

**Corporation for National and Community Service
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2000**

The Board of Directors convened at the Golden Gate Club, Fisher Loop, Presidio, in San Francisco, California. The following members of the Corporation's Board were present:

Victor Ashe
Thomas Ehrlich
Art Naparstek

The following persons were present and invited to participate by the Board:

Bob Rogers
Chris Gallagher
Amy Achor
Juanita Doty
Carol Kinsley

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

The Board approved the minutes of the Board's meeting on September 9, 1999. (Transcript, 4-5).

The Board approved the Corporation's annual plan. (Transcript, 28-29).

SUMMARY OF BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Introductory Remarks

Art Naparstek, in his capacity as Acting Chair for the purposes of the meeting, called the meeting to order.

Report of the CEO

Harris Wofford, Chief Executive Officer, reported that he was pleased with the hearing held earlier in the week before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Mr. Wofford recounted his testimony on behalf of the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2001, which included a large expansion in national service funding. He noted several signs indicating that national service was gaining nonpartisan support throughout the country, as evidenced by the growing number of sponsors for a reauthorization proposal and widespread support among the nation's Governors. Mr. Wofford welcomed the nomination of Mark Racicot, Governor of Montana, to serve on the Board of Directors. He mentioned the tribute to All-AmeriCorps award winners given by Utah Governor Mike Levitt, Chairman of the National Governor's Association, at the White House event marking the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps. Mr. Wofford referred to a bipartisan reflection he co-authored with Bob Goodwin, President and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation, in support of reauthorizing the national service legislation. He reported that the number of co-sponsors for a reauthorization bill increases every week and that he expected a bill to have significant bipartisan support.

Mr. Wofford described the progress the Corporation is making in strengthening its financial management, including the following five highlights:

1. a fully-staffed management team, led by a new Chief Financial Officer and deputy CFO, to complement Chief Operating Officer Wendy Zenker and Chief of Staff John Gomperts;
2. a new core financial management system;
3. a successful transition to the Year 2000;
4. a digital imaging system to handle approximately one million records for the National Service Trust;
5. a web-based reporting system for AmeriCorps grantees.

Mr. Wofford discussed a study recently released by the General Accounting Office, which supported that the Corporation had fulfilled its agreement with Congress to lower the Corporation's average cost per member to below \$15,000. The report also recommended that the Corporation improve its way of showing outcomes and results, a

challenge Mr. Wofford accepted. He stressed that state commissions and nonprofit organizations play a crucial role in reporting the positive results of national service.

Mr. Wofford reported on a disability conference recently hosted by the Corporation as part of an ongoing effort to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in national service programs. He described the growing number of "leader schools" in service learning. He shared with the Board a Declaration of Principles of Service Learning adopted by the Corporation and the Department of Education. He noted the changes anticipated in Marc Freedman's book, Prime Time: How Baby Boomers Will Revolutionize Retirement and Transform America, with significant implications for the Senior Corps programs. He lauded a new collaboration among the Corporation, America's Promise, Boys and Girls Clubs, America Online, and the Case Foundation, to use service as a strategy to close the digital divide.

Mr. Wofford closed by praising the Corporation's Leadership Institute and urged the Board and the Corporation's senior management to take advantage of its programs. Mr. Ehrlich expressed support for the Institute as it celebrates its fifth anniversary. Both he and Mr. Gallagher reinforced Mr. Wofford's firm commitment to having the Corporation's management participate in Institute programs.

Executive Committee Report

At the request of the Acting Chair, Mr. Rogers reported on the executive committee's meeting, which concerned committee assignments for new Board members but did not have any action items on its agenda. The committee discussed the Congressional committee hearings on appropriations.

Management, Budget, and Governance Committee Report

At the request of the Acting Chair, Mr. Gallagher noted the emphasis in the CEO's report and in Board meeting materials on management issues and expressed confidence that the completion of a new management team would soon resolve the Corporation's most pressing financial management issues. He reviewed the status of audits for which final management action was pending. He noted the tension between the Office of Inspector General and management on prioritizing action on the pending audits and reported that the Committee would meet with both to review their respective concerns. The committee has reviewed the priorities of senior staff and supports them as appropriate in light of the overall financial management issues that the Corporation is addressing.

Planning and Evaluation Committee Report

Mr. Ehrlich introduced discussion of the proposed annual plan. He discussed the importance of the evaluation component, including a longitudinal study of AmeriCorps members that is underway and a major study of America Reads literacy programs. In addition, Mr. Ehrlich stressed the need for the development and wide distribution of citizenship materials to AmeriCorps programs. Under the direction of Bill Bentley, the

Director of the Department of Evaluation and Effective Practices, the Corporation is conducting a series of pilot efforts to determine the effectiveness of these materials.

Communications Committee Report

Art Naparstek described the continuing emphasis on promoting service at the local level. He noted that there would be sessions on message development, public relations, and marketing at the national service conferences in June. He remarked that Tara Murphy, Director of Public Affairs, would be conducting a communications needs assessment and is also building towards a new AmeriCorps service campaign. Ms. Murphy's office is also developing videos to promote senior volunteers as well as a marketing arrangement with General Mills to highlight the experiences of several AmeriCorps members. He noted the effectiveness of cross-stream outreach, such as the activities related to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. The reauthorization process also provides an opportunity to raise public awareness of the various streams of service.

John Gomperts announced that Christine Benero has joined the Corporation as the new Director of Public Liaison and will continue to pursue that office's work in developing partnerships with the private sector.

Reports to the Board

Rae Grad, Executive Director of Power UP, described efforts to support positive youth development on-line, a concept strongly supported by General Colin Powell of America's Promise. Power Up includes America Online, Gateway, Hewlett Packard, and others. Ms. Grad emphasized that the wiring schools is not bridging the digital divide; the key is bringing resources into the community, including AmeriCorps VISTA members, and developing a content porthole dedicated to developing youth. The Power Up initiative has started sites in San Jose, Seattle, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C.

Robert Scarborough, Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, described his experiences in building on the Schools of Promise initiative to bring together community resources in the school setting to benefit youth. He reported that nearly half of the 1,100 schools in South Carolina have pledged to be Schools of Promise. The South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service and service-learning organizations have been valuable partners in this effort. Mr. Wofford noted that the President's proposed FY 2001 budget includes funds for community coaches to help in these programs.

Adjournment

Mr. Naparstek adjourned the meeting.