

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

2026 Annual Education Conference

ROOTED & READY

A WINTER GATHERING ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

December 9–10, 2026 | Hotel Champlain | Burlington, Vermont

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2027

5:00–7:00 PM **Cocktail Reception & Networking**
Join fellow wedding professionals for an evening of conversation, connection, and community.
Location: Mezzanine.

During reception **Holiday Toy Drive**
Bring a new, unwrapped toy to participate in the raffle.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 | MORNING

8:00–8:45 AM **Registration, Breakfast & Vendor Expo**
Check-in outside the Lake Champlain Room. Breakfast and coffee in the Lake Champlain Room.
Vendor Expo in the Pre-function Space.

8:45–9:15 AM **Conference Opening & Welcome**
Welcome from the VAWP President and an overview of the day. Green Mountain Ballroom.

9:15–10:15 AM **State of the Industry**
Insights, Emerging Trends & Perspectives with Meghan Ely, Katie Mast, Nina Addeo, and Jennifer Sulak.
Green Mountain Ballroom.

10:15–10:30 AM **Morning Break**

10:30–11:30 AM **Keynote Address | Meghan Ely**
Are You Ready for the New Way of Doing Business in Weddings? Green Mountain Ballroom.

11:30–11:45 AM **Transition Break**

11:45 AM–12:30 PM **Morning Breakout Sessions**
Choose one of the four concurrent presentations:

Nina Addeo | I Do Weddings — The Gen Z Booking Journey: What Couples Need to See Before They Inquire (Sponsored by Green Mountain Floral)

Pink-Haired Jen Sulak — Awkward Networking

Mike Kiesling | Edward Jones — Exit Planning: Start with the End in Mind

Katie Mast | Rock Paper Coin — Hard Conversations, Happy Clients: The Guide to Modern Conflict Resolution

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 | AFTERNOON

12:30–1:30 PM **Lunch & Vendor Expo**
Buffet lunch in the Lake Champlain Room.
Vendor Expo in the Pre-function Space.

1:30–1:45 PM **Transition Break**

1:45–2:30 PM **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**
The same four breakout presentations repeat, allowing guests to attend a second session.

2:30–3:00 PM **Refreshments & Wellness Break**
Recharge with afternoon refreshments and a visit to the Wellness Lounge.

3:00–4:00 PM **Fireside Chat | The State of Vermont Weddings**
A Conversation with Vermont Industry Leaders. Panelists: Emily Davis, Katie Hopkins, Emily Kudlacik, Keith MacDonald, and Daniel Samson.
Green Mountain Ballroom.

4:00–4:15 PM **Afternoon Break**

Closing Keynote | Mike Lannen

4:15–5:00 PM

Say “I Do” to AI: Practical Tools for Venues, Planners & Wedding Pros
Green Mountain Ballroom.

Breakout session note: All four breakout sessions are offered twice, at 11:45 AM and 1:45 PM, giving attendees the opportunity to attend two different presentations.