



Getting the Most From InsideNGO's Annual Meetings

No matter whether you've come from near or far, are new to InsideNGO or not, you want to get the most out of your time at the Annual Meeting and take away new ideas, new contacts, and new knowledge. Here are some ways to do that.

Plan in advance what sessions you will attend. Choose them thoughtfully based on how they can benefit you when you return home. Don't overlook balancing technical with professional development sessions. Coming with colleagues? Decide who attends what to cover as many different sessions as feasible.

Have a session back up plan in case your choice is full when you arrive at the session.

Think about how you will share your knowledge with others in your organization so you spread the benefit of your attendance – have an Action Plan in mind.

Introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you, or in the lunch line, or at break. We are a community of colleagues who share their experience with each other every day. You will make new acquaintances who you can call for advice and information. You will go home with invaluable entries for your rolodex.

Ask questions in sessions and don't be shy about asking. That's what the Annual Meeting is for.

Invest time to connect with other attendees – organize a dine-around or a breakfast meeting – on a topic you wish to explore – and meet new colleagues in the process.

Visit the Exhibitors and take away at least one potential new idea/product/company for your organization. All the Exhibitors provide a product or service relevant to our community, and they have been selected because they were recommended as especially good resources by and for our membership. Ask the Exhibitors what other InsideNGO members are using their product or service – you will have ready references if you decide to pursue that vendor.

Complete the session evaluation forms – so we hear your voice when we start planning next year's Annual Meeting. We listen carefully to the feedback we get from members.

Meet the InsideNGO staff – and leave being able to put a face to a name the next time you call the office. Let us know how we can help you benefit most from your membership.

Have fun!