

Agenda

2025 National Conference Agenda – Volunteers

All times below are Mountain Time. Agenda content subject to change.

Constituent Liaison: Melanie Hausmann, Director of Annual Fund and Gift Planning, Liaison to the Volunteer Council

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The following agenda describes sessions specifically designed for the above-mentioned constituents. For a full listings of Conference events and larger sessions, please visit

<https://leagueconference.org/full-schedule>.

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

6:00pm-9:00pm Recommendation: [Eden Festival Presents Clarise Assad and Friends](#)

*Pre-registration and payment required (\$45, which includes dinner)

Location: Tracy Aviary (roundtrip transportation will be provided from the Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City)

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

8:00am-8:30am **Volunteers Coffee, provided by the League of American Orchestras**

8:30am-9:00am **Volunteer Conference Overview and Welcome**

*Speakers: **Kathleen Leibrand**, President, League Volunteer Council; **Simon Woods**, President & CEO, League of American Orchestras; **Steve Brosvik**, President & CEO, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera; **Melissa Robison**, Program Publication and Front of House Director, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera; Maggie **Stehman**, Conference Chair, Volunteer Council*

9:00am-12:00pm **Gold Award Presentations**

Two Sides, One Mission: How Membership and Outreach Work Hand in Hand

-Friends of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra: City Christmas Tree 2023

-Houston Symphony League: Engaging Membership for Retention

Double the Impact: Managing Two Major Volunteer Projects with Success

-Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild of Bloomington-Normal: Take Me Out to the Symphony—A Concert for Area School Children; New York, New York ISO Gala 2023

Fundraising with Flair: Turning Giving into Celebration

-Charleston Symphony Orchestra League: Designer Showhouse—IMAGINE

-Dallas Symphony Orchestra League: Savor the Symphony

-Richmond Symphony League: 19th Designer House—Taylor Estate

1:00pm-2:30pm

Networking Workshop

A workshop designed to highlight the benefits of volunteering and aimed at developing practical networking skills.

*Facilitators: **Kent McNeil**, Past President St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association and Member, League Volunteer Council; **Kellie Sullivan**, President, Kansas City Symphony Alliance and Member, League Volunteer Council*

Thursday, June 12, 2025

10:15am-11:00am

Volunteer Council Gold Awards Reception *By Invitation Only

11:00am-12:15pm

Insights

Recommendations:

[Strategies for Creating Positive, Inclusive Organizations](#)

[Music and Mind: A Panel Discussion](#)

[Culture of Philanthropy and Best Practices for Institutional Funding](#)

1:45pm-3:00pm

Critical Conversations

Recommendation:

[From the Ground Up—Reimagining and Redefining the Perfect Volunteer Group](#)

*Speakers: **J. Andrew Bradford**, President and CEO, Santa Rosa Symphony; **Marena Gault**, Dallas Symphony Orchestra League and member, League Volunteer Council; **Roger Gault**, Chair, Dallas Symphony Association; **Terry D. Loftis**, President & CEO, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra; **Michelle Miller Burns**, President & CEO, Dallas Symphony Orchestra*

3:30pm-5:30pm

The Conversation Continues: Burning Questions for Volunteer Organizations

This constituency session will continue the discussion with themes from the Critical Conversations session. We will engage in small group and facilitated conversations around topics that emerged during the open session.

*Moderator: **Marena Gault**, Dallas Symphony League and member, League Volunteer Council*

Friday, June 13, 2025

8:30am-9:45am

Insights

Recommendations:

[Building a Compelling Case](#)

[Orchestras as Partners in Community Health and Wellness](#)

10:15am-11:15am

Taking a Look at Ourselves

An interactive session focused on the elements of successfully managing relationships and collaborating with volunteers in support of their orchestras.

*Moderator: **Nancy Labadie**, Past President of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League*

11:15am-11:45am

Final Reflections and Staying Connected

As we leave Conference, what will we choose to take with us? How do we stay connected and energized by what we've learned? We will identify strategies to keep the momentum on our path and deepen relationships that will fulfill us as we return home.

Notice: It is important to keep in mind antitrust rules governing competition that apply to this group discussion. While the agenda for this group includes discussion of a variety of issues that are crucial to orchestras' planning and strategies, the goal is not to agree on a single approach to these issues. With the benefit of analysis and discussion, each orchestra will be able to decide independently what course of action is best for its own organization. We ask you to avoid comments that relate to your orchestra's current or future plans for *ticket or event pricing (actual ticket prices, discount amounts)*, *bargaining (including collective bargaining agreements or with vendors)*, or *compensation*.