





Leadership Vision #liveNASB #weLIVEhere **Innovation Engagement**

ONE NEBRASKA 2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs



















IN THIS EDITION OF BOARD NOTES

THIS MONTH IN ...

TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS WE'VE REACHED THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL WALK @ LUNCH DAY - APRIL 30 AT THE BOARD TABLE

FEDERAL ADVOCACY FLY-IN ... WRAP-UP **RELY ON NASB'S NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES**

YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF ... AND MUCH MORE!

THIS MONTH IN ...

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Nebraska Association of SCHOOL BOARDS

nts 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

https://members.nasbonline.org/

ANNIVERSARIES ... We are proud to recognize Megan Boldt and Jim Luebbe on milestone anniversaries with NASB!

A quick snapshot of the Various programs, services, support and events NASB has planned for its members in the coming month!

THIS MONTH IN ...

Megan Boldt, Associate Executive Director and Director of ALICAP is celebrating her 20th year with NASB. Megan joined NASB as an underwriting specialist for the ALICAP and insurance program, before becoming director in 2012. Jim Luebbe, Director of of Policy Services, is celebrating his 25th year with NASB. Jim has worked as a school board policy consultant for the Association since 2000, updating and customizing the Policy Manuals for scores of districts across the entire state. He is a former member of the NASB Board of Directors and was a board member at Centennial Public Schools in Utica for 11 years. Jim also oversees NJUMP and CJUMP, the Interlocal Pools created for public agencies to purchase natural gas and related services.

ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ... We are over half way through this year's Session. Check out the update on Pages 4-6. As always, keep tabs on both the GR pages and Bills page of NASBonline.org! Call Colby & Matt any time!

ALICAP & INSURANCE ... It's that time of year again! ALICAP's renewal process will be going LIVE April 1! ALICAP members, be on the lookout for the renewal communication email the first week in April, with information due back April 30. ALICAP's team is available if any school has questions.

BOARD LEADERSHIP ... Check out "At the Board Table" on pages 8-9 to learn about all things Board Leadership.

DATA ANALYTICS ... Trying to make sense of your students' NSCAS standardized test scores can be confusing. The state provides student proficiency data with a comparison to state averages, but there may be more helpful comparisons to consider. NASB's Data Analytics can help you to compare your proficiency scores and average scale scores along with other relevant data to nearby districts or to districts of a similar size to better evaluate your students' academic achievement.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE ... The 2024-25 search season is beginning to wrap up. It is a great time to make plans if your district/ESU has a Superintendent/Administrator who is planning to retire after the 2025-26 year. Contact Shari with questions on search protocol or to schedule a proposal.

ENERGY PURCHASING ... Natural gas prices have been moving upward for the past month, but are now wavering between predictions for warmer temperatures and outlooks for more export terminal approvals under the Trump administration. Our market consultants monitor the daily volatility watching for gas purchasing opportunities. Contact us now while NJUMP and CJUMP are in the process of adding several new districts to our gas purchasing programs during this annual signup period.

GALLUP STRENGTHS ... In recognition of March Madness, this month's featured Gallup theme is **Competition**. People with Competition are driven by the desire to win. Their natural inclination to compare their achievements to others' can produce a high-performance culture. Competition talents can inspire a breakthrough performance and create an environment of excellence. Contact Shari to schedule a Gallup retreat.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ... It's been great seeing so many of you at the Finance Workshops, and in D.C. this past month! Open Meetings Law Workshops begin this week, and start thinking School Law and Golf this June in Kearney too! Recent district visits include Aurora, Chase County, Clarkson, Crete, Dorchester, Fillmore Central, Hampton, Hayes Center, Hitchcock County, Howells-Dodge, Humphrey, Leigh, Medicine Valley, Ogallala, Ravenna, South Platte, & Wood River.

POLICY ... The NDE has published a draft of its Behavioral Intervention and Classroom Management Policy with its March 7 State Board Meeting Agenda. Last year, LB 1329, sect. 21, modified state statute 79.262.01 and tasked the NDE with developing a model policy on this subject. Districts will be required to adopt NDE's policy or a similar one by August 1, 2025. As you review the draft, you may also wish to consider how it will work with your district's Student Discipline or Suspension and Expulsion policies.

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https://members.nasbonline.org/events

To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.





