

THE SENATE FORUM ON VOLUNTEERISM



Preparing for 2015:
The Year of Service and Civic Engagement

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN,

**2015 will be set as a Year of Service and Civic Engagement that will engage all generations
as participants, planners, organizers and leaders of the volunteer infrastructure.**

June 10, 2014

Generations Serving Generations

Informed and Engaged

From the Summit on *Why News Matters*

Generations Serving Generations seeks to develop a more informed and engaged citizenry so all ages can become skilled critical thinkers, wise news consumers and, ultimately, more engaged in their communities. The computer lab (right) brings generations together to become more informed about one another and about the news and information of the day. They challenge one another, “Is that fact or fiction?” Students facilitate knowledge of social media and getting connected to the Internet. Older generations are anchors; they give students encouragement and a greater understanding of the impact of learning. Together they become critical thinkers and problem solvers for their communities.



Generations Serving Generations (GSG) was founded in 2008 in cooperation with the National Governors Association Center on Best Practices. Illinois was one of 14 states selected to participate in the project, which was designed to improve the health and lives of older Americans and increase their involvement in service, learning and work. Led by the Illinois Department on Aging and the Serve Illinois Commission, the executive team has championed the civic engagement of older adults as a way to boost leadership in communities and tap the great resource of older Illinoisans.

Greetings from the National Governors Association

“Thank you for addressing the important issue of civic engagement at your Forum. Civic engagement is an essential way for individuals of all ages to take responsibility for maintaining the social fabric of their communities and make a difference. In this time of economic, social and political polarization, it is even more important for people to come together to be mutually supportive and build strong communities through civic engagement and volunteerism.

I commend the continuing work of Generations Serving Generations in promoting civic engagement and volunteerism and its sponsorship of the Senate Forum in cooperation with its other partners. Best wishes as you prepare for and launch Illinois’ Year of Service and Civic Engagement in 2015 – a model for other states to follow.”

Martin Simon, director, Workforce Development, Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.

Celebrating 20 Years

“News literacy is at the epicenter of critical thinking, information literacy, digital literacy, and life skills such as health and personal financial literacy. News literacy aligns nicely with the educational expectations of the Common Core Standards. Yet good journalism is still vetted in its facts as it informs, educates, and sometimes entertains. Good journalism is an important connection to civic society and key to the success of democracy.” Clark Bell, journalism program director, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Sponsors of the Senate Forum on Volunteerism

The Senate Forum on Volunteerism is sponsored by Generations Serving Generations and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

in cooperation with

the Illinois Department on Aging, the Serve Illinois Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Illinois Senate.

Partners include the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, the Constitutional Rights Foundation and many other organizations that are committed to civic engagement.

See Senate Resolution 1002 on page eight

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities.

The Illinois Department on Aging

The mission of the Illinois Department on Aging is to serve and advocate for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life.

Serve Illinois Commission

Its mission is to improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State. The Commission is accomplishing this mission through the support of local community-based efforts to enhance volunteer opportunities and the administration of Illinois' AmeriCorps program.

Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that helps more than 5 million Americans improve the lives of their fellow citizens through service. Working hand in hand with local partners, the Corporation taps the ingenuity and can-do spirit of the American people to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing our nation.

The Illinois Senate

The Illinois Senate is the upper chamber of the Illinois General Assembly, the legislative branch of the government of the state of Illinois in the United States. The body was created by the first state constitution adopted in 1818. The Illinois Senate is made up of 59 senators elected from individual legislative districts determined by population.

Thoughts from the Leadership of the Illinois Senate

“Civic engagement is the cornerstone of democracy and the key to preserving good government. Throughout the course of Illinois history, the power of community involvement has led to more effective and efficient decision-making in Springfield. We enhance the legislative process when we invite diverse perspectives and new ideas to help and implement creative solutions to local and state problems.”



Republican Leader
Christine Radogno



Senate President
John J. Cullerton

“The foundation of our democracy is civic dialogue. The future for our democracy is generations joining together to solve community problems. We are all challenged to foster creative thinking and new approaches during these difficult times: convening local citizens is the beginning of greater civic involvement for all ages. “

Stand Up! Speak Out! Become Engaged!

Civic engagement is part of Illinois’ history and culture. From the Civil Rights Movement to modern marches for peace, safety and trauma care, Illinois houses an energized push for change.



