

# *Working Together for a Better Region*

**HOW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS  
ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN APPALACHIA**

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF APPALACHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

March 18–20, 2012  
Crystal Gateway Marriott  
Arlington, Virginia

## WELCOME FROM 2012 DDAA PRESIDENT STEVE PELISSIER

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2012 DDAA conference! Our conference theme this year highlights the core of what we do and what we are as LDDs: Partners working together toward common goals for stronger communities and a stronger Region. Throughout our proud history, LDDs have used this model to help meet their communities' changing needs and promote development that makes Appalachia a better place to live and work. I believe that more than ever, our work plays an important role in shaping the Region's future.

To help your district continue along this path toward success, this year's conference sessions will showcase examples of approaches LDDs have taken to address key community issues, such as transportation planning and disaster preparedness, as well as provide information on "hot topics" such as the community impact of shale gas production and the benefits of local food production. You will also have an opportunity to learn how your district might benefit from the Rural Jobs Accelerator federal funding opportunity, a national competition that will provide about \$15 million for projects that promote regional job creation.

Other conference highlights include a Monday-morning plenary session on policy initiatives the Obama administration is undertaking to promote and strengthen rural America. The session will feature Doug McKalip, senior policy advisor for rural affairs on the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Doug O'Brien, deputy under secretary for rural development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We'll also enjoy some of our traditional conference events again this year, including the Sunday evening banquet and address from ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl, and our annual presentation of awards honoring individuals who have made significant efforts to benefit Appalachians.

I want to recognize our ongoing conference partnership with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), through which we'll have a joint federal agency roundtable networking reception on Monday afternoon, as well as our Tuesday-morning plenary sessions. This marks the seventh year of our great partnership with NADO to enrich our conference offerings.

Thanks so much for your participation in this year's conference. I'm confident you'll find it both productive and enjoyable!

## AGENDA

### Sunday, March 18, 2012

Noon–5:00 p.m. <i>Arlington Room Foyer</i>	Registration Desk Open
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. <i>Salon 5</i>	<b>DDAA Executive Board Meeting</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Steve Pelissier, President, Development District Association of Appalachia
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. <i>Salon 4</i>	<b>DDAA Annual Membership Meeting</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Steve Pelissier, President, Development District Association of Appalachia <b>Remarks:</b> Thomas M. Hunter, Executive Director, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C.
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. <i>Salons 1 and 2</i>	<b>Reception</b>
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. <i>Salon 3</i>	<b>Dinner Banquet</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Steve Pelissier, President, Development District Association of Appalachia <b>Address:</b> Earl F. Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <b>Entertainment:</b> Performance by entertainer David Browning, the "Mayberry Deputy" <i>Introduction:</i> Danny Lewis, First Vice President, Development District Association of Appalachia

### Monday, March 19, 2012

7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. <i>Arlington Room Foyer</i>	Registration Desk Open
8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. <i>Salon 3</i>	<b>Breakfast</b> <i>Sponsored by the National Association of Development Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils</i> <b>Presiding:</b> Misty Casto, Secretary, Development District Association of Appalachia; Chair, DDAA Training Committee <b>Presentation:</b> <i>How the DDAA is Making a Difference in Appalachia</i> Steve Pelissier, President, Development District Association of Appalachia Misty Casto, Secretary, Development District Association of Appalachia

