

March 1, 2024



The Ninety-Three

District Meeting Registration

Southeast - Thursday, March 14th - Southeast Community College Career Academy, Lincoln -
Deadline to pre-register: 3/7/24 at 5 PM CST

Northeast - Friday, March 15th - Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center,
Norfolk - Deadline to pre-register: **TODAY** 3/1/24 at 5 PM CST

Central - Thursday, March 21st - Holthus Convention Center, York - Deadline to pre-register:
3/14/24 at 5 PM CST

Panhandle - Wednesday, March 27th - Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport -
Deadline to pre-register: 3/20/24 at 5 PM CST

West Central - Thursday, March 28th - Quality Inn & Conference Center - Ogallala - Deadline to
pre-register: 3/21/24 at 5 PM CST

General Agenda for District Meetings

- Registration - 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Business Meeting - 9:00 - 10:15 am
- Affiliate Breakout Sessions - 10:15 am - 12:00 pm
- Lunch - 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Registration Open Now

[Registration](#)

[View the Agendas Here](#)

Affiliate district representatives, if you have not done so already, please email riley.sigler@nebraskacounties.org with your breakout agendas as soon as possible.

Alliance for the Future in Agriculture Modern Livestock Facility Tours

SAVE THE DATE

MODERN LIVESTOCK FACILITY TOUR



Make plans to join AFAN for a livestock facility tour following your local NACO meeting this spring!

If a livestock operation comes to your county, will you be prepared to make a decision? Join us to..

- *See a modern livestock facility*
- *Hear from the farmer how it operates*
- *Smell what it smells like*
- *Taste....some ice cream*



Site locations will be given out during lunch at your local district meeting.

For questions, call our office at 402.421.4472.



Tours to follow district meetings

March 14, Lincoln, Southeast Community College Career Academy

March 15, Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center

March 21, York, Holthus Convention Center

Site Locations will be given during the meeting

PREVIOUS TOURS

This was AFAN's second consecutive year of hosting livestock facility tours for elected officials. This year's tour was held in Colfax and Platte County area. The tour consisted of three site tours along with a program during lunch. The event was well attended by county board members, planning and zoning administrators, and assessors.



"This was a great opportunity to see what modern livestock facilities look like. I was impressed with the operations, especially the dairy, they are well run, clean, and have very little odor. I was also able to learn about all the regulations a livestock operation has to comply with." - *Tim Cornwell, Chair of Nance County Supervisors*

"What an amazing experience learning about exciting new innovations and diversity in Agriculture, thank you AFAN!"
- *Judy Migner, Adams County Zoning Administrator*

"AFAN provides a great educational opportunity for county decision-makers in being able to see modern livestock facilities, talk to the producers, and network with other county leaders to learn about zoning best practices from other counties. I'd strongly recommend attending one of these sessions."

-*Chad Nabity, Hall County Regional Planning Director*



To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the NACO scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

Applications are due March 15, 2024.

[Click Here for the Application and More Information](#)



NACO West Update

The crews have been making great progress and have almost completely enclosed the building.



2024 Severe Weather Awareness Toolkit

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will be highlighting the importance of preparing for severe weather during the spring.

Severe weather can happen during any season and impact any part of our country. Spring is a time of transition, when late-season snowstorms can impact the East Coast and the Northern Plains, thunderstorms rip across the South and Midwest, rivers overflow their banks and heat waves begin in the Southwest. Don't let this dangerous season catch you unaware. Get ready for spring with just a few simple steps: Know Your Risk, Take Action and Be an Example.

In addition to asking Americans to learn their risks and take action to prepare through their own outreach channels, FEMA Region 7 is encouraging everyone to get the word out and help the Whole Community prepare for severe weather.

Preparedness Week:
Nebraska: March 25 - 29, 2024

This toolkit is designed to provide you and your organization easy to use tools to promote this campaign and help your stakeholders be better prepared for disasters.

Cyber Security Key Point - Removable Media

CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

February

From the County
Network Security
Cooperative



RANDOM DRIVES

NEVER plug in a piece of removable media found in the wild! Let's be frank, do you lock your car? Using a strange removable drive is like handing over your keys to a criminal. Welcoming them to wreak havoc in your virtual world. It's just asking for trouble!

Even random drives found in the office should not be assumed safe—especially if found in a well-traveled space of the building—as there is always the potential that it was left maliciously to gain access to devices and networks. Even if the owner is not a hacker it could contain malware, viruses, or other unintentional downloads that could compromise security.



REMOVABLE MEDIA

What is removable media you might ask? Well, we've all probably seen a version or two, most likely even used one, but perhaps weren't aware that something so small and innocent looking could be potentially lethal to an organization's security.

Portable devices such as a USB drive (or flash drive, or dongle, or stick, or thumb drive or whatever one chooses to call it), an external hard drive (for computer back-ups), CDs, DVDs, or SD cards are all removable media.

WHAT TO DO

Files on removable media can be accessed without putting networks, accounts, and devices at risk. If you come across a stray at work, you should hand it over to the IT department. Not at work? Proceed with caution and don't let curiosity get the best of you!

