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### Upcoming Events

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

### County Board of Equalization Workshop - There is still time to register!

There is still time to register for NACO's biennial County Board of Equalization Workshop, to be held on May 26, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Kearney. Today is the final day to register at the early-bird cost of \$60. Registrations completed after today will increase to \$70.

Visit the NACO [website](#) for agenda and registration information.

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### 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. On April 22, 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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### 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 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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### 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

of Deeds Workshop  
Grand Island  
June 15-17, 2011

NACo Annual Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
July 15-19, 2011

Assessors Workshop  
Lincoln  
August 30-September 2,  
2011

Register of Deeds Workshop  
Kearney  
October 12, 2011

Legislative Conference  
Kearney  
October 13, 2011

NWCA Fall Training  
Hastings  
October 25-26, 2011

NACo Annual Conference  
Kearney  
December 14-16, 2011

## Sponsors



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[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://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

It is nearly time 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 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

[County encourages juvenile services](#)  
Gothenburg Times, 4/22/11

[Veteran planner addresses county planning commission](#)  
The Chadron Record, 4/26/11

[New jail beginning second year](#)  
Wahoo Newspaper, 4/28/11

[Dawson County Commissioners approve agreement with Gosper County](#)  
Dakota County Star, 5/3/11

[Dodge County may dump jail](#)  
Omaha World-Herald, 5/5/11

[Lancaster County estimates \\$4M to \\$4.5M budget shortfall](#)  
Lincoln Journal Star, 5/5/11

[Hall County board OKs social networking policy](#)  
Grand Island Independent, 5/10/11

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## News from NACo

NACo Veterans and Military Service Task Force

NACo President Glen Whitley has formed a Task Force to highlight the good works that counties are doing to support veterans, military service members and their families. To that end, the NACo Veterans and Military Service

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Thank you to all the new and renewed NACO Sustaining & Associate members. A complete membership listing can be found [here](#) on the NACO website.

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### 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

webpage has been updated to reflect Task Force activities.

View the new Veterans and Military Service Task Force webpage [here](#).

NACO seeks examples of regulatory hurdles, hindrances

If you have been bothered and befuddled by federal regulations that add expense and headaches to your projects or operations, now's your time to let NACO know.

NACO is collecting information to forward to the Obama administration in conjunction with a White House initiative for find ways to design cost-effective, evidence-based regulations.

To read the full article, 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 even 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

Managing Your Message in the Digital Age of Communications  
Wednesday, May 18, 2011  
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CDT

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 DONTs 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.

How County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) Support Transition to Civilian Life  
Wednesday, May 25, 2011  
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CDT

Join this webinar to see how your veterans and their families benefit from the services of a County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO). With specific knowledge and experience, having a CVSO in your county facilitates claims

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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development and supports a successful transition of your military personnel to civilian life. This is a members only webinar. you must sign in to the [NACo Member Center](#) to register.

Green Infrastructure in Your Backyard: Central Area  
Thursday, June 9, 2011  
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CDT

Green infrastructure refers to a planned and managed system of green spaces, greenways and natural lands. These land improve water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as provide opportunities for outdoor recreation/tourism. Green Infrastructure has been utilized by counties to address regional issues, such as flooding, drought, stormwater runoff, and habitat fragmentation. Join the webinar to learn how counties in the Central region are utilizing green infrastructure principles to minimize flooding along large rivers. Register [here](#).

Helping Counties Recover from Homeowner Foreclosures: Neighborhood Stabilization Program  
Thursday, June 16, 2011  
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CDT

The negative impact of foreclosure on communities is far reaching. Not only have people lost homes, but communities are also suffering economically, physically and socially. During this webinar you'll hear about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a federal program that is helping county governments recover from the impacts of home foreclosures. You'll also hear from counties that received funding from NSP to implement foreclosure redevelopment efforts in their communities. Find out how you can apply this information to benefit your county. Register [here](#).

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

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