



NSCA e-News

May 2009

This is the monthly National Senior Corps Association update for all FGP, RSVP, and SCP Directors, volunteers and friends.

Our Chance to Expand Senior Corps

While members of Congress begin spending time on the appropriations process, NSCA is taking an active role in ensuring that Senior Corps programs are represented and included in the bold expansion of opportunities for all Americans to serve their communities.

NSCA has submitted an appropriations request that is significantly higher than the amounts designated in the Serve America Act to the House and Senate Budget Committees, and continues to talk to individual members of the Committees. We believe that Senior Corps programs stand poised to provide the infrastructure and volunteer resources needed to affect change during a time of unprecedented challenges.

The Appropriations Committees within the House and the Senate will look at the recommended appropriations levels in the Serve America Act and the President's recommended funding for FGP, RSVP, and SCP. Then the Appropriations committees will decide the funding allocation for the programs. The bill then goes to the full Congress for a vote. If and when the bill passes Congress, then the President must sign it for it to become law. The earliest we might expect the Appropriations bill to pass in the House would be in June.

Only by working together in a sustained, collaborative effort, can we harness our country's greatest resource, our volunteers, and change the course of history. We continue to realize the truth in NSCA's belief that we are Stronger Together.

Invitation to Provide Input on Implementation of Serve America Act

Last week, the Corporation announced a listening tour across the United States to get input on implementation of the Serve America Act. This is your chance to provide input on how the Corporation should merge the Serve America Act with Senior Corps Programs.

The public listening sessions are as follows. Details and RSVP information are available by clicking on the links below.

1. May 13, 1-4pm, Springfield, MO

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731284A

2. May 14, 1-4 pm, Columbia, SC

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731302A

3. May 20, 12:30-2:30 pm, Washington, DC

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731643A

4. May 22, 9am-noon, Boston, MA

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731258A

5. May 27, 9am-noon, Salt Lake City, UT

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731327A

6. May 28, 1-4 PM, New Orleans, LA

RSVP at https://www.regonline.com/63376_731312A

If you are a member of NSCA and will be attending one of these sessions, please let us know by emailing us at info@nscatogether.org.

Although it's likely that those who register to attend one of these public listening sessions will be located in close proximity to one of the cities, it isn't a requirement. Each session is open to all regardless of their residence.

Those who are unable to attend one of these sessions will have an opportunity to provide input via conference calls and online. Specifics will be announced later.

White House Initiative to Renew America

All Senior Corps program directors are aware of the recent signing of the Serve America Act and the priorities set forth in this legislation. The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity for national service. With the passage of the Serve America Act, President Obama expanded his call to service by creating a White House Initiative to Renew America.

While NSCA is pleased with the few legislative changes that will enhance Senior Corps programs, we need your help to ensure that Senior Corps programs are sufficiently highlighted as an opportunity to heed the Presidential call to service and the White House initiative. There are two ways to highlight your programs:

1) You can register your service opportunity at the website created for the White House Initiative at <http://www.serve.gov>. This website is a new portal for all Americans to find their own ways to serve in their own communities.

2) Additionally, you can tell President Obama and the Administration how your volunteers are "Delivering on Change." Tell your story at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/change>.

These sites provide good opportunities for your FGP, RSVP, and SCP members to tell their story and to bring more recognition to the programs that have served as the cornerstone of national service for over four decades.

Submit Your Stories to NSCA

Your stories are valuable to NSCA. Data can be telling, but as we seek to convey the power of your programs to funders, CNCS, nonprofit partners, and others, it is good stories that capture their hearts. During the reauthorization process, it was your stories that garnered the attention and support of our legislators.

With some of you in the throes of project progress reports (PPRs), NSCA reminds you to share the stories you submit through PPRs with us, now and year round. We'll share your success stories and impact with our legislators, partners, and other Senior Corps programs.

If your best stories are buried, visit Andy Goodman's website www.agoodmanonline.com for help. Learn more about what makes a good story and how you can create a culture of storytelling in your program or organization. Mr. Goodman will be participating in the 2009 National Conference on Volunteering & Service. If you are attending, join Mr. Goodman's Wednesday morning workshop to learn how you can use stories to advance your mission.

Nomination of CNCS CEO

On April 21, 2009, President Obama announced his intention to nominate Marie Eitel to serve as the Corporation's CEO, filling the position David Eisner vacated last fall. The President said, "Maria brings a unique blend of skills and management experience that will help her successfully lead the Corporation during ... a bold expansion of national service programs. Maria is genuinely passionate about the role of national and community service as a vehicle for

engaging and mobilizing citizens in social change, and will bring new, creative thinking to the growth and mission of the Corporation."

