

NADO

ON THE HILL

2017 WASHINGTON POLICY CONFERENCE

PROGRAM & GUIDE
MARCH 19-22, 2017



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WELCOME FROM NADO PRESIDENT **LYNNE KELLER FORBES**

*Dear NADO
Members and Friends,*

Welcome to NADO's 2017 Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill! On behalf of the Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, thank you for making the commitment to participate and join the discussion on federal policy issues critical to our nation's regional development organizations, local governments, and communities.

With a new administration and congress in place, the Washington Policy Conference provides a timely opportunity to learn directly from policy experts and political observers about what's topping the federal agenda.

Building on the success of the NADO on the Hill portion of past conferences, this year's Washington Policy Conference will again bring attendees to Capitol Hill for visits with members of Congress and their

staff on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 21. We are asking NADO members to focus on the importance of EDA during these visits given the proposal currently floating to eliminate its funding. The impact of EDA investments in your regions goes a long way toward advancing the efforts of NADO staff in Washington to stave off budget cuts to the agency. Sharing your stories on the Hill will help us in this effort. We will cap off the afternoon with a NADO on the Hill reception.

We are pleased to have Dr. Scott Huffmon, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Winthrop Poll at Winthrop University, as a featured speaker. Dr. Huffmon is an expert in public opinion and voting behavior and will provide guidance on navigating political discourse in times of polarization. In addition, David Wasserman, U.S.

House Editor for *The Cook Political Report*, will provide analysis of the current political environment with data-driven forecasting of national and local politics, the relationship between consumer brand loyalty and voting, and what the future holds for American elections.

Plenary sessions offer the latest on key policy areas. Topics include EDA's comprehensive role in regional economic development and the outlook for rural issues under the new presidential administration. Concurrent sessions will focus on strengthening regions through economic diversification as well as transportation and infrastructure investment, workforce development, and aging programs.

Conference participants will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives from over





a dozen different federal agencies at the annual Federal Agency Networking Session. This event, held in partnership with the Development District Association of Appalachia, is a great opportunity to connect with federal partners and learn about funding opportunities and programs.

Thank you again for participating in this timely and important event. I look forward to a successful and informative 2017 Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill.

Sincerely,

Lynne Keller Forbes

*President, National Association of
Development Organizations*

*Executive Director, South Eastern
Council of Governments*



Lynne Keller Forbes,
NADO President





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REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 19

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 20

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22

7:30 – 11:00 a.m.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Registration Arlington Foyer
Executive Committee Meeting Fairfax (Second Floor)
NADO Board of Directors Meeting Salons 1 – 2
(Open to all NADO members)

MONDAY, MARCH 20

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12:00 – 1:45 p.m.
1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Arlington Foyer
Opening Plenary Session
• EDA in the Face of Challenges Salon 3
Concurrent Sessions
• Strengthening Regions through Economic Diversification Salon 1
• The Older Americans Act and Aging Policy Outlook Salon 2
Lunch on Your Own
Concurrent Sessions
• Workforce and the New Economy Salon 1
• Transportation and Infrastructure Investments in 2017 Salon 2
NADO Regional Caucus Meetings
(See full schedule for meeting rooms)
Federal Agency Networking Session Salons 4 – 6
(Co-sponsored with DDAA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Arlington Foyer
Plenary Session
• The Current Political Landscape Salons 1 – 3
(Co-sponsored with DDAA)
Plenary Session
• Rural Policy Priorities in the New Administration and Congress Salons 1 – 3
(Co-sponsored with DDAA)
Luncheon Salon 4
• Strategies for Working the Hill
NADO on the Hill Hotel Lobby
Join us as we communicate with members of Congress and their staff on the importance of regional economic development.
(Transportation provided; see p. 10 for more details)
NADO on the Hill Reception Rayburn House Office Building Foyer

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 – 11:00 a.m.
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration Arlington Foyer
Breakfast Salon 3
Closing Plenary Session Salon 3
• How to Talk Politics without Getting Mad

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FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 19

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Arlington Foyer
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting	Fairfax (Second Floor)
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	NADO Board of Directors Meeting	Salons 1 – 2
<i>All NADO members are encouraged to attend.</i>		

Monday, March 20

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration	Arlington Foyer
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session	Salon 3

• **EDA in the Face of Challenges**

EDA finds itself in the crosshairs of potential budget cuts and elimination. This session will provide a deep dive on the ripple effects of EDA investments, the importance of collaboration with new partners to expand EDA's base of support, and practical tips for advocacy in the current political landscape.