As a teenager, I watched generations rally for social justice and equality. As an elected official, I see the same spirit developing in Chicago’s South Side. Young people are standing up, speaking up and restoring the opportunity for upward mobility. At statewide youth employment hearings, I faced packed rooms of young advocates explaining the importance of bringing employment into their communities.

Different generations can learn from one another through civic engagement. The greatest impact of volunteerism is the commitment to uplifting neighborhoods, making streets safer, and helping the next generation.

I sponsored legislation to make 2015 the year of volunteerism to focus on the power of the people. People are elements of change, pillars of strength for the very communities that we – elected officials – represent. I commend all the hard work – nearly 360 million hours of service – that Illinoisans have done.

I encourage all generations to stand up, speak out and become engaged.

Sen. Mattie Hunter, D-Chicago, key sponsor, Senate Resolution on Volunteerism

Senators Sponsor Resolution on Volunteerism



L to R: *Above*, Pamela J. Althoff, McHenry; Michael E. Hastings, Matteson; Chapin Rose, Champaign; Kimberly A. Lightford, Westchester; Antonio Muñoz, Chicago; *Below*, James Clayborne, East St. Louis; David S. Luechtefeld, Okawville; Michael Noland, Elgin; William E. Brady, Bloomington;



The generous spirit of volunteers across America is the key to what continues to make this country so great. The essence and enthusiasm of volunteers has remained the same through the years. Volunteers are still the backbone of any organization - the people who we count on to get the job done while not expecting anything in return. Volunteers don't always have the time, but they always have the heart. Their heart and spirit is what is especially worthy of being honored and recognized today as we support SR 1002 and the Year of Service and Civic Engagement.

Sen. Michael Connelly, R-Naperville



Volunteerism brings opportunities for learning, addresses community needs and brings a spirit of involvement to a community. That is why I am working to convene a forum to provide recommendations on strengthening the infrastructure of volunteerism throughout the state of Illinois. I have found that one of the reasons more people don't volunteer is because they don't know how to get involved. The recommendations from this collaboration will provide the public with information on how they can become more involved and what opportunities are out there.

Sen. Terry Link, D-Gurnee



Volunteering is one of the most important forms of civic engagement. Volunteers develop their relationships with the community at the same time that they improve the lives of other people.

Sen. Don Harmon, D-Oak Park



I was pleased to support this common-sense resolution. Volunteers of all ages, races, and gender are key to our success as a nation and state. It's just a part of the American experience to help out a cause that you care about. Whether you donate time, money or supplies – any form of volunteering is greatly appreciated.

Sen. Darin LaHood, R-Dunlap

THE SENATE FORUM ON VOLUNTEERISM

June 10, 2014: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Senate Chamber, Illinois State Capitol, Springfield



10 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of Participants
Preparing for 2015: The Year of Service
John Holton, director, Illinois Department on Aging
Brandon Bodor, executive director, Serve Illinois Commission



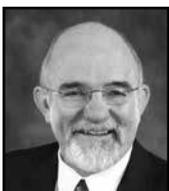
10:20 a.m. The Potential for the Year of Service and Civic Engagement
Christopher Koch, state superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education
Introduced by Melinda LaBarre, board member, Illinois State Board of Education



James Applegate, executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Introduced by Jacqui Moreno, managing director, College Access Initiatives, Illinois Student Assistance Commission



10:50 a.m. Strategies for 2015
Introduced by Peggy Luce, workforce director & pioneer, Generations Serving Generations
Service Learning: Kathy Engelken, director, Illinois Campus Compact
Service Plans: Lilliane Webb, volunteer engagement fellow, Serve Illinois Commission



11:05 a.m. Response from the Audience

11:30 a.m. Toward an Informed and Engaged Citizenry
Jennifer Choi, Journalism Program, Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Introduced by Barry Locher, foundation and member services director, Illinois Press Association



11:45 a.m. Summarize the Morning
Louis Kosiba, executive director, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

Noon To Governor's Mansion for luncheon and group discussions

Speakers and Introducers (From Top Left)

John Holton, Illinois Department on Aging
Brandon Bodor, Serve Illinois Commission
Christopher Koch, Illinois State Board of Education
Melinda LaBarr, Illinois State Board of Education
James Applegate, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Jacqui Moreno, Illinois Assistance Commission

