

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
9:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
River Center Branch Library

Commissioners Attending Voting Members Matthew LaBorde Suzanne Harris Travis Tharp Patricia Prudhomme Leigh Hersey Heather Carpenter Africa Price Scott Green DeRon Talley Agnieszka Nance Isabel Barrios Emily Glascock Commissioners Absent Voting Members Kellie Duhon Karen Burks Brian Davis Micah Nicholas Tinicia Turner Jennifer Kelly	Ex-Officio Members Present Ex-Officio Members Absent Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor Jeff Landry, Governor Daniel Jones, Senior Portfolio Manager for Southern Central Region, AmeriCorps James Lee, Policy Director, Office of the Governor Staff Attending Jacob Brumfield Judd Jeansonne Breanna Jenkins Stephanie Taylor-Stell Heather Mazeitis-Fontenot Samantha Hartmann
---	---

Call to Order

Chair, Matthew LaBorde, called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M.
The roll was called with each member providing a self-introduction.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda items were approved with a motion by Heather Carpenter and a second by Agnieszka Nance.

Chair's Report

The chair reminded commissioners about completing all compliance training and financial disclosures. The executive director will send an updated list to all commissioners who need to complete any training sessions.

Officer election was held: Chair, Travis Tharpe; Vice Chair, Suzanne Harris; Heather Carpenter, treasurer. The secretary position was not filled.

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

Executive Director's Report

Judd updated commissioners about the VGF application process at the national level. It had been changed a few years ago to allow other non-profit groups to compete with state commissions for funds. That process is being changed back to allowing only state commissions to compete.

We are extending the planning grant period for NAMI.

Program and Commission staff attended the ASC training in Dallas. ASC staff was reduced from 11 to 4. They will focus on grant management and spend less time on support functions like marketing and technology.

Matthew Fairbrother resigned his position on the commission because of a possible conflict of interest. DeRon Talley and Kellie Duhon are rolling off the commission. They were recognized for their service.

Volunteer and Disaster Services Report

Changes coming to FEMA will impact funding of services (reduced to 50-50 split). The Lt. Governor may find additional funding to make up the difference.

The Disaster Summit held in March was a success with many organizations from over 30 parishes participating. The next one is planned for March 22-23, 2027 and all are encouraged to attend.

The virtual Volunteer Engagement Training Series hosted volunteer engagement professionals from multiple states as well as Louisiana participants.

Volunteer Louisiana trained medical students at VCOM in the Monroe area with favorable feedback from participants.

Volunteer Louisiana is participating with the La. Mass Care Feeding Task Force to assist with coordinating and communicating food distribution information during a disaster.

AmeriCorps Report

The AmeriCorps Report included details about the shorter grant cycle and changes to the grant processes. Staff are using a transaction testing project to make sure that programs are compliant with expenditure and documentation guidelines. The staff listed several commissioner engagement opportunities. They will continue to let commissioners know of upcoming events or programs at some AmeriCorps sites.

Commissioner Education

Commissioners heard from several AmeriCorps grant applicants: Green Corps, Louisiana Resiliency Corps, and Louisiana Conservation Corps. The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs reported about the LaVetCorps program.

AmeriCorps Formula Consideration

Commissioners considered and approved recommendations of AmeriCorps committee for State Formula funding. However, due to AmeriCorps competitive funding decisions that have not yet been announced, the approved slate and amounts are contingent on that announcement. Staff will continue to work with applicants as proposed until notified by AmeriCorps about decisions regarding National Competitive applications. The board asked that the Executive Committee be updated on the final 2026-27 portfolio following AmeriCorps's National Competitive decisions.

Adjournment

Matthew Laborde adjourned the meeting.