



Minnesota
Hospital Association

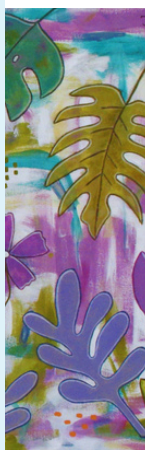


2026 Minnesota Hospital Association **ANNUAL MEETING**

Madden's On Gull Lake

11266 Pine Beach Peninsula
Brainerd, MN 56401

Sept. 16 - 18, 2026





Leading Through Change, Together

Welcome,

We are excited to welcome you and your team to the Minnesota Hospital Association's 2026 Annual Meeting, our premier gathering of hospital and health system leaders from across the state.

Healthcare continues to face unprecedented change and complexity. From evolving federal and state policies to ongoing financial pressures, workforce challenges, cybersecurity threats, and the rapid emergence of new technologies, the environment in which we serve is transforming at an extraordinary pace. At the same time, hospitals and health systems remain steadfast in their commitment to providing high-quality care and improving the health of the communities they serve.

In dynamic times like these, coming together as leaders is more important than ever. The MHA Annual Meeting provides a valuable opportunity to share ideas, learn from one another, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities ahead. Through thoughtful discussions, expert insights, and peer-to-peer connections, we can strengthen our collective ability to lead through change and shape the future of health care in Minnesota.

This year's program features timely conversations on leadership, policy, innovation, workforce, technology, and the evolving healthcare landscape. You'll gain practical strategies, fresh perspectives, and meaningful connections that will support your organization's mission and help advance care across our state.

We will also celebrate the remarkable achievements of Minnesota's hospitals and health systems through the MHA Annual Awards, recognizing the innovation, dedication, and impact of organizations, individuals, and teams making a difference in the lives of patients and communities.

Thank you for joining us. Your leadership, engagement, and commitment to improving health care are what make this community strong. I look forward to seeing you in September and to the important conversations and collaborations ahead.

Sincerely,

Rahul Koranne
President and CEO
Minnesota Hospital Association

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration steps

1. Register for the [MHA Annual Meeting](#)
2. Register for the [Wednesday golf tournament](#) (optional)
3. Reserve your [Madden's lodging](#) before **Aug. 13, 2026**
4. Reserve your [conference meals](#) (only if you are not staying at Madden's)

**You must complete MHA conference registration before securing special pricing for Madden's lodging.*

Contact us with questions at events@mnhospitals.org.

Audience

The Annual Meeting is specifically designed for MHA members and associate members only. Hospital and health system executives, financial officers, physicians, and emerging leaders are encouraged to attend.

Step 1: MHA Annual Meeting registration

Early Bird conference registration deadline:

Friday, July 17, 2026.

Registrations received July 17, 2026, or after will be charged the regular rate

	Early bird rate By July 17, 2026		Regular rate After July 17, 2026		Late rate after Sept. 1, 2026	
	MHA members	MHA associate members	MHA members	MHA associate members	MHA members	MHA associate members
Conference	\$499	\$749	\$599	\$849	\$699	\$949
Conference + ACHE	\$649	\$899	\$749	\$999	\$849	\$1099
ACHE only	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Opportunity for Complimentary Registration (see details below)	Free	x	Free	x	Free	x

Opportunity for Complimentary Registration

A limited number of complimentary registrations are available to members who elect to attend MHA's Reverse Vendor Fair on Sept. 17 from 7:30–8:30 a.m. (breakfast included). MHA members will meet one-on-one with vendors as they rotate through scheduled introductions with our hospital leaders, creating opportunities for meaningful conversations, relationship-building, and focused discussions on your most valuable solutions. Participating MHA members will receive a complimentary registration to the MHA Annual Meeting (ACHE session registration not included).

Location

Madden's on Gull Lake
11266 Pine Beach Peninsula
Brainerd, MN 56401

GENERAL INFORMATION

Step 2: Register for the golf tournament (optional)

A golf tournament will take place Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, during the networking and building community agenda time. Again this year, we'll host 9- and 18-hole scrambles beginning with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Refer to page 9 of the brochure for more information.

Step 3: Reserve your Madden's lodging

Accommodations

The MHA Annual Meeting will be held at [Madden's on Gull Lake](#) in Brainerd. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations directly with Madden's and must select a conference meal plan when booking lodging.

Guest rooms at Madden's typically sell out for this event, so we encourage you to reserve your room as soon as possible. Your lodging reservation will be confirmed once your MHA conference registration has been received.

If you have health, mobility, or dietary accommodations, please indicate them when making your reservation. Conference attendees and guests must present a wristband or individual meal tickets for all meals.

