



2025

WAVES OF OPPORTUNITY

2025 WTA FALL EDUCATIONAL FORUM
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 5-8, 2025 • KAUAI, HAWAII



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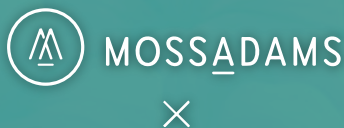


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WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL ISLAND OF KAUA'I!

WTA Fall Forum Schedule (subject to change)

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 5, 2025

- 11:45a** **WTA Fall Golf Tournament Check-In**
- 12:30p** **WTA Fall Golf Tournament Shotgun Start**
Ocean Course Hokuala
Golf Ball Sponsor Baker Tilly; Prize Sponsor Hylan West; and Lunch Sponsor Aldrich Advisors
- 4:00p – 7:00p** **Table-Top Exhibits Set-Up**
Kaua'i Court
- 7:00p – 9:00p** **WTA Registration**
Kaua'i Court
- 8:00p – 9:00p** **Mahalo & Mai Tais: Welcome Reception** 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.
Sponsored by MP Nex-Level; NECA; Nex-Tech; NRTC; NISC; Olsen Thielen CPAs & Advisors; and TCA, Inc.
Kaua'i Court

MONDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2025

- 6:30a – 2:00p** **WTA Registration | Table-Top Exhibits | Breaks**
Kaua'i Court
- 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.
 - *Breakfast will not be provided. Light snacks will be available during the morning break.* For breakfast options, the Royal Lanai Grab & Go is open from 6:00 am to 11:00 am.

7:30a – 3:00p **DAY 1: GENERAL SESSIONS**
Kaua'i Ballroom

7:30a – 7:45a • **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Jack Keen (WMN), WTA Board Member, Emeritus**

7:45a – 8:15a • **Ho'okipa: A Traditional Hawaiian Welcome, Jade Battad *Sponsored by CoBank***

8:15a – 8:30a • **Welcome – WTA President Pat McElroy (Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company)**

8:30a – 9:15a • **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.

9:15a – 9:45a **Table-Top Exhibits and Morning Coffee Break**
Sponsored by Chickasaw Telephone Company
Kaua'i Court

9:45a – 10:15a • **WTA Annual Meeting of the Membership – President Pat McElroy**
(Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company)

10:15a – 11:30a • **Driving Value-Based Offerings – Cory Polman (Calix)** will moderate a panel, featuring **Carla Shearer (SC Telcom); Paul Quick (Smithville Communications); Jason Wille (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.

11:30a – 12:45p **General Session Luncheon *Sponsored by Calix***
This luncheon is a private luncheon for Full Registrations Only!
Kukui's on Kalapaki Beach

1:00p – 2:15p • **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 at affordable rates..

2:15p – 3:00p • **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 **WTA Board of Directors Reorganizational Meeting**
Puna AB

5:30p – 9:30p **Island Sunset Party** *Sponsored by NOKIA*
Lu'au Gardens

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. ***Ticket and name badges are REQUIRED for entry*** (included with Full and Social Registrations and provided in registration packets). ***Individual tickets will not be available for purchase at the door. Unregistered guests will not be permitted to attend.***

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 7, 2025

6:30a – 2:00p **WTA Registration | Table-Top Exhibits | Breaks** *(Closed During Lunch)*
Kaua'i Court

• ***Breakfast will not be provided. Light snacks will be available during the morning break.*** For breakfast options, the Royal Lanai Grab & Go is open from 6:00 am to 11:00 am.

7:30a – 3:00p **DAY 2: GENERAL SESSIONS**
Kaua'i Ballroom

7:30a – 8:15a • **Grants: The Hidden Costs of “Free” Money**

There are unprecedented amounts of grants available today for telecommunications companies. However, the accounting, compliance, 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.

8:15a – 9:00a • **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.

9:00a – 9:30a • **Awards / Passing of the Gavel / Incoming President's Address / 2025-2027 WTA Leadership Announced**

9:30a – 10:00a **Table-Top Exhibits and Morning Coffee Break** *Sponsored by CostQuest*
Kaua'i Court

10:00a – 10:45a • **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 (Baker Tilly)** will break down Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) and why they matter. Learn practical strategies for 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.

10:45a – 11:30a • **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.

11:30a – 1:00p **Adjourn for Lunch**

11:30a – 12:45p **WTA Public Policy Committee Luncheon Meeting**

Sponsored by Monte R. Lee & Company

This meeting is open to WTA broadband and committee members only.

