

**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
701 NORTH FOURTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Commissioners Attending:

Voting Members

Karen Moss Barnes, Secretary
Dr. Jennifer Falls
Julie LaFleur
Gene Grabbe, Treasurer
Randy Haynie
Kathy Lenard
Teresa Micheels
Ashley Mudd
Monique Roux
Grant Shreiner
William Stoudt, Chair
Fabian Tucker

Ex-Officio Members

Vickie Schenk

Commissioner Absent

Sharon Weston Broome
David Conner
B.J. Gallent
Jenny Korner, Vice-Chair
Robert Lancon

Staff Attending:

Judd Jeansonne
Jawonna Mason
Stephanie Trahan
Nicholas Auck

Staff Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Stoudt called the Commission to Order at 10:00 am and asked that the Roll of Commissioners be called by the Secretary, Ms. Moss-Barnes. The Commissioners listed above were present and a quorum was declared. The Chair then welcomed new commissioners and asked for all Commissioners and Staff members present to introduce themselves. The Chair announced that CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer would be joining the meeting via Skype and the Lt. Governor may also attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chair noted that the minutes should reflect that the previous meeting adjourned at ‘11:45 am’, rather than ‘pm’. Mr. Garret Shreiner noted that in the Chair’s Report, on the third line, the sentence should end with ‘past’ rather than ‘passed’ and in the final sentence of the same report the word ‘milling’ should be ‘million’. Motion was made by Mr. Stoudt and seconded by Ms. Roux to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Grabbe presented the Treasurer’s report. Questions were asked to differentiate between the grants as well as requirements, completion dates, and common occurrences in regard to programs. The Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

CHAIR’S REPORT:

The Chair discussed the enclosed listing of Commissioners, their background as well as the dates of their service under Tab 3 of the Commissioner’s Packet. The Committees and Committee Assignments were

also discussed. It was presented that the Katrina at 10 Anniversary service events in the Greater New Orleans area that brought 10,000 volunteers to various projects in celebration of recovery efforts. The final 2014 Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant awards were presented. Commissioners noted significant variations in approved award amounts and asked questions regarding the decision process and funding determinations. Staff members referred to the RFP and the emphasis on quality projects, rural parishes, and the ratio of volunteers to investment. Commissioners requested greater involvement in the review and funding process, and staff agreed to invite Commissioner participation at all stages. The Chair gave an overview of the two CNCS monitoring and compliance visits on July 13-17 & July 28-29. While the negotiations of findings are ongoing, CNCS did indicate that the Commission staff size is very small relative to its portfolio – thus limiting its capacity to conduct comprehensive monitoring and compliance. Commission staff participated in the Disaster Services Convening in West Virginia on July 21-24 to strengthen ties and learn from other State Commissions tools for responding to disasters and utilizing AmeriCorps members in responses. Commission staff hosted successful AmeriCorps sub-grantee conference on August 3-4, 2015 with a particular focus on monitoring and compliance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

The Executive Director announced the 2015 VGF program was funded for a second of the three year continuation. Mr. Jeansonne also reviewed the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) site visits, AmeriCorps symposium & Capitol Hill visits, Revised Travel Policy requirements from the State, the upcoming National Conference on Volunteering and Service that will be held in October (Commissioners can attend). The LSU volunteerism survey has been completed and will be presented at the December Commission meeting. The 2016 Listening Tour will also be completed by the December meeting and Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend stops in their area. Finally, the Director discussed challenges in funding for due to state and federal cuts.

The Commission recessed for lunch and after Lunch, Ms. Wendy Spencer joined the Commission meeting via Skype to discuss the role and responsibilities of Commissioners, the working relationship between the Commission and CNCS, as well as the immediate future of CNCS.

COMMISSIONER EDUCATION:

Ms. Verdine Batiste of City Year Baton Rouge and Ms. Kris Pottharst Project Homecoming made presentation on their respective programs. Formula programs make Commission presentations in March, but since both programs are competitively funded, these programs had not made presentations to the Commission in some time.

CALENDAR REVIEW:

The upcoming calendar events were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Stoudt and seconded by Ms. Lenard that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 pm.

COMMITTEE CONVENING:

The Commission broke into committees and worked with the respective staff to have a general overview of upcoming activities, responsibilities of the committee and plan for future committee meetings.