

Networking....The Importance of It

NATIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS

STATEWIDE INTEREST GROUPS

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SERDI CONFERENCE

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Why is Networking Important

Helps enhance your connection to both national and statewide organizations

Improves your connections with organizations that may help fund your programs and projects (both public and private organizations)

Helps you to build relevance in your region by providing an opportunity to talk about the important role your organization plays in the region

(You should always remember what Woody Allen once said – “80% of success is just showing up”)

RVARC Networking Organizations

National and Larger Regional Organizations :

- National Association of Development Organizations
- SouthEastern Regional Directors Institute
- Development District Association of Appalachia and Network Appalachia
- Rural Planning Organization (RPO) America
- I-81 Corridor Coalition (a multi-state group advocating for improvements on the interstate)

State Organizations:

- Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
- Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association Legislative Affairs Committee
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trails Advisory Committee
- Bike Virginia (a statewide group supporting biking related activities)

Regional and Local Organizations:

- The Roanoke Region Coalition for Economic Development
- Blue Ridge Interagency Council of Homelessness
- Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board
- Council of Community Services
- Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition
- Pathfinders for Greenways
- Regional Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC)

Regional and Local Organizations - continued

- Roanoke Refugee Dialogue Group – Transportation Committee
- Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Roanoke Regional Housing Network
- Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
- Roanoke Valley Urban Forestry Council

Regional and Local Organizations - continued

- Virginia Western Community College-Integrated Environmental Studies Advisory Group
- United Way Community Investment Council
- Upper Roanoke River Roundtable Advisory Committee
- Upper James River Resource Conservation and Development District (RC&D)

At the request of a local government, we will also support specific local organizations such as:

- City of Roanoke Downtown Mobility Workgroup
- City of Roanoke School System Career & Technical Education Advisory Committee
- Roanoke County Public Schools Technology Advisory Committee

Is Networking Easy?

- Yes, networking can be time consuming, but your networking efforts can bring numerous benefits to your organization
- Yes, it does cost money (for dues, conferences, travel, etc.), but contacts with the national, state, local leaders and your colleagues are very important
- Yes, you can get “network overload”, so you need to choose key organizations to network with. Also, your staff should be networking as well
- Remember, as the “face” of your organization, you need to be visible to leaders in your state and region, so go out and network!