Reserve your room [online](#). MHA discounted room rates are available through **Aug. 13, 2026**, or until the room block is full.

Additional room block

The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes (formerly known as Arrowwood)

MHA has an additional block of rooms reserved at The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes (formerly known as Arrowwood). Reservations, including breakfast, can be made [here](#). (includes breakfast)

Step 4: Reserve your conference meals (only if you are not staying at Madden's)

Conference attendees that are not staying at Madden's need to reserve a meal package to participate in conference meals.

If your spouse/guest will be joining us for any conference meals, please make that note on the Madden's reservation form and order their individual meal(s) meals through MHA. Please contact events@mnhospitals.org to purchase meals for guests. The pricing below is pricing per meal/day:

Breakfast: \$32.21 per person, per day

Lunch: \$35.43 per person, per day

Dinner: \$77.31 per person, per day

Cancellation policy

Registration fees, less a \$100 cancellation fee, are refundable if notice is received before Sept. 3, 2026.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Continuing education

The content of this conference is being reviewed for clock hours by the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators (BELTSS). The quantitative value assigned will be indicated on the certificate of attendance awarded to participants who attend sessions.

ACHE credits

The Minnesota chapter of American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) was founded as a forum for professional development and interchange among senior-level healthcare executives. Attendees of the Wednesday ACHE sessions must sign in onsite and attend both panels to receive three in-person ACHE credits for attending.

Conference check in

Wednesday, Sept. 16

8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - in the lower level of Town Hall

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Madden Inn lobby

Thursday, Sept. 17

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the upper level of Town Hall

What to wear

Business casual is suggested attire for all education sessions and networking events.

Sponsorships available

Please contact [Drew Wolf](#), MHA senior director of business partnerships, for information on customized sponsorship opportunities at MHA's Annual Meeting. Click [here](#) for the annual meeting sponsorship menu.

Questions

Please contact [Heather Harmer](#), MHA director of events and education | 651-603-3518

Disclaimer

MHA reserves the right to terminate or deny access to the event for any reason. The content included in this event is for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing professional or legal advice. Participants should seek qualified legal or professional advice with respect to any area of concern specific to their or their organization's situation. The opinions expressed at this event are the opinions of the individual author, speaker, presenter, or sponsor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the MHA or its members. By registering for the MHA event, the participant accepts this code of conduct policy, the MHA Antitrust Policy, and any other terms outlined in the registration materials, speaker agreements, or sponsorship agreements for this meeting.

This event may be photographed and/or videotaped. Your attendance will indicate your consent for the use of such photographs or videotapes for educational and/or promotional purposes.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026		
8 - 8:30 a.m.	Conference Registration	Town Hall Lower Level
8:30 - 10 a.m.	ACHE Panel #1 Bending the Execution Curve: Implementing Successful Organizational Change in Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Moderator: Greg Ruberg, Aspirus Lake View Hospital Panelists: Zander Abbott, Northfield Hospital + Clinics Jason Caron, Sanford Bemidji Medical Center Paula Meskan, River's Edge Hospital & Clinic	Town Hall
10 - 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	MHA/MN ACHE Scholarship Presentation	Town Hall
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	ACHE Panel #2 Behavioral Healthcare: Approaches to Increase Value for the Organization and Meet Community Needs Moderator: Heather Bregier, Sanford Behavioral Health Center Panelists: Joe Clubb, Allina Health Rachael Flohrs, Capitol Park Mental Health Hospital Marshall Smith, Minnesota Director Care and Treatment	Town Hall
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Conference Registration	Madden Inn
12 - 1 p.m.	Lunch and Golf Registration	Madden Inn and Golf Club
1 - 6 p.m.	Networking and Building Community (including golf tournament)	Pine Beach East
4:30 - 6 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Pavillion
6 - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Pavillion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026		
7 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Wilson Bay
7:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Conference Registration	Town Hall Upper Level
8:45 - 9 a.m.	Welcome	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
9 - 10 a.m.	Financial Crossroads: Understanding the Economic State of Healthcare in the Midwest Max Timm, Kaufman Hall	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
10 - 11 a.m.	MHA Partner Connections: Vendor Showcase and Networking	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom and Town Hall Lower Level
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Technology (including AI) in healthcare: Today and Tomorrow Ken Holmen, MD, CentraCare James Watson, MD, Mayo Clinic	Golf Villa A/B
	Navigating Change: Community Benefit Rule Updates and Reporting Strategies Kim Hunwardsen, Eide Bailly	Sibley
	Building the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals Elaine Vandenburg, Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence	Pilsbury
12 - 1:45 p.m.	 MHA Annual Awards Luncheon 	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.	What Makes Healthcare Projects Successful: Lessons from the Field Mike McMahan, Knutson Construction	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Connect on Water: Boat Cruise (more information on page 11)	Marina Dock
5 - 9 p.m.	Dinner*	Mission Point

