Updated: October 2026

Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

Committees & Assignments

FY 2026

All Zoom Meetings Use the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8937010470

President Role on Committees

The VAST President serves as an ex officio member of all committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. In this role, the President is there to support the committee – not to run the meeting. The President may provide input or share insight when asked by the chair or committee members, and can help to offer perspective on topics under discussion. Think of the President as a resource and partner to the committee, there to encourage and strengthen your work.

Board of Directors (BOD)

The VAST Board of Directors is made up of 14 County Directors, elected by their counties. When a director cannot attend a meeting, their Alternate steps in with full voting privileges. In addition to the County Directors, the Executive Committee and VAST staff work closely with the Board to help guide, support, and carry out the work of the Association.

The Board plays a central role in keeping VAST strong. County Directors serve as the vital link between the statewide association and the county clubs, ensuring open communication, sharing important updates, and helping move VAST forward together.

Per the VAST bylaws Article 7: Each Director may be required to be an active member of at least one committee.

Per the VAST bylaws Article 8: At least one member of each committee shall be a Director

All Committee Chairs will receive the relevant discussion items compiled from the director one-on-one meetings with Patty (President of VAST), as well as key topics identified during this year's workshop summit. Committees are expected to review these items and determine whether they are issues/ideas the committee can address and develop proposals for or initiatives that have already been implemented and simply require education or communication.

Each committee that receives a list of ideas/issues to review should report back to the VAST Executive Committee with a status update on each item once it has been addressed or completed

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee typically meets monthly before each Board of Directors meeting, but it can also meet outside of the regular schedule if an import issue comes up.

Their role is to problem-solve, share knowledge, do the necessary research, and make sure all governing documents established by the Board and membership are being followed.

This committee helps guide and support the work of VAST. It often handles external relations issues and, when needed, seeks the backing of the Board of Directors to resolve them. Just as importantly, the Executive Committee keeps the Board informed by sharing timely updates, so that County Directors can keep their county clubs well-connected and up to date.

Members:

President	Patty Companik	203-710-7358	patricia.companik@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Mark Reaves	595-5614	mreaves68@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Halpin	279-3477	brothersre@madriver.com
Treasurer	Steve Conti	522-4441	scontivt@gmail.com
Executive Director	Cindy Locke	730-2461	cindy@vtvast.org
Past President	Jeff Fay	238-2037	<u>ifayvast@gmail.com</u>

Committee 2026 Charges:

- Support the County Directors: Ensure that all 14 County Directors have the tools, resources, and information they need to carry our VAST business smoothly and efficiently.
- Guide the Association's Operations: Provide clear direction to the Executive Director in managing the day-to-day operations of the Association, while adhering to all established policies and bylaws. The Committee is charged with ensuring the overall success, stability, and financial health of the Association
- Foster Communication and Transparency: Maintain open and timely communication with the Board of Directors by sharing important updates, decisions, and recommendations, ensuring that County Directors can keep their county clubs informed and engaged.
- Problem-solve and Respond to Issues: Address challenges as they arise by meeting regularly and, when needed, outside of the normal schedule. The Committee researches, discusses, and recommends solutions that keep the Association moving forward.
- Uphold Governance and Accountability: Ensure that all actions of the Association follow its bylaws, policies, and guiding documents, while modeling accountability, responsibility, and good governance for the organization.

Board Resource Committee

Purpose: This committee will meet when requested by the VAST President or Vice President to help resolve official conflicts of interest, conflicts of confidentiality incidents, grievances or any other formal complaint or initiative having to do with VAST, VAST Directors, Officers, Staff, Contractors, Subcontractors, Clubs or Volunteers.

Members

Members will be decided based on the issue, so that the most unbiased approach will be taken.

Awards, Scholarship & Nominating Committee (meetings as necessary)

Nominating: Throughout the year, committee members are encouraged to be mindful of potential candidates for upcoming leadership positions. In the spring, they solicit nominees for officer positions whose terms are going to be completed. Members of this committee also meet with new candidates to discuss expectations and requirements of the offices they are seeking. If an officer position becomes vacant during the year, the Nominating Committee is responsible for soliciting potential candidates to fill that vacancy and presenting a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval, as outlined in the bylaws.

