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The early stage of committee hearings found NACO staff and county officials sprinting from hearing to hearing in order to testify on all the bills we are involved in. But by the finals days we found ourselves clawing for every single inch to reach the finish line.

I could go on and on about the good news from this session, but instead I just want to say thank you to all of our county officials who were involved in the process. You played a vital role in formulating the ‘good news’ coming from the ninety-ninth legislative session. Thanks again for your calls and support. Have a great summer.

I recently attended a concert by Anne Murray at the Lied Center in Lincoln. During the concert she sang a song that I feel relates to this past legislative session. There was a verse that went something like this – “We sure could use a little good news today.”

The ninety-ninth legislative session is now over. For those of you who closely followed the session, the end, in and of itself, is good news. It was one of the wildest sessions I have ever encountered. Now reality will set in as term limits begin to take effect.

I would characterize this session as a very good session for NACO and county officials. We successfully passed LB 904 which provides $7.5 million for county roads and bridges. We will receive an additional $400,000 for jail reimbursement. We fought off reductions in inheritance tax, fought off county consolidations and removed consolidation language from many other bills. In addition to that we secured funding for LEIF funding and Byrne Grants to combat drugs.

The real good news of this session was that it was a good teacher. We were taught that you must truly understand the process and work to gain advantage with a thorough understanding of the rules of the legislature. One can really make the most out of a difficult situation if you can use the rules to your advantage.

Another lesson learned is that the legislative process is more of a marathon than a sprint. The early stage of committee hearings found NACO staff and county officials sprinting from hearing to hearing in order to testify on all the bills we are involved in. But by the finals days we found ourselves clawing for every single inch to reach the finish line.

I could go on and on about the good news from this session, but instead I just want to say thank you to all of our county officials who were involved in the process. You played a vital role in formulating the “good news” coming from the ninety-ninth legislative session. Thanks again for your calls and support. Have a great summer.
I found out that people really do read the Countyline Magazine and many of you read my first column. I have received several remarks and questions about the article. I especially enjoy discovering that we have many mutual friends and experiences from the past. These discussions also remind me of how much I enjoy and personally use information found in the Countyline Magazine.

As we prepare articles for this edition, the 2006 Legislative Session is winding down. County government, for the most part, escaped last minute line item vetoes in the budget bill sent to the Governor. County government made some gains in additional funding this year in funding of roads, jail reimbursement and aid in LEAF and BYRNE funds. Again, we must thank our staff for representing us across the street at the Capitol.

When preparing my previous article Lisa Wefer asked me some questions that are rather difficult to answer, such as, “What would be some fact that people may be surprised to learn about you?” Today, April 10th, is a beautiful day and a perfect track meet type of day. In May of 1963 I won the Class C 880 Yard Run at the State Track Meet and tied for 4th place for All-Class Times that year. The other four runners were all in Class A. As I recall, that was the last year for the State Meet in Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. I would have to do the 880 Yard “Jog and Walk” in 2006.

In closing, please think about attending the National Conference in Chicago on August 4-8, 2006. There is going to be a very contested election this year for 2nd Vice-President and our state has several votes to cast this year, but, someone from your county must be present and registered in order to cast your ballot. Chicago hosted the Conference in 1993 and did a great job!

I will be seeing more of you at summer workshops and some committee meetings. Take Care,

Ken Fornander

Footnote: By the way, yes, it was 880 yards, not 800 meters and, yes, it was so far back in time that we used a sundial to time events.
The wind swirled around the towering buildings as we boarded the bus for our afternoon excursion. It was the highlight of the second half of the Technology Summit. A trip to the beyond. But how, where, the when was now. What did we need? Through the streets and thoroughfares of DC we traveled, and then out to a modern development of architectural imaginative buildings. One seemed to be the point of our focus and arrival – “Northrop Grumman” distinctly displayed at it’s top. Departing from the bus we quickly learned that we had to navigate the ‘air lock’ and then ‘security’. Now displaying our ‘security badges’ we convened in a large meeting room for instructions. “Today you will be into the beyond,” the speaker began. “technology that will challenge your imagination and you will find that you have traveled on the Star Ship Enterprise.” Leaving this ‘social’ area we walked to the elevator and were transported to the floor of dreams. First entering a room with many items of unique shape and size we learned how each helped the Department of Homeland Security and military to be equipped with data necessary to the protection of our homeland. The real treat was yet to come. Now we were asked to break into a smaller group and be transported to a dimly lit room. The sound of air movement was prevalent and in the center a raised area with walkways surrounding. Each of us took our ‘guest’ location around the area, only seeing below us a large black area. Our guide asked us to hold on to the rail as we were about to travel through space. The wind noise increased, a hum filled the room and that area which had been black now became brilliant with the image of the earth. WOW! What a beautiful site – clear, and colors beyond description from the satellite’s eye. Accustomed now to the large display we began our trip. Flying at ‘light speed’ we approached earth – around continent to continent stopping at a metropolis. There people walked on the streets and cars moved about unaware of our presence. The urge to pinch one’s self to determine if this was a dream became overwhelming. But no dream – reality – we were looking at a street in a modern city. Another movement and we flew to a desert and quickly realized that which appeared desolate and without life was quite the contrary. All of this is real, an experience I was privileged to participate in at the Legislative Technology Summit. Technology used by our military and homeland security on a daily basis. My words feel inadequate to explain to you the awesomeness of this experience. I truly returned to the conference hotel feeling as if I had traveled on the ‘Star Ship Enterprise’ and returned. With all that, I realized that I needed to find a way to share experiences, information and details to all of the counties in Nebraska. More than just my emails. Documents, power points and white papers all for you to have and read and for me to share. From that experience and the desire to share I bring you my new web site for sharing. NACo2NACO.com is up and running. You will find information there from the past three major National Association events I have attended. From this point forward I will be posting information I can garner from the conferences and make it available to each of you. A calendar gives you an idea of upcoming National Events and I have a contact me page so you can address questions or comments to me easily. Visit NACo2NACO.com today.

Budget season is upon us, if you are not a member of the National Association I ask that you take a serious look at all that it does for county government. My offer stands - if your board meeting does not conflict with mine in Buffalo County I will be glad to come and talk with you about the advantages of being a member of the National Association. The National Association is our only voice in Washington and the more I work in this arena the more I become aware of how our legislation at the Federal level affects us here in Nebraska.

Questions? Comments? Drop me a line Timothy@Loewenstein.net or call me (308) 237-0000.

Reporting from far and near,
Timothy
A planning meeting for the 2006 Clerks, Election Commissioners, Register of Deeds and Treasurers Workshop was held in Grand Island at the Midtown Holiday Inn on March 23rd. The workshop will be held at the Midtown Holiday Inn on June 21-23, 2006. The date for this workshop was originally scheduled for June 14-16 which was in direct conflict with the dates set for the Clerks of the District Court Workshop to be held in Lincoln. A decision to change the date was made in February, 2006 when it became apparent that there was a conflict.

In all, over fifteen hours of continuing education has been tentatively scheduled for workshop delegates, along with business meetings of both associations. In addition, banquet entertainment for this workshop will be a talent show. If you have a particular talent you would like to share, please contact Cathy Sibal, Kimball County Clerk at (308) 235-2241.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Midtown Holiday Inn for this workshop. A flat rate of $59.00 single/double is being offered by the Midtown Holiday Inn and rooms will be held until June 6, 2006, after which they will be released. Additional reservation requests will be honored after this date on a space and rate available basis. To make reservations, contact the Midtown Holiday Inn at 800-548-5542.

A tentative agenda for the workshop follows this article and registration form. Please note that, as of the date of this article, speakers have not been contacted, therefore, minor changes may be made.

