

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



AGC
NEBRASKA
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



The Associated General Contractors of America, the voice of the construction industry, is an organization of qualified construction contractors and industry related companies dedicated to skill, integrity and responsibility. Operating in partnership with its Chapters, the Association provides a full range of services satisfying the needs and concerns of its members, thereby improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.



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Organization Profile

The AGC Nebraska Chapter is the leading statewide professional association representing over 200 top companies doing work in the heavy highway construction industry across Nebraska.

Mission

Ensuring our members and the future of the industry will be greater than they are today.

Goals & Objectives

- **Strong Partnership with NDOT and other Industry Owners** - improve effectiveness of owner relations by educating and pushing for accountability at all levels.
- **Be the Voice and Advocate for the Heavy Highway Industry** - through grassroots advocacy, supporting candidates who support the chapter legislative priorities and through communication, education and participation.
- **Provide for Member Growth, Benefits and Services** - by serving the needs of members by increasing membership, providing relevant information, building the future Association leadership and providing networking and business development opportunities.
- **Promote Workforce in the Industry** - by promoting member organizations and the various careers available, continuing current chapter programs which work to build the industry workforce and partnering with state agencies to bring opportunities to member organizations.

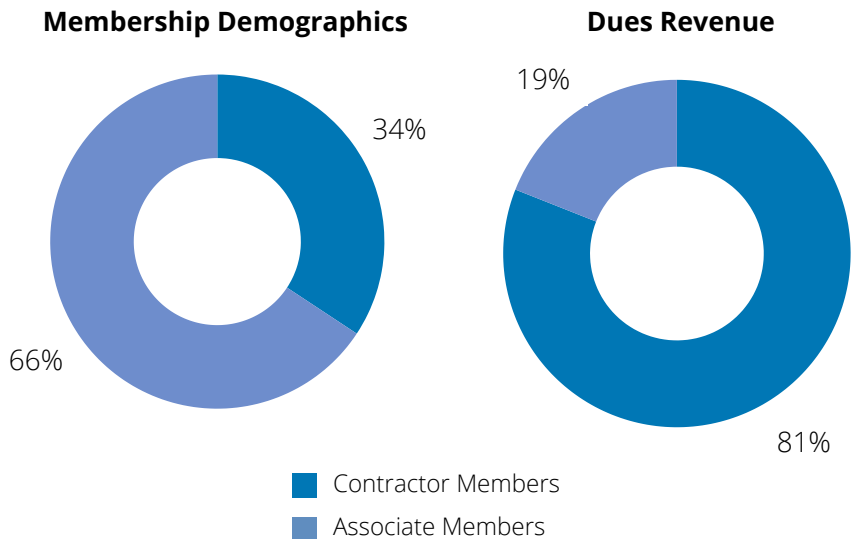
2023 Board of Directors

President Sean Vontz Vontz Paving	Julie Budnick Werner Construction Co. Tyler Chicoine Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc. Tom Crockett Hawkins Construction Company Brian Engel Paulsen, Inc. Matt Fatka Highway Signing, Inc.. Justin Grusing Dustrol, Inc.	Courtney Jacobsen M.E. Collins Contracting Co. Inc. Jason Muhle KEA Constructors Mike Newman Van Kirk Brothers Contracting Steve Peck SIMON Tony Potthoff Constructors, Inc. Rocky Torres Contractor Services, Inc.
President-Elect Shane Wegner Midlands Contracting, Inc.	Vice President Rob Wemhoff Perrett Construction, Ltd.	
Treasurer Curt Hartter Universal Surety Company	Jason Henderson Green Thumb LLC	

OUR MEMBERSHIP

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For the first time in AGC Nebraska Chapter history, our membership hit 200 contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers working in and around the state of Nebraska in 2023. Since the pandemic, we have had record attendance at events and seen continual growth in our membership.



Member recruitment is a priority of the AGC Nebraska Chapter Board and staff. Many of our new members learn about our chapter and its benefits from industry colleagues. We thank you for your support in furthering our growth.

WELCOME 2023 NEW MEMBERS!