Awards: This committee identifies and recommends new ways to recognize the contributions of VAST volunteers of all ages in creative, meaningful and energizing ways. They also carry out the official VAST Awards Program, which includes:

- Communicating deadlines and guidelines for award nominations
- Meeting to review, discuss, and make final selections for award recipients
- Ensuring the proper awards and associated speeches are prepared and presented during the Annual Meeting

Scholarship: The committee oversees the VAST Scholarship Program as outlined in the VAST Policy. Their responsibilities include:

- Communicating scholarship guidelines and submission deadlines to potential applicants.
- Reviewing all applications received and conducting an independent scoring process.
- The committee chair collects the scores, averages them, and ranks the applicants based on final scoring.
- Following the VAST policy, the committee determines the number of applicants to be selected as scholarship recipients and updates the Board of Directors accordingly.
- Notifying the scholarship recipients and forwarding the top two candidates to the Northeast Chapter for consideration for further scholarship opportunities.

Members:

Amber Stevens – Chair	869-1091	istevensgm@vermontel.net
Yvonne Rice	291-0492	rryarice@gmail.com
Ruth Halpin	279-3477	brothersre@madriver.com
Dustin Turner	730-6952	dustint6883@yahoo.com

Awards, Nominations & Scholarship Committee 2026 Charges

Awards:

- Continue exploring new ways to solicit nominations for awards and collaborate with VAST staff to encourage submissions via all available communication platforms (VAST magazine, e-blasts, Facebook, etc.).
- Identify and recommend new ways to thank and recognize volunteers, building on successful initiatives such as National Volunteer Week, and consider new approaches for engagement and recognition.
- Review the current awards program, including the number and type of awards, and recommend any changes if needed
- Prepare the awards portion of the VAST Annual meeting, including:
 - Ordering awards
 - Writing speeches in advance based on the nominations submitted
 - Coordinating presentation and reading of speeches for the Annual Meeting
 - Look at the potential of writing one full-length speech for publication in the VAST magazine and a condensed version to be read during the Annual Meeting to streamline time
 - Engage the Trails Administrator and Executive Director as needed to support awards preparation

Scholarship:

- Oversee the VAST Scholarship Program as outlined in VAST policy
- Promote scholarship opportunities and encourage submissions though the VAST magazine, eblasts, and Facebook
- Recommend updates to scholarship policies and processes as needed

Nominating:

- Identify and bring forward qualified candidates for any of the four VAST Board officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Ensure the Nominating Committee chair is NOT a current VAST officer
- Use VAST communication platforms- including the magazine, e-blasts, and Facebook to encourage interest and engagement from potential candidates
- Coordinate with current officers to determine if they plan to seek re-election. If not, communicate any upcoming vacancies widely to solicit nominations.
- Follow established process for contested officer positions at the Annual Meeting, as outlined in VAST policy.

Long Range Planning Committee (meetings as necessary)

The purpose of this committee is to focus on issues that impact the organization's structure, health, and long-term success. The committee develops solutions and recommendations for VAST committees, clubs, staff, officers, and the Board of Directors. They may proactively identify topics or be assigned specific items throughout the year.

A key responsibility is guiding the content and direction of the annual summit, held in the spring or summer.

The committee takes a visionary approach, examining where the association should go and what changes are needed to achieve those goals. Recommendations are presented to the Board of Directors for approval, discussion, or modification. Through this process, the committee fosters open dialogue about the future vision and direction of the association.

Members:

Mark Reaves - Chair	595-5614	mreaves68@gmail.com
Cindy Locke	730-2461	cindy@vtvast.org
Mike Burns	370-9160	mikeb2019@myfairpoint.com
Mike Stewart	353-8304	mike@fordofclaremont.com
Mark Blanchard		markonthebend@gmail.com
Jim Dwinell		mrjd303@gmail.com
Jeff Fay	238-2037	jfayvast@gmail.com

Committee 2026 Charges

- Help to plan yearly Board Leadership Summit (in place of monthly BOD meeting)
- Work with the VAST Executive Director & Officers on short and long-term special projects and initiatives for recommendations to the board of directors or committees.

Bylaws & Policy Committee (meetings as necessary)

The purpose of this committee is to prepare and propose necessary changes to the organization's Bylaws and Policy. Recommendations are presented to the Board of Directors and, when required, to the VAST membership.

