

Transcript

July 24, 2025, 4:05PM

● **Neelam Gupta** started transcription

JS **Jim Snell** 0:03

The retreat, but it is.

It will be here.

Very quickly.

BW **Betty White** 0:19

Can't seem to get adjusted here.

Yeah, sorry.

Yeah. Thank you for reminding us, Jim.

I kind of forget the retreat of hours, but I do have an idea.

I think we had maybe talked about before some of it, so.

I don't know if it's still going to be on the table or not though, so don't know exactly.

JS **Jim Snell** 0:41

Yeah. Well, I I'd suggest that the committee talk about the state Service plan first.

GL **Greg Lyles** 0:48

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 0:49

Because that that will that might take a little bit more time and then and and we wanna make sure we get this committee's input on that before the August meetings and that's coming up really quickly.

So the committee can, if it doesn't really get to far into the discussion about the retreat, the committee can always meet again, talk about the retreat.

But there's not really enough time to to have another meeting before the August 8th meeting to get your input on the state plan.

GL **Greg Lyles** 1:11
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 1:21
So Neelam would you could you open up that that state plan document that you sent out to the group and share your screen?

NG **Neelam Gupta** 1:34
Yes, yes, yes. Let me share that.

JS **Jim Snell** 1:36
Everyone.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 1:41
Mm-hmm.
Find that.
Can everyone see it?
Can do you want me to make it bigger or anything?

BW **Betty White** 2:03
No, it looks good to me.

GL **Greg Lyles** 2:05
Yeah, it's good.

JS **Jim Snell** 2:08
Yeah. So.
Hopefully all of you had a chance to at least look at this before the meeting and I'll I'll just kind of give you all a quick rundown of what the what the committee should focus on and then you all can just start talking about it. So the the.
Four primary goals.
Are are lettered.
And then underneath most of the goals there are a couple additional clarifying.
Bits and for those of you who've been participating in the.

The chair plus one discussions.

You've seen this document before, but.

Not all the committee members, obviously are participating in that smaller group.

The main thing for the committee to discuss today under each of the goals is the first question. The envisioning that volunteered to see a successful.

What would be the ideal outcomes at the end of three years?

And there's a couple examples in yellow for each of these.

I I wouldn't worry too much about the questions. Number two and three.

Because the really the main thing that we need for the August meeting is to really start from the goals.

Thinking about what outcomes are gonna result from those goals in three years.

And the other thing is.

So that we make sure that that all of the goals get discussed.

We've been asking.

Committees to start in different places.

So Neelam, if you would actually scroll to goal, Scroll down to goal C.

Yeah, yeah.

So if the the Board Development Committee can start with Goal C and then work through that, and then you can then work through D and then go back to A&B. If you have enough time.

But we wanna make sure that at at least one committee fully really addresses each goal and then we'll combine all of the input from each committee for the August 8th meeting.

So I don't know if anybody has any questions about that. I'm happy to to answer them, but.

You know the starting point for this one that goal C is again to think about at the end of three years what has volunteered. Tennessee accomplished related to the goal.

And I I wouldn't worry too much about specific numbers or percentages and that kind of thing.

Because the the Commission can add those in later.

Based on you know data that we have, if if we have data on it.

But really, you know what? What?

What does the committee think we should achieve in three years?

And Neelam, if you if you don't mind if you would, if you would just take notes in this

document and then I'll, I'll put the file path in the chat for you. If you can save it to that folder that I'll put in the chat in just a.
2nd.

NG Neelam Gupta 5:27

So take the notes and save it in the folder, right?

GL Greg Lyles 5:28

S.

JS Jim Snell 5:30

Yeah, just, yeah. Take the notes directly in the document.

NG Neelam Gupta 5:33

OK.

JS Jim Snell 5:35

So that you know folks can see kind of the notes that you're putting in there and if anybody wants to make revisions or changes, they can just speak up as as we go.

NG Neelam Gupta 5:48

Should I go back to a or just leave it at C?

JS Jim Snell 5:51

No, we this committee should start with C 'cause. We we wanna make sure that every goal gets at least one committee's full attention.

And if we if every committee starts with a nobody's gonna get to to D.

So each committee is starting in a different place.

We lost your screen.

NG Neelam Gupta 6:12

3.

And share it again.

Can you see that now?

JS **Jim Snell** 6:26
Hmm.

BW **Betty White** 6:27
Yes.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 6:29
Oops, sorry. OK.

GL **Greg Lyles** 6:32
So the information that's highlighted in yellow, those ideas has been discussed before.

JS **Jim Snell** 6:39
Well, those are just, those are just ideas from previous plans.

GL **Greg Lyles** 6:44
Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 6:45
Just to kind of get everybody's thoughts moving in terms of what potential outcomes might be and and to be honest, some of those might be more in terms of definitions, might be more outputs than outcomes.
But that's OK.
I mean, I think we also don't need to worry too much about that.
I mean the main thing again is like what?
What do we want to have accomplished at the end of?
About 3 years and we don't need to at this point worry about the steps of how to get there, because that that the committee, the Commission will fill in later.

GL **Greg Lyles** 7:17
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 7:22

But where do we want to be in three years? And then we'll we can put the the steps underneath it later.

