

**NJBankers**  
MAKING CONNECTIONS



**120TH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE &  
EXHIBIT HALL**





# WELCOME

## Registration for our 120th Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall is open!

Join us for our **Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall at The Ritz-Carlton in New Orleans, Louisiana**. This year's conference will address the pressing issues facing your employees and institutions, including AI, fraud, ongoing M&A activity, and digital assets. Industry experts will be on hand to inform and engage attendees on these critical topics. Concurrent breakout sessions will focus on real-world applications designed for your team.

**New for 2026:** We are expanding our **Emerging Leaders Training** and introducing enhanced discounted pricing. Each bank may utilize one complimentary registration for an Emerging Leaders Network member (includes attendance at the sessions and Emerging Leaders dinner). Now entering year two of this initiative, Emerging Leaders will enjoy a dedicated half-day training session prior to the start of the Annual Conference—built specifically to help them grow into the next generation of industry leaders. A special networking event will also take place on Wednesday evening following NJBankers' Opening Reception, giving Emerging Leaders the opportunity to build connections, share ideas, and elevate their careers.

**Returning for 2026:** Our **Directors Training** Session, presented by FinPro, will once again be offered for all directors. This session will address the most timely and important issues facing bank boards today.

The following pages include everything you need to know about this year's conference, including the program agenda, networking opportunities, registration details, and travel information.

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

## REGISTRATION

Register online [here](#).

We encourage you to register as early as possible; register and pay by 2/13/26 to enjoy early bird registration rates (early bird pricing is non-refundable. If you are concerned you may cancel, we encourage you to use the regular registration pricing).

For full event registration and cancellation information, please refer to [NJBankers.com](#) and your confirmation email.

## DRESS CODE

For all educational and networking opportunities, the dress code is business casual.

For the Wednesday night reception, all attendees are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes.

## SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES

The Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall offers numerous opportunities to build brand awareness, connect with attendees and put your company front and center. For information on becoming a Conference sponsor or Exhibitor please visit [NJBankers.com](#) or contact Jenn Zorn at [jzorn@njbankers.com](mailto:jzorn@njbankers.com).



## EVENT POLICIES

It is NJBankers policy that conference attendees are not allowed to sponsor any functions during the conference that conflict with a scheduled NJBankers event. This applies to hotel suites, meeting rooms, and any outside activity. Any groups wishing to host additional functions will need approval by NJBankers EVP/Director of Education. In addition, no printed materials, gifts, etc. may be sent to any guest rooms without the consent of NJBankers Director of Education. Associate Members are encouraged to plan group dinners on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings. Please refer to the format in the agenda for timing, leaving travel time after evening events to get to your location.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

NJBankers has a Code of Conduct Policy for any members, guests, and staff attending NJBankers events. The policy covers harassment, alcohol, attendance at event venues without registration, and abuse of membership of any kind. NJBankers members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this policy prior to attending the Annual Conference. Penalties may include, but not limited to, loss of membership. The policy can be found at [NJBankers.com](https://www.njbankers.com).

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

You are encouraged to make your hotel reservations NOW, as we anticipate the hotel to be sold out during our stay. Hotel reservations must be made before **Wednesday, April 2, 2026**, to receive the NJBankers sleeping room rate of \$319 per night, (plus state tax 9.45%, a 5% city tax and a 1.75% tourism fee plus a \$2.00 per room, per night occupancy fee).

Hotel reservations can be made online [here](#).

Or by calling 1-800-826-8987 (please reference NJBankers)

## CANCELLATION OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card or by NJBankers. Hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured by one of the above methods. Reservations must be cancelled seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival to avoid a one (1) night room and tax penalty plus applicable state and local taxes (currently a 9.45% state tax, 5% city tax and a 1.75% tourism fee apply). All taxes are subject to change.



## TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is the primary airport for commercial flights and is located in Kenner, about 28 miles from downtown New Orleans. Conference attendees should make their own airline reservations directly with the carrier or consult their own travel agent. Attendees also must make their own ground transportation arrangements to and from the hotel.

You may also contact The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans, concierge for travel needs at 1-800-826-8987.

