Meeting Minutes - June 26, 2026

Members present:

In person: Roz King (President), Mike King (Treasurer), Liz Couto (Director), Tyler Molleur, Elaina Lefevre

Virtual: Terri Lynn Grahamm (CVMC), Sarah Christman (NVRH), Karah Newman (UVMMC), Jada Barton (UVMMC)

1) Call to Order
   a) Establish Quorum – Roz King, President
      - Quorum confirmed
   b) Welcome/Introductions
      - Roz King (President), Mike King (Treasurer, acting Secretary), and Liz Couto (Government Affairs) introduced themselves.
   c) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
      - March 27, 2026, meeting minutes were approved by email prior to the meeting.
   d) Adoption of Meeting Agenda
      - Agenda adopted as presented.
2) President's Report

   Discussion/Summary:
      - No formal report.
      - Meeting proceeded to committee updates.
3) Treasurer's Report

   Discussion/Summary:
      - Report submitted in advance by Mike King - The Vermont ENA State Council currently maintains a checking account balance of $2,659.86 and a money market balance of $12,935.11 for a total of $15,594.97 cash on hand.
      - Two $5,000 payments have been issued to Outbound Stowe as a deposit for the 2027 NERS conference.
      - All accounts are reconciled and up to date, the Vermont ENA State Council Credit Card has a $143.20 balance

4) Committee Reports

Discussion/Summary:

Education and Practice Chair, Vacant

- No report.
- Mike King and Sam Demers are co-leading Fall Education Day planning in the interim. Anyone interested in chairing this committee should contact the board.

Forensic Chair, Abigail Garrett

- No report

Fundraising Chair, Vacant

- No report.

Quality, Safety, & Injury Prevention (IQSIP) Chair, Vacant

- No report.
- Erica Carlson has informally indicated possible interest. Roz King will follow up with her directly.
- Jada Barton (virtual) expressed interest in the role during this meeting. She will connect with Tyler and Dale offline to learn more before committing. Jada noted her extensive Stop the Bleed teaching experience as relevant background.
- **Action**:
    - Roz to follow up with Erica Carlson regarding IQSIP Chair interest.
    - Jada Barton to connect with Tyler M and Dale offline regarding the IQSIP Chair role.

Government Affairs Chair, Liz Couto

- State Legislative Update: Wins
    - Forensic Facility Bill: Signed into law by the Governor last week. Vermont was one of only two states in the nation without a forensic facility for individuals with co-occurring mental health or substance use disorders involved in criminal proceedings. This legislation addresses a longstanding gap in clinical and legal accountability for this population, including their impact on emergency departments.
    - S209 (Hospital Protected Spaces): Passed. Healthcare facilities are now added to the list of protected spaces where law enforcement cannot remove individuals without specific criteria, reducing workplace disruption and protecting patient care environments.

- Hospital Bill of Rights / APRN Recognition: Legislation updated to formally recognize APRNs as admitting providers in the Hospital Bill of Rights, reflecting current practice where APRNs often serve as primary admitting providers.
- H549 (Immunization Board): Legislation now requires a nurse representative (nurse practitioner) on the state immunization advisory board, ensuring clinical nursing perspective informs vaccination recommendations.

- State Legislative Update: Stalled
  - PA Emergency Examination (EE) Bill: Did not advance out of the Senate this session. The Department of Mental Health raised objections during the House session, reversing an earlier pledge of neutrality. Political dynamics in the Senate ultimately stalled the bill despite its unanimous passage in the House. Vermont ENA will continue to advocate for PAs to perform emergency examinations in EDs, as the current restriction delays access to mental health care without clinical justification.
- Federal Legislative Update:
  - Federal landscape remains very challenging. Federal workplace violence prevention legislation continues to have significant co-sponsorship (~half the House, ~one-third of the Senate) but has not moved in five years. ANA is currently in Washington, DC advocating on related bills.
- Workplace Violence:
  - A significant workplace violence case in Lamoille County resulted in the most serious criminal sentence for healthcare workplace violence in that county to date. The presiding judge explicitly validated Vermont's three workplace violence laws passed over the past three years. This precedent is expected to support other hospitals and state's attorneys who have faced challenges in pursuing similar cases.
- Vermont Legislative Advocacy Day 2027:
  - Already scheduled for February 1–2, 2027 at the Capital Plaza, Montpelier.
  - This year's event grew to 160 attendees.
  - Planning will include a "Legislative 201" track in addition to introductory content. Day 2 involves meetings at the State House with legislative representatives and key committees. The coalition is expanding its engagement model.

