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The NACO and MIPS offices will be closed Friday, April 29, 2011 in observance of Arbor Day

Upcoming Events

NDOR Establishes Federal Funds Purchase Program

The passage of [LB 98](#) has provided the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) the authority to enter into agreements for purchases of federal aid transportation funds at a discounted rate. State funds obtained must be expended for highway and bridge needs.

The Federal Funds Purchase Program (FFPP) is being established to provide a way for NDOR to purchase the federal funds currently used by Local Public Agencies in exchange for state cash. State dollars will allow local agencies to tailor projects to better meet their local needs.

Meetings to discuss details of the FFPP will be held across the state to address questions local officials may have and to visit about the possibilities. For additional information and to view meeting dates and locations, click [here](#) or visit the NDOR website at www.dor.state.ne.us.

2011 NACO Blue Cross Blue Shield Group Health Rates Set

Members of the NACO Health Insurance committee and NACO Board spend many hours examining the NACO health plan offering. Today, the NACO Board met and approved the rates for the 2011 plan year. NACO and BCBS are pleased to continue to offer a health care plan with the best in-state network for county employees across the State of Nebraska.

[2011 Rate Summary](#) (effective July 1, 2011)



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Web Forum to Focus on Using Therapy Dogs to Respond To Child Victims

On April 27, 2011, at 1 PM CST, the Office of Justice Programs' Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will host a [Web Forum](#) on using therapy dogs to respond to child victims. The 1-hour session, which is cosponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, will be led by Andrea Cardona, founder of Four Legged Advocates, Inc., and Detective Curtis Allen, manager of Tooele County Children's Justice Center's Healing Paws Program.

For additional information, visit the OVC Web Forum [here](#).

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Proposed Guidelines for Court-Appointed Counsel

As the result of a study by the Nebraska Supreme Court and Nebraska Bar Association's Minority and Justice Implementation Committee, the Nebraska Supreme Court is considering minimum standards for court appointed counsel in criminal and juvenile cases. Interested parties are

Natural Gas Vehicle
Workshop

Lincoln
April 28, 2011

2011 NJJA Conference

Kearney
May 12-13, 2011

WIR Conference

Wenatchee, WA
May 18-20, 2011

2020 Committee Meeting

Kearney
May 25, 2011 - 1:00 p.m.

County Board of Equalization
Workshop

Kearney
May 26, 2011

Clerk of District Court

Workshop
Gering
June 7-9, 2011

County Engineers, Highway
Superintendents & Surveyors

Summer Meeting
Valentine
June 7-9, 2011

Treasurers Workshop

Ogallala
June 7-9, 2011

Clerks, Election
Commissioners & Registers
of Deeds Workshop

Grand Island
June 15-17, 2011

Sponsors



NPAIT

invited to comment on the proposed new rules and appendix until June 1, 2011.

To view the full text of the proposed new rules and appendix and additional information regarding the comment period, click [here](#).

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Supreme Court Rule Amendments of Possible Interest

[Neb. Ct. R. §§ 6-701 to 6-708 \(Interpreters in Court\) and Interpreter forms](#) (adopted March 16, 2011)

[Neb. Ct. R. § 3-309\(A\) \(Discipline Procedures for Lawyers\)](#) (adopted March 16, 2011)

[Acceptable Use Policy for Computer and Internet Use](#) (approved March 10, 2011)

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Historic Preservation Survey

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Nebraska State Historical Society needs input from you! Please take a few moments and become a preservation partner in creating a strategic new plan for how Nebraska can best preserve and enhance its rich history and culture. Your responses will help guide the SHPO's objectives for the future as we approach Nebraska's 150th anniversary of statehood in 2017.

Historic preservation can be a tool for community development, to enhance tourism, and to accomplish comprehensive and regional planning. The Nebraska State Historical Society is asking for the input of county officials, county development offices and planners in the efforts.

Make your views known and opinions count - Take our short 10 question survey available [here](#). You can also access the survey through the Nebraska State Historical Society's newly redesigned website at www.nebraskahistory.org under the "What's New" heading.

If you have any questions about the creation of the preservation plan or would like additional information, feel free to contact:

Bob Puschendorf, Associate Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Nebraska State Historical Society
1500 R Street, PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501

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Walk For Your Life Challenge 2011

As spring is beginning to make an appearance, it is time to start preparing for this year's Walk For Your Life Challenge, which will run from June 1 to September 30, 2011. Last year, we decided to try something different and monitor reporting based on steps rather than miles walked as in the previous two year's WFYL Challenges. The majority of participants have indicated a preference of reporting miles rather than steps, so we will once again base our reports on miles walked. To accommodate those who prefer bicycling

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Education Foundation Memorial Program

A gift to NACO's Education Foundation ensures that the children of county officials and county employees are eligible to apply for scholarships to continue their education at Nebraska's higher learning institutions. Whatever their passion - history, art, music, science, education, sports - the NACO Education Foundation will provide them an opportunity to fund their education beyond the K-12 level. Memorial gifts to NACO's Education Foundation are tax exempt and a lasting legacy in honor of your loved one's commitment to educating the children of Nebraska's county officials and employees. For more information about how to make a memorial gift, please contact [Jon Edwards](#) / 402-434-5660 ext. 227.