Open Meetings Law Workshop - Tuesday, March 25 - Gering

Open Meetings Law Workshop - Wednesday, March 26 - Kearney

*Amplified Finance Workshop - Thursday, March 27 - Kearney

Open Meetings Law Workshop - Monday, March 31 - Norfolk





Open Meetings Law Workshop - Tuesday, April 1 - Lincoln

Budget & Finance Workshop - Wednesday, April 9 - Norfolk

Budget & Finance Workshop - Wednesday, April 16 - Kearney



National Walk at Lunch Day - Wednesday, April 30





NASB Member Golf Outing - Wednesday, June 11 - Kearney

School Law Seminar - June 11-12 - Kearney



Leadership Workshops - Gering, Kearney & Lincoln

Other Events, August through December 2025 ...
Area Membership Meetings - Labor Relations - State Education Conference - New Board Member Workshop

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OF BILLS TRACKED

108

https://nasb.enviseams.com/ legislative-bills

BILLS WE TESTIFIED ON

66

THOSE WE SUPPORT

29 &

THOSE WE OPPOSE

35 🕠

NEUTRAL

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SBMs WHO HAVE SAT IN THE CHAIR ON OUR BEHALF!

12! **CCC**



I'M JUST A BILL ...

Introduction

Committee

General File

Select File

Final Reading

Governor

Law

https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations https://nasb.enviseams.com/legislative-bills PAGE 1 OF 3

The following have been tabbed Priority Bills, meaning they will be the primary focus moving forward, now that Committee Hearings wrap up this Friday. As we've seen in previous years, there may be attempts to attach other bills onto those, but these will likely be the primary vehicles. We will be paying close attention to the omnibus bills crafted by the Education Committee.

PRIORITY BILLS

LB 89 (Kauth) Adopt the Stand With Women Act

Mandates policy regarding use of restrooms and locker rooms, and the participation in sports by students. (On General File)

LB 303 (Hughes at the request of the Governor) Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certain certification dates and provide for base levy adjustments under TEEOSA and create the School Finance Reform Commission

Lowers max levy cap from \$1.05 to \$1.02 (25-26). Increases foundation from \$1500/ student to \$1590/student (25-26), changes base levy adjustment to 0.30. Creates school finance reform commission. MUST advocate for a school board voice on the committee.

LB 383 (Storer at the request of the Governor) Adopt the Parental Rights in Social Media Act

LB 440 (Spivey) Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act

Creates the Education Leave and Support Act and fund. Funded by 0.35% of employee and employer match of wage for purposes of reimbursing schools for substitute teachers covering for educators on FMLA. Would be an increase to a district's budget.

LB 538 (Hardin) Require school boards and postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a policy and provide training relating to discrimination and antisemitism and provide for Title VI coordinators - Strommen Priority

Requires school policy adoption on discrimination to include antisemitism. Requires training in antisemitism as part of harassment training to students and employees. Requires a coordinator to be hired by NDE.

LB 645 (Ballard at the request of the Governor) Change provisions relating to the School Retirement Fund - Retirement Priority

Changes state contribution to School Retirement fund based on the actuarially funded ratio. Reduces amount of state contribution in proportion to the health of the plan. Does not lower employer contribution.

LB 653 (Murman) Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs, support services, and the enrollment option program, provide reimbursement for certain students under the enrollment option program, and change the authorized uses of the Education Future Fund - Education Priority

Limits denials of students with IEPs to option to 16% of the total enrollment option applications. Requires additional notices if option students are denied as a result of

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capacity. Requires acceptance of option students within Learning Community schools if a sibling is enrolled. Adds option denial notice requirements. Allows for payments to districts from the Education Future Fund for expenses of accepting option students with IEPs. Many provisions in this bill are agreeable. We continue to work with the introducer.

LR 12 CA (Kauth) Constitutional amendment to impose a limit on ad valorem taxes for real property, provide a new method of valuing real property for tax purposes, provide certain exceptions, and eliminate conflicting constitutional provisions - Andersen Priority

OTHER KEY BILLS

LB 213 (Holdcroft) Require the State Board of Education to adopt academic content standards on human embryology under the science education standards

Mandates specific curriculum changes and teaching methods by SBOE in science standards. (On General File)

LB 352 (Ballard) Change provisions relating to reports on student achievement and discipline required under the Quality Education Accountability Act

Requires database creation containing all student discipline data by district, building, offense, type, and intervention. Data although de-identified, could result in student identification, particularly in smaller districts. Bill brought by Education Rights Council and may violate some FERPA requirements. Fiscal note of \$40k.

