

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an  
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton  
Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Americorps

**Series/Staff Member:** General Files

**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 24234

**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**

Replacing Members

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**66**

**Section:**

**1**

**Shelf:**

**2**

**Position:**

**2**

**LA JICARITA ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY**  
**P.O. BOX 546**  
**PENASCO, NEW MEXICO 87553**

September 19, 1996

Mr. Joel Berg  
Ag. Box 1320  
Administration Bldg. Room 536-A  
14th and Independence  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1320

Dear Mr. Berg,

This correspondence is to request permission for an extension of our AmeriCorp member, term of service contract.

The AmeriCorp program had a set back from the very onset of this years project. As you may recall we had sought permission to hire a new member, when the original member had a serious hunting accident the week he was to begin work. At that juncture, La Jicarita Enterprise Community requested permission to hire another student.

The hiring of Mrs. Verna Gurule took place in January thus putting our program dates approximately three months behind schedule. The scope of her work entailed meeting with the community at large and organizing the domestic water associations from within the Enterprise Community. We felt that through weekend meetings and classes we could reach the total hours needed to successfully complete the program year. Unfortunately this did not pan out for us and we now are faced with the reality of not having enough time to comply with the regulations of the program. This by no means is the fault of the member and La Jicarita Enterprise Community takes full responsibility.

The commitment by Mrs. Gurule to complete her total hours and to finalize her projects is evident, as is the commitment by LJEC to support Mrs. Gurule in seeking a solution to this dilemma. LJEC supports the locally based approach to problem solving and one such solution we can offer, is to monetarily compensate Mrs. Gurule for completing her total service hours. LJEC will compensate Mrs. Gurule, at the current rate of pay and ensure total accountability for her activities. This would ensure that she has met all required hours, thus making her eligible for her student stipend.

If this approach is acceptable, we would appreciate your permission to follow through with this plan. If you have any other suggestions please feel free to advise. Thank you for your understanding and guidance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Martinez, Network Manager/Director



UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

3-1-96

TO: Bernie L. Wright, SC RECD State Director

THRU: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA &  
John Pentecost, Chief, Special Authorities Branch,  
MFD, RHS

FROM: Jim Coyle, RECD/AmeriCorps National Coordinator *Jim Coyle*

SUBJECT: Replacement of Resigned RECD/AmeriCorps Members in SC

This is to respond to your memo dated 2-28-96 to Joel Berg requesting permission to fill vacant RECD/AmeriCorps positions in SC.

You are authorized to retain the Member already in place (Maria Legette) in Marion and to fill the vacancy in Orangeburg. Because of cost constraints on the program this fiscal year as we explained at the outset of this FY and more recently, we cannot permit you to fill the other two (2) vacancies in St. Helena Island and Walterboro.

Many thanks for submitting the 1st Quarterly Report of FY96 and other material requested on or before their due dates. We appreciate your cooperation in these matters.

The Director of National Service has expressed concern at AmeriCorps Members leaving in the middle of their term of service. He feels that this deprives both the departing Member and the incoming Member of the full benefits of the forfeited and reduced academic awards respectively, and the communities of the benefits of AmeriCorps. In the future when interviewing prospective Members, please make sure that the interviewee has an unprompted understanding that AmeriCorps is neither a job-training program nor a short-term opportunity until better employment can be found. Look for an expressed commitment to service to community and country that would make it likely that as a Member they would complete a full term, and in so doing "Get Things Done" for their community and for themselves.

Many thanks again for your continuing help and cooperation. If you have any questions on this or any other aspect of the RECD/AmeriCorps program, please call me at either (703) 305-2606 or - 2218.

cc: Gregg White



UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

2-16-96

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

\*\*\* URGENT - REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION - URGENT \*\*\*

TO: Bernie L. Wright, State Director  
Rural Economic & Community Development, USDA

THRU: Joel Berg, Director  
Office of National Service, USDA

FROM: Jim Coyle, RECD/AmeriCorps National Coordinator *Jim Coyle*

SUBJECT: RECD/AmeriCorps - Hiring Replacements

It has come to my attention during a telephone conversation with Caroline Smith of the SC State Office on the morning of 2-16-96 that the State of SC has either hired or is attempting to hire replacements for 3 RECD/AmeriCorps Members that resigned.

The State of SC has neither sought nor received official or informal approval for these actions. It was very clearly communicated to all the RECD State Contacts for AmeriCorps, including the State Contact for AmeriCorps, Greg White, that in FY96 there was to be no refilling of AmeriCorps positions for departed Members without prior National Office approval. This policy is standard for all RECD/AmeriCorps States and has not changed.

The only person who could approve such an exception is the Director of National Service, Joel Berg, and no official or informal request for such an exception was made to him or me.

Please contact your Administrative staff IMMEDIATELY and direct them to ~~cease~~ any actions they are currently undertaking to bring on new AmeriCorps Members. Also, please have someone from your Administrative staff call me today to acknowledge that this has been received, understood, and is being complied with.

Replacement Member Already Hired

I understand that a replacement Member has already reported for duty. Please forward all pertinent information to me as soon as possible on this hire so that we may review this decision.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please call either myself at (703) 305-2606, -2218 or Joel Berg at (202) 720-5746.

cc: Maureen Kennedy John Pentecost  
David Gibson Greg White