**Tentative Agenda**

**Clerks, Election Commissioners, Register of Deeds**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2006**

11:30 a.m. Registration
1:30 p.m. General Session—Nebraska State Patrol
2:30 p.m. Break
3:00 p.m. General Session—County Official Bonding Requirements
4:15 p.m. Register of Deeds Panel Discussion
5:30 p.m. President’s Reception

**Thursday, June 22, 2006**

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
8:30 a.m. Department of Motor Vehicles
8:30 a.m. Register of Deeds Planning Session For Annual Conference
9:30 a.m. Public Employees Retirement System
10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. State Auditor
10:30 a.m. Register of Deeds Breakout—Revocable & Irrevocable Trust
11:00 a.m. Election Commissioners Breakout
11:00 a.m. MIPS
11:45 a.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting
2:30 p.m. Break
2:45 p.m. Secretary of State—Election Wrap Up
2:45 p.m. Register of Deeds Breakout
Department of Revenue
Register of Deeds Handbook Update
Review of LB 663 Procedure
Questions & Answers
5:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 p.m. Banquet and Entertainment

(Continued on page 8)
National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week Held In Washington D.C.

By Rob Schultz
Hall County Weed Superintendent

National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week was held February 26th thru March 3rd in Washington D.C. This is the seventh year and there were over 170 representatives of weed management agencies from 35 states and one from Canada represented there during the week. President Bush signed the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 in October of 2004. The Act enables the Secretary of Agriculture’s office to assist eligible weed management agencies in responding to noxious and invasive weed problems on public and private lands. The law is expected to significantly strengthen the fight against invasive weeds in the United States, helping restore native plants and ecosystems nationwide. The Conference spotlights problems caused by invasive weeds and other types of invasive vegetation, and highlights the successes of hundreds of projects designed to curb the spread of invasives.

The Nebraska attendee’s met with legislative aids from Senators Hagel’s office and Congressman Fortenberry’s office, Congressman Terry’s office, Congressman Osborne’s office and Senator Nelson’s office to discuss the full funding of the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 at the $15 million level. Also discussed were issues dealing with noxious and invasive species invading the waterways of Nebraska.

A U.S Department of Agriculture briefing was held at the USDA Building. Everyone was updated on agencies within the USDA that conduct research, manage, and/or provide technical assistance on invasive species.

A Nebraska delegation breakfast is held every Wednesday morning while congress is in session—a 55-60 year tradition. There were over 100 people in attendance. Congressmen Terry and Fortenberry, and Senators Nelson and Hagel were in attendance and spoke to the group.

A session was held on Cooperative Weed Management Area development and different ways of implementing CWMA’s. A CWMA is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and various interested groups that manage noxious weeds and invasive plants in a defined area.

Invasive Species infest an estimated 100 million acres across the United States. In the U.S. alone, invasive plant species displace native species by a rate of 8-20 percent each year, often causing serious environmental problems. For example, a thirsty invasive brush such as saltcedar can threaten vital water supplies. A single mature plant is capable of consuming as much as 200-300 gallons of water a day or about 6,000 gallons of water a month. In comparison, the average American household uses about 8,000 gallons of water per month.

For more information on noxious or invasive species go to www.neweed.org, www.nawma.org, or www.invasivespecies.gov.

Workshop
(Continued from page 7)

Friday, June 23, 2006
8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast in General Session Room
8:30 a.m. Legislative Update—Larry Dix, Executive Director, NACO
10:00 a.m. Blue Cross/Blue Shield
11:00 a.m. Adjourn—Lunch on your own

Tentative Agenda

Treasurers

Wednesday, June 21, 2006
11:30 a.m. Registration
1:30 p.m. General Session-Nebraska State Patrol
2:30 p.m. Break
3:00 p.m. General Session-County Official Bonding Requirements
4:00 p.m. Letter Writing Skills
5:30 p.m. President’s Reception

Thursday, June 22, 2006
7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
The Open Meetings Act is codified in §§ 84-1407 to 84-1414. This Act is applicable to public meetings of public bodies, such as County Boards, and is frequently the subject of questions to our office. As a result of those questions and the concerns that have been expressed by members of the public throughout the past few years the following information has been compiled about aspects of some of the provisions of the Act. Additionally, this article highlights changes of the Act that were made as a result of the passage of LB 898 (2006). The changes will take effect 90 days after the last day of the session (July 14).

"It is declared to be the policy of the state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret." Section 84-1408.

Definitions

Two primary definitions which must be evaluated include whether there is a (1) public body and (2) whether there is a meeting. The evaluation of these definitions will determine if a public body exists and if a meeting will occur. Both components must be present and are necessary for the Open Meetings Act to be applicable.

Section 84-1409(i) defines public body, to include but is not limited to, governing bodies of all state political subdivisions, such as counties, ... [and](v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivision (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, .... Public body does not include among others subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body. Section 84-1409(b).

In 1997 Att'y Gen. Op. No. 50, a county clerk, county attorney and treasurer acting as a group under § 32-567(3) to make an appointment to fill a vacancy on a county board made up a public body that were found to be subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Section 84-1409(2) defines meeting as all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body. The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power. Section 84-1410(5).

It is necessary for a majority of the members of a public body for a meeting to a meeting to occur. 1975-76 Rep. Att'y Gen. 150 (Opinion No. 116, dated August 29, 1975).

Closed Session

NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-1410 outlines the provisions when a closed session can be held. For a more detailed discussion on closed sessions. See “Requirements Explained for Closed Sessions of Public Bodies” in a December 1998 article in Countyline.

Rights of Public

As provided by the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Section 84-1412(1). It is not a violation for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings. Section 84-1412(2). No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting; however, the body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself. Section 84-1412(3).

No public body shall, for the purpose of (Continued on page 10)
circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience. Section 84-1412(4). No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state. Section 84-1412(5). The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public’s right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting. Section 84-1412(7).

Minutes
Section 84-1413(1) requires minutes to be kept by each public body of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded must be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record must state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. Section 84-1413(2). A secret ballot can be taken for the vote to elect the leadership within a public body, but the total number of votes for each candidate must be recorded in the minutes. Section 84-1413(3). The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Section 84-1413(4). Minutes must be written and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. Section 84-1413(4).

Enforcement
Section 84-1414(1) provides that any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action. Section 84-1414(1). The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meet are responsible for enforcing the Open Meetings Act. Section 84-1414(2). A suit may be commenced by any citizen of this state in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. Reasonable attorney’s fees and court cost may be ordered by the court to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section. Section 84-1414(3).

In Alderman v. County of Antelope, 11 Neb. App. 412, 653 N.W.2d 1 (2002), the court held once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the members of the public body involved are prohibited from considering any information which they obtained at the illegal meeting.


Criminal Sanctions
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1414(4) provides criminal sanctions for any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-106, it is punishable by no imprisonment and a $100 to $500 fine. Additionally, a Class III misdemeanor is punishable by up to three months imprisonment or up to a $500 fine, or both. There is no minimum penalty on a Class III misdemeanor.

LB 898 (2006)
LB 898(2006) was introduced by Senator Priester after a series of meetings throughout the summer. The bill made these modifications to the Open Meetings Act:

- The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session must be identified in the motion to close the session. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session must restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session;
- Agenda items must be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting;
- Public bodies must make available at least one current copy of the Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public must be informed about the location of the posted information; and
- Individuals attending the meeting who do not object during the meeting or when the meeting is closed can later challenge Act’s violations in court.