Ms. Eitel is the founding president of the Nike Foundation, where she works to "unleash the girl effect, the powerful social and economic change brought about when girls have opportunity," and lead the fight against global poverty. Prior to taking the helm of the Foundation, Ms. Eitel served as Nike's first Vice President of Corporate Responsibility.

In earlier work, Ms. Eitel worked for Microsoft, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and MCI.

If confirmed, this would be Ms. Eitel's second presidential assignment. She worked in the White House from 1989 to 1992, where she served as the deputy director of media relations and later the special assistant to President George H.W. Bush for media affairs.

Ms. Eitel earned her bachelor's degree from McGill University in Montreal and a Master's in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She is also a graduate of the Stanford University Business School Executive Program.

Inquiries Regarding Senior Corps Issues Presented to CNCS Leadership

At the invitation of Angela Roberts (CNCS Acting Senior Corps Director), NSCA participated in a conference call conducted by Kristin McSwain (CNCS Chief of Program Operations) to answer questions pertaining to the recently passed Serve America Act and other Senior Corps related issues. Also in attendance were representatives from the NAFGPD and NARSVPD.

The following provides a brief summary of the meeting and the CNCS position as of 4/16/09.

CNCS interpretation of bill. The Corporation continues to review the Serve America Act, determine distinctions between current law and the new bill, and interpret the legislation.

Implementation of bill. There is no provision for early implementation of specific components. It will be implemented in its entirety effective October 1, 2009.

Silver Scholarships. Since Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions receive a stipend, they *may not* be eligible to receive both the Silver Scholarships and stipends. Senior Corps programs will be eligible through a grant application process to administer the Silver Scholarships program for community volunteers.

Definition of "programmatic functions" delegated to state commissions. CNCS has not determined what those programmatic functions will be.

Criminal history checks. National Sex Offender Registry checks, state criminal registry checks, and FBI fingerprint checks are required for those serving vulnerable populations. The Attorney General is directed to conduct a feasibility study on the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal history checks. This will examine the availability, accessibility, and cost of the checks. A final report is due within a year of enactment.

Budget. The President has released a summary of his budget. The budget with specific program numbers will be released in May.

PNS. At least 25% of the 1/3 will be available for non-CNCS funded organizations and the remainder will be available to existing programs.

Challenge and disability grants will be available to any National Service Program.

RSVP grants are slated to be recompeted. Legislation is silent on FGP and SCP.

Becoming part of the national call to service. Senior Corps can be an active participant in the current national call to service and celebration through participation in upcoming information gathering sessions.

2.5% funding provided for training and technical assistance. The percentage reflects an "up to" amount. Each program will have a designated amount that will not be taken from program allocated dollars.

SCP 35th anniversary and FGP 45th anniversary. SCP anniversary materials and promotion will be unveiled at the National Conference in June. The Corporation will do something similar for FGP next year.

NSCA and project directors nationwide fought hard to include issues that would have created additional and significant expansion of Senior Corps programs, including: FGP and RSVP Volunteer Leaders as currently allowable for SCP, increased PNS funding (requested 75% of new funding to existing programs and 25% to non-CNCS funded programs), ability to accept unsolicited donations from clients and families, allowing 15% of FGP and SCP volunteers to be over-income, not subjecting RSVP programs that consistently meet or exceed CNCS compliance standards to recompetition, adjustment to the 80/20 rule, innovations in programming, and a wider range of incentives. Although many of these issues may be addressed in other new programs created through the Serve America Act, it is

presently unclear whether Senior Corps will be able to take advantage of their benefits.

Your NSCA Membership Builds a Stronger Senior Corps

The NSCA 2009-2010 membership campaign is underway. Join NSCA today as we address the critical and most challenging issues that face our communities and programs. Membership in NSCA assures that all Senior Corps Program Directors have a strong, prominent voice in advocating for our programs. Our mission is to promote, represent, advocate for and enhance the power of Senior Corps programs nationwide.

Why join? NSCA promotes, represents and protects funding for all Senior Corps Programs. We are unified in our efforts. We listen to our constituents. We respond to your project's needs. We keep you informed.

Become a member of NSCA and be a part of a Senior Corps network that is Stronger Together! Mail in your membership today!

[Click here](#) to download your membership application.

[Click here](#) to download the NSCA W-9 form.

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