



Vermont State Report to EASFAA Council

Meeting Dates: Sunday, June 13, 2021-Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Location: Windsor, CT

Include each topic, as appropriate for your state

Executive Council:

President: Ryan Dulude, CCV

President-elect: Marie Johnson, UVM

Secretary: Judy Buxton, UVM

Treasurer: Martha Hinchman, UVM

Conference:

VASFAA's conference, Apart Yet 2Gether, was held virtually from Tuesday, June 8 to Thursday, June 10. We had more than 60 registrants! Our keynote speaker was Carrie Stack, founder of the Say Yes Institute, a company focused on building emotional intelligence skills through training and coaching. We also heard from Megan Coval and Jill Dejean from NASFAA, Scott Giles from VASFAA, and colleagues from UVM, VSAC, and McClintock and Associates.

Award winners were Melaney Wald from VSAC for all of her work serving in interim president roles and keeping VASFAA together during several transitions, and Chris Barry from VSAC for his work as co-chair for VASFAA's first ever virtual conference.

Special Initiatives:

During the VASFAA Conference, Ryan Dulude took on the gavel as VASFAA president for 2021-2022. Several initiatives Ryan introduced during his introduction speech were:

- Five Virtual Shop Talk events per year, which will be structured similar to Blue Icon's Let's Talk events and focus on specific topics, hot button issues, or general training opportunities for the organization.
- Several by-law changes that will create membership tiers for institutions outside of Vermont to join VASFAA, and retirees.
- Two Director-level meetings per year that allows those at the director level or above to connect with each other and both discuss the trials and tribulations of running an aid office and opportunities for state-wide collaboration.

- Identifying ways in which we can solicit and engage our Associate Members in VASFAA. We've been fortunate to have some wonderful participation by Associate Members but we want to give them more avenues for sponsorship while also having representation at the Executive Committee level.
- Finally, VASFAA will adopt an inclusion statement during the next year that affirms our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organization, in our offices, and for the students we serve.

Committees:

A special thank you to members of the Conference Committee for all of the hard work putting on VASFAA's Virtual Summer Conference: Chris Barry (VSAC), Jeani Stella-Devani (VTC), Lisa Talbot (Sallie Mae), Marilyn Cargill (VSAC), Ryan Gates (UVM), Martha Hinchman (UVM), Lynda Ossola (UVM), Linda Thatcher (VSAC).

Submitted by:

Ryan Dulude