For additional information see the actual statutes of the Open Meetings Act. For an outline on the Act created by Jon Bruning, the Attorney General and Dale Comer from the Attorney General’s Office see the following Web site: http://www.ago.state.ne.us.
Jordan Bloomquist is the son of David and Michelle Bloomquist, who live in Beatrice and will graduate from Tri-County High School in Dewitt. Jordan's mother is Gage County Deputy Clerk. Jordan has a grade point average of 3.0. In high school, Jordan has been active in football, wrestling, and track. He was a football team co-captain, most dedicated wrestler, Homecoming candidate, football 1st team offense All-District, Honorable Mention Offense All State and All Sunland Area, and a 4-year letter winner in football and wrestling. Projects that Jordan has participated in include Tsunami Relief, Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up, Youth Mission Trip to Texas, FBLA, FCA, Drama Club and Letter Club.

Jordan will graduate in May and plans to attend Southeast Community College in Lincoln where he will major in computer aided drafting and design.

Jeffrey Cooper is the son of Tim and Gay Cooper, and son of Tim and Gay Cooper, Jeffrey Cooper carries a 3.8 grade point average and will graduate from South Platte High School in Big Springs. His mother is Deputy Treasurer in Deuel County. Jeffrey ranks 5th in his class of 17.

Jeffrey plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he will major in video production and art.

Staying very busy, Jeffrey has participated in Student Council where he is 2005-2006 president, football, track, basketball, speech and one act. Some of his honors and awards include MAC All-Conference Football Team, High A Award in Art II, Homecoming Royalty, Honor Roll, National Honor Society Member and Class Officer.

Activities that Jeffrey participated in include cleaning flower beds in Big Springs, gathering trash on the highway, painting the Barton Park Shelter in Brule and serving as direction guide for St. Jude's Bik-a-Thon in Big Springs.

Kathryn DeJong attends Seward High School and maintains a 3.9 grade point average. She will graduate number 8 in her class of 107.

Kathryn is the daughter of Andy and Deb DeJong. Deb DeJong is an office clerk in the Seward County Clerk's Office. Choir, Speech Team, One Acts, Quiz Bowl and Academic Decathlon are just a few of the activities Kathryn has been involved in.

Kathryn has received many awards and honors including National Merit Finalist, National Honor Society, School Board Student Representative, FBLA, VFW Speech Contest, State Fair Poetry and State Fair Shakespeare Monologues.

Kathryn is a library volunteer and is on the Library Teen Advisory Board. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska and major in environmental studies.
Elmer Ray Krueger is the son of Larry and Sonja Krueger. Sonja is the Webster County Assessor. Elmer attends Blue Hill High School in Blue Hill. His grade point average is 3.81 and he will graduate number 5 in his class of 36.

Marching Band, Pep Band, Concert Band, Clarinet Choir, basketball, Lutheran SR Youth Group and Little Blue Community Builders are some of the activities Elmer has participated in.

Elmer was in Academic Letterman’s Club, Athletic Letterman’s Club, Who’s Who Among American High School Students and McCook Art Show. He has received a Nebraska Young Artist Award and Outstanding Student Award. He was on the High Honor Roll and was a varsity letterman and co-captain of the basketball team. In addition he is a member of the National Honor Society. He has many volunteer hours to his credit including Community 4th of July Celebration, alumni basketball tournament and Bobcats Basketball Camp. He has been a teacher’s aide for two years working with grade school children in the library.

Elmer will attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he will major in architectural engineering.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award, Kiwanis Student of the Week, Heritage Days Queen, MHS Color Day Second Attendant, Captain of Class B Champion Cheer Squad, Lincoln Journal Star’s Academic All-State Honoree, Merit Roll and Who’s Who Among American High School Students are among some of the accomplishments Julia Lyons has achieved. She attends McCook Senior High School in McCook where she carries a grade point average of 3.9. Her parents are Philip and Diane Lyons. Philip is the Red Willow Deputy County Attorney.

Julia received many awards and held many positions in high school including National Honor Society Vice President, Varsity Cheer/Dance Squad Co-Captain, Speech Team President, Senior Class President, Student Council and Peer Counselor.

Julia participated in track, FCA, Math Club, Thespians Methodist Youth Group and Community Theater. Some of her volunteer activities include kindergarten aide, Sunday school teacher, vacation bible school preschool director and ALPHA Course Leader.

Julia will graduate number 5 in her class of 97. She will attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she will major and minor in elementary education/special education.
Meet NACO’s 2006 Scholarship Award Recipients

Jennifer Lynn Missel

With a 3.7 grade point average, Jennifer Missel ranks number 49 in her class of 269. She attends Fremont Senior High School in Fremont and will graduate in May. Jennifer is the daughter of Bob and Michele Missel. Jennifer’s father is a Dodge County Supervisor.

In addition to being a member of the National Honors Society and an Honor Roll student, Jennifer’s achievements include lettering in golf and orchestra and an Academic Achievement Award.

Jennifer has been involved in many activities during her high school years including, dance classes, voice lessons, church choir, varsity choir, musicals, Math Club, Renaissance and Pep Rally Committee, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, Golf Team, Intramurals (volleyball), Props Committee, Prom Committee and Encore! (School’s variety show).

Offices Jennifer has held include Golf Team co-captain, Chair of Props Committee and Member of Varsity Choir Council.

Jennifer will attend Wayne State College where she will major in elementary education.

Stacy Scheer

Stacy Scheer is the daughter of Dan and Nancy Scheer. Nancy is the Madison County Clerk.

Stacy will graduate from Madison High School in Madison with a 4.0 grade point average. She has been accepted at Concordia University in Seward where she will major in accounting and minor in business administration.

Some of Stacy’s high school activities include FBLA, FCA, Jazz Band, band, volleyball, basketball and track. In FBLA she was a 5th place winner in business math, received honorable mention in business math, business calculations, accounting and business communications. She lettered in band and flag corp and is flag corp captain. In volleyball, awards she received include letter, Most Improved Player, Aquinas Invitational All Torny Team, Junior of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, All-Conference 1st Team, Most Valuable Player, Team Captain and Academic All-State. She also received numerous awards in basketball and track.

Stacy has volunteered hours to girl’s basketball camps, Community Readers Program, Honey Sunday, singing carols to shut-ins and many other activities and organizations.

Stacy will graduate number 2 in her class of 66.

Brooke Schweitzer

Brooke Schweitzer is the daughter of Brent and Sherry Schweitzer. Sherry is Seward County Clerk.

Brook Schweitzer carries a 4.0 grade point average at Milford Public High School, ranking 6th in her class of 69. Brooke is the daughter of Brent and Sherry Schweitzer. Sherry is Seward County Clerk.

Lettering in softball and competing for 2 years on the varsity basketball team, Brook was also the softball team captain and was National Fastpitch Coaches Association All American Scholar Athlete in 2003, 2004 and 2005. She was on the honor roll for 7 semesters and is recognized by Who’s Who Among High School Students. In addition she was a homecoming candidate and homecoming queen runner-up. She was a vocalist for the Nebraska State Fair for Grandstand Events and chosen to sing the National Anthem for the Seward County Courthouse 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Brooke’s volunteer activities include singing at local retirement facilities, volunteering at Milford youth baseball, softball and basketball tournaments, election volunteer in the 2000, 2002 and 2004 primary and general elections and volunteering as a counselor and mentor at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center where she has over 3,000 hours served.

Brook has been accepted at Nebraska Wesleyan and will major in biology and chemistry.
Meet NACO’s 2006 Scholarship Award Recipients

Sarah Snyder

Ranking 5th in her class of 31 at Arapahoe High School, Sarah Snyder carries a 3.8 grade point average and has been accepted to attend Doane College at Crete where she will major in nursing. She is the daughter of Mike and Shelly Snyder. Mike is the Gosper County Road Superintendent.

Sarah is a member of National Honor Society, Summer Honors Program, Quiz Bowl Team and an Interhigh Day Participant. She held offices as Class Secretary/Treasurer her junior and senior years, LYF Treasurer, LYF Program Publicist, LYF Vice President and Instrumental Band Secretary.

