

NASB BOARD NOTES

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards





CALL TO ACTION: SPENDING IS NOT THE PROBLEM SCHOOL BOARDS WANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, TOO

We are one-third of the way through this year's 90-day Legislative Session, and one thing is certain. There is an incredibly strong narrative; your property taxes are too high because those darn school boards (and other local political subdivisions such as cities and counties) are spending too much.

And not only are they already spending too much, any penny extra in proposed cuts or relief will be immediately spent as well.

Newsflash, school board members want property tax relief, too.

Nebraska's 1,700 locally elected school board members understand their role in remaining fiscally conservative as they use tax payer dollars.

In hearing after hearing, debate after debate, your elected officials at the state level continue to state that the only way to property tax relief is to control spending at the local level. They have said Nebraska schools are one of the highest spending in the nation, causing our property taxes to be high. All these assertions, and others, are contributing to a narrative that is failing all of us.

Here is where we need your help ... Contact your senators, copy in members of the Revenue and Education Committees, and share the data from your districts to show them that smart, thoughtful decisions are being made.

Take Elkhorn, a growing district whose enrollment has nearly doubled in the last decade, quadrupled in the last 20 years. It is inevitable that their General Fund budget will show increases in expenditures to meet their needs.

Take West Point, who dropped their expenditure budget by almost \$500,000 a year ago when shutting down the elementary school in Beemer, and who cut the budget another \$50,000 this year.

There are 258 other examples that smart, thoughtful decisions are being made across the state. Share CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ENGAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

NAEP STATE CONVENTION

March 26-27 | Grand Island

NSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE March 30 - April 1 | Philadelphia

SPRING LEGAL WORKSHOPS

April 16 | Gering April 17 | North Platte April 24 | La Vista

Since 2009-10, the state's average spending growth per year is 3.6 percent, while the Collective School Total Annual Cost has averaged 3.32 percent annual growth.

NEW BOARD MEMBER FOLLOW-UP

June 13 | Kearney

NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING
June 13 | Kearney

SHOOL LANGERAIN

SCHOOL LAW SEMINAR
June 13-14 | Kearney

NASB ORIENTATION
July 24 | Lincoln

#liveNASB

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION ENGAGEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

these stories, help break this growing narrative.

CONTINUING THE VISION ...

We've spent the last few years trying to look ahead, beyond the walls of our schools, to come up with a solution to address the current hot topic of property taxes and how our schools are funded.

Nebraska spends an average of \$12,299 per student. While some claim the state's per-student spending is one of the highest in the nation. Nebraska actually ranks near the middle, as the 19th highest, when you look to the census data. Not bad, but we need to ask more questions to see how we truly compare.

Nebraska is the eighth smallest state in population density. Geographically large, small in population. It is much easier to lower the cost per person when you have more density of population. For a true comparison of per-student costs, we must look to variables such as state special education requirements, unfunded mandates and transportation requirements.

Furthermore, since 2009-10, the state's average spending growth per year is 3.6%, while the Collective School Total Annual Cost has averaged 3.32% annual growth. It is difficult to hear the state say school spending is the problem when the state is spending more.

If you look at state spending over the last 20 years, you see more money going to expenses and less going to investments. State programs such as corrections, child welfare and Medicaid are taking up a larger percentage of the state budget. This is an unsustainable trend. A reactive spend vs. a proactive investment.

Regarding investments, Nebraska is third highest in the nation in the percentage of school spending getting to what is most important, the classroom. This is local control working. Local boards in Nebraska are prioritizing the funding to go closest to the student. Comparatively, Nebraska ranks fifth lowest in the percentage of funding going to school administration.

So now what? To truly address our overreliance on property taxes while continuing to invest in our children, we must broaden our approach. Currently, Nebraska ranks near the bottom in the nation in state support for education, with 58.7% of the total cost coming from our property tax payers. If you look at the other states above 50%, the majority are Northeastern states with much more population density and much different economies.

