

January 23, 2026



The Ninety-Three

This week's edition of The Ninety-Three is sponsored by Elite Business Member Applied Connective Technologies.

From the Blog: Overpromising - The Achilles' Heel of Local Government Leaders

Head to the blog to read a great article by Michael Scanlon about local leadership and managing the desire to fix everything for your constituents.

[NACO Blog](#)

Register for the NACO County Chair Workshop

The 2026 County Chair Workshop will be held on Friday, February 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney. The workshop is for County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Click the button below to register and view the workshop agenda. Please note that this is a draft of the agenda and is subject to change.

[Register Here](#)

Spring District Meeting Registration Now Open

Southeast District Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Southeast Community College Career Academy, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE

Northeast District Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College (601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701)

Central District Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Younes Center North, 707 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845

Panhandle District Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main St, Bridgeport, NE

West Central District Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

NACO West Training Center, 102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala, NE 69153

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13

County Chair Workshop
Kearney

March 12

Southeast District Meeting
Lincoln

March 13

Northeast District Meeting
Norfolk

March 19

Central District Meeting
Kearney

March 25

Panhandle District Meeting
Bridgeport

March 26

West Central District Meeting
Ogallala

April 1

NACO County Legislative Day
Lincoln

April 2

County Government Accounting
Basics Workshop - Lincoln

January Cybersecurity Key Points

CYBERSECURITY KEYPOINTS

January 2026

*From the County
Network Security
Cooperative*



BACKUP BASICS

- Use the 3-2-1 rule: 3 copies of your important stuff stored on 2 different types of devices with 1 copy stored in a separate building from the other two. It works—no PhD required.
- Cloud backups run in the background and don't need babysitting. Plus, they can survive a coffee spill.
- Automate it: Set backups to run automatically.
- Test your backups: A backup that can't be restored is basically a decorative file. Check occasionally to make sure everything works.
- Keep things organized: Separate work files from personal ones. It makes recovery faster and prevents the "Where did I put that?" panic moment.



BACKUPS & DISASTER RECOVERY

Let's be honest: Nobody wakes up excited about backing up files. It's not glamorous, and it doesn't come with applause. But—when something goes wrong (and it eventually does), backups are the quiet little heroes that save the day while you're busy wondering what just happened.

Disaster recovery is the process of putting everything back together when technology decides to throw a tantrum. Whether it's a power outage, a spilled coffee, or a surprise cyberattack, having a plan keeps small problems from turning into full-blown crises. Think of it as giving your digital world a safety net instead of crossing your fingers & hoping for the best.

**Let's keep it simple
and stress-free.**



WHY BACKUPS MATTER

- **Ransomware doesn't negotiate politely.** If criminals lock up your data, a reliable backup lets you shrug and move on instead of paying.
- **Technology fails.** Hard drives break, servers crash, and sometimes, devices decide they're done "adulting."
- **Weather happens.** Floods, fires, storms—nature doesn't check your schedule. Off-site backups keep your data out of harm's way.
- **People make mistakes.** It's okay. We all click the wrong thing now and then. Thankfully, backups make those "oops" moments far less dramatic.

DISASTER RECOVERY: THE GAME PLAN

- Know where your important data is stored so you can restore it quickly.
- Create a simple recovery checklist for what to do if systems go down.
- Make sure multiple people know the process to avoid the "only one person knows how to fix this" trap.
- Review the plan once in a while. Technology changes; your plan should too.

The County Network Security Cooperative is a collaboration of partners including:



- AND -



Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.



County Legislative Day at the Capitol - April 1st in Lincoln

County Legislative Day - April 1, 2026

Join us in Lincoln on April 1, 2026, as we kick off County Government Month with a fun-filled County Legislative Day. Participants will connect with state senators, hear from state leaders, and explore the Capitol while learning more about the legislative process and the NACO platform.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to register in advance.

If lodging is needed, the closest hotel to the Capitol is the Cornhusker Hotel. Please note that there is no NACO room block available.

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop - April 2nd in Lincoln

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop – April 2, 2026

NACO will host a full-day County Government Accounting Basics Workshop for County Clerks' and Treasurers' Offices on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the Cornhusker Marriott.

This free workshop will feature sessions led by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, focusing on best practices in county financial management. Lunch will be provided and is generously sponsored by NPAIT/PTMA.

A NACO hotel block is available at the Cornhusker Hotel for attendees who require lodging.

You can register, view the draft agenda, and find hotel block information by clicking [here](#).

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

The SAVE Plan Is Ending, And Millions Are In Limbo

The SAVE repayment plan, known for the lowest payments and strong interest protections, is officially on its way out, pending court approval of a proposed settlement. While many student loan borrowers have been in forbearance during the legal pause, interest has been accruing again, and forgiveness progress has largely been on hold. Once SAVE is formally closed, borrowers will need to transition to a new repayment plan within a limited time frame.

With so much uncertainty ahead, now is the time to get personalized guidance. Using Savi, borrowers can connect with student loan experts to review their options, identify the best new savings or forgiveness plan, and make a confident transition. Enroll today at nacobenefits.bysavi.com to get expert support and stay on track as repayment changes take effect.

Elite Business Member Spotlight - Applied Connective Technologies

We're Applied Connective, a managed IT company with roots in small-town Nebraska. Technology, as you know, has evolved *tremendously* since 2004, and so have we, but some things have remained anchored and evergreen, and chief among those is our priority on people.

We consider it a privilege to be trusted by partners in every corner of Nebraska (the compliment of our careers) and are passionate about helping them expertly leverage technology to become more secure, efficient, and profitable. But that much, you already knew, so let's skip to the good part.

Employing an army of the best and brightest minds in the region in virtually every facet of technology means our service offering is robust and, quite frankly, a bit of a mouthful. From managed IT & cybersecurity services to phone systems, security (surveillance, door access control, panic/duress), and audio/video solutions to the cabling and infrastructure necessary to support all of these technologies, we are truly one team for all your technology solutions. We offer only the most reputable and top-quality solutions managed by our knowledgeable team, thereby minimizing issues, eliminating costly downtime, and allowing our partners to operate at their peak potential all day, every day.

That takes care of the "what we do." As far as "how we do it" and "why we do it," the answer to both of those questions comes down to this: People.

It might be a surprising answer coming from an IT company, but a testament to Company President Ed Knott's commitment to putting people and relationships first, Applied Connective has grown from a two-man operation selling business phone systems in rural Nebraska to the national award-winning IT company it's become present day due in large part to solid relationships and glowing word-of-mouth referrals from thrilled customers. We're now a team of 67 dedicated technology experts (and a few personality hires who were brought aboard to write things like this) working together from offices in Albion, Norfolk, Columbus, Lincoln, Omaha, Ogallala, and several fully remote staff. Growth and gratitude are recurring themes in our story, and we'll punctuate that by saying we are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our great state by doing what we love in communities we cherish with and for great people.

Though much has changed since our inception, our core values have always remained pivotal and immovable guideposts throughout the journey: Value relationships, Lead with integrity, Innovate like a boss, Do what you love & stay hungry, and Be world-class. Our commitment to going above and beyond to serve each other, our clients, and our communities is an irrevocable piece of our culture because, at the end of the day, we're tech people...but more than that, we're people-people.

2026 NACO Business Members

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO expand our educational programming for Nebraska county officials. Business members enjoy a number of benefits, including features on our website and social media pages. We also offer our business members a complimentary exhibit booth at the County Board Workshop, discounts on sponsorships, and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

2026 business memberships are still open. Click the button below to learn more.

2026 Business Memberships

20 BUSINESS 26 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2026 Election Calendar

Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar



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