



2026 NLAE Annual Conference

April 27-29, 2026

Day 1 – Monday April 27

3:00 – 4:30 PM – Check in – At Hotel -

5:00 – 6:30 PM – Networking Reception – Harry Carey’s Italian Steakhouse, 33 W Kinzie St, Chicago, IL 60654 – 8-minute walk from the hotel

Dinner out on own.

Day 2 – Tuesday April 28

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM – Group Walk in downtown Chicago - *optional*

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM – Welcome & Introductions

9:45 AM – Remarkable by Design: Making an Unforgettable Member Experience
Dan Gingiss, The Experience Maker

10:45 AM – Break

11:00 AM – Follow up activity with Dan Gingiss

12:00 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Get to Know your Neighbor – Danae Bouldin, Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Assn

1:20 PM – Panel Discussion – *details to come*

2:30 PM – Break

2:45 PM – Small Group Discussions – *details to come*

4:00 PM – Membership Meeting

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM – Sound bath meditative experience by [Calming Chimes](#) – *optional*

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Chicago River/Lake Michigan Boat Cruise

We will depart promptly at 6 PM. We will be on the boat The Fair Lady, of First Lady cruise line.
Loading location: 112 E. Wacker Dr.

Day 3 – Wednesday April 29

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM – Group Walk in downtown Chicago - *optional*

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM – Sage AI case study and brainstorm on how associations can use AI, Mary Beth Cowardin, AmericanHort

10:00 AM – BREAK

10:15 AM – How to slay your emails and organize the gaggle information – Sandra Giarde

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM - Advocacy Update – Matt Mika, AmericanHort, Andrew Bray, National Association of Landscape Professionals, Andrew Morris, Irrigation Association

11:30 AM – 12PM – Conference Key Takeaways

Note: program details subject to change.