Sarah participates in student council, speech, marching band, pep band, jazz band, class musicals and plays and is a mixed choir member. Her many awards include Girl Scout Silver Award Recipient, State Speech Duet Acting Qualifier, State Speech Oral Interpretation of Drama Qualifier, Girls State Representative, District Speech Duet Acting, District Play Production Outstanding Performance and GPAC Outstanding Actress.

When not busy with one of the many activities she’s involved with, Sarah was a Vacation Bible School teacher, played Taps for American Legion at Memorial Day services, cleaned and painted local ball park and playground equipment, participated in local food drive for Food Pantry and is a church acolyte/usher.

William Alexander Stewart

William Stewart (Alex) is the son of Bill and Donna Stewart. Alex’s father is a Dawson County Commissioner. Alex attends Lexington High School and will graduate 15th in his class of 160.

Alex’s grade point average is 4.0 and he has been accepted at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he will major in business administration leading to law school.

Alex has participated in Crop Walk, Boy Scouts, cross country, wrestling, track and football. FCA, Pep Club, FBLA and L-Club.

Some of the many awards Alex has received include 4.0 Honor Roll, Lexington Chamber of Commerce Scholastic Award, Cozad Elks Club Student of the Month, Wrestling Class B 140-lb State Runner-up, Track Academic All Conference, Track Lincoln Journal Star Academic All State, Wrestling Lincoln Journal Star Academic All State, Cross Country Academic All Conference and Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All Conference.

Alex volunteered for Crop Walk, Boy Scout Service Projects and Relay for Life. In addition he is an Optimist Wrestling Club volunteer and Lexington Middle School Wrestling Team helper. He is on the FCA Leadership Committee and American Legion Boys State.

Geoffry Vlcek

Geoffry Vlcek’s parents are Mary and Tim Vlcek. Mary is a bailiff at Douglas County Juvenile Court.

Geoffry has a grade point average of 4.0 and attends Omaha North High School. He is 27th in his class of 324.

Geoffry is active in student council, American Red Cross, hockey, and has competed in Omaha Public Schools engineering competitions.

His volunteer activities include Florence Home Assisted Living, Mackenzie Snyder’s Children to Children Project, Friends of the Omaha Public Library & Juvenile Court Book Program and Ronald McDonald House.

Geoffry is a member of North High School National Honor Society and the Honor Roll.

Upon graduation from High School, Geoffry plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he will make athletic training or physical therapy his major.
On June 1, 2005, the 99th Nebraska Legislature passed LB211 that establishes a central data bank to record the location of cemeteries, burial grounds, mausoleums, and columbaria in Nebraska. This bill is recorded in the Nebraska Statutes, Section 12-1401 (http://srvwww.unicam.state.ne.us/legislature/legaldocs/Statutes/CHAP12/s1214001000.xml). This legislation requires that the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) establish and maintain a statewide cemetery registry that would be made available to the public. The registry asks cities, villages, townships, counties, churches, fraternal and benevolent societies, cemetery districts, and associations that own or maintain a cemetery, Native American burial ground, mausoleum, or columbarium to report the site to the state registry every ten years. Limited state funding to establish the registry was appropriated to cover the project from January 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

The NSHS is in the process of establishing an online registration system for the registry. The basic information that the NSHS must compile (according to LB211) is the location or address of each cemetery, a plat of the cemetery, names and addresses of persons owning, operating, or maintaining the cemetery, inception date, and whether the cemetery is abandoned and the abandonment date. This information is required only if reasonably available. Other historical information about a cemetery may be included with the registration. There are no penalties for failing to meet all of the registry requirements.

The intent of LB211 is to document the locations of cemeteries and other burial sites in the state, as well as contact sources. Over the years the NSHS has developed or had access to electronic sources listing more than 1,600 cemeteries/burial sites in Nebraska. The type of data included in these sources varies, but in all cases the electronic sources do not give addresses or other data about representatives or governing bodies for these entities. As this article is being prepared, the format of the online registry is in the planning stages as the NSHS attempts to incorporate these electronic data sources.

(Continued on page 16)
To Reduce Eye Strain And Fatigue

By Glen Masek
MIPS Programmer Analyst

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with various types and styles of computer monitors. They have ranged from the original single color CRT, to today’s CRTs and LCDs. Personally, I’ve always enjoyed working on a CRT over a LCD. My eyes seemed to get tired sooner and I would get headaches staring at a LCD monitor for a long period of time. That is, until I found out I have been setting up the LCD monitors incorrectly. Proper setup and position of your monitor can actually help to reduce eyestrain and fatigue.

What’s the first thing you think of when you upgrade from a CRT to a LCD? My first thought was; “Look at how much more space I will have by placing the LCD at the back of my desk”. While that is a valid point, unless you have 20/20 vision, you will notice yourself squinting more, because it is farther away from you. A 17” LCD monitor sitting at a distance of 30” from your eyes would be needed to replace a 14” CRT monitor (13.1” viewable) sitting at a distance of just 20”. Although these measurements are not an exact science, you can take a ruler or yardstick and try it for yourself. Also, many of today’s LCD monitors have a height adjustable stand. Raising the viewing position of your monitor to a height even with your eyes will promote better posture and reduce neck and back strain.

During the rest of this article, I will be discussing settings that are found within the Windows’ Display Properties. Right-click on an open area of the desktop and choose Properties to open the Display Properties Dialog Box. The settings that you’ll see vary from computer to computer. But, there are similarities with all Windows 2000 and Windows XP machines.

Screen resolution, the number of dots (pixels) that run horizontally and vertically across the screen, is a key item to consider changing. On CRT monitors, the screen resolution is scalable. Meaning, you can adjust your resolution to a number of settings without affecting image quality. Raise or lower the resolution until you find one that pleases you. But, do not choose a resolution that is not supported by your monitor. LCD monitors, on the other hand, have a fixed number of pixels on their screen. Setting the resolution to anything other than the maximum, or native, resolution can make images look blocky. Most 15” LCDs have a native resolution of 1024 by 768, while most 17” and 19” LCDs have a native resolution 1280 by 1024. The screen resolution or screen area can be adjusted under the Settings tab of your Display Properties.

Now that your monitor has been adjusted for maximum image quality and position, you may find yourself thinking that text and images on your screen appear to small or to large. Here are three commonly overlooked items that will make your viewing more comfortable: Font Size, Smoothing Edges of Screen Fonts, and Dots Per Inch.

Adjusting the Font Size (Windows XP) or Scheme (Windows 2000) can help make small or fine print look larger and more readable. Your choices here are small (default), large and extra large. The large font size is a great happy medium, where the extra large may seem over-bearing. The Font Size or Scheme can be found under the Appearance tab of your Display Properties.

The method for smoothing edges of screen fonts (Windows XP only) can be set from Standard (default), to ClearType. The ClearType setting provides shading around screen fonts, which makes them appear sharper and clearer. To change the smoothing method to ClearType, select Effects under the Appearance tab of your Display Properties and then choose ClearType from the drop-down menu.

Finally, is the Dots Per Inch, or DPI setting under the Advanced portion of the Settings tab in your Display Properties. Changing this from the Normal 96 DPI setting to Large 120 DPI increases the size of everything on your screen. You may notice undesired results in certain PC applications by changing the DPI.

Although there are many other settings you can adjust, changing these makes for a great start in reducing eyestrain and fatigue.

Nebraska Statewide Cemetery Registry
(Continued from page 15)

sources into a useable format for the Statewide Cemetery Registry.

