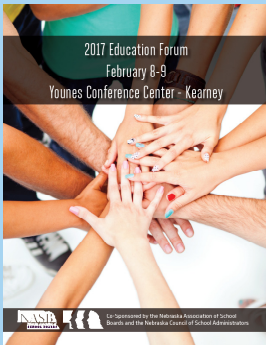




## Upcoming Events

Education Forum  
February 8-9 | Kearney

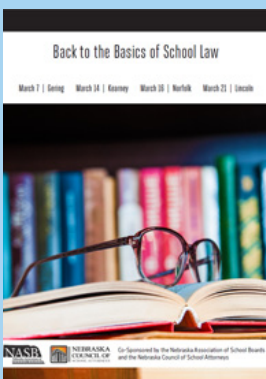


NAEP State Convention  
February 21-22 | Grand Island

President's Retreat  
February 26-27 | Kearney  
March 5-6 | Norfolk

## Back to the Basics of School Law

March 7 | Gering  
March 14 | Kearney  
March 16 | Norfolk  
March 21 | Lincoln



NSBA Conference  
March 25-27 | Denver, CO

SWEAT Conference  
April 12-13 | Kearney

## The 2017 Legislative Issues Conference is a hit!



Seven Senators, the Commissioner of Education, along with board members and education leaders across Nebraska spent Sunday evening, and the majority of the day Monday at the annual Legislative Issues Conference, to get caught up to speed on all of the key bills and initiatives that were introduced during the sessions first 10 days.

The Sunday evening program on Expanded Learning Opportunities in Nebraska was led by Beyond School Bells Network's Jeff Cole, and a dialogue with Senators Adam Morfeld and Anna Wishart.

Commissioner of Education, Matt Blomstedt kicked off the Monday session with props, yes PROPS! Outdated books from yesteryear that show just how far we have come in educating our children!

Following Commissioner Blomstedt, Senator John Murante broke down all of the key bills within the Government Committee. Before handing the microphone over to Speaker of the Legislature, Jim Scheer, NASB President Linda Richards presented Senator Murante with the "School Board 'Community Leader' Award" recognizing his efforts assisting school board members as we make Nebraska a great place to LIVE through the induction and passing of LB 874 and LB 876 during the 2016 Legislative Session.

Following Senator Murante, were Speaker Scheer (a former member of the Norfolk Board of Education), Education Committee Chair Mike Groene, Revenue Committee Chair John Stinner (a former member and president of the Gering Board of Education), and Burke Harr, who explained some of his key bills, particularly LB 248 - Adopt the Youth Opportunities in Learning and Occupations Act. This bill would provide grants from the department of labor to employers to support youth employment in high demand areas. NASB supports the ideas and direction of this bill, but is cautious of the high fiscal note.

Following Senator Harr, a number of Senators made their way over from the Capitol to have lunch with their particular constituents. From there, the majority of the crowd stayed for the afternoon workshop centered around Budget & Finance presented by Carl Dietz, and Northwest Superintendent, Matt Fisher.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to spend with us. As key items arise, look for NASB to reach out to you and your district for feedback, as well as possible written or in person testimony. As you heard from most, if not all of the senators, they want to hear from School Board Members!

Continued On Page 2



# Legislative Issues Conference Photos



To view all photos from LIC, visit the NASB Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/NASBonline](http://www.facebook.com/NASBonline)



# Create A Complete, Customized Policy Manual

This is the time of year for boards and administrators to think about how to make the district run more smoothly next year. Your board policy manual may contain outdated, obsolete, inaccurate or unnecessary information that conflicts with the actual operation of your school. Your policy manual should clearly state your expectations for the district.

