When the water starts rising, Falls City relies on ALICAP

When people hear the word FLOOD, they usually think of a river overflowing or a dam or dike breaking. They are right because these events are floods, but the insurance industry which excludes flood, has a much broader definition:

“storm surge, rising water, surface water, waves, tide or tidal wave, rain accumulation, runoff from natural or man-made object, the release of water, the rising, overflowing or breaking of boundaries of natural or man-made bodies of water, or the spray there from; or surface waters or sewer backup resulting from any of the foregoing…”

ALICAP’s main competitors include a sub-limit for back up of sewers and drains, but exclude flood. ALICAP provides $10 million of flood coverage providing the location is not in flood zone A. This distinction became very important to Falls City Public Schools on Sept. 13, 2010. Heavy rainwater accumulation, caused by a four-inches-in-an-hour downpour, streamed down the hillside and flooded the high school gym causing approximately $60,000 damage.

“There were water marks about three feet high on the gym door,” noted Superintendent Tim Heckenlively. “And happening in the fall, there were lots of leaves and other debris that came along with it.”

After the rain stopped, the gym was eventually drained and dried. But then the saturated floor began expanding, and many of the boards began “cupping” making for an uneven and dangerous surface. Heckenlively called Maurice Anderson with ALICAP, and Anderson was on the scene as soon as possible.

“He had seen situations like ours and gave our maintenance people suggestions about how to minimize the damage,” Heckenlively said. “After the floor began cupping, it became dangerous. ALICAP got people out here promptly to sand the floor down, which helped us use the floor for the

School Law Seminar in Kearney covers legal landscape

The 2011 School Law Seminar offers school officials an opportunity to receive the most up-to-date information on legislative and court-related developments affecting education. This year’s program is scheduled for June 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

The School Law Seminar, presented by the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska Council of School Attorneys, is presented by attorneys to broaden the knowledge base on a wide array of issues related to running a school.

The seminar will be moderated by Nebraska Council of School Attorneys’ President Roger Steele and Vice President Chad Meisinger. Individual registration for the workshop is $125 and includes break refreshments, lunch, and a detailed outline of each lawyer’s presentations assembled in a convenient three-ring binder. Subsequent registrations from the same district are offered — without written materials — for $65.

The registration forms for this all-day seminar have been sent to all NASB members within the last week. Participants may also register online at www.nasbonline.org.

Among topics to be covered in this year’s seminar are:

- Cyber Bullying
- OCR Investigation Process: Bullying, Harassment, and Other Claims
- How to Keep Your Schools Safe
- Legislative Update
- Parent Wars in the School House
- Open Meetings Law and the First Amendment
- Same Sex Prom Dates, Dress Codes and Dirty Dancing
- Mock Teacher Termination Hearing: A Walk-Through

A catered lunch buffet is included in the price of the $125 registration fee. Nonmembers who wish to attend will be charged a $250 fee. The registration deadline for this workshop is June 6.

Members who cannot attend on June 10 may order the written materials that accompany the program for only $95. There are other price options for multiple members attending from the same district.
Legislation Committee elections underway for two positions

Elections are underway in two of the seven seats open on the NASB Legislation Committee. The other five seats have nominees running unopposed, and according to bylaws, no election is required when a seat is unopposed.

The Legislation Committee is a 24-member panel that receives member input and develops an annual set of legislative resolutions and standing positions for the Delegate Assembly to consider.

The 18 elected members of the Committee represent NASB-member districts of like enrollment sizes. Every year, six of those members are elected for three-year terms. One Legislation Committee member lost her local election, forcing a seventh opening for the two years of that unexpired term.

Legislation Committee Seats 3 (Omaha), 6 (Millard), and 18 (NESUBA) are appointed positions. Seats 9 (Julia Agard of Kearney) and 10 (Linda Richards of Ralston) are running unopposed. For Seat 12, the candidates are Kent Blum of Nebraska City, Alan Doll of Gering, and Lumir Jedlicka of Schuyler. For Seat 15, the nominees are Steve Dethlefs of Fort Calhoun, Mike Marotz of Stanton, and Rhonda Sparks of Louisville. Ballot have been sent out electronically to the affected districts. The deadline for those ballots to be returned is May 20.

The Legislation Committee’s work begins in July, after receiving member proposals for legislative direction and belief statements that guide the Association’s lobbying efforts. This year, the Legislation Committee is scheduled to meet on July 16 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

After a review by the NASB Board of Directors each NASB-member district is given a chance to vote on each item at the Delegate Assembly, which meets on the Friday morning of the State Education Conference in November.