On May 1, 2006, registrants will be able to register online, or a form will be available at the website that can be completed online, copied, and sent to the NSHS by regular mail. A form will also be available for registrants who do not have access to the Web. The link that we plan to use at our website is http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/cemetery Registry.htm. Notices regarding the progress of the registry will be posted via this link. It is the goal of the NSHS to register as many cemeteries/burial sites as possible by October 1, 2006. A temporary staff assistant hired for this project will not only register from registrants, but will also contact various organizations and individuals within each county after October 1 to locate entities that have not registered during the first five months. Funding is not available to travel; all contacts will be mainly by mail, phone, or e-mail.

Because of the limited funding and the time constraints involved with this project, the NSHS is attempting to contact organizations that deal with cemeteries for their help in notifying individuals or governing bodies that might not be aware of the registry, or who may be missed when we publicize through the media. This article notifies the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and the Nebraska Cemetery Association, since their members are either directly involved with the governing of these entities or they will know who should receive this information within their own localities. Shortly after May 1, 2006, notification letters will be sent to all funeral directors, embalmers, funeral establishments, and branches in the state. The NSHS also intends to work with local historical and genealogical societies in soliciting registrations. We appreciate the support of any individual or organization in notifying the proper contacts in their area. Questions may be referred to the Nebraska Statewide Cemetery Registry, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501 or cdrake@nebraskahistory.org.

Some materials used for this article were abstracted from documents pertaining to LB211.
I would like to take this moment to introduce myself. My name is Salvador Barragan and I am the new Curator of Government Records for the Nebraska State Archives. Where I oversee collection development, appraisal, acquisition, description, storage and other collection management-related activities. I review records schedules to ensure that the State Archives receives desired items and I provide assistance to any agency in the state with their records needs. Prior to my coming to Nebraska, I was Director of Outreach and a records analyst for the Maryland State Archives. In Maryland I was responsible for public relations, training, and implementation of the Maryland Land Record On-line System throughout Maryland’s twenty-three county jurisdictions. I also evaluated government records to ascertain content, indexing, completeness and relationship to other documents.

My education and training is quite diverse. In December of 2002 I received my Master of Arts in History from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. I attained a Master of Arts in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville in the fall of 2001. Prior to Graduate School, I obtained undergraduate degrees in History and Business from Arizona State University and Devry University respectively. I also have certification and training from the National Archives and Records Administration in digital imaging, e-mail and risk analysis.

The State Archives section of the Library/Archives works closely with county government in the state. Counties produce records that affect the lives of their citizens directly. Marriages and divorces, taxes, elections, civil and criminal suits, naturalization proceedings, property ownership, county board decisions, and education all have impact and occur at the county level. Most of these records need to be kept permanently, but there are not always sufficient resources at the county level to fulfill this obligation. As a result, these records are at risk of destruction. This condition is true throughout the country and it’s my hope to work with county officials to address these and other issues.

As governments tackle electronic records and their challenges. I hope to use the valuable experience that I obtained while in Maryland to deal with the issues that Nebraska may have to confront. I know this may be a daunting task but I feel with my exposure to electronic records, both in converted images and in those born digital, the Nebraska State Archives will be better able to serve government agencies throughout the state with their electronic needs.

For more information on archives holdings and the services we provide contact Pat Churray or myself at 402-471-4438/402-471-4783 or e-mail us at pchurray@nebraskahistory.org or sbarragan@nebraskahistory.org.
Saunders County Supervisor Attends White House Breakfast

Saunders County Board of Supervisors Chair, Doris Karloff, was one of five county officials selected from across the nation to participate in a recent intergovernmental officials breakfast at the White House and discuss issues affecting county governments and other public entities.

Karloff was asked by National Association of Counties (NACo) President, Bill Hansell of Oregon to join him and county representatives from New York, Oregon, and Delaware in addressing a variety of subjects during the two-hour breakfast on March 6, 2006.

“It was a tremendous opportunity to interact with other county and federal officials,” said Karloff. “I was particularly pleased to share the Nebraska perspective on a number of issues that were discussed, such as Homeland Security, the methamphetamine crisis, and the difficulties our senior citizens are having with Medicare Part D.”

The five counties’ officials who participated in the White House breakfast meeting were in Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties’ Annual Legislative Conference. As part of that conference, Karloff participated in meetings of five NACo committees to which she is an appointee.
## 2005 Valuations And Tax Rates For Nebraska Counties

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**Totals**  
$62,421,755,072

Source: Nebraska Department Of Property Assessment And Taxation
Tax information about residential properties in Lincoln County is now available from home, thanks to an Internet hook up from the Lincoln County Assessor.

The service has been up and running online about two weeks, assessor Mary Ann Long told the board of commissioners Monday. The website lists lot sizes, square footage and valuations about residential properties, among other information. Property taxes can also be paid from the website, using a credit card.

As is the case at the courthouse, anyone interested in the public records can see them. More than 25 counties in Nebraska are now making assessor records more accessible, using the online service. Keith County was one of the first to enroll. So far, information about Lincoln and Dawson Counties is the most complete, said Joe Power, who maintains the website.

To use it, local viewers go to www.nebraskataxesonline.usHERE. And click on Lincoln County on a map of Nebraska. On the next page, enter information about the property, such as a tax statement number, a homeowner’s name, the address or part of the legal description.

Property tax history for 14 years is available, including charts showing the trend in levies, valuations and actual taxes.

Other details — square footage, number of bathrooms, porches, type of siding and sale price — can be seen by clicking the “View Assessor Data” tab.

Such facts are used to appraise the value of the property and are public records, Long said. In the not too distant future, a photo of the house will be displayed too.

Commercial properties are not yet available on the website. It will probably be 2007 before they are, after they have been re-appraised, Long told the board.

The web service “will be a time saver for a lot of folks,” including homeowners, real estate companies, lending agencies and prospective buyers, she said.

So far, there have been no complaints about the service: despite some anticipation that critics would say it is too much public information.

“I have not heard any real objections,” said Joe Power, who works with county officials and develops the site, “and it’s a God send for those who want to use it.”

The Nebraska Association of County Officials is developing the service, and actually owns the website provider — Multi-county Information and Programming Services—or MIPS. More information is available at www.nacone.org

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MIPS OPERATIONS MANAGER, JOE POWER, HAS ADDED THIS FOLLOWUP TO THE PRECEDING ARTICLE.

The Nebraska Taxes Online service was made available to County Treasurers in October of 2004. Since then 24 counties have joined us to make their tax and valuation data available via the Internet (www.nto.us). Once using our online service, the counties have the choice to make their records lookup only, or to allow the taxpayer to pay their taxes online via credit card. To keep the online records current, we import data each night from the counties’ tax collection database.

Recently we implemented a new Assessor add-on to the Nebraska Taxes Online system. This add-on allows the property online to also display the appraisal data (including information on the building type, square footage, roof, garage, porch, outbuildings, and land). Currently counties Dawson and Lincoln have their appraisal data available on the Nebraska Taxes Online website.

