

VLOA 5 June 2017 meeting.  
Waterbury Best Western.  
Notes by Bill Powell & Paul Trono

Members convened the end of season meeting and dinner with 26 in attendance. The meeting began with recognition of Jeff Snyder as the VLOA official at the 2017 VT/NH all star game in Hanover on 24 June. Jeff also was recognized as the Vermont official attending the LAREDO training at Endicott College in July.

Training Coordinator Evans summarized the 2017 training and evaluation process. He observed there is no existing measurement or metrics for quantifying how effective VLOA training has been. However, there is anecdotal support that individual progress, development and effectiveness, especially in getting more 3 man training during the season has merit, and should continue.

Trainer Evans commented on the circumstances early this year, where 3 sessions of 3 man training were cancelled due to weather, with no option to reschedule/make up. The conversation led to various observations and recommendations for future training, including the summer opportunities @ the Stowe (Bitter) tournaments.

The topic evolved to what we consider to be our biggest organizational challenge; how to encourage and support new officials, beginning with young potential candidates. VLOA through its liaison (DiVenere) with the Vermont chapter of USL has made efforts to train youth officials. The consensus is this is an area to expand efforts.

A suggestion was to create a new VLOA membership category, for interim purposes called "youth member". VLOA could use its "youth member" category to identify potential candidates who can participate in USL certification, for which VLOA could provide reimbursement upon successful completion. In addition the proposed "youth membership" is a possible relationship to work through our "outreach/development" process with high school AD's, coaches and teams before the spring season on training and recruitment.

Such a new category would need to be enabled with a by-law revision. Powell requested members step up and volunteer input so that we can launch this during the fall season 2017.

Carrigan, John & Nate Brown, and Quintal offered to work with Powell and board over the next half year to better define a plan of outreach to contact high school age officials. This is an open process and other VLOA members with this interest should step up and participate. Separately and over the next 6 months we'll work with our ad hoc "development" group to map how the outreach shapes up further.

Terry Harlow spoke to \*\*\*\* **(Paul, I left room and need you to fill in what Terry said)**

There was interest in reopening the "store" which some members found useful for officials jerseys. Steve Small encouraged this generally and needs 20 orders to make this happen again. An email blast to solicit more orders will happen shortly; there is a 2 month delivery lag after order.

The sportsmanship award process was begun via an email survey; this did not produce much response. The members in attendance voted this year's sportsmanship awards to BFA (D1), GMVS (D2), and Randolph (D3). With VPA's decision to merge D3 into D2 next year, the Gerry Gingras (D3) award will become "suspended" until VLOA finds another worthy award to assign.

Cup stories followed. Some embarrassment occurred. Mr. George Cook got it done without losing his head.