

**Corporation for National and Community Service
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2008**

The Board of Directors convened in Washington, D.C. The following members of the Board were present:

Vincent Juaristi, Vice Chair
Mark Gearan
Julie Fisher Cummings
Tom Osborne

Donna Williams
Leona White Hat
James Palmer
Stan Soloway

Mimi Mager attended at the invitation of the Board of Directors.

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2007. (Transcript, 9).

Vice Chairman Vince Juaristi swore in Board members Julie Fisher Cummings, Mark Gearan, Tom Osborne, and Donna Williams. (Transcript, 5).

The Board passed a resolution approving the 2009 Annual Plans for Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps State and National (Transcript, 27).

The Board passed a resolution honoring former Board member Mimi Mager (Transcript, 38).

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Vice Chairman Vince Juaristi presided over the meeting on behalf of Board Chair Stephen Goldsmith. He opened the meeting by swearing in four new Board members: Julie Fisher Cummings, Mark Gearan, Tom Osborne, and Donna Williams.

Mr. Juaristi gave an overview of the Corporation's recent programmatic successes, reporting that 2.1 million national service participants in the previous year had provided 228 million hours of service, and had leveraged 1.8 million volunteers for a total of 4 million people engaging in national service. These numbers include nearly 600,000 youths from disadvantaged circumstances and an estimated 1.5 million students engaged in service learning who gave 28 million hours of service. In just one service category, disaster recovery in the Gulf, the Corporation's programs have contributed to an estimated 3.5 million hours of service and leveraged 262,000 volunteers.

Mr. Juaristi discussed the Corporation's recent IT challenges and the Corporation's planned three-part response: to manage expectations from the field; to ensure that all business functions continue; and to make certain that recurring IT problems are repaired to enable future business efficiency.

Mr. Juaristi reported on the new Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and expressed the Board's hope that AmeriCorps service will be eligible. He indicated that the Board plans to be engaged in transition planning during the upcoming election year to ensure an efficient transition process.

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Mr. Juaristi moved to adopt the minutes of the September 19, 2007 Board meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Eisner noted a number of recent successes by Corporation staff. He lauded the efforts of Corporate Relations and Public Affairs in achieving the Corporation's biggest Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to date – with more than a half million people volunteering. He praised the progress made around monitoring and oversight, improvements in human capital, and in the building of controls by the CFO and accounting office, all leading to the Corporation's exemplary clean financial audit – with no deficiencies, no internal weaknesses, and no reportable conditions. He lauded the Corporation's new Leadership Institute, and the potential the new leaders show for the future of the organization.

Mr. Eisner also commended the OIT department for their dedication, leading to the Corporation's clean information security audit. He echoed Mr. Juaristi's comments about the Corporation's focus on achieving a minimum level of technological stability to enable business operations - such as the Grant Application Review Process, recruitment, and VISTA payments - to function appropriately. He thanked the Public Affairs office, particularly Matt Harmon, for its

extraordinary work in managing technology inquiries from the field with the development and maintenance of a website where people in the field can monitor system functionality.

Mr. Eisner noted that employee performance awards were going out to Corporation staff earlier than ever, which resulted in part from better systems, but primarily from the expeditious work of the managers in completing annual reviews, making computations, and aligning performance analyses.

Mr. Eisner thanked all of the departments that participated in constructing the Corporation's budget, particularly the Corporation's strong Congressional Budget Justification.

Mr. Eisner praised the Corporation's field staff for their progress in managing VISTA Member Service Years, moving from what was a challenge a few years ago to increasingly high fill rates - markedly so in the past year.

Mr. Eisner called on the Corporation staff to continue their hard work in the coming months, anticipating such events as the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the Summit on Corporate Volunteerism, AmeriCorps Week, the National Conference in June, new Web 2.0 initiatives in higher education, and the release of an AmeriCorps longitudinal study.

Mark Gearan echoed Mr. Eisner's praise of the Corporation staff for their evident accomplishments since his prior experience with the Corporation, and added thanks to Steve Goldsmith for his leadership as Board Chairman. He made particular mention of the Office of Research and Policy Development and Bob Grimm, as highlighted in a Board retreat session with Professor Robert Putnam.

