

Vol. 1, No. 1

The forerunner of the *VLCT News* was called **Vermont Government – News and Views on Cities and Towns**, “a joint publication issued by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Government Research Center of the University of Vermont ...” Its first issue, which was three pages long (see page 2), introduced itself thusly:

“This is the first issue of a publication which is planned to be distributed monthly. After a short period of trial and error it is hoped to issue it [sic] as a printed magazine. Information and articles are planned. It can be used as a forum for discussing or reporting mutual problems of Vermont local government as well as a medium telling of experiments and activities elsewhere. It will serve as the means of informing member cities and towns of League activities and proposals. Suggestions, comments, criticisms and requests for help will all be thankfully received.”

The intent of the newsletter remains remarkably similar today!

Although its lead article, “Message from the President,” filled half of page 1, the rest of Vol. 1, No. 1 seemed to anticipate the sound bite. Instead of today’s typically exhaustively researched articles, it featured a dozen topical paragraphs of only few sentences each, including:

- the anticipated arrival of VLCT’s new executive director on April 15, 1968, “as soon as he finishes his responsibilities in the town of Woodstock”;
- the problem of regulating and disposing of junked automobiles;
- a notice from the Green Mountain Water Pollution Control Association concerning upcoming meetings;
- the availability of a League of Minnesota Municipalities’ publication on Dutch Elm Disease for \$1.00;
- a question asking if the confusing aspects of Vermont’s Australian ballot system warranted an explanatory publication from VLCT; and
- a notice that, due to mailing costs, League publications would be only sent to member towns as of July 1. The one-time membership fee was \$10.00.

The newsletter also listed the 43 Vermont municipalities that, as of February 10, 1968, had paid their dues. Today, of course, all 246 cities and towns in Vermont are VLCT members, and have been since 1995.

VLCT and the *VLCT News* have come a long way since that first issue of “Vermont Government.” As we celebrate our 50th anniversary during 2017, we’ll document various events of note here in the newsletter, on our website, and in our Montpelier office. If *you* have any VLCT memorabilia from the organization’s early days that you care to share with us and your fellow readers, please email me at dgunn@vlct.org.

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