Annual Events

Each year VEDA hosts five key events to promote continuing education and networking among members and to help shape public policy. Program topics at conferences and membership meetings vary in an effort to address current issues and trends. Diverse topics are geared to support economic development professionals serving large and small, urban and rural communities.

DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY VEDA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION
MARCH
SPRING CONFERENCE
JUNE
SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER
FALL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
WINTER/ANNUAL MEETING

“As a young professional, VEDA has proven to be an invaluable gateway into economic development. I leave each VEDA conference with new ideas for my office and a renewed sense of optimism about the great things taking place in Virginia. I can’t recommend membership strongly enough for anyone who wants to meet, network with, and learn from the best professionals in the business.”

— STEVE HARRISON, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH MANAGER, VIRGINIA BEACH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, VEDA BOARD MEMBER, CHAIR OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE
VALUES
• Ethical
• Professional
• Accountable
• Collaborative
• Supportive
• Spirited
• Inclusive

ACTIVITIES
• Advocating through public policy initiatives
• Educating through professional development programs
• Sharing best practices and innovative strategies
• Promoting the value of economic development
• Supporting the career path of the economic development professional

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS
CORNERSTONE
Cornerstone membership is VEDA’s premier membership level and is capped at 50 members in any calendar year. Cornerstone members receive the following additional benefits to their membership:
• Spotlight in VEDALink, VEDA’s electronic newsletter with distribution to nearly 600 members and partners
• Free registration (non-transferrable) to VEDA’s annual Legislative Reception
• Discount of 10% on registration fees for the Spring and Fall Conferences and Summer and Winter Membership meetings
• Receipt of event registration lists in advance of event
• Cornerstone Member designation on name badges for events
• Two $25 discounts for non-member registrations at Spring and Fall Conferences and Summer and Winter Membership meetings
• Other benefits to be determined based upon unique programming opportunities

PROFESSIONAL
Available to any individual who is employed by a Virginia-based company and who has a professional interest in economic development. Membership privileges at this level include holding office and voting as well as VEDA webinars and member rates for events. Must reside in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ASSOCIATE
Available to those individuals who reside outside of Virginia. Associate members may vote but may not hold office.

STUDENT
Available to full-time students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited institution. Student members must be sponsored by a VEDA member and are entitled to all membership privileges except holding office.

“Some of the most memorable and rewarding moments of my professional life have been while working with a dedicated group of VEDA professionals to help shape economic development policy in Virginia. The tremendous amount of professional knowledge and the many wonderful friendships that I gained during my 20 plus years in the organization will always be a highlight of my economic development career.”

— R. KENT HILL, CEcD, SENIOR MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER, VEDA PAST PRESIDENT

“Professional relationships and friendships that I have made through my involvement with VEDA are incredible. There is no better way to grow your knowledge in the field and learn from colleagues across the Commonwealth than by joining and becoming involved in VEDA.”

— DEBBIE MELVIN, PROJECT MANAGER, VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, 2017 VEDA PRESIDENT

“THE VOICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN VIRGINIA”