

▶ Conference Introduction & Important Dates ..... 1

▶ Registration & Lodging ..... 2

▶ Grantee Meeting Information & Atlanta Highlights ..... 3

# Conference *Tribune*



The National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders. The 2008 conference will convene June 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> in Atlanta, home to many leaders and organizations in the civil rights, social justice and volunteer movement.

A lot of thought went into this year's theme choice which was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In April, more than 40 years ago Dr. King said:

We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce **urgency of now**. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked, and dejected with a lost opportunity. The tide in the affairs of men does not remain at flood—it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words, "Too late." There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. Omar Khayyam is right: "The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on. We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action."

This year the theme is "The Urgency of Now". The theme is a call to action for a new generation of civic leaders. Now is the time to seize the growing momentum for service and unleash the power of citizens to make a better world.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 15<sup>th</sup>** | Conference & Registration Website Launched
- April 30<sup>th</sup>** | Early Bird Registration Ends
- May 27<sup>th</sup>** | Online Registration Closes
- May 31<sup>st</sup>** | Pre-Conference Activities
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>** | On-Site Registration
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>** | National Conference on Volunteering and Service

For more information visit  
<http://www.volunteeringandservice.org>

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The conference registration and hotel registration can be done on-line at [www.volunteeringandservice.org](http://www.volunteeringandservice.org)

- Registration is now open.
- You will select your conference agenda when you register for the conference. If you register before April 30, the fee is \$350, which includes \$300 for the National Conference and \$50 for activities specifically geared to AmeriCorps. After April, the registration fee goes up to \$450.
- Workshop pre-registration is required. Please review the AmeriCorps Sessions before you attempt to register. Once registered you will be issued a bar code that you must bring with you. At each session your bar code will be scanned for admission to that session.
- Registering for AmeriCorps Sessions: The AmeriCorps Grantee meeting registration is integrated into the overall registration for the National Conference on Volunteering and Service. The official AmeriCorps grantee meeting starts on Sunday, June 1, 2008 with the AmeriCorps State and National Town Hall luncheon. This will be followed by individual AmeriCorps State Commission Meeting and AmeriCorps National Grantee Meeting.

## LODGING

- Registration for hotel rooms must be done on the main conference website. There will be four (4) hotels to choose from.
- The conference workshops and sessions will be co-located in two hotels directly across from each other – The Marriott Marquis and the Hilton Atlanta. Please see the conference registration site for pricing.
  - **The Marriott Marquis**, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlmq-atlanta-marriott-marquis/>
  - **Hilton Atlanta Hotel**, 255 Courtland Street NE: [www.atlanta.hilton.com](http://www.atlanta.hilton.com)
  - **Sheraton Atlanta**, 165 Courtland Street: <http://www.sheratonatlantahotel.com/>
  - **Hyatt Regency Atlanta**, 265 Peachtree Street NE: <http://atlantaregency.hyatt.com/>
- Smoking - The Marriott is a smoke free facility. There is one floor of sleeping rooms designated at the Atlanta Hilton for smoking.
- Although we have made every effort to make sure there is enough accommodation for everyone, we have included some additional hotels near the conference.
  - **Westin Peachtree Plaza**, 210 Peachtree Street: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com>
  - **AmeriSuites**, 330 Peachtree Street: <http://www.amerisuites.com>

## WHAT'S NEW?

This year's registration fees are lower than last year's, beginning at \$300.

Conference confirmation page & name badges will have bar codes printed on them.

To be admitted to a session you must have your Name Tag with bar code available. It will be scanned at the door and only those who pre-registered for the session will be admitted. If a session is not full, admission will open to people not previously registered.

## GRANTEE MEETING

### Sunday, June 1

- Coffee with CNCS Leadership and Board Member(s) *(Commission Executive Directors and National Program Directors only)*
- Session with the Inspector General
- AmeriCorps Town Hall Luncheon *(State Commission staff, Commissioners & National Programs staff)*
- Grantee Meetings *(separate meetings for State Commissions and National Programs)*

### Monday, June 2

- AmeriCorps Policy Update
- Affinity Groups (Training Officers & Rural States)

### Tuesday, June 3

- Affinity Groups (Administrative Standards & Disability Coordinators)



## GOING GREEN

- In order to reduce paper this year, workshop handouts will be available to download online.
- Water is in short supply so it will not be supplied at all the sessions but will be available at various locations via water coolers.
- We encourage you to walk to the conference general sessions or take the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

## FUN ATLANTA FACTS

- Atlanta is the fifth city to be the capital of the state of Georgia. It was preceded by Savannah, Augusta, Louisville and Milledgeville.
- The Varsity Restaurant, the country's largest drive-in, serves the highest volume of Coca-Cola anywhere – nearly 3 million servings annually.
- Atlanta is home to the WORLD'S LARGEST Aquarium.
- There are approximately 55 streets with the name "Peachtree" in Georgia.
- Atlanta is home to the Peachtree Road Race, the largest 10K race in the world with approximately 55,000 runners annually.

## FUNNY FACTS

- Atlanta, Georgia has the worst traffic of any city in the US, since every street in the city is named "Peachtree Road".
- The Governor's mansion in Georgia is the only quadruple-wide trailer in America.
- Between 2001 and 2003, the state flag of Georgia was changed 3 times. The latest version consists of a white background with black lettering that says "YOUR DESIGN HERE: \$50"
- The most common cause of death in Georgia is getting murdered in a fight over the proper way to pronounce the word "pecan".

## PRE-CON EVENTS

A variety of Pre-Conference sessions will be held on Saturday through Sunday – most of which are day long events. There are nominal charges for some of the day long sessions. You would need to pay those charges along with any additional lodging, meal and travel costs. Registration is required for these sessions.

AmeriCorps specific pre-cons are:

- Communicators Institute
- Commissioners Policy Forum
- Youth Commissions Institute
- National Service Reception
- ASC Dinner

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**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 

POINTS OF LIGHT  
&  
HANDS ON NETWORK