VALA Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom**

The meeting began at 9:31 with board members Lisa Wright, Cheryl Tudhope, and Stacey Bradley present, a roll call of the county delegates was conducted verifying that a quorum was reached with the following delegates or alternates present: **Addison:** Absent; **Bennington:** Absent; **Caledonia:** Absent; **Chittenden:** Absent; **Essex:** delegate vacancy, no rep; **Franklin:** Absent; **Grand Isle:** Sue Lawrence; **Lamoille:** Absent; **Orange:** Phyllis Hayward; **Orleans:** Absent; **Rutland:** Absent; **Washington:** Absent; **Windham:** Hardy Merrill; **Windsor:** Leo Salazar.

Also Present – Russ Collins & Noel Walker (Fairlee), John Kerr (Charlotte), Bob Quaderer Cheyenne Latimer (Hartland), Cristina Tardie (Hartford), Chris Miehl (NEMRC) Committee members - Todd Leblanc, Elizabeth Curran. PVR - Terri Gildersleeve

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes from the previous two Board of Directors meetings in March and May were submitted for approval. Phyllis Hayward & Hardy Merrill moved the motion to approve the March minutes; Leo Salazar seconded the motion. Following no discussion, the motion carried. Hardy Merrill moved the motion to approve the May minutes Leo Salazar seconded the motion. Following no discussion, the motion carried.

The Treasurer’s report was discussed by President Lisa Wright as Lisa Truchon was unable to make the meeting. Brief comments regarding savings from remote meeting and that the finances were favorable. Also Wright spoke about the upcoming conference, fees, and gifts that are being provided.

**Committee Reports**

**Legislature:** Cheryl Tudhope & Todd Leblanc had no pressing matters to report. Lisa Wright expressed the need for VALA to acquire assistance with legislative monitoring/advocacy. No further discussion of the matter

**Membership/Education:** Elizabeth Curran will be joining the meeting shortly. Lisa Wright was able to pass on that the membership renewals had come in a favorable level. The membership list via website will be updated soon. Out of state education sign ups generated a surplus in reserves. LOTY award will be presented at conference. Terri Gildersleeve reports for PVR on education, sales verification, and grand lists.   
Cristina Tardie (Hartford) expressed concerns with the certification process for the VPA program and requested a qualification be waived for an associate. Lisa Wright responded that PVR handles all decisions for the program. Terri Gildersleeve explained its limited possibility and the possibility of interchangeability and that the request will be passed on. Todd Leblanc expressed his concerns with the programs ability to supplement out of state education to the VT sponsored requirements of the VPA program. Terri Gildersleeve responded in the requirements after required coursework it states or equivalent. No further discussion on the matter.   
Elizabeth Curran signed into the meeting and reports 172 towns out of 256 have active members in VALA. Vermonter’s participation in education is low. VLCT made no reports. Chris Miehl advised last minute reminders and tips for grand list season and gave updates on current use.

**Annual Conference:**  Lisa Wright began with the discussion of presenters, format, and topics. Cheryl Tudhope, Cristina Tardie, Sue Lawrence, Stacey Bradley, and Chris Miehl touched on the topics. Cristina Tardie expressed her concerns with the states appraisal system and is of the opinion it’s dated in relation to other states. Topic discussion tabled for round table before final decision.   
Elizabeth Curran reports the registration forms for vendors will be going live 8/11/2022 and touched on the time of the conference, and door prizes.

**Treasurer/Finance:** Lisa Truchon was not present at this meeting, no report at this time.

**New Business:**  BOD LOTY nomination discussion, Board decided on Jean Newell of Dummerston VT. John Vickery of Burlington to acquire the plaque for the award.  
Conference presenter discussion John Fike, Christie Wright, John Valente, Chris Landon, and topics. Reappraisal cost sharing, new technology.  
Air BnB and its rise in residential use, how value is being calculated or factored into the assessment. VALA and the assessing industry needs to appeal to a younger workforce in Vermont. How can we attract new workers? Plans for setup and duties at the conference were tabled for further discussion.

**Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at promptly 11:27   
  
respectfully submitted, Secretary, Jacob Dorman