

		<h1 style="margin: 0;">Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission Meeting Minutes</h1>			
<p>Meeting Notes</p>					
NOTE TAKER:		LOCATION:	DATE:	TIME:	DURATION:
Janet Schmidt		In-Person (OPPD Offices)	03-16-06	12:15 p.m.	1-3/4 Hours
PURPOSE:		ATTENDEES:			
Spring Commission Meeting		<p>Present: Pat Beans, Cynthia Buettner, Susan Cook, Gary Gates, Robert Hall, Art May, Jamie Moore, Jessi Moore, Diann Muhlbach, Rick Nation, Gerry Osborn, Jim pace, and Lois Wine.</p> <p>Staff Present: Susan Burton, Peter Cales, Debra Hartmann, Gale Jungemann-Schulz, and Janet Schmidt</p>			
AGENDA ITEM	SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ITEMS				
1.	Meeting Called to Order at 12:15 p.m. by Gary Gates, Chair of the Commission.				
2.	<p>Approval of January 26, 2006 Minutes: Jamie Moore moved that the January 26, 2006 minutes be approved as sent. Pat Beans seconded the motion and the motion passed.</p>				
3.	<p>Program Presentation – Omaha Habitat for Humanity: Amanda Jedlicka, Executive Director and AmeriCorps National Direct Member, Anna Nellenback, spoke about the Omaha Habitat for Humanity program that services families by helping them build homes and become homeowners. The volunteer generation provided by AmeriCorps members is crucial to the program and has helped to build 111 homes over the years. AmeriCorps members have been instrumental in teaching and leading 35,000 volunteers to build homes for many families. Members also help to create and sustain strong relationships with the homeowner families to the point that many return to volunteer their time to assist in building homes for others. Prison inmates are also able to participate in the Omaha Habitat for Humanity program because of AmeriCorps members who transport them to the work sites. There is also an annual Women’s Build organized by the AmeriCorps membes.</p>				
4.	<p>Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is responsible for setting the agenda for all commission meetings. In addition, the Executive Committee has been involved in the effort to advance the \$30,000 Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission operating funds line item in Appropriations Bill #1060.</p>				
5.	<p>Organizational Development Committee: The Commission Financial Report and Match Report ending February 28, 2006 was distributed and discussed. Pat Beans presented the New Commissioner Orientation agenda and spoke about a few new things that had been added to the Commission Handbook that will distributed at the orientation. Rick Nation invited and Senator Dennis Byars has agreed to do a session at the Governor’s Conference on “How to Connect and Communicate with the State Legislature.” Final revisions have been made to the Committee’s Strategic Action Plan and it is ready to submit to the Executive Committee. This year’s Commission Retreat will include an activity on Board Self-Assessment. The Committee has developed a tool to use. The Board Self-Assessment is about how the Commission board is functioning and not about the individual commissioner’s performance. Commissioners are invited to review and submit any comments regarding the Commission Guidelines to the Committee by April 3rd.</p>				
6.	<p>Outreach Committee: <i>2006 Governor’s Conference Update:</i> Fifteen workshop/training sessions have been chosen. Campaign Consultation will provide training at the conference. A Stories of Service collection process is being developed. Any commissioner that has contacts with recording studios, radio stations, etc., should contact Peter Cales. The facility contract is being finalized. Fifteen judges for the First Lady Awards have been confirmed and some revision has been done on the nomination form. The deadline for nominations is March 24, 2006. Underwriting opportunities for the Governor’s Conference were distributed to all commissioners. <i>Commission Open House:</i> The State Capitol 6th Floor Commissions (Indian Commission, Mexican American Commission and Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission) Open House is March 30, 2006 at</p>				

