



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (as of 08.13.2025)

Sunday October 5, 2025	
11:45a Ocean Course Hokuala 12:30p	WTA Fall Golf Tournament Check In WTA Fall Golf Tournament Shotgun Start <i>Golf Ball Sponsor by Baker Tilly; Prizes Sponsor Hylan West; and Lunch Sponsor Aldrich Advisors</i>
4:00p – 7:00p Kaua'i Court	Table-Top Exhibits Set-Up
7:00p – 9:00p Kaua'i Court	WTA Registration
8:00p – 9:00p Kaua'i Court	<i>Mahalo & Mai Tais: Welcome Reception</i> is exclusively for Full and Social registered attendees only. Unregistered guests will not be permitted to attend. If you wish to bring a guest, you can purchase a Social Registration during check-in. <i>Sponsored by MP Nex-Level; NECA; Nex-Tech; NRTC; NISC; Olsen Thielen CPA's & Advisors; and TCA, Inc.</i>

Monday October 6, 2025	
6:30a – 2:00p Kaua'i Court	WTA Registration Table-Top Exhibits Breaks WTA Foundation Raffle tickets are available for purchase at WTA's Registration Desk through Wednesday morning. There are several great items up for grabs and on display at the registration desk. 100% of the proceeds benefit WTA's scholarship program. Winners will be drawn during the Closing Session on Wednesday morning. You do not need to be present to win. All raffle items have been generously donated by WTA Members .
7:30a – 3:00p Kaua'i Ballroom 7:30a – 7:45a 7:45a – 8:15a 8:15a – 8:30a 8:30a – 9:15a	DAY 1: GENERAL SESSIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Jack Keen (WNMT), WTA Board Member, Emeritus • Ho'okipa: A Traditional Hawaiian Welcome, Jade Battad – <i>Sponsored by CoBank</i> • Welcome – WTA President Pat McElroy (Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company) • Hawaii – Becoming the First Fully Fiber-Enabled State, Jason Thune (Hawaiian Telcom), will provide an in-depth look at Hawaii's groundbreaking achievement as it becomes the first state in the nation to be fully fiber-enabled. He will share the journey behind this major infrastructure milestone, highlighting the strategic investments, partnerships, and innovations that made it possible. Learn how this statewide fiber deployment is transforming connectivity across urban and rural communities alike, and what it means for the future of broadband access, economic development, and digital equity in the Aloha State.

<p>9:15a – 9:45a Kaua'i Court</p> <p>9:45a – 10:15a</p> <p>10:15a – 11:30a</p>	<p>Table-Top Exhibits and Morning Coffee Break Sponsored by Chickasaw Telephone Company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTa Annual Meeting of the Membership – President Pat McElroy (Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company) Driving Value-Based Offerings – Cory Polman (Calix) will moderate a panel, featuring Carla Shearer (SC Telcom); Paul Quick (Smithville Communications); Jason Willie (Range); and Marcus Bott (Rally Networks). They will discuss how value-based offerings like bundled business services, outdoor WIFI and community WIFI can enhance average revenue per user (ARPU), improve customer retention, and increase overall satisfaction. In competitive markets, these offerings can also differentiate a provider's brand and highlight the unique value delivered to subscribers.
<p>11:30a – 1:00p Puna Ballroom</p> <p>1:00p – 2:15p</p> <p>2:15p – 3:00p</p>	<p>General Session I Awards Luncheon Sponsored by Calix This luncheon is a private luncheon for Full Registrations Only!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTa's Public Policy Committee Update – Co-Chairs Evelyn Jerden (LICT), and Mark Gailey (Totah Communications) and WTa staff 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 and services to their communities. The Bundle Battle – Jeff Johnston (CoBank) The convergence of mobile and broadband services is accelerating, with consumers increasingly drawn to bundled offerings that combine home internet with mobile plans. In response, major broadband providers are entering the MVNO market to protect their high-margin broadband revenues. As this trend gains momentum, the key question becomes: Should rural broadband operators explore similar strategies to stay competitive and enhance customer value?
3:00p	Day 1 General Sessions Adjourn
3:00p – 5:00p Puna Ballroom	WTa Board of Directors Reorganizational Meeting
5:30p – 9:30p Lu'au Gardens	<p>Island Sunset Party - Sponsored by NOKIA</p> <p>Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring a dinner of local favorites, refreshing beverages, and decadent desserts. Enjoy live music from a talented band and be mesmerized by traditional Polynesian dancers, all set against the backdrop of a breathtaking island sunset.</p> <p><i>Ticket and name badges are REQUIRED for entry</i> (included with Full and Social Registrations and provided in registration packets). <i>Individual tickets will not be available for purchase at the door. Unregistered guests will not be permitted to attend.</i></p>

