

AHOY there, Research Administrators of Region III!

It is with immense joy and anticipation that I welcome you to Region II's annual meeting in the charming and historic city of Annapolis, Maryland. After the resounding success of our return to in-person meetings last year, we are thrilled to once again gather in the spirit of camaraderie, learning, and adventure.

Our community demonstrated unwavering resilience and adaptability as we navigated the challenges of the past year. We are now more united and determined than ever to capitalize on the unique strengths of our in-person interactions. This year's program is bound to be an enriching and diverse experience, catering to your varied interests.

We are also delighted to announce our esteemed plenary speaker for this year, Dr. William Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard is the Assistant Director of Environmental, Natural Resources & Sea Grant Programs at the University of Maryland Extension. His impressive background in forest management, urban forestry, and leadership makes him a valuable addition to our program.

Our Monday night event promises to be a highlight of the conference. You'll have the opportunity to explore the hallowed halls of the United States Naval Academy, steeped in history and tradition. Our tour promises to be a memorable experience, providing insight into the institution that has produced some of the finest leaders in our nation. Our tour will be followed by an exquisite dinner in the Naval Club. This is a unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in the rich maritime tradition of the Naval Academy and enjoy an evening with friends and colleagues.

Of course, we have an abundance of FUN in store for you! The social agenda includes a Welcome Reception on Sunday evening where you can reunite with old friends and meet new members. We'll continue the tradition of the ever-popular scavenger hunt, so gear up for some friendly competition. And who knows, a few surprises may await you in our Hospitality Suite. Think: Yacht Rock Night on Monday and Pirate Night on Tuesday.

As you know, the location for this year's gathering is the picturesque city of Annapolis, with the stunning Chesapeake Bay serving as our backdrop. Annapolis is a city steeped in history, a sailor's paradise, and a treasure trove of culinary delights. The Annapolis waterfront, with its charming cobblestone streets, offers a perfect setting for a leisurely stroll day or night. Make sure to explore the local restaurants, shops, and museums, and experience the rich maritime heritage of this wonderful city.

For all the latest updates on our program and events, I encourage you to download the NCURA Meeting App. This will be your compass for navigating our exciting journey throughout the conference.

I am truly excited to spend these days with you, learning, sharing, and rekindling old bonds while forging new ones. Let's make the "Seas the Day with Region II" an event to remember!

Fair winds and following seas,

Adriel Villegas-Estrada
Chair, Region II Annual Meeting