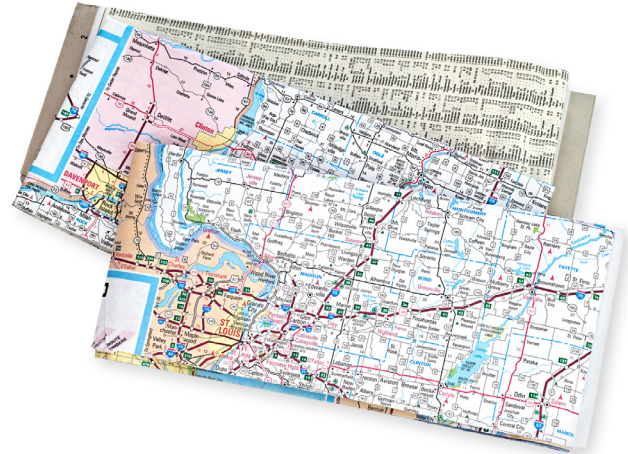
NASB will evaluate a district's existing board policy manual, check for consistency and provide your board with a "road map" of expectations for the governance of your district. The goal of the NASB Policy Customization Service is to create a complete, customized policy manual with legal referencing and indexing that reflects in writing how your particular district actually operates rather than just adopting generic school district policies.

Through this process we will be able to highlight the areas that are presently omitted and add the policies that experienced boards and administrators typically believe are necessary for setting out the basic expectations for the operation and governance of your district. These new policies will be reviewed with your administrators and board policy committee to ensure the language and intent is appropriate to your own district.

We will review, update and reorganize all your existing policies to make your manual easier to update in future years. This keeps the past decisions of your board in place while updating your manual to reflect recent changes in education and law. Every district has a different history and it is important to retain those past decisions in your policies.

By beginning a board manual customization now, you can give your board and administrators a much more accurate, complete and user-friendly board policy manual to begin the next school year.

For more information contact Jim Luebbe at 800-422-4572 or [j1uebbe@NASBonline.org](mailto:j1uebbe@NASBonline.org).





# Checking Contractors To A Higher Standard



Protect your school with One Source Certified Contractors! OSCC is a comprehensive site access program. This gives you the added assurance of knowing every contractor entering your school has passed the same extensive background check.

**Contact us to get started today!**

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[onesourcebackground.com](http://onesourcebackground.com)



# NASB Welcomes Three New Region Directors



Welcome to NASB's newest Region Directors! (Pictured L to R)

Region 11 - Jim Vlach  
Lyons-Decatur Northeast

Region 1 - Stacie Higgins  
Nebraska City Public Schools

Region 10 - Paul Brune  
Heartland Community Schools



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



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



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



**Andy Snyder**  
(855) 694-5552  
asnyder@dadco.com

## Building a Better Future with Nebraska's Public Finance Partner

D.A. Davidson & Co. has long been a leader in innovative debt financing for school districts. What we're most proud of, however, are the relationships we've nourished and the strong community improvements that are made as a result.

Our public finance professionals take a personal interest and a hands-on approach, carrying every deal from start to finish, because you deserve solutions tailored to fit you.

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- Lease-Purchase Financing
- QCPUF Bonds



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[www.dadavidson.com/ficm](http://www.dadavidson.com/ficm) | D.A. Davidson & Co. member SIPC



# LEADERSHIP STARTS HERE!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
NOW THROUGH MARCH 3RD  
[WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG)

99TH ANNUAL  
STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 15-17, 2017 | LA VISTA



# NASB's Annual Membership Drive Coming Soon



We are public education in Nebraska. As are you.

Public education in Nebraska is doing some amazing things day in and day out, and they're happening because of the work you do inside your board rooms during each and every meeting.

We here at NASB get to work with amazing people. Volunteers who have taken on the responsibility of helping young people achieve their dreams. People who energize us and drive us toward fulfilling our mission of strengthening public education for all Nebraska children. Face it, school boards make Nebraska a great place to live. Through Leadership, Innovation, Vision and Engagement Nebraska's school boards are making a difference for students across the state.

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving 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.