Let's address causes, not symptoms. We need to develop a vision to channel more people into high-demand, high-wage jobs. We need to diversify our economy to lower the burden on our agriculture industry. We need to eliminate barriers to rural economic development such as housing shortages, child care shortages and



inadequate technology infrastructure.

In short, Nebraska needs a strategic plan around economic growth and opportunity.

Nebraska schools need the resources to continue to prepare our next generation of entrepreneurs, employees and leaders. We are very proud of the work our teachers, administrators and school board members do; however, schools working alone is not the solution. We need broad community engagement around long-term goals.

But first, let your senator(s) know that you're making smart, thoughtful decisions as you use tax payer dollars!

FIND YOUR SENATOR(S) INFORMATION HERE: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

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Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, Chair - 402-471-2885 - llinehan@leg.ne.gov
Sen. Tom Briese - 402-471-2631 - tbriese@leg.ne.gov
Sen. Sue Crawford - 402-471-2615 - scrawford@leg.ne.gov
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*Sens. Groene & Linehan serve on both Committees

BAYARD IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN



LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

You've seen the numbers. 1,700 locally elected school board members serving 260 school districts and ESUs. But did you know ... the general breakdown of board members in Nebraska is around 30% female, 70% male. (A 2018 survey done by the National School Board Association showed the general breakdown of school board members across the U.S. to be around 46% female, 52% male.)

About 8.3% of Nebraska's boards are all-male. 9.2% have a female majority. And we found a small group of boards with only one male.

But there's only one board that is all-female.

As of this January's meeting, the Bayard Public Schools Board of Education now consists of six female members. Pictured below, left to right, are Becky Henkel, Kim Burry, Lisa Ouderkirk, Donna Stuart, Kim Kildow, and Carolyn Applegate.

"At Bayard, we have a long tradition of excellence in board service," said Superintendent, Travis Miller. "This community cares deeply about education and doing things in the proper manner to educate and care for our students. Our Board of Education is united around quality education, fiscal responsibility, governance through policy, and planning for excellence. I fully expect our all-female board to become known as the most professional, knowledgeable, and dedicated board in the state. I believe that board members are the guardians of the values and the future of our community. It is an honor to work with and for such an excellent board."

Board President, Kim Kildow echoed those sentiments, "I am in my ninth year on the Bayard Public Schools Board of Education, and this is the first year that we have had an all-female board. I appreciate the insight and perspectives of my fellow female board members. Not only are they leaders in our school district, but they are also leaders in our community and their respective professions. It is a privilege to collaborate with such a talented group of ladies!"



Bayard Public Schools

Board of Education
Kim Kildow, President
Carolyn Applegate
Kim Burry
Becky Henkel
Lisa Ouderkirk
Donna Stuart

