

About the Central Appalachia Regional Network



The Central Appalachia Regional Network (CARN) is comprised of diverse organizations located

in the Appalachian counties of West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia. The network was formed as part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative, based on the premise that "rural America has abundant assets and that the brightest potential for rural America emerges when a critical mass of rural people are stronger, more organized policy actors."

Mission Statement

The Central Appalachia Regional Network (CARN) connects diverse organizations to promote policy and action to improve the quality of life available to the people of Appalachia.

Vision Statement

The Central Appalachia Regional Network (CARN) envisions healthy and thriving communities throughout the region. These empowered communities engage civic, public, and private institutions to create change, and ensure a just existence for all Appalachian residents.

We value:

- Appalachian culture, heritage, and context
- Education and knowledge
- Environmental integrity
- Empowerment
- Children, families, and future generations
- Sustainable place and environment
- Healthy communities
- Equity in access
- Equity in resources
- Stewardship
- Diversity, inclusion, and cultural equity

The Central Appalachia Regional Network has chosen to focus its efforts on the following four policy areas:

- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Environment



In August 2010, the Central Appalachia Regional Network brought together roughly 140 people from diverse organizations for a Summit titled "Conversations on

the Porch." The purpose was to explore policy issues, opportunities, and needs within the areas of economic development, health, education, and environment; to identify policy priorities and develop work plans to move forward; and to expand the network of organizations working together to serve Central Appalachia through policy development by establishing the Central Appalachia Regional Advocacy Network.

After a series of group discussions that involved brainstorming, lively debates and coalition-building, the summit participants voted on their top three policy priority areas:

1. Green Jobs
2. Local Control of Assets
3. Broadband

Conversations were recorded and are now available on our summit blog – www.carnsummit.wordpress.com. In addition, organizations can add their information to our resource directory at www.CARNnet.org.

CARN will continue to develop more detailed action plans to pursue the aforementioned policy priorities and expand the network of organizations working together to serve Central Appalachia.

For more information about the Central Appalachia Regional Network:

Contact Jenny Lancaster, Network Coordinator at jlancaster@CARNnet.org or visit our website: www.CARNnet.org.



Member Profiles

Kentucky

Appalshop, Inc., Whitesburg, KY

www.appalshop.org

Beth Bingman - bbingman@appalshop.org

Mark Kidd - mark@appalshop.org

Mimi Pickering - mpickering@appalshop.org

Appalshop is a non-profit multi-disciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia producing original films, theater, music recordings, web-based media, and operating community radio station WMMT. Appalshop is beginning its fifth decade using cultural organizing and place-based media, arts and education to advance social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic equity.

Community Foundation of Hazard & Perry County

Chavies, KY

www.commfoundation.org

Gerry Roll - gerry@commfoundation.org

The mission of the Community Foundation of Hazard and Perry County is to support collaborative work in our community around a common vision that enhances the lives of all our citizens and to create a permanent endowment to serve as a catalyst and resource to respond to changing community priorities.

Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, Inc., Hazard, KY

www.hpccm.org

Douglas Bouchard - dwbouchard@hpccm.org

Jennifer Weeber - jennifer@hpccm.org

The mission of Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, Inc. is to respond actively to unmet needs of individuals and families by working in partnership with churches, agencies and individuals interested in the social welfare of the community.

Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College,

Cumberland, KY

www.southeast.kctcs.edu

Larry LaFollette - larry.lafollette@kctcs.edu

Roy Silver - roy.silver@kctcs.edu

Founded in 1960, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College is a public, comprehensive community and technical college under the governance of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

Maryland

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc., Oakland, MD

www.garrettcac.org

Beverly Beard - bjbeard@verizon.net

Duane Yoder - dyoder@garrettcac.org

The mission of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. is to enable persons in need to improve their quality of life by assisting them to be more economically self sufficient through partnerships and providing essential services.

Ohio

Ohio Appalachian Educators Institute (OAEI), Athens, OH

www.appalachianeducatorsinstitute.org

Judith Coil - coil@ohio.edu

Lesli Johnson, LISW, Ph.D. - johnsol2@ohio.edu

Marsha Lewis - lewis5@ohio.edu

By supporting leadership development in school systems, creating learning communities, and facilitating collaborative relationships between unions and district management, the OAEI has demonstrated that it has an effective model for change and school improvement. By promoting leadership at all levels of the educational system and providing the infrastructure for districts to begin to make systemic changes, OAEI supports change that is sustainable over time.

Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs, Athens, OH

www.voinovichcenter.ohio.edu

Robin Stewart - stewarr7@ohio.edu

The Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs builds on the scholarship of Ohio University, engaging students, faculty, and professional staff to help make a difference in Appalachian Ohio and the state. The School uses multidisciplinary project teams to help business, nonprofit & government partners in three core areas: strengthening Public Service and Leadership, promoting the Environment and Sustainable Energy, and growing Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in the region.

