

March 21, 2025



# The Ninety-Three

## Upcoming NACO Events - Registrations Now Open

### 2025 upcoming events.



**MAY  
8**

**NACO BUDGET  
WORKSHOP #1**

Holthus Center, York

**MAY  
15**

**NACO BUDGET  
WORKSHOP #2**

NACO West, Ogallala

**JUNE  
4**

**BOARD OF  
EQUALIZATION  
WORKSHOP**

Younes North, Kearney

**JUNE  
4-5**

**COUNTY BOARD  
WORKSHOP**

Younes North, Kearney

Nebraska Association  
of County Officials


[www.nebraskacounties.org](http://www.nebraskacounties.org)

Online pre-registration is now open for the upcoming NACO workshops:

- Budget Workshop #1, May 8, Holthus Convention Center, York
- Budget Workshop #2, May 15, NACO West, Ogallala
- Board of Equalization Workshop, June 4, Younes North, Kearney
- County Board Workshop, June 4-5, Younes North, Kearney

Event Calendar & Registrations

# Enrollment is Open for the 2025 County Official Online Learning (COOL) Network



**N**  
EXTENSION

## COOL NETWORK

County Official Online Learning Network


This course offers participants a chance to connect with fellow county officials, university professors, and local government experts through online content, discussion forum, weekly live webinars, and final in-person session.

**Registration Fee: \$100**

**Session Starts: May 5, 2025**

**Enrollment Deadline: April 15, 2025**

**Register Now**  
[nebraskacounties.org](http://nebraskacounties.org)



**Week 1**  
May 5-9  
Structure

**Week 2**  
May 12-16  
Taxation

**Week 3**  
May 19-23  
Management

**Week 4**  
June 4  
In-Person Session, Kearney  
Vision

In collaboration with the University of Nebraska Extension, the County Official Online Learning (COOL) Network is a hybrid educational course that includes a three-week online unit in May 2025, followed by one in-person session in Kearney, NE, on June 4, 2025.

During the online portion, participants will use a learning management system to access videos and reading materials provided by professors, as well as insights from county and state officials. Participants can engage with the content at their own pace throughout the week, with opportunities for online discussion forums with fellow learners and a one-hour live webinar with the professor at the end of each week. The expected time commitment for learners is three to five hours per week.

The final session will take place in person at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE, on June 4, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Topics covered include:

The purpose, structure, and funding of county government  
Government finance, expenditures and mandates

**Session Starts: May 5, 2025**

**Enrollment Deadline: April 15, 2025**

COOL Network Registration

# NACO Presents "Wildlife Wonders" Photography Contest

A green and blue graphic for the Wildlife Wonders Photography Contest. It features a silhouette of a person taking a photo on the left, three sample photos of nature (a bird, a sunflower, and a deer) on the right, and text detailing the contest rules and prizes in the center. The NACO logo is in the bottom right corner.

## Wildlife Wonders

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Take a spectacular photo of a native plant or animal someplace in a Nebraska county.

13 Winning Photographs will be featured in NACO's annual calendar! Grand Prize Winner will receive \$100!

ENTRY DEADLINE:	WINNERS ANNOUNCED:
<b>August 1</b>	<b>Mid-September</b>

For entry rules and photo criteria, visit our website:  
[www.nebraskacounties.org](http://www.nebraskacounties.org)



Attention all photographers! NACO is hosting a photography contest:

"Wildlife Wonders"

NACO will select 13 winning photographs which will be featured in our annual calendar. Each winner will receive a calendar and a NACO swag bag! The GRAND PRIZE WINNER will receive \$100 and be featured on the cover!

There's more! Even if your photograph does not win, it may still be featured in a number of NACO publications, including the official website and social media.

## How to Submit Entries

First, review the [rules](#)!

Then, take a spectacular photo of a native plant or animal someplace in a Nebraska county (but see rules for resolution requirements!)

Finally, submit your photo(s) [here](#) (limit of 3 photographs)

For more information about photo resolution using an iPhone, click [here](#).

For more information about photo resolution using an Android, click [here](#).

**Questions?** Contact Luke Bonkiewicz at [Luke.Bonkiewicz@NebraskaCounties.org](mailto:Luke.Bonkiewicz@NebraskaCounties.org).

Contest Webpage

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## Upcoming NACO District Meetings

**Panhandle** - Wednesday, March 26th - Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport - Pre-registration closed. Walk in registrants welcome.