<p>9:10 a.m.–10:20 a.m. Salon 3</p>	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> <b><i>The Administration's Rural Priorities</i></b> <b>Moderator:</b> Earl F. Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <b>Speakers:</b> Doug McKalip, Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council, Washington, D.C. Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b> <i>(Choose one of the following three sessions)</i></p> <p><b>Promoting Livable Community Practices in the Region</b> (Salon 4) <i>Moderator:</i> Greg Faulkner, Program Analyst, Energy Efficiency and Infrastructure, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <i>Panelists:</i> Ed Fendley, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Sustainable Communities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.; Kathy Nothstine, Associate Director, National Association of Development Organizations, Washington, D.C.; Anjali Patel, Associate, Spiegel and McDiarmid, LLP, Washington, D.C. (Representing the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals)</p> <p><b>Disaster Planning and Community Preparation</b> (Salon 5) <i>Moderator:</i> John Hemmings, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, Waverly, Ohio <i>Panelists:</i> Joshua Barnes, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.; David Cole, Executive Director, Region I Planning and Development Council, Princeton, West Virginia; Keith Jones, Executive Director, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments, Muscle Shoals, Alabama</p> <p><b>Transportation and the Role of LDDs</b> (Salon 6) <i>Moderator:</i> James Dove, Executive Director, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, Athens, Georgia <i>Panelists:</i> Chris Craig, Director, Environmental Management and Rural Planning Organization, First Tennessee Development District, Johnson City, Tennessee; Robert Gordon, Director, Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization, Hagerstown, Maryland</p>
<p>Noon–1:20 p.m. Salon 3</p>	<p><b>Awards Luncheon</b> <b>Presiding:</b> Danny Lewis, First Vice President, Development District Association of Appalachia</p> <p><b>Presentation of the 2012 Donald R. Myers Humanitarian Award</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the 2012 John D. Whisman Vision Award</b></p>
<p>1:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b> <i>(Choose one of the following three sessions)</i></p> <p><b>Local Farms, Local Foods</b> (Salon 4) <i>Moderator:</i> James Baldwin, Executive Director, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, Lebanon, Virginia <i>Panelists:</i> Erica Anderson, Working Lands Planner, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, Asheville, North Carolina; Megan Epler, Business Outreach Coordinator, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Millheim, Pennsylvania; Kostas Skordas, Regional Planner, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>Shale Gas Production and the Impact on Communities</b> (Salon 5) <i>Moderator:</i> Amrit Mehra, Policy Advisor, Office of the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <i>Panelists:</i> David Hall, Ohio State Representative, 97th District, Millersburg, Ohio; Paul Heimel, Potter County Commissioner, Coudersport, Pennsylvania; Timothy Kelsey, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania</p> <p><b>Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge</b> (Salon 6) <i>Moderator:</i> David Hughes, Business Development Analyst, Program Operations Division, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <i>Panelists:</i> Nathan Chitwood, Community Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Columbia, Missouri; Rebecca Moudry, Program Analyst, Regional Innovation Clusters, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p><b>Training Session: <i>Smartphone Use for Business Applications</i></b> <i>Presenter:</i> Angela Siefer, ShinyDoor</p>

4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. <i>Salons 1, 2, and 3</i>	<b>DDAA/NADO Federal Agency Roundtable Networking Reception</b>
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own
<b>Tuesday, March 20, 2012</b>	
8:00 a.m.–8:50 a.m. <i>Salon 4</i>	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Presiding:</b> Sherry McDavid, Second Vice President, Development District Association of Appalachia</p> <p><b>Presentation of the 2012 Congressional Award</b></p> <p><b>ARC Legislative Briefing:</b> Cameron D. Whitman, States' Washington Representative, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Guy P. Land, Chief of Staff, Office of the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C.</p>
9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. <i>Salons 1, 2, and 3</i>	<p><b>Joint Plenary Session with NADO</b> <b>The Regional Development Agenda: A Preview of the Administration's FY 2013 Policy and Budget Priorities</b></p>
10:40 a.m.–11:50 a.m. <i>Salons 1, 2, and 3</i>	<p><b>Joint Plenary Session with NADO</b> <b>Congressional Leadership Outlook: The Impact on Federal Regional Development Budgets and Policies in a Divided Congress</b></p>
11:50 a.m.	Conference Adjourns



### **Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)**

The DDAA is a membership organization of the 73 local development districts (LDDs) serving the 420 counties of the Appalachian Region. The DDAA works to strengthen LDDs and their member governments and to provide leadership to support the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) federal-state-local partnership.

#### **DDAA's Mission**

The DDAA is committed to serving its local development district members and to supporting the Appalachian Regional Commission by:

- Promoting communication and increasing quality of service;
- Communicating and advocating a vision for the Appalachian Region;
- Developing organizational resources to strengthen the LDDs and the Region; and
- Providing leadership in support of a dynamic working partnership among federal, state, and local governments within Appalachia.