

VMCTA Education & Certification Committee
Meeting Held via Zoom
January 15, 2021 • 9 am

Committee Members Present: Julie Graeter, Heidi Racht, Diane Judd, Donna Kelty, Clyde Jenne, Patti Lewis, Jessica Alexander

Committee Members Absent: Charlie Dejener

Minutes: Heidi Racht

Agenda, distilled:

1. Call to order
 - a. Agenda Review/Modification
2. Approve the minutes of August 21,2020
3. Certificates for trainings in Summer and Fall/Certification plaques for Sarah- Morristown
4. Athenian Review
5. Training platforms
 - a. How to deliver trainings for certification points
 - b. Purchase Zoom?
6. Spring Training
 - a. Jim Ognibene conversation about on-line training
 - b. What should we offer and when?
 - i. Last years topics
 - ii. New topics
7. Set next meeting date in February
8. Adjourn

The meeting began at 9:08 am, chaired by Julie Graeter

Approve the minutes of August 21,2020: Heidi Racht apologized for the lapse in the production of minutes and promised to do better in 2021. Postponed to next meeting.

Certificates for trainings in Summer and Fall/Certification plaque:

Graeter has lists and will send to Racht, who will crank them out and then get them on the VMCTA website, which seems to be the most efficacious method for dissemination. Certification plaque to go to Georgette Wolf-Ludwig for signature and frame.

Zoom Athenian

Diane Judd reported that the VMCTA Fundraising Committee is organizing an Athenian Dialogue for February 7. Dawn Michanowicz, MMC is the popular facilitator and the registrations are coming in. Judd reports that a core group from across the country has been attending these Athenians and during a break in the last one, the Fairbanks, Alaska City Clerk took the attendees on a tour of her neighborhood to watch the Alaskan sunrise. [The next book is Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly, the story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race.] This is a VMCTA fundraiser.

Spring Training

Graeter put forth a plan for remote spring training. She said that Donna Kelty suggested a 101 series. Graeter also spent time talking with Jim Ognibene, who has programs and can offer technical support to this Committee to produce training segments.

Salient points of the discussion weighed the pros and cons of the following:

1. On-demand programs offer flexibility
 - a. Clyde Jenne noted that this would allow the Committee to separate Clerk and Treasurer training
2. Webinars offer opportunities for questions and discussion
3. Curriculum - basic programs for new clerks and treasurers
 - a. Racht proposed having this be truly basic and then offer other opportunities for more seasoned officials
4. Curriculum – more advanced programs.
 - a. Jessica Alexander suggested presenting this in the format of roundtables.
5. Zoom platforms – purchase of the program by this Committee in order to allow for more than 100 participants
 - a. Graeter has been using Colchester’s Zoom account, which has limitations
 - b. Lewis looked up the program and it is \$149 per year with an opportunity to allow more participants
 - c. Racht suggested going to the premium membership for a couple of months and then drawing back when trainings weren’t as active
6. Payment for the programs – could be done through an online portal
7. Means by which we can ascertain that the on-demand program was actually watched and not just on while other tasks were being done. Some interaction needed: questions at the end or interspersed.
8. Live Legislative Updates- Patti Lewis will talk with Carol Dawes

Donna Kelty joined the meeting.

9. PVR updates.
10. Live programs: April 22 and May 5, 9:30 am
 - a. These will not count for IIMC points, so the tax collection, elections, land records, state websites, etc. - the usual selection of scintillating topics will be offered.
11. Training by Ognibene will be scheduled by Graeter.

A Variety of Topics Not on the Agenda:

Clyde Jenne reminded the Committee that he is retiring at the end of January. Not so fast, Clyde, he was told. Kelty reported that the EBoard has been approached to allow Emeritus Clerks to continue to serve on Committees and seemed receptive. She was going to remind Georgette Wolf-Ludwig to raise this topic at the next meeting before Jenne could escape.

Graeter discussed the Zoom platform for this Committee, remarking that she feels the meetings are more productive. Judd replied that she is not spending four hours in the car to drive to Barre. As always, the group agreed that in-person meetings have benefits for a group, but Zoom is more efficient and can be easier for members to attend. Some vestige of Zoom will remain after in-person

meetings begin again, but that doesn't seem imminent and Zoom is working just fine for current needs.

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 12, 9 am.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned, by common consent, at 9:44 am.