The committee collaborates with the Personnel and Trails Committees to ensure any changes are properly implemented in their respective policy manuals.

The committee may periodically review existing Bylaws and Policies, or act on specific requests for review. After consideration, it provides recommendations to guide updates and improvements.

Additionally, the committee chair serves as a resource for clarification and guidance on current bylaws and policies.

			-			
۱л	^	m	h	^	rc	
vi	_		LJ	_	15	-

Mark Reaves - Chair	595-5614	mreaves68@gmail.com
Cindy Locke	730-2461	cindy@vtvast.org
Carol DeJohn	860-558-6033	caroldejohn@yahoo.com
Bonnie Holbrook	777-7456	vermontirondogs@gmail.com
Steve Conti	522-4441	scontivt@gmail.com
Jeff Fay	238-2037	jfayvast@gmail.com

- Continue to update the VAST Policy Manual
- Continue to review and recommend changes to VAST Bylaws
 - o Clarification on language definition of membership (TMA vs Club)
- Work with the Personnel Committee on Personnel Policy as needed
- Work with the Trails Committee on Trails Policy as needed

Financial Committee (meetings as needed)

The purpose of the Financial Committee is to oversee the organization's financial policies and planning. The Committee:

- Makes recommendations on financial policy changes to the Bylaws and Policy Committee
- Reviews and approves the proposed budget, prepared by the Executive Director, for submission to the Board of Directors and ultimately the membership for final approval.

- Advises the Board of Directors on future financial needs and responds to unanticipated financial requirements.
- Provides recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding investments.

Members:

Steve Conti - Chair	522-4441	scontivt@gmail.com
Carol DeJohn	860-558-6033	caroldejohn@yahoo.com
Cindy Locke	730-2461	cindy@vtvast.org
Sheila Fenoff-Willett	461-5433	sheila@vtvast.org
Patty Companik	203-710-7358	patricia.companik@sbcglobal.net
Ken Bordewieck		ken.bordewieck@comcast.net
Mike Gabriele		mgabriele10@gmail.com

- Review budget as needed to make sure income and expenses are in-line with projections and recommend any necessary action.
- Plan for future financial needs of association
- Educate clubs on financial processes/suggestions
 - Club/County Treasurer one page guide
 - VAST Club Review (audit) document review and update as needed

Personnel Committee (meetings as needed)

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to oversee performance evaluations and personnel matters for the Executive Director in accordance with VAST policies. The committee:

- Conducts the annual performance review and a semi-annual informal review
- Recommends changes to the performance review process, if necessary
- Communicates the review process and timeline to the Board of Directors and obtains their input.
- Provides a summary of the final evaluation to the Board and recommends any salary adjustments based on performance.
- Updates the personnel policy as needed
- Conducts any personnel actions requested or required by the Board of Directors

Members:

Juliann Sherman - Chair	222-1746	Juliann.Sherman@vermont.gov
Mark Reaves	595-5614	mreaves68@gmail.com
Bruce Carlson	860-921-6498	bruce-carlson@sbcglobal.net
Carol DeJohn	860-558-6033	caroldejohn@yahoo.com
John Hull	371-7301	averill193@gmail.com

- Meet with the executive director periodically to check in.
- Review personnel policy to make sure it continues to protect VAST as an organization and also VAST staff.
- Work with the Executive Director to resolve staff issues if any arise.
- Assist the VAST Board of Directors & VAST Officers to perform ED annual review
- Recommends any salary adjustments for the ED based on performance
- Continue to review and update as needed ED evaluation form/survey

Safety Committee (regular monthly meetings)

The purpose of the Safety Committee is to promote safe riding throughout Vermont. The committee focuses on:

• Educating members on signage, state regulations, and VAST policies

413-237-6541

- Supporting instructors by ensuring they have updated materials needed for upcoming courses
- Developing and implementing safety initiatives to encourage responsible and safe riding practices across
 the state

stancconsult@comcast.net

Members:

