



UServeUtah

Minutes

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

August 10, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | UVU Student Center SC 213C

Attendees

Present Commissioners and Representatives: James Ostergar, Katie Mazzie, Bethany Marker, Katherine Potter, Jake Murakami, Melissa Huntington, Maylin Carter, Charity Rowberry, Joanne Brattain, Max Rogers, Ruby Vejar, Kim Hammer, David Francis, and Carla Nunez.

Absent Commissioners and Representatives: Lt. Gov. Deidre Henserson, Commissioner Geoffry Landward, Molly Hart, DeLaina Tonks, Cassidy Hansen, Don Willie, Amanda Morton, Julie Rich, and Chauma Kee-Jansen.

Present Department of Cultural & Community Engagement Staff and Guests: Loggins Merrill, Mike Moon, Sara Dorsey, Laura Huefner, Janessa Edwards, Yvette Woodland, Judy Hut, Valerie Thibault, Norella Pilling, and Thom Spencer..

Welcome & Governance

Max Rogers, Chair

Loggins welcomed the commission members on behalf of Max. Introductions of all commissioners and staff members for new commissioner Katherine Potter.

Approval of Minutes from the Commission meeting on May 18th, 2026.

Motion to approve by Kim Hammer and motion seconded by Joanne Brattain.

It was noted that Loggins' name was misspelled and then motion passed unanimously.

Why I Serve

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers

Laura introduced two AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to share why they serve.

Norella Pilling discussed the connections she made with certain students during her time as a Foster Grandparent volunteer, including one who started reading books at home. She discussed her impacts and her passion for doing the work.

Thom Spencer discussed his relationships with some of the clients he serves as a Senior Companion volunteer and the gratitude he feels for being a part of the history and the impact.

Program Discussion

Dashboard Presentation & Review

Max introduced the strategic plan dashboard outline for each emphasis. Judy clarified the timing for Volunteer for Good end-of-year reports. Overall, 21 of 23 strategies are completed or on track and 2 remain on pause.

AmeriCorps State Fund Update

Janessa discussed opening up planning grants to introduce new programs to AmeriCorps. She



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detailed the purpose of the grants and a timeline for the application process. Joanne asked if there was any targeted marketing for the planning grants then Janessa and Loggins both clarified the process.

Janessa let the commission know that Greg Bates was in Beaver after being activated to assist in disaster clean up along with the mobilization of 15 AmeriCorps members. Loggins expanded on the work being done and expressed gratitude for the support.

State Service Plan Updates/Next Steps

Yvette gave updates on the strategic planning timeline. All listening tours, stakeholder interviews, and public survey responses have been completed. The committee will meet in August and the timeline is still on track to present a strategic plan draft at the November commission meeting.

Power of Service Recognition Design Input

Loggins discussed wanting to make the power of service recognition more meaningful and asked for ideas from the commissioners. Open discussion amongst the commission, with ideas including more collaboration with Utah Philanthropy Day, videos and impact statements, and including recipients in a luncheon.

Chair/Director Updates

Loggins Merrill

Loggins introduced new UServeUtah branding and Sara expanded on the specific changes and examples.

Max Rogers, Chair

Max introduced the need to create a nominating committee for a 2027 vice chair and asked commissioners to volunteer by the end of the week.

Mike clarified the time commitment required for the committee.

Commissioner Roundtable

Carla discussed new grant funds being completed.

Charity discussed Weber high school and R6 receiving their competitive grant funding.

David discussed an opportunity for indoor state fair judging.

James asked for clarification on the new school districts joining the Volunteer for Good initiative and Mike listed all the changes.

Ruby discussed internships and job opportunities with local nonprofits.

Katherine discussed the recent Great American State Fair and Museum of Utah opening.

Melissa discussed being interested in service project opportunities for her staff and other organizations.

May discussed a need for help at the upcoming YSA conference.

No updates from Jake, Joanne, Katie, Bethany, and Kim.

Motion to adjourn by Joanna Brattain and motion seconded by Kim Hammer.

Passed unanimously.



Commission Meeting

Aug 10, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | UVU Student Center SC 213C

[Zoom link](#)

12:00 Welcome & Governance

- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes

12:15 Why I Serve

- AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers (Laura)

12:30 Program Discussion

- Dashboard presentation + review (Max)
- AmeriCorps State fund update (Don/ Janessa)
- State Service Plan updates/next steps (Greg)
- Power of Service recognition design input (Loggins)

1:15 Chair/ Director updates

- Loggins
- Max

Dates to Remember

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| • Sept 11 | Meal Kit assembly service project, SLC |
| • Sept. 30 | Utah Nonprofits Association Conference, Layton |
| • Oct. 6-7 | Volunteer Management Training, Brigham City |
| • Nov. 12 | Utah Philanthropy Day, SLC |
| • Nov. 13 | Generation Volunteer Summit, Sandy |

Commission Meeting Schedule 2026

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Jan 12, 12:00 - 2:00 | State Capitol, Hybrid |
| • May 18, 12:00 - 2:00 | State Capitol, Hybrid |
| • August 10, 12:00 - 2:00 | UVU, Hybrid |
| • November 17, 9:00 - 2:00 | State Capitol in person |