	<p>10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Commission has reserved space on the main floor of the Capitol around the information desk from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be displays for the Commission, Nebraska Volunteer Foundation, Citizen Corps and AmeriCorps with some demonstrations and hands-on activities. Commissioners are to let Debra know when they will be able to attend the open house.</p> <p><i>Join Hands Day:</i> May 6, 2006 is Join Hands Day and the AmeriCorps InterCorps Council will be spearheading a disadvantaged children's art project. The cost of this project will be \$800 to \$1,000 and the Commission has established a cash fund for donations to be collected for this project. Commissioners may send donations to the Commission Office. Checks may be made out to the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission.</p> <p><i>Speakers' Bureau Initiative:</i> The Committee will be creating a tool kit to be used by Commissioners to help establish the Speaker's Bureau.</p> <p><i>Other Items:</i> Susan Cook has National Service PSAs ready to be used. Cynthia Buettner, Vice-Chair, Introduced Robert Hall as new to the Commission.</p>
7.	<p>Program Committee: Program Officer, Gale Jungemann-Schulz, reported that the Program Committee will be developing program standards and competencies for the State this year.</p>
8.	<p>Cross Stream Reports:</p> <p><i>Citizen Corps</i> – Susan Burton reported that three counties Phelps, Buffalo, and Madison have new Citizen Corps Councils. Jamie Moore spoke about the Medical Reserve Corps efforts in Omaha and their response with Katrina evacuees. Community leaders across the state have been encouraging and leading the effort in the creation of more Medical Reserve Corps. A CERT leader promoted the Commission to more than 200 individuals in Omaha during the Bioterrorism Symposium. In addition this symposium will be held in three other areas of the state: Norfolk, Gering/Scottsbluff and Kearney. Volunteer Educators are giving public presentations on domestic preparedness across the state and will be including a presentation on bird flu. Relationships with regional health departments and behavioral health systems are promoting efforts in emergency volunteer recruitment.</p> <p><i>AmeriCorps Vista & Senior Corps</i> – Jim Pace reported that a Retired Volunteer Senior Program will be starting up in July of this year in Tekamah. There is development of a Senior Companion Program in Ainsworth. A new AmeriCorps Vista project for female prisoner re-entry has been approved. A second new AmeriCorps Vista project will be helping at-risk young teenage boys in the Omaha area. Jim said that sponsor agencies and organizations are crucial to the success of the programs he supervises.</p> <p><i>Learn & Serve</i> – Mike Kissler was not present to give a report.</p>
9.	<p>Executive Director's Report:</p> <p><i>Legislative Update:</i> Debra Hartmann asked that Commissioners refer to the \$30,000 appropriation as being under program 33 in the budget when speaking with their senators. Appropriation Bill #1060 is the bill that contains the Commission's appropriation. The Governor's Budget Office, Governor's Policy Research Office, Legislative Budget Office as well as Nancy Montanez, HHSS Agency Director, has been kept in the loop about the Commission's appropriation. This bill is currently being debated on the legislative floor. When the bill advances to the Governor, he will have five days to consider the budget. Vice-Chair, Cynthia Buettner, encouraged all commissioners to e-mail Governor Heineman about supporting the Commission's appropriation.</p> <p><i>Potential Partners:</i> Debra attended the Association of Non-Profit Executives luncheon. She also attended a meeting with the Development Director and Executive Director of City Impact. They gave her some great ideas for speakers and exhibits at the Governor's Conference. Debra has been invited to attend the Nebraska District JOOI Conference in Norfolk on April 22nd. This Junior Optimist club is a non-school club and Debra has been working with the President in getting some information about the Governor's Conference and Commission award programs distributed to the clubs.</p> <p><i>Website:</i> The Commission's website is one of the top 12 websites in the state for receiving hits. As a result, the Commission website is listed under State Agencies on the www.ne.gov website. Next week the Commissioner Only section will be available. Debra will send passwords to commissioners to use in accessing this site. The Baby Boomer message has been added to the website and a Flash Message will be added by April 1st to generate attention for the 2006 Governor's Conference.</p> <p><i>Project TASC Regional Training:</i> There is a possibility that Nebraska will host this regional training.</p>

	<p>Fifteen states are interested in attending this training. It will be held sometime in August and it is a great opportunity for the Nebraska Commission. Staff is working on providing transportation, meeting and lodging cost information to Project TASC. A final decision on the location should be made within the next week or two.</p> <p><i>Other:</i> Paul Schrader, Regional Manager from the Corporation, is planning to attend the Governor's Conference and will be presenting in a session. Debra hopes to have the 2005 Annual Report available at the Governor's Conference. She reminded commissioners about the Points of Light National Conference being held in Seattle, Washington June 18-20, 2006. A pre-conference will be held on June 17th. Limited Commission funding is available. Commissioners were encouraged to attend this conference and to get agency sponsorship for expenses if possible.</p>
10.	<p>Unfinished Business – <i>Commission Admin Budget – Legislative Update:</i> Update given as part of the Executive Director's report.</p>
11.	<p>New Business -- Nebraska Volunteer Foundation Update The Foundation account and the Governor's Conference account will be transferred to the Nebraska Community Foundation as soon as the paperwork is executed. The Foundation is looking for members and welcomes any names commissioners may have for possible members. <i>Commission Open House March 30, 2006 –</i> This information was given as part of the Outreach Committee's report.</p>
12.	<p>Upcoming Important Dates & Announcements – Program Officer, Gale Jungemann-Schulz, announced that a site visit schedule has been set for visiting programs this spring. She encouraged commissioners to attend one of these site visits and that it was a great opportunity for learning more about the Commission's AmeriCorps programs.</p>
13.	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.</p>

Action Items

	DESCRIPTION	OWNER	TARGET DATE	STATUS
1.	Review of Commission Guidelines. Request copy of current guidelines from Janet. Submit comments about the guidelines to Organizational Development Committee or Janet.	Commissioners	04/03/06	04/27/06 Completed
2.	Contact Peter Cales regarding any contact people Commissioners may have at recording studios and radio stations, etc.	Commissioners	03/31/06	03/31/06 Completed
3.	Commissioners are to contact Debra Hartmann about attendance at the Commission Open House on March 30, 2006.	Commissioners	03/27/06	03/27/06 Completed
4.	Submission of First Lady Awards nominations.	All	03/24/06	03/24/06
5.	Vice-Chair, Cynthia Buetter, encouraged all commissioners to e-mail Governor Heineman about supporting the Commission's \$30,000 appropriation in the budget.	Commissioners	As soon as possible	Completed
6.	Attend site visits. For schedule and times, contact Gale Jungemann-Schulz, Program Officer.	Commissioners	04/07/06	04/07/06

Submitted by,

Janet Schmidt
Fiscal/Office Manager

Approved by the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, _____
W. Gary Gates, Chair