



2023 SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORUM
 APRIL 23-26, 2023 ♦ NAPA, CA
 WTA ADVOCATES FOR RURAL BROADBAND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (as of 03.20.2023)

-Dates/Times of Presentations Subject to Change-

Sunday April 23, 2023	
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm <i>Napa Ballroom</i>	Table Top Exhibits Sponsors Set-up
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm <i>Napa Foyer/Ballroom</i>	WTA Welcome Registration Reception <i>Sponsors: Innovative Systems; Nex-Tech; and TCA, Inc.</i>
Monday April 24, 2023	
7:00 am – 11:00 am <i>Napa Foyer/Ballroom</i>	Registration Table Top Exhibits Breaks
8:00 am – 4:00 pm <i>Hospitality Room</i>	RUS Meetings by Appointment
8:00 am – 12:00 pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	GENERAL SESSION I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invocation Pledge of Allegiance WTA President’s Welcome – Jack Keen, WTA Board Member; Jimmy Todd, WTA President • Stay in the Deep End – Daron K. Roberts spent nearly a decade coaching in the National Football League before taking the helm of the Center for Sports Leadership at the University of Texas. In this fast-paced keynote, Daron will share actionable strategies on how to stay agile and forward-thinking during periods of disruption. (8:15a-9:15a) <i>Sponsors: CoBank and Calix</i> • FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks (Invited) (9:15a-9:45a) • Soft Landing, Hard Landing or No Landing at All: The Outlook for the U.S. Economy – The U.S. economy is entering uncharted waters with a wide range of possible outcomes. The combination of high inflation, aggressive interest rate increases, low unemployment, resilient consumer spending and bank credit risks are crosswinds that are generating a significant amount of uncertainty. In this session Jeff Johnston, CoBank will review the current state of the economy and some of the key leading indicators to assess the future path of economic activity. (10:15a-11:00a) • WTA’s Public Policy Committee Update – WTA Staff and PPC Committee leadership will update attendees about public policies at the federal level and discuss what WTA is doing to shape those policies to ensure its members are able to continue bringing modern communications technologies to their communities. (11:00a-12:00p)
9:45 am – 10:15 am <i>Napa Ballroom</i>	Morning Coffee Break Table Top Exhibits <i>Break Sponsor: CostQuest Associates, Inc.</i>
12:00 pm	Adjourn General Session I
12:30 pm <i>Chardonnay Golf Club</i>	WTA Spring Golf Tournament Shotgun start at 1:00 pm <i>Sponsors: IDI Billing Solutions (Drink Cart); Hylan West, Inc. (Lunch); and Moss Adams (Prizes)</i>
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm <i>Pool Patio (West)</i>	Dessert Reception & Foundation Fundraiser – Name Badge, Ticket and Wristband are REQUIRED. Tickets will not be sold individually for this event. See

