

There's No Place Like Home



There's No Place Like Home ~~Home~~ **GACS**

THE 2024 GACS ANNUAL MEETING
AND CONVENTION
AUGUST 16-18, 2024
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION
AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA

Now in our 51st year, we're continuing to celebrate GACS with the theme ***There's No Place Like GACS!*** GACS is a unique combination of fellowship, family and service to the industry, unlike no other organization in our state. Membership in GACS, with its advocacy platform, education and networking opportunities, and essential services, is becoming key to success in the convenience industry. There's much to celebrate!

Including the many untapped resources that are part of this organization. Consider the list of speakers this year: nearly all of them are drawn from our own community; they successfully represented us as part of the NACS programming, and are now sharing their knowledge and insights with you. And including our sponsors and vendors; their support is crucial to our success. You will see more of them at this year's convention.

We asked you, we heard you, and we are responding with convention agenda changes that will enhance your experience: a welcome reception on Thursday night, recreation on Friday morning (when it's not so hot outside), musical entertainment after your awards dinner on Friday night, two legislative panels, a legislative reception – including special time set aside for Young Professionals with the legislators, a revamped beach party on Saturday, and a motivational speaker on Sunday who just might knock your socks off!

Our association is changing, evolving, and strengthening, too, with new member services, the addition of online and cross-state education, and a more robust web presence. As we move forward, it's also time to stop, look around us, and celebrate our own.

Remember, ***There's No Place Like GACS!*** And no better place to be in August than with us in Amelia Island!

Registration Fees

GACS Member	\$295	Child (5-11) (meals only)	\$175	Education Foundation Draw Down	
Spouse	\$235	Golf	\$189	Raffle Ticket	\$100
Non-Member	\$365	Fishing	\$240		
Teen and Young Adult (meals only)	\$195	Beach Party	\$0		

GACS has negotiated special hotel pricing for attendees at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation, but your reservation must be received no later than 5 pm, July 12, 2024.

Register online at www.gacs.com/events

Extracurricular Activities

GACS Educational Foundation

The GACS Educational Foundation provides scholarship funds for GACS employee members and their families. Attendees will have an opportunity to raise money for students, along with a chance to win cash. Raffle tickets are sold online and onsite. Purchase yours now to help fund scholarships to fellow members. Tickets are only \$100 and the winner will be awarded \$5K at Friday night's Draw Down.

Golf

Enjoy the view while spending Friday morning with your peers on a beautiful Amelia Island Golf Course. Oak Marsh is closed for renovation, so the hotel will be shuttling golfers to a nearby course, where you will enjoy a morning framed by the Atlantic Ocean.

Fishing

Also moved to Friday morning, choose between the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean or the backwaters of Amelia. Either way, you can depend on a great experience under the direction of Captain Terry Lacoss and his team of fish-finding boats!

Beach Party

Toss back a few brews and have some fun in the sun at Saturday afternoon's Beach Party. Join us for a couple of hours on the beach, to enjoy the scenery and a cold beverage!



Convention Details

Welcome Reception

For those of you arriving on Thursday, in time to enjoy Friday morning's recreation line-up and participate in scheduled meetings, there will be a light reception. Stop by, say "hello" to old friends, and make some new ones too.

Awards and Recognition Dinner and Entertainment

There's no place like GACS, and no time like Friday night to honor those members whose contributions have helped shape our organization: GACS sponsors, Supplier of the Year, the Brittany Schmeelk scholarship winner, your new Board of Directors and Supplier Committee, plus many, many more to be announced. In 2024 we return to a much loved format, concluding dinner with musical entertainment for your listening – and dancing – enjoyment.

(Plus, It's been a hit, and a ton of fun, so once again we will include our crazy take on the traditional \$5K raffle, a drawdown where all tickets purchased will be drawn – some for prizes – and the last ticket will win the \$5K raffle prize. All to benefit the Education Foundation Scholarship Fund.)

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will be open Sunday night during the Welcome Reception, and again on Tuesday morning. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of Tuesday's Lunch. Donated items will be listed on the GACS website.

Saturday Breakfast and Education Session

Saturday morning's education is newly formatted, with more speakers in a relaxed, conversational setting that you will not want to miss. Most are familiar faces, coming from within GACS membership. They'll address many of the "must know more" topics you have identified:

Tom Kloza, *Global Head of Energy Analysis, OPIS*, opens with his take on "The Future of Fuel." Tom has covered downstream oil markets for over 40 years. He has written commentary for *Marketwatch* and is a regular guest commentator for Bloomberg Financial Markets and NPR Marketplace, providing unbiased commentary for media especially during times of oil volatility.



