

**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION  
PROVISIONAL MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.  
In Person Meeting

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

Chair Kellie Duhon called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was declared.

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser attended the meeting to give greetings and to thank commissioners for their service. He gave a motivating message about the importance of volunteerism in Louisiana.

**Consent Agenda**

The December Minutes and Financial Report were approved as corrected with a motion by DeRon Talley and a second by Matthew Fairbrother.

**Chair Report**

Kelley Duhon gave her chair report that included reading a proclamation from Governor Jeff Landry that Mar. 10 – 16, 2024 was AmeriCorps Week in the State of Louisiana. She asked commissioners to email Judd with recommendations for new commissioners to fill open seats. She reminded commissioners to complete financial disclosures.

## **Executive Director Report**

### **Communication Updates**

Staff member Darren Smith distributed the annual report. He reported more social media presence and gave awards to commissioners who promoted Volunteer Louisiana on their social media accounts.

Judd reported about the national leadership convening. He met with key figures about the urgency of funding. He mentioned Garrett Graves specifically. He said the White House was represented at the convening. They are promoting an environmental issue and want to add "Climate Core" to America Corp, although so far, no funding has been attached to the idea.

The National Service Caucus needs to be more active about educating new lawmakers about the need for funding the processes involved to prevent future reduction in funding.

There are several trends from other state service providers:

- Workforce development is tied to recruitment.
- Apprenticeships
- Policy wins that include tax awards and tuition waivers
- Hiring preferences for AmeriCorps alumni
- AmeriCorps emergency funds
- State AmeriCorps are expanding services
- Joining state associations for philanthropy

Judd is pleased with the progress on the benchmarks. They have found a way to quantify the work to guide future decisions.

**Volunteerism report** was presented by Lori. Staff are doing emergency response trainings across the state.

### **Commissioner Education**

Six groups shared more about their work: University of Louisiana Lafayette AmeriCorps Program (exclusively for students); Rebuilding Together New Orleans Housing Services; America Youthworks' Louisiana Conservation Corps; FoodBank of Central Louisiana Mobile Food Pantry; and City of West Monroe SEE West Monroe Program.

### **Adjournment**

Kellie Duhon adjourned the meeting at 1:42 P.M.