



Gather & Grow

GATHER WITH INTENTION, GROW WITH PURPOSE

2026 CHAPTER EDUCATION CONFERENCE
MARCH 3-4, 2026

THE FOUNDERS INN AND SPA, TAPESTRY
COLLECTION BY HILTON
Virginia Beach, VA



OLD DOMINION CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONALS

Day 1 – Tuesday, March 3rd

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| 11:00 AM | Registration Opens |
| 11:30 AM | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Opening Remarks - Valerie Gardner, Old Dominion Chapter President |
| 1:15 PM | Session 1: Speak, Listen, Lead: An Interactive Communication Experience
Presenter: Angela McDowell, MA, Regent University |
| 2:15 PM | Break |
| 2:30 PM | Session 2: From Policy to Practice: Making Sense of Travel Per Diem Rules
Presenter: Jennifer Hudgins, Virginia Department of General Services |
| 3:30 PM | Session 3: Clarity in Communication: Bridging the Gap Between Planners and AV Teams
Presenter: Frankie Sneed, Founders Inn & Spa |
| 4:30 - 5:15 PM | Put together care packages for Ronald McDonald House |
| 6:00 PM | Dinner on your own OR Group dinner at Swan Terrace (sign up during lunch) |
| 7:30 PM | Bonfire with S'mores - Sponsored by Founders Inn |

Day 2 - Wednesday, March 4th

- 7:00 AM Breakfast (Swan Terrace with vouchers)
- 8:30 AM Welcome - Anissa Ladd, VP of Sales and Service, Visit Virginia Beach
- 8:45 AM Session 4: Developing the Leader Within: How to Grow, Influence and Thrive in a Changing World - Keynote Speaker: Kelly Souders
- 10:15 AM Break
- 10:30 AM Session 5: Comprehending Hotel Contracts: Understanding Terminology & Creating Revenue
Presenter: Colleen Briley, Eisenman & Associates
- 11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch, Auction, & Community Action Activation
- 1:00 PM Session 6: Teaching by Doing: Building Future-Ready Meeting Talent Through Industry Partnership
Presenter: Ally Ling, Ph.D., Park, Recreation and Tourism Studies, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies at Old Dominion University
- 2:00 PM Session 7: Beyond Lodging: Practical Support and Healing Environments at Ronald McDonald House
Presenter: Jackie Lorenzo, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk
- 2:30 PM Closing Remarks

Thank you to our conference sponsors

