



36th SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OVERVIEW

Thursday, June 8, 2023
Sugarbush Resort | Warren, VT

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTERS
11:30am – 12:00pm	Registration <i>Location: Gate House Lodge, Courtyard Room</i>	
12:00pm – 12:40pm	Networking Luncheon <i>Location: Courtyard Room</i>	
12:40pm – 12:45pm	Transition to Meeting Space <i>Location: Mountain View Room</i>	
12:45pm – 1:30pm	Business Meeting	Sara Byers, Chair
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Legislative Review: What Happened and What's Next?	Patti Komline, DRM Andrew Brewer, DRM
2:15pm – 2:30pm	Networking Break	
2:30pm – 3:15pm	Panel: Setting a Vision for Vermont Moderator: Neale Lunderville, VGS	Kevin Chu, Executive Director, Vermont Futures Project Seth Leonard, Vermont Housing Financing Agency Brian Lowe, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development Carolyn Weir, Executive Director, McClure Foundation
3:15pm – 4:15	Table Talk: Group Breakouts, Report Outs	
	Closing Remarks	Sara Byers, Chair
	Networking Reception <i>Location: Rumble's</i>	

SPEAKER BIOS



Tinotenda Charles Rutanhira
Co-Founder & Board Chair. Vermont Professionals of Color

Tino Rutanhira was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. He completed university studies in South Africa before immigrating to the United States.

Tino is currently employed at Dealer.com. He also sits on the Board of The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce as well as the Board of The Janet S Munt Family Room. An Entrepreneur by heart, over the last 5 years Tino has; produced and hosted his own podcast called “On The Shoulders of Giants”, co-founded, owns and operates Best In VT Tours & Charters, acted in a play at the Flynn called “The Call”, and performed Standup Comedy at the VT Comedy Club. In 2019, he co-founded the Vermont Professionals of Color Network.

When not working or creating, Tino enjoys listening to music or podcasts, and watching or playing in competitive sports. He loves to play and watch football (soccer), and most Saturdays he can be seen in his beloved Liverpool FC jersey yelling at the TV!

Most importantly, Tino is a single parent of the most beautiful, intelligent, amazing, (insert glowing adjective here ...) 15 year old daughter. Parenting is by far his biggest source of pride and joy.



Dimitri Garder
CEO, Global-Z International, Inc.

Dimitri is a co-founder and CEO of Global-Z International, Inc. Dimitri has developed and implemented complex global data quality assessment and improvement technologies and solutions for many Global-Z clients, ranging from small companies to Fortune 100s. Dimitri’s 30 years of experience with complex global data makes him one of the leading experts in his industry. His approach to data quality is pragmatic, statistically focused, and metrics driven, and believes in solving complex problems through simple, clear, analytical thinking.

Dimitri is a Certified Information Privacy Manager, is a board member of Southwestern Vermont Health Care, the Vermont Community Foundation and the Vermont Business Roundtable, and is an investor in Bennington’s Putnam Block downtown revitalization project. He holds a BA in Music Theory from the University of Vermont, and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:



Patricia "Patti" Komline

Government Relations Manager, DRM:

Having interacted with [lobbyists](#) during her tenure as a state legislator, Patti Komline understands what resonates and what doesn't when communicating with lawmakers. Patti believes in the good intentions on all sides of issues, making it easy for her to develop respectful relationships – which has been the foundation for her work. This, paired with her ardent persistence, has led to her clients' success. Outside of work, she enjoys fostering dogs and searching for the best maple creemees in Vermont.



Andrew Brewer

Government Relations Specialist, DRM

For 20 years, Andrew Brewer was the owner of one of Vermont's most well-known outdoor businesses, Onion River Sports, in Montpelier. A stable fixture in Montpelier politics and community, he established valuable connections throughout administrations and legislatures, and is often sought by business and policy leaders for input and advice.

Prior to joining DRM, Andrew worked for Komline Consulting, LLC, gaining valuable experience and building important relationships in the government relations world. Andrew's experience and personal knowledge of the issues that impact businesses are invaluable when working with the building trades and economic development associations. His ability to disarm opposition and represent clients' interests make Andrew a valuable addition to the DRM Government relations team. Outside of work, he's an avid cyclist and Nordic and back-country skier.

PANEL: SETTING A VISION FOR VERMONT



Kevin Chu

Executive Director, Vermont Futures Project

Kevin Chu is executive director of Vermont Futures Project and co-founder and president of Sprinticity Athletics. A graduate of Middlebury College, Kevin spent more than six years working for the University of Vermont in a variety of roles. He served as managing director of the office of engagement, strategic innovations and communications lead for the Rubenstein School, professional advisor for the university's environmental program and assistant director of admissions for diversity. A resident of South Burlington, Kevin is pursuing his master's degree in education from the University of Vermont. He is the director of youth track and field for Burlington Parks and Recreation.



Seth Leonard
Managing Director of Community Development, Vermont Housing Finance Agency

Seth Leonard serves as the Managing Director of Community Development for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, overseeing the agency's multi-family development lending, tax credit allocations, asset management, compliance, research, and community relations. Seth started his career in finance at a CDFI, and more recently served at USDA Rural Development as the Housing Director for Vermont and New Hampshire. Seth served on City Council and eventually as Mayor of the City of Winooski. Seth graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and completed the University of Notre Dame's Leadership in a Complex Era through the Mendoza Executive Leadership Program.



Brian Lowe
Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development

Brian joined VCRD as Executive Director in 2021. Prior to joining the team, he held a number of roles with the City of Burlington, including serving as COVID-19 Response Leader (where he led the city's pandemic response, overseeing multiple cross-departmental teams and partnering with community leaders to address emerging challenges), Chief Innovation Officer, and Chief of Staff to Mayor Miro Weinberger. Before that, he worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, with different organizations in Syria and Afghanistan, and served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He lives in Burlington with his wife and three children.



Neale Lunderville (Moderator)
President and CEO, Vermont Gas Systems

Neale F. Lunderville is the President & CEO of VGS (Vermont Gas Systems). He previously served as General Manager of the Burlington Electric Department, and, prior to that, as Co-Founder and CEO of NG Advantage LLC. In 2011, he was appointed by Governor Peter Shumlin to lead Vermont's recovery efforts in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene. Neale also served in two top cabinet posts for Governor Jim Douglas: Secretary of Administration and Secretary of Transportation.

Neale serves as a director on several Vermont and regional boards and is an Honorary Commander for the Vermont Air National Guard. He graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. and was given their 2012 Alumni Achievement award.



Carolyn Weir
Executive Director, McClure Foundation

Carolyn Weir is the McClure Foundation's first dedicated staff person. She stepped into the role of executive director in 2019 after supporting the McClure Foundation's philanthropy since 2011 via her staff roles with the Vermont Community Foundation. At the McClure Foundation, Carolyn leads the effort to promote philanthropic best practices and alignment that strengthen Vermont's education and workforce development systems and outcomes. Prior to joining the Community Foundation, she worked for a variety of social justice and community development organizations. Weir holds a Nonprofit Management Certificate from Marlboro College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international politics and economics from Middlebury College. She lives in Weybridge with her husband and son.