LB 426 (Andersen) Authorize an American flag education program and change provisions relating to the distribution of lottery funds used for education

Colby testified in the Neutral capacity. Provides for teaching of the "13 folds" of the American flag in social studies for students 5th through 8th grade. As part of the program, each student shall receive a 3 by 5 foot flag and etiquette booklet paid for by lottery dollars. Concerns about other lottery dollar priorities. (On General File)

LB 497 (Murman) Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district

Mandates admittance of a home school student in extra curricular activities if the home district doesn't offer the activity.

LB 507 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to school transportation expenses for children with disabilities

LB 567 (Quick) Authorize school policies relating to community engagement

THE BUDGET & ACT TESTING

The Appropriations Committee will advance the budget for debate within the next few weeks. They will take into consideration the Governor's preliminary budget and make their own adjustments. We are paying attention to a provision in the Governor's budget eliminating the appropriation which pays for the mandated ACT testing of all Juniors. While the mandate remains, we are concerned about State's commitment to pay for the testing and the possibility of this cost being shifted to local districts.

OTHER BILLS WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE PROCESS

Look for these bills to advance as part of a committee package, amendment, or independently.

LB 135 (Holdcroft) Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to elections for certain purposes related to bonds and tax levies

Eliminates ability of school and ESU bond elections to be held during special elections with exception for emergencies

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only. Amendments continue to be negotiated. (On Select File)

LB 390 (Murman) Require each school board to adopt a policy relating to access by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to certain school library information

Requires policy regarding rights of parents to access school library materials. Mandates the creation of an online catalog of all books by building and accessible to parents. Provides an opportunity for a parent to be notified when a student checks out a book. (On Select File)

LB 428 (Murman) Change provisions relating to school policies on the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers in schools

Requires district policy on student surveys. No surveys requesting students provide sexual, mental health, medical, religious or sensitive nature without first notifying parents at least 30 days prior. Gives parents rights to review survey and exempt their student from taking it. (On Select File)

LB 457 (Bostar) Require anaphylaxis policies for school districts and licensed child care facilities and provide a limit on the amount an insured is required to pay by an insurance policy or benefit plan for epinephrine injectors

Requires SBOE to develop model policy on students with anaphylaxis. (On Select File)

LB 463 (Ballard) Require school districts to develop a cardiac emergency response plan under the School Safety and Security Reporting Act and provide for grants for such plans from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund

Colby testified in the Neutral capacity. An unfunded mandate that requires State School Safety director to develop model policies on emergency cardiac responses. Requires the purchase and placement of defibrillators on school grounds. We are working with Sen. Ballard (On General File)

LB 670 (Murman at the request of the Governor) Require schools to adopt a safety plan and provide and change requirements related to training for staff of child care and schools

Requires the adoption of a safety plan policy related to fire/tornado drills and vehicle safety. Changes some provisions of safety required training, making them more discretionary. Safety plans to be submitted to the school safety director.

LB 711 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to the new school adjustment under TEEOSA

Changes the Needs side for new building construction.

ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL CONTROL - BUILD TRUST - SHARE YOUR STORY

KEY LINKS AND RESOURCES

NASB Government Relations Page: https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations

NASB Bills Page: https://nasb.enviseams.com/legislative-bills

Nebraska Legislature: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/

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NATIONAL WALK @ LUNCH DAY - APRIL 30

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National Walk at Lunch (NW@L) Day is Wednesday, April 30

To participate, visit https://www.nebraskablue.com/walk and register your organization as a team for the event.

Invite your employees to participate by using the promotional materials available at the NebraskaBlue.com page under Walk-Resources.



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YOUR NASB BOARD LEADERSHIP UPDATE



https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership

APRIL BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Please see the March 14 email from mherring@NASBonline.org and shiggins@NASBonline.org for the draft of the April Board Meeting Agenda. If you have questions or need us to resend the email, please feel free to contact Marcia at 402-450-5152 or Stacie at 402-209-1608.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every school board is responsible for compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law. Review the following excerpts. Is your board/district compliant with these requirements?

§ 84-1411 Meetings of the Public Body...

"...(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting."

§ 84-1411 Meetings of the Public Body...

"... Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting..."

§ 84-1411 Meetings of the Public Body...

"... (iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the **meeting,** and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and..."