Travis Miller - Superintendent

Home of the Tigers

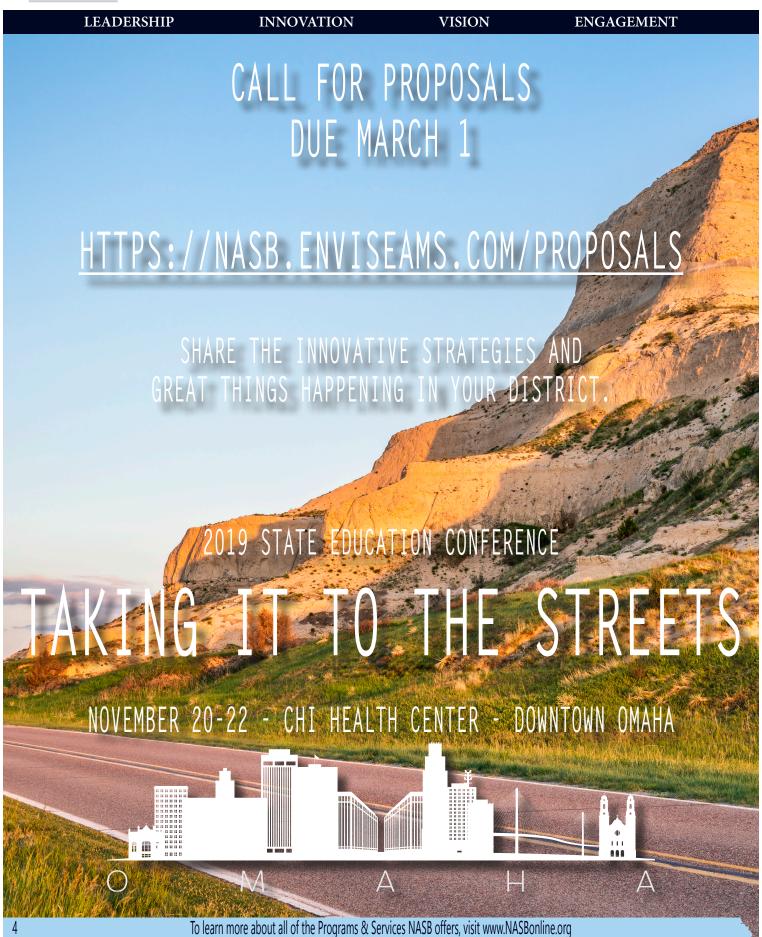
Enrollment = 395 NASB Region #18

www.bayardpublicschools.org





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STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE: DID YOU KNOW? A SBOOK OF THE STATE OF THE





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NASBNASB'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

ADVOCACY

BOARD LEADERSHIP

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE

LEGAL RESOURCES

POLICY SERVICES

As Nebraskans, hard work and doing what's right is just what we do. School board members know that no mission is more challenging, satisfying, or essential to the future of our state than preparing the next generation to be successful adults.

We know your job isn't always easy. Tough decisions need to be made. But the love and support for public education, your district, community, and for Nebraska does not go unnoticed.

It motivates us to provide you the money-saving programs and information-sharing services and events you need to thrive as we shape a strategic vision to develop a long-term, sustainable system of funding public education. We are creating the tools and building partnerships for local school boards to become leaders in their community.

Thank you for the work you are doing. As a locally elected official serving public education, your voice is strong, your actions have impact. Share your story, speak up for the work being done in your schools by your students.

Over the past few weeks, you and/or your district/ESU should have received more information and ideas so you and your board can continue to utilize all of the resources, programs, services, and networking opportunities your NASB membership provides.

Your membership grants you access to all of the resources NASB provides and allows your collaborative thinking and partnerships to continually enhance and build upon where we currently are, and have the power to go. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you every day, as we all aim to keep public education strong across Nebraska.

REMINDER:

We are offering a 2% discount for all annual dues received prior to April 1



1,900,000 NEBRASKANS

312,000 STUDENTS

1,700 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

260 DISTRICTS/ESUS

ONE NEBRASKA

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES 4-DAY WEEK

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

At the February meeting earlier this morning, the Banner County Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 school calendar that includes a 4-day school week, with an optional 5th day for enrichment activities. Students in grades K-12 can choose to attend Option Enrichment Fridays, with the district providing the same bus transportation, breakfast, and lunch as a regular school day.

The district initially considered a 4-day week to boost student enrollment in 2016. The decision-making process, which included research, community consultation, and compiling information from districts operating on a 4-day week, ended with a 3-3 vote by the board in 2018. A modified calendar that increases professional learning and collaboration time for teachers with about every other week on a 4-day schedule has been in operation since that decision.

Most districts examine the cost-saving benefits of a 4-day week. "Costs were never a factor in our decision-making process," stated Board President Ron Johnson, "it was about growing the school and providing access to learning opportunities for students." The idea for a 5th optional attendance day with enrichment activities was proposed by BCS Superintendent, Dr. Evelyn Browne, at the board's annual retreat. "Like Google Time, Genius Hour, or Passion Projects - with that 5th day, students can explore, create, collaborate - all 21st century workplace skills."

"There are benefits for students, families, staff, and of course, the district," said Browne, "we will be able to provide learning opportunities from Autocad to Zumba for those students who choose to attend Option Enrichment Fridays."