# Opportunities Are Knocking Network in New Orleans

*Presented by*



## Director Training Program

May 6, 2026 | 8am to 12pm

Director training is essential for effective governance, ensuring that boards are equipped to lead organizations successfully in a complex and dynamic environment.

*Get current on recent regulatory issues from*  
**FDIC, OCC & FRB**

The Director Training Program is a one-day event designed to address the key challenges facing boards today. This is an engaging session, focusing on strategic learning and strong leadership development as well as current regulatory issues. Whether you're an experienced director or just starting out, you'll leave with enhanced insights and tools to offer informed, prudent, and independent guidance to bank leadership. In addition to valuable educational content, this program also creates opportunities to connect with fellow directors and regulatory officials.

*Navigate Complex Regulations* **Build Confidence**  
**Improve Risk Management** *Foster Collaboration*  
*Enhance Governance* **Adapt to Industry Trends**

Pre-registration is required to attend the Director Training Program, which is being held prior to the 120th Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall. Reserve your spot online at [njbankers.com/2026conference](https://njbankers.com/2026conference).



# EMERGING LEADERS IN NEW ORLEANS

May 6, 2026 | 8am to 12pm

**We are excited to host a training for Emerging Leaders Network members in New Orleans. This dedicated half-day training session will be held prior to the start of the Annual Conference.**

**[Pre-registration required.](#)**

## **Session: The Complex Challenge of the Emerging Leader: Showing Up Versus Showing Off**

As an emerging bank leader, there is not a more critical or more difficult stage in your career. You've proven that you "have what it takes" and have been given plenty of responsibility. You've demonstrated your commitment to the bank's mission and have been entrusted with strategic and operational decisions. You've shown that you are results oriented and have been asked to oversee the work of others. So now what? How should you show up?

- What about you? How do you show up for yourself? What is your personal development plan? How do you catapult yourself into a position of career impact in which you can be the best professional version of yourself - and also lead a rich personal life that you love, with time for family, hobbies, and growth?
- What about your colleagues, teams, and direct reports? How do you inspire those around you, and lead them to collaborate and to excel, as opposed to merely managing them to just complete tasks and get the work done?
- What about your community and centers of influence? As you navigate career and life changes, how do you build relationships that are productive, meaningful and sustainable for you, and valuable for them, too?
- What about the execs who lead you? Have you ever truly learned to manage up and to motivate up as you show up for them?

In "The Complex Challenge of the Emerging Leader: Showing Up Versus Showing Off," Dr. Linda Eagle will lead Emerging Leaders through a plan for doing just that with her usual interactive, high-energy delivery style. Participants' exploration will lead to topics such as resilience, collaboration, empathy, motivation, communication, conflict resolution, coaching, decision-making, executive-presence, confidence, emotional intelligence, delegation, trust, grit, and more!

In this half-day session, explore tools, develop strategies, and engage in interactive activities. Participants will build the self-awareness, knowledge, and skills to master being an effective Emerging Leader who can SHOW UP for self and for others – on the way to becoming a highly respected, maximally effectual Senior Executive.



### **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

Dr. Linda Eagle is President and founder of Global Bankers Institute. Linda's understanding of the business requirements of the banking industry and her expertise in psychology and organizational communication have enabled her to address the most important elements in business today: culture; productivity; engagement; growth, and leadership. In short, she connects the dots between people and results.

## **PLUS, JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EMERGING LEADERS NETWORK DINNER!**

On Wednesday evening, following NJBankers Opening Reception, we're heading to the New Orleans School of Cooking for a night of fun, food and networking for Emerging Leaders. **[Pre-registration required](#)** (fee is included in your registration). Please indicate when you register whether you have any special dietary restrictions.