**West Central** - Thursday, March 27th - NACO West - Ogallala - Pre-registration closed. Walk in registrants welcome.

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### General Agenda for District Meetings

8:00-9:00 AM - Registration

9:00-10:15 AM - Business Meeting

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM - Affiliate Breakout Sessions

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Lunch

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## NACO West Training Center Is Gearing Up for a

# Busy Season

Things are picking up at **NACO West Training Center**, and we couldn't be more excited! This new venture has been a long time in the making, and now, as we head into a busy season of events, we are looking forward to seeing it come to life. A place to **learn, connect, and inspire**, NACO West is ready to welcome teams looking to grow and collaborate.

With a full lineup of events on the horizon, there is a new energy in the air. We are excited about what's ahead and can't wait to host those looking for a space to share ideas and build something great together.

We know that the best ideas don't happen in isolation—they happen when people come together to exchange knowledge and challenge one another to think differently. That's exactly what we hope to cultivate at NACO West, and we're looking forward to seeing the impact that takes shape in the months ahead.

Here's to a season of growth, connection, and new possibilities at NACO West!

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## 2025 NACO Outstanding County Board Member of the Year Nomination Form

Nominations for the 2025 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 2025 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](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org) by May 2, 2025.**

[Nomination Form](#)

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## New NACO Medicare Team Offers Guidance to County Employees and Communities

NACO is partnering with local Medicare Supplement experts to help assist employees as they transition from traditional health insurance to Medicare coverage. Our new partners have been fully vetted and are ready to help!



## Medicare Guidance for County Employees & Communities

Navigating Medicare can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. The **Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)** is committed to supporting county employees and the communities they serve by providing trusted Medicare resources. Whether you're approaching retirement or simply exploring your options, we're here to help.

To ensure you receive expert guidance, NACO has partnered with licensed insurance agents at Pro Insurance Resources—a team of knowledgeable and caring professionals dedicated to making the Medicare transition seamless.

If you are nearing retirement, aware of a community member considering Medicare options or have a family member seeking support, contact your NACO District agent to schedule a consultation today.

“Medicare can be a complex and stressful process. We understand that resources are limited in rural Nebraska, which is why this partnership is a wonderful opportunity for all we serve. By providing access to qualified and compassionate professionals, we're ensuring individuals get the support they need to make informed decisions.”

— Candace Meredith,  
NACO Deputy Director



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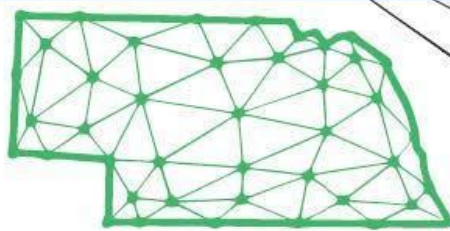


**Krista Dittman**  
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT  
402-432-8199  
Krista@insuranceonpoint.com

Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program

# Public Transportation Conference



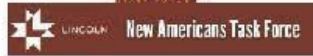


# THE ROAD AHEAD TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

*Public transportation solutions for a growing community*

Join us for a conference focused on **public transportation** in Nebraska. Learn what **elected officials**, city and **state planners** and **citizens** can do to work together to get Nebraska on the path to **world-class public transportation**

Organized by  
ORTF & Partners



**Monday, April 21st, 2025**  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)  
Milo Bail Student Center

- Learn from transportation experts
- Hear local testimonies
- Discover solutions
- Network



Click for  
free registration



Public Transportation Conference - [Register Here](#)

## Grant Writing Training in Omaha

Omaha Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Omaha, NE - April 22-23, 2025. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find the funding sources and write winning grant proposals.

**For event details visit: <https://grantstraining.com/ne0425>**

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Tuition is \$495 and includes everything: two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and sample grant proposals.

Groups of 5 or more receive a \$50 discount per person. Discounts for Grant Writing USA alumni and nonprofits are also available. Please call for details. Payment is not required at the time of registration.

All health and safety guidelines will be followed. Online reservations are necessary. Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here](#)

**Contact:**

Tammy Pitts

Grant Writing USA

888.435.7281 toll free

[tammy@grantwritingusa.com](mailto:tammy@grantwritingusa.com)

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# 20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



## ELITE MEMBERS



## PREMIUM MEMBERS



**Interested in becoming a 2025 NACO Business Member?**

Connect your company with county officials across Nebraska and apply today!

## RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)



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