- **Michael Higdon**, Principal, A1.9 Strategies
- **Marek Gootman**, Fellow and Director, Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagements, Brookings Institution
- **Joe Kapp**, CEO Behavioral Business, LLC and Entrepreneur in Residence, Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College
- **Nathan Ohle**, Former Senior Advisor, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Moderator
- **Lynne Keller Forbes**, President, NADO and Executive Director, South Eastern Council of Governments, Introduction

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Strengthening Regions through Economic Diversification**Salon 1
Diversified economies are resilient economies, better positioned to face a changing economic landscape and unforeseen shocks. During this peer-to-peer session learn about ways federal resources have supported efforts to diversify economies through local and regional assets and share examples and best practices from your own region.
 - **Stephanie Bertaina**, Senior Policy Analyst, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - **David Ives**, Planning Coordinator/Interim Director, Performance and National Programs Division, U.S. Economic Development Administration
 - **Karen Fabiano**, POWER Initiative Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission
 - **Erik Pages**, President, EntreWorks Consulting, Moderator
- **The Older Americans Act and Aging Policy Outlook**Salon 2
The Older Americans Act of 2016 reauthorized aging-related programs from fiscal years 2017 to 2019 and reinforced areas of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program while promoting evidence-based initiatives. This session will explore the latest OAA law, its impact on current services and programs, and how population and demographic changes will affect future legislation.
 - **Autumn Campbell**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
 - **Marci Phillips**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, National Council on Aging
 - **Lisa Cooper**, Executive Director, Northern Kentucky Area Development District, Moderator

12:00 – 1:45 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

1:45 – 3:15 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Workforce and the New Economy**Salon 1
As advancements in technology and other dynamics continue to shape the global economy, job training programs must adapt and respond to employer needs. In this session, panelists will share insights on changes to the labor market and how federal policy can meet industry demands in workforce development.
 - **Kermit Kaleba**, Federal Policy Director, National Skills Coalition
 - **Gardner Carrick**, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, The Manufacturing Institute
 - **Jen Worth**, Senior Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development, American Association of Community Colleges
 - **Jeff Kiely**, Immediate Past President, NADO and Executive Director, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, Moderator

• **Transportation and Infrastructure Investments in 2017**Salon 2

Investment in infrastructure was a cornerstone of President Trump’s campaign and since taking office he has called for a \$1 trillion investment from both public and private sources. A major investment in infrastructure provides an opportunity for advancing regional economic development. This session will focus on the latest proposals for infrastructure modernization and the potential opportunities for local communities.

- **Sue Gander**, Division Director, Environment, Energy and Transportation Division, National Governors Association
- **Joung Lee**, Policy Director, Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- **Levon Boyagian**, Managing Principal, Boyagian Consulting, LLC
- **Scott Koons**, Second Vice President, NADO and Executive Director, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Moderator

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. NADO Regional Caucus Meetings

East Region	Mt. Vernon (Second Floor)
Midwest Region	Manassas (Second Floor)
Central Region	McLean (Second Floor)
Southeast Region	Salon 2
Southwest Region	Salon 1
West Region	Fairfax (Second Floor)

All NADO members are encouraged to attend. Regional Caucus Meetings provide an opportunity for NADO members to meet and discuss membership recruitment, board representation, and emerging issues within their region.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Federal Agency Networking Session..... Salons 4 – 6
(Co-sponsored with the Development District Association of Appalachia)

Meet with representatives from over a dozen federal agencies to learn about funding and opportunities and programs. See page 11 for a list of federal agency participants.

Tuesday, March 21

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration.....Arlington Foyer

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. **Plenary Session**..... Salons 1 – 3

• **The Current Political Landscape**

(Co-sponsored with the Development District Association of Appalachia)

The political environment is fractured and polarized within Congress and the electorate itself. Hear analysis and commentary from one of Washington’s most respected political experts drawing on data-driven forecasting.

