

# Vermont's 251 Club welcomes new director as membership grows

By [Sarah Asch](#)

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Viewers gathered in Windsor last summer to watch “One Town at a Time,” a documentary about the 251 club of Vermont. Photo courtesy of Mike Leonard

The new executive director of the [251 Club of Vermont](#) has plans to attract more families and young people to one of the state’s quirkier organizations.

“I just fell in love with it,” said Stephanie Young of the club, whose goal is for members to visit all 251 towns, cities and gores in the state. “I would talk about it all the time.”

Young, who lives with her husband and two young sons in Burlington and joined last summer, learned of the opening for a new director through the club's newsletter.

She knows she has some big shoes to fill.

Sandy Levesque of Bethel had been at the helm of the club for 10 years, and as only the fifth executive director in the club's 65-year history, she is credited with professionalizing the organization and growing membership.

Just last year, the club gained several hundred more members, and Levesque estimates there are more than 6,000, although membership is by household so that number is not exact.

During her tenure, Levesque helped bring the club online and sought partnerships with such organizations as Cabot Creamery to promote membership. She also started a newsletter, which highlights members and their stories.

Levesque feels the club incorporates a good mix of freedom and structure for people interested in exploring the state.

"I call it a lawless organization," Levesque said. "We have no rules, so you can take on this goal and do it in a couple of weeks or you can do it in a lifetime. You don't have to report to anyone when you finish, it's all on the honor system."