

**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

In Person Meeting

<p>Commissioners Attending Voting Members Stefanny Alecon Karen Burks Kellie Duhon - Vice Chair Matthew Fairbrother Sarah Floyd - Secretary Suzanne Harris Lee Jeter -Chair Paul Pratt Africa Price Gerren Sias Kyle Wedberg DeRon Talley</p> <p>Commissioners Absent Voting Members Matt Laborde Paul Pratt Carissa Graves Patricia Prudhomme</p>	<p>Ex-Officio Members Present Katherine Krehbiel, CNCS</p> <p>Ex-Officio Members Absent John Bel Edwards, Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor</p> <p>Staff Attending Jacob Brumfield Judd Jeansonne Lori Pilley Breanna Jenkins Kristi Richardson Darren Smith</p> <p>Staff Absent Amanda Smith Heather Mazeitis-Fontenot</p>
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Call to Order

Chair Lee Jeter called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was declared.

The 2023-24 Executive Committee Leadership slate was presented as follows. Kellie Duhon, Chair; Sarah Floyd, Vice Chair; Matthew Laborde, Treasurer; Dr. Suzanne Harris, Secretary. Gerran made a motion to approve the slate and was seconded by DeRon Talley. Lee thanked everyone for their service and turned the gavel over to Kellie Duhon.

Minutes

Kyle Wedberg made a motion to approve the minutes from May and was seconded by Paul Pratt. The minutes were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Breanna Jenkins reviewed the financial statements in place of Matthew Laborde. Statements included the State General Fund, Commission Support Grant, Commission Investment Fund, Volunteer Generation Budget, and AmeriCorps grant status. There are no major financial concerns related to any AmeriCorps programs.

Chair Report

Kellie welcomed everyone and thanked Lee for his service to the Commission. Kellie shared her excitement for the future year and goals she has set forth for the Commission: meet quorum, join and actively participate in a committee, develop and track each meeting SMART goals for each committee, recruit and retain highly engaged Commissioners, and deliver an Executive Director performance evaluation annually.

Executive Director Report

Judd shared his excitement about the future of the Commission and the opportunity for new ideas and fresh perspectives. We are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of AmeriCorps and there will be a virtual event where the Lt. Gov. will deliver an address. Judd shared an update about the State Service plan and some of the challenges faced due to the staff turnover and they will make this a priority.

Darren Smith shared initiatives including updating all branding and increasing our social media footprint.

Jacob Brumfield shared efficiencies being worked on to better work with an support AmeriCorps grantees. Commissioners are encouraged to send any groups interested in AmeriCorps programs in their local areas to connect with Jacob.

Lori Pilley shared more about the Volunteer Generation Fund and our work with GOHSEP and FEMA. This included the CERT team work and how volunteers are safely deployed in times of natural disasters. Lori and the tem focused on training, relationship development, and serving the needs of the entire state.

Commissioner Education

Commissioners learned about CNCS with a presentation given by Katherine Krehbiel. She shared more about CNCS including work with the AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps Seniors programs. Efforts in Shreveport have yielded positive results with local connections. Baton Rouge is now an area of focus to help expand. They are in search of organizations that are a natural fit to be an umbrella organization (intermediaries) - those who have community partners already. Americorps Seniors has not had an open competition but there will be openings in FY24 for programs in FY25. This includes Foster Grandparents and RSVP, which is a focus to find other organizations to build capacity.

VISTA partners include: Feeding Louisiana, Boys and Girls Club of North LA, Community Center of Hope, St. Bernard Project.

A report was included in Commissioner notes that outlines all AmeriCorps programs by locations. Commissioners are encouraged to connect organizations with Volunteer Louisiana and with CNCS to see what may be a best fit.

Committee Reports

In lieu of committee reports, committees met individually to go over goals for the year. Commissioners were reminded to complete the state ethics training by the end of the year. AmeriCorps Committee will be chaired by Lee Jeter & Vice Chaired by Karen Burks. The Volunteerism & Disaster Services Committee will be chaired by Africa Price.

Adjournment

Karen Burks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 pm. Africa Price seconded the motion.