



5 Reasons why YOU won't want to miss the 2018 Regional Conference

1. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** For more than two decades, the 2018 Regional has brought together communications and member services staff from electric cooperatives across the Southeastern U.S. Attendees will not only hear keynote speakers address topics of wide-ranging interest such as rural broadband and the impact of technology on member service, but are able to customize their experience by choosing from four breakout session themes: Communications, Demand Response/Energy Efficiency, Energy and Member Services. The three-day conference will provide 10 continuing education credit hours for both Certified Cooperative Communicators and Certified Energy Managers.
2. **INVALUABLE NETWORKING:** Held every four years, the Regional offers a unique opportunity for co-op communicators and member service professionals to put names with faces, enhancing use of NRECA's Communicators and Member Services list serves and establishing mutually beneficial connections for coming years. With moderator-led roundtable discussions on topics related to the four breakout themes and optional activities such as a ghost tour of Colonial Williamsburg and guided visit to Jamestown Rediscovery will also help attendees get to know more people within the co-op family.
3. **REASONABLE COST:** Our Planning Committee, composed of representatives from each participating state, has kept the Regional affordable by having a majority of our speakers come from within the co-op family. With a registration fee of \$275, staff from co-ops of all sizes and budgets can consider making the trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.
4. **UNIQUE VENDOR EXPO:** In addition to nationally-known service providers, the Regional's Expo Hall will include locally-focused businesses and organizations and also providers of broadband services and equipment. The Welcome Reception, continental breakfasts and break are being held in the Expo Hall to encourage more face time, with "Vendor Bingo" providing added incentive to visit each exhibitor.
5. **A FITTING LOCATION:** The VA, MD & DE Association of Electric Cooperatives is proud to be hosting the 2018 Regional on the eve of the 2019 Commemoration, which celebrates the 400th anniversary of three forces that converged in Colonial Virginia in 1619: democracy (with the launch of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World); diversity (with arrival of the first Africans and expanding impact of women in the Virginia Colony); and opportunity (with the observance of the first official Thanksgiving in the New World). Our theme, "Williamsburg & Cooperatives: Foundations that continue to change a nation" reflects the key role America's cooperatives can play in moving our nation forward.

**Register by March 7 at www.vmdaec.com
We look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg!**