Tom Kloza

Jeannie Amerson, *VP Marketing at Enmarket*, is responsible for marketing, merchandising, food service, branding, digital marketing, loyalty and payment strategies. She will explore "Marketing That Delivers Results," sharing key factors that contribute to promotion success,

Jill Van Pelt, *VP Human Resources, RaceTrac*, leads all aspects of human resources for the Store Support Center, Regional Teams, and Store Associates. She will discuss "Employee Centric Culture," including experiences and best practices cultivating a vibrant employee-centric culture and ways to strengthen connections with employees, customers and community.

Stephanie Stuckey, *Chair, Stuckey's Corporation*, purchased the company her grandfather founded just four years

ago. She and her partners have restored it to profitability. Stephanie's topic, "Doing More With Less," explores how operators of all sizes can win on the C-Store shelf, including maximizing a limited budget to enhance visibility, consumer engagement, and overall success.

Michelle Weckstein is *Director of Food and Beverage Brands for Southwest Georgia Oil, dba SunStop*. She oversees all beverage programs, hot food service, grab and go offerings, and franchised restaurant brands. She will share her insights into "F&B Brands" and what's top of mind for customers.

Amy Wood, *Director of Enterprise IT, Friendly Express*. Amy explores "The Next Generation of Convenience Store Formats," synthesizing insights from discussions with retailers to identify key trends, assessing the development of convenience store models and their historical roots, and differentiating emerging new models in convenience retailing that are redefining the concept of convenience beyond fuel-centric options.

Saturday and Sunday Legislative Panels

We are doubling the time you will have to listen to your state legislators and regulators, by offering two. Legislative panels – one each on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Always of interest to attendees, the panels provide an opportunity to learn more about the issues affecting C-Stores and convenience in Georgia. Updates on panelists will be announced as available.

Saturday Young Professionals Legislative Reception/ Legislative Reception

With a plethora of legislators and state officials on hand, this will be a great opportunity to network, and chat informally with your representatives. The reception will begin at 5:30 PM just for GACS Young Professionals; it will open to the rest of our convention attendees at 6:15 PM, affording you plenty of time to enjoy some one-on-one time with those legislators who are present.

Sunday Motivational Speaker

Tyler Enslin. A professional speaker since 2012, Tyler has had the privilege to present at over 1000 live events. He is passionate about helping his audiences, sharing information in a style that is engaging, lively, and practical. He has worked with Fortune 500 companies, large organizations, and a wide variety of associations.



Tyler Enslin

Exhibitor Showcase

New in 2024: You will now be able to explore the tabletop exhibits 24/7 during the convention, as they will be located in the main ballroom where all other activity is centered. Specific time has been set aside on Saturday at lunchtime; you can enjoy lunch while exploring products and services offered by new vendors and touching base with familiar suppliers. Yes, prizes are involved when you "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" and visit all of the vendors. Exhibitors, be sure to decorate your tabletops in keeping with the theme, *There's No Place Like GACS*.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Time	Event
3:30 - 6:30 PM	GACS Registration Open
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Welcome Reception
9:30 - 12:30 AM	Hospitality Suite

Friday, August 16, 2024

Time	Event
7:30 AM - 7:00 PM	GACS Registration Open
8:00 AM	Fishing Tournament
8:30 AM	Golf Tournament
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Table Top Set Up for Vendor Showcase
2:00 - 4:00 PM	GACS Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 - 3:00 PM	GACS Supplier Committee Meeting
3:00 PM	General Supplier Meeting (open to all GACS Supplier Members)
6:00 PM	Cocktail Reception
7:00 PM	Awards and Recognition Dinner/ Music Entertainment
9:30-12:30 AM	Hospitality Suite

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Time	Event
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	GACS Registration Open
7:30 AM	Breakfast and Education Sessions
8:00 - 9:30 AM	Speakers/ Education Tom Kloza, OPIS, <i>The Future of Fuel</i> Jeannie Amersen, Enmarket, <i>Marketing That Delivers Results</i> Jill Van Pelt, RaceTrac, HR/ <i>Employee Centric Culture</i> Stephanie Stuckey, Stuckeys, <i>Doing More With Less</i> Michelle Weckstein, SW Georgia Oil, <i>F&B Brands</i> Amy Wood, Friendly Express, <i>Designing the Next Gen C-Store Formats</i>
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Legislative Panel
11:30 AM - Noon	Association General Program
Noon - 1:30 PM	Lunch With the Vendors and Vendor Showcase
2:00 - 4:00 PM	Beach Party
5:30 - 6:15 PM	Young Professionals Reception with the Legislators
6:15 - 7:00 PM	Legislative Reception
<i>Invitation Only</i>	Legislative Dinner
9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite open until 12:30 AM

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Time	Event
7:00 AM - Noon	GACS Registration Open
7:30 AM	Legislative Breakfast and Motivational Speaker
8:00 AM	Motivational Speaker Tyler Enslin
9:45 - 11:15 AM	Legislative Panel
11:15 AM	Closing Remarks
11:30 AM	Lunch "To Go"
	<i>(Note: Silent Auction will close at 11:30 AM)</i>