



Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism  
EngageAR-Arkansas Service Commission  
February 12, 2021 Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Brooke Bradford, Robert Coon, Bruce Davis, Sam Harris, Vernard Henley, Amanda Nipper, Susana O'Daniel, Gloria Redman, Dr. Derek Slagle, Russell Swearingen, Paul Wellenberger, and Tina Winham

Commissioner Erin Franks gave a report at the opening of the meeting, but due to an emergency left the meeting following report.

Staff present: Shana Chaplin, Kim Reed, Kathy Gattinger and Sarah Ward

10:05 Call to Order:

Chair Amanda Nipper called the meeting to order at 10:05 am  
Chair Nipper announced Erin Franks would be giving Arkansas Alumni Association Commission Position report out of order due to an emergency.

Commissioner Franks reported Secretary Key and COO Windle supported the decision to add the AR Alumni Association, but questioned the process to secure the two applicants forwarded for consideration. Director Chaplin reported EngageAR had sought applications from the AR Alumni Association, which includes alumni of ALL streams of service, through email communications and multiple social media communications. In addition, Program Directors were notified and encouraged to promote the opportunity. EngageAR also worked directly with City Year to promote. Commissioner Franks will take the information back to the Secretary. At this time EngageAR is awaiting final direction and approval. Once received, EngageAR will notify both applicants to submit an application through the Governor's on-line Boards and Commissions application process, the final decision being solely up to the Governor.

10:10 Consent Agenda:

Chair Amanda Richardson Nipper moved forward with the Agenda and presented the Consent Agenda with all supporting documents: November 6, 2020 Minutes, finance report, and adoption of Staff Reports. Gloria Redman moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with all supporting reports, Bruce Davis seconded the motion. Chair Richardson asked AmeriCorps Program Manager, Kim Reed, to present the Formula Funding information, noting the improvements made by EngageAR over the course of the past 4 years in distribution of federal funds. Following the report, the motion passed unanimously.

10:20 New Business

- Vice Chair, Tina Winham, presented the proposed meeting dates as presented by EngageAR staff. August 13, 2021 and November 4-5, 2021, which will serve as the



Annual Meeting and Commissioner Training. There being no conflicts with the dates, EngageAR will move forward with the updated 2021 calendar and planning.

- **Formula Applications Update:** AmeriCorps Program Manager, Kim Reed, informed Commissioners the applications for funding were greater than funds allocated to AR. This is a significant improvement and reflection of collaboration across programs, Food System Forum outcomes and development of intermediary models. Those having signed up to review grants will receive packets this next week. All Commissioners will be asked to read one grant for awareness.
- **Community of the Year Report** was given by Director, Shana Chaplin on behalf of Sheila Boyd, AR Municipal League Representative. The Awards Presentation was well received. Municipalities appreciated ALL being recognized for efforts during the pandemic. Amanda Nipper did an amazing job and was flexible given the circumstances of the virtual production. The video put together by Communications Officer Sarah Ward was excellent. There were a total of 944 attendees and several commented they really enjoyed the presentation and highlighted cities. Shana commended the Municipal League for a very well put together virtual conference and their continued partnership. Chair Nipper also recognized the Municipal League for the content and production. Shana also noted there has been a significant rise in requests for consultation and support from Mayors during the pandemic and following the awards. This is an area EngageAR could grow, but will need staff capacity to address.
- **EngageAR Sub-Committee Structure:** Chair Nipper asked all Commissioners to carefully review the Sub-Committee roles and proposed priorities over the course of the next two weeks. It is important each Commissioner identify the sub-committees best fitting their skills and accessible resources. Bruce Davis asked if it was necessary to select sub-committee choice. Chair Nipper requested each Commissioner select in order to ensure the best matches. A survey will be distributed to all Commissioners as part of the Director's weekly Friday report. Following the responses, Chair Nipper and the Executive Committee will make sub-committee appointments.
- **New Business from the Floor:** Chair Nipper directed everyone's attention to upcoming events, most notably AmeriCorps Week March 7-13, 2021. A Governor's Proclamation will be sought. Susana O'Daniel recommended EngageAR seek a concurrent legislative resolution. This recommendation was well received and to everyone's knowledge, had never been done. As Chair of Public Affairs, Ms. O'Daniel will work with staff to lead these efforts and reach out to AmeriCorps Alumni serving in the legislature. Dr. Slagle and Sam Harris also offered support.

11:15 Adjourn

There being no other business from the floor, Bruce Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gloria Redman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.