Committee Reports

Management, Audit, and Governance Committee

Mr. Juaristi spoke on behalf of Committee Chair Jack Lew, who was absent. He reported that the MAG committee met on Thursday, January 31, and has been focusing on the Corporation's IT concerns. He related that the Committee is pleased with how quickly the IT department and David have addressed the issues, which, while not yet entirely resolved, are in progress towards resolution.

Mr. Juaristi discussed the Committee's review of the FY08 budget, which, at 856.3 million, is a 27.7 million increase over the Corporation's request, but 28.2 million below FY07's enacted level. He stated that the Committee is optimistic that the FY08 funding will be sufficient to continue operations successfully, and intends to continue to look into the FY09 budget.

Mr. Juaristi spoke about the Committee's examination of the nine government-wide financial metrics and reported that the Corporation is attaining its goals on four of the metrics for FY07 and is working towards meeting the targets for the remaining five. Mr. Juaristi noted that Inspector General Jerry Walpin provided the Committee with valuable information during the Committee meeting.

Strategic Partnerships Committee

Stan Soloway reported that the Committee, including Vince Juaristi, Tom Osborne, Julie Fisher Cummings, and Alan Solomont, had focused during their recent meeting on a basic vision for the Committee: to increase and enhance national service in the United States by expanding partnerships, enhancing the Corporation's public profile, and supporting the Corporation's mission. To achieve that mission, the Committee identified three overarching strategies: (1) promoting the Corporation as the leading national service organization in the U.S.; (2) facilitating partnerships with public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations to advance the strategic interests of the national service sector; and (3) encouraging greater and more diverse levels of citizen service throughout the United States.

Program and Evaluation Committee

Committee Chair Donna Williams reported that the full Committee, including Leona White Hat, Jim Palmer, and Tom Osborne, had met on January 29. She advised that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 directed the Corporation to open two new NCCC campuses – one in Vinton, IA, and one in Vicksburg, MS – and included budget authority for at least \$5 million to support these sites. She noted that the sites were expected to open in July, 2008, and January, 2009, respectively. She related that VISTA would receive \$93,000,800 – an increase over the President's request of \$89,734,000 – and would, in implementing the FY08 annual plan, increase their recruitment target for VISTA volunteers to 615,000. She reviewed some of the changes for AmeriCorps based on the 2008 Appropriations Act, including a move from two-year to one-year spending authority.

Ms. Williams reported that the Committee had reviewed the 2009 Annual Plans for Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps NCCC, VISTA, and State and National. She offered and moved to adopt the following resolution into the record:

Whereas, by a resolution adopted on September 21, 2005, the Board of Directors delegated to the Chief Executive Officer authority to make grants and other forms of financial assistance as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the national service laws, provided that the Chief Executive Officer acts in accordance with a Board-approved annual grantmaking and program plan, and reports implementation milestones to the Board on an ongoing basis; and

*Whereas, the Chief Executive Officer has consulted with the Board in developing the agency's annual priorities and goals for its Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps*NCCC, AmeriCorps*State and National, and AmeriCorps*VISTA grant-making and programming, and submitted for the Board's approval the Agency's programmatic priorities and goals for Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps*NCCC, AmeriCorps*State and National, and AmeriCorps*VISTA for fiscal year 2009 in relation to the Board-approved strategic plan; and*

*Be it resolved, that the Board hereby approves the annual grantmaking and program plans for Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps*NCCC, AmeriCorps*State and National, and AmeriCorps*VISTA for fiscal year 2009 as submitted by the Chief Executive Officer through the Board's program committee in advance of the Board meeting of this date; and*

Be it further resolved, that the Board directs the Chief Executive Officer to report implementation milestones to the Board on an ongoing basis.

The resolution was approved by voice vote without objection.

Jim Palmer commended Donna Williams for her leadership as Committee chair, including her work with the Corporation staff on the annual plans. He also thanked the staff for their careful incorporation of the strategic initiatives in the program annual plans.

