



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2022  
The Madison Hotel  
Constitution Room  
8:30 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

- Call to Order and Welcome – Aisha Benson, Non-Profit Finance, *NMTC Coalition President*
- Approval of Minutes from the 2021 Membership Meeting
- Nominating Committee Report
  - Nominees for Member Elected Directors Presented
  - Approval of Nominating Committee Report
- Year End Activity Report – Bob Rapoza, *Rapoza Associates*
- Other business
- Final Words – Aisha Benson, *NMTC Coalition President*
- Adjourn



# **Nominating Committee Report**

## **Member-Elected Directors**

## **Lenwood Long**

Lenwood Long is the President, CEO, and Co-Founder of the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs. He is co-founder and visionary rebrander and the former president/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund, a CDFI and statewide nonprofit organization known for programs related to African-American small businesses, women entrepreneurship, veterans, and the Latino/Hispanic community. His work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities within North Carolina has been mentioned as a national model. Lenwood has more than 30 years of experience in community economic development, human resources, and business management. He has held leadership positions in a variety of organizations, including statewide economic and community development agencies, national consulting firms, and nonprofit organizations. Lenwood also served as the Chief of Staff for former congresswoman Eva M. Clayton. He is a Senior Pastor Emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church and a retired Army Viet-Nam Combat Veteran.



**Wendy Gessner**

Wendy Gessner is the Executive Director of Commonwealth Cornerstone Group (CCG). CCG is a Pennsylvania based CDE affiliated with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) and has received 8 NMTC allocations totaling \$406M. CCG's activities focus on stimulating economic opportunity for PA's low-income residents through the creation of jobs, the enhancement of wealth-creating opportunities, and the provision of healthcare services within low-income communities.

After joining PHFA housing management division in 2013, Ms. Gessner's role shortly transitioned to NMTC asset and compliance management for CCG which she held for 6 years before becoming the Executive Director in 2020. Ms. Gessner has over twenty years of accounting, audit and budgeting, project underwriting and administrative experience and has dedicated her career to supporting disadvantaged businesses and communities in both the Governmental and Not for Profit sectors.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Minutes of the NMTC Coalition**

**Meeting of December 15, 2021**

**5:30 pm – 5:51 pm, ET**

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### ***- Meeting Conducted via Zoom -***

#### **Call to Order**

President, Yvette Ittu called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm ET.

#### **Agenda Approval**

*Aisha Benson makes a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. Dave Gibson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with a vote by show of hands.*

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 9, 2020**

*Motion by Aisha Benson to approve the minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 9, 2020.*

*Jennifer Donahue seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

#### **Report of the NMTC Nominating Committee**

Dave Gibson presents the report of the Nominating Committee:

- Dave discussed that per the Coalition's bylaws, the nominating committee consisting of Aisha Benson (TruFund), Dave Gibson (PNC), Merrill Hoopengardner (NTCIC), Chimeka Gladney (Enterprise Community Partners), and Laura Vowell (US Bank) came to a consensus on their recommendations for nominating the 2022 board of directors, officers, and executive committee, with their recommendations accepted and voted upon the nominated slate by electronic vote in the affirmative on November 18, 2021.
- Other business the nominating committee completed was the nomination for consideration at this meeting of the member-elected director positions. The two individuals for Member-Elected Directors by the nominating committee is "confident and excited" to recommend for approval by the NMTC Coalition membership include:
  - Lenwood Long, CEO of the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs
  - Chris Miller, Three Roots Capital

*Yvette Ittu makes a motion to accept the report of the Nominating Committee and approve Lenwood Long and Chris Miller as Member-Elected Directors. Dave Gibson seconds the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.*

Yvette Ittu welcomes the two new member-elected directors.



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### **Year-End Activity Report**

Bob Rapoza presents a year-end legislative report to the general membership, detailing the state of pending Congressional legislation that has the potential to affect the New Markets Tax Credit, including the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260), the New Markets Extension Act (H.R.1321/S.456), and the House Build Back Better Act (H.R.5376).

Bob presents a list of Senators to target for outreach by NMTC Coalition members and outlines likely pending timelines for a Senate vote on these measures.

*Bob pauses for questions, receiving none from the general membership.*

Bob lauds Yvette for her term of service as President of the NMTC Coalition and expresses support for Aisha and the incoming executive committee.

### **Looking Ahead at 2022**

Yvette Ittu recognizes incoming President Aisha Benson.

Aisha Benson addressed the membership, thanked Yvette for her leadership for her two years as president, and highlighted the achievements overseen by Yvette during her tenure. Aisha expressed her excitement about the upcoming term. She highlighted her experience working with Phil Glynn, the incoming Vice-President, Sandra Moore, the incoming Treasurer, and Chimeka Gladney, the incoming Secretary. Aisha thanked Merrill Hoopengardner and Laura Vowell, the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Aisha encourages the membership to continue to meet with their elected Senators to urge them to support permanent NMTC legislation.

### **Final Words – Yvette Ittu**

Yvette Ittu provides her thoughts on the pleasure and honor of serving as NMTC President, after more than 20 years in the Community Development industry, with the pinnacle being the large increase in funding in the last approved Congressional budget, and thanks the membership for their work in accomplishing that funding. She is optimistic about NMTC's permanency. Yvette is excited to pass the baton, praises the incoming executive officers, and thanks the Rapoza staff for their work and assistance. Expresses hope for an in-person conference in June in Washington.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Yvette Ittu adjourns the meeting at 5:51 pm ET.