

MINUTES

Serve Idaho Spring Commission Meeting Location:

SpringHill Suites Boise Parkcenter – 424 East Parkcenter Blvd., Boise, ID 83706

Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting at the following link: [Join here](#)

Date: October 16, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (MT)

Roll Call:

Char Kremer

Katie Mathias

Kristi Keeler

Eric Anderson

April Durrant

Destinie Hart Excused

Farhana Hibbert

Amy Ridenour

Becky Martin

Karma Fitzgerald Excused

Cara Nielsen

Alina Rahim Excused

Kimber Russell

Chelsea Weeks Excused

Stephanie Taylor-Thompson Excused

Michael Strickland Proxy Farhana Hibbert



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Cieara Davis
Jani Revier
Mat Erpelding Excused
Lindy Garland Absent
Kelsey Nelson
Kim Ellsworth

Additional Attendees: Emily Straubhar, Natalie Hui, Dan Cabrera, Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, Caleb Hibbert, Kaira Esgate, Jana Bodily-Roan, Callie Dance, Nohely Palmer, Natasha Tienhaara, Elizabeth Renn, Tim Carroll, Ian Shiach, Courtney Warner

Agenda Item	Presenter	Notes
Welcome and Call to Order	Charlette Kremer, Chair	Char called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
Roll Call	Farhana Hibbert	Farhana took roll. She confirmed that we have a quorum.
Meeting Agenda	Charlette Kremer	April made a motion to amend agenda for working lunch. Kimber seconded the motion. Motion passes. Kimber made the motion to approve the agenda. Chelsea seconded the motion. Motion passes.
Meeting Minutes	Charlette Kremer	Farhana made a motion to approve the minutes. April seconded the motion. Motion passes.
Icebreaker	Charlette Kremer	What is something that is new and good in your life or work lately?
Review Commissioner Policy Manual	Emily Straubhar/ Kimber Russell	Changes include: Utilizing a dashboard to stay up to date on progress on goals. All leadership must take the open meeting class by the end of the calendar year. Serve Idaho staff member may post on Basecamp. Quarterly meeting months may vary as needed. If a commissioner is unable to attend, he or she may reach out to staff liaison. Member support and outreach committee will provide oversight to the Member Financial Assistance Fund.



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Previous meeting minutes and agendas will be in Town Hall.
Annual calendar is subject to change.
Farhana made motion to approve the changes as recommended. Katie seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Kimber asked commissioners to scan in the Commission Nomination Form if they would like to make a nomination. Positions include chair, vice chair, second vice chair and secretary. Nominations need to be submitted by 1 p.m.

Char gave shoutouts to:
Erik, Amanda, Kimber, Kelsea and Char for working on the service plan
Kimber for filling in as program committee chair
Stephanie shared her story for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the *Coeur D'Alene Post Fall Press* and is running for city council
Farhana participated in service events for September 11 National Day of Service
Micaela is leading the conference planning committee and several commissioners are serving on the committee
Grants were funded
Becky shared information about Serve Idaho and found someone to speak about AmeriCorps from the Fort Hall Reservation
Kara toured programs with Micaela
Governance Committee has discussed recruitment, interviewed interested individuals
Erik recommended nominating Katie for Commissioner of the Year
Char for traveling back to DC for Congressional visits

Natasha shared 4-H pins and program information.
Jana from the Idaho Health Corps introduced her program coordinators.
Noeli shared bookmark and program information.



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		<p>Callie Dance with Gem shared 988 crisis hotline number and program information.</p>
<p>Impact of 2024 – 2025 Program Year</p>	<p>Kaira Esgate, America's Service Commission</p>	<p>Executive Order compliance- mostly diversity and inclusion language Department of Government Efficiency arrival- two weeks before taking major action Agency staff reduction and NCCC demobilization- reducing staff from 700 to 120 staff members; NCCC were demobilized back to home campus and sent home Grant termination, lawsuits and grant reinstatements- \$400 million grant terminations on April 25. Agency received some staff back after lawsuit. Back to 225 to 230 staff. OMB funding hold and release- funds released Thursday before Labor Day weekend First agency political appointee- Chief of Staff since end of August, from USAID Federal government shutdown- VISTA and NCCC are still serving, but are not receiving pay checks. During government shut down, only about 25 staff. The President's budget proposes \$107 million for an organized wind down of the agency. The Senate and House Appropriations Committee have started markups and held LHHS Markups. FY26 will be similar to FY25. Senate bill passed on a bipartisan vote of 26-3. The Senate bill provides flat funding except for \$10 million reduction to agency salaries and expenses. This is positive news given the current appropriations challenges. House cut the agency in half. The legislation also renames the agency to America First Corps. The statute reads Corporation for National and Community Service. Agency name not the program name is changing. We broke into small groups and discussed general reflection on the 2024-25 program year, including program impacts, impact on members and impact on service sites. We also discussed what would have been helpful in navigating grant terminations. Our large group discussion focused on lessons learned to inform decision making if another significant disruption occurs. We also talked about how we rebuild AmeriCorps' reputation with community partners, alumni and future members.</p>



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State Service Plan	Kaira Esgate, America's Service Commission	Commissioners discussed a draft of the 2026-2028 Serve Idaho State Service Plan. We discussed last year's results, growth areas, resources. We reviewed each of our goals and specific objectives under each goal. We discussed who reads the service plan, where it is published and what the purpose of the service plan is. Kimber made a motion to approve the state service plan. Farhana seconded the motion. Motion passes.
Commission Nomination and Election	Charlette Kremer	Karma, Mat and Stephanie are joining virtually to cast votes. Chair- Kimber Russell Vice Chair- Katie Mathias Second Vice Chair- Erik Anderson Secretary- Kristi Keeler
Committee/ ED Updates	Commission/ Committee Chairs	Char and Emily reported on their trip to Washington, D.C. They met with legislators. Kimber reported on the Governance Committee. They worked on the service plan. Several commissioners are terming out their time in service. April reported on the Program Committee. They completed the SOP for the committee. They are waiting for competitive applications to come in. It takes four hours to review the applications. Micaela reported on the Member Support Committee. The Member Emergency Assistant Form is on the website. Emily has been sending continuous communication on the government shutdown. They are trying to be mindful that programs are going through challenging times. They talked about the executive order, the commissioner's roles and the importance of monitoring the programs. Angela made a manual with all the policies. They want to explore planning grants. Serve Idaho will promote the America 250 campaign with taters dressed in period clothing. They are hiring a temporary employee to get caught up on administrative burden. The Vista host site applications are open. The focus must be on alleviating poverty. VISTA members build capacity. This has to be a new project or program.
Adjourn	Charlette Kremer	Char made the motion to adjourn at 3:57 p.m. Char was recognized as the outgoing chair.



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