



The Right Direction

AT A NEW LOCATION



NIRMA's Self Defense for County Officials Conference

October 20-21, 2022

**Younes Conference
Center North,
Kearney, NE**



With each passing year, NIRMA strives to raise the bar of excellence. The Self Defense for County Officials Conference is the prime opportunity for our members to gain sound guidance on risk management topics of timely importance to them and connect with peers and colleagues across the state.

This year, the conference moves to its new location just a few steps from where we've held the event for most of the past 13 years. To give our members the best possible experience, we'll be at the Younes Conference Center North and Crowne Plaza, the newest additions to Younes Hospitality's Kearney campus. This top-of-the-line venue promises to be a great new home from which to deliver our annual conference program for years to come.

Our 2022 lineup features nearly 19 hours of educational sessions and other provoking content that will motivate and re-energize you to return to work with a stronger sense of purpose and positive mindset. But it won't all be work, as we will recognize selected members with awards, and unwind with some entertainment at our Thursday evening banquet.

After resuming the learning program on Friday morning, we'll cap off the two-day event with our luncheon and annual association business meeting, including elections for four seats on the NIRMA Board of Directors.

Beginning on the next page, find all the details on our conference schedule, as well as registration information and options for overnight accommodations.

So, plan to point your compass to our new location and attend NIRMA's 14th Annual Self Defense for County Officials Conference on October 20-21. We are confident that our knowledgeable speakers will help keep you headed in the right direction from there.

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, October 19

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open NIRMA Member IT Help Desk (<i>Origami, Interact portal, eRisk Hub</i>)
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Thursday, October 20

7:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Open
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Keynote Address by Sean Bott: <i>"The Unicorn Effect: Creating Legendary Connections"</i>
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Conquer Your Stress: Go from Worrier to Warrior
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break
11:00 - 12:00 noon	"Am I the Drama?" Best Practices for Identifying and Managing Toxic Elected and Appointed Officials
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	"I Have a Lot of Questions: Number One, How Dare You?" <i>Conducting Effective Workplace Investigations</i>	Say What?! How to Communicate Anything to Anyone	Is Your Road Department Digging Up a Surprise Liability? <i>Avoiding Pitfalls Associated with 811 Digger's Hotline</i>	Return to Work Dollars and Cents <i>From Your Workers' Compensation Claim Manager</i>
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	How Effective are Your Cyber Security Efforts? <i>CISA's functions, resources, and services</i>	MIND Healthy Nutrition <i>Combating Hypertension & Neurodegenerative Delay</i>	Property Inspection Bootcamp	Ask Away: Your Burning Legal Questions Outside of HR
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Open Meetings Act <i>When Mistakes Are Made and the Latest in Case Law</i>	The NIRMA 4-1-1	It Takes Two (to Effectively Manage Risks from Auto Accidents on County Roads)	A Hard Reality in Law Enforcement <i>Scrutinizing a Death in Custody Claim</i>
5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Pre-Banquet Social			
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Annual Awards Banquet Entertainment: Dueling Pianos of Andy Anderson & Mike Leeds			



Friday October 21

6:45 - 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet/Registration Desk Open (at 7:00 a.m.)
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	The Buried Truth Uncovered
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Hot Legal Topics for NIRMA Members
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break
11:00 -12:00 p.m.	Knock, Knock, Knocking on County Doors: First Amendment Auditors
12:00 noon	NIRMA Membership Lunch, Annual Association Business Meeting

Our New Location



Ample parking is available surrounding the Younes Conference Center - North and attached Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Our registration desk will be accessible from exterior doors for those who park on the north or east sides of the building. You can also enter the conference center from inside the Crowne Plaza hotel - just go right from the hotel front desk, past the boutique and the restaurant/Starbucks entrance. Be sure to visit the registration desk on your arrival from 3:00 to 5:00 Wednesday evening or starting at 7:00 a.m. Thursday and Friday mornings to obtain your conference binder materials and NIRMA's gift to you for attending.

Our educational sessions, meals, and activities will all be held in the Silver block of conference rooms. Specific room assignments will be contained in the conference binders distributed to registered attendees on site at the conference.

Wednesday October 19

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

Those arriving Wednesday afternoon may pick up their conference materials in advance at the registration desk.

