Things to Know about the Northern New England School of Banking

The Board of Trustees looks forward to welcoming you to the 2026 session of the Northern New School of Banking at The Venue at Portwalk Place in Portsmouth, NH. Please feel free to contact the Vermont Bankers Association staff, Chris D'Elia or Rebecca Kilian at 802-229-0341 if you have any questions. After October 16th, you may reach Rebecca on her cell 802-595-6593.

PROGRAM: Be sure to print off the final program agenda for the School.

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS: All materials are in .pdf, PowerPoint, or MSWord format for the School and will be available on the VBA's website beginning October 5th. **It will be up to each School attendee to either print them OR download them to an iPad, electronic notebook or laptop to view at the School.** If you plan on using a laptop, we will have a limited supply of power bars and extension cords for your use.

EVALUATION: The evaluation will be done using Survey Monkey. Because it is extensive, we ask every student to evaluate each instructor and topic at the end of each day while it's fresh on your mind. The feedback received in the survey is critical to the continued success of the School and mandatory to be completed by all the students. Individual Certificate of Completion for the School will be held until the survey is completed.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the Northern New England School of Banking are to provide a broad perspective and insight into at least five areas:

> The current economic and competitive landscape; the environment which banks will likely operate in the next few years; banking strategies to survive and prosper; key banking functions; and the role and challenges to individual bankers.

DRESS CODE: The School and The Venue at Portwalk Place offer an informal setting. Casual, comfortable clothing is recommended for classes, i.e., pants, sweaters, sneakers, or low-heeled shoes. Jeans are fine as long as they are nice and without holes in them. Due to each individual's body temperature being different, it is recommended you bring a sweater or jacket to class. The classroom temperature fluctuates drastically throughout the day and is often very cold. There is a teambuilding/networking event one evening after dinner that is held inside, students will be provided with a colored bandana.

SEATING: You will be sitting a lot each day. As you can see, we have several breaks scheduled during the School. If you wish to bring a pillow or some other cushion for your chair, feel free to do so. The chairs are normal conference style chairs with straight backs. There will be tall tables in the room if you feel you need to stand for any presentation and you are encouraged to do so when space allows.

CELL PHONES: All cell phones will need to be off, muted or on vibrate during all sessions of the School. Should there be an urgent matter that needs attention, please leave the classroom to take care of it.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: The use of artificial intelligence to write your final paper is not permitted and will result in a failing grade.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES: Students will be responsible for any incidental charges to their hotel room, such as telephone calls, laundry and miscellaneous food and beverages not included in the room package. These accounts must be paid upon check-out on Friday. Be prepared to show a credit card for this purpose when you check in. The room package includes breakfast, lunch, breaks and dinner each day (except for dinner on Wednesday) along with appropriate taxes and gratuities and parking.

MEALS: All meals will be served at The Venue at Portwalk Place and are buffet style. Anyone with dietary restrictions or allergies who have not made note of this on their registration form should contact Rebecca Kilian at vtbanker@sover.net immediately in order that we may arrange to meet your needs.

CLASSES: All classes, unless otherwise noted, will be held in the Harpswell Ballroom at The Venue at Portwalk Place. Attendance at all classes is mandatory to receive the School's certificate.

PARKING: Valet parking available for overnight guests and day parking for commuters. Parking is included with your registration. On Monday when everyone is arriving, the valet will get backed up so try to give yourself ample time for parking.

In both instances, make sure they check your name off their list for proper accounting.

HOTEL CHECK IN: Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and every effort will be made to have your room ready prior to your arrival, however, this is not guaranteed. If your room is not ready, the Hotel has storage for your use and there will be ample time between the end of the first session and dinner for you to check in.

HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING: Housekeeping or having amenities replenished will be done on Wednesday, October 21st but it is available more often upon request by contacting the front desk.

HOTEL CHECK OUT: Check out time is at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23rd. There is only one 15-minute break prior to check out time which will give you a little time to accomplish your check out. We suggest you check out before going to breakfast on Friday. The Hotel will store your luggage, or you can take it with you to The Venue at Portwalk Place and keep it there until you are ready to depart.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS: Face masks are optional.

For those attending the Northern New England School of Banking, you acknowledge that participation in any in person event includes possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to COVID-19 and you agree that you knowingly and voluntarily assume all risk that you may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19.

HOTEL SAFETY:

Current Travel Guidelines

The state of New Hampshire does not currently have any travel restrictions or requirements in place for residents or visitors.

Commitment to Clean

The hotel has taken additional measures beyond their industry-leading cleaning standards by partnering with Reckitt, maker of Lysol & Dettol, to develop the Hilton Clean Stay program. This innovative program builds upon their already rigorous cleaning standards by providing enhanced training for Team Members and increased cleaning of public areas to ensure guests enjoy a worry-free stay.

We look forward to seeing you, but if you feel unwell or have the following symptoms, fever, cough, or shortness of breath, we strongly encourage you to please stay home and rest.