

ServeNebraska Commissioner Appointments

WELCOME: LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Your interest in an appointment to serve on the ServeNebraska Commission is welcome! The Commission recruits local leaders with strong community connections to actively help us carry out our missions to mobilize Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs. We are very proud of the Commission's work. For every federal dollar that the Commission invests in its programs, two and a half dollars of positive economic impact supports Nebraska communities. To learn more about the Commission, please visit our website at: www.serve.nebraska.gov. You'll find helpful information and important guidance documents such as the Commission's Strategic Plan and Bylaws. A visit to the "Commissioners & Staff" webpage will find more information about current commissioners.

COMMISSIONER ROLE

Our Commissioners are active and engaged in policy guidance, helping to secure resources, promoting civic engagement and reaching out to Nebraskans as ambassadors of volunteerism and service. The primary areas of focus for the Commission Board include the following:

1. Policy/Direction
2. Vision/Planning
 - a. Strategic Plan
 - b. State Service Plan
3. Community Service and Volunteerism Outreach
4. Commissioner Development
5. Resource Acquisition

APPLICATION TIMELINE AND TERM OF APPOINTMENT

The Governor appoints interested people to the ServeNebraska Commission who have submitted applications. Applications are accepted at any time during the year and the Governor makes appointments in May or June each year. The July meeting is the first one that new appointees will attend. The term of appointment is three years.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission Board meets a minimum of four times a year in January, April, July and October. Meeting locations are determined by the Commission Board, but may usually occur in Omaha and Lincoln. Commissioners volunteer to host the meeting and provide a small lunch. Additional meetings may be scheduled as the need arises. A usual meeting will last only one day and is routinely scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. Periodically, a 1 ½ day meeting may be scheduled – those are usually for strategic planning. The meetings are held from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with committee meetings in the morning, a networking lunch and the business meeting.

EXPECTATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS

Minimum expectations for Commissioners include the following:

- Attend all Commission in-person meetings;
- Serve as an officer during one term of service;
- Attend the New Commissioner Orientation;
- Serve on committees and attend all Committee meetings (in-person before Commission meetings & by phone conferences between meetings);
- Attend one or both days of the biennial Governor's Conference on Volunteerism; and
- Bring resources to the Commission and actively raise funds or sponsorships to support the Commission and its programs.

ORIGIN OF SERVENEBRASKA – THE NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION

The Commission was created by a gubernatorial Executive Order in 1994 after Congress approved the creation of the AmeriCorps (AC) program in 1993. Each state has a state service commission that administers the AmeriCorps program and promotes volunteerism and service. Important recent federal legislation, the Serve America Act signed by the President in April 2009, significantly expands the AmeriCorps and national service programs for up to 250,000 members nationwide. You could be joining us at a very exciting time for national service and volunteerism.

COMMISSION FUNDING

ServeNebraska is a separate state agency with primary revenues to support the Commission and its programs coming from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Additional in-kind support services are received from the Commission's host state agency - the Department of Health and Human Services.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission Board can have up to 25 voting members, some of whom fill specific categories mandated in the Executive Order and through federal law creating state service commissions. There are other parameters that we are required to use in screening persons for appointment such as maintaining an even balance of political party representation. We also look for individuals who can bring expertise, connections and resources to the Commission. Required membership categories include the following.

- Representative of community-based agency or organization
- Head of the Nebraska Department of Education, or designee
- Representative of local government
- Representative of local labor organization
- Representative of business
- Representative of national service program
- Representative of person with disabilities
- Individual age 16-25 who is participant or supervisor of service program for youth, or campus-based or national service program
- Individual w/expertise in educational, training & development needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth
- Individual w/experience promoting older adult involvement in service/volunteerism
- Educators, including institutions of higher education agencies; reps of education; local
- Experts in delivery of human services, environmental, education or public safety services to communities and persons (another possibility for you)
- Representative of Indian tribes
- Representative of out-of-school or at-risk youth
- Representative of the volunteer sector

APPLICATION TO BECOME A SERVENEBRASKA COMMISSIONER

To be eligible for appointment to the Commission, an online application must be submitted to the Governor's office. A resume is also very helpful in the selection process and can be attached to the online application. The Governor's office keeps all applications on file for consideration. Annual appointments are made in late spring and newly appointed Commissioners begin their service in July.

Additional guidance to help you get to the application:

- Home page of the Governor's website: <http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/>
- Scroll down the right side to: **"Seek an Appt to a Post"**: <http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/contact/index.html>
- On the next screen look at the box on the right and scroll down to: **"Board/Commission Appointment Application Form"**: http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/bc/board_comm.html
- That should take you to the **"Application for Executive Appointment"** that can be completed and submitted online. It will go to Governor's Appointments Staff Person.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Commission Executive Director, [Barbara Wilson Thomas](#), Phone: (402) 471-6227, to further explore the possibility of serving your state as ServeNebraska Commissioner.