- Arthur J. Gallagher
Bobcat of Lincoln
CFO Systems, LLC
CNA Surety
Core & Main
Crushin' It, Inc.
Echo Valley Construction
Ed Broadfoot & Sons Sand & Gravel
EMC Insurance
EquipmentShare
General Excavating
- Hall Brothers Construction
Hammer & Steel
HDR, Inc.
McSafety Construction Training
MHC Kenworth Lincoln
Old Republic Surety Company
Rain For Rent
Rose Equipment, Inc.
Satellite Shelters
Tricon Wear Solutions
USI Insurance Services

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

AGC Nebraska Chapter

@AGC_nebraska_chapter

@AGCnebraska

@AGCNE

@NEAGC

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As have many years, 2023 has gone by very fast. Between AGC meetings and completing projects at work, it has been a very rewarding year. Being that this was my first time as President, learning to conduct meetings proved much different than running a family business.

During my speech at the Convention, I highlighted my primary focus of continuing to build a strong relationship with the NDOT. At the beginning of the year, Governor Pillen announced Vicki Kramer as the new Director. Getting to know Director Kramer and finding our common goals has been a large focus of 2023. Our collaboration with Jim Knott, construction engineer, has been as strong as ever. He yielded a more up to date letting schedule for our members to plan bids more accurately on their tight schedules.

Bonding passed in the legislature in 2023, with the support of NDOT and the Governor – AGC remained neutral. With the IJA funds, the Department has a record amount of money in the program, so it was discouraging to see the lack of expected projects that made it to lettings this year. We are hoping to see lettings steady out in the next year because the peaks and valleys make running a business more difficult.

Workforce Development has been another key focus for AGC Nebraska this year. Katie has built relationships with several high schools across the state looking at options for work-based learning, summer internships, and class visits from our members. The interest in trade programs at the high school level from so many schools has been reassuring to see as we hope to attract more students to our industry.

Our partnership with CCC's Heavy Equipment Operator Technician Program saw its 8th group of students in the Fall of 2023. There are not many students in the program this year as enrollment was down across the board at CCC this year. Many of our members have hired students from this program and we hope to see numbers in the upper teens again next year.

A highlight of my year as President was traveling to Washington D.C. for the AGC of America Chapter Leadership Conference with Katie and Shane. We met other Chapter Executives and learned what issues AGC of America is fighting for at the national level. It was eye-opening to see how large our government is and why we need to personally contact our legislators. They seemed to enjoy talking with us in person and were fully behind supporting workforce development for the trades in high schools.

2023 was a successful construction season for many of us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the AGC Nebraska President this past year. I want to thank Katie, Sheila, and Carly for the great job they do running the day to day and our events. When people think of AGC Nebraska, they think Katie Wilson – she is a productive Executive Director, and she is great at leading AGC Presidents along the way.

MEMBER SERVICES

- Workforce Development
- Relationship with NDOT
- Industry & Economic Resources
- Networking & Building Relationships
- Advocacy & Representation
- Industry & Chapter News
- Government Relations & Lobbying
- Member Savings/Discounts
- Leadership Development
- Marketing Opportunities
- Safety & Training
- HR Support for Hiring & Retention

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



our efforts would not have gone as far.

Here is the low-down of AGC Nebraska's 2023:

- On January 4th, Governor Pillen was sworn in, along with 14 new State Legislators. AGC Nebraska supported the majority of these new faces and did not waste any time educating them on the construction industry and AGC Nebraska' goals.
- The 2023 Legislative Session was full of ups and downs. The Nebraska Legislature approved funding for projects over the next two years, with additional funds from the federal level. More funding coming to our state is a positive, but the delay in getting the projects out the door has been a struggle. The NDOT has been working hard to increase their workforce to meet the demands in project delivery.
- Membership continued to grow in 2023 which I relate directly to the positive outlook for growth in our industry, our solid chapter leaders and the values your AGC staff brings to the membership.
- The 2023 AGC Nebraska Convention was a huge success with registrations increasing 12 percent from the previous year. Our PAC Auction raised a record amount of \$65,875.
- The work the AGC/NDOT Joint Committees did in 2023 is something to be proud of. Many improvements were made to specifications that make doing business better for the industry and our state.
- The Joint AGC/NDOT Utility Coordination task force continues to bring positive changes to the industry regarding improving preconstruction utility coordination procedures.