- David Wasserman, U.S. House Editor, *The Cook Political Report*
- NADO Introduction: Lynne Keller Forbes, President, NADO and Executive Director, South Eastern Council of Governments
- DDAA Introduction: John Hemmings, President, DDAA and Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

10:00 – 11:15 a.m. **Plenary Session**..... Salons 1 – 3

• **Rural Policy Priorities in the New Administration and Congress**

(Co-sponsored with the Development District Association of Appalachia)

Following the end of the Great Recession, economic growth has yielded new jobs and revitalized many communities throughout the nation. However, rural America continues to face severe obstacles to competing in the global marketplace. Attention to improving economies outside of metropolitan areas has been elevated by the new presidential administration. Panelists will offer their perspectives on how potential policy changes would impact rural people and places.

- Arthur Scott, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties
- Lisa Benson, Director of Rural Development, American Farm Bureau Federation
- Kirk Johnson, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Doug Elliott, First Vice President, NADO and Executive Director, East Central Iowa Council of Governments, Moderator

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon**Salon 4

• **Strategies for Working the Hill**

Although it goes without saying, good relationships with elected officials are of the utmost importance for public organizations, especially regional development organizations. An effective approach to building and sustaining connections with stakeholders can make a real difference in meeting your organization’s goals. To prepare you for NADO on the Hill, Britton Bonner will share a step-by-step approach to building relationships with congressional members and staff.

- C. Britton Bonner, Partner, Adams and Reese LLP
- Kevin Byrd, Treasurer, NADO and Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission, Introduction

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. NADO on the HillHotel Lobby
Buses will depart from outside to take you to Capitol Hill for meetings with your members of Congress and/or their staff. Share your important work you are doing throughout your regions and invite elected officials and their staff to tour projects back in your district.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. NADO on the Hill ReceptionRayburn House Office Building Foyer
After an afternoon of Hill visits, conference attendees will reconvene in the Rayburn House Office Building for a networking reception with members of Congress and their staff. Buses will be available to bring attendees back to the hotel after the reception.

The Rayburn Foyer is located on the 1st floor of the Rayburn House Office Building, directly above the Independence Avenue entrance.

Wednesday, March 22

7:30 – 11:00 a.m. RegistrationArlington Foyer

8:00 – 9:15 a.m. BreakfastSalon 3
Justin Clark serves as the liaison between the White House and the nation's mayors, county executives, governors, and state legislatures on domestic policy issues.

- **Justin Clark**, Deputy Assistant to the President and White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

- **Lynne Keller Forbes**, President, NADO and Executive Director, South Eastern Council of Governments), Introduction

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Closing Plenary SessionSalon 3

• **How to Talk Politics without Getting Mad**

Political disagreements are a necessary part of any democratic society. Unfortunately, differing views around policy often turn into a serious breakdown in communication. Dr. Scott Huffmon reveals why people hold such strong political beliefs and how to appropriately prepare yourself when talking politics with others.

- **Dr. Scott Huffmon**, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Winthrop Poll, Winthrop University

- **Misty Casto**, Secretary, NADO and Executive Director, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Introduction



FEDERAL AGENCY NETWORKING SESSION



(Co-sponsored with the Development District Association of Appalachia) Federal agency participants confirmed as of March 6, 2017. Please refer to the handout as you enter the reception for the current list of federal representatives in attendance.

Monday, March 20
4:30 – 6:00 p.m. • Salons 4 – 6

Appalachian Regional Commission

Sara James, Program Analyst
Jim McCleskey, States' Washington Representative
David Hughes, Analyst
Karen Fabiano, POWER Initiative Manager

Delta Regional Authority

Brian Henson, Special Advisor for Congressional and Federal Affairs

Northern Border Regional Commission

Christine Frost, Program Director
Mark Scarano, Federal Co-Chair

U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development

Jamie Davenport, Director, Community Economic Development
Hiwot Gebremariam, Program Analyst
Andy Jermolowicz, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Programs
Mark Brodziski, Deputy Administrator, Energy Programs
Claudette Fernandez, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Business Programs
Betty-Ann Bryce, Financial Investment Specialist, Water and Environment Programs
Kent Evans, Water Programs Director
Kelly Novak, Energy Programs Director