Stan Choiniere - Chair

Pat Poulin	238-8569	polaris70@comcast.net
Roger Gosselin	274-4502	vtsnowmobiler@gmail.com
Randy Hazard (FPR Wardens)		randy.hazard@vermont.gov
Jake Metayer (State Police)		jacob.metayer@vermont.gov
Clay Erwin		iamclayerwin@gmail.com
Campbell Erwin		campbellerwin128@gmail.com
Aaron Golub		pathtothepresent@gmail.com
John Maille	777-2740	histosolsjjm1@outlook.com
Joan Choiniere		jchoiniere13@comcast.net
Richard Sedlack		richard@level2learning.com
Brandon Phillips	274-4389	brandonphillips1984@yahoo.com
Glenn Toole	490-0775	gtoole@gmail.com

- Enhance membership knowledge regarding safe riding in VT.
- Directors feedback: Continue education on Riding Right
- Assist in increasing the number of on snow events during International Snowmobile Safety Week.
- Work with Governor's Council and stay apprised of their work.
- Update VT portion of Online Safety Training
- Encourage and promote classroom Safety Training sessions and Instructor Training session as needed
- Leverage Ambassador Program as needed

- Research snowmobile community visibility/educational opportunities
- Review impact and possible enhances of the "Adventure Readiness" pilot program

Law Enforcement Committee

<u>Law Enforcement:</u> Work with Governor's Council and law enforcement partners to improve communications, training & coordination for all agencies. Advise Governors Council and VAST board on work done and offer suggestions for moving forward. Work with Law enforcement partners to understand the needed level of funding for law enforcement on the SSTP. Recommend changes to the law enforcement funding as needed.

Members:

Gary Nolan - Chair 793-0201 <u>garynolanvt@gmail.com</u>

Cindy Locke 229-0005 <u>cindy@vtvast.org</u>

Matt Tetreault 229-0005 <u>matt@vtvast.org</u>

Paul Doucette Randy Hazard (FPR Wardens) <u>paul.doucette@vermont.gov</u>

Jake Metayer (State Police) jacob.metayer@vermont.gov

Randy Hazard (FPR Wardens) randy.hazard@vermont.gov

Jake Metayer (State Police) <u>jacob.metayer@vermont.gov</u>

- Find Improvements to law enforcement utilization including coverage, training, budgets.
- o Refine commitments between sheriffs and VAST.
- Law enforcement sub committee for equipment grants: Gary, Cindy and Matt

Trails Committee (regular meetings)

The purpose of the Trails Committee is to collaborate with the Trails Administrator and Trails Manager on a wide range of trail-related issues. The committee:

- Hosts regular meetings with the 14 County Trails Coordinators to ensure clear understanding of trails
 policies, upcoming deadlines, grooming and maintenance procedures, landowner relations and updates to
 tools such as trail maps and GPS units
- Serves as the central point of communication for all trail-related matters, with county trail coordinators who are responsible for sharing this information with their county clubs.
- Ensures adherence to policies and bylaws while promoting transparency, education, and consistency across all counties.

As a core component of VAST, the Trails Committee plays a critical role in ensuring proper communication, education, and adherence to the governing documents of the association – particularly the Trails Policy – while supporting clubs in maintaining and managing the trails that are essential to the organization's existence.

Members:

John Hull - Chair	371-7301	averill193@gmail.com

Matt Tetreault 229-0005 <u>matt@vtvast.org</u>

Mandy Dwinell 229-0005 <u>mandy@vtvast.org</u>

Sub Committee Members:

Trail subcommittee members can vary by topic and need of the Trails Administrator and Trails Manager (additional members to be added as needed)

John Bialek

Jim Dwinell

- Build a steering (sub) committee made up of the Chair or Vice Chair, Staff and three current Trails Committee members to meet and work on projects to then present to the full Trails Committee.
- Continue to review Trails Policy and make recommendations for adjustments as needed.
- Review & update grooming rates for all classes if needed. Review trail classifications regarding
 the importance to trim grooming, trail mileage, start-up payments, etc in the future if we
 continue to have low snow winters.
- Look at high traffic & trail usage in regard to grooming contract agreements.
- Review trail upgrades &/or trail additions to grooming contracts in the May timeframe.
- Analyze grooming data throughout the season.
- Review & make recommendations to the trails construction & maintenance budget.

Annual Meeting Committee (meetings as needed)

The purpose of the Annual Meeting Committee is to plan and host the next Annual Meeting. In hosting the Annual meeting, the committee works within the budget approved by the membership to provide a venue, food, sound system, etc. with a focus on celebrating the past season while looking ahead to the upcoming season.

