



VMCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD  
Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025  
11:00 am Via Zoom

**Members Present:** President Diana Vachon, Shelburne; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sara Haskins, Morristown; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Therese Lounsbury, Wilmington; Secretary, Sally Ober, Lincoln; Treasurer Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex Junction City; Auditor, Bob Champagne-Willis, Maidstone; Two-Year Members at Large, Karmen Bascom, Royalton and Lily Trajman, Norwich; and One-Year Member at Large, Charlie Degener, Woodstock.

**Members Absent:** Past President, Diane Judd, Holland; One-Year Member at Large, John Odum, Montpelier

**Guests:** None.

1. **Called meeting to order:** 11:01 a.m.
2. **Agenda review and modifications:** Sara Haskins suggested adding online processing of certification documents under “other business” if we have time.
3. **Approve minutes from the August 1, 2025 meeting:** Amendments: Karmen Bascom sent corrected minutes including attendance. Diane Judd was listed twice. Under item 7, Sara was looking for updates about NEACTC, not IIMC. **Bob Champagne-Willis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Sara Haskins seconded. Minutes accepted as amended.**
4. **Treasurer’s Report & Warrant:** It was noted that the financial reports are to the end of fiscal year 2025 [which runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30]. Bob Champagne-Willis clarified that the income amounts reported are net amounts, but the IRS requires us to report gross amounts. Susan McNamara-Hill indicated it will take some work to get that straightened out. This was VMCTA’s second year in a row of positive growth, with thanks to our generous sponsors for the annual conference. Suggestions were made to possibly spend more on education and on positive relations with our sponsors. **Bob Champagne-Willis motioned to accept the warrant, Karmen Bascom seconded. Report and warrant approved.**
5. **New Business:**
  - 1) **Committee Members:** Diana Vachon is still working on assignments.
    - a) Some good news is that Carol Dawes is back as Treasurer in Barre City, and she is willing to be our Legislative Committee Chair again.
    - b) The mentor list on our website needs updating. Karmen Bascom and Charlie Degener are mentors for Windsor County.
    - c) VMCTA legislative priorities are due by the end of October.
    - d) Website Committee—our website needs attention. Michelle Warren is Chair. It would be great to have committee descriptions. The website committee needs more people on it, and we should have a website policy/protocol in place, to be sure it is managed properly.
    - e) It was suggested that we form a Conference Committee. Maybe pertinent chairs and officers could be on it, like membership, fundraising, sponsors, and treasurer. On Jan. 12, 2024, the E-

Board did pass a motion to form a conference committee, but it was never officially acted upon. Sara Haskins and Diana Vachon will work on developing a description for this committee.

- f) Accessible Voting ADA Compliance—Rosie Laquerre, from East Montpelier is on this committee. They are looking at possible statute revisions for what clerks do and don't do. Also on the committee are Bobbi Brimblecomb from Marshfield, Laura Fetterolf from Cornwall, and Tanya Marshall from the Secretary of State's Office.
  - g) There is a School Boards Committee, to work out wards for new school voting districts, as being possibly re-defined by the VT Legislature.
  - h) A working group about Open Meeting Law has been formed. Some big changes are being proposed. November 6<sup>th</sup> is the date for a formal report to the Secretary of State.
- 2) We discussed a **mobile voting company pitching a vote-by-phone idea.**
- a) Mobile voting will be funded by Tusk Foundation.
  - b) It would be a good offering for military and overseas voters.
  - c) It might not increase voter participation.
  - d) Voters can be disenfranchised in general, due to hardship or due to disinterest.
  - e) Sally Ober mentioned an upcoming vote in Lincoln, on whether to use electronic "clickers" at their floor meetings, to improve voting privacy and accuracy. They are hoping this voting method will be adopted and possibly lead to an increased voter turnout for town meetings.
- 3) **Clerk and Election Worker Safety**
- a) A few towns are being harassed by residents and need law enforcement.
  - b) Security of election officials can depend on the space where elections are held, and the distance from law enforcement. Some of the larger towns and cities are very near to their police services. Other rural communities are very far from law enforcement. Sally Ober indicated that she now receives disturbing and threatening emails before every federal election. These require her to stop working on election preparation tasks and report to authorities. In November 2024, she had an in-person threat, demanding that the election results better come out for a certain candidate, or violence would follow.
  - c) Sally Ober feels that the VMCTA should issue a strong statement, opposing threats or violence toward election officials. Sally and Charlie will draft a statement for consideration at a future E-Board meeting.
- 4) **2025 Conference Review**
- a) Post-conference survey results and comments:
    - i) It was generally felt that the location was convenient (most traveled 30-60 miles).
    - ii) Most people stayed overnight and attended both days (for the first time, we didn't offer the choice of one-day, unless it was specifically requested.)
    - iii) People felt the keynote speaker was either useless, or the best, and some responses called for only one session with that person. We generally spend a lot of money on our keynote speaker, so we try to get a second session to get our money's worth.
    - iv) Some wanted to go back to DJ and dancing instead of the comedy improv, or have no entertainment and just have more time to network.
    - v) The annual meeting at lunchtime is too long, especially with vendor speeches. Could vendors speak at breakfast, instead? It was agreed that at lunch, attendees are a more captive audience for both vendors and our annual meeting. People might skip these things if we offer them at a non-mealtime.
    - vi) People LOVED the Sugarbush Resort venue!
  - b) Sally Ober reported that the **Sponsor/Vendor Committee** is a lot of work and she could use more help next year.
    - i) Sara Haskins will look at the committee description and see if it needs revision.

- ii) We need to improve instructions for vendors to find where to unload their things for setting up. The resort could hopefully help us with this. Perhaps indicating certain times for set-up would help.
- iii) Maybe we can change the \$100 Municipal Sponsor Category, to remove “municipal”, because some companies have opted to give us money, which is less than one of the other sponsorship categories.
- iv) Sally Ober will review the current sponsorship levels and find out if Star Chapter can handle an open amount. It was suggested to look at what other state organizations have for sponsor/vendor charges.

**Other Business:**

**Certification:** Sarah Haskins said she has been testing an electronic platform where people can submit their applications for certifications to the Certification Committee. There is a free program or a pay-to-use program. It takes some time to set up, so she doesn't want to have to start all over again if we decide to use one or the other. There was consensus to have Sara continue to work on these, and we will try to test them and give her feedback.

**Annual Meeting Minutes:** Karmen will send them for posting on the VMCTA website.

**Website Committee:** Diana will reach out to them before our next E-Board meeting.

**Next meeting date:** Diana Vachon said she would like us to try to have some in-person E-Board meetings if possible. Perhaps we can do this quarterly. We agreed to meet on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**December 9**

**January 13**

**February 10**

**March 10**

**Bob Champagne-Willis made a motion to adjourn. Therese Lounsbury seconded. Passed.**

**Adjourned** at 12:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Ober, Secretary*