The Committee also meets during State Conference and at the Legislative Issues Conference to discuss emerging issues and provide input to NASB’s lobbying team.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Vicki Walter-Winters at 800-422-4572 or vwinters@nasbonline.org.
At its March 19 meeting, the NASB Board of Directors set the course for the coming year by approving the 2011-12 budget, and approved its goals for the coming year.

NASB’s $1.63 million budget for 2011-12 represents a modest increase from 2010-11, and anticipates nearly full membership. Only a handful of districts and one ESU were non-members on March 31, 2011. The Association’s budget year begins on April 1.

This also represents the second year of the Association’s strategic planning with the Board and staff. In the coming year, the organization will be working to pursue eight goals. They are the following:

1) NASB will strengthen relationships with local board members;
2) NASB will develop a more effective format for Area Membership Meetings;
3) NASB will make a concerted effort to promote the Association;
4) NASB will establish a Foundation to support and enhance local governance;
5) NASB will strive to improve attendance at State Conference;
6) NASB will strengthen the participation of local boards in the governance leadership of the Association;
7) NASB will become more visible with our membership; and,
8) NASB will expand board members’ awareness of their district’s participation and benefits of NASB programs.

Additionally, the board took action to terminate its relationship to Pay Schools, which is a service allowing districts to create an online payment system that parents can use to fill school lunch accounts, or pay for an array of other activities. Believing that this is still an important service, however, the Board authorized staff to negotiate a new agreement with E-Funds for Schools, which not only provides the same sort of services but offers additional functionality. When the agreement is complete, we will provide information about this exciting program to all members with plenty of time to implement the service for the 2011-12 school year.

The Board also discussed the difficult issues in the Legislature this year, and provided direction for the staff to continue working on the CIR measure in the Business and Labor Committee by attempting to obtain some cost containment measures within the bill.
balance of this school year.”

Because the damage occurred in September, and replacing a gym floor takes about six weeks, Falls City had a dilemma. There were tournaments and practices and other activities scheduled for that floor.

So while ALICAP helped to make the floor useable for the current school year, they didn’t forget about the longer-term issues. Water had seeped under the “floating” gym floor, so starting later this month, Falls City Public Schools will begin the process of completely replacing the floor. And ALICAP is still there to provide coverage under the same deductible.

“We initially thought only half of the floor would need replaced, but again after we had some experts look over the situation, it was decided that replacing the entire floor was the best solution, and the ALICAP personnel were right behind us on that decision,” Heckenlively added.

This “rain accumulation” loss, uninsured by ALICAP’s competitors, cost Falls City their $500 deductible instead of the nearly $60,000 that the full replacement will cost. In addition to an unexpected boiler failure in their high school last winter (which was also covered by ALICAP), Falls City Public Schools could have been scrambling to find more than $80,000 to restore their facilities. This would have had a significant budget impact.

What’s more, the new gym floor will be up-and-running for summer activities.

“We have been very pleased with the ALICAP service and the timeliness of handling our claim,” Heckenlively continued. “Sometimes with insurance people, even though you may get what you want, you have to haggle with them and convince them of the claim. This was a nice experience because none of that was involved. We didn’t have to barter with them.”

Members of ALICAP can sleep easy knowing they are covered for flood. It would be prudent for non-members to check with your insurance carrier to see if you can add this important coverage.

For more information on the ALICAP program, contact Megan Boldt at mboldt@nasbonline.org.

Edgucators Health Alliance launches new wellness program

The Educators Health Alliance (EHA), a statewide risk pool designed to offer affordable health care insurance to members of Nebraska educational organizations and their retirees, has announced a new wellness initiative aimed at assisting its members achieve higher levels of wellness.

EHA Board Chair Dr. Dan Ernst stated, “The EHA is pleased to offer a comprehensive wellness program to our members and looks forward to the benefits the program is designed to realize in individual members’ health and well-being. Nearly all of Nebraska’s public schools participate in the EHA and the wellness program seeks to achieve improved health for school employees, plus the financial benefits of reduced health care costs and lower absenteeism for school districts. “The EHA is managed by a collaborative effort of the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators and the Nebraska State Education Association.

The EHA Board of Directors has selected Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) and the Wellness Council of the Midlands (WELCOM) to design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive wellness program for all the active members and the 3,500 Early Retirees throughout Nebraska. The program is an expansion of a successful EHA pilot wellness program initiated a year ago and managed by BCBSNE and WELCOM.

The expanded wellness program will begin in April and provide members opportunities to improve and manage their health. EHA will offer the program to its members at no charge.

