

**VHSA Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.



**Board Meeting Minutes – 10/13/2021**

**Present:**

Lt. Kevin Geno – Chair  
Barbara Brody – Vice Chair  
Lt. Al Fortin – Treasurer  
Evelyn McFarlane – sub secretary

Ann Gammell  
Tony Facos  
Roger Thompson  
Aleigh Jerome  
Ture Nelson  
William Bohnyak  
Sue Hoxie  
Sid Bradley  
Norma Griffiths  
Mandy White  
Rachel Noyes  
Abby Beerman  
John Flannigan  
Chris Conway  
Bill Jenkins  
Paul White

**9:00 Welcome/Chair Updates**

Lt. Kevin Geno

- Call meeting to order
- Vote to accept VHSA Board meeting minutes from August 2021  
**Al Fortin moved – Richard Wobby seconded**  
**Meeting notes approved unanimously**
- Introduce Sgt. Paul Ravelin – **Lt. Tara Thomas has moved off the board and Sgt. Ravelin is replacing him.**

**9:05 Crash Statistics & Trends**

Mandy White

Mandy White - Note that numbers are not looking good and the percentage of unbelted is at %65  
Paul asked about recent crash – question of whether they were unbelted

As of <b>October 4</b> in each calendar year shown:		
Year	Fatalities (People)	Fatal Crashes
2021	54	49
2020	52	48
2019	26	24
2018	51	44
2017	56	50

## 9:10 VHSA Executive Director Updates

Sue Hoxie

- Annual Awards Ceremony (VHSA & SHSO): October 20, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - House Chamber **Sue has updated the group on the ceremony. It is invitation event, but everyone is invited and can notify Sue.**
  - Sec. Flynn presenting awards in person
  - Invitation only: award recipients + 2 guests
  - Let Sue know if you would like to attend
  - VHSA presenting **8** awards (& SHSO presenting 6 Awards)
    - Lt. Tara Thomas
    - Bruce Nyquist, VTrans (retired)
    - Bill Mitchell, Ride Safe Vermont (retired)
    - Doug Masson, AARP (retired)
    - Highway Safety Engineering Award to four members of the Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project team
    - Chairman’s Award to four board members of Caps4Cops/Helmets From Heroes
    - Emergency Medical Services Award to Michael Tarbell, Rutland Regional Ambulance Service
    - Crossing Guard Award (in cooperation with Local Motion) to Michelle Pitzner, Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools
- Impaired Driving Summit: Postponed to May 11, 2022
  - Notified attendees, sponsors, speakers
  - Hotel deposit rolled over; no penalties
  - One speaker (Amy Miles) unavailable; replacement confirmed
  - Will re-start sponsorship outreach after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 50 attendees registered; will rollover to 2022
- Champlain Valley Fair recap – **Thank you to the attendees.**
  - “Touched” about 8,000 attendees – **between all of the partners**
- VELCO donation - **\$500 to the VHSA – Connected Sue to Vermont Health and Safety Council for outreach**
  - Recognition of Sgt. Rigger’s presentation to their fleet
  - Made connection with Vermont Safety & Health Council with hopes of making similar presentation to other businesses with employee drivers and fleets

- Barb noted that the attendance was down due to not having the big venues, bands, from year's past
- Barb noted that engagement was good

**9:30 Treasurer Report (as of 10/12/21)** Lt. Al Fortin

- Checking: \$1,535.67
- Savings: \$25,107.13 (\$25,061.98 restricted for NETSC\*)
- Total: \$26,642.80
- Available funds: \$1,535.67
- \*NETSC probably not hosting conference in 2021

**9:35 Board Seat Nominations** Sue Hoxie

- In October VHSA would typically discuss nominations for the coming year and vote at the December board meeting – **Can take nominations by email to Sue Hoxie**
- Sheriff Bohnyak is officially moving off the board at the end of 2021
- Seat doesn't need to be filled (unless we want to) as the bylaws permit a board size of 8-15 people.
- Will have 13 board members at end of 2021 with Bohnyak's departure
- There is a vacancy in one of the Core Board Member seats—from the Department of Health. Should be filled.
- Request to fill a vacant seat with someone from southern part of state – **Kevin looking to get more membership from the southern part of the state.**
- Al – recommending – someone from the media to be this board –
- Sue – also someone from public relations and media marketing as well as VT. Human Resources Association
- Barb will be spending winters in Florida and will be doing everything remotely – so may consider another (additional) member of the Drivers Ed
- Evelyn recommends VPA and Richards Group (Barb can look into the VPA contact)
- The elections will be for the first of the year and will be a part of the December board meeting

**9:50 Bylaws Update** Sue Hoxie

- The bylaws don't reflect the addition of an Executive Director and have been updated to reflect that (see PDF included in 10/12 email)
- Vote on changes at the December board meeting
- **Changes focus on Ex Dir. Call for questions and comments. No Comments at this time. Kevin asked for questions on bylaws change. A cleaned-up version will go out for December Board meeting**
- **Paul White: Question about the by-law changes. Remove language for quorum? Unintentional and will be reinserted into final document to be voted on December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### 10:00 Partner Updates

- Update on the State Highway Safety Plan: Evelyn McFarlane
- Evelyn will send out a PP that shows the trends to the group. John Flannigan asked about comments, and VHB is incorporating them, and they should be in the draft copy.
- VDTSEA update: Barb Brody
- Electing new officers –
- New England Conference Oct 29<sup>th</sup> for Driver Educators
- Discussing whether to add a student to the VDTSEA Board of Directors
- Schools may be looking at doing safety days again
- Kevin – Question for Anthony Facos – about student driver ed presentation being prepared. Interactive tutorial is up and running on the DMV site for new drivers permits. Interviewing this week to fill the Driver Ed position. Hard to fill the position.
- Contact Barb if anyone wants to attend the Driver Ed conference.

### 10:05 Presentations/Discussions: **Will postpone the presentation to another day**

- Sgt. Paul Ravelin “Preparations for Winter Driving”

### 10:25 Miscellany (if needed)

- Kevin did a quick survey of preferences for virtual vs in-person meetings. Hybrid model seems to be popular. Dec. Virtual – with perhaps Feb in person.

### 10:30 Adjournment

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 8, 9 – 11 am