



**SLR Southern Regional Meeting
May 16, 2025
2:00 PM CT**

**The Crescent Hotel, Fort Worth, TX
Gallery I**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Raymond Bell, AL, Chair
Mallory Harrell, FL
TJ Kaplan, GA
Esme Thoman, TX
Jamie Norment, NC
Brooke Robertson, KY
Derrick Smith, AR
Andy Taggart, MS

I. Call to Order

Raymond Bell called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm CT.

II. Role Call & Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and gave an in-person welcome to Andy Taggart.

III. Review of Minutes from February 5, 2025

A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 5, 2025 as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion of In-Person Regional Meeting

Members discussed having an in-person meeting at a location that would be convenient for travel. After a brief discussion, the members agreed to have the meeting in Atlanta if the majority could attend at some time in August.

TJ Kaplan volunteered to check on hotels and will provide potential meeting dates.

V. Discussion of Regional Issues and Interests

KY – Brooke Roberson reported that hemp was a major issue during the Kentucky legislative session and that there are efforts in other states to limit manufacturing and the sale of hemp. She further reported that the state is continuing to cut income taxes.

FL – Mallory Harrell reported that the Florida legislature has been extended for a second time, with the current date of completion to be June 30, 2025. She also reported that the legislature has failed to pass a budget and is constitutionally required to do so each year on or before that date. She further reported that the legislature addressed right-to-repair legislation and provided 20 additional cannabis licenses. Lastly, she reported that condominium owners were provided relief in the amount of catastrophe money reserve requirements.

TX – Esme Thoman reported that the Texas legislature considered significant legislation dealing with business organization reforms, right-to-repair, and property tax abatements. She further reported that there was legislation mandating that new data centers must come with their power supply.

AR – Derrick Smith reported that the Arkansas legislature has concluded and one of the major pieces of successful legislation considered and passed prohibits any entity with an ownership interest in a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) from owning a pharmacy. He also reported that Arkansas is continuing to cut income taxes.

GA – TJ reported that the current Georgia budget received minimum cuts, but there will likely be significant cuts in it going forward. He also mentioned that existing tax credit allocations will be part of the reasons for cuts. He further reported that Georgia has built its fourth nuclear reactor.

MS – Andy reported that the Mississippi legislature failed to pass a budget and that a special session will be needed once an agreement is reached. He further reported that a significant issue considered this year was a scope of practice dispute, which resulted in a deal providing for CRNAs being relieved of collaborative agreements and doctors being provided anesthesiologist assistants, which eventually failed.

AL – Raymond reported that the Alabama legislature concluded on Wednesday. He also reported that it passed restrictions on pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) and the largest general and education budgets in history. He further reported that several pieces of legislation that bogged down the legislature included police immunity, gender definitions, and restrictions on DE&I and what can be taught in public schools.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

The committee agreed to meet virtually to discuss the regional meeting later this month, or early next month.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm CT.