

## 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.]*