

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, May 11th, 2020
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA (AND ONLINE)
701 NORTH FOURTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Commissioners Attending
Voting Members

Amy Burris
Sandra Cavalier
Kellie Duhon-Treasurer
Sarah Mouton Floyd
Carissa Graves
Ryan Haynie
Leslie Hill
Gwen Hilliard
Mitzi Hochheiser
Lee Jeter-Vice Chair
Angela Jouett
Julie Lafleur
Patrick Lawler-Secretary
Paul Pratt
Wendy Primeaux
Grant Shreiner
Gerren Sias
DeRon Talley
Kyle Wedberg-Chair
Jay Blackmon Williams

Ex-Officio Members

Ex-Officio Members Absent
John Bel Edwards, Governor
Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor

Commissioners Absent
Matthew Laborde
Shedonna Martin-Mason

Staff Attending:
Judd Jeansonne
Stephanie Trahan
Jawonna Mason
Kori Chisham
Amanda Smith

Staff Absent:

Call to Order

Vice Chair Lee Jeter called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was declared.

Minutes

Jay Blackmon Williams made the motion to approve the minutes and Mitzi Hochheiser seconded.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented and commissioners were informed that State General Fund will go towards grant matches.

Chairs Report

The commission learned that Senator Cassidy wrote an Op-Ed to expand National Service during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act, was introduced to expand AmeriCorps members by 750,000. The bill would increase the living stipend and provide 2 years of non-tax exempt college tuition per year of service. A Covid Task Force may be formed in order to develop strategies to enable Volunteer Louisiana and its program to best meet the needs of Covid-19 response in Louisiana.

Executive Director's Report

The Director reported that the Lt. Governor has voiced his support to expand National Service during the pandemic. Stephanie Trahan has worked with programs to develop and implement alternative service plans due to COVID restrictions. The Director also spoke with the Lt. Governor about deploying AmeriCorps members to conduct contact tracing.

Commissioner Education

There was no commissioner education.

Volunteer Committee

The committee has created volunteer guidelines and shared with state VOADs. Safety videos as well as a PSA have been created. The committee has explored connecting non-medical students in the UL and LSU systems with volunteer opportunities. East Feliciana and Denham Springs CERT teams were deployed.

Governance Committee

An updated attendance record will be sent to each commissioner.

AmeriCorps Committee

The commission was informed that formula allocation was increased from previous year. CNCS has ruled that commissions can carry over 25% of previous years' funds. A motion was made by Kellie Duhon to fund all 13 formula applications and Paul Pratt seconded so the motion passed. A breakout of how FY 19 unexpended funds will be spent was given. Mitzi Hochheiser made a motion which was seconded by Angela Jouett and passed. The passed motion allows the commission staff to allocate unused funds and they see fit as well as suspend Professional Corps rules for Educational Award Only programs. CNCS has also removed the match requirements for non-profits which are struggling during Covid-19.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 pm.