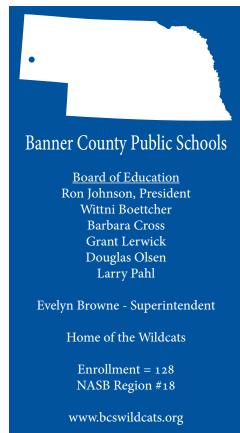
"Banner County students will benefit from increased learning time focused on S.T.E.A.M. activities with the addition of 25 Option Enrichment Fridays in the calendar," stated Principal Charles Jones.

Faculty and staff will collaborate in developing a menu of activities that are hands-on and aligned to 21st century and state standards. Students will select from the menu, and will have the option of changing to a different session if it is not what they expected. A concept akin to the "non-conference" approach to participation.

Banner County School is the only district in the Panhandle region to go to a 4-day week. It is the only district that will offer Option Enrichment Fridays as a way to "engage hearts and minds, and strengthen student connection to our school," stated Browne. "This is the outsideof-the-box thinking that we need," commented Board Member Larry Pahl.

The board hopes to generate some Option student interest in Banner County School through this innovation. The district will accept Option enrollment applications until March 15th for the 2019-2020 school year.





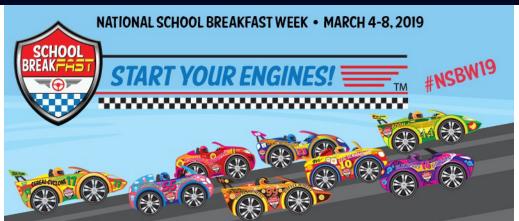
NASB PHILLY, HERE WE COME: NEBRASKA RECEPTION



NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK: START YOUR ENGINES!

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT





Why is school breakfast worth celebrating? By fueling up for the day with school breakfast, schools are seeing benefits that reach far beyond enhanced nutrition, including:

- Scoring on average 17% higher on standardized tests
- Better attendance, averaging 1.5 more days per year
- Ultimately leading to a 20% higher chance of graduation (No Kid Hungry, 2019)

Considering these positive educational outcomes, in addition to lessening food insecurity amongst students, it is no reason why starting your engines is something worth celebrating! We invite all districts to participate in the celebration of how your district is supporting your students' nutrition by joining us on social media for #NSBW2019 on March 4-8, 2019. Furthermore, we encourage districts to spread the excitement for school breakfast within your district by utilizing the School Nutrition Association's toolkit for NSBW located on their website at:

http://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2019/

While Nebraska ranks as one of the lowest participating states in breakfast participation (47 out of 50), at a 44.1% participation rate, this year's National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is a great opportunity to share what your district is doing to ensure a healthy start to the day for the kids in your schools. Are you wondering how to increase your school breakfast participation rate? Consider implementing a new strategy such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go breakfasts, or Second Chance Breakfast to maximize participation and educational outcomes in the classroom. For more information on these strategies and CEP/other funding opportunities, contact Melissa Lusk at mlusk@NASBonline.org.

We hope you will join us and gear up for #NSBW2019!







THIS MONTH IN ...

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

... POLICY

The Legislature is looking closely at school meal charge policies this year (LB728). All districts should have such policies in place to meet 2017 USDA lunch program guidelines. They must specify that free and reduced lunch programs and payment/ticketing procedures are handled confidentially. The district must set written guidelines regarding the collection of delinquent meal charges and how meals for such students will be handled. Many districts have chosen to offer non-reimbursable meals (such as a plain sandwich and milk or fruit) for students with delinquent charges, often supported in whole or in part by community funding.

Contact Jim to learn more!

... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

February visits: Elgin, Battle Creek, Maywood, ESU 11, & McCool Junction.

The 2019-2020 NASB Membership campaign is underway. Please contact me if you have not yet received your information.

Benefits of your NASB membership include:
Legislative tools & education; Board development events; Custom workshops and retreats; Legal resources; ALICAP insurance pool eligibility; NJUMP/CJUMP natural gas purchasing; Sparq tech products; Education Leadership Search Services; Policy Services; Gallup Strengths workshops.

