

Nebraska Association of County Officials

2026 County Board Workshop

June 3-4 | Younes Conference Center North, Kearney



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

Session Time	Session	Room	
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Registration	Younes North Foyer	
12:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Opens	Silver 7, 8, 9	
1:00-2:15 PM	Board of Equalization FAQs - Rob Hotz, State of Nebraska Tax Equalization & Review Commission	Silver 1, 2, 3	
2:15-2:45 PM	Break & Visit Exhibit Hall sponsored by Hamilton Business Technologies On the Menu: Assorted Cookies	Silver 7, 8, 9	
2:45-4:00 PM	Navigating Labor and HR Issues Under the Open Meetings Law - Sarah L. Carstensen, Attorney, Woods Aitken <i>Labor-related issues and contract negotiations have become more pronounced as county budgets have shifted from the levy lid to the cap, creating greater downward pressure from reduced revenues while demand for services remains high. This session would provide an opportunity to discuss practical strategies to help county officials avoid labor-related issues, along with guidance on open meeting law, open meetings, and executive session best practices.</i>	Silver 1, 2, 3	
4:00-5:00 PM	District Breakouts <i>Each District breakout session will be led by NACO Board of Directors Representatives and NACO Staff. During these sessions, you will discuss the issues your county is facing and gather legislative recommendations to help shape NACO's legislative priorities for 2026. After the breakout discussions, we will reconvene as a full group to share reports from each district and NACO updates including Inheritance Tax and before adjourning for the day.</i>	Southeast	Gold 7
		Northeast	Gold 1
		Central	Silver 1, 2, 3
		Panhandle	Gold 8
		West Central	Gold 9
5:00-5:30 PM	Social sponsored by Applied Connective Technologies	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12	
5:30-6:30 PM	Banquet and Awards sponsored by Master Tech Truck & Equipment <i>On the Menu: Beef Brisket, Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Salad, Bread</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12	
6:30-8:00 PM	Dueling Pianos sponsored by Alliant Insurance Services	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12	
8:00 - 11:00 PM	Game Room and Pitch Tournament <i>Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield, NACO Benefit Services, & National Insurance Services</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12	

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

Session Time	Session	Room
7:00 - 10:00 AM	Registration	Younes North Foyer
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast sponsored by D.A. Davidson <i>On the Menu: Fresh Fruit, Scrambled Eggs, Smoked Pit Ham, Hash Browns, Iced Cinnamon Rolls</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Central District Breakfast <i>Central District Board Members are invited to a breakfast to learn more about the role of the NACO Executive Officers. In December 2026, the NACO membership will elect a Central District County official to serve as NACO Secretary/Treasurer on the NACO Board of Directors.</i>	Gold 7
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Open	Silver 7, 8, 9
8:30-9:30 AM	The Story Leader: Five Stories to Build Trust and Drive Action - Nick Westergaard <i>This session will give leaders a practical framework for using story to communicate vision, build trust, and drive action — all highly relevant for county commissioners and supervisors looking to connect with their communities.</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
9:30-10:00 AM	County Storytelling Show-n-Tell	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
10:00-10:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Break	Silver 7, 8, 9
10:30-11:30 AM	Wildfire Response & Recovery: Lessons Learned and the Future of Communication Technology - Erv Portis, NEMA Assistant Director; Neil Miller, Buffalo County Sheriff; Corey Crandall, Keith County Commissioner; Brandon Myers, Region 51 Emergency Management <i>This session explores key lessons from recent wildfire events, highlighting what worked, where challenges emerged, and how counties can strengthen their preparedness and recovery efforts. A central focus will be the role of communication systems—before, during, and after a disaster and how you fund the necessary communication systems.</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	EMS Task Force Update - Michael Dwyer, Co-Chair Nebraska EMS Task Force & Gene Bradley, Director of Emergency Services, Community Medical Center Falls City <i>Nebraska's EMS Taskforce has identified critical challenges facing rural emergency services, including workforce shortages, funding instability, and increasing demand, while emphasizing the need to treat EMS as an essential part of the healthcare system. The Rural Health Transformation Program provides a significant opportunity to address these issues through investment in workforce, technology, and sustainable care models. Together, these efforts position Nebraska communities to strengthen EMS, improve access to care, and build a more resilient rural healthcare system.</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch sponsored by NPAIT / PTMA Financial Solutions <i>On the Menu: Chicken Breast, Burgers, Potato Salad, Mac n' Cheese. Coleslaw</i>	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
1:00-2:00 PM	Fireside Chat with Jon Cannon & Senator Paul Strommen, District 47	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
2:00-3:00 PM	NACO Updates & District Reports	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
3:00 PM	Closing and Adjourn	Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12