Kaua'i Ballroom

1:00p – 3:00p DAY 2: GENERAL SESSIONS - CONTINUED

Kaua'i Ballroom

1:00p – 2:00p • **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 (Baker Tilly)** will lead a discussion around the latest changes and strategies your company should consider adopting to successfully navigate them.

2:00p – 3:00p • **Industry Insights: One Mission-Connecting Rural America**

Moderators **Chick Kennedy (NRTC)** and **Ginny Gardea (Nokia)** will lead a conversation with industry-experts **Jill Huffman (MiBroadband)**; **Barbara Sessions (Silver Star Communications)**; **Brock Johansen (Emery Telcom)**; and **Daniel Meszler (Tularosa Communications)** 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 Island Garden Reception *Sponsored by JSI*

Ka Mala Kalapaki Garden

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. ***Ticket and name badges are REQUIRED for entry*** (included with Full and Social Registrations and provided in registration packets). ***Individual tickets will not be available for purchase at the door. Unregistered guests will not be permitted to attend.***

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 8, 2025

7:00a – 10:30a WTA Registration | Table-Top Exhibits | Breaks

Kaua'i Court

• ***Breakfast will not be provided. Light snacks will be available during the morning break.*** For breakfast options, the Royal Lanai Grab & Go is open from 6:00 am to 11:00 am.

7:30a – 12:00p DAY 3: GENERAL SESSIONS

Kaua'i Ballroom

7:30a – 8:15a • **IPv6 and the Future of Network Growth: What Telecom Leaders Need to Know**

Jeremy Larson (ReadiTech Engineering) 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.

8:15a – 9:00a • SHAKEN Call Authentication for non-IP networks

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. **Jim Dalton (TransNexus)** 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 • Powering the AI Revolution: Why Rural Broadband Providers Matter More Than Ever

As AI workloads grow more distributed and data-intensive, rural broadband providers are uniquely positioned to become key enablers of the AI revolution. **Fayyaz Patwa (Nokia)** 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.

9:45a – 10:15a Morning Break and Table-Top Exhibits *Sponsored by IDI Billing Solutions*
Kaua'i Court

10:15a – 11:00a • Managing Transition – Retirement and Succession for Key Personnel

As more companies are facing retirements by senior officials, **Mike Teeples** and **Brad Adams (TCA)**, 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 • Power Up Your Support with AI Without Losing the Human Touch

In a competitive broadband market, delivering a strong customer experience through technical support is more important than ever. **Rich King (NRTC Managed Services)** 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.

11:45a – 12:00p Closing/WTa Foundation Raffle Winners Announced

Adjourn WTA Fall Educational Forum

MAKE PLANS TODAY AND JOIN US IN 2026!

Our upcoming events can be found: **W-T-A.ORG/EVENTS/**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I get wireless Internet access in the General Sessions?

STEP 1: Turn on Wi-Fi access on your device

STEP 2: Select wireless network **"Sonesta Conference"**

STEP 3: Password: **OCTOBER2025**



WiFi Sponsor:

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How to download the App for the WTA Fall Meeting?

» **Search for the App:** Open your device's **App Store** (for iOS) or **Google Play Store** (for Android). In the search bar, type **WTA Events**. Our app should be the first result.

» **Download the App:** Once you've found the app, tap **Download** or **Install**. The app will automatically begin downloading to your device.

» **Log In Using Your Registration Email:** After the app has finished downloading, open it. Use the **email address** you provided during your event registration as your login credentials.

» **Need Assistance?** If you have any questions or need help with the app, please contact **Taylor Myers** (taylor@w-t-a.org) for support.

App Sponsor:



What is the dress code for the WTA Fall Meeting?

NO SUITS! Resort or business casual is the recommended attire. Attendees are encouraged to bring a jacket for their comfort.

I forgot my name tag in my hotel room. Can I or my guest attend the events without it?

Name tags are **REQUIRED** for admittance to all WTA events. If you don't have your badge at an event, you will be turned away. Spouses/guests must be registered as a social registration to attend any WTA function. Certain events also require tickets for admission. Tickets are included in all Full and Social registration packets. Social registration can be purchased at the Registration Desk.

What are the dates/locations for future WTA Meetings?

2026 Spring Educational Forum | April 12-15, 2026 | New Orleans, LA

2026 Fall Educational Forum | October 4-7, 2026 | Sonoma, CA

2027 Spring Educational Forum | TBA

2027 Fall Educational Forum | October 3-6, 2027 | Monterey, CA



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