2019 State Conference breakout session proposals are due March 1.

- Sharon -

... ENERGY PURCHASING

Looking out to the next three years, gas prices may become more favorable than any time in the past decade and a half.

NJUMP and CJUMP members may have a chance to protect from future increases by having much of their supplies hedged at extremely competitive prices.

If you're not a member of one of these gas purchasing interlocals, this is a great time to contact Jim Luebbe about joining us for next year.

Contact Jim to learn more!



Paul Grieger (800) 528-5145 pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham (866) 809-5596 cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney (866) 809-5443 aforney@dadco.com

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... SEARCH & STRENGTHS

Winside & Callaway application deadlines coming soon!
Apply at: www.nasbsuptsearch.org

NASB has filled the following Supt/ESU Administrator positions ... Ainsworth, Crofton, ESU #13, Freeman, Garden County & Gothenburg, and is in the process of finalizing Maxwell, Norris, Sandhills & York.

GALLUP STRENGTHS
Is Achiever in Your Top 5:
The more I have to do, the more I get done!

Is Competition in Your Top 5: Winner, Scorekeeper, Comparer, Measurer

Is Individualization in Your Top 5: Do you like to buy gifts specific to the recipient?

Contact Shari to schedule a Gallup board session!

-Shari -

THIS MONTH IN ...



LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

... ALICAP & INSURANCE

ALICAP's Safety Focus for February is Winter Driving and March the focus will be Playground Safety.

It's been a long and brutal winter, hang in there everyone!

Thanks, Megan!

ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

We are 1/3 of the way through the 2019 Legislative Session.

Wow, the level of engagement from Nebraska's school board members during this year's Session has been incredible. From coming to Lincoln, to contacting Senators, to simply reaching out to stay informed ... it all makes a difference!

Hearings continue through March.

Keep up on everything happening through NASB's *Bills* page under the *Government Relations* section of the NASB website, through our quick videos on social media, and through *NASB's Legislative Notes* newsletter.

Make sure you are the first call when a bill affecting your shared community is considered.

Thanks for sharing your district's story and engaging!

- Call Colby with any questions! - #liveNASB

... BOARD LEADERSHIP

Benjamin Franklin once said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail" and Churchill echoed those sentiments by stating, "Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."

Supts/ESU Admins may be adapting to the leadership of a newly elected board president or embarking upon the routine of a new calendar year and modifying the annual board calendar to support 2019. Either way, we know that boards that work and plan collaboratively with the superintendent are leading with purpose and understand the importance of the action and the impact of quality leadership. The NASB Board Leadership department provides a vast array of resources to support the work of the board and administrator. The 2019 NASB Annual Board Calendar is available to our member boards through the website. The annual calendar highlights key dates and responsibilities throughout the year that may be routine and/or require action by the board.

Note: The Board Leadership staff will work collaboratively with the NASB Advocacy team to update the calendar with key dates and information following the Legislative Session to ensure the calendar provides current and accurate information. Once all updates have been added, the calendar will be posted to the website for members to access.

Marcia, Kori & Melissa

... WHOLE CHILD

In his first state budget address as Minnesota's Governor, Tim Walz said, "We must meet the needs of the whole child to spur academic growth and opportunity. As a classroom teacher, I know that a student who is hungry won't learn geography, a student who needs glasses can't read the whiteboard, and a student who had to sleep in the car the night before certainly won't ace their math test."

Contact Kori for all things WCP

... TECHNOLOGY

Did you know 7 School Board Associations are utilizing the Association Management software built by Sparq Data Solutions to manage all their members' data and member activities?

This software empowers associations to more effectively communicate with their members.

To find out more ways Sparq is working for and with NASB to provide products and services that benefit Nebraska districts, contact Nicole Kobus at nkobus@nasbonline.org

Follow Sparq on Twitter and Facebook for all the latest updates.

https://twitter.com/sparq_data

https://www.facebook.com/SparqData

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NASITRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION VISION ENGAGEMENT

Join NASB, as we travel the state for various workshops, meetings and events throughout the year. To learn more, and register, visit the Events tab of <u>www.NASBonline.org</u>

http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/events

Call for Proposals for the 2019 State Education Conference: Due March 1

WEEK!