*Make your dinner reservation by calling Mission Point 218-855-5998. Dinner is served from 5-9 p.m. Please call in advance, reservations fill quickly.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 18, 2026		
7 - 9 a.m.	Breakfast	Wilson Bay
9 - 10 a.m.	A Heart to Heart About Financial Sustainability for Healthcare Jan Malcolm, Governor's Office Greg Ruberg, Aspirus Lake View Hospital James Hereford, M Health Fairview	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
10 - 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	Election Preview: What's Ahead and Why it Matters to Hospitals MHA Policy Team	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom
11:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Town Hall Governor's Ballroom



GOLF TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026 - 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. shotgun starts

1. Check-in and lunch at Madden Inn starts at 11:30 a.m.
2. Lunch at Madden Inn from 12 - 12:45 p.m.
3. Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
4. This year we are offering a 9 and 18-hole scramble options.
5. Registration is open to current MHA hospital and health system members.
6. Associate members are welcome to golf if they are also an [MHA Annual Meeting sponsor](#).
Platinum sponsors receive two golf spots and Gold sponsors receive one golf spot.
7. Teams will consist of four to six golfers.
8. MHA reserves the right to complete team pairings.
9. MHA associate members will be partnered with other associate members.
10. Teams will play best ball with one combined score.
11. For those who wish to register as a group, please email the group names (up to four people) to events@mnhospitals.org. The person who emails the group names will be contacted with any questions. The deadline to submit your desired pairing is **Aug. 21, 2026**.
12. Golf carts will be assigned to each team.
13. Golf club rentals are available at Madden's.
14. Lunch will be provided along with refreshments and snacks during the day.
15. Golf fee:

		MHA members	MHA associate members
Madden's package (booked lodging/meal package)	18 holes with cart	\$65	\$500
	9 holes with cart	\$45	
Not staying at Madden's	18 holes with cart	\$110	\$500
	9 holes with cart	\$80	

Questions? please contact events@mnhospitals.org.



MINNESOTA HOSPITAL PAC

Your voice in politics



Hospitals need allies where decisions are made, and the [Minnesota Hospital Political Action Committee \(PAC\)](#) makes contributions to state and federal candidates from both political parties who support the goals of hospitals.

PAC contributions in Minnesota play a relatively small political role compared to other states because of Minnesota's campaign spending limits. However, supporting legislators and our congressional delegation members who want to advance sound healthcare policy takes financial resources.

Please contribute to the Minnesota Hospital PAC in 2026 and challenge your leadership team, appropriate staff, and trustees to do the same.

To donate:

Mail a personal check made out to:
The Minnesota Hospital PAC
Minnesota Hospital Association
161 Rondo Ave., Ste. 1010
St. Paul, MN 55103

Donate online at:
www.minnesotahospitalpac.com



BOAT CRUISE

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 - 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Set sail with us for a fun-filled, scenic boat cruise during the MHA Annual Meeting! This two-hour excursion offers the perfect opportunity to unwind, take in the picturesque views, and connect with fellow attendees in a casual setting.

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority will be given to MHA hospital and health system members. Open to conference attendees only. Opt in for the boat cruise by selecting the boat cruise option during the MHA conference registration process.

Don't miss your chance to enjoy this memorable experience on the water!



MHA ANNUAL AWARDS

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 12 - 1:45 p.m.

Get ready to celebrate excellence! MHA will shine a spotlight on the outstanding individuals and teams from Minnesota hospitals and health systems who are making a real difference. From groundbreaking innovations in patient care and inspiring community impact to extraordinary workplace culture, life-saving quality and safety improvements, and the compassionate hearts of our excellence in caregiving award. Join us as we recognize the best of the best in healthcare across Minnesota!

See MHA Annual Awards [packet](#). Please submit your nomination(s) by **July 17, 2026**.

Email awards@mnhospitals.org if you have any questions.