2023 was a fantastic year at AGC Nebraska Chapter. One of the major reasons for this was our member engagement. From events to task forces, our membership really stepped up this year to support the heavy highway industry in Nebraska. Thank you all for engaging with your chapter because without your support,

- Workforce development continues to be at the forefront of our advocacy efforts. Carly has increased her focus on promoting careers in the industry through social media efforts. I started working with Partnership for Innovation to build a work-based learning program at Waverly and North Platte. It has been a learning experience for everyone, but it is promising to know that educators welcome involvement from the local business community.
- The Future Leaders Group had an outstanding first full year. Membership is pushing 80 and their events have been very well received. Guns & Greens was a new event in 2023 that combined trap shooting and golf – it sold out in 48 hours.
- Alternative Delivery procurement is a tool in NDOT's project development toolbox and AGC's goal is to educate our membership on the various mechanisms at play so that members can make the best decision for their company when deciding what types of projects to bid.

In closing, I would like to mention the three industry leaders that we lost in 2023 – Kim Hawkins, Dallas Wegner and Phil Werner. I was lucky enough to serve alongside each of these gentlemen on the AGC Nebraska Board and know them on a more personal level. They will each be missed and their knowledge and guidance for the industry will not be forgotten.

Thank you for letting me continue to serve as your Executive Director. We look forward to another great year in 2024.

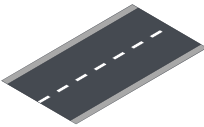
K. O. L.

SUMMARY OF POSITIONS

Statewide Transportation Infrastructure

Nebraska has effective and robust funding sources for its multi-modal statewide transportation program. Historically, these sources have been user fee based with additional infrastructure funding progress being made this past decade with the passage of the Build Nebraska Act (BNA) and Transportation Infrastructure Act (TIA).

The AGC Nebraska Chapter supports preservation of these existing funding sources while also exploring new mechanisms to fund unmet needs at the state, county and city levels. Transportation projects have enormous safety, convenience and economic benefits to Nebraskans, so it is critical that funding is available to complete these projects in a timely manner.



Regulatory Issues

The AGC Nebraska Chapter advocates for sensible solutions to today's environmental challenges. Meeting environmental requirements has become a growing responsibility for contractors. This delays and potentially threatens construction projects while also increasing the cost. We support reasonable and achievable environmental laws and application of environmental regulations.

Skilled Workforce, Training, Education

The future of the construction industry depends on the availability of a workforce that is prepared for the ever-changing nature of our work. We support educating middle and high school students about career opportunities in the highway construction industry, including the advantages of post-secondary technical education.

Our chapter has invested our own resources in workforce programs by donating over \$400,000 to Central Community College's Heavy Equipment Operator Technician program in Hastings. The program has been a success with over 90 graduates to date.

The AGC Nebraska Chapter has also utilized member dollars for the AGC Scholarship Program and launched a social media campaign to promote the career opportunities available in the industry.



POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

PAC Report

The AGC Highway Improvement Political Action Committee (PAC) generates funds through AGC member contributions only. The funds have very limited use with the primary focus being for contribution to the candidates for STATE political office (Governor, Legislators, Mayors). These funds can not be used to contribute to candidates for FEDERAL office, such as President or Members of Congress.

Since 2015, AGC Contractor Members have been contributing directly to the Highway Improvement PAC along with their annual dues. This has allowed AGC Nebraska to strengthen our voice where it counts the most - at the Capitol. When we contribute to a candidate's campaign, we meet with them directly to deliver our contribution and educate on our AGC Legislative priorities.



Members are also able to contribute to the AGC of America PAC, which supports Congressional delegates who work hard for the industry. AGC of America works diligently to provide members with timely information regarding what is happening at the National level. Make sure you are signed up to receive newsletters that apply to your area of work.