GL **Greg Lyles** 7:50

Where he talks about awareness of Volunteer Tennessee and its initiative.

I mean that to me.

I think we need to focus more statewide and I don't know.

It's how well you know, we are known across the state in circles outside of our programs.

JS **Jim Snell** 8:18

Not not very is the short answer.

GL **Greg Lyles** 8:21

Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 8:22

And and Yvonne raised her hand.

Greg, I don't know if you can, if you can see that, but.

GL **Greg Lyles** 8:26

Oh, go ahead.

Yeah.

EW **Evon Wood** 8:29

I like the develop and execute a statewide awareness campaign to promote a culture of volunteerism and service. To me, that's the core of what volunteer Tennessee is. Is the promoting volunteerism and service across the state, and however that ends up looking, and I'd love to get.

An awareness campaign established that we can revise each year and just follow through the steps and make sure.

That we're being not just on social media, but we're physically and verbally in person in the various regions of the state, promoting volunteerism and service.

GL **Greg Lyles** 9:21

I noticed something earlier, Jim, about the listening sessions across the state.

I mean, how?

How far does that?

What audience does that reach outside of?

Our circle, you know the the program.

JS **Jim Snell** 9:41

Well.

We're probably not getting too far out of our circle because the way we're.

Advertising that is one through our newsletter.

And so that's people who we've had contact with in the past and they've signed up for a newsletter, including the programs that volunteer Tennessee funds.

GL **Greg Lyles** 9:52

All right.

JS **Jim Snell** 10:01

We we have also done some social media posting about the listening sessions.

So hopefully folks outside of our normal channels will will see that.

But you know it's it's a little bit difficult to get outside of our normal group.

GL **Greg Lyles** 10:18

Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 10:22

When we don't really have inroads to other.

Organizations and and networks.

BW **Betty White** 10:33

Well, playing on that, I think that's a really important.

Goal of volunteer Tennessee too, and I do know. And those of us who have been there for quite a while know we have continued to try to focus on how do we get that word out.

But it seems as if we continue to be within that inner circle and a concern of mine is also how we get out to the rural counties and to other places.

That have no idea we exist.

But I'm wondering if and I don't know if this is an outcome or an output, or I mean it's not really an outcome, it's more a step to how we get there.

But then I don't know if it would directly affect an outcome, but I wonder if we could.

Challenge someone. Whoever ends up taking on this goal.

Challenge our Commission members each to try to reach out to five or give a certain number different nonprofits.

Or organizations.

Corporate, whatever. Just to make people aware not to be asking for kind of like we do the legislators to go and to give information to people and make people aware of what we're doing and that we do have grants that we do have opportunities that we do have.

These programs, because I believe a lot of people have no idea we exist and I continue to find that.

In the places I go.

GL **Greg Lyles** 12:09

We all agree the state of Yvonne pointed out.

I think as she said, that's the core.

BW **Betty White** 12:15

Mm-hmm.

GL **Greg Lyles** 12:17

What we do with?

What we stand for so OK.

So how can Walter Tennessee direct his existing resources to achieve that outcome?

Bidd, I think what you mentioned would go there.

BW **Betty White** 12:38

And if I could add to what is written, I said different nonprofits and corporations, because we have that corporate track too, which is actually mentioned at NB above.

GL **Greg Lyles** 12:39

The challenge each.

BW **Betty White** 12:52

So make sure we continue to reach out to corporations.

GL **Greg Lyles** 12:57

OK.

BW **Betty White** 12:58

I think there are very few corporations that know about us.

GL **Greg Lyles** 13:01

Fire.

Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 13:08

Yeah. And and Greg, I'd, I'd just say I wouldn't worry too much about the number 2 and #3 questions for right now. Just focus on #1 and.

GL **Greg Lyles** 13:15

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 13:20

You know, if if folks are done with with Goal C with number one and you can certainly move on to the next one.

But if if folks have more ideas on where they want to be in in three years, then they can kind of put that out there for this goal.

GL **Greg Lyles** 13:27

OK.

OK.

All right.

Any other discussion or input on #1?

Develop and execute.

JS **Jim Snell** 13:47

Tracy has her hand up. Yeah, sorry.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 13:49

I think, yeah.

GL **Greg Lyles** 13:49

I'm sorry. Just go ahead and speak.

I'm sorry.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 13:53

Oh.

Is the D the story collecting and storytelling?

Is that just us?

An example of something that we may do or is that something that we want to do?

JS **Jim Snell** 14:07

Oh, sorry, that's a good question, Tracy.

So the the the small abcde underneath the goal. Those are just different ideas that the the small group of chairs plus one developed as they were.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 14:19

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 14:26

Coming up with the goals.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 14:28

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 14:29

And so they're just kind of.

To clarify and explain a little bit about what the overall goal.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 14:38
OK, OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 14:38
Is.
So I mean, yeah, it could certainly be, yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 14:41
Because I thought I thought, you know, you know, sort of similar to story corps that the story collection retelling, if you really wanted to develop that.
Then using our opportunity at the Volunteer Stars award where we have those people that we, we pick specific people to come in and do a video or recording or whatever.
About their particular story to use in whatever.
Umm.
Information and community awareness.
That you know to promote that, that that might be a good time that we could have people telling their stories or.
But I you know, I I now I see that it's just an idea.
It's not something that we have to do or going to do, it's just something that is an idea, OK?