Here's how you can reduce risk:

**Use a data blocker: little connectors used as a line of protection between the device & USB drive.*

**Use an "air-gapped" computer (this is "nerd talk" for a device not connected to the internet).*

**Do nothing: Are you uncomfortable with more advanced cyber security protocols? Then don't mess with the device. If it is worth anything to the owner, they will come looking for it.*



BEST PRACTICES

- *Install anti malware/anti-virus software on computers.
- *Disable auto-run and autoplay features.
- *Password-protect your removable media & devices.
- *Remove all sensitive material from removable media once data is transferred.
- *Use encryption.

The most effective protocol is employee security awareness training. Educate on the importance of data security and provide resources to handle removable media properly. Organizations that follow these practices are better positioned to defend against threats.

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.

[Download Here](#)



Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Funding Opportunity Webinar Recording

The recording of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Webinar from Thursday, February 22, 2024 is now available.

The webinar will include:

- An overview of the program
- Specific details about eligibility and applying
- Insight from the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Testimonials from prior applicants about success and challenges

[Watch the Webinar Recording Here](#)

NACO West Business Suite for Lease



NACO WEST

COMING FALL 2024



NACO has a business suite available for lease at our new NACO West location opening Fall 2024!

If you're interested in discovering more about this prime space, please reach out for more details to Candace Meredith at candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org.

Sponsored by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Why Employee Mental Health Should be Part of Your Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Strategy



Many U.S. counties and organizations are prioritizing the implementation of effective DEIB strategies to better support employees of diverse cultures and backgrounds. One DEIB strategy that is often overlooked is employee mental health, a fundamental part of people's overall wellness. In fact, 45% of people who did not receive mental health care reported workplace issues. This is why it's vital for counties to create a foundation to better understand and support the mental wellbeing of a diverse workforce and offer helpful tools and resources. [Read more.](#)

2024 Outstanding County Board Member of the Year Nomination Form

Nominations for the 2024 Outstanding County Board Member Award are open to county board members who have been in office for at least two (2) terms. Criteria used for selecting the 2024 recipient includes: member will have been active on regional boards, been chairman of their county board, participated in the legislative process, or appointed to a statewide committee. Regular attendance at NACO educational opportunities, events and meetings is also required. Please keep your answers concise but be sure to include all pertinent information. Announcement of the recipient of this award will be made after the Wednesday evening meal at the County Board Workshop in Kearney.

Submit nomination form to candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org by May 3, 2024.

Information Is Power and Cash Is King

by William Cherry - March, 2024 - cashVest® by three+one®

Both are famous sayings that you have heard many times over the years. Both have also proven over time to be absolutely correct. But did you know that both of these truisms also directly apply to you as a county official?

Information, in the form of accurate intelligence and reliable data, has always been of critical importance to any organization's strength and advancement. From the earliest prehistoric scouting expeditions to determine a military opponent's strengths and weaknesses to today's vast satellite-based technological advances in information gathering, well-timed, unbiased, and accurate data has proven to be the most essential key to success.

Over the past 20 years or so, county governments have been asked to take on more and more responsibilities and provide a level of public services that were once unimaginable. Counties that were at one time responsible for basic services such as Sheriff's law enforcement, road maintenance, and preserving public records, are now also responsible for a multitude of additional, wide-ranging, and highly complex public services. Managing a county government is now more complicated than ever, *which means that accurate, dependable data – and embracing the most reliable new tools – are now more important than ever.*

One other thing that every county government all across the U.S.A. has in common is cash. And as we know, "cash is king." Every county has cash sitting on deposit in its many bank accounts. The amount can vary from less than one million dollars to more than one *billion* dollars, and every one of those dollars has a true worth that significantly exceeds its face value. In March of 2024, that "true worth" adds approximately 5.5% to 6.0% to the face value. So, for a county that has \$10 million on deposit, the true worth can add another \$550,000 to \$600,000 in cold, hard, spendable cash to that total.

How can we best tap into that significant pool of additional cash and use it for county projects and priorities? **By combining "Cash is King" with "Information is Power."** Accurate, reliable, unbiased data that analyzes overall liquidity levels, future cash-flow forecasts, impartial interest-rate comparisons, and the fees being charged by banks, can give your finance office and county decision-makers the critical information they need to maximize the value of every dollar on deposit. In today's complex world, where counties have more needs than resources, just letting cash sit idly on deposit and accepting whatever the bank is paying in interest should no longer be an option.

NACo and the NACo Edge program search out and select service providers that help county governments increase their revenues, reduce expenses, and provide public services in the most cost-effective ways possible. **three+one®** is honored to have been selected by NACo and NACo Edge because we are the nation's leader in providing

public entities with precise, unbiased, accurate data on their cash and liquidity, covering all their banking relationships and every single bank account.

“Information is Power” and “Cash is King” are two time-tested axioms that can be paired together to help your county government be more efficient and generate higher revenues. NACo understands that, and so does three+one.

The author served for 24 years as a County Treasurer responsible for analyzing and managing public funds. He now serves as the Director of Public Partnerships for three+one and can be reached by phone at 585-484-0311, ext. 709 or by email at wec@threeplusone.us or through the company website at www.threeplusone.us

Source: [Information Is Power and Cash Is King - cashVest® by three+one®](#) (threeplusone.us).

RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2024 Election Calendar](#)



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