

Penn State Council of LionHearts

<http://sites.psu.edu/lionhearts/>

Notes gathered from website:

- Established in 2004 (13 years)
- Clear Learning Outcomes (est. 2011)
 1. *To advance service throughout Penn State*
 - Demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills when faced with service-related issues or concerns.
 - Distinguish and evaluate best practices and areas for improvement in community service leadership.
 - Analyze community needs and develop opportunities for other students to meet those needs through service projects.
 - Assess, and advocate for, the needs of service groups on campus.
 - Employ effective communication with students, faculty, staff, and community members.
 2. *To add value to each Council member's education by personally fostering a lifetime commitment to service through service leadership and reflection*
 - Describe the meanings and inter-relationship of philanthropy, volunteering, community service, civic engagement, service learning, service leadership, and the importance of reflection.
 - Practice ethical decision-making in volunteering and service leadership.
 - Examine their growth and learning as service leaders through reflection.
 - Develop a lifelong commitment to service leadership.
- Comprised of 2-3 INVITED members (president and primary service leader) from 10 active service organizations on campus & emeritus members
 - **Alpha Phi Omega:** A co-ed service fraternity whose mission is “to prepare campus and community leaders through service”
 - **Circle K:** An international club sponsored by Kiwanis “that promotes that promotes fellowship, leadership, and service
 - **Habitat for Humanity:** A chapter of a national organization whose mission includes “To build simple, decent affordable housing for low income families.. and to educate the PSU community about the importance of eliminating substandard housing”
 - **On My Honor:** Under the Campus Girl Scouts, the group “Encourages and promotes the values and ideals of Girl Scouting while serving the college campus and surrounding community, and provides opportunities for individual growth and leadership for its members. “
 - **Rotaract Club:** An international club sponsored by Rotary that “fosters leadership and responsible citizenship, encourages high ethical standards in business and promotes international understanding.”
 - **Student Red Cross Club:** “Coordinates student activities relating to programs fostered by the American Red Cross. ”
 - **Student United Way:** Part of a national organization, PSU's chapter “serves the local community by: educating our members, other student organizations, and the Penn State student body about Centre County United Way and its benefiting agencies. We are students committed to leadership through service and teamwork. ”
 - **Gamma Sigma Sigma:** A service sorority whose mission is to "promote a lifelong commitment to service and diversity, in an environment of unity and equality, while creating opportunities for growth."

- **Music Service Club:** Music Service Club is a student organization at Penn State that aims to bring the joy and healing powers of music to the State College community. Students of all backgrounds visit locations in State College and perform pieces, bringing music into the lives of those who can benefit from it.
- **Bridges to Prosperity:** Bridges to Prosperity seeks to build footbridges over impassable rivers in impoverished rural areas across the globe. Through the construction of bridges, residents of these communities are provided with better access to healthcare, education, and economic market opportunities.
- Meet weekly on Fridays, 4:15-5:15pm
 - Maintain effective leadership network for Penn State's community service organizations
 - Share best practices about leadership, service project planning, member recruitment, fundraising, officer transition, and available resources
 - Build collaborations to create and sponsor service projects
 - State Day of Service: annual large service day in February
 - Friday Night Lights Out: program where volunteers turn off classroom lights and projectors each Friday night to conserve energy
 - Create a Penn State Volunteer Calendar
- No formal leadership structure
 - One Facilitator of Discussions/Council President student elected per semester
 - Advice and support by Student Affairs grad assistant, staff from student activities, and student affairs administrator
- Key phrases
 - Collaboration with students and community partners
 - Creation of a culture of service on campus
 - Better educate students in service learning
 - Commitment to reflection
- Maintain a blog
 - Only a few blog posts over the years by (what is assumed to be) members of the council

Questions - Phone Meeting with President, John Dick

- *Is this Council specifically comprised of and targeting Penn State Main Campus?*
 - Yes
- *How did you get buy in for students to join this Council voluntarily and commit time to it? Were there incentives or rewards?*
 - Started by admin of Penn State, who was already advisor for 1-2 orgs on campus
 - Directly benefits individual orgs, individual leaders, and increase service on campus
 - Share resources, info, learn from each others' troubles
- *What do your meetings look like?*
 - First 15 minutes: Org Updates
 - Service events they're planning
 - Hardships/Conflicts
 - Accomplishments
 - This is where the President can see what would be beneficial to do during meetings

- Last 45 minutes: Trainings / Suggestions / Ideas
- *Is this Council the primary engine of community service on campus? Do you have any type of campus center for civic engagement?*
 - Do have campus days of service - organized by Student Affairs community engagement
- *Is the Council or its activities related at all to the Civic & Community Engagement Minor (CIVCM)?*
 - What is your connection to service learning (as stated in your mission)? No real connection
 - Service Learning Component Contact: Matt Barone, Asst. Director of Service Leadership, mtb22@psu.edu
- *How does the Council itself relate to direct service? Do you funnel interested students into one of the 10 service-based organizations? Are there any service opportunities specific to just the Council, and not to a component organization?*
 - Service predominantly occurs through individual organizations on the Council, which is significant because Council is comprised of the largest service orgs on campus
 - Some other campus orgs have service components, but it is not their main function. Therefore, they have not historically been a part of Council for this reason.
 - volunteer.psu.edu: website where service orgs post public volunteer events/calendar
 - To volunteer, students must contact the President of Council, who can refer them to an organization, or they can contact the orgs directly
- *Has this structure been effective for you? Have you seen an increase in depth or breadth of Penn State student involvement in service?*
 - YES - well supported.
 - Starting to branch out and increase visibility on campus - creating own engagement fair for just service orgs
 - Goal: to increase the number of students participating in service and to encourage more orgs to join the Council
- *Is there any emphasis on social justice or issue awareness?*
 - Yes, but it is not necessarily the focus.
 - The meetings are more based on troubleshooting and providing resources.
- *Where do you get your resources and training?*
 - Student Activities gives trainings/activities
 - Some are also found online
 - Sam connected John to Bonner Training and Enrichment curriculum
- *How do you think the Council of LionHearts will evolve over time?*
 - Maybe instilling Chair positions to deal with specific functions/events
 - Social Media
 - Transportation
 - Home Learners Initiative (Habitat for Humanity & Bridges to Prosperity)
- *What advice or tips do you suggest to campuses looking to creating a Council?*
 - Key thing in creating a service council: you need you provide reasons for why the participants and their orgs are going to benefit from this.
 - The hardest thing is finding a meeting time. Fridays aren't ideal, but they work for us.
 - Council provides little snacks as incentive.
 - Mission/Purpose Statements are essential to guiding the Council.