GL **Greg Lyles** 15:38
Alright.
And with that idea trace, I think recording that and using it on our social media platforms, I think would.
Be awesome.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 15:54
Yeah.

GL **Greg Lyles** 15:55
Alright.
Gold D.

Operating with excellence above internal operations, infrastructure support for Commission members and staff.

I think to continue to engage Commissioners in site visits, that's always great.

That's a great experience.

EW **Evon Wood** 16:38

I think it's important to have 100% Commissioner participation and giving.

I think that that speaks a lot when we're looking for money, whether that is government funds, corporate funds, partnerships, nonprofits. I think that's an important part is to show that every year we have 100% Commissioner participation in giving to volunteer friends of Volunteer Tennessee.

I don't care if it's \$5 or \$5000, just showing that yearly 100% support of it.

GL **Greg Lyles** 17:11

Alright.

All right, I agree.

Let's take you know the opportunity there.

To that, they give us to donate our reimburse mileage reimbursement back is an easy way to accomplish that.

Jim, is there a way to thank you.

May not want to donate their entire reimbursement that they can do a partial.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 17:39

Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 17:41

Yes there is.

GL **Greg Lyles** 17:41

Is that possible? OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 17:43

Yeah, we've, we've done that occasionally.

GL **Greg Lyles** 17:47

OK.

OK.

So.

BW **Betty White** 17:59

I don't know if you know the figures right off the top of your head, but it seemed to me that the last time we talked about this at a Commission meeting, the numbers were really low.

And I know we have struggled to try to do this forever, but is that true?

Are the numbers still really low?

JS **Jim Snell** 18:19

Yeah, hold on just a second.

I can.

I can give you.

I can give you actual.

Numbers.

And and.

So this is going to be primarily for 2024?

'Cause, we're only halfway through 2025, but let's see, we had one.

2.

We had 18 out of the roughly 35.

Mission members and that's both the appointed Commission members and the ex officio Commission members.

GL **Greg Lyles** 19:22

Wow.

JS **Jim Snell** 19:23

So about half.

Donated.

BW **Betty White** 19:28

Which I mean, I just feel that that's really low and I agree that we should try for 100%.

So I think maybe looking at some 50% is, I mean that's about 50% is.

GL **Greg Lyles** 19:41

Thank you.

BW **Betty White** 19:42

I think we should strive for ways to do that, and I think one of the ways we can do that again as we can ask Commission members who are giving to approach those who aren't and just explain the importance of that.

I think sometimes people just forget and don't do it.

I think I know we get a reminder every single.

Memo we get almost, Jim, thank you. But I'm not sure everyone understands the importance.

The importance of that, especially maybe some people who are new to.

A Commission like this?

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 20:22

So maybe we could ask friends to do a little card that has the reasons why we would want people to donate and the the variety of ways, you know, send a check, you know, go online.

You know, here's an envelope.

Put your, you know, put your cash in it, you know, and maybe we could ask friends to do that so that it's.

You know, and then as people rotate on and off the board, then then every time that we meet or whatever that that you know, there's a little card there and you know.

Kind of thing.

So that you know that they can either take with them or because you do forget and and Jim does a very good reminder about it.

BW **Betty White** 21:14

Mm-hmm.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 21:17

And I'm probably the 11 of the ones that haven't given in the last little bit but and need to but.

But.

Umm.

That maybe we could ask friends to do that so that it's there and I know that we can give directly to Bollinger, Tennessee.

But you know, and maybe also the card can say you can tag your donation, you can tag it for the stars. You can tag it for the conference.

You can tag it for just general support.

You know, whatever you want to tag it for.

EW **Evon Wood** 21:49

I like that idea a lot, and I really like. I like giving them all the different options cause a lot of times when you see that little notification from Jim and one of his emails, your mind immediately goes to, well, I don't really feel like thinking about writing.

A check or doing a credit card payment. That's where your mind initially goes to.

But putting all the different ways like donating your reimbursement.

Making sure that if you do do anything that you can say specifically where you want it to go.

I love breaking it down like that and having that be a constant reminder.

GL **Greg Lyles** 22:22

Yeah.

EW **Evon Wood** 22:24

Thank you for adding that, Tracy.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 22:27

And if you put an envelope with it with your name and just write your name on the envelope, you know if we're at a meeting.

Because sometimes I'll have cash in my pocket.

GL **Greg Lyles** 22:38

Alright.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 22:39

Right. And I'll just, oh, I can just hand you cash and.

You know, whoever you know, hand it to Jim.

But I've got an envelope already and I can put my name on it.

And and it can get recorded.

But if I just hand cash.

SH.

No. So.

GL **Greg Lyles** 23:02

So the idea then of a.

An envelope with that information on there.

Initially you said a card, but I like the fact that we could do that with an envelope, yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 23:10

Yeah, yeah.

Yeah.

GL **Greg Lyles** 23:14

Yeah. OK.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 23:14

So maybe we can.

Maybe we can do something like that?

Maybe friends would be willing to.

You know not to put more work onto Eileen at this moment, but.

GL **Greg Lyles** 23:24

Right. I think there's a guy on the friends committee that can get the printing done, probably very easily.