2023 Breakdown of the AGC Highway Improvement PAC

- Total Member Contributions: \$93,294
- Interest: \$1,015
- Total Contributions to Candidates: \$44,000
- Current Balance in the PAC: \$139,497



PAC Committee Members

Katie Wilson - Treasurer
AGC Nebraska Chapter Executive
Tyler Chicoine
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Tom Crockett
Hawkins Construction Company
Curt Hartter
Universal Surety Company

Chris Hawkins
Hawkins Construction Company
Tim Hruza
Mueller Robak, LLC
Bill Mueller
Mueller Robak, LLC
Steve Peck
SIMON

Matt Schaefer
Mueller Robak, LLC
Sean Vontz
Vontz Paving
Shane Wegner
Midlands Contracting Inc.
Rob Wemhoff
Perrett Construction Ltd.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Since the inception of the AGC Advocacy Fund in 2015, Contractor Members have contributed over \$1,000,000. This allows the Chapter to advocate for workforce development and political programs on behalf of the industry. We have two active social media campaigns; one that educates our legislators and citizens on important industry topics and another that promotes construction careers to specific target audiences.



www.BetterRoadsNE.org

2015 - 2023 ADVOCACY BREAKDOWN

- Political Advocacy: \$229,877
- Workforce Advocacy: \$344,131
- CCC-Hastings HEOT Program: \$425,000
- Scholarship Program: \$111,167



www.PaveYourOwnWay.org

Workforce Development Committee

Tony Potthoff, Chair
Constructors, Inc.

Melyssa Bierman
Enova Group, LLC

Chad Burdick
Constructors, Inc.

Narin Ehrisman
NEBCO, Inc.

Brian Engel
Paulsen, Inc.

Justin Grusing
Dustrol, Inc.

Monte Kratzenstein
NSG Logistics

Steve Peck
SIMON

Shane Wegner
Midlands Contracting, Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the AGC Nebraska Chapter 2023 scholarship winner!



Colton Woodis
Kearney, NE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Task Force Chair "Year In Review" - Tony Potthoff

Hello, I'm Tony Potthoff from Constructors Inc., and I took over the role of Workforce Development Chair from Shane a year ago, as he assumed the President-Elect role in 2023.

Our main focus in 2023 was on partnering with local high schools and implementing work-based learning, acknowledging that it has been a slow process but making steady headway nonetheless. In particular, North Platte, Grand Island, and Waverly were targeted, with LPS and OPS considered too large. Waverly emerged as the most enthusiastic, actively driving the implementation process. Ogallala was recognized as a gold standard in career exploration, and the Partnership for Innovation played a pivotal role by leveraging insights from the healthcare industry's roadmap. The overarching goal is to create a playbook for any AGC member to present to their local school district. This playbook spans from elementary construction clubs to high school job shadowing and internships, culminating in sponsorships after graduation for 11th and 12th graders.

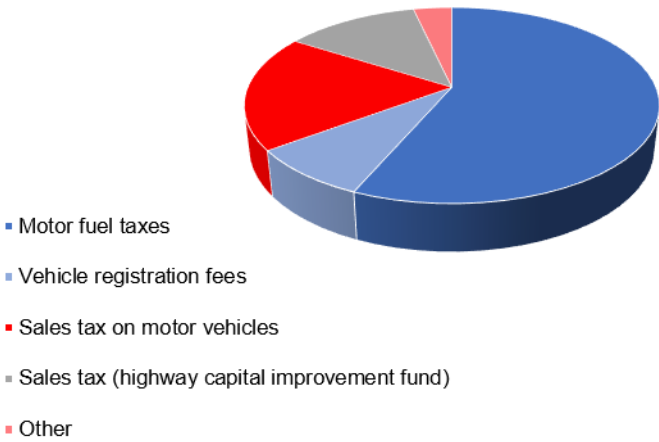
Equipment Days were notably successful once again, marking the fifth year of this initiative. I extend my thanks to Steve Peck for his contributions. With 5,000 students from 8th to 12th grade attending the state trap shoot, and 1,100 actively participating in our stations which included simulators, and even operating mini excavators, we look forward to 2024 Equipment Days in April and express gratitude in advance to all volunteers.

Our commitment to scholarships and partnership with CCC's Heavy Equipment Program continues, with two scholarships awarded to CCC students this year.

Looking ahead to 2024, our goals include implementing work-based learning and partnerships in Waverly, North Platte, and Grand Island. We recognize the unique challenge of dealing with the least experienced workforce ever, as very few individuals are entering any workplace during high school. As such, we plan to explore training programs to efficiently transition new employees from zero industry knowledge to productivity in the shortest period possible.

