

## VLCT Timeline Part 3: The 1980s and '90s

1980: VLCT purchases a snazzy Digital DDS 408 computer with a letter-quality printer.

1981: VLCT Expenditures for FY 1981 is \$163,920; Net Position is \$63,474. The deficit from prior years is eliminated.



Mayor Bernie Sanders

**May 21, 1981: Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders is appointed to the VLCT Board of Directors.**

Aug. 12, 1981: **IBM introduces its PC**, the world's first mass-market personal computer.

**Oct. 1, 1981:** The VLCT Board discusses a proposal to develop a workers' compensation trust and appoints a broker of record for the "VLCT Municipal Safety Trust." The board also votes to establish a "separate, non-profit organization known as the VLCT Municipal Safety Trust" and adopt interim by-laws for the trust.

**Oct. 1, 1981:** VLCT Board discusses developments in the Blue Cross-Blue Shield program. The board, including then-Mayor of Burlington Bernard Sanders, adopted a resolution opposing "any further Blue Cross-Blue Shield rate increases until Blue Cross-Blue Shield demonstrates its commitment to a broad, comprehensive and effective program to reduce costs throughout the entire medical system. ..." The first whereas clause of the resolution reads "Whereas, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns believes that affordable quality medical care is the right of every American and every Vermonter." This resolution was in response to a 19.3 percent increase in health insurance rates.

**March 3, 1982:** The VLCT Health Trust is established.

**Sep. 30, 1982:** Robert Stewart resigns as VLCT Executive Director.

**Nov. 1982:** VLCT moves offices to 52 State Street in Montpelier.

**Dec. 20, 1982: Steven Jeffrey is appointed Executive Director.**



Steve Jeffrey

1983: VLCT Health Trust offers Gold, Silver, and Bronze plan options to VLCT members for FY83.

**Feb. 3, 1983**, *VLCT News* article titled *House Committee Hears Suggestions on Health Cost Bill*: Charles Blanksteen and Dominick Ciarniello from the New York Office of William M. Mercer, Inc., testified today before the House Health and Welfare Committee on H.221, a bill proposed to control rising health care expenditures. The Mercer Company is the largest firm of employee benefit consultants in the country and designed the program currently used by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for 5,000 Vermont municipal employees and their families. ... VLCT arranged for the consultants to advise the committee without charge to the State or the League. Company officials feel Vermont could enact legislation which could become a model for the entire nation.”

**June 18, 1986**: The VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) is established.

1988: When discussing health insurance rates for FY88, one Health Trust Board member comments that “town budgets would be strained to the limit.”



12½ Main Street

1988: Blue Cross Blue Shield J-Y Family Health Insurance Plan rate is \$262.31.

1989: The VLCT Municipal Law Center (now the Municipal Assistance Center) is established.

**1991: VLCT moves offices to 12½ Main Street in Montpelier.**

March 11, 1992: VLCT insurance trust files are destroyed in the Montpelier flood. These were old records stored in the basement of the previous VLCT office at 52 State Street. There was no damage to the property at 12½ Main Street.

1993: VLCT takes a giant technological leap forward by supplying its staff with desktop computers.

1993: VLCT Health Trust and PACIF jointly hire a Wellness Coordinator.

1994: *Forrest Gump* wins the Academy Award for Best Picture.

**Dec. 1995: VLCT reaches 100 percent membership of the state’s cities and towns.**

**March 28, 1997: VLCT moves to its new quarters at City Center, 89 Main Street in Montpelier.**



City Center prepares to accommodate VLCT