ACHE PANELS

Bending the Execution Curve: Implementing Successful Organizational Change in Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations

Moderator: Greg Ruberg, Aspirus Lake View Hospital

Panelists: Zander Abbott, Northfield Hospital + Clinics

Jason Caron, Sanford Bemidji Medical Center

Paula Meskan, River's Edge Hospital & Clinic

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

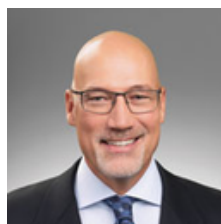
In today's rapidly changing healthcare environment, organizations must adapt to evolving regulations, market conditions, safety concerns, and workforce and patient needs. Successful change depends on clear communication, stakeholder engagement, and addressing barriers such as uncertainty and resistance. Join your peers to explore effective strategies, lessons learned, and practical approaches for leading organizational change.



Greg Ruberg
President
Aspirus Lake View Hospital



Zander Abbott
President & CEO
Northfield Hospital + Clinics



Jason Caron
President
Sanford Bemidji Medical Center



Paula Meskan
CEO
River's Edge Hospital & Clinic

Behavioral Healthcare: Approaches to Increase Value for the Organization and Meet Community Needs

Moderator: Heather Bregier, Sanford Behavioral Health Center

Panelists: Joe Clubb, Allina Health

Rachael Flohrs, Capitol Park Mental Health Hospital

Marshall Smith, Minnesota Director Care and Treatment

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

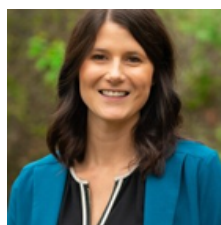
As healthcare shifts toward value-based care, hospitals and health systems are increasingly integrating behavioral health and primary care to improve outcomes and address complex patient needs. Effective behavioral health integration can enhance care coordination, reduce emergency department utilization, improve management of chronic conditions, and help address workforce shortages, costs, and health disparities. Learn how healthcare leaders are implementing best practices to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care while supporting healthier communities.



Heather Bregier
CEO
Sanford Behavioral Health Center



Joe Clubb
VP, Operations for Mental Health & Addiction Services
Allina Health



Rachael Flohrs
CEO
Capitol Park Mental Health Hospital



Marshall Smith
Health Systems CEO
Minnesota Direct Care and Treatment

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Financial Crossroads: Understanding the Economic State of Healthcare in the Midwest

Presenter: Max Timm, Kaufman Hall

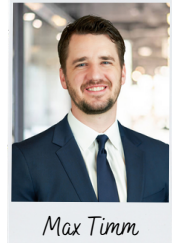
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 9 - 10 a.m.

Hospitals and health systems across the Midwest continue to face financial challenges driven by workforce shortages, reimbursement pressures, inflation, and changing care delivery models. This session will provide an overview of current financial trends, regional performance data, and emerging strategies organizations are using to strengthen financial stability and support long-term sustainability.

- Analyze key financial trends affecting Midwest hospitals and health systems, including margins, expenses, and revenue performance.
- Identify major challenges impacting financial stability, such as workforce costs, reimbursement pressures, and inflation.
- Explore strategies organizations are using to improve financial resilience, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

Max Timm

Max is a managing director at Kaufman Hall. A Strategy & Business Transformation practice member, Max's responsibilities focus on providing strategic advisory or facilitation support to health systems, physician groups, payers and other vertically integrated platforms nationwide. His area of expertise is enterprise-level growth.



Technology (including AI) in healthcare: Today and Tomorrow

A candid conversation with Ken Holmen, MD, and James Watson, MD

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The pace of technological change in healthcare organizations continues to accelerate. The question facing leaders is no longer whether to adapt, but how to stay steady through the surge and chart a course to what comes next.

In this session, Ken Holmen, MD, President and CEO of CentraCare, and James Watson, MD, Chair, Mayo Midwest Outpatient Practice Subcommittee, sit down for a candid, forward-looking conversation about where healthcare technology including Artificial Intelligence stands today and where it is headed tomorrow. As physicians and executives, they bring both a clinician's perspective and a leader's view of the field, moving from the realities leaders are managing in the moment to the innovations that will shape the decade ahead.

Attendees will leave with a sharper read on the technological forces moving fastest and the questions every executive team should be asking for guiding their organizations through this era and into the next.

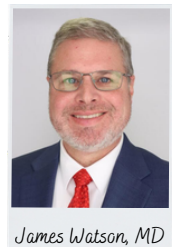
Ken Holmen, MD

Dr. Ken Holmen is President and CEO of CentraCare. A board-certified anesthesiologist, he spent more than 30 years caring for pediatric and adult patients before transitioning to healthcare leadership. He previously served as Chief of Surgery at Children's Hospital, a board member for Allina Health, and a Physician Executive at HealthPartners.