This last year, led by our Board of Directors we have embarked on a strategic vision to address a long term sustainable system of funding public education. The board heard your feedback regarding property taxes and school funding and has responded by building a vision to engage non-traditional partners to find a long-term solution to fund schools. In order to do this, local school boards need to be leaders in their community to address the needs of their kids, and we are working on creating the tools and building the partnerships to enable you to do just that.

Your membership grants access to all of the resources NASB provides and allows your collaborative thinking and partnership 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 work to keep public education strong across Nebraska.



JOIN US IN DENVER FOR THE 2017 NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTER AT [WWW.NSBA.ORG](http://WWW.NSBA.ORG)

LOOK FOR DETAILS ON A 'NEBRASKA' HOSPITALITY EVENT COMING SOON!



# Engaging New Board Members



As we celebrate the New Year, many boards across the state have welcomed newly elected board members to the board table.

To ensure the development of an effective working relationship between the Superintendent/ESU Administrator and sitting board members, NASB advocates for an organized orientation of newly elected or appointed board members. When a new member joins the governance team, it is important to engage the individual in the discussion of the basics of board service as well as the review of district/educational protocol, procedures, and relative information. Studies confirm that establishing a positive working relationship is key to the effectiveness of the administrative-board relations and may accelerate the growth and quality of the working relationship. The investment of time in the orientation aids in the framework of effective team development.

## THE ORIENTATION PROCESS

The District/ESU Orientation may include, but should not be limited to:

- Board/District/ESU mission/vision/belief statements
- District short and long-range goals
- Code of Conduct for board members and conflict of interest criteria/form
- Board policy manual or access to online policies, administrative guidelines, and all handbooks (e.g., student, staff, activities, etc.)
- Board committee structure and appointments
- Explanation of authority and responsibilities of the board, superintendent, administrators, and individual board members
- District grievance procedures (i.e., public, staff, student, etc.)
- Annual Board Calendar and district calendar of events
- Board processes, including board meeting procedures, agenda preparation, and policy development
- Communication issues, including use of email and communicating with the media
- Superintendent's contract including: evaluation tool, job description, salary and benefit package details
- Minutes from the past year board meetings and workshops
- Geographic boundaries of the district/educational service unit as well as ward boundaries if applicable
- NASB board development opportunities (event calendar provided on the Association website) and the individual's login information for the Association website
- Climate surveys, feasibility studies, etc.
- Board member, superintendent/ESU administrator, and administrative assistant contact information

Establish dates and times for the orientation meetings to apportion the appropriate time for reviewing board protocol and procedures, board and superintendent/ESU administrator processes, and the District/ESU information. For a complete orientation plan, download NASB Orientation for New Board Members at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org).

## APPOINT A BOARD MENTOR

The board may wish to consider providing the new member with a board mentor. New board members will appreciate the guidance of the mentor and benefit from the working knowledge the mentor possesses of the board, district, and climate of the working relationship between the board and administrative leadership team. Sharing this working knowledge is information the new board member would not otherwise find in an orientation document, policy or a board workshop.

For more information on a Board Mentor Program contact Marcia Herring at [mherring@NASBonline.org](mailto:mherring@NASBonline.org) or you may obtain a copy of *Mentoring New Board Members*, under the 'News & Resources' tab of the NASB website, which provides a defined process and criteria for developing an effective mentor program.





## ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.  
Jim Watts - 402-483-7512  
jw1cpa@aol.com | www.gowh.com  
(CPA, Accounting)

## ARCHITECTS

Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects  
Jim Berg | 402-475-4551  
jberg@bv.com | www.bv.com  
(Architecture)

Cannon Moss Brygger Architects  
Brad Kissler - 308-384-4444  
kissler.b@cmbaarchitects.com  
Jim Brisnehan | www.cmbaarchitects.com  
(Architecture, interiors, planning)

Carlson West Povondra Architects  
Jon Carolson - 402-551-1500  
jcarlson@cwparhitects.com  
Jamie Eckmann - 402-551-1500  
jeckmann@cwparhitects.com  
www.cwparhitects.com  
(Architecture, planning, feasibility studies)

DLR Group  
Vanessa Schutte - 402-393-4100  
vschutte@dlrgroup.com | www.dlrgroup.com  
(Architecture, engineering, Ed. facility planning)

The Schemmer Associates Inc.  
Terry Wood, AIA - 402-493-4800  
twood@schemmer.com | www.schemmer.com  
Molly Macklin | mmacklin@schemmer.com  
(Architecture, engineering, educational  
facility planning)

## AWARDS & PLAQUES

Awards Unlimited  
Larry King - 402-474-0815  
larryking@awardsunlimited.com  
www.awardsunlimited.com  
(Trophies, awards, plaques, etc.)

## BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

Control Management Inc.  
Nathan Haug - 402-571-9454  
nathan@cmiomaha.com | www.cmiomaha.com  
(Building Automation, Security and Energy  
Optimization for New and Existing Systems)

## BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

Duro-Last Roofing  
Mark Akagi - 785-232-6563  
mark@morrisgrup.com | www.duro-last.com  
(Representative for Duro-Last roofing system)

## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Boyd Jones Construction  
Mark Pfister - 402-553-1804  
mpfister@boydjones.biz | www.boydjones.biz  
(Construction Management, Pre-Bond,  
Pre-Construction, Facility Evaluation,  
Early Stage Planning)

Fisher Tracks, Inc.  
Jordan Fisher - 800-432-3191 / 515-432-3191  
jfisher@fishertracks.com | www.fishertracks.com  
(Installation, Refurbishment & Design Build of  
All-Weather Running Tracks)

Midwest Door and Hardware  
Curt Pospisil - 402-464-6348  
www.midwestdoor.net  
(Commercial Doors, Hardware, Installation &  
Repair Services, Emergency Lockdown Solutions)

## ENERGY SERVICES

Ameresco, Inc.  
David Goebel - 308-392-3283/402-370-8822  
dgoebel@ameresco.com | www.ameresco.com  
(Capital Improvements, Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy Solutions for Buildings)

CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc.  
Brenda Christensen - 888-710-4707  
www.centerpointenergy.com  
brenda.christensen@centerpointenergy.com  
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Navitas  
Nick Rosenberry - 402-840-0370  
nrosenberry@navitas.us.com  
www.navitas.us.com  
(Energy-Efficiency, Resource Conservation Solutions)

TRANE  
Dave Raymond - 402-331-7111/402-452-7762  
dave.raymond@trane.com  
www.trane.com/omaha  
(Building construction services,  
energy services company)

## EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Cornhusker State Industries  
Travis Atwood - 402-471-4597  
travis.atwood@nebraska.gov  
Brian Markham - 402-471-1272 | 800-348-7537  
brian.markham@nebraska.gov  
www.corrections.nebraska.gov/csi  
(Office & Library Furniture, Chairs, File  
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## FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ameritas Investment Corp.  
Jay Spearman - jspearman@ameritas.com  
Scott Keene - skeene@ameritas.com  
Brad Slaughter - bslaughter@ameritas.com  
Marc Munford - mmunford@ameritas.com  
Bruce Lefler - blefler@amertias.com  
Dallas Watkins - dallas.watkins@ameritas.com  
800-700-2362 / 402-384-8088  
(Bonds, Refunding Bonds, QCPUF Bonds,  
TANs, NASB Lease-Purchase)

D.A. Davidson & Co.  
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.davidsoncompanies.com/Ficm  
(Bond Financing/Election Services,  
Lease Purchase)

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLA  
Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350  
balloub@pfm.com | www.NLAFpool.org  
(Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs)

Union Bank and Trust Co.  
Jennifer Ainsworth - 402-323-1815  
jennifer.ainsworth@ubt.com  
www.ubt.com/health  
(Financial Services, Banking)

Wells Fargo Bank  
Andrew J. Detlefsen - 402-434-6701  
andrew.j.detlefsen@wellsfargo.com  
www.wellsfargo.com  
(Financial Services, Banking)

Gold Affiliate

Silver Affiliate



## INSURANCE SERVICES

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska  
Kent Trelford-Thompson - 800-562-6394  
kent.trelford-thomps@nebraskablue.com  
www.bcbsne.com  
(Group health insurance)

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)

## LEGAL SERVICES

Mueller Robak, LLC  
William Mueller - 402-434-3399  
mueller@muellerrobak.com | (Lobby firm)

## MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION

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jennifer.coggins@rasmech.com  
www.rasmech.com  
(Your Single Source Service Provider)

## PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/ SURFACING

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jkutilek@cox.net  
(Playground equipment and site furnishings)

Crouch Recreation  
Eric Crouch - 402-496-2669  
eric@crouchrec.com | www.crouchrec.com  
(Playgrounds, Shelters, Scoreboards, Safety  
Surfacing and Site Amenities Manufacturers Rep)

## SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

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www.midwestdoor.net  
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## SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

One Source The Background Check Company  
Nick Jasa - 800-608-3645  
info@onesourcebackground.com  
www.onesourcebackground.com  
(Employment, Volunteer, Contractor Screening)

School Security Services  
Tom Nesbitt - 402-325-1019  
tnesbitt@nesbittassociates.com  
www.nesbittassociates.com  
(Safety Plans, Safety Training, Facility  
Assessments, other Safety Security Services)

## TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

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kathy.gentile@bbec.com | www.bbec.com  
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Go Solutions  
Matthew Flaminio | 800-260-2544  
matthew.flaminio@gosolutions.net  
www.gosolutions.net  
(Custom Software & Consulting for  
School-Based Medicaid Reimbursement)

Sparq Data Solutions  
Craig Caples - 402-423-4951  
ccaples@sparqdata.com  
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Negotiations, Public Document Management,  
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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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## Searching for Leadership?

Through a collaborative working relationship with the Board of Education, the NASB Education Leadership Search Service ensures a highly-professional search process that will not only attract the very best applicants, but will bring credit to the board for the manner in which the search is conducted.

For Information, contact:

Shari Becker  
Director of Search Service  
www.NASBsuptsearch.org  
800-422-4572  
sbecker@NASBonline.org

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Matt Belka, Editor | John Spatz, Publisher





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Ralston Public Schools



**Lanny Boswell**  
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**Steve Blocher**  
Vice President  
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**Jon Anderjaska**  
Past President  
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**Region 1**  
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Nebraska City Public Schools



**Region 2**  
**Dana Blakely**  
Westside Community Schools



**Regions 3, 6 & 7**  
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**Regions 3, 6 & 7**  
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**Regions 4 & 5**  
**Connie Duncan**  
Lincoln Public Schools



**Regions 4 & 5**  
**Kathy Danek**  
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**Region 8**  
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Community Schools



**Region 9**  
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ESU 3



**Region 10**  
**Paul Brune**  
Heartland Community Schools



**Region 11**  
**Jim Vlach**  
Lyons-Decatur Northeast



**Region 12**  
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**Region 17**  
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Bayard Public Schools



**Region 19**  
**Linda Poole**  
Millard Public Schools

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Executive Director



**Shane Bateman**  
Software Engineer



**Shari Becker**  
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Leadership Search Service



**Matt Belka**  
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**Makenzie Brookhouser**  
Admin./Events Assistant



**Craig Caples**  
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**Daniel Clarke**  
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**Matt Dunning**  
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**Sharon Endorf**  
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**Nicole Kobus**  
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**Sang Nguyen**  
Software Engineer



**Lisa Steinkuhler**  
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**Jesse Sierks**  
Software Engineer



**Sallie Svatora**  
Director of Operations



**Vicki Walter-Winters**  
Administrative Assistant



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[www.facebook.com/NASBOnline](http://www.facebook.com/NASBOnline)



# Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Events



## 2017 Education Forum | February 8-9 | Kearney

Register now for the annual Education Forum at [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org). This conference is targeted at board members, superintendents, ESU administrators, and principals across Nebraska. The 2017 line-up includes a keynote address from Husker Volleyball Coach John Cook, and presentations on Using the Gallup Student Poll to Build Engaged Schools; Public Relations and Promotion for School Districts; Bullying and Hazing in Athletics; Engaging School and Community; Maximum Impact Relationships; Open Meetings Gone Wrong; and many more! **Registration closes February 3rd!**



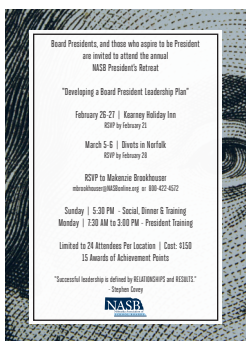
## Nebraska Beef in Schools Summit | February 15 | Thayer Central (Hebron)

Many Nebraska schools now serve fresh, locally grown beef as part of school lunch. This summit will provide an opportunity for schools that are already participating in a beef program to share ideas on best practices and will allow schools looking to start a program to learn from the experience of others. If you are interested in attending, contact Drew Harris at 402-768-8940 or [drew.harris@thayercentral.org](mailto:drew.harris@thayercentral.org). The Summit runs from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.



## NAEP State Convention | February 21-22 | Grand Island

Administrative Assistants, Superintendent Secretaries & Superintendents – Don't miss the NAEP (Nebraska Administrative Education Professionals) State Convention! This is your chance to learn more about the Open Meetings Law, NASB, Best Practices, Paperless Board Meetings, and enjoy networking while strengthening your team. Register now at [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org). **Registration closes February 14th!**



## NASB President's Retreat | Developing A Board President Leadership Plan

Board Presidents, and those who aspire to be President, are invited to attend the annual NASB President's Retreat, "Developing a Board President Leadership Plan." We will be hosting two retreats this year in Kearney and Norfolk. Each retreat will begin Sunday evening at 5:30 PM, with a Social, Dinner & Training, followed by President Training from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday.

February 26-27 | Kearney (waiting list only!)      March 5-6 | Norfolk (A small # remain!)

Through round-table discussion and instruction, attendees will learn about the president's leadership role at board meetings as well as developing a positive and effective working relationship with board members and the superintendent. Each location is limited to 24 attendees. RSVP by February 28 for Norfolk, to reserve your spot at 800-422-4572 or email Makenzie at [mbrookhouser@NASBOnline.org](mailto:mbrookhouser@NASBOnline.org).



## Back to the Basics of School Law

March 7 | Gering      March 14 | Kearney      March 16 | Norfolk      March 21 | Lincoln

Perhaps the most imposing demand society places on school board members is the requirement that they know, and adhere to, the intent and limitations of the law. Nearly everything your board does is influenced by statutory regulations. Your board has a duty to be informed about the basics of school law and when to reach out for legal services. This workshop, taught by attorneys who work with school law on a regular basis, will get you started in the right direction. This is a "must" for all people serving in a position of school leadership. The workshop focuses on the basics: the fundamental concepts of school law which locally elected school board members need to know. Learn more, and register now, at [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org).

Mar 25-27 | NSBA Conference | Denver, CO

NAEP Workshops: July

Labor Relations Conference | Sept 6-7 | Lincoln

Apr 12-13 | SWEAT Conference | Kearney

July 19 | NASB Orientation | Lincoln

State Education Conference | Nov 15-17 | La Vista

June 8-9 | School Law Seminar | Kearney

Area Membership Meetings: Aug - Oct

Learn more on all under the EVENTS tab of

[www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org)





IN THIS EDITION

The 2017 Legislative Issues Conference is a hit!  
Create A Complete, Customized Policy Manual  
NASB Welcomes Three New Region Directors  
Call for Proposals - State Education Conference  
NASB's Annual Membership Drive Coming Soon

Engaging New Board Members

NASB Affiliates

NASB Board of Directors & Staff

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January 2017

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