

Section 4: Policies

MEMBER PARTICIPATION POLICY

What is your role as a member?

1. Learn about VTDDC's:

- History
- Mission Statement & Vision Statement
- Publications, Activities and Grant Projects
- State Plan Goals
- Public Policy Priorities

2. Accept a share of the responsibility for getting VTDDC's work done.

- Attend and actively participate at VTDDC Quarterly meetings.
- Actively participate in a VTDDC Committee or arrange another assignment with VTDDC's Executive Director that furthers VTDDC's work.
- Read mail from VTDDC and answer as soon as possible.
- Figure out what you can do to help. Volunteer, and then do what you said you would do to the best of your ability.
- Share your knowledge, skills and experiences with other members.
- Be an advocate by communicating with friends, acquaintances, agency staff and state officials (that could include your legislator and the Governor).
- Help VTDDC know about and work on solving problems in your community and in the State.
- Be ready to work with other members.
- Be an active listener: Listen first, and then ask questions.

3. Keep informed:

- Know what VTDDC needs to do. Ask questions about it.
- Talk with VTDDC staff and other members when you have questions or concerns.
- Take time to understand other members' issues and ideas.
- Look at information about VTDDC work, including what other DD Councils are doing and what is happening in other states.
- Be willing to attend conferences, trainings or other events that can help you understand issues, and to share with VTDDC.

4. Develop into an effective member and advocate by:

- Working on your own voice and who you can talk with.
- Learning to talk about your experiences and ideas clearly.

[Adopted June 26, 2008.]