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Doug Lynott, Director, Office of Economic Development Integration
Nancy Gilbert, Policy Analyst, Office of Economic Development Integration
David Ives, Planning Coordinator/Interim Director, Performance and National Programs Division
Ryan Smith, Program Analyst

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Aimee Meacham, Director of External Affairs, NTIA
Phil Singerman, Associate Director for Industry and Innovation Services

U.S. Department of Defense

Tara Butler, Program Director for Intergovernmental Affairs
Cyrena Eitler, Program Director for Compatible Use
Jim Holland, Program Director for BRAC & Downsizing

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Stephen Cerry, Senior Policy Advisor
Naomi Friedman, Office of Economic Development
James Höemann, Deputy Director, SSCD/Office of Block Grant Assistance

U.S. Department of Transportation

Shari Schaftelein, Director, Office of Human Environment, FHWA

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Andrew DuMont, Senior Community Development Analyst

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Jennifer Doolin, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
Kristen Roth, Emergency Management Specialist

National Endowment for the Arts

Jen Hughes, Community Solutions Specialist
Katherine Bray-Simons, Creative Placemaking Specialist
Jason Schubbach, Director of Design and Creative Placemaking Programs

U.S. Department of Labor

Byron Zuidema, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Citra Kumar, Division Director, Office of Sustainable Communities
Stephanie Bertaina, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Sustainable Communities

U.S. Small Business Administration

Craig Rossi, Financial Analyst
Thomas Heou, Financial Analyst
Rodney Evans, Financial Analyst

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2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The members of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) support federal initiatives that encourage regional approaches to improving the economic conditions and quality of life in America's small and rural communities.

The nation's regional development organizations (RDOs) serve as a catalyst for strategic planning, public-private partnerships, and regional initiatives that are designed to meet locally-identified priorities and needs. NADO's efforts focus on public infrastructure improvements, comprehensive economic development planning, transportation planning, business development finance services, and other traditional building blocks that promote regional development and economic growth.

For the 115th Congress, NADO will place a priority on increasing member advocacy with congressional representatives on key policies, strengthening economic growth initiatives, and enhancing the delivery of services at all levels of government. To this end, NADO will assist its membership in establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with members of Congress and their staffs; highlighting successful rural economic and community development projects in regions across the nation; and providing NADO members with relevant and timely legislative resources to advance advocacy efforts. NADO's 2017 legislative priorities include:



- Reauthorize the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) with an emphasis on public works and planning grants, especially in distressed rural communities.
- Support legislative changes to localize control of EDA Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) to end burdensome reporting requirements on RLF recipients.
- Maintain SBA's 504 Certified Development Company microloan lending and technical assistance program.
- Support authorized funding levels set by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and continued support of locally driven Workforce Investment Boards with enhanced regional coordination service delivery.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Promote full funding for flexible, locally driven community development through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
- Maintain full funding and program flexibility for HHS Area Agencies on Aging.
- Support EPA's brownfields cleanup and assessment programs and support the recovery of administration costs consistent with other federal programs.
- Support federal initiatives to assist state and local governments and regional development organizations in planning, developing, and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure systems.
- Promote affordable, advanced, and accessible telecommunications and broadband services in underserved and rural areas.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support USDA rural development grant programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing, and broadband services, and their regional setaside initiative.
- Support reauthorization of the 2014 farm bill with an enhanced emphasis on strategic regional-based economic and community development priorities.



FEDERAL-STATE COMMISSIONS

- Support funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Delta Regional Authority (DRA), Denali Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) at authorized levels, including support for ARC and DRA local development districts.
- Support full funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority as authorized in the 2014 farm bill. In addition, support the use of existing regional planning and development organizations as the local development districts for these new federal-state regional commissions.



TRANSPORTATION

- Work to strengthen the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the transportation planning process, building upon provisions enacted in MAP-21 and continued under the FAST Act.
- Support efforts to shore up the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Support programs and policies to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain public transportation and non-motorized transportation, short line railroad, and road safety improvements that benefit underserved and rural regions.
- Maintain and enhance regular air service to underserved and rural regions through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, Essential Air Service, and the Small Communities Air Service Development Program.