HTTPS://NASB.ENVISEAMS.COM/PROPOSALS

President's Retreat | March 3-4 | Lincoln

NAEP State Convention | March 26-27 | Grand Island

NSBA Annual Conference | March 30 to April 1 | Philadelphia

Spring Legal Workshop | April 16 | Gering

Spring Legal Workshop | April 17 | North Platte

Spring Legal Workshop | April 24 | La Vista

New Board Member Follow-Up Retreat | June 13 | Kearney

NASB Member Golf Outing | June 13 | Kearney

School Law Seminar | June 13-14 | Kearney

NASB Orientation | July 24 | Lincoln

Area Membership Meetings | August & September

AUGUST 20 | VALENTINE AUGUST 21 | FREMONT AUGUST 22 | LA VISTA

AUGUST 26 | GERING AUGUST 27 | NORTH PLATTE AUGUST 28 | KEARNEY

SEPTEMBER 4 | YORK SEPTEMBER 18 | NEBRASKA CITY SEPTEMBER 25 | NORFOLK

Board Presidents: Check your inbox each month for the monthly 'NASB Update' to include in your meeting agenda.

Please contact mbelka@NASBonline.org with any questions.

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ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

Jim Watts - 402-483-7512

jw1cpa@aol.com | www.gowh.com

(CPA, Accounting)

ARCHITECTS

BVH Architecture Cleve Reeves - 402-475-4551 creeves@bvh.com - www.bvh.com (Architecture) *Silver Level Affiliate

CMBA Architects
Brad Kissler - 308-384-4444
kissler.b@cmbaarchitects.com
Jim Brisnehan - 308-384-4444
brisnehan.j@cmbaarchitects.com
Troy Keilig - 308-384-4444
keilig.t@cmbaarchitects.com
www.cmbaarchitects.com
(Architecture, Master Planning,
Interiors, Bond Promotion/
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* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects
Jamie Eckmann - 402-551-1500
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www.cwparchitects.com
(Architecture, planning,
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DLR Group
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The Schemmer Associates Inc.
Terry Wood, AIA - 402-493-4800
twood@schemmer.com
Molly Macklin - 402-493-4800
mmacklin@schemmer.com
www.schemmer.com
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Paul Grieger - 402-392-7986
pgrieger@dadco.com
Cody Wickham - 402-392-7989
cwickham@dadco.com
Andy Forney - 402-392-7988
aforney@dadco.com
www.dadavidson.com
(Bonds/Election Services, Lease
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First National Capital Markets
Tobin Buchanan - 308-352-8328
tbuchanan@fnni.com
www.fncapitalmarkets.com
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First Nebraska Credit Union Elly Heckel - 402-492-9100 marketing@firstnebraska.org www.firstnebraska.org (Taking care of your financial needs!)

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLAF Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350 balloub@pfm.com www.NLAFpool.org (Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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becky.ferguson@ubt.com
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jennifer.ainsworth@ubt.com
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deni@lunchtimesolutions.com
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Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska Greg Frost - 636-812-0777 www.opaafood.com (Contract Food Service Management)

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Tom Johnson - 952-945-0505
t.johnson@taher.com
www.taher.com
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National Insurance Services Steve Ott - 800-627-3660 sott@nisbenefits.com www.nisbenefits.com (Group LTD, Life, Vision, Special Pay Plans, HRA's)

Public Risk Management Sheri Shonka 402-884-3751 - 877-649-4612 sheri.shonka@prmne.com www.alicap.org (ALICAP, Insurance services) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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mary@cnrehab.com
www.cnrehab.com
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therapy in the school system)

TRANSPORTATION

Body Worx Inc.

Josh Goodbrake - 308-293-3109
josh.bodyworx@gmail.com
www.bodyworxrepair.com
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BAYARD IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

CALL FOR STATE CONFERENCE PROPOSALS!

NASB'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES 4-DAY WEEK

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