The word is getting out and people are starting to use the online tax system more and more. Last month alone we had 48,812 property searches! That averages out to 1,575 searches per day. If you would like more information on Nebraska Taxes Online, please call Joe Power at 402-434-5685. If you would like to see what other packages MIPS has to offer (and what counties us them), go to http://www.nacone.org/webpages/mips/product_all.htm
# NACO Sustaining and Associate Members

## Sustaining Members

**Hartford Life Insurance Company**  
2 North LaSalle, Suite 2500  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 800-424-2825 ext 47627  
*Government Section*  
Contact: Bill Robinson, Manager, Public Sector Plans

**Maximus, Inc.**  
422 N Hastings Ste 208  
Hastings, NE 68901  
Phone: 402-462-6481  
*Management Consulting Services*  
Contact: Diane Blaschko, Vice President

**Nebraska Machinery Co.**  
11002 Sapp Bros. Drive  
Omaha, NE 68138  
Phone: 402-891-8600  
*Construction and Road Equipment*  
Contact: Lisa Ebel, Marketing Specialist

**Government Section**  
Contact: Bill Robinson, Manager, Public Sector Plans

**Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust**  
P.O. Box 82529  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2529  
Phone: 402-323-1278  
*Alternative Investments Public Agencies*  
Contact: Candi Sanders, Marketing Officer

**Maximus, Inc.**  
422 N Hastings Ste 208  
Hastings, NE 68901  
Phone: 402-462-6481  
*Management Consulting Services*  
Contact: Diane Blaschko, Vice President

**Nebraska Machinery Co.**  
11002 Sapp Bros. Drive  
Omaha, NE 68138  
Phone: 402-891-8600  
*Construction and Road Equipment*  
Contact: Lisa Ebel, Marketing Specialist

**Government Section**  
Contact: Bill Robinson, Manager, Public Sector Plans

**Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust**  
P.O. Box 82529  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2529  
Phone: 402-323-1278  
*Alternative Investments Public Agencies*  
Contact: Candi Sanders, Marketing Officer

## Associate Members

**Associated General Contractors- Nebraska Chapter**  
635 S. 14th St., Suite 125  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-458-4355  
*Trade Association; Heavy Highway Div.*  
Contact: Curt Beck, Executive Director

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska**  
1233 Lincoln Mall  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-458-4800  
*Health Insurance Provider*  
Contact: Ken Dustin, Vice President

**First Concord Benefits Group**  
5651 S. 59th Suite C  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
Phone: 402-423-4454  
*Employee Benefits*  
Contact: Jill Johnson, Manager

**First American Real Estate Tax Service**  
4500 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Suite 1100  
Denver, CO 80246  
Phone: 800-899-4829 ext 2146  
*Real Estate Tax Information Provider*  
Contact: Gene Gowens

**Danko Emergency Equipment Co.**  
P.O. Box 218  
Snyder, NE 68664-0218  
Phone: 402-568-2200  
*Public Warning System*  
Contact: Edward Busse

**Colonial Benefits Solutions, LLC**  
7556 South 35th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
Phone: 402-217-2042  
*Alternative Insurance Plans*  
Contact: Mike Boden, Public Sector Consultant

**Midtown Holiday Inn**  
2503 S. Locust  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
Phone: 308-384-1330  
*Hotel and Convention Center*  
Contact: Mark Hoeftling

**Kirkham Michael**  
12700 West Dodge Rd  
Omaha, NE 68154  
Phone: 402-255-3804  
*Engineering Services Provider*  
Contact: Dan Park, Engineering Services

**Contryman Associates PC**  
2215 West 12th Street  
Hastings, NE 68901  
Phone: 402-463-6711  
*CPA Firm*  
Contact: Ron Willnerd

**Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Inc.**  
P.O. Box 50  
Madison, NE 68748  
Phone: 402-454-3955  
*Juvenile Detention/Staff Security Program*  
Contact: Mike Applegate

**Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance**  
P.O. Box 83581  
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581  
Phone: 402-476-2729  
*River Management Coalition*  
Contact: Rodney Verhoeff

**Speece-Lewis, Inc.**  
3534 S. 48th St., Suite 4  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
Phone: 402-483-5466  
*Engineering Consultants*  
Contact: Larry Lewis, Vice President

**US Bank**  
233 S. 13th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-434-1153  
*Governing Bank*  
Contact: Mary Ulmer

**Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Inc.**  
P.O. Box 50  
Madison, NE 68748  
Phone: 402-454-3955  
*Juvenile Detention/Staff Security Program*  
Contact: Mike Applegate

**Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance**  
P.O. Box 83581  
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581  
Phone: 402-476-2729  
*River Management Coalition*  
Contact: Rodney Verhoeff

**Motorola**  
P.O. Box 12274  
Omaha, NE 68112  
Phone: 402-451-3335  
*Wireless Voice and Data Communications*  
Contact: John Lemen, Account Manager

**Nebraska Ash Company**  
P.O. Box 80268  
Lincoln, NE 68501  
Phone: 402-434-1777  
*Marketer of Coal Combustion By-Products*  
Contact: L.E. Leber, President

**JEO Consulting Group**  
142 W 11th St.  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
Phone: 402-443-4661  
*Engineering Services*  
Contact: Alison Koranda, Marketing Coordinator
## May Legal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Office/Agency</th>
<th>Task/Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>In counties having a population of 100,000 or less, the first half of all general real property taxes becomes delinquent. 77-204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weed Board</td>
<td>Publish general notices for control of noxious weeds in one or more newspapers of general circulation throughout the weed authority’s jurisdiction on or before this date. 2-955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Last day to file tangible personal property tax returns. 77-1229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>After this date and prior to September 1, notice of delinquency must be mailed to personal or real estate taxpayers. 77-1716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clerk, Election Commissioner</td>
<td>Last day for in person voter registrations. 32-302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>County Board of Equalization</td>
<td>Board must issue its decision on public purpose protests by this date. 77-202.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Return to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support a statement of all marriages recorded during the preceding month. 71-614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Remit fees to the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund for certificates of title, notation of liens, duplicates for boats and motor vehicles. 37-1287, 60-161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Statewide Primary Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk, Board, Assessor</td>
<td>On or before this date, the Tax Equalization and Review Commission is to send the assessor, clerk, and county board an order specifying the percentage increase or decrease and the class or subclass of property affected. 77-5028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk of the District Court</td>
<td>Make a report to the county board, under oath, showing the different items of such fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts received, from whom, at what time, and for what service, and the total amount received by such officer since the last report, and also the amount received for the current year. Account for and pay any fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts not later than the fifteenth day of the month following the calendar month in which such fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts were received. 33-106.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk, Treasurer</td>
<td>Each county clerk or register of deeds shall, not later than the fifteenth day of each month following the calendar month in which fees are received, pay over to the county treasurer all fees received and take the receipt of the county treasurer. 33-130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>By this date each month, the treasurer must transmit all motor vehicle registration fees collected to the state. 60-3,141(3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## June Legal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Office/Agency</th>
<th>Task/Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1 to June 1</td>
<td>County Board of Equalization, Assessor</td>
<td>Between these dates, the county board of equalization shall grant or withhold tax exemptions for real and tangible personal property and shall notify the applicant, county assessor, and the Property Tax Administrator within ten days of the decision. 77-202.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19 to June 1</td>
<td>Assessor, County Board of Equalization</td>
<td>Between these dates, the assessor is to implement adjustments to the real property assessment roll for actions of the TERC. 77-1315(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>On or before this date, the county assessor must notify the owner of record as of May 20 every item of real property which has been assessed a value different than the previous year and give notice to parties of findings pertaining to improvements on leased lands. Following completion of the real property assessment roll, certification information is to be published in a newspaper. 77-1315, 77-1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weed Control, County Board</td>
<td>No later than this date, the county weed control authority shall prepare all information required in the preparation of the budget and transmit it to the county board. 2-958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to July 25</td>
<td>County Board of Equalization</td>
<td>Between these dates, the county board of equalization must meet for the purpose of reviewing and deciding property tax protests and may meet to correct assessment of undervalued, overvalued, or omitted property. The county board in a county with a population of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants based upon the most recent federal decennial census may adopt a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests from July 25 to August 10. 77-1502, 77-1504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>On or before this date, the county abstract of assessment is to be recertified to the Property Tax Administrator after adjustment by the TERC. 77-5029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Return to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support a statement of all marriages recorded during the preceding month. 71-614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Continued on page 23*
### June Legal Calendar

