

VALA

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF LISTERS AND ASSESSORS

Annual Meeting / Conference Minutes

Friday, September 12, 2025

5 115 people attended the conference.

6 Welcome – Linda – Moment of Silence.

- **Presidents Report** – Linda Sherman reported on VALA's progress with Vendors & PV&R and the legislation committee made a presentation to the State. Linda Sherman discussed mandated changes, certification, and encouraged Listers to discuss hourly increases with their Selectboards. The viability of VALA was mentioned, noting its creation in the 1980's, and Linda Sherman stated a change is needed moving forward. It was noted that anyone in the field can be a part of VALA.

Reports

- **Secretary – Justin** – Linda Sherman referenced a report from the previous year provided by Cheyenne.
Motion made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Treasurer – Lisa** – The VALA FY25 Financials were distributed as part of the VALA packet. Lisa Truchon reported on the revenues and expenditures. The ending checkbook balance after an outstanding check of \$1,350.00 is \$24,721.33. Lisa Truchon referenced a pending grant, which would bring the balance to approximately \$48,000.00.
- **Auditors – Pat & Phyllis** – The auditors reported on the VALA FY25 Financials, stating the checkbook balances as of September 1, including the outstanding check. The beginning checking account balance was \$51,823.95, and the ending operating balance was \$24,721.33. Expenses were \$80,828.96, and Revenues were \$54,401.33.
- **Education – Mimi** – Mimi Burstein discussed upcoming classes and IAAO courses, and course information was distributed. Mimi Burstein requested assistance with education as requirements and inquiries are increasing. Mimi noted she is not in charge of PV&R Certification.
- **Membership – Mimi** – Mimi Burstein stated membership has increased since 2022, noting 114 municipalities, 314 individuals, and 5 business memberships.

1 **Old Business** – Raffle Tickets are available for purchase at the VALA conference.

2 **New Business**

- 3 • **Elections** – Administered by Lisa Wright.
- 4 • **President – Linda Sherman** – Linda is willing and available to serve.
- 5 • **Vice President Bob Quardeerer** – Bob is willing and available to serve.
- 6 Acknowledgment and appreciation were given to Bob regarding the VALA Website
7 upgrades.
- 8 • **Secretary – Justin Mason** – Justin noted limited availability and expressed concern
9 regarding timeliness of distributing meeting minutes and is willing to serve if there
10 are no other volunteers.
- 11 • **Treasurer – Lisa Truchon** – Lisa is willing and available to serve for one more year.

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13 Motion made and seconded to nominate and accept the Slate of Officers. Motion
14 passed unanimously.

15 **Announcements – County Delegate and Alternate** – Mimi Burstein collected the County
16 Delegate forms.

17 **Awards**

- 18 • **Rising Star Award** – Presented to Justin Mason, Assessor for 6 municipalities and a
19 Selectboard Member.
- 20 • **Lister of the Year** – Presented to Terri Sabens with 20+ years of service.
- 21 • **Jill Remick – Certification Awards** – Certification Awards were presented for Levels
22 I – IV.
23 Level I: Samantha Bolen, Shelly Degarden, Lori D., (Jericho), Regina Jenks
24 (Shaftsbury), Kevin Petrochko.
25 Level II: May E., Kevin G., Molly M., (St. Albans), Jacob Stoddard.
26 Level III: Stacey Bradley
27 Promotions: Deanna Robitaille, Commercial Litigation. Benton Mitchell, Utilities.
- 28 • **Ed Clodfelter – IAAO Update & Sherry Vermilya Award** – Ed Clodfelter, IAAO Rep
29 for Vermont, referenced Northeast Regional States and Districts, noting the 2026
30 Conference will be held in Plymouth, NH. Vermont is requested to hold a
31 conference for IAAO in the future if possible. Ed Clodfelter discussed IAAO courses
32 and certification levels.

33 **Sherry Vermilya:** The Sherry Vermilya Award is for the recognition of performing
34 best practices and was presented to Chris Miele.

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1 **Keynote Speaker** – Bill Shouldice, Department of Taxes Commissioner, presented and
2 provided personal and professional background information. Bill Shouldice noted he
3 meets with Jill Remick weekly, is a 5th Generation Vermonter, and understands that people
4 do not want to be run by the State. Regulations and the relationship between Zoning and
5 Assessing were discussed, and regional resources were recommended for trial prior to
6 implementing state services. The vision of change was discussed, along with VPIE, with
7 words of encouragement. For the implementation of change and main points of
8 discussion:

- 9 • Policy based on legislature
- 10 • Reports and testimony to the State
- 11 • Listening sessions held in each county
- 12 • Strategy for Laws
- 13 • RAD Groups
- 14 • December 2025 Town Hall
- 15 • Meet Government Montra to make Vermont affordable
- 16 • Share ideas & thoughts with local legislation
- 17 • Cost increases from Tariffs
- 18 • Education Rate Stabilization

19 **Closing:** Change is inevitable, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

20 The Meeting portion of the conference adjourned at 11:57am.

21 **Submitted by:** Justin Mason, VALA Secretary, Vermont Municipal Assessor