



**SLR Southern Regional Meeting**

**May 9, 2024**

**2:00 PM ET**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85813538612?pwd=yCsBREmBFzhgDoiaqS5rkWsyAy6RZb.1>

**Meeting ID: 858 1353 8612**

**Passcode: 464372**

**MINUTES**

Members Present

Ronnie Johnson, Chair, LA

Jonathan Brooks, NC

TJ Kaplan, GA

Jeff Thordahl, SC

Esme Thoman, TX

Brooke Robertson, KY

Hannah Webster, SLR

I. Call to Order – Ronnie Johnson

Ronnie Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM ET.

II. Review of Minutes from March 19, 2024

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

III. Discussion of Future In-Person Meeting

The group discussed the positive feedback from the Dallas regional meeting last fall. Hannah Webster noted that the Western Regional Committee postponed their plans for a regional meeting this year which opens funding for a Southern Regional meeting this

year. Jeff Thordahl announced that his firm has a new partner, Trey, and a regional meeting would be a great way to introduce him to the group.

Atlanta, GA was suggested as a potential location for the regional meeting. The group discussed attending a football game as an activity together. Georgia Tech plays Florida State on November 9<sup>th</sup>. They could fly in for dinner on November 7, have a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and watch the game on November 9.

Alternatively, Brooke Robertson offered Lexington, KY as a location for an October meeting. The Keenland Racetrack Fall Meet is in October. Lexington may be more difficult to get to than Atlanta, but with a smaller group, Brooke could look into getting clubhouse tickets to a race. Hannah will get details on the race dates and send out poll to members about preferred dates and location.

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

Esme Thoman brought up two main issues in Texas at the moment: environmental issues related to EPA standards and foreign ownership of agricultural land. Ronnie has seen both these issues in LA as well. Jonathan Brooks added that land ownership, particularly around Chinese ownership of agricultural land is an issue in NC. Jeff noted that farmland protection is generally a big issue in SC.

Jonathan discussed current legislation coming up in NC related to banning wearing masks and hoods outdoors. This legislation was amended during covid, but will be reinstated in response to recent protests about Palestine.

#### V. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

#### VI. Date of Next Meeting

The group will meet again after regional meeting polling has been conducted.

#### VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM ET.