Ms. Williams discussed a new grant competition focusing on projects that support the Corporation's strategic missions to engage youth from disadvantaged circumstances and students in service through strategic use of Web 2.0 technology, integrating social networking with a desire to serve, and joining modern means of self-expression with the tradition of expressing one's self through service. She related discussions with Chief of Staff Nicola Goren and Eli Siegel Fellow Julie Proulx on other efforts to use Web 2.0 to further the mission of the Corporation and communicated the overall interest on the part of the Board in working with the Corporation on new strategies for the use of Web 2.0. She reported that other organizations, including the Case Foundation and the Bergman Center at Harvard Law, have offered to provide information on how to advertise the new grant competition, as well as other mechanisms for increasing the Corporation's programs' presence in online social networks.

Ms. Williams gave a preview of the soon to-be-released AmeriCorps longitudinal study - the largest, most rigorous study conducted on AmeriCorps service to date. Bob Grimm, Director of Research, Policy, and Development, presented the Committee with some of the early findings, which suggest that AmeriCorps service has a significant impact on individuals' connection to their communities, participation in community service activities, and choice to pursue careers in public service, but may not significantly impact educational choices. Ms. Williams shared that the final report is expected to be published in early May, in time for AmeriCorps week. She recounted that Mr. Grimm also briefed the Committee on customer satisfaction survey results, which showed that grant streamlining efforts are improving consistency across grant competitions, and that, for the first time, the Corporation and all its programs scored above the federal average of 67. The Corporation's weighted overall average was 73, an improvement over its score of 71 in 2006.

Ms. Williams gave a review of the Committee's briefing by AmeriCorps State and National on their ongoing rulemaking. The rule, which is largely technical in nature, aims to further the Corporation's streamlining efforts by codifying longstanding grant provisions and other policies. The rule includes provisions that qualify the requirements for mid- and end-of-term evaluations for members, clarify the requirements for the use of National Service insignia, clarify the consequences for making false or misleading statements to the Corporation, streamline the state

service plan requirements, remove the requirement that grantees individually report on end-outcomes, and reinforce the Inspector General's access to grantee records, among others. The Corporation is now reviewing comments received during the public comment period, including comments made by the Corporation's Inspector General.

Ms. Williams reported that the new Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, may potentially be beneficial to AmeriCorps members. The program provides loan forgiveness for the outstanding balance on federal Direct loans for those borrowers who make 120 qualifying payments after Oct. 1, 2007, while working in a full-time public service job, as defined in the Act.

Recognition of Departing Board Member

In acknowledgement of the end of Mimi Mager's term as a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Juaristi offered the following resolution:

Whereas, Mimi Mager has served with distinction as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service from 2004 through 2007; and

Whereas, Mimi Mager has shown tireless devotion to all of the Corporation programs in her work on the Program Committee, demonstrated by her commitment to improving services to and communications with Corporation grantees and program participants, her unparalleled knowledge of program operations, and her ability to inform the Board's strategic engagement concerning programmatic issues; and

Whereas, Mimi Mager has been a passionate champion of the VISTA program, providing invaluable assistance in the preparation of VISTA's annual plan, playing an instrumental role in developing and implementing of VISTA's 40th Anniversary activities, showing leadership and vision to further the work of VISTAs to fight poverty, and ensuring overall that the program is supported to the fullest extent possible; and

Whereas, Mimi Mager has worked dutifully to help realize the Corporation's strategic initiative of harnessing Baby Boomer's experience by assessing the impact of changes to Senior Corps programs and assisting in the development of new initiatives to attract Baby Boomers to service;

Now therefore, the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, with respect and affection, gratefully recognizes Mimi Mager and her inspirational contributions to national and community service.

The resolution was approved by voice vote without objection.

Mimi Mager thanked the Board and the Corporation for her positive experience as a Board member. She expressed an ongoing commitment to the Corporation and all of its programs.

Mr. Juaristi presented Ms. Mager with a plaque on behalf of the Board and the Corporation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Mr. Juaristi adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.