Anything else on?

D.

So our main emphasis there will be.

100% Commissioner, participation in giving.

Good time.

Unless anybody has another dish of that.

All right, so we go to a gym.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:09

Yeah, if if that's all for deed, then yeah, hop back up to a.

GL **Greg Lyles** 24:17

OK.

Go A is supporting a robust network of volunteers and service learners.
Especially specifically about the volunteers.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 24:28

I think.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:33

Oh yeah, so that that note.

Goal A is focused on the actual volunteers.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 24:40

OK. Gotcha.

Yeah. So I'm just trying to see if there's.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:41

Goal B is focused on.

The.

Organizations that support the volunteers.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 24:50

Let's go to other news here.

GL **Greg Lyles** 24:52

I'm sorry.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:53

And then goal C.

Sorry I don't remember the focus of goal C right off hand.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 24:56
Excuse me can.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:04
Oh, is is, is.

GL **Greg Lyles** 25:05
Is communication.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:06
Yeah. Go see is focused on awareness. And then Goldie is in focus internally on volunteer Tennessee itself.

GL **Greg Lyles** 25:09
Right.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:14
So there's kind of the the three that are external, but one is volunteers. One is organizations that support volunteers and then the awareness part and then D is is just focused internally on volunteer Tennessee.

GL **Greg Lyles** 25:15
S.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:31
So that's what that note on a means in terms of specifically.
We volunteers so the the that goal.
Again is.
How how do we get those different types of people to volunteer more or know about volunteer opportunities?
Et cetera.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 25:52
Betty has a hand.

GL **Greg Lyles** 25:55
OK.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 25:55
Yeah.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 25:57
Greg.

GL **Greg Lyles** 25:58
Yeah, go ahead.

BW **Betty White** 25:58
Yes. Well, I'm sorry I'm a little bit slow on the trigger here, but I was looking at D and do we not need to look at C on Goldie?
We kind of skipped right over the idea of bylaws, infrastructure and personnel supervision management.
Or did we include that?
It seems like.

GL **Greg Lyles** 26:25
And we didn't.

BW **Betty White** 26:26
And my impression was that this committee, actually the Board Development Committee, may be the one dealing directly with gold D as we had talked about this. I think it's some of our meetings.
So I just wanted to make sure we didn't overlook the idea of the bylaws, the infrastructure and personnel supervision and management.

GL **Greg Lyles** 26:50
All right.
We don't have a set time that we revise bylaws, do we, Jim or?
Is there anything written about how often we have to visit that?

JS Jim Snell 27:01

No, the.

No.

I'm pretty sure that there's not anything in the bylaws themselves that specify how often they're to be revised.

T Tracy Van de Vate 27:14

Yep, but are, but on our routine.

We we can.

We have a placeholder for it to be done every year and I can't remember if it's first quarter or second quarter. That is just sort of.

A.

You know, do we need to do this at this point?

The bylaws currently are in the state of flux.

You know we we.

So I mean they they are what they are at this particular moment, but there was some thought about changing some things and the board did not vote that way to make those changes in the bylaws at this well, whenever it was about a year ago or so, so.

But I shouldn't say we're in a state of flux.

We are where we are, so we're we made.

We made a decision.

At that time, but for our committee, I think it's on the routine somewhere. First quarter, second quarter to look at it, you know.

GL Greg Lyles 28:27

What's still lacking as far as finalizing those?

I'm I'm not sure.

Like I say, I've been out of place and.

T Tracy Van de Vate 28:34

Well, I don't think there's anything lacking to finalize it. Just if there are, there might be some vocabulary or things like that.

I.

I and I I think the agreement, this agreement with finance and administration.

JS Jim Snell 28:50

Yeah, and.

T Tracy Van de Vate 29:01

I I hope that clarifies that piece and that we don't really have to do anything with any major thing with the bylaws.

There might be some, some little things that we need to do.

That's why they need to possibly be reviewed at some point again to see if there's any kind of things that we need to update.

GL Greg Lyles 29:22

But we're good on the last revision.

I know that we've looked at, right?

Is my question where I wait on that last?

Review of the bylaws.

JS Jim Snell 29:35

Yeah. Well, the, the, the Commission decided not to vote on that version.

Because of the uncertainty about what was gonna happen with the Memorandum of agreement.

That's the that the Commissioner of Finance administration suggested.

GL Greg Lyles 29:49

OK.

JS Jim Snell 29:54

So the, the, the Commission just didn't wanna vote on it and that was.

EW Evon Wood 30:00

And Jim didn't didn't finance administration said there just was no, no desire to dig into that memorandum at this time.

Am I confusing that?

JS Jim Snell 30:11

Yeah, well, so they they said that that there was no desire from the administration to revisit the executive order.

GL **Greg Lyles** 30:20
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 30:21
And so there's there's, sorry, it's a bit confusing because there's the executive order, there's the by laws, and then there's a memorandum of of agreement. And so there's a bunch of things out there.

EW **Evon Wood** 30:26
Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 30:32
And the the.
The originally the Commission was working on trying to get the executive order revised in this committee.