NIRMA IT Help Desk

Need some hands-on computer assistance with our members-only online tools? Stop by the registration desk on Wednesday afternoon. NIRMA staff members will be on hand with laptops, ready to help. They can answer questions about the Origami claims software, or show you how to navigate the Interact Portal section of our website containing helpful resources like manuals, forms, training modules, and the eRisk Hub for cyber security.

Thursday, October 20

7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

Conference materials may be picked up at the registration desk. Complimentary coffee and light breakfast items will be available.

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Presentation of Colors in Memory of Terry Baxter

Buffalo County Sheriff's Office Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Remarks

Craig Nelson, NIRMA Executive Director

Larry Cerny, NIRMA Board of Directors Chair



8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Keynote Address: The Unicorn Effect: Creating Legendary Connections

Described by the LA Times as a "crazy blend of Jack Black and Criss Angel" Sean Bott is known as the Comedy Mentalist. He has logged over 10,000 hours on stage both in the U.S. and internationally, including appearances on major television networks such as HBO, CBS, and NBC, in furtherance of his mission to help solve the human disconnect created by worldwide technological interconnectedness. He'll remind you of the benefits of speaking "human," to forge a sense of belonging and mutual understanding with others. Sean will kick off the conference by delivering mind-blowing moments, laughs, and an amazing experience that you will be talking about long after its conclusion.

Key Take-Aways

- Gain easy-to-implement and practical skills for quickly and authentically establishing and fortifying connection with others, in the workplace and beyond.
- Learn how improving your connectedness in the workplace can help to combat burnout.
- See awe-inspiring mind-reading techniques.
- Acquire knowledge on how to build up your workplace relationships for a more positive workplace culture.

9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Refreshment Break

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Conquer Your Stress: Go from Worrier to Warrior

It's estimated that stress is responsible for 60-90% of doctor's visits and one million workers miss work each day because of stress. This presentation will break through the common but incorrect notion that stress is something overwhelming us that we can't control. There are various techniques that can be employed to overcome the fundamental problem - your personal stress response. Based on a program she helped to create for the U.S. military, Dr. Kathy Gruver, a two-time TEDx speaker who studied mind-body medicine at Harvard, will identify and teach practical and proven self-care techniques and methods for better health, leadership, and work performance outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Gruver will explore how we can incorporate all of our senses in daily mindfulness to bring us to greater peace and productivity. You'll come away from this session with an increased sense of control over stress, and actionable tools that can immediately be put to use in your everyday life.

Key Take-Aways

- Recognize the emotional, physical and behavioral signs of stress.
- Examine current research on meditation, positive self-talk and visualization and how it can be incorporated into your workday.
- Understand how you can use your daydreams to boost immune function and increase relaxation.
- Learn a simple technique, known as a mini-meditation, to stop the stress response in its tracks, along with other ways to incorporate mindfulness in your day even if you think you don't have time!

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. "Am I the Drama?" Best Practices for Identifying And Managing Toxic Elected and Appointed Officials

Simon Sinek said, "The role of a leader is not to come up with all the great ideas. The role of a leader is to create an environment in which great ideas can happen." But what should you do when "leaders" fail at their role and exhibit toxic conduct? In this presentation, Attorney Pam Bourne of Woods Aitken, LLP will tackle this sensitive topic. She will help you to identify elected and appointed officials that engage in toxic conduct. Pam will also address best practices for addressing toxic conduct. After this presentation, you will understand why common responses to toxic conduct like, "it's not my department," or "there is nothing we can do—he/she is an elected official," are both ineffective and false.

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

"I Have a Lot of Questions. First of All, How Dare You?" Conducting Effective Workplace Investigations

Effective internal investigations are critical in preventing employment-related liability and maintaining healthy labor relations. In this presentation, Attorney Pam Bourne, who specializes in employment practices, will return to discuss situations that can arise when an investigation should occur and best practices for conducting investigations. Pam will also review court cases that were directly impacted by the adequacy of an internal investigation, to illustrate how missteps in this process can translate to liability. No matter how seasoned you are, this session will improve your investigation skills.

Say What?! How to Communicate Anything to Anyone

Communication is key to effective county agency operations and a positive workplace culture. But what happens when it seems like the people communicating might as well be speaking in different languages? Dr. Kathy Gruver will help you learn what type of communicator you are and how to reach across divides to influence others who communicate in a different way. A combination of communication skills, neuro linguistic programming (NLP) skills, improvisation, and psychology will imbue you with a new understanding of how to make sure your message is heard, effective, and productive. Whether you need to better communicate between coworkers, to your boss, across county departments, or in front of an audience, this workshop will up your game and allow you to accomplish more with less misunderstanding and confusion.