<u>Media and Communications Co-Chairs, Mike King and Liz Couto</u>

- Website: The new Vermont ENA website (vermontena.org) is live and operational. A minor email campaign deliverability issue is being worked through, and a fix is expected soon. Mike will contact ENA National to take down or redirect the old ENA Connect state page.
- Social Media: Follower/following count is up approximately 600% since the account overhaul. Members are encouraged to share anything happening in their departments or as ENA members — content does not need to be directly ENA-organized.
- Name Badges: Liz finalized the name badge order. Board member name badges are on their way.
- **Action**:
  - Mike to contact ENA National to take down/redirect the old ENA Connect state page.
  - Members encouraged to send photos and content from their departments and ENA-related activities to Liz for social media posting.

Membership Chair, Roz King

- Current membership as of June 22, 2026: 193 members — an increase of 2 since the March report. A significant portion of the 2026 new members are colleagues from the forensic nursing community who joined when that partnership was formalized.
- Birthday cards continue to be mailed to all members.
- Quarterly Yeti Raffle: Member # was drawn at this meeting. Tyler M won an ENA-engraved Yeti, which will be mailed to him.
- Swag Store: A link to the Vermont ENA swag store has been added to the website. New items have been added.

Research Chair, Roz King

- PAIN Study (EFIC): Vermont's first-ever EFIC (Exemption from Informed Consent) study remains active at UVMMC. The study randomizes pre-hospital trauma patients transported to UVMMC to receive either ketamine or fentanyl (double-blinded). Vermont is one of nine sites nationally. Enrollment to date: 0 patients. The study remains live.
- UVM Health Network Research Collaborative: Efforts are underway to build a formal research network across UVM Health Network institutions. This will meaningfully expand the state's capacity for multi-site and rural research participation.

Trauma and Pediatric Chair, Mike King

- TNCC/ENPC instructor roster has grown significantly over the past year. New instructors added at multiple sites across the state.
- Ongoing outreach to NVRH and North Country Hospital to expand instructor presence in those areas.
- Hybrid course model continues synchronous virtual didactic day with live instructors, followed by a local simulation day at the student's home institution. No travel or overnight stays required.
- All UVM-hosted TNCC and ENPC course dates are posted on the ENA website
- ENPC 7th Edition rollout: Still anticipated by fall 2026. Instructors will need to complete updates when available.

5) Old Business

a) NERS 2026 — Rhode Island (Recap)

- Rhode Island hosted a successful NERS at Newport Harbor Island Resort. Vermont ENA attended and was well-represented.
- Liz Couto was awarded the Karen O'Neill Lord Award — presented annually at NERS to a New England ENA member in honor of Karen O'Neill Lord, a Massachusetts nurse who passed away young and was a beloved community member. Vermont nominates one candidate per year; Liz was selected from among all New England nominees. Congratulations to Liz!

b) NERS 2027 — Vermont (Outbound, Stowe)

- The board toured the Outbound venue and came away re-energized about the space. The flow through the vendor space into the session space is expected to create a distinctive and positive attendee experience.
- Call for speakers will open once Fall Education Day planning concludes. Submissions will be via an online form. All formats welcome: traditional talks, panels, workshops. First-time speakers are encouraged to submit; the committee will provide support to help develop their presentations.
- Dates: April 22nd and 23rd 2027
- **Action**:

(1) Open call for speakers for NERS 2027 following the close of the Fall Education Day call for speakers.

c) Fall Education Day

- Date: November 6, 2026 | Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

- Location: IDX Building, Shelburne Road, Burlington/South Burlington (off-site UVM facility — easy access, no main campus parking issues)
- Call for speakers is currently open.
- Agenda to be distributed to managers and departments in advance so staff can plan attendance.
- A board meeting will be held as part of the Education Day.
- **Action**:

  (1) Mike and Sam to finalize Education Day agenda and distribute to managers/departments on a rolling basis.

d) Emergency Nurses Week — October 11–17, 2026

- Plan: Raffle one item per day during the week (swag store items, Yeti cups, etc.).
- "My Why" Campaign: Collecting member stories and photos for a coordinated social media release timed to Emergency Nurses Week. Members are encouraged to send photos and responses to prompts (e.g., "Why am I an emergency nurse?", "Why am I in ENA?") to Liz now. A formal call will go out as the date approaches.
- **Action**:

  (1) Liz to develop and distribute My Why campaign call-to-action ahead of Emergency Nurses Week.