The committee collaborates with the prior year's hosting county and VAST Executive Director to coordinate this annual event, typically held in August or September.

Members:

2026 Host: Orleans County

Committee Members

Roger Gosselin 274-4502 <u>vtsnowmobiler@gmail.com</u>

Cindy Locke 730-2461 cindy@vtvast.org

Anyone else the county would like on the committee can be added.

Past Hosts

Jenn Lucia 989-9934 <u>2lucias@comcast.net</u>

2027 Annual Meeting Host: Orange County

- Lead and assist in the planning of the 2026 Annual meeting.
- Maintain and update the Annual Meeting resource book as needed.

Social Media Committee

The purpose of the Social Media Committee is to promote and raise awareness about snowmobiling in Vermont. The committee focuses on creating marketing strategies to engage volunteers and members, while taking a creative and visionary approach to enhancing VAST's social media presence.

Recognizing that over 70% of the population uses social media as a primary source of news and information, this committee is responsible for advancing VAST's outreach and marketing efforts across all digital platforms

Bonnie Holbrook – Chair	vermontirondogs@gmail.com	vermontirondogs@gmail.com
Lee Whiting	591-1533	windsongvineyardvt@gmail.com
Jennifer Lucias		2lucias@comcast.net
Campbell Erwin		campbellerwin128@gmail.com
Mandy Dwinell	229-0005	mandy@vtvast.org
Mike Mustachio		lunenburgpolarbears@gmail.com
Anthony Metz		anthonypmetz@hotmail.com

- Utilize different types of social media platforms to promote the VAST brand and provide consistent messaging
- Partner with Committees as needed for ideas (trails, safety, awards, long range, etc)
- Create short videos promoting specific items (suggestions: destinations, safety, places to stay, eat, how to join a club/purchase a TMA, trail work, etc)
- Leverage outside resources to help promote social media (high school students)
- Collaborate with Intl Snowmobile Association state associations to share ideas, experiences, expenses, etc
- Work with VAST staff as needed

Affiliated Businesses, Organizations or Councils of VAST

<u>Vermont Snow Trails Conservancy (VSTC) – Trustees and Board Members</u>

VSTC is a nonprofit set up to collect easements from landowners that wish to grant them. There is an agreement / contract between VSTC and VAST that is held by both organizations. To learn more about VSTC look for the VSTC tab on the VAST website.

- President Jim Hill
- Vice President Cindy Locke
- Secretary Open
- Treasurer Mark Ellingwood

Board Members At Large

- Frank Stanley
- Greg Rouleau
- Stan Choiniere

American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) – Board of Directors

The AORRG is a risk retention group insurance company started by VAST. It is a separate company in which VAST owns the largest number of shares. The insurance the AORRG provides is trails liability.

- President Mark Reaves
- Vice President Jim Hill
- Treasurer Cindy Locke
- Secretary Covered by Management Company Staff

Board Members at Large

- Dustin Turner
- Mike Kohler
- Jeff Fay

Vermont Governor's Snowmobile Council (VSGC)

The VGSC is a group that is structured and governed by the State of Vermont Governor. Its existence and rules surrounding it are in state statue and governed by laws. The main functions are to oversee all state funds from snowmobile registrations and gas tax, as well as provide funding for insurance, law enforcement, safety initiatives, and more.

- Cindy Locke Chair (appointed)
- Patty Companik VAST (mandated)
- Matt Tetreault VAST
- Jacob Metayer Vermont State Police / Department of Public Safety (mandated)
- Randy Harzard Vermont Fish & Wildlife Wardens (mandated)
- Patrick Brennan Vermont State Senate (mandated)
- Jim Casey Vermont State House Representative (mandated)
- Claire Polfus Vermont Forest parks & Rec. / Agency of Natural Resources (mandated)
- Shannon Fassett Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (mandated)
- Paul Doucette (Vermont Police Chiefs Association & Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue (mandated)
- Marc Poulin Vermont Sheriff's Association (mandated)
- Mike Mustachio Northeast Representative (appointed)
- Jim Hill Northwest Representative (appointed)
- Stan Choiniere Southern Representative (appointed)
- Jeff Halpin Central Representative (appointed)