NEBRASKA ROAD FACTS

Highways & Bridges Funds



Nebraska's highways and bridges are funded primarily from four state sources estimated at \$562 million in 2023. These funds are dedicated to **asset preservation, system modernization** and **capital improvement** of our highways and bridges.

State & Federal Gas Tax

One cent of the gas tax raises **\$12 million** in Nebraska.

The Federal Fuel Tax is:
18.4 cents for gas
24.4 cents for diesel
+ Heavy Vehicle and Tire Use Tax

*Federal Fuel Tax has not increased since 1993.

Nebraska's total tax per gallon as of January 1, 2024 = **29 cents**

Average* annual cost for vehicle owner:
\$227.52/year
\$18.96/month
\$4.38/week

*based on 12,000 miles/year at 25 mpg

2023 Government Affairs Committee

Tyler Chicoine, Chair Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc. (District 24)	Chris Hawkins Hawkins Construction Company (District 7)	Steve Rogge Van Kirk Brothers Contracting (District 38)
Nick Batter Hawkins Construction Company (District 7)	Dick Ludwig Contech Engineered Solutions (District 25)	Justin Tomlin FNIC Group (District 20)
Corey Biddle Kiewit Infrastructure Co. (District 5)	Cathy Nachreiner JMN Construction LLC (District 15)	Sean Vontz Vontz Paving, Inc. (District 33)
Tom Crockett Hawkins Construction Company (District 36)	Curt Oerter Werner Construction Company (District 33)	Tyson Vogt Martin Marietta (District 2)
Curt Hartter Universal Surety Company (District 25)	Steve Peck SIMON (District 42)	Shane Wegner Midlands Contracting, Inc. (District 37)

MESSAGE FROM OUR LOBBYISTS



It was another good year in the Legislature for AGC and the heavy highway industry. The new two-year state budget includes a \$100M transfer from the state’s cash reserve into the NDOT’s Roads Operations Cash Fund to provide a match for new federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding. This new funding brings the total appropriation for NDOT construction to \$983M in Fiscal Year 2023-24 and \$996M in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Legislators also extended the sunset on the Build Nebraska Act quarter cent earmark for roads funding from 2033 to 2042 and provided authority to the NDOT to issue up to \$450 million in bonds to accelerate completion of Build Nebraska Act projects. A six-year extension of the County Bridge Match program was also passed into law. And finally, an Underground Excavation Safety Committee, evenly balanced between excavators and facility operators, was also established to review complaints filed with the State Fire Marshall and recommend penalties.

Progress was also made on legislation introduced on AGC’s behalf. A bill was introduced to increase registration fees on electric vehicles and establish a per kWh tax on EV charging. Also introduced was a bill requiring that owners incorporate the reasonableness of bidder’s cost into the scoring rubric when using alternative delivery. And finally, the Government Committee advanced to the floor a proposal to adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act, which will ensure that project labor agreements are not required by the state or political subdivisions on construction projects in Nebraska.

- As a reminder, AGC focuses its efforts in the state capitol and at the governor’s mansion on these key priorities:
- Preserving existing infrastructure funding sources, as well as exploring new mechanisms to fund unmet needs at the state, county, and city levels;
 - Common sense environmental laws and applications of environmental regulations which are reasonable and achievable;
 - Educating middle and high school students about career opportunities in the highway construction industry, including the advantages of post-secondary technical education.

Looking to 2024, we are cautiously optimistic that progress can be made on three fronts: alternative delivery, project labor agreements, and electric vehicles. However, if the Legislature gets distracted by social issues the window to move the needle on the above will be quite a bit smaller and we’ll have to continue to be nimble and be ready to act aggressively when opportunities arise, no matter how infrequent. When the Legislature adjourns in April, AGC will turn its attention to the 2024 election season. With over a dozen senators term-limited out of office, we will have lots of candidates to meet and evaluate.

In conclusion, by staying actively engaged with our Legislature and our Governor, AGC Nebraska Chapter will be able to continue delivering results for all members that ensure Nebraska remains one of the best states in the country to be an infrastructure contractor or supplier.