EW **Evon Wood** 30:42
Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 30:43
Actually, sorry, there was a there was an ad hoc committee that focused on revising the executive order.
And did a lot of work, and then we were informed that the that the governor's office didn't really want to consider it.
And this committee had also in parallel, been working on revising the bylaws.
And again at the, I believe it was at the meeting that was part of the conference, the committee just decided that were the Commission decided that it didn't want to vote.

BW **Betty White** 31:18
Mm-hmm.
It was.

JS **Jim Snell** 31:22

On the bylaws until the Memorandum of agreement was worked out.

BW **Betty White** 31:28

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 31:29

And so that's where we stand the the executive order revisions have not been.
Have not been submitted to the governor's office.

The bylaw, the revised bylaws have not been approved by the Commission.

And the Memorandum of agreement will be put to the full Commission at the
August 8th meeting to consider.

But in terms of like discussion points for this.

This.

Potential outcome. One of the things that might come from this state plan.

Is a discussion about revising the committee structure of Volunteer Tennessee.

And if that happens, that would need to be reflected in the bylaws, regardless of all
the other edits that were made that weren't adopted. If the committee want, if the
Commission wants to change how many committees it has, then that that would
need to be done through a.

Bylaws revision.

And it could be that that would be the you.

Maybe that's the only thing that's done through that bylaws revision.

And we kinda continue to hold on all those other questions for a later date.

BW **Betty White** 32:38

It's not that we needed to try to revise the bylaws right now.

And I was at that Commission meeting, whatever, but that we're looking at a state
plan for the next three years. And so there should be a mention of the the bylaws are
reviewed in there that we need to make sure that is a part of the state plan.

GL **Greg Lyles** 32:56

Right, right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 32:57

That is part of the routine part of the state plan that we've had in the past.

BW **Betty White** 33:00

Right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 33:01

So yeah, it's it's in there.

BW **Betty White** 33:02

Right. Well, I'm new to this committee, so I'm just trying to make sure that I'm aware of what we're doing or what we're supposed to do.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:05

OK.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 33:06

Yeah. Yeah, it's in. It's in there.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:09

OK, OK.

OK.

Financial well, I mean, we haven't discussed the financial portion of this which is mentioned.

Clean.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 33:29

Move to a.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:30

I would pretty much.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 33:31

Move to.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:32

I don't have a whole lot of control, dude.

JS **Jim Snell** 33:32

No, I think he's still on D Neelam yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 33:33

A.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:35

We're still on the.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 33:35

D OK, OK.

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:38

We don't have a whole lot of control over the financial end, am I correct?

JS **Jim Snell** 33:49

Well, that depends on what?

GL **Greg Lyles** 33:49

Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 33:50

What you all want to do as part of part of your state plan?

So the one the one example that's in there is site visits because it's financial in program oversight and certainly the Commission does, the Commission members do site visits.

GL **Greg Lyles** 34:04

Alright.

JS **Jim Snell** 34:08

To programs.

So.

If the if you want to if this committee wants to recommend that the Commission be more involved in kind of the financial oversight, one of the things that I do right now is I share the usually at least twice a year and sometimes more often than that I.

Share A budget versus actual report with the Treasurer and the Grants Committee.

At at the you know twice a year at the two of the quarterly Commission meetings.

Just as an example.

But there there could be other ways that the Commission could be involved in that if you wanted to.

I I don't really have any solid suggestions about that.

GL **Greg Lyles** 35:02

3.

BW **Betty White** 35:05

It seems to me and maybe I'm wrong, maybe my memory doesn't serve me well, but it seems to me that.

With the site visits we report back, which is good, and I think that.

The Grants Committee does look at our, you know, if we saw someone wasn't doing anything or whatever, I do believe that.

That input would be.

Maybe I'm wrong?

Would be used in looking at.

The way our monies are allocated, but I do think the site visits are just kind of a way of ensuring that we check on.

GL **Greg Lyles** 35:41

All right.

BW **Betty White** 35:42

The different organizations and how that works.

GL **Greg Lyles** 35:45

Right, yes.

BW **Betty White** 35:46

Is that accurate?

Because reporting back is a part of what we as Commission members do, and I think that's been really valuable to all of us.

GL **Greg Lyles** 35:57

Right.

First one.

And we usually give.

All of you, those visits that are one of our Commission meetings, is that correct, Jim?

Yeah.

BW **Betty White** 36:12

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 36:14

Right. Yeah. And and this year, because we, you know, we had a bunch of grants that were terminated by the federal agency.

GL **Greg Lyles** 36:15

Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 36:22

A lot of those visits didn't get to happen, but for the ones that did, we'll have some report outs at the August 8th meeting.

GL **Greg Lyles** 36:29

OK.

OK.

All right.

OK.

Anything else on that one before we move?

Back.

A.

OK.

All right, a.

Doctor talks about volunteers, as Jim indicated.

Do we still have the program where they can report volunteer hours?

OK.

Jim, we still have that program correct.

JS **Jim Snell** 37:24

We do, yeah.

GL **Greg Lyles** 37:25

Where agencies.

JS **Jim Snell** 37:27

Right. Tennessee serves.

Yeah, we do have.

GL **Greg Lyles** 37:29

Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 37:30

We we do still have that.

GL **Greg Lyles** 37:32

OK.

How useful is it?

