



October 1, 2013

VLCT Annual Meeting and Town Fair is Thursday

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will host its Annual Meeting and Town Fair on Thursday, October 3, at the Killington Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Killington, Vermont. An anticipated contingent of approximately 500 Town Fair-goers may attend any of 14 workshops whose topics range from financing energy improvements to lakeshore protection to improving access in historic libraries. Town Fair 2013 will also feature Vermont Health Connect Navigators who will help municipal employers set up their online accounts in preparation for employees having to buy their health insurance on the state's new Health Exchange.

At the VLCT Annual Meeting, local officials will adopt the 2014 Municipal Policy, which will guide VLCT Advocacy's efforts on behalf of cities and towns in the upcoming legislative session. The draft policy contains positions on education and transportation funding, public records, impacts of Department of Corrections policy on local governments, Act 250, and storm water management and Public Service Board processes, to name a few. Each municipality designates one official to vote on adoption of the policy.

Local officials traditionally take time at Town Fair to honor those who exemplify service to cities and towns in Vermont, whether from local or state government. The Town Government Award is given to a Vermont citizen who is not a local official but who has shown an exceptional awareness of the problems of local government and has demonstrated an active commitment to strengthening local government.

This year, VLCT honors State Treasurer Beth Pearce for her focused concern for the welfare of stricken Vermont municipalities as they recovered from Tropical Storm Irene and more recent storms this summer. In 2011 and again in 2012, Beth developed a financial assistance package to help ease municipal financial stress in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene. The state provided for the advance of millions of dollars to towns for town highway aid, current use, education payments, and payment in lieu of taxes, at the same time deferring some education payments due the state. This summer, the Treasurer's Office and Administration reinstated the advance of payments program subsequent to storms and flooding. Treasurer Pearce also worked on behalf of towns to obtain loans from local banks to finance repairs while awaiting reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Tropical Storm Irene. The Treasurer's Office, under her leadership, continuously touches the lives of most municipal employees in administering the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System and has made customer service a top staff priority.

Press release from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns