

TRIAD: SERVING AND PROTECTING SENIORS

Many Virginians spend their lives planning for retirement. Those plans may include a paid-off mortgage, a nest-egg to pass down to family, a reliable retirement income, or perhaps time and resources for travel and other hobbies. Whatever those plans may be, no one's plans include losing their savings in an encounter with a scam artist or fraudster.

Advances in technology give us immediate access to information and the ability to connect with friends, family, and the global community through just a few taps on our phone or clicks of a computer mouse. Sadly though, these same devices that add so much convenience to our lives are also frequently utilized by scammers, who employ a variety of deceptive tactics to con and rob older adults of their earnings.

In communities across Virginia, local Triad chapters are hard at work keeping seniors educated about scams and frauds, promoting crime prevention and consumer protection. Organized at the local level and promoted by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) at the state level, Triad is a cooperative effort between law enforcement agencies, organizations and agencies that serve seniors, and the older adults within a community.

The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors by increasing awareness of scams and frauds, strengthening communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and creating opportunities for connection and fellowship. Most Triad chapters host monthly meetings, which often include public safety updates and educational programming on a variety of topics.

Virginia has over 200 cities, counties, and towns with signed Triad agreements, and has been recognized by the National Association of Triads, Inc. as the state with the highest number of active local chapters. Attorney General Mark Herring has prioritized Triads throughout his time in office, providing ongoing support to local chapters through an annual Triad Conference, mini-grants to Triad chapters for crime prevention and consumer protection activities, and technical assistance offered by OAG regional outreach coordinators.

Triad provides a great opportunity for seniors to connect with new people, enhance their knowledge of community resources and emerging public safety issues, and engage with local law enforcement and community leaders in a meaningful way. They can also stay up to date on the ever-evolving world of frauds and scams and learn how to better protect themselves. For more information about Triad, contact Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg/Stafford Triad at www.spotsylvaniastaffordfredericksburgtriad.com.