

01/09/19 10:09 We should have a three way conversation about this proposal ASAP. I have a 11:30 conference call for 1/2 hour today but otherwise am free to talk. (*This from Elkins to Hirzy and a communications consultant*)

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Chuck Elkins, Executive Director" <[epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com)>AM EST

**Subject: Proposed collaboration re shutdown**

01/09/19 16:13 Hi Lauren,

Here is the description of the Alunmi Association's proposed operation. (This from Hirzy to NTEU HQ)

Bill Hirzy

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**The Need:**

As the government shutdown continues, a number of EPA employees (and contract and SEE employees) are likely to find it increasingly difficult to put food on the table for their families or pay for needed prescription drugs, etc. Many of these employees likely already live paycheck to paycheck, and so missing even one paycheck could be problematic for some employees. While the EPA employees (but probably not the contractor employees) are likely to be given back pay eventually, this does not help them with their immediate cash flow problem.

**Proposed Program:**

**1) Soliciting donors among the Alumni:** The Association would send out an email to notify all of its members of the opportunity to help especially needy employees. Alumni would be asked to volunteer to be willing to write a \$20 check (the maximum that an EPA employee can accept from a single donor at any point in time) and to send it by mail, along with a personal note of encouragement/thanks, to a recipient that the Association would identify. The Executive Director, with possible help from Board members or other volunteers, would compile the email addresses of these potential donors.

**2) Identifying particularly needy recipients:** The Association would team with EPA unions to distribute an electronic (and perhaps paper) flyer to EPA employees for whom they have contact information describing the willingness of alumni to provide these small gifts as a way of helping those in most need. Readers of the flyer who know people in special need or who are themselves are in that situation would be encouraged to email the person's name and home address to the union contact. The union would check the proposed recipient's employment status to the extent possible (e.g. is he/she a members of the bargaining unit) and then provide the information to the Association.

3) Matching the donors with the recipients: The Executive Director, with possible help from Board members or other volunteers, would provide the recipient's name and address to the prospective donor(s). Depending on the number of donors and recipients, the recipient's name and address might be sent to more than one prospective donor so that the recipient might receipt more than one \$20 check. In sending out this information to donors, a sample personal note to the recipient would be provided to the donor together with cautions about not sending a check for more than \$20.

4) When would the program operate? The shutdown could end at any time, and we hope it will. However, the proposal is to set up the program and start running it as soon as possible and when the shutdown ends, to bring the program to an appropriate close. If the shutdown were to end before we can begin operating the program, we would have wasted some effort, but the cause is worth the effort.

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01/09/19 16:20 Good Afternoon Chuck,

We have reconsidered your proposal. AFGE can provide your information to our members, however your organization will be responsible for establishing criteria, choosing and providing the assistance to the EPA employees. AFGE Council 238 will not choose employees, accept, provide or distribute any funds during this processos.

Gary Morton, President  
AFGE Council 238

Gary and all, forgive me if I seem pushy. I just know how long getting this program up and running will take, and I see the clock ticking away. So, I'm just trying to move us forward as quickly as possible. I know we all share a concern about what is happening to EPA employees because of this shutdown.

It occurred to me that it would beneficial to both Council 238 and our Association to try to put down on paper what we can agree are the responsibilities of our respective organization if we launch this program. My idea is not to have a legally binding document, but rather use the document as way of making sure that we are all on the same page about who will do what--and, equally important, what our respective organizations WILL NOT DO.

I have therefore attached a rough draft for discussion of such a statement of proposed responsibilities of our two organizations. For drafting purposes only and not to presume what your answers are, I assumed that your answers to my questions in the previous email would be affirmative. If that is not the case, we obviously will want to change the document.

Perhaps it would be good to have a telephone conference call to go through the details of the program and see whether we are in sync and can actually make this program operational. (*This from Elkins to Morton*)

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association

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01/14/21 15:12 Hi Bill,  
Here is the contact information that I managed to obtain.  
Thanks,

Amer (*This from Amer Al-Mudallal, President NTEU Chapter280, HQ...contained detailed contact info on all EPA unions' representatives on the EPA Labor Coalition*)

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02/04/19 11:25 What a team effort! You can be very proud. As a group we distributed \$36,500 in \$20 increments to 165 EPA employees/SEE enrollees who especially needed our help during the recent government shutdown. That was over 1800 separate transactions, and I know from your emails that many of you experienced some very frustrating interactions with the companies that sell e-gift cards.

We received numerous emails of thanks from the recipients, many of them wanting to thank you individually for your gifts.

Many of you expressed sympathy for those of us doing the "Back Office" portion of this effort. Those emails were much appreciated. The administrative portion of the effort was overwhelming, but I was lucky to have the help of Bob Wayland, Barry Gilbert, and Phyllis Flaherty. At the initial stages, I also had the help of Bill Hirzy who connected us with the EPA unions who helped us get the word out to EPA employees.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity. It exceeded our wildest expectations.

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association

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Dear Chuck,

I shared your email about the final results of the EPA Alumni effort to help current staff with many current employees. A current EPA manager reached out to me as a result. She wanted you and the rest of the Alumni Association Team that thought about and implemented such complicated support to current EPA employees to know how much she and her staff appreciated all of your hard work.

And she said that "the SEE enrollees were very moved by EPA Alumni reaching out and providing real help. This effort really made a difference a lives and reflected so nicely on the EPA Community. Thank you to all."

I echo her thanks! You and the rest of the Team were amazing. Hoping we never have to do this again, but... Beth Craig

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Bill, we got lots of compliments for the effort. Thanks for finding a way through the unions to get the word out--and to press the idea that I originally rejected, of sending multiple \$20 gifts. After 1800 transactions, we got it done. (\$36,500 today contributions)

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association

..... Just so you know we did some good with our effort.....

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association  
202-686-3518  
Cell: 202-309-2974

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxxxx xxxxxx < >  
To: Chuck Elkins, Executive Director <[epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com)>  
Sent: Wed, Mar 6, 2019 7:51 pm  
Subject: Re: Action on your application

I would like to thank those that reached out to me during the shutdown, things had gotten bad, Because I was about to be evicted and my medicine was running out.

On Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 12:39 PM Chuck Elkins, Executive Director <[epaalumni@aol.com](mailto:epaalumni@aol.com)> wrote:

Thank you for your application. Your application has been forward to the number of donors shown below. If you have received an email similar to this from us in the past few days, the number shown below is the cumulative number of donors, incorporating the numbers shown in the previous email.

Number of donors to whom you contact information was sent: 4

If everything goes according to plan, you will receive \$20 from each of these donors.

Note: We have cautioned our alumni not to send you more than \$20 each because it would be a violation of the ethics code for you to accept more than

that amount at one time from an alumnus. We are doing our best to run a meaningful program under these constraints.

Thanks for your work at EPA and for sticking with the agency during these difficult times. As alumni, we certainly have a full appreciation of the importance of your work.

Chuck Elkins  
Executive Director  
EPA Alumni Association