

Commission Meeting Minutes



**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2024
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
1600 S. Choctaw Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70815

<p>Commissioners Attending</p> <p>Voting Members Suzanne Harris Matthew LaBorde Patricia Prudhomme DeRon Talley Travis Tharp Brian Davis Kellie Duhon Scott Green Leigh Hersey Agnieszka Nance Micah Nicholas Tinicia Turner</p> <p>Commissioners Absent</p> <p>Voting Members Africa Price Paul Pratt Matthew Fairbrother Heather Carpenter Karen Burks Stefanny Alecon Kyle Wedberg</p>	<p>Ex-Officio Members Present Jeffery Wale (Governor designee)</p> <p>Ex-Officio Members Absent Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor Katherine Krehbiel, CNCS</p> <p>Staff Attending Jacob Brumfield Judd Jeansonne Breanna Jenkins Amanda Smith Darren Smith Stephnie Taylor-Stell</p>
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Commissioner Field Trip: The president of the Baton Rouge Food Bank, Mike Manning, gave the commissioners a tour of the facility. He explained about the mechanization, the refrigeration equipment, products they package to sell to other food banks, and the volunteerism that keeps the food bank process running smoothly. Commissioners worked to fill boxes.

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Commissioner Press Conference: The Louisiana Volunteer Commission and partner Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue held a press conference to kick off the Million Meals for MLK campaign across the state of Louisiana.

Call to Order

Chair Kellie Duhon called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M.

Commissioner Education

Presentations from grant recipients were conducted prior to the business of the commission.

Serve Louisiana Maggie Conarro explained about the networking opportunities available to help members succeed during their term. She acknowledged that retention is a problem, but their retention rate has improved to 94%. Over fifty percent accepted full-time positions at the site where they were assigned and fifty percent were placed in full-time work in the non-profit sector.

One of the retention strategies they implemented was to increase the living stipends from \$18,500 to \$24,000. This has made it possible to fill their open positions and expand the participant demographic to include older candidates.

They acknowledged that their living allowance doesn't provide enough for additional expenses. So, they now have a structure in place to assist members with incidents like car deductibles when needed.

They also want to expand their services to Lafayette.

LaVet Corps 2024 supports veterans on campus with their specific needs. The program provides a navigator to help connect veterans with the services available to them at the local university they attend. While the number of Louisiana veterans is declining, the number of veteran students on campuses is increasing. Louisiana is one of three states that has the LaVet Corps service program. Their target number to reach is 1600. They serve a wide age range of veterans.

Consent Agenda

The May minutes and the financial report were approved as corrected with a motion by Matt Laborde and a second by Travis Thorpe. Judd provided information about how the commission is financed (federal and state funding). La. is one of only 6 state commissions. Fed. Gov't opened the competitive process to other non-profits making it harder for states to get the funding they have gotten in the past. Money from AmeriCorp allocation is pass-through dollars.

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Chair's report.

Kellie reminded commissioners to complete required ethics training.

Sara Floyd resigned from the executive committee. Karen Burks will join the executive board as treasurer. Matt moves to vice-chair. Suzanne Harris remains as secretary.

Executive director evaluations are current.

DeRon Talley made a motion to accept the report, and Patrica Prudhomme seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Executive Director report

Judd explained that there is some strategic planning work coming up this year and thanked commissioners for volunteering to serve in their committee roles. All commissioners were assigned to a committee.

The next meeting will be in Alexandria at the Food Bank of Central Louisiana on Dec. 11. Louisiana is hosting the ASC—AmeriCorp Service Commissioner Leadership Conference. AmeriCamp will be hosted by Jacob Brumfield.

Jacob Brumfield provided some AmeriCorps Louisiana updates.

Adjournment

Kelly Duhon adjourned the meeting at 1:57.