This session is for anyone that wants to learn more about communication style, conscious communication, thinking on their feet, direct and inferred communication and how to get what you want with different personality types.

Key Take-Aways

- Gain an understanding of what kind of conduct can fairly be characterized as "toxic."
- Learn about the legal parameters for addressing toxic behavior by elected and appointed officials.
- Receive practical insight on how real-life scenarios involving toxic officials were successfully managed.
- Obtain clear answers to questions you may have on the subject.

Key Take-Aways

- Get a clear understanding of how to proceed as a manager when you've been alerted to a potential instance of workplace discrimination, harassment, or other misconduct.
- Receive what "to do" and what "not to do" tips for conducting workplace internal investigations.
- Strengthen your investigative skills.
- Hear about how internal investigations influence outcomes in later litigation matters.

Key Take-Aways

- Learn the different types of and styles of communication.
- Determine how to approach people using their language to get your message heard and objectives met.
- Improve your ability to quickly think on your feet.
- Discover how to bring out your inner extrovert, or conversely tone down your extrovert energy to avoid frightening the introverts away.



Is Your Road Department Digging Up a Surprise Liability? Avoiding Pitfalls with Utilities and the 811 Digger's Hotline

Many NIRMA members are already aware that claims associated with digging are both prevalent and costly. But a fuller knowledge of the One-Call Notification System Act (the "dig law" underpinning the 811 digger's hotline) and how to interpret it brings the power to avoid or reduce the chance of potential liability. KC Pawling, NIRMA's Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist, will offer an in-depth look at ways that digging and interfacing with utilities have resulted in claims, and steps that can be taken to better protect your county. From proper documentation to creating a permit process for utilities, there are many ways to mitigate risks in this area.

Return to Work Dollars and Cents: From Your Workers' Compensation Claims Manager

Denise Hardison has adjusted NIRMA member workers' compensation claims for over 26 years. She'll bring that experience to bear in this session by demonstrating exactly how counties benefit - in concrete terms of dollars and cents - when employees injured on the job are supported and assisted in efforts to return to work early in some capacity, with due consideration of their medical condition. She'll also highlight some of the intangible benefits to the employee and the employer of a Return to Work policy. Finally, you'll hear examples of some of the creative ways that counties have found light duty or transitional assignments to help injured workers return to the workplace.

2:45 -3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

How Effective are Your Current Cyber Security Efforts? CISA's Functions, Resources, and Services

In 2018, the U.S. federal government established the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, as an arm of the Department of Homeland Security. As referenced in NIRMA's Cyber Security Toolkit, CISA has excellent cyber resources and no-cost tools for local government entities. Due to newly allocated federal funds, some cyber services may become more accessible. Nicholas Brand is a Cyber Security Advisor with CISA and is the Nebraska Coordinator for this federal agency. His presentation will expand upon NIRMA's recent cyber security regional seminars by providing a detailed walk-through of CISA resources for counties. In particular, he will emphasize ways that counties can assess the effectiveness of their current cyber security efforts through means such as scanning for vulnerabilities from outside of their networks and getting an evaluation of current cybersecurity posture at a holistic/strategic level or an operational/technical level.

Key Take-Aways

- Hear about some of the NIRMA claims involving digging and their outcomes to better recognize common digging mistakes.
- Get a clear overview of key legal requirements that impact potential liability when digging.
- Receive helpful tips for avoiding liability beyond simply following the law.
- Learn about the advantages of using a utility permitting process.

Key Take-Aways

- Gain a clear understanding of how having a Return to Work policy can reduce the ultimate losses that would otherwise be incurred in connection with a workers' compensation claim.
- Get ideas on how you can return your employees back to light duty outside of your department.
- Acquire tips and new ways of thinking about transitional work.
- Become more aware of the positive emotional impact that early return to work can have on an injured employee.

Key Take-Aways

- Receive an overview of CISA and its functions.
- Discover the myriad of resources and services that CISA can provide to counties within the cyber security realm - and gauge which may be helpful to your county or agency.
- Learn ways to assess your county's cyber security efforts for effectiveness and identify how to eliminate remaining vulnerabilities.