# BOURBON

## 2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA\*

### TUESDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

#### **Pre-Conference Networking Reception**

**6:00 pm**

#### **Dinner on Your Own**

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

#### **Director Training Program - Pre-registration required**

*Donald J. Musso, President & CEO, FinPro, Inc.*

*Jonathan D. Finley, EVP of Regulatory Matters, FinPro, Inc.*

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

#### **Emerging Leaders Program - Pre-registration required**

*The Complex Challenge of the Emerging Leader: Showing Up Versus Showing Off*

*Dr. Linda Eagle, Founder and President, Global Bankers Institute*

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

#### **NJBankers Board of Directors Meeting**

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

#### **Exhibitor Set-Up**

**2:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

#### **Networking with Exhibitors & Event Registration**

**2:45 pm – 4:45 pm**

#### **General Session**

##### **National Anthem**

##### **Opening Remarks**

*Michael P. Affuso, President & CEO,  
New Jersey Bankers Association*

##### **Annual Meeting**

*Craig L. Montanaro, Chair, New Jersey Bankers Association  
President & CEO, Kearny Bank*

##### **Program Emcee**

*Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights*

##### **Presidents Address**

*Michael P. Affuso, President & CEO,  
New Jersey Bankers Association*

##### **Banking Industry Update**

##### **Awards Presentation - Excellence in Banking Award**

*Recipients: John S. Fitzgerald, President & CEO, Magyar Bank  
Ferdinand R. Viaud, Director, Ascendia Bank*

##### **Associate Member Anniversaries**

*\*schedule subject to change*

#### **Government Relations Update**

*Brittany Wheeler, VP/Director of Government Affairs,  
New Jersey Bankers Association*

#### **ABA PAC Update**

*Kirsten Sutton, EVP, Congressional Relations and Legislative  
Affairs, American Bankers Association*

#### **The Zen of Banking – A Path to Innovation, Resilience and Renewed Focus**

*Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights*

*Explore how the principles of Zen—balance, simplicity,  
and adaptability—are becoming crucial in navigating the  
evolving banking landscape. From the seamless integration  
of digital technologies to fostering deeper connections  
with customers, we'll discuss how embracing a more  
mindful and holistic approach to banking can lead to  
greater innovation, resilience, and renewed focus on what  
truly matters.*

#### **Adjournment**

**5:15 pm – 6:45 pm**

#### **Welcome Party**

**6:45 pm**

#### **Dinner on Your Own**

**7:15 pm – 9:15 pm**

#### **Emerging Leaders Networking Dinner**

*This private dinner is designed for Emerging Leaders to  
connect with peers. Pre-registration is required. Meet your  
hosts Brittany Wheeler and Andrea Ganzman at the New  
Orleans School of Cooking located at 524 St. Louis Street,  
New Orleans, at 7:00 p.m.*

### THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

**7:30 am – 3:30 pm**

#### **Registration Open**

**7:30 am - 8:30 am**

#### **Breakfast with Exhibitors**

**8:30 am – 10:20 am**

#### **General Session**

##### **Welcome**

*Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights*

##### **The Merger and Acquisition Environment - What can we expect in the coming years?**

*Bill Hickey, Managing Director, Piper Sandler & Co.*

# ST. CHARLES AVE

## Digital Assets and the GENIUS Act

Christopher L. Allen, Esq., Senior Counsel, Arnold & Porter  
Anthony Raglani, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter

*This session will address the GENIUS Act and its implications. It will also explore recent developments in the digital asset sector and related opportunities and potential challenges for banking institutions.*

**10:35 am – 10:55 am**

### Networking Break with Exhibitors/Move to Workshops

**10:55 am – 11:55 am**

### Morning Workshops (attend one of three)

#### 1. Defining a Digital Strategy that Drives Results

**Presented by:** Joe Dugan, Principal Strategist, Engage fi

*Community banks and credit unions often find themselves without fully developed digital strategies. Rather than proactively investing in a cohesive digital plan, they tend to adopt various digital technologies reactively, aiming to address immediate needs and keep pace with what they perceive as essential digital capabilities. However, to compete successfully against megabanks and neobanks, a well-defined digital strategy is required. A digital strategy that clearly defines how digital solutions can be proactively embedded into a financial institutions business model to achieve their overall strategic objectives creates a competitive advantage and sets the stage for the future growth of the financial institution.*

