

VEEN Board Meeting Agenda & Notes


Date: October 24th 5-6

Attendees: Alison, Mandy, Keri, Nicole, Lauren Traister, Meg, Harmony

Absent: Emily

Board Meeting Agenda

- 3 minute updates per person – timed (led by Ali)
 - Have participants report out on what they brainstormed for an Action Item in the coming year that they can help with....even if it's just “attend one meeting,” that works!
- Keri and Mandy - New Co-Secretaries
- Any takers for the Treasurer?
 - Previously done by Lauren C (for extensive period) and Kestrel (briefly)
 - No takers verbally to do - moving on and will circle back in November meeting
- Schedule a winter webinar series – assign one person to take lead for the series and decide on topics and facilitate (Mandy?)
 - Previously has a deeply successful series - 300+ attended live in winter and tapped into audiences and membership across the region
 - Not necessary to repeat again, but could be powerful incentive to recruit and sustain membership base
 - Could do 3-month series on Feb, March, April
 - Alternatively: webinars not as series but in quarters (e.g., winter, summer...)
 - Folks continue to be very receptive in winter months and increases accessibility and geographic reach – even if we just did 1 or 2
 - Lauren and Nicole interested in lending expertise but with greatly limited capacity for fall 2023 planning (particularly next couple months of October through November!!!)
 - Mandy - Lead facilitator role, will circle back in December when she has more availability.
- Schedule a time to meet with Vermont Science Teachers Association (VSTA) and discuss possible collaboration for fall 2024 meeting (Meg)
 - Friday, October 18 - K-12 teachers Still looking for venues to hold 80-100 people (last had ~85 people including Board Members)
 - **Avoid Oct 25 - Youth Environmental Summit.**
 - Easier to commit to a Friday with teachers than asking them to give up their weekends
 - Seeking presenters/workshops from VEEN and various other organizations - What will be VEEN's role?
 - VEEN Fall Gathering could coincide?
 - Could get \$\$\$ if staying overnight is necessary - Depends on final time of conference and possible banquet/awards dinner
 - VEEN Exhibit Table?

- Could be VEEN-specific to recruit members, but also cross-pollinated with flyers/brochures/"swag" across our many organizations!
 - May cost \$ per table or be a table they let us set up in a front room
 - Lauren: "To recruit VEEN members we need a good elevator speech - why should they join, what is the benefit, what do they get, etc."
 - VEEN Board Members being presenters? (spring proposal period)
 - Presenters may get in FREE
 - We could submit a handful of proposals as separate educators/orgs, and just be sure to mention in our descriptions and bios that we are also VEEN Board Members <3
Cross-pollination! VEEN member "Strand" of EE workshops
 - Alison and Mandy on PWET?
 - Mandy would also do PWET or GLFW
 - Each presentation could still have ONE standardized slide at the end promoting VEEN and how to become a member
 -  VEEN - VSTA Conf. Brainstorming - add your info here if you think you'd want to present!
 - Co-Sponsorship Possibility?
 - Incentivize VEEN Members attending by waiving membership fee if they attend, potentially offering reduced conference fee, advertising the amazing PD/networking opportunity, etc.
- Assign duties for membership drive in January
 - Make an email blast (use wild apricot?)
 - Emily, ~~Nicole~~, and Ali delegated as leaders for next steps
 - Likely doesn't need to be circulated until winter, and ideally after we have spring gathering dates
 - To get folks back involved, could recruit informally for a spring gathering committee (doesn't have to be the membership committee, even if they facilitate and coordinate for a spring gathering committee) - Does NOT need to be a Board Member
- Assign committee to plan the spring gathering
 - Spring membership committee
 - Nicole would jump ship from Webinar committee for this!
 - Keri
 - Meg - Liaison with VSTA!
 - Harmony - Starting an email
 - Board provides potluck
 - Location identified
 - Best at a site we can showcase, typically with someone on Board having connection to that site
 - Hybrid meeting coordinated
 - Bylaws addressed

- New board members nominated
- Professional Development opportunity (hike, speaker, etc.)
- Recruit more college students and pre-service teachers
- Other Related Discussion
 - Incentivizing membership for new recruits
 - As a board, we really need to understand why someone would join VEEN, what are the benefits, what do you get - why pay a membership fee....what is in it for them.
 - Alison to revisit last email blast that covered this to circulate with Board
 - Circulate survey with membership to identify needs and wishes?
 - Each time we've done that over the years, findings tend to be the same: networking, events/PD, curricula
 - Good to do again to see if interests and needs have changed

Next Board meeting: Nov 7th 6-7pm