NET Assists in NACO’s Legislative Process

NACO board members and other interested county representatives typically attend two meetings that are scheduled in Lincoln at the beginning of the legislative session to review, discuss and take a position on legislation which could have an impact on county government. That process remained the same this year; however the format in which it was accomplished required less driving time for some.

Video links were set up between the NET building in Lincoln, ESU16 Distance Learning Center in North Platte, and UNL Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff for the January 23rd legislative meeting. Although there was a momentary disruption of a link, overall the response was favorable for this meeting format.

Due to the need of NACO staff to be at the Capitol for hearings, having the legislative meetings anywhere other than Lincoln is not feasible. Utilizing the technology available to bring county officials from across the state together during this important time, while reducing travel expenses, is something NACO will be pursuing for future meetings.

New Year Brings Change to Several Offices

County Board Members

Following the approval of Hamilton and Otoe county voters to expand the county boards from three to five members, district boundaries have been redrawn and new board members appointed. In Hamilton County, Clarence Trumble and Timothy Bergen were appointed through terms ending in 2010. In addition to the new districts created in Otoe county, a third vacancy was filled following the recall of Commissioner Dale Haverty. Richard Freshman, Carol Crook and Timothy Nelsen (previously the county’s public defender), were appointed through terms also ending in 2010.

In Garden County, Robert Radke was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of commissioner Don Newth.

Assessors

Rock County Assessor Gene Schaaf was appointed assessor in Antelope County following the recall of assessor Julie Harrison. Monica Turpin, who was the deputy assessor, is the new Rock County assessor.

Deputy Assessor Cheryl Taft was appointed assessor in Gosper County following the resignation of Mary Gruber.

Morrill County Assessor Sue Nussbaum has submitted her resignation. Deputy Assessor Rose Nelson will likely be appointed as a replacement.

Treasurers

Adams and Boone counties both have new treasurers. Following the resignation of Adams County Treasurer Julia Moeller, Bev Davis was appointed to fulfill the remainder of her term. Laurie Krohn was appointed treasurer of Boone County, due to the retirement of Helen Preusser.
There is still time to register for next week’s annual County Board Workshop...

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the 2009 County Board Workshop to be held February 11-13 at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Kearney. Online registration is no longer available; however, you can still pre-register by contacting the NACO office.

A newly revised edition of the County Board Handbook is now available. Copies can be purchased for $80 plus shipping and handling. Shipping and handling charges will be waived if you pre-order for pickup at the County Board Workshop. County board members newly elected in November 2008 will receive a County Board Handbook as part of their registration when they attend the Wednesday afternoon orientation for new board members.

To register for the County Board Workshop or pre-order a County Board Handbook for pickup, contact NACO at 402-434-5660.

2009 NACO Scholarship Applications Available

Nebraska high school seniors who are the children or stepchildren of county officials or employees are encouraged to apply for one of twelve $1000 scholarships. Additional information and the downloadable [application](#) can be found under the ‘Services’ tab on the NACO website. Applications must be received with a postmark dated no later than March 2, 2009.

News Across the State...

*Links are to outside sources and may not be available indefinitely*

- [Board welcomes new member, recognizes outgoing member...](#)
  NDOR News, 01/23/09
- [Buffalo County board’s intent is to fund joint operations base beneath new jail building](#)
  Kearney Hub, 01/28/09
- [County inmate numbers steady](#)
  Columbus Telegram, 01/29/09
- [Supervisors approve jail site](#)
  Beatrice Daily Sun, 01/29/09
- [Township in Saunders County being surveyed](#)
  Wahoo Newspaper, 01/30/09
- [County won’t lead jail study](#)
  West Point News, 01/30/09
- [Area counties wait for stimulus details](#)
  Hastings Tribune, 01/30/09

[2009 Directory of County Officials](#)

The order form for the NACO 2009 Directory of County Officials is available online. The directory is an annual publication that provides names and contact information for elected and appointed county officials in the state. Each directory is $16 if tax-exempt and $17 if taxable.

Download the order form

The NACO/MIPS offices will be closed Monday, February 16th for the observance of President’s Day

If you are aware of any news that may be of interest, please let us know