



**SLR Southern Regional Meeting  
February 5, 2025  
2:00 PM ET**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82200318640?pwd=Paakqq8gnbvEu75t7fC64RK05HpFu6.1>

Meeting ID: 822 0031 8640

Passcode: 923144

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Raymond Bell, AL, Chair

Esme Thoman, TX

Mallory Harrell, FL

Anthony Jackson, MS

TJ Kaplan, GA

Jamie Norment, NC

Andy Taggart, MS

Hannah Webster, SLR

I. Call to Order

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

II. Role Call & Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed new members from Mississippi.

III. Debrief of September 27, 2024 Southern Regional Meeting in Monterey, CA

Raymond reviewed the discussion from the last regional meeting in Monterey, CA. The group discussed speaker, client, and guest ideas for the SLR Spring Meeting in Fort Worth, TX. They also discussed a desire to have an in-person Regional Meeting in 2025.

IV. Spring 2025 Meeting Client Suggestions

May 15-18, Fort Worth, TX

Mallory Harrell suggested AMA Consulting Group, LLC as a potential client. Jamie Normet also shares them as a client. They work with various states on grants.

Jamie updated the group that he had submitted a few client leads to the Planning Committee including Resource Environmental Solutions and Wayne Farms . Both also have good regional reach and potential as a regional meeting client.

TJ Kaplan suggested bluebird bio, who he had recently referred to Raymond. They could be a good match for the Spring Meeting, or a regional, if not. Other client suggestions included ServiceNow, and GoGuardian, an LMS system that monitors school devices and may be looking to expand.

Andy Taggart had a few prospects for client leads but wanted to hold off on an invite as a newer firm unless needed.

#### V. Discussion of In-Person Regional Meeting

The group discussed holding an in-person meeting and setting up a date on the calendar. It would be held at an easy location to fly into for one night. The group could have dinner on Thursday, and then a half day of client presentations and meetings on Friday. Jamie offered Raleigh, NC as a potential location.

The group agreed that hosting a meeting any time before May would be challenging and decided to find some potential dates after the Spring meeting and send out a poll.

#### VI. Discussion of Regional Issues and Interests

AL – Raymond shared that their session just started. The main issues thus far have centered around immigration, gender, anti-trans legislation, segregation in sports and other activities, and initiatives surrounding a growing veteran population.

TX – Esme Thoman reviewed the top issues in Texas. Private school vouchers are being argued in the senate, a bill regulating THC content in hemp products, TX criminal justice sunset review is underway, and border and immigration issues. There is a budget surplus which will likely be allocated towards property tax relief and power generation.

FL – Mallory shared that there had been a lot of back and forth lately. The legislature passed an immigration bill last week. There are some insurance issues cropping up as there are few insurance companies who want to insure near the coast, and condo associations are going bankrupt trying to keep up with fees. And in a follow up to

comments made at the Fall Meeting, a measure on recreational marijuana failed in the state, and the Florida Governor is facing some new pushback from the legislature.

MS – Andy Taggart reviewed the republican supermajority make up of the legislature in Mississippi. Current topics that are being covered are tax and education reform, and on the healthcare side, scope of practice issues for physicians.

NC – Jamie reviewed the election results in North Carolina, and how federal disaster relief has not come through. The state has some funds to assist, but there will likely be a long battle on how it will be spent. Other topics of discussion in the state are medical marijuana and casino regulations.

GA – TJ shared that Georgia is going into their biennial cycle. Issues have been largely budget related such as disaster relief, the prison system and infrastructure repairs, tort reform, and school safety related to gun violence.

#### VII. Other Business

Mallory suggested that the regional committee continue to meet on a more regular basis, even if it was for short 15–20-minute calls over the next few months. Members could discuss current pain points and give brief updates.

#### VIII. Date of Next Meeting

Raymond will connect with Hannah about future availability and setting up a quick update calls.

#### IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm ET.