Tuesday October 7, 2025	
6:30a – 2:00p Kaua'i Court	WTa Registration Table-Top Exhibits Breaks (Closed During Lunch)
7:30a – 3:00p Kaua'i Ballroom	DAY 2: GENERAL SESSIONS
7:30a – 8:15a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants: The Hidden Costs of "Free" Money There are unprecedented amounts of grants available today for telecommunications companies. However, the accounting, compliance,

<p>8:15a – 9:00a</p> <p>9:00a – 9:30a</p> <p>9:30a – 10:00a Kaua'i Court</p> <p>10:00a – 10:45a</p> <p>10:45a – 11:30a</p> <p>11:30a – 1:00p</p>	<p>and tax implications of receiving grant money can complicate the decision on whether to take or even apply for grants. Ryan Johnson and Josh Bailey (Aldrich Advisors), will review grant requirements – including pertinent provisions of note within the One Big Beautiful Bill Act – to help you navigate the hidden costs and complexities of grant funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing the Way: Avoiding Permitting Problems in Broadband Builds Permitting delays can derail even the best broadband buildout plans. Derek Larson (Wōden) will delve into how early-stage planning, smart scope definition, and proactive coordination with jurisdictions can help you sidestep common permitting pitfalls-and keep your project on time and on budget. • Passing of the Gavel/2025-2027 WTA Leadership Announced/Incoming President's Address <p>Table-Top Exhibits and Morning Coffee Break <i>Sponsored by IDI Billing Solutions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Due Diligence...Your Role in Modern Cybersecurity Cybersecurity is no longer just about firewalls—it's about making smart, everyday choices. In this session, WTA CyberTech Committee Co-Chair Allan Reiter (Nex-Tech) and committee member Christian Hansen (BakerTilly) will break down Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) and why they matter. Learn practical strategies like using Two-Factor Authentication (2FA), spotting phishing emails, and securing your office and email with up-to-date tools. Today's threats are advanced—your defenses should be too. • Staff Engagement: A Case Study from VantagePoint With different skills, roles, and expectations, how do we help everyone feel part of the team? That's the challenge (and opportunity) facing Jacki Miskimins, who leads staff engagement and recognition efforts at VantagePoint. In this look behind-the-scenes, she'll share what she's learned - including her favorite annual event, the magic formula for ordering pizza, and the one thing she'll never do again. <p>Adjourn for Lunch</p>
<p>11:30a – 12:45p Kaua'i Ballroom</p>	<p>WTA Public Policy Committee Luncheon Meeting <i>Sponsored by Monte R. Lee & Company</i> - This meeting is open to WTA broadband and committee members only.</p>
<p>1:00p – 3:00p Kaua'i Ballroom</p> <p>1:00p – 2:00p</p> <p>2:00p – 3:00p</p>	<p>DAY 2: GENERAL SESSIONS CONTINUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting to Recent Policy Changes The industry has some clarity on changes from the Trump Administration that will impact operations going forward. Chad Duval and Camille Christiansen (BakerTilly) will lead a discussion around the latest changes and strategies your company should consider adopting to successfully navigate them. • CEO Insights: One Mission-Connecting Rural America Moderators Chick Kennedy (NRTC) and Robin Anderson (Nokia) will lead a conversation with industry-leading CEOs as they discuss the real-world opportunities and challenges of expanding broadband across rural America. This session will explore how executive leadership is shaping the future of connectivity—through innovation, strategic investments, policy engagement, and strong partnerships. Gain firsthand insight into what it takes to stay mission-focused in a rapidly evolving landscape and how

