Recovery funds.

Training Officer Tim Kelly reported on the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award and AmeriCorps Launch. This year, the Commission received 250 nominations from 67 counties (compared to 56 responders with 210 nominations in 2009). Medallion Award peer reviews were conducted by Linda Povlich, Sue Massey, Jeff Clark, Lee Riddick, Thelma Zaytoun, Helen Feathersen, Axel Lluch, Darlene Jacobs and Darlene Smith. Twenty individuals were selected to receive the award. They are from the following counties: Cumberland, Gates, Granville, Mitchell, Wake, Wayne, Guilford, Pasquotank, New Hanover, Beaufort, Carteret, Perquimans, Madison, Polk, Onslow, Harnett, Rowan, Buncombe, McDowell and Tyrrell counties. Medallion Awards ceremony will be Mon., Nov. 2, at the State Capitol. The Governor and First Gentleman will host and attend the reception at the Governor’s Mansion following the ceremony. Invitations will be sent to Medallion Award recipients, county coordinators and commissioners. There was discussion about the discrepancy in the quality of the information presented on the nomination form, since it dictates if the volunteer becomes a recipient of the award. Kaye recommended that the chair appoint a study group to review the awards program nomination form and evaluation process as well as to ask commissioners and awards coordinators to provide input. Jeff Clark, Darlene Smith, Darlene Jacobs, Linda Povlich and Lee Riddick volunteered to serve on the study group. Tim will identify county coordinators to participate in the study group. Jane Carver asked Tim to identify sample nomination forms that were well written. Jeff Clark recommended Dora Irvin of Carteret County to serve on the study group. Kaye would like the Commission also to consider keeping the recipients continually engaged.

The AmeriCorps Launch is Tues., Oct. 27, at the Koury Convention Center. It is an annual event, and all commissioners are encouraged to attend. Former State Senator and Education Cabinet Executive Director Howard Lee will be the keynote speaker and swear in members. Members will be trained in volunteer management and recruitment. Commissioners were asked to notify Tim if they can attend.

Homeland Security/Citizen Corps/ Emergency Management – Faye Stone, Deputy Executive Director

Faye indicated that 82 state employees and one Cabinet Secretary had been trained to serve as operators at the Governor's Emergency Information Bilingual Hotline. Training included web-based system for obtaining real-time information about shelters and evacuation orders.

Faye met several times with DHHS to discuss how the Governor's Hotline would interact with the DHHS Hotline in an event of an overwhelming H1N1 outbreak.

Faye and Commissioner Patterson are co-chairing the 2009 NC and SC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Conference where volunteer organizations will share best practices, lessons learned, resources available.

September was National Preparedness Month and Commission staff facilitated presentations for Lunch'n'Learn programs at Cisco and SAS. The ReadyNC billboard campaign still has 26 billboards posted in 20 counties.

Beth thanked Faye for going to other states and carrying the message of North Carolina. She also asked if there is less interest in disaster preparedness because there hasn't been a major hurricane. Faye indicated that people still remember Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Ike and the need to be prepared. Those disasters proved that managing volunteers and donated goods remains important. More State Commissions are getting involved in disaster preparedness and response —especially donated goods and volunteers.

State Corporation Report – Commissioner Betty Platt

Betty Platt introduced Tynetta Darden as the new state program specialist for CNCS and reported that President Obama nominated Patrick Covington to the position of CEO of the Corporation; however, the appointment must be confirmed by Congress.

Betty reported that AmeriCorps*VISTA was able to place 115 new members in Recovery programs in just a few months. The State Corporation office expanded existing projects and started a new one with Urban Ministry in Charlotte. A new 12-member VISTA project with the City of Raleigh is being recognized before the Council for their work following a meeting with Mayor Meeker tomorrow night.

For the United We Serve campaign, Colleen Clark organized a successful school supplies drive for the employees in the Federal Building and organized an open house at the conclusion of the campaign.

As noted above, Commissioners Megan Grimsley Smith and Michelle Collins have taken on the task of developing technical assistance for Senior Corps project to expand participation in MLK Day. The Triad area will continue to be a focus area this year.

Betty asked for help in identifying organizations with the capacity to sponsor RSVP projects in counties that don't currently have a RSVP program. New funding is expected to support about 20 projects nationwide. With existing RSVP, Serve America calls for re-competition every three years beginning in 2013.

The Social Innovation Fund has \$10 million in the appropriation bill which has to be passed by Congress. This is an opportunity for NC to identify potential applicants. There will be large grants with the smallest receiving \$1 million and can be sub-granted.

Learn & Serve Challenge is an opportunity for organizations to host events to get young people engaged in service-learning. Organizations can sign up at www.learnandservicechallenge.org to be partners.

“I am AmeriCorps” has a goal of getting 1,000,000 AmeriCorps Alum members posted online.

Betty announced that National AmeriCorps Week is May 9-15 and for the first time in 2010, there will be a Senior Corps Week.

Chairwoman Norris stated Commission meeting dates for 2010 will be announced at the first meeting in 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.