VALA Bi-Monthly Hybrid Meeting Minutes

 **Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
 West Rutland Town Office and Zoom**

The meeting began at 9:30 AM with board members Lisa Wright, Cheryl Tudhope, and Lisa Truchon present. Jacob Dorman spent time leading up to the meeting establishing the quorum. It was verified with the following delegates or alternates present: **Addison:** Absent; **Bennington:** Absent; **Caledonia:** Absent; **Chittenden:** Karen Lemnah; **Essex:** delegate vacancy, no rep; **Franklin:** Absent; **Grand Isle:** Sue Lawrence; **Lamoille:** Terri Sabens; **Orange:** Absent; **Orleans:** Absent; **Rutland:** Marcia Chioffi; **Washington:** Absent; **Windham:** Hardy Merrill; **Windsor:** Stacey Bradley.

Present via Zoom – Elizabeth Curran, Bill Basso, Meg Eberhardt, Russ Collins, Noel Walker, John Kerr, Bob Quaderer, Cheyenne Latimer, Cristina Tardie, Joe Turner, Marty Lagerstedt, A Couture, Michelle Pingree, Russ Collins, John Fike, Dorothy Knott, Benton Mitchell, Jen Myers, Austin Sansoucy, Chris Miele, Todd Leblanc (Past President), Christie Wright, Jill Remmick, Pat Santoso, Ed Clodfelter, Linda Sherman.
Also in-person present – Karen Folger Jerimiah Sund, Sandra Clark, Sharon Winnicki, Adan Garcia, S. Bailey.

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes from the November meeting were submitted for approval. Stacey Bradley moved a motion to approve the November minutes; Sue Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Treasures Report:** Lisa Truchon reports no financial statement for this meeting. Financial statement from audit committee was corrected. VALA is financially secure.

*Committee Reviews*

**Legislative:** Lisa Wight notes the continued need for legislative involvement and the LAND USE CHANGE TAX PROPOSAL discussion for the next meeting. Blog discussion to spread legislative information and remote monitoring of the legislature.

**Membership:** Elizabeth Curran reports VALA membership at 132 entities with 353 individual’s approx. Membership still coming in. Discussion of annual fees and conference fees. New membership form will not be released until May 1st, 2023 and due by June 1st, 2023. Lisa Truchon notes on what membership fees cover and the adequacy of the current fees. Discussion from S. Bailey, L.Truchon, C. Miele, & Stacey Bradley.

**Guest Speaker:** Karen Horn makes an appearance to discuss legislative priorities and agendas. Touches on proposal revision to reappraisal order based on predictable scheduling, potentially every 7 years, and the large number of reappraisals on the horizon. Membership discussion about the proposal commences. Logistics, costs, and workforce were noted. Christie Wright gives some reappraisal statistics for VT and some context on the situation the state is facing. More discussion on costs, economies of scale, and consolidation/grouping.

**Annual Conference:** Elizabeth Curran reports no theme was decided on for this meeting and that discussion was tabled in the last meeting. Lisa Wright presented the theme from last meeting “Embracing Technology and Attracting a Younger Workforce” and it was decided it was too long. The theme “Bringing Assessing into the Future” was decided on. A motion by Linda Sherman to accept the theme and seconded by Stacey Bradley. The motion carried. Elizabeth Curran Reports prior year conference earnings at $15,650 through sponsors and attendees, and costs of $17,724 generating a negative cash flow for the conference of $2074. Elizabeth recommends reorganizing the levels of sponsorship and associated fees and increasing conference attendance fees because of the conference associated costs (venue and food). Proposed fees; Attendance - $75 Sponsorship level fees; Platinum – $4500 Gold – $2500 Silver – $1500 Bronze - $750 Exhibitors - $500. Cheryl Tudhope moved a motion to accept the proposed conference fees for 2023. Linda Sherman seconded the motion. The motion carried. No further discussion.

Lisa Wright read the LOTY award letter from last year’s winner.

**Education:** Elizabeth Curran Reports positive cash flow of about $9000. There was 99 students in 5 classes last year and 67 students were Vermonters. Plans to do 6 classes this year. Discussion of remote and in person classes. Last year had a 92% passing rate.

**Finance:** Lisa Truchon reports a cash surplus and its relation to remote education.

**Legislature/PVR:** Jill Remmick opens by touching on advocating for VALA and the availability of the legislative sessions. Reporting on the CLA and towns with outdated appraisal years, international standards, and state payments for reappraisals. Christie Wright reports information about the sales study and the current state of reappraisal orders and the CLA. Jill Remmick ends with reports on the LAND USE CHANGE TAX proposal not being active but generating discussion, the state’s tax system changing and its chances being slim, and building a larger workforce. Short discussion commences about reported topics, education, and grants. Pat Santoso gives a brief presentation about VT Pie and its deployment phases. Training will be available for the software. Chris Miele “VERY BRIEFYLY” ends by giving some 411 tips and a NEMRC update.

 **New Business:** Meeting is planned for February. Elizabeth Curran comments about condolence cards from VALA.

**Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn the meeting from Jeremiah Sund, Linda Sherman Seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at promptly 11:52AM.

Respectfully submitted, secretary, Jacob Dorman