**Vermont Federal Executive Association**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**15 January 2014 @ 4:00 PM**

Meeting was called to order by Lisa Rees, President, @ 4:00 PM.

**Participants (if we did not list you, please let us know):**

* Lisa Rees, President VTFEA, USCIS
* James Rapley, , USCIS
* Bill Swaney, DOS
* Mike Heston, Member-at-large, VTNG
* Sean McVey, Vice-President, USBP
* Elizabeth Carter, Member-at-large, CBP
* Janie Beltran, Member-at-large, USPS
* Deborah Amdur, VA
* John Pfeifer, USBP
* Carrie Selby, USCIS- VSC
* Chris Saunders, Sen Leahy’s Office
* Phil Fiermonte, Sen Sanders Office
* Kayla Glerum, USDA NRCS
* Susan Eastman, USCIS
* Patrick Knowles, USCIS
* Kelly Rapley, DHS-ICE FinOps
* Heidi Coloney, USCIS
* Karen McGuire, USCIS
* Danielle Esposito, USCIS
* Jeff Ostlund, TSA
* Andrew Fontanez, USCIS
* Mark Curtis, DHS-HSI
* Jason Knight, ICE
* Krista Scheele, TSA
* Fernando Beltran, CBP
* Andy Nash, NWS
* Anita Moore, USCIS Public Afffairs
* Anthony Ercole, VA
* Mary Hamesevicz, VA
* Patrick Condon, USCIS
* Bruce Pelletier, ICE
* Diana Richardson, FAA
* Susan Murray, USDOC

**Introduction:**

President Rees welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting with a word of thanks to our platinum sponsor, The Hampton Inn, and an icebreaker exercise that covered the professional background and musical tastes of the participants. Folders with informational handouts developed by VTFEA intern Jake Isham were distributed and participants encouraged to read and disseminate them

**VTFEA in 2014 and Beyond**

She followed with a brief recap of VTFEA activities and accomplishments in 2014 to include:

* Development and presentation of Locality Pay proposal to Federal Salary Council
* Positive outlook for locality pay, with NW Vermont in a “on deck” position, pending approval of previously recommended regions
* Review of Vermont Federal Women’s Network activities ranging from seminars on insurance to hikes and ballgames to discussion on how to balance work and personal life
* Financial review – with strong standing reserve of $4,688
* Upgrades to social media platforms, Facebook, and [www.vtfea.org](http://www.vtfea.org) and need to push VTFEA information downward to Federal employees at all levels, and get feedback on their needs

She concluded recalling the VTFEA summit of 2012 stressing the need for Federal managers to renew their commitment to the organization and engage in a revitalized effort to move the institution forward based on six newly created committees that will have oversight from the VTFEA board, but will require active participation from VTFEA members and interested federal employees.

**Committees + Committee Chairs**

* Public Service Awards – responsible for oversight of the annual awards recognition ceremony

**Chairperson:** James Rapley

* Locality Pay – prepare the a revised package for submission to the FSC in August 2015

**Chairperson:** Sean McVey

* Emergency Preparedness – oversee COOP activities, table top exercises, education, weather closures, etc.

**Chairperson:** Michael Heston

* Vermont Women’s Federal Network – advise and assist the VFWN in achieving their mission

**Chairperson:** Janie Beltran

* Public Outreach – provide outreach in our communities to raise awareness of our federal presence in Vermont

**Chairperson:** Lisa Rees + Patrick Knowles

* Marketing/Social Media – promote the VTFEA through our website, Face Book, fundraising, employee specials, newsletters, articles, and publications

**Chairperson:** Bill Swaney

* Social Welfare – event planning such as bowling, golf tournaments, guest speakers, Lake Monsters, and other fun activities that are available to all federal employees

**Amendments to the Constitution:**

President Rees noted that during a recent event sponsored by the Boston Federal Executive Board she had the opportunity to learn about similar FEA’s and to compare the structures and practices. Further to a comparative analysis of the constitutions of the Vermont and the highly successful western Massachusetts FEA. Further to the email sent to VTFEA members prior to this meeting, a number of minor amendments were proposed to improve the continuity and efficiency of the institution. The changes were sent to VTFEA members prior to the Board.

The floor was opened to discussion on the matter and general support for the effort was voiced. Member Deborah Amdur then made a motion to adopt the amendments, which was seconded by Elizabeth Carter and unanimously approved.

President Rees wrapped up the formal meeting, remarking on the pleasures and responsibilities of a career in public service, noting her pleasure at the strong attendance at the event, and the importance of following up with active participation in the work of the committees.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5 pm, with participants enjoying the reception and opportunity to catch up with colleagues until after 6pm