HOMELAND & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Ensure small metropolitan and rural areas receive adequate resources and equitable access to the broad portfolio of homeland security and emergency preparedness programs, including first responder emergency management performance grants, pre-disaster mitigation, and all-hazards mitigation resources. In addition, fully fund FEMA's floodplain map modernizations and mitigation programs.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2016 - 2017



Lynne Keller Forbes

President, South Eastern Council of
Governments
Sioux Falls, SD

Doug Elliott

First Vice President, East Central Iowa
Council of Governments
Cedar Rapids, IA

Scott Koons

Second Vice President, North Central
Florida Regional Planning Council
Gainesville, FL

Kevin Byrd

Treasurer, New River Valley
Regional Commission
Radford, VA

Misty Casto

Secretary, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley
Regional Development District
Marietta, OH

Jeff Kiely

Immediate Past President, Northwest
New Mexico Council of Governments
Gallup, NM



CONSULTANTS

Jackie Bryant, *Financial*

Tate & Tryon; www.tatetryon.com

Vicki Glass, *Meetings and Membership*

202.624.8574; vglass@nado.org



PAST PRESIDENTS



Earl Price, Oklahoma	1968	Robert Paciocco, North Carolina	1993
Earl Price, Oklahoma	1969	Gary Freeman, California	1994
Lon Hardin, Arkansas	1970	James Tonn, Georgia	1995
Tim Maund, Georgia	1971	Leland Tillman, New Mexico	1996
Rudy Esala, Minnesota	1972	Richard Cavender, Missouri	1997
Nick Salazar, New Mexico	1973	Eric Thompson, South Carolina	1998
Les Newcomb, Mississippi	1974	Lanier Boatwright, Georgia	1999
John Ladd, New York	1975	Terry Sherwood, Arkansas	2000
Don Raney, Arkansas	1976	William D. Hess, New York	2001
Bob Chandler, Texas	1977	John Bruner, Kentucky	2002
J. Roy Fogle, North Carolina	1978	Joe Brannan, Arizona	2003
Vernon Martin, Georgia	1979	Gary Gorshing, Oklahoma	2004
G. Anthony Kuhn, Oregon	1980	Jack Scriber, Kentucky	2005
Herman Tushaus, South Dakota	1981	Kenneth Jones, Texas	2006
Ed Bodenhamer, Georgia	1982	Dan Bollinger, Georgia	2007
Rachel Scioscia, Nebraska	1983	Leanne Mazer, Maryland	2008
Chris Page, Vermont	1984	Sharon Juon, Iowa	2009
Charles Howell, Georgia	1985	Michael Norton, Arkansas	2010
David Martin, Minnesota	1986	Tim Ware, North Carolina	2011
Vernon Kelley, Mississippi	1987	Russ Cowley, Utah.....	2012
Michael Aube, Maine	1988	John Leonard, Georgia	2013
George Alford, Alabama	1989	Peter Gregory, Vermont	2014
Terence Stone, Minnesota	1990	Terry Bobrowski, Tennessee.....	2015
Charles Justice, Florida	1991	Jeff Kiely, New Mexico	2016
Howard Grossman, Pennsylvania	1992		



2016-2018 BOARD MEMBERS



CENTRAL REGION

Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Regional Council (Saint Joseph, MO)
Chad Eggen, Boonslick RPC (Warrenton, MO)
Karl Elmsphaeuser, West Central Nebraska Development District (Ogallala, NE)
Tom Higginbotham, Northeast Nebraska EDD (Norfolk, NE)
Randall Hrabec, Northwest Kansas PDC (Hill City, KS)
Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG (Carroll, IA)
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD of Southwest Colorado (Durango, CO)
Stan Summers, Bear River Association of Governments (Logan, UT)

EAST REGION

Eric Bridges, North Central PA Commission (Ridgway, PA)
Robert Clark, Northern Maine Development Commission (Caribou, ME)
Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest RPC (Saint Albans, VT)
Jill Foy, Northwest Commission (Oil City, PA)
Carol Jackson, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (Parkersburg, WV)
Tom Kennedy, Southern Windsor County RPC (Ascutney, VT)
Randall Rapp, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (Parkersburg, WV)
Martha Shickle, Richmond Regional PDC (Richmond, VA)
Wayne Strickland, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (Roanoke, VA)