JS **Jim Snell** 37:40

I in terms of the report or the the system itself.

GL **Greg Lyles** 37:46

The report that we would get through that system.

JS **Jim Snell** 37:50

That's good.

I mean, we can.

We can through that system we can.

We can quantify the number of volunteers that have signed up through the Tennessee Service portal.

We can quantify their hours and we can quantify the number of agencies that those volunteers have served.

So we we can get some pretty good data and now it's it's not capturing every single volunteer in in Tennessee, it's only.

It's only those volunteers that are volunteering through.

Opportunities that have been posted on the on the system.

GL **Greg Lyles** 38:29

Oh, OK.

See.

BW **Betty White** 38:34

And are we able to get the age of? Do we know if their youth or adults?

JS **Jim Snell** 38:41

Age is one of the.

One of the things that the volunteers when they set up their profile, they set up their age because if they're, if they're under, if they're under 18, I believe they, they have to maybe get parents permission.

BW **Betty White** 38:55

Hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 39:00

I.

I can't remember for sure, but yeah, there there is a a demographic thing where they tell us what their age is.

BW **Betty White** 39:01

Right.

That's.

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 39:11

We haven't ever broken that down before, but in theory we should be able to.

EW **Evon Wood** 39:19

So I like the. I like Tennessee's volunteerism rate will increase by and I know you said right now we're not going to talk about numbers, but whatever that percentage we decide by 2028 and we can pull that from that system, right, Jim, meaning if we.

GL **Greg Lyles** 39:20

That data.

EW **Evon Wood** 39:37

Whatever we wanted to look at, we wanted to look at in 2024, we had 10,000 hours. In 2025, we had 15,000 hours or whatever.

Metric.

We use. What do you think?

Am I? Is my thinking right on that that if we wanted to say the volunteerism rate will increase by X percentage by 2028, we can pull that from the system in whatever category we need to pull it from to get that.

JS **Jim Snell** 40:02

Mm-hmm.

Yeah, we we certainly can.

Yeah. And I think you're right.

It doesn't make sense to get too bogged down in in the exact number right now, but there's also there's a national report.

GL **Greg Lyles** 40:13

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 40:18

That's done every other year by the American agency that looks at all States and their

volunteer rates.

You know, so that's another possibility in terms of what metric you want to use to look at whether or not it's increased?

But again, that that the Commission can kind of talk about.

That the the the outcome is that that it it increases how what metric you use to measure that is is then a discussion point. I think that we can address later.

GL **Greg Lyles** 40:53

And I think also the other statement, all 95 counties will participate in GBSA by 2028.

That's one we've worked on for a long time and continue to work on.

So I think that still needs to be a part of we have not reached that goal yet.

We're close, but we still have a little ways to go.

I can't remember how. How many?

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 41:14

Umm.

GL **Greg Lyles** 41:18

Counties participate this past time.

Does anybody remember?

JS **Jim Snell** 41:25

I think it was 83 maybe.

GL **Greg Lyles** 41:29

Oh, really? OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 41:30

I think so.

GL **Greg Lyles** 41:34

I'm sorry, Tracy.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 41:36

Well, no. I was a couple things. I was going to say that you know, 83 out of 95 is

really awesome when you look around across the country and you see that other people that have or other states that have awards events and not all of.

GL **Greg Lyles** 41:43

Right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 41:51

Them do.

They might recognize two people out of the state, 12 people out of the state, 10 people out of the state in specific categories, you know.

So.

Some don't recognize you.

Some do recognize you some that they might recognize one youth in the state in that particular category.

I didn't see when I look through and I I hit almost all 50 states I and this is several years ago. So everybody can change.

I didn't see anybody doing it the way we were doing it.

GL **Greg Lyles** 42:25

Wow.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 42:26

So I I think 83 out of 95 is pretty awesome, you know.

GL **Greg Lyles** 42:33

Right, yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 42:35

And you know, way to go, staff, because that's that's a huge staff kind of commitment there to to get that.

GL **Greg Lyles** 42:42

Right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 42:43

So. So that's one thing I wanted to point out about that.

The second thing I wanted to ask is.

You know at the conference and the Stars awards.

Is there any way that we can begin capturing those volunteers?

That are there asking them to sign up on the Tennessee serves to capture their hours their continuing hours.

GL **Greg Lyles** 43:12

Wow.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 43:14

Because you know, I mean, they're doing all this volunteer work, but we're not capturing it in any kind of way.

GL **Greg Lyles** 43:21

Alright.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 43:22

Well, I mean, some may be putting in their hours in in that particular.

GL **Greg Lyles** 43:26

OK.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 43:27

Is there any way that we can try to capture that? Because that's that's what we need to capture.

Sure. You know we're we're, you know, if they will continue those that continue volunteering and they'll continue, they'll put in their, if they'll remember to put in their hours and that's that's kind of hard to do we you know we have a library program here that you read.

Books and you know, it's Reed City USA and always forget to put read a book and I forget to put it in.

You know, I mean, I can go back and put it in later, but.

GL **Greg Lyles** 43:55

Right, right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 43:59

The more people that we have trying to remember to putting in their volunteer hours.

And then I guess another thing is that all Commissioners, since we're the board, need to be registered in Tennessee serves.

