

Vermont Historical Society
Board of Trustees Nomination Slate

Victor Henningsen, *Thetford Center*

A graduate of Yale, Stanford, and Harvard, Vic was a ranger-naturalist with Vermont's Dept. of Forests & Parks before teaching history for many years at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He's also been a visiting scholar at Dartmouth, a summer research fellow at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, and a regular commentator on Vermont Public Radio. He refers to himself as a "semi-retired" history teacher: he's still teaching, at Dartmouth's Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning; he just doesn't get paid for it.

Penrose Jackson, *Hinesburg*

Penrose Jackson, a native of mid-state New York, came to Vermont to attend the University of Vermont, graduating in 1970 having majored in history. Ms. Jackson was the first Executive Director of the Church Street Marketplace. Following the Marketplace, she served as executive director of the National Gardening Association, Intervale Foundation, and Vermont Health Foundation (VHF). She ended her fulltime career with 15 years' service as director of The University of Vermont Medical Center's department of Community Health Improvement. Ms. Jackson now serves the President and CEO of the Vermont Public Health Institute. She has led several non-profit boards including chair of the Greater Burlington YMCA, Women Helping Battered Women, the Ethan Allen Homestead, First Night Burlington, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, among others. She received national (the Association for Community Health's "Spirit of the Community" leadership award) and local (the Lake Champlain Regional Commerce's "Community Excellence" award) recognition for her commitment to community. In 2011 she received a Certificate in Community Benefit from Saint Louis University. Ms. Jackson lives and gardens in Hinesburg, Vermont, with her husband, Schuyler, and dog, Zim.

Steve Kidder, *Swanton*

Stephen Hubbard Kidder was born in St. Albans in 1952. He attended the Swanton school system and graduated from Pratt Institute with a degree in Fine Arts (Interior Architecture). Kidder's family owned and operated Kidder Memorial Home in Swanton from 1975 until 2012. During the early years, the entire family were Emergency Medical Technicians for the ambulance service that was part of the funeral home. The family helped form Missisquoi Valley Rescue in 1977. Professionally, Kidder has been in the retail home furnishings business since graduating college with stores in St. Albans, Williston and Berlin, Vermont. Kidder has 2 children, both married with families. He has been associated with several boards, most recently, the Home Furnishings Association, a trade group that serves the United States and Canada. The trade group represents about 4,000 retail stores, selling a wide variety of home furnishings. Kidder served as President and Chairman. In addition to the ambulance, Kidder also served as a Volunteer Firefighter in Swanton. He traced his family back to 1056 in East Grinstead, England, where they were apparently "goat tenders". The family

emigrated to the colonies in the mid 1600's to Billerica, Massachusetts, and worked their way up through New England.

Brian S. Lindner, *Waterbury*

Born in Burlington, Brian spent his first 10 years of life in the Mansfield Base Lodge at Stowe where his father was the park ranger. A graduate of UVM with a degree in Mass Communications, he is retired from a long career at National Life Group where he continues to serve as the Corporate Historian. Brian is an expert in Waterbury's extensive military history and served 20 years as the president of their historical society. An EMT and past president with Waterbury Ambulance since 1986. He also has served on the Mt Mansfield Ski Patrol since 1973 and is the historian for Stowe Mountain Resort. He is a founder of the Waterbury Backcountry Rescue Team and serves as Team Leader. He was a long-time member of the boards of the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum, the Vermont Veteran's Militia Museum and the Vermont State Police Museum and Archives Center. His expertise includes Vermont aviation history and is currently finishing two books on World War Two aviation. He currently serves as a member of the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board.

Mike McRaith, *South Burlington*

Michael McRaith is Assistant Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association, a position he recently took on after serving four years as Principal of Montpelier High School. McRaith previously served two years as Principal and four years as a Guidance Counselor at Enosburg Falls Middle School. He taught English as a conversational hour for international students while studying at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and was also the general manager of a resort and a manager for an industrial plastics recycling company, both in Wisconsin, his home state. McRaith also taught English in Japan for more than two years. He just started at the Vermont Principals' Association as of July 1, 2019, and will help organize professional learning opportunities for the principals of Vermont, lead the principal mentoring program, and help facilitate the Waddington Leadership Initiative for Vermont school leaders. McRaith lives in South Burlington with his wife, Jacqueline, and their two children.

Kate O'Connor, *Brattleboro*

Kate is the director of operations for Vermont Independent Media, the publisher of *The Commons* newspaper in Brattleboro. She is the former executive director of the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce. She began her career in public service as an aide to Howard Dean during his tenure as Vermont governor and as a candidate for president of the United States. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Brattleboro Retreat and Brooks Memorial Library (Brattleboro). She is a Brattleboro town meeting member. For six years she was a member of the Brattleboro Selectboard, serving as chair and vice chair. She received a BA in political science from Bates College. She lives in Brattleboro.