	these leaders are driving meaningful impact in the communities they serve.
3:00p	Day 2 General Session Adjourns
4:00p – 5:30p Ka Mala Kalapaki Garden	Island Garden Reception - <i>Sponsored by JSI</i> Step into a serene evening among lush island greenery at our Garden Reception. Savor hors d'oeuvres and refreshing drinks while enjoying live acoustic music, elegant ambiance, and delightful conversation. <i>Ticket and name badges are REQUIRED for entry</i> (included with Full and Social Registrations and provided in registration packets). <i>Individual tickets will not be available for purchase at the door. Unregistered guests will not be permitted to attend.</i>

Wednesday October 8, 2025	
7:00a – 10:30a Kaua'i Court	WTA Registration Table-Top Exhibits Breaks
7:30a – 12:00p Kaua'i Ballroom	DAY 3: GENERAL SESSIONS
7:30a – 8:15a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Powering the AI Revolution: Why Rural Broadband Providers Matter More Than Ever</i> As AI workloads grow more distributed and data-intensive, rural broadband providers are uniquely positioned to become key enablers of the AI revolution. <i>Fayyaz Patwa (Nokia)</i> will explore how local fiber, edge proximity, and power-rich infrastructure can be monetized to support AI computing, inference, and real-time applications. Learn how rural operators can transform their networks into platforms for growth, innovation, and new revenue.
8:15a – 9:00a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>SHAKEN Call Authentication for non-IP networks</i> Following the direction of the FCC, WTA has participated in an industry led effort to define SHAKEN Call Authentication for non-IP networks. The FCC has proposed rules that will mandate that all carriers ensure that SHAKEN PASSporTs are transmitted from call source to call destination to enable secure call authentication of all calls in the U.S. telephone network. <i>Jim Dalton (TransNexus)</i> will provide an overview of the non-IP call authentication standards and suggest ways that WTA members can use the proposed new FCC rules to negotiate for better IP interconnection terms as an option to replace existing TDM interconnects.
9:00a – 9:45a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>IPv6 and the Future of Network Growth: What Telecom Leaders Need to Know</i> <i>Jeremy Larson (ReadiTech Engineering)</i> will break down why transitioning to IPv6 is critical for modern networks. Using simple analogies and real-world examples, this session highlights how IPv6 supports scalability, security, and competitiveness. Learn about the risks of delaying adoption, explore a strategic roadmap for implementation, and leave with a clear call to action to assess your organization's IPv6 readiness.
9:45a – 10:15a Kaua'i Court	Morning Break and Table-Top Exhibits Sponsored by Bronze Sponsor <i>CostQuest</i>
10:15a – 11:00a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Managing Transition – Retirement and Succession for Key Personnel</i> As more Americans are starting to retire, <i>Mike Teeples and Brad Adams (TCA)</i>, help you ensure key employees are prepared for a healthy retirement timeline and companies can realize a smooth transition as carriers replace functions instead of individuals.
11:00a – 11:45a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Power Up Your Support with AI Without Losing the Human Touch</i>

	<p>In a competitive broadband market, delivering a strong customer experience through technical support is more important than ever. <i>Rich King (NRTC Managed Services)</i>, will explore how broadband providers can apply AI and automation to strengthen technician training, better understand subscriber needs, identify support trends early, and use data-driven insights to improve service quality. Attendees will walk away with practical strategies for using tools and platforms to enhance support operations without losing the human connection that builds trust and loyalty.</p>
11:45a – 12:00p	<p>Closing/WTa Foundation Raffle Winners Announced – Adjourn WTA Fall Educational Forum Make plans today and join us in 2026!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTa 2026 Spring Educational Forum – April 12-15, 2026 – New Orleans, LA • WTa 2026 Fall Educational Forum – October 4-7, 2026 – Sonoma, CA