Speakers and Introducers (From Top Right)

Peggy Luce, Generations Serving Generations
Kathy Engelken, Illinois Campus Compact
Lilliane Webb, Serve Illinois Commission
Jennifer Choi, Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Barry Locher, Illinois Press Association
Louis Kosiba, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
Cynthia Sandoval, Office of the Governor

RESOLVED that by Dec. 31, 2014, Generations Serving Generations, in collaboration with the state leadership in education, aging, service and the private sector, will convene a Senate Forum and prepare recommendations on strengthening the infrastructure of volunteerism and national service. Senate Resolution 1002

12:20 p.m. Celebrating 20 Years

Information: Is it Fact or Fiction?

Barry Locher, Illinois Press Association and Jane Angelis, Continuance Magazine

1 p.m. Small Group Discussions

Led by Peggy Luce, Generations Serving Generations, and Cynthia Sandoval, Policy Dunn Fellow, Office of the Governor

Topic One: Setting Goals for Illinois and our Organizations: What We Can Accomplish in 2015

Topic Two: Exploring Strengths of Service Systems and Barriers to Service

2:45 p.m. Return to the Senate Chamber

3 p.m. Closing Session: Three Goals for 2015

John Holton and Brandon Bodor

Reports from Group Sessions by Facilitators

Deb Strauss, Illinois PTA and Courtney Abbott, Serve Illinois Commission

Joy Paeth, AAA of Southwestern IL and Lilliane Webb, Serve Illinois Commission

Jonathan Lackland, IBHE and Austin Hansen, ISBE Student Advisory

Joyce Gallagher, Chicago Area Agency on Aging, and Tony Pierce, Heaven's View Christian Fellowship

Fred Nettles, Partner for Hope and Donna Treadwell, Real Men Read, Springfield School District

Kathy Engelken, IL Campus Compact and Nisan Chavkin, Constitutional Rights Foundation

Doug Brauer, Richland Community College and Carol Davis, Spoon River College

Barbara Tubekis, Volunteer Centers of Illinois and Dan Hagerty, IL Campus Compact VISTA

Generations: Stand Up! Get Informed! Become Engaged!

4 p.m. Adjourn

Goal: Prepare for the Year of Service and Civic Engagement with ideas on how to:

- celebrate the contributions of volunteers and tell their stories,
- stimulate Illinoisans to become informed and wise consumers of news and information,
- strengthen the infrastructure of volunteerism; and
- get more focused on the ways that service enriches education and the workforce while contributing to a healthy aging for all generations.





SR 1002: Resolution on Volunteerism

WHEREAS, the essence of American Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and that democracy reflects the engagement and leadership of all generations and the premise that citizens can serve; and

WHEREAS, throughout the lifespan, service instills the knowledge that citizenship brings responsibility and that everyone has talents and skills to make their community a better place, and

WHEREAS, service brings opportunities for learning that boost student success, focus on new skills for workers, and embrace the gifts of older generations to address community needs and bring a spirit of involvement; and

WHEREAS, research by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that administers the national service programs AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, revealed that 27.4% of Illinoisans volunteered in 2012, contributing 286 million hours to the most pressing challenges of communities; and

WHEREAS, research by Generations Serving Generations, a public/private partnership launched by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, concluded that many Illinoisans who do not volunteer would like to, but simply don't know how to get connected to service opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Generations Serving Generations and leaders from AGING & RETIREE ORGANIZATIONS (the Illinois Department on Aging, the Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund), EDUCATION (Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Council of Community College Presidents, and the Illinois State Library); SERVICE (the Serve Illinois Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Illinois Campus Compact); BUSINESS (Illinois Chamber of Commerce); FOUNDATIONS (Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the Retirement Research Foundation), and OTHERS join together in supporting a Call to Service, therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that it is in the interest of the citizens of this State to strengthen the infrastructure of volunteerism as a resource for meeting the challenges of education, promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages, and boosting the independence of older generations; and be it

RESOLVED that by Dec. 31, 2014, Generations Serving Generations, in collaboration with the state leadership in education, aging, service and the private sector, will convene a Senate Forum and prepare recommendations on strengthening the infrastructure of volunteerism and national service; and be it

RESOLVED, that 2015 will be set as a Year of Service and Civic Engagement, that will engage all generations as participants, planners, organizers and leaders of the volunteer infrastructure.