



**Fall Meeting
October 8-10, 2025**

Grand Bohemian Charlotte | Charlotte, NC

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
DRESS - BUSINESS CASUAL

- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm** **Registration Open**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm** **New Members & Guests Meet & Greet**
(Gallery I)
Join us for a brief orientation to learn more about the Alliance, what we do, how we connect and how you can get engaged! We'll answer your questions and help you make the most of your first meeting. Some of our Advisory Committee Members will also be present to greet you. We look forward to meeting you!
- 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm** **Networking Opportunity: Afternoon Refreshment Break**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)
- 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm** **Welcome and Project Team Updates**
(Palace Ballroom)
- 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm** **Stablecoins: The Journey from Crypto-Curiosity to Currency Cornerstone**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)
The GENIUS Act became law in July 2025 and regulations are being drafted. Once a crypto-curiosity, stablecoins are on the path to mainstream issuance and acceptance. Large FIs are making plans to issue stablecoin products and the card networks are touting their global end-to-end stablecoin acceptance and payments capabilities. Smaller FIs are exploring how to enter the space. Stablecoins are here to stay but there are issues related to collateralization, transparency, and potential depegging events. This session gets beyond the basics and gives payment professionals the knowledge they need to evaluate opportunities and challenges with this emerging payment rail.

This session will address a number of important questions:
- What laws and regulations are in place or need to be developed?
How will stablecoins impact your organization's deposits, operations, and financial risk?
 - Should your organization issue its own stablecoin? What are the use-cases?
 - What collaboration and self-regulation will help advance the responsible adoption of stablecoins?
- Panelists:** **Adrian Wall, CEO, Digital Sovereignty Alliance**
Other Speakers Invited
- Moderator:** **Matthew Luzadder, Office Managing Partner – Chicago, Kelley Drye & Warren**
- 4:45 pm – 5:30 pm** **Crypto in the Wild: What Real People Really Think**
(Palace Ballroom)
Crypto may dominate headlines and fintech roadmaps, but what does the average person on the street

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actually think about it? In this engaging, fast-paced session, we take it outside the echo chamber—with real-world, man-on-the-street interviews capturing candid opinions, confusion, excitement, and skepticism about cryptocurrency. This session offers a raw, unfiltered look at how everyday people understand—or misunderstand—the crypto landscape. We'll use these real voices as a launchpad for discussion, challenging assumptions about adoption, trust, and usability.

Speakers: *Mark Dixon, AAP, AFPP, APRP, Senior Consultant, Nacha Consulting Services*
Sharon Hallmark, AAP, AFPP, APRP, Director Payments Education, EPCOR

Moderator: *Kevin Olsen, AAP, AFPP, APRP, SVP, Innovation & Strategy, Pidgin*

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Networking Opportunity: Welcome Reception
(Grand Bohemian Hotel - Queen's Terrace)

Sponsored by:



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
DRESS - BUSINESS CASUAL

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration Open
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Networking Opportunity: Hot Breakfast Buffet
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)

Sponsored by:

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9:00 am – 10:00 am

Payments That Never Sleep: The Strength of Resilience by Design
(Palace Ballroom)

In today's high-stakes financial ecosystem, uninterrupted payment operations are non-negotiable. This session explores how institutions can strengthen the resilience of their bank payment systems against an evolving array of disruptions—from system outages to regulatory shifts and real-time processing demands. Participants will learn how to assess vulnerabilities in payment infrastructures, explore emerging technologies and operational strategies to mitigate downtime, and examine real-world case studies that highlight the cost of failure—and the power of proactive design.

Panelists: *Norbert Hermanson, Senior Lead ACH Product Manager-Executive Director, Wells Fargo*
Karuna Kathir, Vice President, Sales, Finzly
Jason Carone, AAP, APRP, SVP, ACH Product Management, The Clearing House

10:00 am – 11:00 am
(Palace Ballroom)

Invisible Payments: The Future You Don't See Coming

As payments fade into the background of everyday experiences, invisible payments are redefining how consumers transact – frictionless, seamless, and often unnoticed. This session explores the rise of embedded, automatic, and contextual payment technologies, from subscription models and ride-hailing apps to IoT-enabled commerce and connected cars. We will examine the tech powering this shift, consumer adoption trends, implications for merchants and banks, and what it means for the future of payment experience.

Speaker: *Chris Colson, Payments Expert, Payments Forum, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta*

