

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
State Library of Louisiana

<p>Commissioners Attending Voting Members Matthew LaBorde Suzanne Harris Travis Tharp Brian Davis Matthew Fairbrother Patricia Prudhomme Leigh Hersey Heather Carpenter Africa Price Scott Green Tinicia Turner DeRon Talley Agnieszka Nance Micah Nicholas Isabel Barrios Jennifer Kelly Emily Glascock</p> <p>Commissioners Absent Voting Members Kellie Duhon Karen Burks</p>	<p>Ex-Officio Members Present</p> <p>Ex-Officio Members Absent Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor Jeff Landry, Governor Katherine Krehbiel, CNCS</p> <p>Staff Attending Jacob Brumfield Judd Jeansonne Breanna Jenkins Amanda Smith Stephanie Taylor-Stell Heather Mazeitis-Fontenot Lori Pilley Samantha Hartmann</p>
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Call to Order

Chair, Matthew LaBorde, called the meeting to order at 9:38 A.M.
The roll was called with each member providing a self-introduction with an ice-breaker question posed by the chair.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda items were approved with a motion by Africa Price and a second by Matthew Fairbrother with Micah Nicholas and Agnieszka Nance abstaining.

Chair’s Report

The chair reminded commissioners about completing all compliance trainings and financial disclosures. The executive director agreed to reach out to commissions who need to update their trainings.

Vice Chair Travis Tharp attended the National America’s Service Commissions (ASC) meeting with Judd in Washington, D.C. and shared about his experiences. The problems in Louisiana are like what other commissions are facing. Travis and Judd split responsibilities with Judd meeting with commissioners and Travis meeting with congressional leaders. While there, they met with Cassidy, Lutlow, and Johnson, members of the health committee, who project that AmeriCorps can stay funded through next year.

The chair encouraged members to engage with events as their schedules allow.

Executive Director's Report

Volunteer Louisiana staff received positive feedback about their work on the Volunteer Summit. Even though the staff has been overbooked, they stay positive and efficient.

Judd is looking for new partners to support the work of the commission. He submitted a proposal to Youth Mental Health Corps for a grant funded by the Schultz Family Foundation, is still working on a possible partnership with the Louisiana National Guard and state funding to help with matching funds for grants.

The Annual Report was published and commissioners received an advance copy.

Disaster events that have kept the Volunteer Louisiana Commission staff busy include Winter Storm Fern and the Shreveport water crisis. They were also involved with hosting the Volunteer Louisiana Disaster Summit.

Volunteer and Disaster Services Report

Lori Pilley reported on participation in numerous projects and events, including virtual and face-to-face trainings, the Volunteer Louisiana Disaster Summit, and the upcoming Champions of Service Award Presentation. She also highlighted progress toward performance metric goals. Additionally, she shared details on how the Volunteer Louisiana Commission partnered with nonprofits in the Shreveport area to respond to Winter Storm Fern and address ongoing water issues.

The AmeriCorps Report

The AmeriCorps Report included details about the shorter grant cycle and changes to the grant processes. They participated in onsite visits with required responses from the grantee about their feedback. They will continue to let commissioners know of upcoming events or programs at some AmeriCorps sites.

Commissioner Education

Following a short break, the commissioners heard from several AmeriCorps programs: Teach for America-Louisiana, Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana, and For Providers by Providers.

After lunch, Coach Across America, City Year New Orleans, and Boys & Girls Club North Louisiana presented about their programs.

Adjournment

Matthew Laborde adjourned the meeting at 1:50 with a motion from Micah Nicholas and a second by Isabel Barrios.

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