ENA Vermont State Council
Quarterly Business Meeting
September 11, 2026 | Gifford Medical Center
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting Minutes - September 11, 2026

Members present

- **In person:** Roz King (President), Mike King (Treasurer)
- **Virtual:** Matthew Choate (Immediate Past President)
- **Guest:** Zoe (Gifford ED nurse), Marie Graham (Gifford)

1) **Call to Order**
   - **Establish Quorum –** Quorum confirmed by Roz King, President.
   - **Approval of Previous Minutes –** The June 26, 2026 minutes were previously approved by the board and distributed to the membership; they are posted on the website.
2) **Treasurer's Report (M. King)**
   - The Council maintains a checking account balance of $897.61 and a money market balance of $12,936.74, for a total of $13,834.35 cash on hand.
   - Two $5,000 payments have been issued to Outbound Stowe as a deposit for the 2027 NERS conference (approximately $10,000 currently held on deposit).
   - No incoming Annual Education Day funds have been received yet; the lower checking balance is expected and accounts are otherwise healthy.
   - All accounts are reconciled and up to date. The Council credit card carries a $322.27 balance.
3) **Committee Reports**

Education and Practice - Chair, Vacant

- No report. Position remains open.

Forensic Nursing - Chair, Abigail Garrett

- No report; chair not present.

Fundraising - Chair, Vacant

- No report. Position remains open.

Institute for Quality, Safety & Injury Prevention (IQSIP) - Chair, Vacant

- Transition in progress. The role is being handed off to Jada Barton; a handoff meeting is scheduled for later this week.

Government Affairs - Chair, Liz Couto

- Chair unable to attend; written update to be circulated from the prior meeting.
- Continued strong advocacy on workplace violence and staff safety in the ED, including active presence at the State House. ED nurses have gained a markedly stronger voice on legislation affecting emergency departments over the past several years.

Media and Communications - Co-Chairs, Mike King & Liz Couto

- No formal report.

Membership - Chair, Roz King

- As of 09/10, the Council has 203 members, including 23 new members in 2026 (partly from the forensic nursing community joining, plus organic growth since the last meeting).
- Handwritten birthday cards continue to be mailed to all members and have been well received; welcome cards will be sent to new members.

Research - Chair, Roz King

- No major updates. The PAIN study (an EFIC - Exemption from Informed Consent - trial out of UVMMC) continues to enroll pre-hospital patients from across the state; it remains Vermont's first EFIC trial.

Trauma and Pediatric - Chair, Mike King

- UVMMC Fall TNCC/ENPC course dates are posted on the Vermont ENA website and open to all.
- The hybrid model continues virtual didactic day one from home, followed by a local simulation day, minimizing travel. Instructors are active at UVMMC, CVMC, and Southwestern; outreach to NVRH and North Country to build instructor presence has stalled, largely due to educator attrition.
- The Council continues partnering with hospitals so learners can complete didactics online and simulate at their home institution, and to keep classes viable that smaller sites cannot run alone.

4) **Old Business**

New England Regional Symposium (NERS) 2027 - Vermont

- Vermont hosts NERS on April 22–23, 2027 (Thursday–Friday) at Outbound, Stowe.
- Expected to draw ~200 nurses from across New England. Two days of education, vendors, networking, and social events (a scavenger hunt and other activities are planned).
- Outbound is offering a favorable shoulder-season room rate (~$149/night), extendable through the weekend.
- Save-the-dates to go out early next year as programming firms up.
- Call for speakers is open and closes September 3, 2026; the board encourages a wide variety of first-time and returning speakers to submit.

Annual Education Day - November 6, 2026

- Date/time: November 6, 2026, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, at the UVMMC IDX facility on Shelburne Road (returning to Chittenden County this year).
- Fee: $100 members / $125 non-members.
- **Morning speakers:** Liz Couto on advocacy impact and getting involved; Casey Boyle (palliative care nurse with ED background) on difficult goals-of-care conversations and supporting ED nurses; Sam Demers on a new ED violence risk-assessment screening tool.
- A short fourth-quarter business meeting will be held during the day.
- **Afternoon group stations:** pediatric escape room (DKA-focused), a geriatric assessment station ("Gertrude"), a tabletop hospital-ED MCI exercise (adapted from the Vermont EMS Conference), a vascular access/vasopressor station, and a forensic-nursing support station led by Abigail Garrett.
- Goal is to rebuild attendance toward historical levels (~50 attendees).

General Assembly (GA) - September 27–28, 2026, Phoenix, AZ

- Vermont's delegation is three delegates and no alternate this year. Delegates receive a $1,500 stipend toward trip costs.
- GA is ENA's member-delegate legislative body; delegates debate and vote on resolutions under Robert's Rules. The board encourages members to pursue a delegate or alternate role in future years.
- Future GA host cities are posted several years out; the board will highlight upcoming opportunities.

ENA Annual Conference (EN26) - September 28 – October 1, 2026, Phoenix, AZ

- Follows immediately after GA. Vermont's $1,500 membership scholarship for this year has been awarded (recipient selected by random draw); the low-barrier scholarship will be offered again next year.
- The New England states will share a booth in the exhibit hall to raise Vermont's profile and promote NERS 2027.

Other Old Business Items

- Membership initiatives, apparel/swag store, Emergency Nurses Week, ENA 5K, and ENA scholarships — no new action; several items closed out or carried as standing activities.

5) **New Business**
   - Guest introduction: Zoe, a Gifford ED nurse (came from Med/Surg ~1 year ago), attended as a prospective member. Matthew Choate and the board shared the value of ENA membership - collegiality, networking, professional development, and support to the bedside nurse — and invited her to reach out about low-cost membership options.
   - Gifford ED tour and group photo to follow the meeting, continuing the initiative to rotate meetings across member hospitals and engage frontline staff.
6) **Adjournment**
   - Business meeting concluded; members proceeded to the Gifford ED tour and photo.

Action Items

- Roz to provide Abigail Garrett feedback to incorporate the ENA position statement on the ED nurse's role in forensics into the Education Day forensic station (per M. Choate).
- Circulate Liz Couto's Government Affairs update to the board/membership.
- Complete the IQSIP chair handoff to Jada Barton (meeting this week).
- Send welcome cards to new members.
- Follow up with Zoe regarding membership options.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- 11/06 | During Annual Education Day | University of Vermont Medical Center (IDX)

Regional Educational Opportunities

- 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 | Annual Education Day | University of Vermont Medical Center
- 11/11 | TNCC | University of Vermont Medical Center
- 12/09 | ENPC | University of Vermont Medical Center