

August 14, 2026



The Ninety-Three

NACO Deputy Director Candace Meredith: Takeaways from the 2026 Midwest State Association Staff Retreat

NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon and Deputy Director Candace Meredith recently traveled to Columbus, Ohio, for the 2026 Midwest State Association Staff Retreat. The gathering brought association professionals together to compare ideas, learn from one another, and explore how counties can respond to fast-moving challenges with confidence.

The retreat covered a wide range of topics—from tourism and rapid growth to public services, communications and artificial intelligence. Three themes stood out: AI must be tied to real organizational priorities, people and governance matter as much as technology, and trusted communication begins with a thoughtful internal filter.

[Head to our blog](#) to read Candace's reflections and key takeaways from the staff retreat!



Registration Now Open for 2026 NACO Fall District Meetings!

[Southeast District Meeting](#) - Thursday, September 10th - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST

- *Peter Kiewit Lodge, Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, 28500 W Park Highway, Ashland*

[Northeast District Meeting](#) - Friday, September 11th - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST

- *Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College - 601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk*

[Central District Meeting](#) - Thursday, September 17th - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST

- *Younes Center North, 707 Talmadge Street - Kearney*

[Pandhandle District Meeting](#) - Wednesday, September 23rd - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. MT

- *Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main Street, Bridgeport*

[West Central District Meeting](#) - Thursday, September 24th - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. MT

- *NACO West Training Center, 102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala*



FALL 2026 NACO DISTRICT MEETINGS

Sept. 10

Southeast District Meeting
Mahoney State Park

Sept. 11

Northeast District Meeting
Norfolk

Sept. 17

Central District Meeting
Kearney

Sept. 23

Panhandle District Meeting
Bridgeport

Sept. 24

West Central District Meeting
Ogallala

NACO Legislative Conference Registration Now Open

Registration for the 2026 NACO Legislative Conference is [now open on our website](#). The conference will be held on Friday, October 16th at Nebraska's Big Rodeo Fairground and Event Hall in Burwell, NE.

Tentative Agenda:

8:00 - 9:00 AM - Registration/Networking/Breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 AM - Presentations

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Legislative Proposals

12:00 - 12:45 PM - Lunch

12:45 - 3:00 PM - Legislative Proposals

Register for the Legislative Conference

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

NACo Resource Roundup: Data Centers, Tech Xchange Webinars, and Additional Resources

Find tools and solutions for navigating data center development

NACo's [Data Centers Resource Hub](#) brings together strategies, resources and county examples to help local leaders navigate data center development, from permitting and infrastructure planning to community engagement and long-term economic considerations.

Explore [practical tools](#): Access NACo's data centers primer, county spotlights, partner resources and other tools to help counties evaluate proposals, plan for development and strengthen local oversight.

Watch the Annual Conference summit: At the 2026 NACo Annual Conference & Expo, [county leaders and industry experts examined](#) how rapid data center growth is affecting local economies, land use, public revenues and electricity infrastructure. [Watch the recording](#) and [view the slide deck](#).

Check out NACo's [Data Centers Resource Hub](#) for more resources and latest information.

Find practical solutions in upcoming Tech Xchange webinars

The [NACo Tech Xchange](#) connects county IT professionals and county leaders around technology issues facing counties. Upcoming sessions help counties strengthen cyber resilience, prepare for Election Day and find funding opportunities for technology investments.

Election readiness — Aug. 18: Hear practical approaches to scenario planning, cross-functional coordination and operational preparedness that county IT professionals, emergency managers and election administrators can put to work ahead of Election Day. [Register for the webinar](#).

Technology funding — Aug. 25: Learn how counties can connect communications technology needs with federal and state grant opportunities in justice reform, rural health, mental health and public safety, including strategies for framing investments around funder priorities. [Register for the webinar](#).

Visit the [NACo Tech Xchange](#) for additional resources and information.

NACO Annual Conference to be Held December 16-18 in Kearney, Award Nominations Now Open

Hotel Room Reservation and Registration will open on Wednesday, September 9th at 1:30 PM MT/2:30 PM CT. More information will be provided regarding the hotel reservation form submission in the coming weeks.

Every year, county officials have an opportunity to nominate their peers for the Next Generation, Lifetime Achievement, and County Official of the Year awards, which are presented to the winners at the Annual Conference. Award nominations are now open, and we encourage you to submit your nomination as soon as possible. The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 16th.

- [Next Generation Award](#)
 - [Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
 - [County Official of the Year Award](#)
-

Send Us Your County Fair Photos!

As we head into county fair season, NACO wants to help share photos from your fair! Snap pictures of the rides, the food, the animals, or any other fun moments, and email them to lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org so we can feature your county fair on our social media!

Big thank you to Daryl Clark from the Saline County Assessor's Office for all of these great photos from several different county fairs!



Perkins County Decorates to Celebrate America's 250th

Perkins County decorated its courthouse to celebrate America's 250th and plans to do so again next year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the courthouse's completion.



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 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



Nebraska
Safety Center
EST. 1978



RESOURCES

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

August 2026-August 2027 Legal Calendar

2026 Election Calendar

Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar



Need to Update Your Email Information For This Newsletter?
Click 'Manage' in the options below.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1335 H Street | Lincoln, NE 68508 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.