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- 11:00 am – 11:20 am** **Networking Opportunity: Coffee Break**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)
- 11:20 am – 12:20 pm** **Partnering for Growth: Unlocking Value with Embedded Fintech and Embedded Finance**
(Palace Ballroom)
Today's most impactful FI–fintech partnerships are reimagining what it means to deliver financial services. **Embedded fintech** brings specialized tools—like cash flow, invoicing, or subaccounting—straight into a bank's digital platform, while **embedded finance** extends core financial products into non-financial customer journeys. Together, they're driving new growth, faster innovation, and richer customer experiences.
- This panel brings together leaders from across the ecosystem to share how they're putting these models into action. You'll gain insights into partnership strategies, product integrations, and technology enablers that are helping financial institutions and fintechs unlock fresh revenue and stay ahead in a competitive market.
- Panelists:** **Bob May**, SVP, Head of Corporate Embedded Finance Product, PNC Bank
Derik Sutton, Chief Marketing Officer, Autobooks
Steve Dow, Co-founder & CEO, Monit
- 12:20 pm – 1:30 pm** **Networking Opportunity: Lunch**
(Grand Bohemian Hotel - Queen's Terrace)
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm** **Beyond the Institution: Network Strategies for Fraud Detection and Prevention**
(Palace Ballroom)
Join representatives from the Federal Reserve, Early Warning Services, and a participating financial institution for a focused discussion on how financial institutions and payment networks are advancing fraud mitigation. The session will highlight new functionality launching this fall from the Zelle network and a FedNow proof of concept designed to support fraud review through shared network-level information. Panelists will explore how network analysis helps address certain fraud vectors and share how banks are approaching additional threats beyond what networks can detect.
- Speakers:** **Dan Gonzalez**, VP-Director, National Account Program, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Mary-Helen McElfresh, Early Warning Systems
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm** **Hot Potato: Rapid-Fire Regulatory Updates on the Hottest Topics in Payments**
(Palace Ballroom)
Payments are evolving—and so is the regulatory landscape surrounding them. In this high-energy session, top legal and compliance experts take the stage for a fast-paced, round-robin rundown of the most urgent regulatory issues impacting the payments industry today.
Each speaker gets just a few minutes to unpack a hot topic before passing the mic to the other panelists and the audience —no deep dives, no filler, just sharp insights and quick takeaways. Whether it's real-time payments, open banking, fraud oversight, or digital wallet compliance, this session is built to keep you informed and on your toes.
- Facilitators:** **Matthew Luzadder**, Office Managing Partner – Chicago, Kelley Drye & Warren
Aaron Kouhopt, Member, McGlinchey Stafford
- 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm** **Networking Opportunity: Afternoon Refreshment Break**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)

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3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Pay-by-Bank: Swimming Beyond the Card Stream

(Palace Ballroom)

For decades, point-of-sale payments have been so card-centric that we've become like fish in the sea, unaware we're swimming in a single payment paradigm. But two emerging Pay-by-Bank platforms are challenging that assumption. One is at the brink of launch, and the other is deep into proof of concept. This session dives into what their journeys reveal about the evolving payments ecosystem:

- How alternative payment rails are being leveraged
- What exception processing looks like without card networks
- The infrastructure shifts required to support direct bank payments
- And how merchant and consumer expectations are being reshaped in real time

Join us to explore what it takes to build outside the current and what it means for the future of point-of sale.

Speakers: ***Ron Herman**, Founder & CEO, Sionic*
***Sarah Hoisington**, Vice President Strategy & Marketing, Matera*

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

The Intersection of AI and Payments: Putting Concepts into Practice

(Palace Ballroom)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the payments industry by enhancing security and fraud prevention and streamlining operations. Chatbots and virtual assistants help financial institutions serve consumers and business partners faster and interactive elements, such as AI avatars, keep users engaged longer, leading to improved outcomes. This session explores the evolution of AI and machine learning in banking — from early expert systems to today's generative and agentic AI — and examines the opportunities and risks shaping the future. The session blends a brief overview with a dynamic, interactive group exercise where participants collaborate on real-world scenarios.

Speaker: ***Khash Sarrafi**, Instructor/Advisor – CTE AI, Robotics, & Entrepreneurship, Union County Public Schools*

Facilitators: ***Matthew Luzadder**, Office Managing Partner – Chicago, Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP*
***Jane Wallace**, AAP, Principal, Wallace Consulting*

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Networking Opportunity: Offsite Networking Reception

NASCAR Hall of Fame

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7:45 am – 8:45 am **Networking Opportunity: Hot Breakfast Buffet**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)
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8:00 am **Registration Open**
(Palace Ballroom Foyer)

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Real-Time Resilience: Risk Assessment for Instant Payments and ACH**
(Palace Ballroom)

With the rapid evolution of digital payment systems, financial institutions must stay ahead of emerging risks tied to instant payments and Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions. This interactive session will guide participants through the process of conducting a comprehensive risk assessment tailored to these payment types.

Participants will hear from a panel of experts and explore the unique risk profiles associated with instant payments, including settlement finality, fraud prevention, and real-time transaction monitoring, alongside established ACH risks such as returns, unauthorized debits, and regulatory compliance. Attendees will also engage with real-world scenarios and learn to apply best practices in risk identification, mitigation strategies, and policy development.

Panelists: **Chad Frank, AAP, APRP, EVP, Risk & Consulting, PaymentsFirst**
Robert Lewis, AFPP, Chief Founder & CRO, Open Payment Network
Mark Robertson, EVP, Director, Corporate Financial Services Administration, SouthState Bank
Trey Ragland, Product Development Director, Corporate America Credit Union
Jeffrey Pettine, AAP, AFPP, APRP, Payment Risk Analyst, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Shelli Pritchard, AAP, Payment Risk Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Moderator: **Mary Gilmeister, AAP, Chief Executive Officer, PaymentsFirst**

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Rules Panel**
(Palace Ballroom)

Description to come.

Panelists: **Lisa Coffey, Chief Innovation Officer, Corporate America Credit Union**
Art Hilgert, AAP, Senior Lead Product Manager, Wells Fargo

Moderator: **Amy Morris, Senior Director, ACH Network Rules, Nacha**

10:00 am **Meeting Adjourns**

See You Next Time!

February 18-20, 2026 | Tampa, Florida

June 1- 2, 2026 | TBD

October 14-16, 2026 | TBD

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