

VARSA Membership Guidelines

“In its isolation, Vashon is big enough to host city-wide problems
yet small enough to see *your* impact.”

– Chuck vanNorman, VARSA Co-Chair 2014

There are two types of membership roles: General Member and Sector Leader. All members of VARSA may choose an affiliation with one of the 17 sectors defined in the current bylaws. VARSA asks that all members meet the following:

- Act in accordance with, be in compliance with, and model exemplary behavior around, VARSA's Code of Conduct, CIA, Bylaws, and Policies & Procedures, during meetings and elsewhere.
- Be in alignment with VARSA's mission statement.
- Act as a positive role model for youth, families, and peers.

General Members often wish to align themselves within a sector that best represents their background and interest. They:

- Have some social, demographic, or business connection within their chosen sector.
- Encouraged to attend VARSA's monthly Full Coalition Meeting (FCM.)
- Volunteer for VARSA.

Sector Leaders are individuals who are tightly-knitted within their sector, have a desire to lead, and have a passion for VARSA's mission. They:

- Have strong and multiple social, demographic, or business connections within their sector, and the ability to develop and maintain rapport with multiple facets of their sector and/or community.
- Represent and accept diversity of beliefs, customs, and practices within their sector.
- Put personal biases or issues aside when necessary to serve the greater good of the community.
- Continually look for ways to reach out and engage their sector in VARSA's events, programs, and services.
- Create clear lines of communication between the sector represented and the VARSA.
- Are willing to take ongoing trainings through VARSA.
- Attend coalition sponsored programs, town hall meetings, and community events as much as possible.
- Participate in sustaining the coalition's capacity, involvement, and energy.

VARSA asks Sector Leaders to sign an agreement, which states they will:

- Attend a minimum of nine Full Coalition Meetings annually.
- Complete “Coalition Essentials” online training within three months of appointment.
- Submit quarterly sector activity reports for the Full Coalition Meetings.
- Cast a single vote in such actions which require a quorum of votes, and abstain from voting on subjects for which they are either inadequately informed or have a conflict of interest.
- Contribute to the strategic planning process.
- Participate in at least one subcommittee.
- Submit a one-page document outlining concerns/ideas for their sector to the VARSA Administration Committee within one month of appointment.

As a Sector Leader, ask yourself the following questions when defining your vision for your sector. Ultimately you are asking one big question; **“What is the legacy I wish to leave behind?”**

Future:

- Can we create a mission statement for my sector?
- Who will take over when my term is over?
- What is the legacy I am leaving behind?
- Can I build a succession plan?

Philosophical:

- What would I like to see change?
- If I could only achieve one thing during my term, what would it be?
- How does VARSA’s mission dovetail with my own vision?

Community:

- Who is my audience?
- How can I expand my audience?
- What does my community need?
- Are there (or should there be) community gatherings or meetings within my sector?

Action Plan:

- How can I offer assistance on the existing Action Plan?
- How can I help shape the next Action Plan?
- What information does the coalition need from my sector to make good decisions about programs and services in need on Vashon?

Resources:

- What resources can I share with other sectors or sector leaders?
- What unique resources do I have access to within my sector?
- Who or what is an untapped resource within my sector?
- What organizations within my sector can develop a partnership with VARSA?

Leadership, Training, and Delegation:

- Who can I lean on within my sector?
- How much time can I afford?
- What do I want to get done?
- What training do I need?
- What training would benefit other members of my sector?
- How can VARSA support my sector’s objective/s?