**Continued from page 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Remit fees to the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund for certificates of title, notation of liens, duplicates for boats and motor vehicles. 37-1287, 60-161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Assessment and sales ratio statistics are to be posted in the assessor's office and mailed to the media. 77-1315(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>County Board</td>
<td>In some circumstances, museum boards are to make a report to the county board on the condition of its trust. 51-509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk, Treasurer</td>
<td>The county clerk must certify to the treasurer the total amount of unpaid claims of the county. 23-1302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk of the District Court</td>
<td>Make a report to the county board, under oath, showing the different items of such fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts received, from whom, at what time, and for what service, and the total amount received by such officer since the last report, and also the amount received for the current year. 33-106.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Personal property abstract of locally assessed property must be filed with the Property Tax Administrator. 77-1514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Assessor.</td>
<td>The county assessor shall, on or before June 15 each year, prepare a plan of assessment which shall describe the assessment actions the county assessor plans to make for the next assessment year and two years thereafter. Section 77-1311.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clerk, Treasurer</td>
<td>Each county clerk or register of deeds shall, not later than the fifteenth day of the month following the calendar month in which fees are received, pay over to the county treasurer all fees received and take the receipt of the county treasurer. 33-130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>By this date each month, the treasurer must transmit all motor vehicle registration fees collected to the state. 60-3,141(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Homestead application period ends. 77-3512 Last day for filing of real property protests. Last date for tax exemption applications by agricultural and horticultural societies and educational, religious, charitable, or cemetery organizations. 77-1502, 77-202.01, 77-202.03, 77-3528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Greenbelt application deadline. 77-1345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During Month</td>
<td>County Board, Veterans Service Committee</td>
<td>As terms expire, members of the county veterans service committee are appointed for five-year terms. 80-101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### July Legal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General, Clerk</td>
<td>Fiscal year begins in counties with less than 200,000 inhabitants. 23-902. All warrants issued during the fiscal year must be numbered consecutively. 23-1303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Irrigation district bond interest semiannual payment is due. 46-196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>County Board</td>
<td>Before this date, the board of directors of railroad transportation safety districts must transmit a budget request to the county board. 74-1306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Deadline for rural or suburban fire districts cooperating for state aid eligibility through mutual finance organizations to submit an application to the State Treasurer for funding on forms provided by that office. 35-1207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clerk, Election Commissioner</td>
<td>Governing bodies of reclamation districts, counties under township organization, certain public power districts, and ESUs must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerks or Election Commissioners of offices to be filled, terms, vacancies, votes cast and filing deadlines for each office. 32-404, 32-601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Monday</td>
<td>Treasurer, County Board</td>
<td>Make settlement with county board and file semi-annual statement with county clerk showing amount and source of money collected since last settlement, vouchers, amount of taxes due and unpaid, and money on hand. During the month, semi-annual statement must be published in a legal newspaper showing the receipts, disbursements and transactions of the treasurer's office for the last preceding six months ending June 30. Counties having more than 250,000 inhabitants must publish receipts and disbursements for preceding six months ending June 30 in a daily newspaper printed in the county. 23-1605, 77-1745.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Continued on page 24*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Tues. Clerk of the District Court</td>
<td>Money other than witness fees, fines, penalties, and forfeitures which are uncalled for by the parties must be remitted quarterly to the state treasurer following the expiration of a three year period. 24-345 Clerk of the District Court must file with the county board the names and amounts of witness fees which remain uncalled for a period of six months. Within 20 days after filing of the list, the county board must publish a notice of witness fees uncalled for. Six months later, remaining fees are paid over to the county treasurer and credited to the county common school fund. 33-140, 33-140.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Tues. Sheriff</td>
<td>Make report to county board describing fees, fee totals and activity since last report in April. 33-117(3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Clerk</td>
<td>Report to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support a statement of all marriages recorded during the preceding month. 71-614</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Clerk</td>
<td>Remit fees to the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund for certificates of title, notation of liens, duplicates for boats and motor vehicles. 37-1287, 60-161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Clerks, Election Commissioners</td>
<td>First day to accept early voting ballot request for the general election. 32-941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15 - August 15 County Board</td>
<td>In counties less than 150,000, between these dates each year, the employee job titles and the current annual, monthly, or hourly salaries corresponding to such job titles must be published. Each job title published shall be descriptive and indicate the duties and functions of the position. 23-122</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 County Board</td>
<td>It is the duty of the landowners in this state to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their lands at least twice each year, namely, before July 15, for the first time and sometime in August for the second time. 39-1811(1) Whenever a landowner, referred to in subsections (1) and (3) of this section, neglects to mow the weeds as provided in this section, it shall be the duty of the county board on complaint of any resident of the county to cause the weeds to be mowed or otherwise destroyed on neglected portions of roads or ditches complained of. 39-1811(2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Clerk of the District Court</td>
<td>Make a report to the county board, under oath, showing the different items of such fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts received, from whom, at what time, and for what service, and the total amount received by such officer since the last report, and also the amount received for the current year. Account for and pay any fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts not later than the fifteenth day of the month following the calendar month in which such fees, revenue, perquisites, or receipts were received. 33-106.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Assessor</td>
<td>Greenbelt application must be approved or denied. 77-1345.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Board, Hospital Trustees</td>
<td>On or before this date, the board of trustees of a county medical facility must file reports, adopt a budget, and certify the amount necessary to maintain and improve such facility for the ensuing year. 23-3507, 23-3519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Board, Hospital Trustees</td>
<td>After the adoption of the budget statement and on or before July 15 of each year, the board of trustees of such facility shall certify to the county board of the county in which such facility is located the amount of the tax which may be levied under the facility’s adopted budget statement to be received from taxation. Such county board may apportion such amount among the counties concerned in proportion to the taxable valuation of all taxable property and shall certify to each county its share of such amount. 23-3519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Clerk, Treasurer</td>
<td>Each county clerk or register of deeds shall, not later than the fifteenth day of the month following the calendar month in which fees are received, pay over to the county treasurer all fees received and take the receipt of the county treasurer. 33-130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Clerks, Election Commissioners</td>
<td>Last day for incumbents not on the Primary Ballot to file. 32-606 Public Power Districts (grossing less than 40 million) Board Members, Reclamation Districts: ESU Members, County Weed Boards, Township Officers, Village Board of Trustees, and Class II Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 County Board</td>
<td>Extended deadline for filing of homestead exemption by vote of the County Board. 77-3512, 77-3513, 77-3514</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Assessor</td>
<td>Notification for approval or denial of greenbelt application must be issued. 77-1345.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Assessor</td>
<td>If greenbelt application is approved by the county assessor, the land shall be valued as provided in section 77-1344. 77-1345.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 County Board of Equalization</td>
<td>If greenbelt application is approved, board must send a property valuation notice for special value and recapture value to the owner and, if not the same to the applicant. 77-1345.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### March 19 - July 25

**Assessor, County Board of Equalization**

After March 19 and on or before July 25 or on or before August 10 in counties that have adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests under section 77-1502, the county assessor must report to the county board of equalization any overvaluation or undervaluation of any real property. 77-1315.01

### June 1 - July 25

**County Board of Equalization**

Between these dates, the county board of equalization must meet for the purpose of reviewing and deciding written protests filed pursuant to section 77-1502 beginning on or after June 1 and ending on or before July 25 of each year. The county board in a county with a population of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants based upon the most recent federal decennial census may adopt a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests from July 25 to August 10. The board may also meet between these dates to consider and correct the current year’s assessment of any real property that has been undervalued, overvalued, or omitted. 77-1502, 77-1504

### June 1 - July 25

**Assessor**

Improvements to real property which were properly reported to the county assessor pursuant to section 77-1318.01 shall only be added to the assessment roll by the county board of equalization from June 1 through July 25. In counties that have adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests, the deadline of July 25 shall be extended to August 10. 77-1507

