

**Volunteer Tennessee**  
**Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes**  
TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development, Tennessee Room  
220 French Landing Dr. Nashville, TN 37243  
Friday, August 8, 2025

Members in Attendance (in person underlined)

Chairing: Terry Silver\*, Destiny Brown\*, Suzanne Carr (TDHS), LaShan Dixon (TDoH), Kim Carpenter Drake\*, D'Shonta Gleeton (TDCS), Katie Goforth\*, Rebecca Henderson\*, Adam Jarvis (TDFA), Heidi Leming (TBR), Greg Lyles\*, Patricia Powell\*, Nester Reyes (TDLWD), Nancy Schelin (TDEC), Jason Scott\*, Betty White\*, Eileen Wollam\*, Evon Wood\*, Jessica Youngblom (TDMHSAS)

Members not in Attendance: George Bove\*, Stephanie Davis\*, Nathan Farnor\*, Terry Frank\*, Amy Gilliland\*, Andrea Hill\*, Holly Jones\*, Aimee LaGrone (TDOE), Caroline Ledlie (AmeriCorps), Lissette Lopez, Lee Moten\*, Tracy Van de Vate\*, Amy Walter\*, VACANT (TDSHS) (UT) (TDM),

Staff: Latiyfa Fields; Candace Taylor, Anthony Bennett, Lizzy Lemieux, Jim Snell

Guests: Sarah Noel (TDFA)

Quorum Count: 11 (7 in person) of 23 appointed (12 is quorum). (\*) indicates voting member.

Terry Silver called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. CDT and called on Nestor Reyes from the TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development as the host of the meeting. Terry then asked for introductions around the room and online.

Terry called on Eileen Wollam to give report on Friends of Volunteer Tennessee (VT).

- The number of pre-orders needed for the Volunteer License Plate was not met, so Friends made pivot to a novelty plate on the front of cars. Individuals who preordered are being contacted with two options:
  - Donate the pre-ordered amount to Friends of Volunteer and receive the novelty plate; or
  - Be refunded the pre-order amount.
- Middle TN Electric has a charitable foundation, and they will be paying for the shipping of the novelty license plates.
- The remainder of the novelty license plates will be sold at Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards, the annual Conference, and Commission Roadshows.

Terry asked Jim Snell to share the director's report.

- Jim provided an update on the status of AmeriCorps funding and related funding for Volunteer Tennessee.
  - The AmeriCorps Agency informed State Service Commissions that previously terminated grants could be restored; however, it was too late in the program year to restore Tennessee's terminated programs. AmeriCorps also confirmed that those terminated programs could be funded again in the future.

- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is still holding Commission Investment Funds. These funds contribute to the operations, training, and technical assistance for Volunteer Tennessee along with the annual conference.
- OMB has not released National Competitive Funding, so we are waiting to hear if the TN Competitive programs will be funded and at what level.
- Jim shared a letter from a bi-partisan group from the Senate to OMB asking for the funding for to be released. Jim will share the letter via email.
- Presidential budget calls for winddown of AmeriCorps Agency. This would be a significant reduction in operational funds and elimination of program funds. The Senate appropriations language includes almost level funding for AmeriCorps. The House has not acted on AmeriCorps appropriations.
- The Commission Support Grant for 2025-2026 has already been awarded. This grant covers most of the Commission's operational expenses.
- Recruitment of Volunteer TN Members.
  - Now is the time to recruit new members for upcoming vacancies, applications are due October 1, 2025.
  - Each year there is an anticipation of 1-2 vacancies. Currently we have 2 vacancies that are outstanding.
  - When terms are coming to an end, the Board Development Committee (BDC) reaches out and asks members if they are interested in being reappointed. The BDC reviews applications to make recommendations for nominees to fill vacant slots.
  - There are about 12 positions that must have certain experience or skillsets to be on the Commission and the rest of the members are at large members.
  - Attorney General opinion from early in the Commission's history says that Commissioners can continue to serve on the Commission while they await reappointment.

Terry noted her gratitude to the staff especially during this stressful time of uncertainty.

Terry called on Commissioners who had conducted program site visits to share. Eileen Wollam, Patricia Powell, Nestor Reyes, and LaShan Dixon shared information about the sites visits they completed. Overall, there were a lot of positive remarks about the programs. One major update is the Martha O'Bryan Center mentioned they would no longer be continuing their AmeriCorps programs.

Terry called on Jessica Youngblom for a quorum check. There were 11 voting members were present, 7 in person and 4 virtually. There were not enough voting members present in person or online to reach a quorum.

Because a quorum was not present, Terry skipped the Commission Business items that required a vote and moved to the discussion on the 2026-2028 State Service Plan. Jim gave an overview of the document and how input was gathered. The goal for today is to have at least one outcome per goal. There was a lot of discussion regarding choosing outcomes for each of the goals and everyone came to the agreement to link the outcomes back to the initiatives Volunteer Tennessee oversees (AmeriCorps, GVSA, etc.) to ensure we have control over the goals we are trying to meet. For each goal, a "north star" outcome was chosen, and staff will take those and word

smith them along with adding baseline numbers for discussion at the next Commission meeting. Each Committee will be assigned a goal to own and each of the committees will contribute to the outcomes and outputs where appropriate.