GL **Greg Lyles** 44:12

Right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 44:13

We need to be recording our hours in Tennessee serves.

GL **Greg Lyles** 44:19

I agree.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 44:19

Umm.

I mean, if that's if that's a measurement, if that's a place where we're gonna use the measurement to Jim's point of that report.

That's put out there.

Is that the report that we never can really kind of tell?

You know how to make a movement in that report and where?

What Nevada is always first or second.

JS **Jim Snell** 44:50

Yeah, it's, it's Utah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 44:52

Utah, I'm sorry, Utah.

JS **Jim Snell** 44:54

Yeah.

Right, right. Right. Because they they have, you know, the the Mormon church has a has a very, very strong service drive. And so that. Yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 44:55

So.

Compulsory volunteerism.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Yeah. So.

I.

I don't know if that's a good marker for us. I mean it.

I know that's what media will link onto because it's a national report and I understand that. But several of us have tried to figure out how to make that needle move percentage wise.

And.

And haven't been able to figure out how to make that needle move.

What do we need to do to make that needle move?

GL **Greg Lyles** 45:35

Thank.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 45:39

I guess theoretically, the more volunteers you engage that will automatically move that needle.

But I'm not sure.

GL **Greg Lyles** 45:45

Alright.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 45:47

If you know I'm just not sure how to, you know. So something that you have no way of knowing how to change.

You know the input or the output, or? I think it's really difficult to.

To use that as.

A.

A measurement of how well you do.
You know.

GL **Greg Lyles** 46:13

And I'm I'm gonna have to drop off bed.
Can you take over?

But one thing I was with going with Tracy's idea that we could have AQR code on the table on the. Well, we didn't have printed programs, but maybe a QR code on the tables where folks could go in and sign up for the Tennessee serve.

BW **Betty White** 46:32

Great idea, yeah.

GL **Greg Lyles** 46:33

App, yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 46:35

And and I think everybody that does a presentation, I think there needs to be an explanation of, hey, we want you to explain to everybody that if you do volunteer work, we'd like for you to sign up and record your hours in here.

GL **Greg Lyles** 46:37

OK.
Yeah.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 46:48

We need to have that data and most of those people are gonna be, oh, yes, we understand that you need to have that data.

GL **Greg Lyles** 46:49

OK.
April.

BW **Betty White** 46:56

Well, I think the same thing applies to the AOE to the schools and the volunteer hours they have, because I think a lot of them also aren't signed up.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 47:04
OK.

BW **Betty White** 47:07
So I think I think the QR code is a great idea. It makes it simple. People love doing that.
People love to record their hours, so I mean, I think that's a great suggestion of a way to try to increase that number. Realistically, we we have the numbers, we just don't know how to record them.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 47:24
Hi.
Because technically those of us that are that are on the board, not staff, this is a volunteer hour that we have just spent and that needs to be recorded.

BW **Betty White** 47:35
Right.

T **Tracy Van de Vate** 47:39
Do you agree, Jim?
I mean.

JS **Jim Snell** 47:42
Yeah, I think it's a great idea.
Yeah, you know, and I'm embarrassed we haven't thought about it before.
We should. I think you're right.
You you all are all volunteering to be on this Commission because you don't get paid to do it.
I mean we reimburse you for travel, but that that's that's not the same as getting paid to to do the the work of the Commission, yeah.

BW **Betty White** 48:03

Well, that's another thing to spread to the rest of the Commission members.
And most, I would say all of us.
But most of us, as Tracy was mentioned, we do other volunteer stuff too.
I mean, we are on the Commission because we are actively engaged in volunteerism
and not just like with our jobs or for pay.

T Tracy Van de Vate 48:34

So I I think that's something the Board Development Committee can work on as far
as getting board members, you know, here's the QR code.
It's easy to sign up, you know, record your hours, record your board. When you come
to a board meeting, record that hour.
Don't forget to record that hour in Tennessee serves or you know, over how many
hours that we need or whatever.
You know, don't we forget to record that day?
So.
I mean that automatically picks up hundreds of hours over a course of a year if all of
us record our hours.

BW Betty White 49:12

Yes, I'm wondering if there is a way or we are we jumping putting the cart before the
horse if we have a QR code available for our next Commission meeting and just ask
the Commission Commissioners to do that.
Can we get started on that or do we need to wait?

JS Jim Snell 49:31

I we should be able to get started on that.
We'll have to.
The the.
The volunteer has to be volunteering through a service opportunity that's posted by.
An organization that's registered.
So I mean we we would just need to create.
A volunteer opportunity through volunteer Tennessee and then Commission
members can sign up for that.
I mean, they would need to create their own profile first.
But that's I think that's what the QR code could be to.

To go to that volunteer opportunity and when you go to it, if you don't have a profile then it'll guide you through the process of creating a profile.

BW **Betty White** 50:21

But then that would be true also for all of the other volunteers we're talking about at the VSA, or the AOE or whatever. Is that those?

Organizations have to have created a volunteer opportunity.

On Tennessee serves first for them.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:40

Correct, correct.

BW **Betty White** 50:42

To be able to sign up. So we've got to kind of figure out how to reach those people.

It's not as simple as signing on to Tennessee serves.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:51

Well, the the volunteers can create their own profile on Tennessee serves.