Participants in the program will complete a confidential personal health assessment (PHA) to provide feedback to each individual and determine the health risks, interests, and knowledge levels of the member. For those who complete the PHA, a $25 Gift Card will be given to them. Following this confidential process, BCBSNE and WELCOM will work with each member to analyze the health risk data and implement a targeted wellness action plan that will focus on maintaining or improving members’ current level of health and reducing lifestyle-related risk factors such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, poor diet, and obesity.

The program will undergo a rigorous evaluation to measure its overall effectiveness in improving members’ health status and lowering their health care costs.
Report offers look at people serving on U.S. school boards

(NSBA News Service) School Boards Circa 2010: Governance in the Accountability Era is a groundbreaking report released in February 2011 by the National School Boards Association (NSBA), the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, and the Iowa School Boards Foundation (ISBF) that gives new insights into the workings of America’s nearly 14,000 school boards.

School Boards Circa 2010: Governance in the Accountability Era is the first comprehensive national survey of school boards in nearly a decade. It provides national data on who serves on school boards, what board members think about a number of school reform initiatives, how they do their work, how school board elections are carried out, and the nature of the relationship between the school board and the superintendent.

The report, authored by researchers Frederick Hess and Olivia Meeks of the American Enterprise Institute, compiles responses of more than 1,000 school board members and superintendents from all types of school districts—urban, suburban, and rural.

Among the report’s findings:

- Two-thirds of those surveyed see an urgent need to improve student achievement, and nine out of 10 are concerned about an overly narrow focus on achievement.
- School board members and superintendents have similar goals for preparing their students for college, the workplace, and, above all, “a satisfying and productive life.”
- School board members, especially those in large districts, are more representative of the communities they serve than state legislatures and members of Congress. Boards now include women (44 percent are female) at more than twice the rate of the U.S. House Representatives (17.5 percent) and Senate (17 percent). In large districts, 21.8 percent of school boards members surveyed were African-American and six percent were Latino.
- School board members tend to be well educated—nearly 75 percent of members surveyed hold at least a bachelor’s degree—and most describe their political views as ideologically moderate. Only 17.6 percent have ever been affiliated with a teachers union.
- A major concern for school board members is dealing with the economic downturn and decline in local real estate values and state revenues. More than two-thirds of board members ranked their funding and economic situations as extremely urgent.
- More than 88 percent of board members report that they almost always or often turn to their superintendents to get information to make decisions, giving the superintendent a crucial role.

Hess previously collaborated with NSBA on the release of School Boards at the Dawn of the 21st Century in 2002. This survey builds on some of that data but also provides more extensive research about the inner workings of school boards as they focus on accountability and student learning.

Gotta know what that acronym stands for?

The education community in Nebraska, and throughout the country, seems to have an acronym for every program, service, and organization. NSBA now has an “Acronym” menu item on its website that allows you to access many of the common education acronyms so you are G2G. Go to nasbonline.org and go to “Acronyms” on the left-hand menu bar.
2011 Directory of NASB Affiliate Members

Architects

Architects, LLC
2436 N. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504
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Bair, Vermeer, Haack Architects
440 N. 8th Street, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508
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Beringer Ciaccio Dennell Mabrey
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Davis Design
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Architects & engineers, design services
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bcramer@schemmer.com  www.schemmer.com

Awards and Plaques

Awards Unlimited
1935 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510
Trophies, awards, plaques & etc.
Larry King  402-474-0815
larryking@awardsunlimited.com  www.awardsunlimited.com

Building Controls/Services

Control Management Inc.
PO Box 12038, Omaha, NE 68112
Energy savings, service, custom integration, retrofits
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nathan@cmioma.com  www.cmioma.com

Morris Group Associates
3830 N.W. 16th St., Topeka, KS 66618
Representative for Duro-Last roofing system
Mark Akagi  785-232-6563
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Construction Services

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2436 N. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504
Construction management/design-build
Michael Collins  402-435-8600
mcollins@ayarsayars.com  www.ayarsayars.com

Fisher Tracks, Inc.
1192 235th Street, Boone, Iowa 50038
All weather tracks
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Johnson Controls, Inc.
14238 Hillsdale Circle, Omaha, NE 68137
Building efficiency, renewable energy
Jeff Schomberg  402-331-6161
Jeffrey.a.schomberg@jci.com  www.johnsoncontrols.com

TRANE
5720 S. 77th Street, Ralston, NE 68127
Building construction services/performance contracting
Dave Raymond  402-331-7111 or 402-452-7762
dave.raymond@trane.co  www.trane.com