### July 25

**Assessor**

The county assessor after July 25, or after August 10 in counties that have adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests, and with approval of the county board of equalization must correct the assessment roll and the tax list, if necessary, in the case of a clerical error as defined in section 77-128 that results in a change in the value of the real property. 77-1613.04

### July 25

**Treasurer**

On or before this date each month, all motor vehicle registration fees collected must be submitted. 60-3,141(3)

### 26

**County Board**

Unless the county has adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests, after completion of its actions and based upon the hearings conducted pursuant to sections 77-1502 and 77-1504, a county board of equalization may petition the Tax Equalization and Review Commission to consider an adjustment to a class or subclass of real property within the county. Petitions must be filed with the commission on or before July 26. 77-1504.01

### Within 30 days after July 1

**Assessor**

Taxable tangible personal property brought into the state prior to this date, unless taxed in another state or county, must be listed by the owner within 30 days of this date and assessed for entry on the tax books. 77-1211

### 31

**Assessor**

Last date to mail rejection of homestead exemptions and last date to add personal property value with a ten percent penalty. After this date, the penalty is 25 percent of the tax due. 77-3516, 77-1233.04

### 31

**Assessor**

The plan of assessment must be presented to the county board of equalization on or before July 31 each year. 77-1311.02.

### 31

**General**

Form 941N, the Nebraska Quarterly Withholding Return, must be filed for the previous calendar quarter.

### During month

**Board**

County board must make quarterly visit to county jail. 47-109

---

**Calendar Of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 14-15</td>
<td>Clerks of the District Court Workshop</td>
<td>Lincoln, Embassy Suites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21-23</td>
<td>Clerks, Election Commissioners, Register of Deeds, Treasurers Workshop</td>
<td>Grand Island, Midtown Holiday Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4-8</td>
<td>NACo Conference</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28-31</td>
<td>Assessors Workshop</td>
<td>Grand Island, Midtown Holiday Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Southeast District Meeting</td>
<td>Beatrice, Holiday Inn Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Northeast District Meeting</td>
<td>Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Central District Meeting</td>
<td>Kearney, Ramada Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>NACO Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Kearney, Holiday Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5-7</td>
<td>112th Annual NACO Conference</td>
<td>Omaha, Holiday Inn Central</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Have Critical Conversations in the Workplace

Superior employees do not shy away from critical conversations with fellow employees. They do know it is important to “pick their battles” and talk with their co-workers. Superior employees first seek to build trust, respect and an “air of safety” with their colleagues. They praise and encourage them and build solid relationships with their co-workers. They realize that it takes at least three positive comments to “balance out” one negative or confrontational comment. Indeed, superior employees proactively cultivate workplace relationships.

When the time then comes to have an engaging, meaningful and critical conversation with their associates, they are not afraid to initiate them. They know that honesty and openness serve as the foundation for building great teams. Indeed, teams cannot become fully functioning, magnificent teams unless they are consistently able to deal with conflict and differences of opinion accordingly: (A) Discuss important issues at a non-superficial level (B) Decide on a specific course of action and (C) Support one another—regardless of the decision that has been made.

Here are some “hands-on, how-to” tips that you can use to have critical conversations with your colleagues.

1. Realize that the three key reasons for having a critical conversation are to tackle the tough issues, promote learning and enrich the relationship(s). Before plunging into a critical conversation, ask yourself what you are trying to accomplish by having this exchange take place.

2. Closely examine your side of the issue. Seek also to see the other person’s side of the issue before the dialogue begins. Consider making a list of your key items of concern. This will help you get very clear as to your intentions and desired end result. As a mentor once shared with me: “There is my side of the story and there is your side of the story. Between us we can find the truth.” This is a magnificent attitude to carry into a critical conversation.

3. Be hard on the issue and soft on the person. Listen well. Don’t interrupt. Keep your eye contact steady. Don’t raise your voice. Remember that the word but looks backward and the word and looks forward. Consistently use the word and in order to expand the dialogue and work toward a higher understanding of each other’s frame of reference. Here’s an example of how to respond to someone during a critical conversation: “I acknowledge that and here’s what I think…….”

4. Use the Complete Message Model to deliver your message directly. Here it is:

   What did you NOTICE? What did you THINK? How did you FEEL about it? What do you NEED or want to happen?

   Here’s an example of how to use the Complete Message Model:

   NOTICE: I heard that you were complaining to other staff members about some of my new policies. (Describe what you have observed.)

   THINK: I think you should

   FEEL: I am disappointed that you did not come directly to me. (Share your thoughts.)

   NEED: I need you to have face-to-face conversations with me in regard to how this department functions. (Ask for what you need.)

   The beauty of the Complete Message Model is that it allows you to express your thoughts, your feelings and provides you an opportunity to assertively ask for what you need. More importantly, it creates an opportunity for shared dialogue and greater understanding between both parties.

5. Summarize your critical conversation before leaving the presence of the other person. Say something like, “Thanks, I have appreciated this opportunity to talk with you. I learned the following things………..and let’s make it a point to talk again like this if we have a misunderstanding in the future.” It has been said that life is about hellos and goodbyes. Summarize and say goodbye with class. Set the stage for even better communication in the future.

   Critical conversations create stronger relationships. Stronger relationships create greater tolerance. Greater tolerance creates stronger teams. Stronger teams create better internal and external customer service, enhanced morale and increased productivity. Now those are three things that every workplace desires!

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May Contest

The winner of the March Severe Weather Contest is Bob Rose, Clay County Emergency Manager. Bob will receive two NACO tote bag/coolers for his efforts. I’m a little pressed for time in getting this issue of Countyline to the printer so this month’s contest is rather simple. Spring has definitely arrived and along with it comes this instinct in some of us to hang the freshly washed sheets on the clothesline to get that “springtime fresh” scent. I took these pictures of some “vintage” clothespins I ran across. All of them have the metal attachment (the attachment is indicated with an arrow) on them and I can’t, for the life of me, figure out what the attachment is for. I’m sure there must be someone out there who has seen or used this type of clothespin or would like to take a guess at what this attachment is utilized for. Send your answer to NACO, along with your name and the county office you work in. Be sure to mark “contest entry” on the outside of your envelope. Answers must be received by June 1 to be eligible.
Services Held For Supervisor Dean Cruise

Services were held for former Phelps County Supervisor Dean Cruise on April 8 at First Methodist Church in Holdrege. Cruise had retired in January, 2005. NACO offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dean Cruise.

Services Held For Commissioner Robert Robb

Memorial services were held for former Deuel County Commissioner, Robert Robb on Saturday, April 1, 2006 at the Big Springs United Methodist Church. Robb was a Deuel County Commissioner for sixteen years. NACO offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of Robert Robb.

Countyline To Be Published Every Two Months

The decision to cut Countyline Magazine to six issues yearly was made effective with the January, 2006 issue. If you have articles to submit for the magazine or ads you would like to place in the County Classified section, deadlines for articles are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July Issue</td>
<td>June 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September Issue</td>
<td>August 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November Issue</td>
<td>October 11</td>
</tr>
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You may send your articles to the NACO office or e-mail them to Lisa Wefer at lisa@nacone.org any time prior to the deadline for each issue. Please contact the NACO office if you have questions.

Be Sure To Mark Your Calendars For NACO’s First Annual Legislative Conference!

NACO’s first annual Legislative Conference will be held Thursday, October 5, 2006 in Kearney at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Be sure to put this date on your calendar so that you don’t miss it. The conference will be an all day event and will include topics such as how a bill becomes law, fiscal notes, constituency information, how to navigate the legislative website, NACO legislative services, how to testify, interim hearings information, rules of the legislature, legislative glossary and much more.

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