James Watson, MD

Dr. James Watson is the Vice-Chair of the Mayo Clinic and Midwest Practice, where he provides strategic and operational leadership. Dr. Watson also serves as the Medical Director of the Mayo Clinic Platform empowering digital technology transformation in the Mayo Clinic practice and maturing platform data, tools, capabilities, and partnerships to support healthcare innovation globally.



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Navigating Change: Community Benefit Rule Updates and Reporting Strategies

Presenter: Kim Hunwardsen, Eide Bailly

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Hospitals face evolving expectations around transparency and accountability in community benefit reporting. This session provides an overview of recent and upcoming changes to reporting requirements, along with practical guidance on improving accuracy, compliance, and alignment with community health priorities.

- Summarize current and emerging changes to community benefit reporting requirements and compliance expectations for hospitals.
- Identify best practices for improving data collection, reporting accuracy, and documentation of community benefit activities.
- Explore strategies to align community benefit reporting with CHNAs, organizational priorities, and effective stakeholder communication.

Kim Hunwardsen

Kim delivers tax services to healthcare providers and nonprofits, working closely with tax-exempt organizations to provide comprehensive tax consulting, planning and compliance expertise. She assists nonprofits in formations of new entities, annual compliance requirements, and all other tax-related issues.



Building the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals

Presenter: Elaine Vandenburg, Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Building the next generation of healthcare professionals requires strong partnerships among healthcare, education, and community organizations. Join the Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence to explore workforce development initiatives such as Scrubs Camps, HOSA, apprenticeships, and rural workforce programs that connect students and job seekers to healthcare careers. Learn what's working, discuss workforce challenges, and discover ways to strengthen Minnesota's future healthcare workforce.

- Describe current healthcare workforce challenges facing Minnesota healthcare organizations.
- Identify partnership opportunities with education and community organizations to support workforce development.
- Explore effective strategies for connecting students and job seekers to healthcare careers.

Elaine Vandenburg

Elaine Vandenburg is Interim Executive Director of Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence and a statewide leader in healthcare workforce development. She works with healthcare organizations, educators, and community partners across Minnesota to strengthen the healthcare workforce through career exploration, education, training, and employment pathways.



SESSION DESCRIPTION

What Makes Healthcare Projects Successful: Lessons from the Field

Presenter: Mike McMahan, Knutson Construction

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, 1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Learn about what makes a successful healthcare project. He will provide useful guidance on building strong partnerships with hospital leaders, clinical teams, designers, and construction partners. With his background as a Hospital CEO and now a Construction Executive, Mike will share practical ideas to improve results and reduce risks.

- Identify the key factors that lead to successful healthcare project outcomes.
- Understand the early warning signs that increase the probability of the project coming in over budget and off schedule.
- Apply practical strategies for launching projects with limited resources.

Mike McMahan

Mike is the vice president of Healthcare at Knutson Construction. He leads healthcare strategy, business development, and client partnerships to help the regions Knutson serves. With over 25 years of healthcare leadership experience, Mike has spent the last eight years working in healthcare construction, design, development, and property management both nationally and in Minnesota.



Mike McMahan



SESSION DESCRIPTION

A Heart to Heart About Financial Sustainability for Healthcare

Presenters: Jan Malcolm, Governor's Office

Greg Ruberg, Aspirus Lake View Hospital

James Hereford, M Health Fairview

Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, 9 - 10 a.m.

Join Minnesota's senior advisor to the Governor on hospitals and health systems, Jan Malcolm and two Minnesota health system leaders for a candid conversation on the evolving health care landscape in Minnesota and beyond. Drawing on extensive leadership experience, this conversation will explore policy priorities, system-wide challenges, and opportunities for collaboration across sectors to improve patient care.

- Gain insight into current and potential health policy priorities and their impact on hospitals and health systems.
- Explore leadership approaches for navigating uncertainty and driving change in a complex healthcare environment.
- Understand the importance of collaboration between various sectors in improving healthcare for patients and communities.



Jan Malcolm



Greg Ruberg



James Hereford

Election Preview: What's Ahead and Why It Matters for Hospitals

Presenter: MHA Policy Team

Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

With a pivotal election cycle ahead, healthcare leaders must prepare for potential policy shifts affecting hospitals and the communities they serve. In this session, the Minnesota Hospital Association policy team will provide a nonpartisan overview of the election landscape, key races, and healthcare-related issues. Attendees will explore how election outcomes may shape policy, funding, and regulation, along with strategies for staying informed and engaged.

- Understand the current election landscape and key races influencing healthcare policy.
- Identify major health care issues shaping candidate priorities and voter perspectives.
- Analyze potential impacts of election outcomes on hospital policy, funding, and regulation.

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