

New Hampshire Telephone Museum Board of Directors



Paul E. Violette, President & Treasurer

460 Route 103 East, Warner NH 03278
603-746-5000; paul@nhtelephonemuseum.com

Paul is a retired telecommunications executive who began his 40-year career as a Lineman, working his way through all of the technical craft jobs, to becoming a supervisor and finally a manager and executive. He is a U.S. Navy Veteran, trained and serving as a Communications Technician on surface ships. After his military service he joined the technical staff at the local independent, Hopkinton Telephone Company, which later became Merrimack County Telephone Company. He retired as President & CEO when MCT sold to Telephone & Data Systems (TDS) in May 2002.

Paul was instrumental in establishing the NH Telephone Museum (NHTM) as a Non-Profit Educational Corporation in 2001 and was elected President & Treasurer. He was the person in charge of all aspects of the museum, from building design and construction; to layout, displays, fixtures, functions, staffing, operations and programs.

A Warner NH native, Paul is a Certified NH Firefighter and served 35 years with the Warner Fire Department, 12 of those years as Chief. He served over 30 years as a Forest Fire Warden & Deputy Warden and as a Special Deputy Warden for the State of NH. He was a Selectman and served on the Budget Committee and Planning Board. He is a member of numerous Clubs & Organizations in Warner and is a former Director at Oxford Networks in Lewiston, Maine; a Board Member of Sunapee Mutual Fire Insurance Co.; and a member of the Investment Committee of Concord General Mutual Insurance Co.



Douglas S. Hatfield, Secretary

452 Center Road, Hillsborough NH 03244
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An attorney with Upton & Hatfield, Doug provides clients with estate and investment advice, assisting individuals in financial planning for all aspects of their personal, family and business needs. His practice includes general business and real estate transactions.

Doug is active in numerous non-profit organizations including the United Church of Christ, Children's Alliance of New Hampshire (former Board Member), Havenwood-Heritage Heights Retirement Community, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Monadnock Region (former Board Member), Hillsborough Pride, Board Member of the Smith Memorial Church in Hillsborough, NH, Town of Hillsborough Economic Development Committee, Board Member of the Hillcat Summer Theatre. He is also the former secretary and board member of MCT Telecom.



Richard M. Cutting

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Dick is a Warner native and worked for 33 years in telecommunications. He started his career as a lineman at the local independent, Hopkinton Telephone Company which later became Merrimack County Telephone Company. He retired as the Outside Plant Manager of TDS Telecom in 2003.



Elizabeth Hager

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Elizabeth Hager retired in 2011 from Granite United Way. Since 1996 she had served as Executive Director of the United Way of Merrimack County in Concord. Before that she was involved as a volunteer, including roles as both President of the Board and Campaign Chair of the United Way.

Ms. Hager has served on the Board of Directors of many organizations including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Concord YMCA, Concord Child and Family Services, the Friends Program, NARAL Pro-Choice NH, and the Steering Committee of the NH Child Advocacy Network. She founded and chaired the New Hampshire Women’s Lobby and served on the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women. She is a director of Lincoln Variable Investment Products Trust and formerly served on the Boards of CFX Bank and TDBankNorth for New Hampshire. Currently she is a President of the Board of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.

Mrs. Hager was also in public service for almost three decades: she was first elected to the New Hampshire Legislature in 1972 and served thirteen terms until 2008. Ms. Hager was a Concord City Councilor for a decade, serving as the city’s mayor from 1988 to 1990. In 1974, as a member of the Constitutional Convention, she sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment which became part of our constitution in March of 1975.

She and her husband, Dennis, now reside in New Hampton.



James M. Henley

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Jim worked in the telephone industry for 28 years at the local independent, Hopkinton Telephone Company which later became Merrimack County Telephone Company. He started as plant clerk and ended his career as the VP-Operations of TDS Telecom in 2003. Jim served on the Board of Directors of the Telephone Association of New England, serving as president for 2 years. Upon leaving MCT he became a self-employed carpenter and spent the last two years as primary caretaker of his mother. He has been an active member of the Warner Fire Dept for over 30 years serving in such capacities as fire captain and deputy chief.



Gary B. Richardson, Esq.

Upton & Hatfield, LLP
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Gary recently became “of counsel” at Upton & Hatfield, LLP where he practiced law for 44 years and served as managing partner for ten years. In his capacity as “of counsel”, he provides financial planning for his clients. He is currently serving as the Majority Floor Leader in the NH House of Representatives. Gary is active in a number of non profit organizations. He is the Trustee of the Robert S. Bristol Charitable Trust and provides financial assistance and guidance to the Muster Field Farm Museum in North Sutton. He is currently serving as the President of the Biddeford Pool (Maine) Land Trust. He formerly served as the Chair of the Hopkinton Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as Moderator of the Town of Hopkinton for twenty eight years.



Marc A. Violette

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Marc has 30+ years in Telecom and held a variety of positions including; installation/repair, marketing, sales, business development and several management positions. Marc served as executive VP for the Telephone Association of New England.

Marc has served on the Board of Directors for several Chambers of Commerce in NH, The NH Telecom Advisory Board, and as a Commissioner for the NH Enhanced 911 Commission.

Marc is currently an active Real Estate Associate and is a partner in Violette Rentals and Property Management. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Lake Sunapee Board of Realtors.

New Hampshire Telephone Museum Staff



Laura J. French
Executive Director
Warner NH 03278
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Laura has worked part time at the museum since its inception while at the same time working for the Telephone Association of New England, a non-profit telecom trade association. Prior to 2003 she worked 13 years at Merrimack County Telephone Company in Contoocook NH. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management and is currently working on her Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management. As Executive Director, Laura is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the museum.



Graham Gifford
Program Administrator
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Graham is the former Product Development Director for Mesa International. She has been a freelance marketing/small business consultant for the last two years and joined the New Hampshire Telephone Museum in 2013. She has considerable experience successfully launching, directing and managing small and large scale projects and events in myriad professions. She will assist the Executive Director in day-to-day operations, as well as, help expand the museum's programming and increase museum visitation.