  (2) Members encouraged to send photos and stories to Liz at any time.

e) Vermont ENA State Council Apparel Store

- Open and updated with new items. Link available on the Vermont ENA website. Members are encouraged to browse and purchase
- **Action**:

  (1) Liz to share the swag store link again on social media.

f) Standing Policies

- Tabled — Matt Choate (responsible for this item) was absent. Carried forward to the September board meeting.

6) New Business

a) General Assembly — September 27–28, 2026 | Phoenix, AZ

- GA is ENA's member-delegate legislative body. Delegates vote on resolutions, bylaw amendments, and organizational priorities that legally direct the ENA Board of Directors.

- Format: Day 1 (shorter) — proposals presented and discussed; Day 2 — revised proposals returned for final vote via delegate clicker devices.
- Vermont's delegation: 3 delegates and 1 alternate. President Roz King and President-Elect Michelle Nadeau are prioritized. Remaining delegate spots open to members via a REDCap nomination form.
- Note: GA this year falls on Sunday-Monday (September 27–28) — an unusual scheduling change.
- Stipend: $1,500 toward travel, hotel, and conference expenses. Can be combined with institutional education support.
- Points system is used to help inform (not solely determine) delegate selection; the board encourages members at all levels of ENA involvement to apply.
- Jada Barton confirmed interest in submitting a nomination.
- Action:
  (1) Liz to resend GA delegate nomination link (REDCap) today — deadline July 3, 2026. Previous email had too many items; the link was buried.
  (2) Mike to add REDCap link to the Vermont ENA website.

b) ENA Annual Conference (EN26) — September 28–October 1, 2026 | Phoenix, AZ

- Immediately follows GA. Clinically focused with a wide variety of educational sessions. Vermont members attending are encouraged to let the board know so the group can connect on-site.
- New England Shared Booth: Vermont ENA has agreed in principle to join a shared New England booth in the exhibition hall. This would be Vermont ENA's first exhibition booth. States are being asked to bring items to sell/display as a fundraising opportunity. Booth could also be used to promote NERS 2027. Ideas and volunteers are welcome.
- Membership Scholarship ($1,500 stipend): Vermont ENA will again offer a low-barrier scholarship for a member to attend the national conference. Eligibility: Vermont ENA members. Selection: random draw from applicants. Very few strings attached — just share your experience informally with the board afterward. Members may apply for both the GA delegate stipend and this scholarship, potentially covering the full trip.
- Action:
  (1) Roz and Mike to distribute EN26 membership scholarship application shortly.
  (2) Roz/Board to coordinate New England booth logistics with Massachusetts ENA and other New England states.

c) Future Board Meetings

- September 11, 2026: Gifford Medical Center (confirmed). This will be the penultimate meeting of the year.
- November 6, 2026: Board meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall Education Day at the IDX Building, Burlington/South Burlington.
- NVRH (Sarah Christman): Offered to host a future board meeting. Board expressed interest in scheduling NVRH for a future date. Sarah thanked for the offer.

7) Meeting Adjourned

a) Motion to adjourn was made and passed.

b) Meeting adjourned.

Following adjournment, the in-person board members visited Copley Hospital's Emergency Department as part of the ongoing initiative to rotate board meetings across member hospitals and engage with frontline nursing staff.

Minutes approved and distributed 7/7/26 – MDK

Upcoming Board Meetings

09/11 | 1000–1300 | Gifford Medical Center

11/06 | During Fall Education Day | University of Vermont Medical Center

Regional Educational Opportunities

09/09 | TNCC | University of Vermont Medical Center

10/07 | ENPC | University of Vermont Medical Center

10/21&10/22 | CEN Review | Rutland Regional Medical Center

10/21-10/24 | Adult/Adolescent Forensic Nursing Course

11/06 | Fall Education Day | University of Vermont Medical Center

11/11 | TNCC | University of Vermont Medical Center

12/09 | ENPC | University of Vermont Medical Center