FUTURE LEADERS COUNCIL



The AGC Nebraska Chapter is excited to have welcomed back its Future Leaders Council in 2022. This group aims to channel participants who are not yet actively involved to network, socialize, promote and exchange construction industry ideas. The FLC will act as a forum for new contractors, new members, and students to become involved with the AGC and its valuable resources. If you have young leaders within your company who would be a solid fit for a committee or Board seat, get them started with the Future Leaders Council.

Top Priorities

- Enhanced Leadership Skills
- Increased Involvement
- Professional Development

Total Members



Annual Events

- Guns & Greens
- Happy Hours
- Mine Tour & Top Golf
- Student Chapter Meetings
- Toy Drive



For \$50 per year, FLC members get access to networking and educational events. Visit www.agcne.org/flc to learn more and join today!

2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

AGC Convention



Construction Career Days



2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

AGC Equipment Days



AGC Summer Golf Outing



2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

AGC CID BBQ



AGC Fall Golf Outing



2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

FLC Guns & Greens



AGC Holiday Party

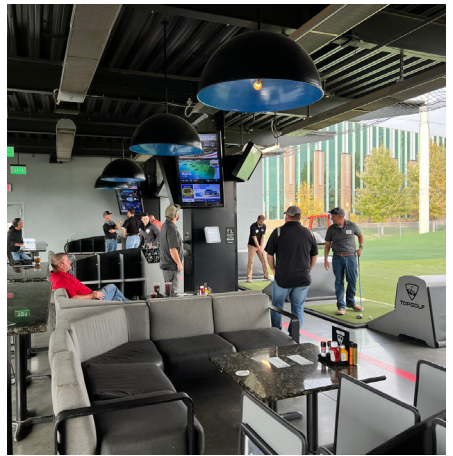


2023 CHAPTER EVENTS

FLC Happy Hours



FLC Mine Tour & Top Golf



2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check out the schedule of AGC Nebraska Chapter events for 2024. Please contact Sheila at 402-435-4355 if you are interested in sponsoring any of these events.

NDOT Letting	February 1	Online
Legislative Reception	February 5	Lincoln
Annual Convention	February 14-15	Lincoln
NDOT Letting	February 29	Online
PM Conference	March 5-7	Kearney
AGC of America Convention	March 20-22	San Diego
NDOT Letting	April 11	Online
AGC Equipment Days	May 2-4	Doniphan
Guns & Greens	May 17	Grand Island
NDOT Letting	May 16	Online
Summer Golf Outing	June 3	Hastings
NDOT Letting	June 20	Online
NDOT Letting	July 25	Online
NDOT Letting	August 29	Online
Construction Industry Day /BBQ	September 12	Lincoln
Fall Golf Outing	September 20	Beatrice
NDOT Letting	October 3	Online
NDOT Letting	October 24	Online
NDOT Letting	November 7	Online
Construction Industry Day /Holiday Party	December 5	Lincoln
NDOT Letting	December 12	Online



THANK YOU, 2023 SPONSORS!

\$5,000+



\$3,000+



\$2,001+



Up to \$2,000

All Road Barricades, Inc.
Bosselman Energy Companies
Copple Insurance Agency, Inc.
D.P. Sawyer, Inc.
Eco Material Technologies, Inc.
EquipmentShare
Flint Hills Resources, LP
General Excavating
Gerhold Concrete
Graham Construction, Inc.
Great Plains Redi Mixed Concrete
Green Thumb LLC

Highway Signing, Inc.
Holcim US
Iowa Civil Contracting
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers
K2 Construction, LLC
Koss Construction Company
LaborMAX Staffing
Logan Contractors Supply
MHC Kenworth Lincoln
Midlands Contracting Company, Inc.
Mueller Robak LLC
Nebraska-Iowa Supply Co., Inc.

Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.
Purple Wave Auction
RDO Truck Centers
RAKA Rentals
Rueter's
Stan Houston Equipment
Sunbelt Rentals
Total Truck & Machine
Titan Machinery
UNICO Group
Universal Surety Company
Van Kirk Brothers Contracting



AGC
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Thank you for your membership!



Katie Wilson
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Carly Smith
Communications Specialist

Sheila Radenslaben
Membership & Business Development Coordinator