	<p>the Registration Desk on Monday from 7:00a-11:00a to purchase a Social Registration for guests.</p> <p>Sponsors: Aldrich Advisors; Calix; CoBank; JSI; MP NexLevel; NRTC; Telcom Insurance Group (Music)</p>
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Tuesday April 25, 2023	
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7:00 am – 4:00 pm <i>Napa Foyer/Ballroom</i>	Registration Table Top Exhibits Breaks (Closed During Lunch)
7:00 am – 8:00 am <i>Castle Peak</i>	CyberTech Committee Breakfast Meeting
8:00 am – 4:00 pm <i>Hospitality Suite</i>	RUS Meetings by Appointment
8:00 am – 4:00 pm <i>Diamond Mountain</i>	UNITEL Meetings by Appointment
8:00 am – 12:00 pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	<p>GENERAL SESSION II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Broadband Office Panel Discussion – More investments have been made in broadband deployment over the last year than ever before. Derrick Owens, WTA, will moderate this panel to help us understand how states are using these governmental resources to close the digital divide, break down technology adoption barriers and increase digital literacy for families and students. (8:00a-9:00a) • NTIA BEAD Update, NTIA Assistant Secretary, Alan Davidson (invited) (9:00a-9:45a) • High-Cost Program Broadband Compliance. USAC representatives Joelle Tessler and Tim Weith will discuss the CAF compliance framework which is used to ensure carriers are using their funding to provide broadband service that meets minimum speed and latency standards to required location counts by relevant deployment milestone deadlines in rural areas eligible for support. (10:15a-11:30a) • RUS Update from RUS Administrator Andy Berke (11:30a-12:00p)
9:45 am – 10:15 am <i>Napa Ballroom</i>	<p>Morning Coffee Break Table Top Exhibits</p> <p>Break Sponsor: NISC</p>
12:00 pm	Adjourn General Session II – Lunch on Your Own
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	<p>WTA Public Policy Committee Luncheon Meeting</p> <p>Sponsor: Monte R. Lee & Company</p> <p>-This meeting is open to WTA broadband and committee members only-</p>
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	<p>GENERAL SESSION III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Small Businesses’ Exposure to Cyber Attacks - Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Mr. Richard “Dick” Tenney, Senior Advisor (1:30p-2:30p) • Eye on the Sky: LEOs, 5G & The Industry Today, Larry Thompson, CEO Vantage Point. LEO (low earth orbiting) Satellite technology and fixed wireless have advanced rapidly in recent years, raising new questions about their place in the rural broadband industry. This discussion will offer an update on advancements in the adoption and technology of LEO and fixed wireless networks and their evaluation as a competitive threat. We’ll also delve into policy and funding questions presented by these new wireless technologies. (3:00p-4:00p) • Broadband Fabric and BDC Update: The Progression of an Iterative Process, Mike Wilson, CostQuest, will talk about updates and improvements made to the mapping Fabric as well as discuss NTIA’s role in using the Fabric. (4:00p-5:00p)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm <i>Napa Ballroom</i>	<p>Afternoon Cocktail Break – Table Top Exhibits</p> <p>Break Sponsor: Nokia of America Corp.</p>

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm <i>Atlas Peak</i>	Associate Member Committee Meeting & Reception – All Associate Members Invited
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm <i>Redwood Grove</i>	WTA Board of Directors Reception – By Invitation Only Sponsor: UNITEL Insurance

Wednesday | April 26, 2023

7:00 am – 11:00 am <i>Napa Foyer/Ballroom</i>	Registration Table Top Exhibits Breaks
7:00 am – 8:00 am <i>Castle Peak</i>	Tribal Affairs Committee Breakfast Meeting
8:00 am – 12:00 pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	<p>GENERAL SESSION IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine Best Last Mile Technology to Deploy – The panel will include Lynn Merrill, Monte R. Lee & Company (moderator); Michael Howe, Nokia; Sebastian Ivanisky, VTX1; and Brett Stains, Block CXO. They will help us identify possible technologies, methods, financial considerations, and supply chain issues for effectively deploying last mile network. Sponsored by the WTA Associate Membership Committee (8:00a-9:15am) • The Importance of Succession Planning and How You Can Start the Process – Boomers have left or are leaving the workplace. Are you prepared? Organizations need to adapt to demographic changes and a shortage of talent. Succession planning isn't hard, but it is critical to an organizations ability to thrive. Chad Theis, Zelle will help us identify top performers, critical skills gaps, training needs, retaining institution knowledge and more. (9:45a-10:45am) • The Recipe: 5 Ingredients Driving the Most Successful Broadband Providers – What are the top performing broadband providers doing to grow and thrive in today's competitive environment? In this session, Dave Nieuwstraten, Pivot will share best practices and tips from our work with 100's of broadband providers around the country and internationally. We'll hit on product/positioning, branding, marketing, and customer experience. (10:45a-11:45a) • Closing & Raffle Box Drawings (11:45a-12:00p)
9:15 am – 9:45 am <i>Napa Ballroom</i>	Morning Coffee Break Table Top Exhibits Break Sponsor: NECA
12:00 pm	Adjourn WTA Spring Educational Forum Join us for WTA's 2023 Fall Educational Forum in beautiful Coeur d'Alene, ID September 10-13, 2023 The Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort
12:30 pm – 3:00 pm <i>Atlas/Castle</i>	WTA Board of Directors Meeting and Luncheon