2025 NASB Activities and Events Aligned to the Board Leadership Academy

The NASB Board Member Academy offers numerous opportunities to expand your knowledge, deepen your understanding of board governance, and connect with board members from across the state.

> March/April 2025 Open Meetings Law Workshops Gering, Kearney, Norfolk, Lincoln

April 16, 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

July 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn Board Academy Collaboration

July 2025 - Leadership Workshops Gering, Kearney, Lincoln

August & September 2025 Area Membership Meetings Valentine, Gering, Kearney, York, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, Nebraska City, Fremont

October 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn **Board Academy Collaboration**

> November 19-21, 2025 State Education Conference Omaha

December 3, 2025 Board Member Academy Module I & II Kearney

§ 84-1413 Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; ...

"... (6) Beginning July 31, 2022, ...the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body.

The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

NASB Nebraska Association of School Board

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Next, assess your public's access to board information:

- 1. Visit the school district website to review how the public accesses board meeting agendas and minutes. According to § 84-1411, the board must provide this information on the district's website. Is the district meeting this legal requirement?
- 2. Evaluate the March Board Meeting Agenda. Is it sufficiently descriptive? Can the public access the supporting documents/ attachments to the board agenda?
- 3. Evaluate the March Board Meeting Minutes, are the minutes easily accessible on the district website?
- 4. Is the district in compliance by posting the most current board meeting minutes?
- 5. What actions should the district take to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined?

BOARD ACADEMY COLLABORATION

You are invited to participate in the next Board Academy Collaboration Team Meeting! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Marcia, Stacie, or Stephanie at 402-423-4951. We look forward to connecting with you. Mark your calendar as follows:

Participants invited: Newly Elected or Appointed Board Members, Experienced Board Members, and

Superintendents

Date & Times: Wednesday, April 16 ... 12:00 PM CT and 12:00 PM MT

Link: The Microsoft Teams link will be shared with all eligible participants the morning of at 10:00 AM.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY FLY-IN ... WRAP-UP

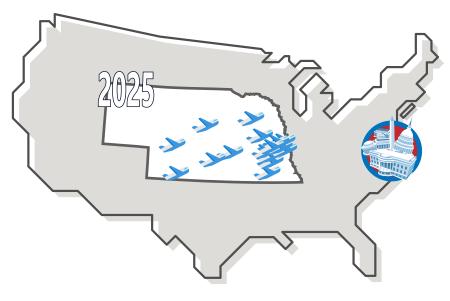


For the third year in a row, NASB headed east to Washington, DC, with around 40 school board members and education leaders from across Nebraska, to continue building on the relationships we have with our delegation and their staff, meet with the U.S. Department of Education and experience advocacy on the Federal level. Another extremely productive and memorable trip! Thanks to all who joined us this year. If you're interested in joining us for future trips, please let us know!















RELY ON NASB'S NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS

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https://members.nasbonline.org/programs-services/njump-cjump

NASB's natural gas programs were created to fulfill two needs that many local districts had in dealing with utility costs – competitive prices and budget certainty. NASB has over 115 school districts and ESUs across Nebraska participating in our NJUMP and CJUMP purchasing consortiums to leverage their purchasing power and achieve lower utility bills. With the great volatility of natural gas prices, we've signed up several new members for next year. Natural gas purchasing is one job your peers in these Interlocals can handle for you.

Superintendents and their business managers make up our Boards of Trustees for program oversight. Both programs were begun at the request of our districts and operate as independent Interlocal Pools. The trustees hold their annual meeting at the State Education Conference in Omaha each November.

The Nebraska Joint Utilities Management Program (NJUMP) purchases natural gas for school districts and ESUs on the Black Hills Energy natural gas pipeline in southeast Nebraska. Choice Joint Utilities Management Program (CJUMP) supplies natural gas on the Black Hills Energy (formerly SourceGas) distribution system in northern, central and western Nebraska. Rather than pricing the entire year's gas needs on one day, the consortiums lock in fixed prices as market opportunities become available by purchasing in layers over time and in varying percentages of total projected volumes. Historically, this approach has achieved a better price for natural gas with a higher level of budget certainty than the districts could have achieved on their own.



Now is the time for new members to sign up for NJUMP or CJUMP for the 2025-26 heating season.

