

2025 GMAC Annual Conference

July 22nd - July 24th

Watertown, South Dakota

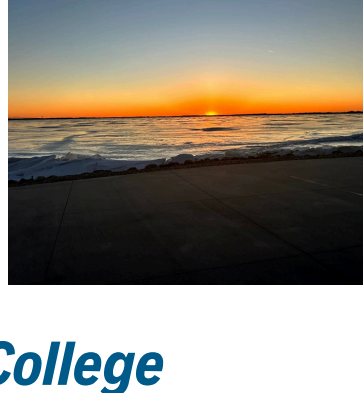
Conference Location: Lake Area Technical College
Detailed Conference Information: bgcofwatertown.com/GMAC



TUESDAY, JULY 22nd

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hosted Pizza Meal at The Sandbar on Lake Kampeska



WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd – Lake Area Technical College

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Board Member Meet-and-Greet

Board Members are invited to arrive early. Registration will be open.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Networking Lunch and Welcome

We will kick off the conference with a build-your-own sandwich bar and introductions from GMAC leadership! Registration will be open.

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM



Empathetic Leadership and Fostering Positive Work Culture

Vaney Hariri, Chief Culture Officer + Co-Founder
Think 3D, Sioux Falls, SD

Transform Your Workplace Culture. Strengthen Your Business.
Unlock the power of a strong, thriving culture with proven strategies to improve employee engagement, leadership, and performance.

<https://letsthink3d.com/>

Sponsored by First PREMIER Bank/Bankcard

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM



Get FUTURE READY

Tyler Ashley, National Director, Strategy Execution
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

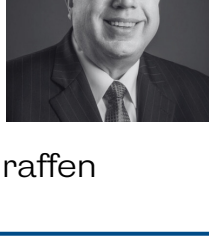
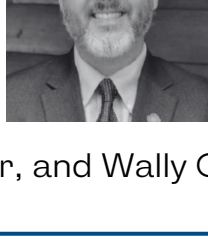
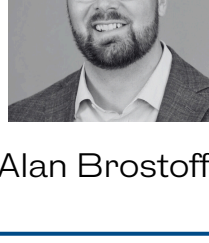
In this session, you will learn more about the collective strategic priorities to inspire and empower our members to achieve success and to champion opportunities for all young people.



3:40 PM - 4:30 PM

Future Ready Breakout Sessions: Continue the discussion about Future Ready initiatives. Groups will be divided in the following ways:

Metro Clubs
Native Clubs
Traditional Clubs



Led by Tyler Ashley, Alan Brostoff, Tim Reiplinger, and Wally Graffen

4:35 PM - 5:15 PM

Greater Midwest Area Council Annual Business Meeting

5:45 PM - 10:00 PM

An Evening of Fun at the home of Scott and Jodi Driscoll

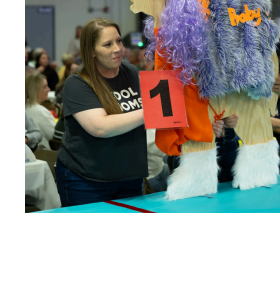
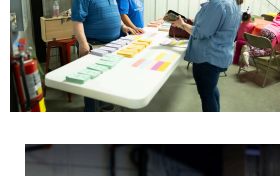
Enjoy go-karts, Papa D's food truck, yard games, and the unforgettable Camel Races!

- A shuttle service will be provided from the hotels and back!
- Run like a life-sized board game, the Blue Door Derby Camel Race has become the most popular fundraiser in Watertown. A lucky Club will go home with cash winnings if their camel crosses the finish line first!

More Camel Race details to come for your Club to get involved!

- Papa D's, a local favorite, food truck will be serving brisket, pulled pork, chicken wraps, fries, cheese curds, and mini doughnuts!

Hospitality Room available at the Hampton Inn following



THURSDAY, JULY 24th – Lake Area Technical College

8:30 AM - 10:15 AM

Financial Resiliency and Sustainability

Karen Englert, Director of Government Relations, Club Services
Bridget Hoffman, Director – Resource Development Club Consultant



10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

State Breakout Sessions

MN – Karen Englert
ND/SD – Bridget Hoffman
IA/NE – Larry Kent, Senior Director of Government Relations

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Engaging the Board – Panel Discussion

Moderated by Stacy Jones, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Sioux Empire



Hear from League of Eagles honorees, Area Council, and Alliance Board of Directors leaders.

Clubs Represented:

Boys & Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area, Mike Herman – Aberdeen, SD

Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji, Andrea Kent – Bemidji, MN

Boys & Girls Club of Black Hills, John Pence – Lead & Hill City, SD

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, Jim Franklin & Tom Schnack

Boys & Girls Club of Siouxland, John Olson – Sioux City, IA

Boys & Girls Club of Watertown, Liz Brownell – Watertown, SD

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Networking Round Table – Lunch & Learn

Enjoy lunch with your professional peers to share ideas, ask questions, and build supportive relationships with those who understand the challenges and rewards of your important work.

**CEO
Resource Development
Board Members
Native Clubs
Program/Operations**

1:15 PM - 2:10 PM

Breakout Sessions

What is the digital landscape—and how can we navigate it?

Keith Swingle, Vice President of Business Development for NetVPro,
Nancy Vossen, Director of Information Systems, BGC of Central Minnesota

This session will explore how to manage digital assets, handle licensing, protect against cyber threats, and secure support and funding. Real-world examples will highlight common challenges and offer simple, practical tips you can apply in a Club or business setting.

Operation Impact – What's Up Next?

Liz Brownell, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Watertown
Mary Swingle, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs Central Minnesota
John Tursi, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Corridor – Cedar Rapids, IA
Wally Graffen, BGCA Midwest Regional Vice President

The Ambassadors from SD/ND, MN and IA/NE, along with Midwest Regional VP, Wally Graffen, will facilitate a conversation about the next steps in the Operation Impact initiative. Now that action plans are put down on paper...how do you execute them, modify them, utilize data, and continue progressing toward the Operation Impact goals at your local Clubs.

Stronger Together: Collaborative Approach to Youth Offender Program

Louis Canfield, Director of Diversion Services, BGC of Watertown
Miranda Wright, Diversion Coordinator, Boys & Girls Club of Watertown
Rich Ohm, Owner, Fallout Shelter
Annie Brokenleg, Juvenile Intervention Coordinator –State of South Dakota
Judge Carmen Means, SD Third Judicial Circuit
Heather Stricherz, Clinical Coordinator, Human Service Agency
Scott Polski, Codington County Deputy State's Attorney

Explore how community partnerships can transform the path of justice-involved youth. This panel discussion will highlight the Codington County youth offender program that connects the Boys & Girls Club of Watertown, local law enforcement, court system, counseling services, and other agencies. Together, these partners provide supportive, restorative alternatives to traditional juvenile justice. Learn how shared accountability, early intervention, and wraparound support help young people take responsibility for their actions while staying connected to positive opportunities.

