

2026 EXECUTIVE RETREAT

August 27 & 28

SHENANDOAH CROSSING RESORT
GORDONSVILLE, VA

HOSTED BY: LOUISA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



2026 EXECUTIVE RETREAT AGENDA

Please note that **The Lodge** is where you will go to check in for your guest room.
The **Freedom Hall Pavilion** is where the conference meetings will take place,
and it is located at a different location on the property. We will provide a map for all attendees.

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – Optional Evening

- 11:30am – 3:00pm** **VACCE BOARD RETREAT** **Wolfrey Room – The Lodge (upstairs)**
VACCE Board Members only
- 2:30pm** **EARLY REGISTRATION OPENS** **The Lodge Foyer**
Please note that guest rooms may not be available until 4:00pm.
- 3:00pm** ***PRIOR REGISTRATION REQUIRED***
WELCOME RECEPTION & SUNSET CRUISE **Cutalong & Lake Anna Docks**
Welcome Reception at Cutalong followed by a Sunset Cruise on Lake Anna with Dominion Energy, offering a relaxed, relationship-focused experience with light networking and scenic views to kick off the conference. **You MUST register for this activity.**

Thursday, August 27, 2026 – Shenandoah Crossing Resort

- 6:00 – 7:00am** **Optional “Walk & Talk” Session** **Meet at The Lodge**
Start your day with fresh air and great conversation! Join fellow attendees for an optional morning Walk & Talk—an easy, informal way to connect, share ideas, and enjoy the island before the day’s sessions begin!
- 8:00am** **Optional Devotional Time** **The Lodge**
Breakfast this morning is available at The Lodge but is not part of the conference attendee fee.
- 9:30am** **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS** **Freedom Hall Pavilion**
Please note that guest rooms may not be available until 4:00pm.
- 10:00am** **OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WELCOME** **Freedom Hall**
Courtney Thompson, Greater Augusta Regional Chamber, 2026-27 VACCE Board Chair
Tracy Hale-Clark, Louisa County Chamber, 2026 Retreat Host
- 10:15 – 10:45am** **SESSION 1** **Freedom Hall**
Understanding Virginia’s Expanding Data Industry
As Virginia’s data industry continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, communities across the state are experiencing both new opportunities and complex challenges. This presentation will examine the industry’s impact on economic development, infrastructure, energy usage, workforce needs, and regional planning while offering chamber professionals valuable perspective on one of the Commonwealth’s most influential and evolving sectors.
Elizabeth Rafferty & Michael Kelly, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Sponsored by: RetirePath Virginia

10:45 – 11:15am	SESSION 2 Powering the Future: Energy Trends Impacting Our Communities As our communities in Virginia experience rapid growth and increased energy demand, understanding the changing energy landscape has never been more important. This session will examine key topics including nuclear energy, solar power, battery storage, and electric infrastructure, while highlighting how these developments impact economic growth, workforce needs, and community planning. Chamber leaders will leave with a broader understanding of the role energy plays in supporting thriving business communities. <i>Speakers TBA</i>	Freedom Hall
11:15 – 11:45am	SPOTLIGHT OUR SPONSORS SESSION Speed networking session with our sponsors. You must be present to win prizes!	Freedom Hall
11:45am – 1:00pm	NETWORKING LUNCHEON Sponsored by: The Bill of Rights Institute	Freedom Hall
1:15 – 2:30pm	SESSION 3 The Business of Healthcare in Virginia Healthcare continues to be one of the most important and rapidly changing issues facing employers and communities across the Commonwealth. In this session, we will share insight into the current healthcare environment, emerging trends, and the ways healthcare issues are influencing Virginia’s business climate, workforce, and economic competitiveness. <i>Speaker TBA</i>	Freedom Hall
3:00pm	Leave for Afternoon Activity & Reception – VIRGINIA SCENIC RAILWAY Step aboard the Virginia Scenic Railway for a relaxed Thursday afternoon excursion featuring scenic countryside views, light refreshments, networking, and a chance to experience one of the Commonwealth’s newest tourism attractions. <i>(*may require additional fee)</i>	
7:00pm	AWARDS DINNER Join us for a fun evening as we honor VACCE members during our Awards Dinner.	Freedom Hall

Friday, August 28, 2026 – The Lodge – Shenandoah Crossing Resort

6:00 – 7:00am	Optional “Walk & Talk” Session Start your day with fresh air and great conversation! Join fellow attendees for an optional morning Walk & Talk—an easy, informal way to connect, share ideas, and enjoy the island before the day’s sessions begin!	Meet at The Lodge
8:00 – 9:00am	BREAKFAST BUFFET Just FYI...breakfast will be held outside overlooking the lake weather permitting. Sponsored by: Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy	The Manor House
9:00am	BREAK – move from The Manor House to Freedom Hall Please be sure to check out of your hotel room by 11:00am.	
9:30 – 10:30am	SESSION 4 The State of Virginia: Advocacy, Challenges & Chamber Leadership Virginia’s business climate continues to evolve, and local chambers play an important role in helping businesses and communities navigate what’s ahead. This collaborative session will explore emerging economic and policy trends impacting Virginia, along with tools, resources, and partnership opportunities available to strengthen local chamber engagement, business education, and community leadership. Hear from VACCE leadership, Lumin Strategies, and the Virginia Chamber team as they share insight, updates, and opportunities to help chambers stay informed, connected, and equipped to be the voice of business across the Commonwealth. <i>Speakers TBA</i>	Freedom Hall
10:30am	BREAK	Sponsor Area

10:45 – 11:45am

SESSION 5

Freedom Hall

Supporting Local Chambers: Programs, Partnerships & Resources

Join executive leadership from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce for an interactive conversation with local chamber executives from across the Commonwealth focused on strengthening relationships, increasing collaboration, and identifying opportunities to better support Virginia's business community. This session will highlight current initiatives, programs, resources, and statewide priorities while creating space for open dialogue, shared insight, and meaningful discussion on how local, state, and national chamber networks can work together more effectively to serve businesses and communities across Virginia.

Speakers TBA

11:45am

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS