





# THIS MONTH IN ...



https://members.nasbonline.org/

## ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ... We are well underway with the 109th Legislative Session. Hearings have started and bills have been introduced! Your NASB Legislation

Committee meets this weekend and has a lot of work to do. We're excited for you to see everything at LIC. As always, keep tabs on both the GR pages of NASBonline.org as well as the Bills page! Call Colby & Matt any time!

ALICAP & INSURANCE ... ALICAP cautions all member schools/ ESUs to think "prevention" this month while temperatures are well below freezing. No one wants frozen pipes over these cold winter days! 1) Change exterior temperature fresh air intake set points. 2) Leave doors open to mechanical rooms, utility and custodial closets if on exterior walls. 3) Increase heat in your vestibules/entrances during peak time use. 4) When especially low temps are predicted overnight, let faucets drip if mount is positioned on an exterior wall.

**BOARD LEADERSHIP** ... Check out "At the Board Table" on pages 4 & 5 to learn about the Board Leadership Academy.

DATA ANALYTICS ... Great ideas for improved programs often come from midwinter board retreats. We can help your board gather and illustrate relevant district data to better focus your efforts and target meaningful, measurable goals as you implement those improvements.

# EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE ... Contact us with

questions on search protocol, to schedule a proposal, or inquire about a vacancy. We are adding vacancies to our site frequently. Contact Shari and check our current listings online!

ENERGY PURCHASING ... While daily changes in natural gas prices have often been sizable, the overall market has lately been sideways since forecasters are divided on how much more cold weather we'll get this winter going toward March. During the recent cold spell, our natural gas consortiums had several pricing measures in place to protect against huge demands on the natural gas supply systems. Your market specialists in NJUMP and CJUMP continue to monitor these changes on a daily basis to find great opportunities for your future gas needs.

FOUNDATION ... The Nebraska Public Leadership Foundation is awarding two, \$1,000 scholarships to two high school seniors who are pursuing higher education to become a teacher in a Nebraska public school system. Students with plans to attend college or university in Nebraska, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and whose school district is a member of NASB qualify to apply. The application can be found at www.nepublicleadership.org

# THIS MONTH IN ...

A quick snapshot of the various programs, services, support and events NASB has planned for its members in the coming month!

**GALLUP STRENGTHS** ... This month's featured Gallup theme is Empathy. Do you wonder why people call you to talk about problems they are having? You may have Empathy in your Top 5, which helps you understand the feelings of those around you. You are likely able to connect on an emotional level to create strong, trusting relationships. Contact Shari to schedule a Gallup retreat.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ... A busy start to 2025, with LIC, the Board President Retreat, Open Meetings Law Workshops, Finance Workshops, and the Federal Advocacy trip to DC! Plus we will be hitting the road delivering Membership Guides.

POLICY ... The legislature is more frequently requiring the Nebraska Dept. of Education to develop model policies on various issues, including a behavioral management policy and a dress code policy due before the next school year. We typically offer NDE's suggested model policy and a similar one of our own if we have minor language changes or implementation modifications that we feel will make the policy more usable while still meeting the statute's full intentions.

TECHNOLOGY ... As you begin to settle, please remember to enter your updated contract information into the Contract Settlement Form along with your Negotiated Agreement. If you have any questions, please reach out to Darion. Welcome New Negotiations Subscriber: Oakland-Craig Public Schools!

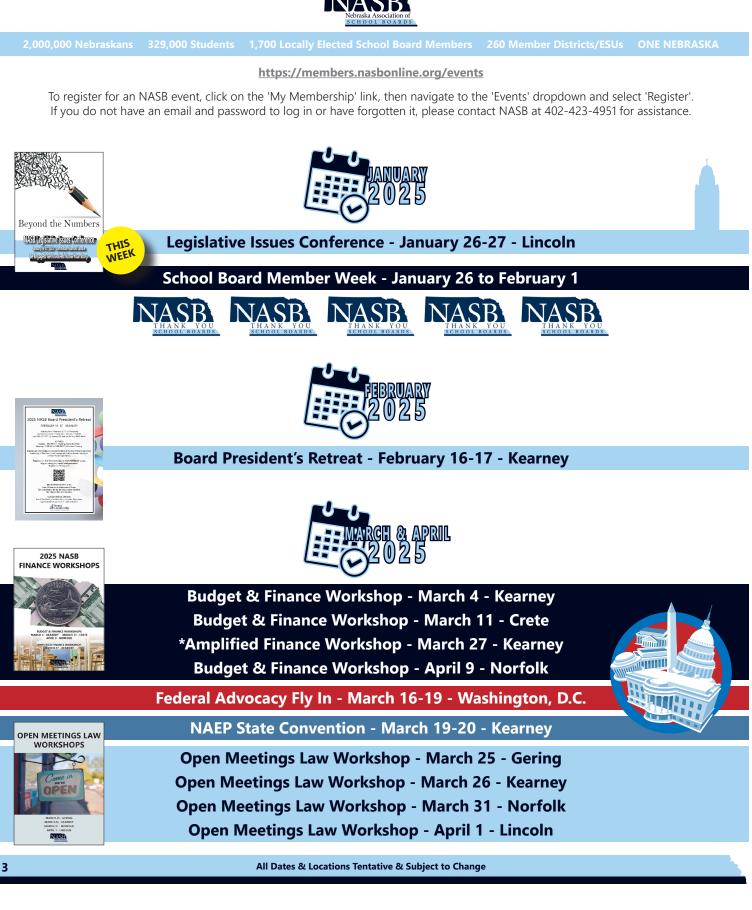
It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Allison Welch, a member of the Conestoga School Board, has passed away. Allison will be missed by so many, and education in Nebraska is better because of her. She was the 2023 Ann Mactier School Board Member of the Year, who dedicated over two decades of her life to the betterment of Conestoga Public Schools. Allison was a driving force behind numerous initiatives that have left an indelible mark on the school community.



# TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS JOIN US!









# **SEC FEBRUARY BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Please see the January 18<sup>th</sup> email from <u>mherring@NASBonline.org</u> and <u>shiggins@NASBonline.org</u> for the draft of the February Board Meeting Agenda. If you have questions or need us to resend the email, please feel free to contact Marcia at 402-450-5152 or Stacie at 402-209-1608.

# **SINCE NASE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWLY ELECTED, APPOINTED, OR EXPERIENCED BOARD MEMBERS**

### NASB Board Leadership Academy - Module I

NASB now provides a Board Leadership Academy for newly elected and experienced board members. This service offers a comprehensive board training program designed to enhance the effectiveness and cohesiveness of board members and the collective board. The content aligns with the NASB Effective Board Governance Standards, including interactive workshops and leadership development. Key outcomes include strengthened collaboration, improved decisionmaking processes, and a unified vision for working collaboratively with the superintendent/ESU administrator to advance and support student success.

The Academy provides an expanded platform for NASB Board Leadership staff and experts to engage new board members, offering additional opportunities to discuss and explore key topics related to the role and responsibilities of both board members and superintendents/ESU administrators to lead cohesively with confidence and purpose.

Module I delivers a comprehensive training on essential governance topics, including the boards' role and responsibilities, policy, Nebraska Open Meetings Law, community engagement, board-superintendent relations, long-term goals, etc. The improved structure is purposefully designed to deepen the board's understanding of duties, equip board leadership to collaborate with the superintendent to uphold the district's mission of delivering a high-quality education for all students.

### 2025 NASB Activities and Events Aligned to the Board Leadership Academy

January 29 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

February 2025 - New Board Member Workshop

March/April 2025 - Open Meetings Law Workshops Gering, Kearney, Norfolk, Lincoln

> April 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

> July 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

> July 2025 - Leadership Workshops Gering, Kearney, Omaha

August & September 2025 Area Membership Meetings

October 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

November 2025 - State Education Conference

December 2025 - Board Member Academy Module I & II - Kearney

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 

# AT THE BOARD TABLE



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

# NASB BOARD MEMBER ACADEMY MODULES & TIMELINE

#### Module I

Board Role and Responsibilities

NASB Standards I – IX

Board Role and Responsibilities

NE Open Meetings Law

Communications

Board Meeting Protocols and Procedures

Standard II: Policy Governance

**Board Committees** 

Standard VIII: Board Superintendent Relations

Superintendent Leadership and Evaluation

Annual Board Calendar

Board Meeting Agenda

Community Leader

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Budget and Stakeholder Engagement

Standard VI: District Resources

Board Superintendent Relations

Budget Calendar

Finance Committee

Standard I: Mission, Vision & Goals

Budget Aligned to District Strategic Plan/Goals

> Monthly Board Meeting Budget Reports

Standard III: Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Community Leader

Module I, II, and III OFFERED 2026

Student Academic Success

Standard IV: Student Accountability and Achievement

NDE - NEP Site

District Accreditation NDE Assurance Statement

District Adopted Curriculum

District Instructional Framework

State Standards Alignment

Staff Professional Development Plan

Board Data Calendar

Board Agenda Reports and Goal Monitoring

Community Leader

#### Module I, II, III, and IV Offered 2027

State and Local Advocacy

Standard V: Advocacy

Legislative Calendar

NASB Advocacy Updates

District Legislative Initiatives

NASB Website Legislative Bill Updates/Hearings/etc.

Testifying before the Legislature

State Senator Engagement

Community Leader

Contact Marcia or any of the Board Leadership team with questions regarding the Academy!

Module I, II, III, and IV

2027 NASB Learning Workshops

Virtual Board Academy Quarterly Team Meetings

Legislative Issues Conference

**Open Meetings Law** 

Budget Workshop

Leadership Workshop

# NASB BOARD MEMBER ACADEMY ALIGNED LEARNING WORKSHOPS

Module I



### Module I & II 2025 NASB Learning Workshops

Virtual Board Academy Quarterly Team Meetings

Open Meetings Law

Leadership Workshop-Board Self-Assessment and Superintendent Evaluation

Area Membership Mtgs

New Board Member Workshop

### Module I, II, and III 2026 NASB Learning Workshops

Virtual Board Academy Quarterly Team Meetings

Open Meetings Law

Budget Workshop

Leadership Workshop

Area Membership

New Board Member Workshop

## Area Membership New Board Member Workshop

Does your district have ALICAP? For more information, or to join please contact: Megan Boldt at mboldt@NASBonline.org

# ALL THINGS ADVOCACY: LIC, BILLS, HEARINGS & MORE

Leadership

Innova

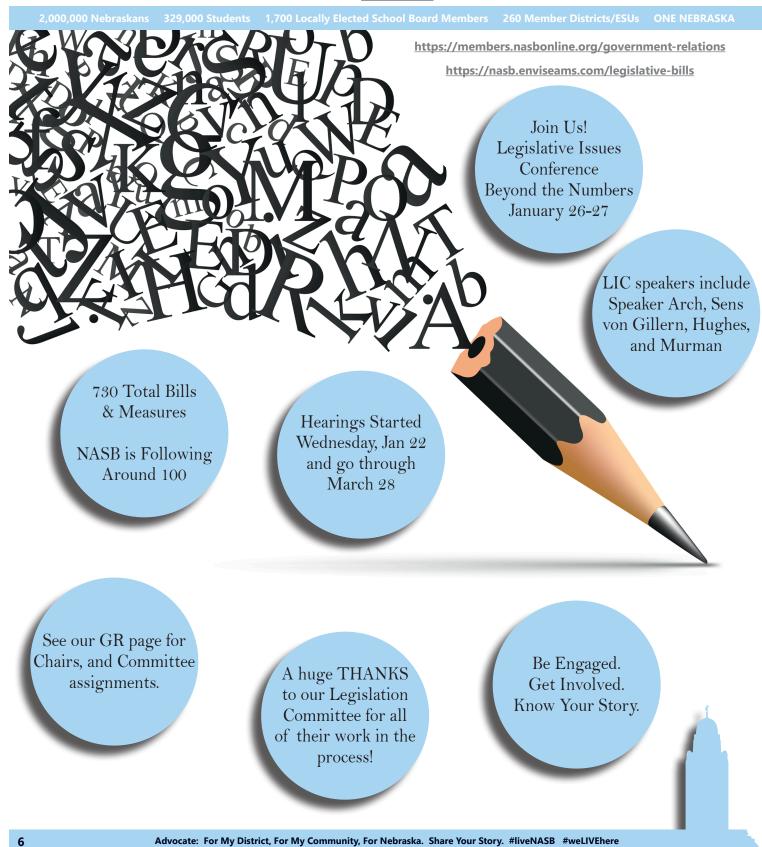
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# YOUR 2025 NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Leadership

**Committee Chair** 

Ed Swotek

Malcolm

Member 3

Lanny Boswell

Líncoln

Member 9

Drew Blessing

Kearney

Member 14

Erick Lee

Arapahoe-Holbrook

Innovatio

**NASB** President

Stacy Jolley

Millard

Member 4

Kathy Danek

Lincoln

Member 10

Marla Grier

South Sioux City

Member 15

TBD

Appointed Member

Mike Palmer

Sidney

**Term Ends 2025 for Appointed Members** 

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Engagement

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https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/legislation-committee-bylaws



NASB Secretary / Member 7 Suzanne Sapp Ashland-Greenwood



Member 5 Marcus Madler Papillion La Vista



Member 11 Doug Keener Mitchell



Member 16 Mary Yilk ESU 9



Appointed Member Jason Richters Centennial Appointed Member Dan Scheer St. Paul

Term Ends 2026 For Odd # Members



Member 1 Jane Erdenberger Omaha



Member 6 Beth Morrissette Westside



Member 12 Gary Kubicek Norris

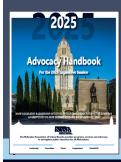


Appointed Member Lisa Albers Grand Island



Appointed Member Jeremey Shuey Plattsmouth

Term Ends 2028 For Even # Members



Appointed Member

Patti Gubbels

Norfolk

Your 2025 Advocacy Handbook, to be used as a guideline during the Legislative Session is now posted! This Handbook, which includes NASB's legislative and leadership initiatives, as well as tips for effective advocacy and much more, is available to view, download, and print at the Government Relations section of the NASB website. We look forward to working for and with you again this session ... do not hesitate to reach out to NASB at any time with questions on particular bills, initiatives, becoming more engaged, or the overall legislative process in general.

### Matt, Colby, John & Lindsey - Your NASB Legislative Team

To learn more about all of the Programs, Services & Support NASB offers, visit www.NASBonline.org



Member 2 Kimara Snipes Omaha



Member 8 Amanda McGill Johnson Millard



Member 13 Steve Blocher West Point



Appointed Member Skip Altig North Platte



Appointed Member Brad Wilkins Ainsworth

# NASB'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS HERE!

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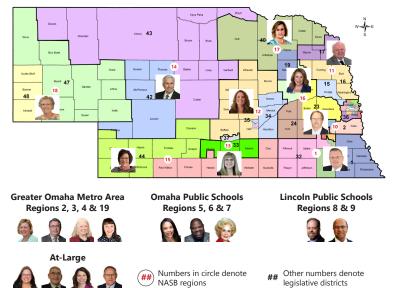
On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued membership and unwavering support. Your dedication to fostering excellence in education is vital to the success of students, educators, and communities across Nebraska.

Serving on a school board is a big commitment of your time and energy. All school board members make sacrifices away from their family or work on behalf of their local school district and community. The NASB understands these sacrifices and wants to support you as you strive for excellence.

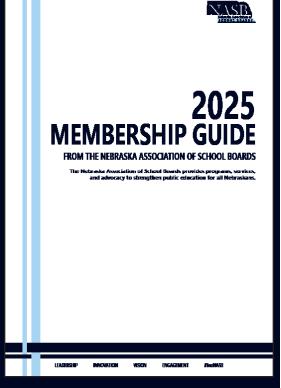
As a valued member of NASB, you are part of a collaborative network of dedicated leaders working to fortify public education in Nebraska. Your active engagement empowers us to provide vital resources, impactful training, and effective advocacy to support school boards and enhance governance across the state. Whether through workshops, legislative updates, or shared initiatives, your participation amplifies our collective impact.

If there is ever anything we can do to assist your district/ESU or enhance your experience with NASB, please reach out. We are a phone call or email away, working daily to provide you with money-saving programs, information-sharing services, and the events you need to thrive.

We look forward to working for and with you and your board again this year. If you have any questions about NASB's programs, services, advocacy efforts, or any other item, please let us know! Thank you for being an integral part of the NASB community. Together, we are shaping the future and making a difference for generations to come!



## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE INFO SOON!



Thirty-two pages of all NASB is and does, for you, our members, will be delivered to your district/ESU in the upcoming weeks.

Throughout this year's Membership Guide, you will see and learn about the people, programs, services and vision that bring value to your board, your district, and your community. From the NASB staff, Board of Directors, and Legislation Committee, to your fellow board members across the state.

This is a great reference to keep close throughout the year, as it includes the history of NASB and school boards in Nebraska, all of the organizations partners, advocacy, engagement, awards, your NASB programs, services and staff, School Board Member of the Year info, and more!

# **CREATE A COMPLETE, CUSTOMIZED POLICY MANUAL**

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https://members.nasbonline.org/programs-services/online-policy-services

This is a great time to begin a Board Policy Manual Customization to give your board and administrators a much more accurate, complete, and user-friendly Policy Manual for the start of the next school year. The goal of the NASB Policy Customization Service is to create a completed, customized policy manual (in hard copies and electronic format) with legal referencing and indexing that reflects in writing how your individual district actually operates.

We 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. Your district has its own unique history and, over the years, has chosen to make different operating decisions than your neighboring districts. We will rewrite your existing board policy manual, keeping the decisions of your board in place, not throwing them out to be replaced by a generic set of policies.



Through this process we will be able to highlight the areas that are presently omitted and add the policies that most experienced boards and administrators believe are necessary for setting out the basic expectations for the operation and governance of your district. When these new policies are brought into your reorganized and updated manual, they are reviewed with your administrators and board policy committee to ensure the language and intent is appropriate to your local needs.

NASB wants your policies to be clearly written and easily understood by the people using them. Many Board Policy Manuals contain policies that are overly detailed, redundant, and confusing. If your School Board is using a Policy Manual that is disorganized, poorly written, and difficult to understand, our manual customization process can correct that for you. This is a time intensive process on our part, but the result is to make your manual easier to use, clearer to follow, and simpler to update in future years. For more information contact Jim Luebbe, Director of Policy Services at <u>jluebbe@NASBonline.org</u> or 402-423-4951.

# SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WEEK STARTS SUNDAY!

# THANK YOU SCHOOL BOARDS!!!!!

The week of January 26 to February 1, 2025 will serve as School Board Recognition Week in Nebraska. Thanks to the 1,700 locally elected volunteers who make up the Board of Education for Nebraska's Public Schools and ESUs. Through their leadership, innovation, vision and engagement, they make Nebraska a better place to live.



# HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE THIS SPRING

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# 2025 NASB Board President Retreat

FEBRUARY 16-17 KEARNEY

Expand your knowledge and understanding of the role of board president, leadership of the board, and management of the board meeting to advance board operations.

> Sunday - 4:30 PM CT Training, Social & Dinner

Monday - 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM CT President Training

Register for the Retreat today at <u>www.NASBonline.org</u> or use the QR code to register.

Log in using your email and password. Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: Board Presidents Vice Presidents Aspiring Presidents Superintendents and/or ESU Administrators



https://members.nasbonline.org/events



# 2025 NASB FINANCE WORKSHOPS



Both new and veteran school board members must have a fundamental understanding of school finance. Superintendents, business managers, and bookkeepers are required to have a deep and comprehensive understanding of finance because taxpayers and citizens are asking districts to provide more detailed information about their finances. These workshops will feature Carl Dietz and Matt Fisher, two school finance experts, who will structure the presentation around all aspects of the school district finance.

BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOPS MARCH 4 - KEARNEY MARCH 11 - CRETE APRIL 9 - NORFOLK





# OPEN MEETINGS LAW WORKSHOPS



MARCH 25 - GERING MARCH 26 - KEARNEY MARCH 31 - NORFOLK APRIL 1 - LINCOLN

AGENDA - NOTICE - MINUTES CLOSED SESSION - SPECIAL MEETING EMERGENCY MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT - Q&A

We're excited to invite you to an informative workshop on the **Nebraska Open Meetings Law**, designed to help you understand the importance of transparency and compliance in public meetings. This interactive, scenario based, workshop is specifically designed for locally elected officials.

Attendance at this workshop will provide valuable insights and practical tips. Join us for an engaging session with NASB Executive Director, John Spatz. He will break down the essentials, answer your questions, and share best practices. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and stay informed!

# FEDERAL ADVOCACY FLY-IN: JOIN US - MARCH 16-19







Paul Grieger Managing Director, Public Finance 402-392-7986 pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham Senior Vice President, Public Finance 402-392-7989 cwickham@dadco.com



Andv Fornev Senior Vice President Public Finance 402-392-7988 afornev@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 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 our deals from start to finish. Because you deserve solutions tailored to fit you.

- School Bond Issues
- Tax Anticipation / Construction Notes
- Lease-Purchase Financing
- QCPUF Bonds
- Refinancing Bond Issues



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# **AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT**

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# **YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES**

### https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members

**2025 Platinum Level Affiliates -** American Fidelity - BCDM Architects - Boyd Jones Construction - BVH Architecture - Carlson West Povondra Architects - Clark & Enersen - CMBA Architects - D.A. Davidson - Envise - Facility Advocates - Hamilton - Hausmann Construction - Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - Northland, a First National Nebraska Company - Piper Sandler - Public Risk Management - Sampson Construction - Sparq Data Solutions - Third Rail Content

**2025 Gold Level Affiliates -** 914 Coatings - ABcreative, Inc. - BD Construction - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska - Cornhusker International - Darland - DLR Group - Lunchtime Solutions - MCL Construction - Navitas - Omaha Public Schools Foundation

2025 Silver Level Affiliates - Amergis Staffing - Creative Sites - TeamMates Mentoring

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**2025 Bronze Level Affiliates -** Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture - Community Building Solutions - Cunningham Recreation - Demco - Fisher Tracks, Inc. - Mueller Robak, LLC - National Insurance Services - Nebraska Safety Center - Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska - RSW Floors and More - Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

# **YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF**



# **YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES**

ASB #

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# **YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES**

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View the full, detailed listings with contact info at: <u>https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members</u>

## ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

## ARCHITECTS

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

BCDM Architects PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**BVH Architecture** PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Clark & Enersen PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

CMBA Architects PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**DLR Group** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### BUILDING CONTROLS AND BUILDING SERVICES

Navitas GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

# **CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

**914 Coatings** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**BD Construction** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Boyd Jones PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Darland** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hausmann Construction PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

MCL Construction GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**RSW Floors and More** 

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Sampson Construction PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## **ENERGY SERVICES**

**Community Building Solutions** 

Facility Advocates PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

# EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

ABcreative, Inc. GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Demco

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**D.A. Davidson & CO.** PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Northland, PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Piper Sandler PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

# FOOD SERVICE

Lunchtime Solutions GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Opaa! Food Management** 

## FUNDRAISING

Omaha Public Schools Foundation GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

# **INSURANCE SERVICES**

American Fidelity PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**National Insurance Services** 

Public Risk Management/ALICAP PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

# **LEGAL SERVICES**

Mueller Robak, LLC

# PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

Creative Sites, LLC SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

Cunningham Recreation/GameTime

Fisher Tracks, Inc.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

Amergis Educational Staffing SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

TeamMates Mentoring Program SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

## TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

Envise PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hamilton PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Sparq Data Solutions PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## **TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS**

**Cornhusker International** GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## **VIDEO CREATION & PRODUCTION**

Third Rail Content, Inc. PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

BOARD NOTES IS PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS AS A MEMBER SERVICE. ADVERTISING IS AVAILABLE IN EVERY ISSUE. TO ADVERTISE OR BECOME AN AFFILIATE, PLEASE CONTACT MATT BELKA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. ARTICLES OR ADVERTISING CONTAINED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OR POLICIES OF NASB.



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 







The NASB provides programs, services and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org