Rural Action, Inc., Trimble, OH

www.ruralaction.org

Michelle Decker - michelle@ruralaction.org

R. William Carroll - gsrector@gmail.com

Rural Action's mission is to foster social, economic, and environmental justice in Appalachian Ohio. To that end, we build model sustainable development projects and encourage a broad civic conversation around Appalachian Ohio's assets in order to create sustainable development paths for the region.

Tennessee

Highlander Center, New Market, TN

www.highlandercenter.org

Susan Williams - susan@highlandercenter.org

Elandria Williams - elandria@highlandercenter.org

Highlander supports social justice efforts in the south and Appalachia. We use our farm (about 180 acres, with a workshop center) and our methods (popular education, cultural organizing, multilingual capacity building and participatory research) to support groups working on economic, racial, environmental and social justice issues. Highlander believes that people directly affected by issues should be in leadership to help figure out how to solve those issues.

Virginia

People Incorporated, Abingdon, VA

www.peopleinc.net

Rob Goldsmith - rgoldsmith@peopleinc.net

Bryan Phipps - bhipps@peopleinc.net

The mission of People Incorporated is to provide opportunities for people to reach their goals in order to enhance their lives, their families and their communities.

VA Rural Center/Center for Rural Virginia/ Council for Rural Virginia, Blacksburg, VA

www.cfrv.org

Glen Sink - glen.sink@cfrv.org

The primary mission of the VA Rural Center is to build networks to create and advocate for rural policy focused on issues that enhances rural competitiveness in the global economy and sustaining economic growth and prosperity for rural people.

The Center for Rural Virginia serves as a catalyst to empower local governments, to encourage continuity, coordination, and cooperation across the state and between regions, and to generate creative approaches for the purpose of the economic, social and demographic revitalization of rural Virginia, while retaining its quality of life.

The Council for Rural Virginia's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth's rural areas by: bringing together key players in rural development, enhancing communication among partners, groups and individuals, encouraging collaborative and cooperative partnerships to work toward the delivery of more effective, efficient services to citizens that live and work in Rural Virginia.

Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc., Radford, VA

www.virginiaeconomicbridge.org

Carl Mitchell - cmitchell@vebinc.org

Kimber Simmons - ksimmons@vebinc.org

The mission of Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc. is to promote the economic vitality and external competitiveness of the Commonwealth through business, industry and educational partnerships between Southwestern Virginia, Northern Virginia and other areas of the Commonwealth.

Virginia Rural Health Association/

Virginia Rural Health Resource Center, Blacksburg, VA

www.vrha.org / www.vrhc.org

Beth O'Connor - boconnor@vcom.vt.edu

The Virginia Rural Health Association (VRHA) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization comprised of a diverse group of individuals from communities spread across Virginia: individuals that care about improving the health of Virginia's rural residents. VRHA members provide care, plan for the delivery of care, and are consumers of health care services. They are individuals and families who desire and need high quality health services close to home.

The mission of the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center is to serve as a resource for communities and organizations seeking to improve the health status of persons in rural Virginia.

West Virginia

Community Access, Inc., South Charleston, WV

Jeff McCroskey - jeffmccroskey@netscape.net

Martha Minter - mlm420@aol.com

Community Access, Inc. develops innovative programs that bridge educational, employment, and other systems in order to achieve better outcomes and full inclusion for the people we serve.

Good News Mountaineer Garage, Charleston, WV

www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com

Barbara Bayes - Goodnews.barbara@verizon.net

Rev. Dennis Sparks - dsparks@wvcc.org

The mission of Good News Mountaineer Garage is to solicit donated vehicles, repair them and provide them to families or individuals with low incomes so they can get to work or training throughout West Virginia.

Partnership of African American Churches, Institute, WV

www.paac2.org

Wendy Lewis - wmoore155@aol.com

Rev. James Patterson - patterson@paac2.org

The mission of PAAC is to work together to empower the African-American community to transform values and improve the quality of life through education, health promotion, economic development, and crime prevention. The strategic purpose of PAAC is to identify and partner with African American Churches in order to build a network that will positively impact African Americans in West Virginia through health promotion, economic development, education, and crime prevention.

WesBanco Bank, Inc., Wheeling, WV

www.wesbanco.com

Joe Flynn - flynn@wesbanco.com

WV Community Development Hub, Stonewood, WV

www.wvhub.org

Herk Conner - h.conner@wvhub.org

Reta Griffith - retagriffith@frontiernet.net

The purpose of the West Virginia Community Development Hub, Inc. is to support communities in West Virginia in their efforts to experience purposeful, self-directed development respectful of local Culture and values.

West Virginia Council of Churches, Charleston, WV

www.wvcc.org

Rev. Dennis Sparks, Executive Director - dsparks@wvcc.org

The West Virginia Council of Churches makes more visible the unity of Christ's church, provides a Christian witness on public issues, and engages in cooperative mission and service for all West Virginians. WVCC is active in areas of social justice, health and economic issues, legislative issues and disaster response.

Individual Members

Connie Freeman - cfreeman9592@msn.com

Art Menius - artmenius@mindspring.com

Network Coordinator

Jenny Lancaster - jlancaster@CARNnet.org