#### 2. From Data Chaos to AI Excellence: A Practical Roadmap for Financial Institution Transformation

**Presented by:** Philip Wess, Principal, Wolf Data Solutions

*Financial institutions are at a critical inflection point. While 74% of banking executives recognize data as critical to their success, only 21% feel prepared to harness its power. This session cuts through the AI hype to deliver actionable strategies that banks can implement immediately.*

#### 3. Vendor Management: Shared Risks & Responsibilities

**Moderated by:** Stacey Bryant, Director, Cornerstone Advisors  
Josh Layne, VP of Client Success & Compliance, Cornerstone Advisors

*As vendor networks grow and interagency regulatory scrutiny increases, leading banks are re-evaluating how they select partners, set expectations, manage performance, and monitor risk. This session will break down the essentials of effective vendor management — from establishing clear direction and building strong vendor relationships to contracting well and ensuring continuous, compliant oversight. Attendees will gain actionable guidance for creating a vendor management framework and culture that supports organizational growth, improves operational efficiency, and maintains regulatory confidence.*

**11:55 am – 12:00 pm**

### Move to General Session

**12:00 pm – 2:00pm**

### General Session Continued

#### Morning Recap

Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights

#### The Quiet War on Financial Institutions – And Why It Matters to Every Bank in This Room: Cybersecurity, AI and the New Frontline of Financial Defense

Major General Anthony W. Genatempo, US Air Force, Retired

*This presentation examines how today's financial institutions are operating on the front lines of a rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape that mirrors challenges long faced in national security. Drawing on real-world financial sector attacks, state-sponsored cyber activity, and emerging risks from artificial intelligence and automation, it connects global geopolitical threats to the day-to-day realities of banking operations, customer trust, and institutional reputation. The briefing highlights why banks of every size are part of a larger, coordinated threat environment, how AI is already shaping decision-making and risk - often invisibly- and why leadership focus, governance, and resilience are now as critical to financial stability as capital and compliance. Ultimately, it reframes cybersecurity and AI not as IT problems, but as strategic leadership responsibilities central to protecting data, transactions, and public confidence in the financial system*

**1:00 pm – 1:50 pm**

### Networking Lunch/Visit with Exhibitors

### Move to Workshops

**2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

### Afternoon Workshops (attend one of three)

#### 1. Defining a Digital Strategy that Drives Results

#### 2. From Data Chaos to AI Excellence: A Practical Roadmap for Financial Institution Transformation

#### 3. Vendor Management: Shared Risks & Responsibilities

**5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

### Networking Reception with Exhibitors

**6:30 pm**

### Dinner on Your Own

**FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**7:00 am – 10:00 am**

### Registration Open

**6:45 am - 7:45 am**

### Breakfast with Exhibitors

# URSULINES

**7:45 am – 10:00 am**

## General Session

### Welcome

Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights

### Outgoing Chair Remarks

Craig L. Montanaro, President & CEO, Kearny Bank

### Economic Update

Dr. Lindsey Piegza, Ph.D., Chief Economist, Managing Director, Stifel Nicolaus & Co.

*This session will look at the current state of the economy and what it means going forward for overall growth, interest rates and monetary policy. It covers macro-economic trends in consumer spending and investment, in addition to new monetary and fiscal policy initiatives and the potential economic effects of these changes. It also will examine the changing global and political environment, and how it will affect the economy. Participants will leave this session able to advise management teams on the possible effect of economic issues on their organizations.*

### Installation of Officers

### Incoming Chair Remarks

Elizabeth Magennis, President, ConnectOne Bank

### Demography is Destiny

Kenneth W. Gronbach, President & CEO, KGC Direct LLC

*Explore the common sense, easy to understand, counter-intuitive and very fascinating realm of demography. You'll be brought into the world of counting people and accurately forecasting future markets. What products or services will fly or die? What nations are demographically doomed? What countries and continents are demographically positioned to excel? How will work forces change? Where is my best source of talent? Writing a strategic plan? You will need this vital demographic information.*

## Closing Remarks & Exhibitor Giveaway

Joseph R. Sullivan, CEO, Market Insights

**10:00 am**

## Annual Conference Concludes

**10:00 am**

## Exhibitor Breakdown



## PREMIER EXHIBITORS



## EXHIBITORS



# FRENCHMEN

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