- Outcome North Star for Goal 1:
  - Engaged and consistent TN Volunteer Members/Participation
- Outcome North Star for Goal 2:
  - The organizations will host and manage and retain volunteers efficiently and effectively.
- Outcome North Star for Goal 3:
  - Increasing awareness and engagement across the state of Volunteer TN and initiatives
- Outcome North Star for Goal 4:
  - To have a skilled and knowledgeable commission and organization with an identified succession plan

Terry asked the Commission to break briefly to get lunch and then return for a working lunch.

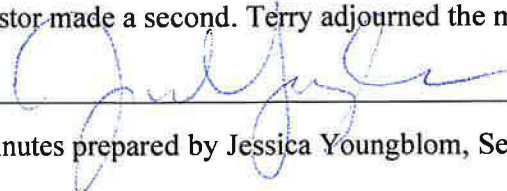
Terry reconvened the meeting, and there was discussion on the various committees the Commission currently has and whether to keep them the same or change them. It was agreed to keep them but to update the mission and descriptions of each. There was also discussion on succession planning and mentorship to bring people up to speed on their committees and the board along with ensuring historical information is passed on. The Grants Committee needed more members, and Katie Goforth, Kim Carpenter Drake, and Jessica Youngblom all volunteered to move to that committee.

The Commission reviewed, but did not vote on, the 2026 AmeriCorps Funding Timeline, 2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Results, and 2025 AmeriCorps Formula Recommendation Revision. The Executive Committee will vote on behalf of the Commission.

Terry asked if there were any requests for public comment. Jim indicated that no requests were submitted to him two days prior to the meeting, and no one from the public was attending the meeting in person or online.

Terry reminded members about the Commission meeting and retreat on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Terry called on Jim to share the meeting evaluation and travel form. Jim will send the evaluation link as follow up. Jim shared the process for completing travel forms. Members can donate their travel as in-kind. Jim will send electronic version of the form as follow up to the meeting.

Terry thanked everyone and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Destiny Brown made a motion. Nestor made a second. Terry adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m. CDT.

Approved:  Date: 11/7/2025 Secretary

Meeting minutes prepared by Jessica Youngblom, Secretary.

### Voluteer TN Roll Call and Votes - August 8, 2025

| First Name | Last Name       | Class/ Represents                        | Counts for Quorum | Counts for Quorum in person | Quorum Check/ present | Statement of Necessity | Approve 5-2-25 Minutes | Approve Memorandum of Agreement | Approve 2026 AmeriCorps Funding Timeline | Approve 2025 AC Formula recommendation revision |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| George     | Bove            | 2025                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Destiny    | Brown           | 2023                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Kim        | Carpenter Drake | 2023                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Stephanie  | Davis           | 2025                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Nathan     | Farnor          | 2024                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Terry      | Frank           | 2025                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Amy        | Gilliland       | 2025                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Katie      | Goforth         | 2023                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Rebecca    | Henderson       | 2026                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Andrea     | Hill            | 2024                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Holly      | Jones           | 2025                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Aimee      | LaGrone         | Education                                | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Lisette    | Lopez           | 2026                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Greg       | Lyles           | 2024                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Lee        | Moten           | 2024                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Patricia   | Powell          | 2025                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Jason      | Scott           | 2024                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Terry      | Silver          | 2023                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Tracy      | Van de Vate     | 2023                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Amy        | Walter          | 2023                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Betty      | White           | 2024                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Eileen     | Wollam          | 2023                                     | 1                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Evon       | Wood            | 2024                                     | 1                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Suzanne    | Carr            | Human Services                           | 0                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| LaShan     | Dixon           | Health                                   | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| D'Shonta   | Gleeton         | Children's Services                      | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Adam       | Jarvis          | Finance & Adminstration                  | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Caroline   | Ledlie          | AmeriCorps                               | 0                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Heidi      | Leming          | TN Board of Regents                      | 0                 | 0                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Nestor     | Reyes           | Labor & Workforce Development            | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Nancy      | Schelin         | Environment & Conservation               | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| Jessica    | Youngblom       | Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services | 0                 | 1                           | 1                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| VACANT     |                 | Military                                 | 0                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| VACANT     |                 | Safety & Homeland Security               | 0                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
| VACANT     |                 | University of Tennessee                  | 0                 | 0                           | 0                     |                        |                        |                                 |                                          |                                                 |
|            |                 |                                          | All members       | 23                          | 13                    | 19                     | 0                      | 0                               | 0                                        | 0                                               |
|            |                 |                                          | Voting members    | 23                          | 7                     | 11                     | 0                      | 0                               | 0                                        | 0                                               |

Yellow indicates not attending

Blue indicates online participation