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Denise Bulat, Bi-State Regional Commission (Rock Island, IL)
Dawn Hegland, Upper Minnesota Valley RDC (Appleton, MN)
Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Commission (Spooner, WI)
Joe A. Matthews, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD (Marietta, OH)
Matt McCauley, Networks Northwest (Traverse City, MI)
Jill Saegesser, River Hills EDD & RPC (Jeffersonville, IN)

SOUTHEAST REGION

Joe Barker, Southwest Tennessee Development District (Jackson, TN)
Suzanne Burnette, Lee-Russell COG (Opelika, AL)
Lisa Cooper, Northern Kentucky ADD (Florence, KY)
Matthew Dolge, Piedmont Triad Regional Council (Winston Salem, NC)

Jim Dove, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (Athens, GA)
Patricia Hartung, Upper Savannah COG (Greenwood, SC)
Justin Hembree, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (Asheville, NC)
Wendell Lawrence, Lincoln Trail ADD (Elizabethtown, KY)
Ron Mitchum, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG (North Charleston, SC)
Calvin Newsome, Southern Mississippi PDD (Columbia, MS)
Stephen Russell, North Central PDD (Winona, MS)
Pat Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (Bartow, FL)

SOUTHWEST REGION

Tim Armer, North Central New Mexico EDD
Kevin Belanger, South Central Planning & Development Commission (Houma, LA)
Glenn E. Bell, Southeast Arkansas PDD (Pine Bluff, AR)
Chris Brown, Ark-Tex COG (Texarkana, TX)
Mike Brown, South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (Weatherford, OK)
Debora Glasgow, South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (Burn Flats, OK)
Rodney Larsen, Central Arkansas PDD (Lonoke, AR)
Tom Wilkinson, Brazos Valley COG (Bryan, TX)

WEST REGION

Lisa Dawson, Northeast Oregon EDD (Enterprise, OR)
Chris Fetzer, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (Flagstaff, AZ)
Christine Frei, Clearwater Economic Development Association (Lewiston, ID)
Bob Nash, Superior California Economic Development (Redding, CA)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kevin Adam, Arizona Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (Phoenix, AZ)
Jack Couch, Kentucky Council of ADDs (Louisville, KY)
Linda Salmonson, East River Electric Power Cooperative (Madison, SD)

Red indicates local elected official



2017 AND CONFERENCES EVENTS



April 18 – 20, 2017

DDAA Professional Development Conference

Westin Cincinnati • Cincinnati, OH

800.973.8461 • Room rate: \$144 single/double



May 20 – 22, 2017

Southeast Regional Directors Institute

The Resort at Glade Springs • Daniels, WV

304.763.2000 • Room rate: \$129 single/double



June 24 – 26, 2017

NADO Summer Board of Directors Meeting

The Mills House • Charleston, SC

866.781.3643 • Room rate: \$209 single/double



June 28 – 30, 2017

National Regional Transportation Conference/ Economic Development Finance Service Conference

Grand Hyatt Denver • Denver, CO

303.920.3230 • Room rate: \$178 single/double



July 25 – 28, 2017

Southwest Region Executive Directors Association Conference

Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center • Baton Rouge, LA

800.955.6962 • Room rate: \$98 single/double



September 9 – 12, 2017

NADO Annual Training Conference

Hilton Anchorage • Anchorage, AK

800.HILTONS • Room rate: \$181 single/double

Anchorage Marriott • Anchorage, AK

800.228.9290 • Room rate: \$195 single/double

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2017 Congressional Calendar

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28				

MARCH						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	House in session
	Senate in session
	House and Senate in session
	Federal holiday





The 2017 NADO Innovation Awards application will be available at **nado.org** beginning April 3.

The Innovation Awards program, started in 1986, recognizes member organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to regional economic and community development. Previous award-winning projects have showcased innovative efforts in a variety of program areas including business and economic development, community health initiatives, emergency planning, brownfields, sustainability, technology, transportation, workforce development, and many others. Explore last year's winners in an interactive Story Map designed by Esri by visiting **nado.org/innovation-awards**.

