

Governing Council Officers 2026

At its meeting on May 9, the Governing Council elected Brad Mandacina, Jennifer Gunter, and Joanna Gomes to serve in officer positions for 2026. Congratulations to all! Take a minute to send your personal congratulations.



President

Brad Mandacina, CEBS Compliant

SVP, National Specialty Practices Leader
Alera Group
Lees Summit, Missouri
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Mandacina is a Senior Vice President leading Alera Group's National Specialty Practices and Centers of Excellence. His teams help clients with services like data analytics, pharmacy consulting, voluntary benefits, absence management, communications, HR consulting, ben admin, and compensation. He has nearly 25 years of experience in operations, employee benefits consulting, and product lifecycle. He is a keynote speaker, contributes to various industry publications and was named a top benefit technology innovator. Brad has a B.A. degree from the University of Missouri–Kansas City and the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist® (CEBS®) designation and is CEBS Compliant. He has also served on the Symposium Education Committee and is a past president of the Kansas City Chapter.



Vice President

Jennifer Gunter, CEBS Compliant

VP, Total Rewards
Premier Health
Dayton, OH
jlgunter@premierhealth.com

Gunter is VP, Total Rewards at Premier Health, responsible for strategy, design and development, and management of all compensation, health, and well-being programs for over 13,000 caregivers. She earned the CEBS designation in 2017 and is CEBS Compliant. She has been previously involved with local SHRM chapters and holds the SHRM-CP and HRCI PHR designation. She earned the CCP designation in December 2024. Gunter has served on the Professional Development Committee and as chair of the 2022 Symposium Education Committee.



Secretary/Treasurer

Joanna Gomes, CEBS Compliant

Director, Total Rewards and Corporate Programs
Bimbo Canada
Etobicoke, ON
joanna.gomes@grupobimbo.com

Gomes is Director, Total Rewards and Corporate Programs at Bimbo Canada, responsible for compensation, pensions, benefits, HCM, fleet services, relocation, and wellness. Gomes earned the CEBS designation in 2019 and is CEBS Compliant. She was the 2022 president of the Toronto Chapter and the 2022 chair of the Canadian Symposium Education Committee. She has also served on the International Foundation's Canadian Corporate Committee.