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and/or swimming to walking, we will also allow for those activities this year.

Information has been sent out to county clerks and last year's team leaders. We encourage participation from all 93 counties. This is a fun challenge that will pay dividends on your health!

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News Across the State

[Commissioners vote to increase security](#)

Gothenburg Times, 4/7/11

[Jail looking for lost state income in coming years](#)

Dakota County Star, 4/8/11

[City, county work toward joint economic development venture](#)

Beatrice Daily Sun, 4/9/11

[New census requires county redistricting](#)

Columbus Telegram, 4/13/11

[Two counties changed names because of the war](#)

Fremont Tribune, 4/14/11

[A constant reminder](#)

Beatrice Daily Sun, 4/16/11

[Roads projects will get federal help](#)

Fremont Tribune, 4/18/11

[Veterans advocates disagree on benefits comparison](#)

Journal Star, 4/21/11

[County encourages juvenile services](#)

Gothenburg Times, 4/22/11

[Hall County has \\$55 million in new growth](#)

Grand Island Independent, 4/22/11

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News from NACo

Counties Air Concerns in Wake of Japan's Quake

There are 104 operating commercial reactors in 31 U.S. States, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) website - the vast majority of them east of the Mississippi River. While NEI does not track reactors by county, a 1991 National Cancer Institute study reported that 107 counties were home to or near nuclear facilities. Click [here](#) for the full article.

Technical Assistance Available for Community Health Needs Assessments in Rural Counties

NACo is currently accepting applications from rural counties to receive technical assistance to assess their local health needs and improve and strengthen their health care delivery systems. Applications must be received by April 29, 2011. For additional information, click [here](#).

2011 County Courthouse Awards

The County Courthouse Awards Program is sponsored by Siemens and recognizes innovative governance by county elected officials from NACo member counties. Award winners will receive an engraved plaque that can be displayed in their county, recognition at the 2011 NACo Annual Conference and a \$5000 college scholarship to present to a graduating high school senior. Awards will be given in three categories: rural, suburban, and urban. Applications must be received by April 29, 2011. For additional information and application form, click [here](#).

Western Interstate Region Conference

This year's Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference will take place May 18-20 in Chelan County/Wenatchee, Washington, and will focus on public lands and other issues critical to the western region of the United States. It provides county officials with the opportunity to hear speakers, discuss legislation, and network with other officials to exchange information on those issues. For additional information and registration, click [here](#).

Register Now for NACo's 76th Annual Conference and Exposition

Plan to attend this year's event in Multnomah County/Portland, Oregon, July 15-19. Featured speaker will be Aron Ralston, the subject of the movie "127 Hours," who amputated an arm to free himself when trapped by a boulder while hiking. For additional information and registration, click [here](#).

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NACo Web-based Education

Using County Health Indicators to Inform Local Policy Decisions

Thursday, May 5, 2011
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Many health data sources and tools exist that can help identify health assets and challenges within your community. Join us as speakers demonstrate how your county can utilize community health and quality of life indicator information to help inform policy decisions and more effectively target local public health resources. Register [here](#).

Managing Your Message in the Digital Age of Communications

Wednesday, May 18, 2011
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Reporters are blogging and posting stories online all day long. Your constituents - armed with smart phones - are Tweeting and posting "status updates" each day too. While technologies are changing, the rules of media relations and public communications have not. Learn basic media relations best practices and the DOs and DON'Ts of using social media. This webinar is especially useful for newly elected officials or those who have yet to take the plunge into social media. This is a members only webinar. You must sign in to the NACo Member Center to register.

Improving Local and State Partnerships in Sentencing and Corrections

Thursday, May 19, 2011

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Counties across the country are seeking effective and efficient ways to operate local governments. Great barriers and opportunities exist to address local justice systems' issues. This webinar will address "performance incentive funding," an innovative opportunity aimed at improving public safety and controlling corrections costs for both counties and states. Presenters will outline the potential benefits these initiatives have for counties and explore such policies that create effective partnerships between counties and states. Register [here](#).

For more information on these, other upcoming and previous webinars, visit the NACo [Web-based Education](#) page.

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