AWARD BENEFITS

Positive local and national attention:

- Award-winning projects gain national recognition via nado.org, NADO News, and are often featured in NADO Research Foundation reports and case studies.
- NADO's legislative and research teams tap into the great resource of Innovation Awards for testimony to Congress and as examples to share with federal agencies.
- Awardees will receive an Innovation Award certificate, a press release, and have the opportunity to take their photo with NADO President Lynne Keller Forbes during a special photo session at NADO's 2017 Annual Training Conference (ATC) in Anchorage, September 9 – 12.
- The certificate, photo, and press release will be sent to each awardee to announce the award and share with regional partners, stakeholders, and media outlets.

Showcase your success and network with peers:

- A special roundtable reception will showcase award-winning projects during NADO's 2017 ATC. Winners are also sometimes included in best practice sessions during the conference (and in future conferences).
- In addition to the roundtable reception at the ATC, awardees will have ample opportunities to talk with peers about their award-winning projects and share best practices.

Community and organization recognition:

- Winning an Innovation Award presents awardees with numerous opportunities to build the reputation of their organization with the communities they serve, regional stakeholders, funders, and potential clients; and recognize staff for their hard work and dedication to the organization.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be a NADO member. Projects must show substantial quantitative or qualitative results. Only three projects may be submitted per organization.

If multiple regional development organizations, such as members of a state association, would like to apply for an Innovation Award for a collaborative project, only one application needs to be submitted. Please list all organizations that would like to be recognized for the collaborative project on the application.

Application Deadline:

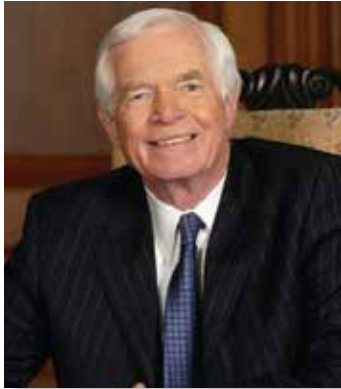
June 3, 2017.

Visit **nado.org** for the Innovation Awards application and additional details beginning April 3 and follow NADO News and NADO's Facebook and Twitter feeds for Innovation Awards announcements. Please direct any questions to Brett Schwartz at **bschwartz@nado.org**. We look forward to your applications!





2017 LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR



SENATOR THAD COCHRAN (R-MS)

Senator Thad Cochran is a dedicated advocate for economic growth and job creation in rural communities. Throughout his time in public service, he has promoted policies related to rural economic development through farm bills and focused on expanded educational opportunities for children living in rural areas. As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he has championed programs essential to regional economic and community development.



SENATOR JON TESTER (D-MT)

Senator Jon Tester is an outspoken advocate for rural America and small businesses. He has made rural growth and prosperity a cornerstone of his work in the Senate, championing rural development issues within the Senate Democratic Caucus and before the Senate Veterans' Affairs, Indian Affairs, Banking, and Appropriations Committees.





As NADO marks its 50th anniversary in 2017, the time is right to reflect on our past, present, and future. We are celebrating the successes and achievements of our members and the important work you do to serve your communities and regions. What accomplishments are you most proud of as a regional development organization? What projects have made the most impact in your region? How has being a part of NADO helped you meet your organization's mission? Now through June 1, we are asking members to submit images, send stories and recollections, and share other thoughts about the past 50 years of being a part of NADO and your achievements in supporting regional economic development. Your submissions may be featured on the NADO website, shared on social media, and displayed at the Annual Training Conference in Anchorage, Alaska from September 9 – 12. Please send all materials to Brett Schwartz, NADO Program Manager, at bschwartz@nado.org by June 1 with the subject header "NADO 50th Anniversary."



SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 28 - JUNE 30

GRAND HYATT DENVER | DENVER, COLORADO

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TWO GREAT CONFERENCES AT NADO.ORG/EVENTS



S A V E T H E D A T E

NADOC⁵⁰
1 9 6 7 - 2 0 1 7

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

More information at www.nado.org/events/2017-annual-training-conference

THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING

NADO
ON THE HILL



The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) works to strengthen America's local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions of the nation's network of 520 regional development organizations.

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