



VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 110 ~ Coventry, Vermont 05825
(802) 461-5688 Email: vtfpa@hotmail.com
www.vtfpa.org



February 2020

Vermont Forest Products Association Annual Fund Drive

Dear Friend of the Forest Products Industry,

As we begin the New Year, we would like to thank all those who have supported the Vermont Forest Products Association (VFPA), “the Voice of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont since 1977,” through memberships, monetary contributions and gifts of time and talents.

VFPA represents all sectors of the forest products industry—landowners, foresters, logger, truckers, firewood processors, sawmills, secondary manufacturing and biomass processors and generators in Vermont and surrounding communities.

Its vision is for a strong forest products industry and its mission is to promote and defend the interests of our industry.

VFPA meets its mission through providing information and continuing education and training to industry members, working with other organizations on topics and issues of common interest and continuing and increasing public outreach and education. It has been exciting to work with the students at our Tech Centers—our industry’s future—through our VFPA student memberships and other activities.

The Vermont Forest Products Association also meets its mission by lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers.

“Having a strong presence in Montpelier is critical to the survival of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont.”

Thanks to Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, who works tirelessly on behalf of the industry—monitoring the issues, providing information to the membership, participating in discussions concerning the industry, promoting the industry and defending it, when necessary.

VFPA also partners with Farm Bureau and the Vermont Traditions Coalition, working on topics and issues of common interest.

The 2020 Legislative Session is apt to be extremely challenging! Issues at the forefront facing the industry in 2020 include Act 250, Forest Fragmentation, Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), Wetlands, Global Warming Solutions, Carbon Sequestration, Municipal Overweight Permits and Labor and Insurance Issues. Other topics include minimum wage, paid family leave, carbon tax, trucking fees and penalties, health care mandates and workers’ compensation.

VFPA asks for everyone’s help in raising funds to pay for these services for the 2020 Legislative Session.

It is imperative that have our lobbyist in Montpelier, representing each of us in the Forest Products Industry.

The **Vermont Forestry Foundation** is the official education and outreach arm of VFPA, educating those within the industry to improve efficiency, safety, professionalism, to increase profitability and build a positive image for the industry. Logger training includes partnering with the LEAP program, which offers VFPA member discounts on training courses. VFF also is engaged in outreach efforts informing and educating the general public about the importance of a vibrant working forest and forest products industry in Vermont.

We sincerely thank all for their past support.

Please consider a contribution to the 2020 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA—helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Steve Hardy. President

“The voice of the forest products industry in Vermont since 1977”

Dear VFPA Members and Friends of the Forest Products Industry:
There are many challenges to owning and managing a forest-based business in Vermont. There are many variables you have little or no control over, weather, global markets, raw material quality and availability and at times, politicians. Landowners, foresters, loggers, mills and other processors all have their challenges. You know what they are, your legislator may not, yet they are entrusted by the citizens in their district to make laws that can impact your business and your abilities to succeed. That is why VFPA works hard on your behalf to bring an experienced voice into the statehouse.

For much of the past 20 years, it has been a privilege to represent the people in Vermont that make a living in the forest products industry. As a former sawmill owner and a practicing forester, I have been fortunate to be able to bring experiences similar to yours to Montpelier. Your voice is reinforced with the strong leadership of the VFPA Board of Directors and its Administration. They provide excellent guidance to your lobby as we face many challenges in making laws and rules that govern our industry, both good and bad. Whether it is a new tax or a tax exemption on our businesses, an employer mandate, a new rule to regulate a practice to protect water quality, a regulatory incentive to

attract more business investment, a new workers' compensation policy or an initiative to make more Vermont forest land public land, we are there to represent you and your interests.

VFPA works hard to provide high quality services to its membership. A very important service is keeping you informed on what is happening in Montpelier through newsletters and action alerts. Equipped with information helps you to speak to your local Legislator with confidence and that is where the real magic occurs. With VFPA and its lobby, its members are relevant, part of the solution. Your support is necessary for VFPA to be able to continue its efforts to step up and promote a viable forest products industry and be ready to defend it when necessary. Thank you for your membership and for whatever extra you can do to build a stronger VFPA.

Yours,

Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist

117 Towne Hill Road
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 802-224-9177 (phone and text)
larsonthree@comcast.net



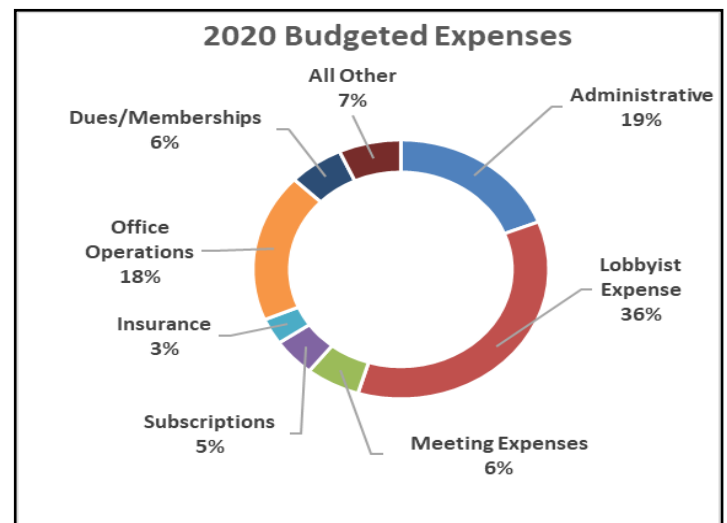
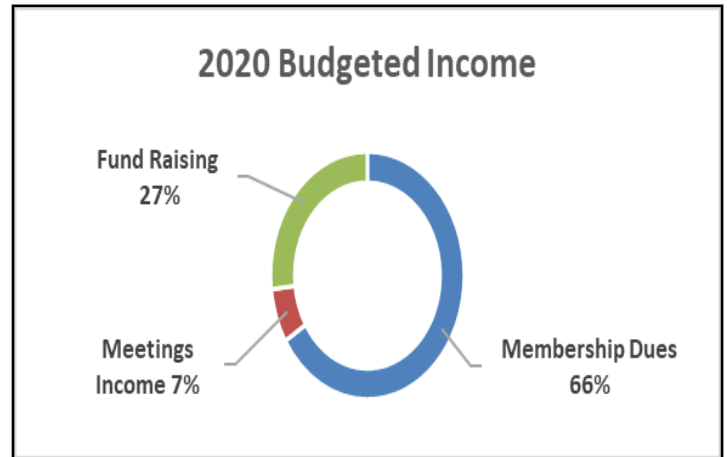
VFPA 2020 Budget

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$28,000.00	66%
Meetings Income	\$3,000.00	7%
Fund Raising	\$11,330.00	27%
Total Income	\$42,330.00	

EXPENSES

Administrative	\$8,000.00	19%
Lobbyist Expense	\$15,000.00	36%
Meeting Expenses	\$2,500.00	6%
Misc. Expense	\$500.00	other
Subscriptions	\$2,000.00	5%
Insurance	\$1,370.00	3%
Office Operations	\$8,500.00	18%
Dues/Memberships	\$2,600.00	6%
Telephone	\$135.00	other
Paypal Fees	\$100.00	other
Web Page Expense	\$1,000.00	other
Loan Interest	\$375.00	other
Sales/Use Tax Expense	\$250.00	other
Total Expenses	\$42,330.00	



\$11,330 is needed in order to meet our 2020 obligations. Please consider a contribution to the 2020 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA-helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.