Ask Jim Luebbe of the NASB staff for a copy of the Interlocal Agreement and Board Resolution to enroll in this time-saving, dollar-stretching program. For more information, NASB members on the Black Hills Energy distribution system can contact Alan Pederson of WoodRiver Energy at alan.pederson@woodriverenergy.com ... Members on the SourceGas distribution system can contact Mandy Heermann of Public Alliance for Community Energy at mheermann@nmppenergy.org.



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Paul Grieger Managing Director, Public Finance 402-392-7986 pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham Senior Vice President, Public Finance 402-392-7989 cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney Senior Vice President, Public Finance 402-392-7988 aforney@dadco.com

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D.A. Davidson & Co. has long been a leader in innovative debt financing for school districts. What we're most proud of are the relationships we've nourished and the strong community improvements that are made as a result.

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- Tax Anticipation / Construction Notes
- Lease-Purchase Financing
- QCPUF Bonds
- · Refinancing Bond Issues



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2025 Platinum Level Affiliates - American Fidelity - BCDM Architects - Boyd Jones Construction - BVH Architecture - Carlson West Povondra Architects - Clark & Enersen - CMBA Architects - D.A. Davidson - Envise - Facility Advocates - Hamilton - Hausmann Construction - Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - Northland, a First National Nebraska Company - Piper Sandler - Public Risk Management - Sampson Construction - Sparq Data Solutions - Third Rail Content

2025 Gold Level Affiliates - 914 Coatings - ABcreative, Inc. - BD Construction - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska - Cornhusker International - Darland - DLR Group - Lunchtime Solutions - MCL Construction - Navitas - Omaha Public Schools Foundation

2025 Silver Level Affiliates - Amergis Staffing - Creative Sites - OneSource The Background Check Company TeamMates Mentoring

2025 Bronze Level Affiliates - Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture - Ameritas Investment Company - Community Building Solutions - Cunningham Recreation - Demco - Fisher Tracks, Inc. - Mueller Robak, LLC - National Insurance Services - Nebraska Safety Center - Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska - RSW Floors and More - Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

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Region 1 - Neal Kanel **HTRS**



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Region 14 - Steve Koch Hershey



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Region 17 - Michelle Reikofski Osmond



Region 18 - Susan Ernest Leyton



Region 19 - Stacy Jolley Millard **NASB President**



At-Large - Lisa Albers **Grand Island**



At-Large - Steve Blocher West Point **NASB Treasurer**



At-Large - Pam Holcomb Broken Bow



At-Large - Erick Lee Arapahoe-Holbrook





Ben Anderjaska **Board Leadership Engagement Specialist**



YOUR NASB STAFF

Makenzie Barry ALICAP Data & Financial Specialist 1



https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/nasb-staff

Shari Becker Director of Education Leadership Search Service



Nate Alspaugh **IT Specialist**

Matt Belka

Caden Frank



Megan Boldt **Associate Executive Director Director of ALICAP**



Craig Caples Director of Technology

Member Engagement

Sharon Endorf

Director of



Colby Coash Associate Executive Director Dir. of Government Relations



Lily Coash-Johnson **Events & Engagement** Assistant

Director of Marketing,

Communications & Advocacy



Katie Corfield Board Leadership Online Survey Specialist

Marcia Herring



Stacie Higgins Board Leadership Specialist



Sallie Horky Chief Operating Officer

Becky Erdkamp



Engagement Specialist

Board Leadership Community



Jim Luebbe **Director of Policy Services**

Director of Board Leadership



Avary Pansing Brooks Board Leadership Engagement Specialist



Galina Slobonyuk Executive Administrative Assistant



Rachel Horstman Business Manager

Stephanie Summers Board Leadership Associate



Lindsey Wooton Administrative Specialist



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YOUR 2025 PLATINUM AFFILIATES

If your business would like to become an Affiliate Member of NASB, please visit: https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members









































YOUR 2025 GOLD AFFILIATES























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View the full, detailed listings with contact info at: https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members

ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

ARCHITECTS

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

BCDM Architects

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

BVH Architecture

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Clark & Enersen

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

CMBA Architects

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

DLR Group

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

BUILDING CONTROLS AND BUILDING SERVICES

Navitas

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

914 Coatings

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

BD Construction

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Boyd Jones

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Darland

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hausmann Construction

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

MCL Construction

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

RSW Floors and More

Sampson Construction
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

ENERGY SERVICES

Community Building Solutions

Facility Advocates

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

ABcreative, Inc.

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Demco

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ameritas Investment Company

D.A. Davidson & CO.

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Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund

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