And sign up for other opportunities. But yes, if if if we want to and I was thinking about this when you were discussing I I didn't want to interrupt the flow of discussion but we could in the same way that we're talking about using the governor's Vol.

Stars awards to recruit those volunteers, we can also use the DBSA to recruit the agencies where those volunteers are volunteering.

BW **Betty White** 51:20

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 51:20

To sign up for the Tennessee service if they're not already on it.

I mean some of them, some of those those organizations might already be on there, but we could use it to recruit both the the the agencies and the volunteers to sign up for the the Tennessee serve system.

BW **Betty White** 51:38

But I think that also then goes back to raising awareness that we talked about in Goal C.

JS **Jim Snell** 51:46

Yeah, no, I think.

Yeah, I think you're right.

That's a it is a good.

But yeah, I I'll I'll make a note and see if we can figure out how to get a QR code for the upcoming meeting for folks to, I mean, yeah, I think you're right. There's no reason to to wait on this.

It's a good idea.

So we we no need to wait until January of 2026 to start this so.

We'll see if we can figure it out.

BW **Betty White** 52:35

I think we've had a good discussion on that one. We have a lot.

That we have mentioned.

Our time is about up.

We just have a few minutes left.

Do we?

Want to look at Goal B quickly, or do we want to?

EW **Evon Wood** 52:57

Yes, let's look at it because that's the last one.

Right, Jim?

BW **Betty White** 53:00

Right, right.

And we've kind of overlap with that a little bit, the building capacity for volunteer success.

About organizations, partners that place volunteers and so that does also tie in with Tennessee serves.

JS **Jim Snell** 53:31

Yeah. And and again this this. So the goal A was focused on the volunteers. This goal

is focused on the agencies that utilize those volunteers. And so just in general where where does the Commission want us to be in, in regards to the support that we provide those.

BW Betty White 53:37

Right.

Right.

JS Jim Snell 53:49

Organizations.

In three years.

EW Evon Wood 53:58

Yeah.

So it looks like the increased nonprofit government business and educational institution capacity for engaging volunteers.

Effectively, that's what we're talking about. The other organizations correct, Jim.

BW Betty White 54:30

Mm-hmm.

JS Jim Snell 54:31

Right, right. Yeah.

Improving the ability of other organizations outside of Volunteer Tennessee to utilize volunteers is kind of the the goal of this one.

BW Betty White 54:44

Well, and it mentions the attendance at the conference, but it does also mention what we were just talking about. Nonprofit participation in Tennessee serves as well.

EW Evon Wood 54:56

And getting them connected into Tennessee surf if they're not already, does that correct?

BW Betty White 55:01

Right.

Right.

JS **Jim Snell** 55:05

Yeah.

BW **Betty White** 55:26

So I think again it is awareness to agencies.

Across the state.

And helping them.

I don't know how to word that, but helping them to connect with and to utilize the Tennessee service portal.

Because I know for example, last year when when the well opened up their new warehouse in Mount Pleasant and Mount Pleasant. As you all know, is a very rural area and John Sage contacted me and said, hey, we really need volunteers in Mount Pleasant for this new W.

What can I do?

And I said, OK, do you have?

Are you on Tennessee serves? And he said no. What is that?

And I mean, we've done.

We've worked with the well for the past two years at the conference and they've been, you know, our service project and somehow that had escaped him and us. And so when I told him he went on, he contacted me the next day and said I had 10 Vol. The first week.

And so how we?

NG **Neelam Gupta** 56:37

S.

BW **Betty White** 56:39

Make organizations aware of that opportunity.

JS **Jim Snell** 56:46

And that's sorry that that's a great story and that's something we should probably

capture for that goal. C, which is the awareness in terms of, you know, the great stories that we prepare to to publicize that.

BW **Betty White** 56:58
Hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 56:59
So Betty, if you'll just make a mental note to pass that along at some point, we'll, we'll.

BW **Betty White** 57:03
OK, OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 57:05
I think that's a great story.

EW **Evon Wood** 57:26
So Betty, Jen, did we hit?

BW **Betty White** 57:26
Anything else in?

EW **Evon Wood** 57:28
Did we hit everything?

JS **Jim Snell** 57:31
Yeah, I think so, yeah.
And yeah you did.
You guys did great.
Not every committee has gotten through all four.
So you did great.
I think it that's why we started out with, you know, in the middle rather than beginning because.
If we had it started with a then you wouldn't have had a whole lot of time to discuss D, which is, as Betty pointed out, one of the really important ones for this committee.



Betty White 57:59

Anything else for the common good before we close?



Jim Snell 58:07

Just thanks everyone for such great conversation on this.



Neelam Gupta 58:08

Thank you.



Jim Snell 58:11

Really appreciate it.



Evon Wood 58:11

Thank you everyone.



Neelam Gupta 58:13

Thank you so much.



Betty White 58:13

Thank you.

Very helpful.

We'll see you soon.



Jim Snell 58:15

Thanks everybody.

Bye bye.



Neelam Gupta 58:17

Bye bye.



Tracy Van de Vate 58:17

Aye, thank you.

NG **Neelam Gupta** 58:20
Alright.

● **Neelam Gupta** stopped transcription