

Get Connected Part II

Network with purpose. Don't clump around the people you already know. Get out of your comfort zone and make new connections. Link up with people you have connected with previously through social media. Meet an Executive Committee member. Consult the conference app to see who else is attending -- you can search by social network. Make your connections count by perfecting your 30-second intro (personal infomercial). And don't forget your business cards.

Take Advantage of "Unscheduled Moments"

Attend smaller and/or impromptu functions, such as morning coffee chats or walks. It's a great way to meet other attendees in a relaxed informal setting. Go to breakfast early each morning. You may be tempted to get some extra shuteye and show up in time to grab some coffee and the last Danish. But often the speakers scheduled for early in the day are grabbing their coffee, it may give you an opportunity to talk to them before the crowd comes.

Take Note of Notes

Turn off the smartphone, or tuck it away out of sight. Resist the urge to check your corporate email, Facebook and texts. The world will continue to spin on its axis for 60 minutes without your constant ministrations. Instead, take notes. If you must use your laptop or tablet to take notes, that's better than not taking notes. But studies prove that we remember lectures better when we put pen to paper rather than use our keyboards.

Don't Miss (or Diss) Dessert

Lt. Col. John Dillin, founder of the Association, was exceptionally fond of chocolate. Each year, dessert during the Presidents' Luncheon features a sumptuous chocolate creation, served in grand style that defies description. Let's just say, you're in for a treat!

Embrace it All!

Some say don't try to attend every session because you'll wear yourself out. To which we politely reply: Bunk. Just like Christmas, annual conference comes but once a year. And yes, just like Christmas annual conference may seem a little overwhelming, but in a good way. So don't hold back. Celebrate all that is annual conference. You'll never regret losing an extra hour of sleep, but you'll kick yourself for missing the full conference experience. Corollary: Take care of yourself. Stay hydrated and fed. Work out at the resort's gym, book a spa-ahhhh treatment, relax by the pool, go for an early morning run.

Last but Not Least

Fill out your evaluations (they really are important and we really value your input!), follow up with attendees and speakers; and share your experience with colleagues at meetings and via social media!

A special thank you to Laura Byrnes for creating these in 2015!



C'MON, GET SOCIAL

FPRA's social media channels are a great place to follow conference happenings along with FPRAblog.org with coverage of every conference session, event and happening.

You can also help raise the roof on conference awareness by tagging your posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with [#thinkFPRA](https://twitter.com/FPRA) and [#myFPRA](https://twitter.com/FPRA), [#Smart](https://twitter.com/FPRA) [#Engage](https://twitter.com/FPRA) [#Fun](https://twitter.com/FPRA).