Energy Services

Seminole Energy Services, LLC
414 East Ave., Ste. 130, Box 402, Holdrege, NE 68949
Natural gas
Brenda Christensen  888-710-4707  308-995-4707
bchristensen@seminoeleenergy.com  www.seminoeleenergy.com

Equipment and Furniture

Cornhusker State Industries
800 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502
Manufacture office & library furniture, chairs, filing cabinets, janitorial products, Braille services
Kate Severin and Jan Verbeek  800-348-7537
kate.severin@nebraska.gov  402-471-4597
Jan.Verbeek@nebraska.gov

Creative Sites, LLC
11506 Pierce Street, Omaha, NE 68144
Playground equipment and site furnishings
Julie Kutilek  402-614-4606
jkutilek@cox.net  877-728-2701

Crouch Recreational Design, Inc.
6946 N. 97th Circle, Omaha, NE 68122
Playground and athletic equipment
Eric and Nicole Crouch  402-496-2669
eric@crouchrecreation.com  www.crouchrecreation.com

Front Runner Fab., Inc.
101 Broadway St., Fullerton, NE 68638
Portable bleachers
Bryan Dubas  308-550-0151
fullertonwelding@hamilton.net  www.frontrunnerfab.com

Heartland Seating, Inc.
12424 W 62nd Terrace, Shawnee, KS 66216
Indoor and outdoor bleachers, spectator seating
Carol Silva  913-268-0069 / 800-398-5656
carroll@heartlandseating.com

Mid-States School Equipment Co. Inc.
610C N.W. Main St., Lee’s Summit, MO 64066
Auditorium seating/indoor-outdoor bleachers/cafeteria tables/classroom and library furniture
Ron Wuebben  816-282-7838
rwuebben@msseci.com

Musco Sports Lighting, LLC
100 1st Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Sports lighting
Gail Cressley  800-825-6020
promotions@musco.com  www.musco.com

Northern Agri-Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 576, Henderson, NE 68371
Water reeels, pump and irrigation
Jill Robertson  402-723-4501  800-554-8715
sales@northernagriservices.net  www.northernagriservices.net

School Specialty - Education Essentials
11017 Laurel Cr., Omaha, NE 68164
School supplies, furniture & equipment
Linda Hutchison  402-431-8154
linda.hutchison@schoolspecialty.co

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Be There Moment for April

Baseball season is underway, and whether your plight is watching Little League or the Major Leagues, baseball (like all sports) equates with life. In baseball, sometimes you hit it hard for an out, and sometimes you pop up for a hit. The point is, life isn’t always fair. You’ll get lucky breaks and tough breaks. This analogy may relate to a tough teacher the child is struggling with or a bad break he got on a test. The question is how will you deal with the tough luck. It’s a great way to teach a lesson while having fun. Be There. Sign up for free material for your school at nasbonline.org/bethere.
Thank you all for rejoining during tough times with NASB

We are proud to report that as our 2011-12 membership year begins, we have received positive responses from nearly all of our members about rejoining for the new year.

Your NASB membership provides you a variety of ways to get the most out of your Association, including the Medicaid claiming program, the ALICAP school insurance program, a comprehensive information source on the Legislature and other education activities, and a wide array of professional development activities designed to provide information and training to everyone in a school leadership position.

This year, NASB attempted to soften the impact of dues by calculating each district’s dues based on budget numbers derived from the 2008-09 report to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Additionally, this year’s membership will earn your district NASB Rewards, which will provide your district with free registrations to many of the workshops and networking opportunities that bring life and learning to your membership.

You will be receiving a confirmation letter with further details about the NASB Reward Program within the next week or so. We will also be sending a copy of the NASB Membership Guide for every individual board member. This Guide serves as a roadmap to the products, services, staff, and board of the Nebraska Association of School Boards. It also includes the current goals of the Association, as well as an array of information that you might find helpful as you progress as an effective school board member.

Thanks again, for joining your fellow school districts in facing the difficult issues of the future.

Save Trees. Save Time. Subscribe to eMeetings!

NASB’s eMeeting is a fast, efficient, user-friendly online service that allows a board to conduct a virtually paperless board meeting. The service offers the option to instantly generate the meeting agenda and minutes and have them available online for the public. Through the sleek interface and templates, administrators can collaborate and develop agendas quickly and efficiently. Once agendas are created they can be made available online to board members immediately with a click of a button. Also, available through the interface is an advanced search. Just type in keywords and it will search through all meetings, agenda items, attached documents, and even the user’s notes; quickly giving the user information from years of board meetings at their fingertips. For more information or for a cost-free demonstration, contact Craig Caples by email at ccaples@nasbonline.org or call (800) 422-4572.