MIND Healthy Nutrition: Combating Hypertension & Neurodegenerative Delay

What is the MIND Healthy Eating Plan? This plan has been creating a lot of media buzz lately as it combines aspects of the Mediterranean diet and the DASH diet to create an eating lifestyle focused on brain health—specifically the prevention of dementia and age-related cognitive decline, but also having added benefits like resisting hypertension. The research shows that it slows brain aging and lessens one's chances of developing Alzheimer's disease. Come join Kaiti George, registered dietician and licensed medical nutrition therapist with the Kearney Hy-Vee Foods store. She will explain the many pros to this plan and simple steps to incorporate this eating style into your life!

Property Inspection Bootcamp

Don't be caught off guard by a costly property loss disaster! Many of the losses in this claim area can be prevented or mitigated through proactive efforts and a thorough room-by-room property inspection, once you know what to look for. Whether it is your building's sprinkler systems, smoke alarms, boiler room, flammable liquids and chemicals, ceiling tiles, roof system, drain, or sump pit, there are many places, some unexpected, that risk could be lurking. Get ahead of these potential problems with Chad Engle, NIRMA Loss Prevention Manager and Safety Specialist, who will deliver your basic training on the subject. This session will allow Chad to pass along directly to you the latest tips he's picked up from time spent with certified engineer Ken Botes analyzing several Nebraska county facilities.

Ask Away: Your Burning Legal Questions Outside of HR

When county managers have legal questions related to employment issues, the NIRMA HR hotline is the mainstay - but did you know there is another NIRMA resource available offering assistance with the many other types of civil legal questions that arise in county government operations? From handling public records requests to navigating zoning regulation processes, there are times it is helpful to have a second set of attorney eyes to collaborate with your county attorney. Attorneys Brandy Johnson, Jeff Kirkpatrick, and Patrick Guinan field a variety of civil legal questions from members every day. It's just another value-added benefit of NIRMA membership, and our shared efforts to mitigate claims! This session is a chance to raise and discuss "other" types of legal questions about risks your county is facing, outside of HR issues. Brandy, Jeff, and Pat will use this roundtable to give initial input on questions received. They will later distribute the Q&A from this session in the **Interchange** magazine. For the most complete responses, submit your questions in advance to **brandy@nrmainc.info**.

Key Take-Aways

- Learn how to choose certain foods (and avoid others) to positively impact your brain health.
- Understand the research that supports the outlined healthy benefits of the MIND eating plan.
- Realize how some sweet bites and alcohol can fit within this eating lifestyle, making it potentially more attainable for long term success.

Key Take-Aways

- Understand the importance of regular property inspections.
- Discover the signs that may lead to a property loss claim in the future, and how to correct the issues.
- Receive a helpful checklist to aid in your on-site inspections, and where to find the document in NIRMA's online Interact portal.

Key Take-Aways

- Gain expert legal input on the many types of civil legal issues that your county may be confronting beyond those that are employment-related.
- Learn about what the attorneys of the law firm within the NIRMA building do, and how they may be able to assist you in conjunction with your county attorney to better manage risk.
- Find out what legal issues other member counties are confronting that might be on the horizon for your county, too.



4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Open Meetings Act: When Mistakes are Made and the Latest in Case Law

After over 40 years of the practice of law with an emphasis on governmental law, including 12 years as York County Attorney, and over 20 years as York City Attorney, Charles Campbell is very familiar with the public meeting laws of Nebraska. And, he counts many NIRMA members among those he has represented in litigation. Charley will share why the Nebraska Open Meetings Act matters, common violations and mistakes in conducting public meetings, how to fix mistakes, and some of the enforcement efforts that have played out in recent case law and other forums.

The NIRMA 4-1-1

This session is perfect for our designated NIRMA contact persons and others who want to learn more about how NIRMA operates - and this year, it will also include important information for our member officials in law enforcement who operate county jails. Larry Pelan, John Christensen, Denise Hardison, Shawna Lammers and Tod Thieman, all staff members from the NIRMA office, will present at this interactive, informal session to share operational information and updates with our members, as well as answer your questions. Also joining will be Dan Lancaster of the Hunt Insurance Group to share new information about the ancillary coverage available to NIRMA members to assist in containing the ever-increasing challenge of inmate medical care costs.

It Takes Two (to Effectively Manage Risks from Auto Accidents on County Roads)

When an auto accident occurs on a county road, there is an aspect of optimal risk management that should not be overlooked. That is, ensuring county road conditions surrounding the accident are thoroughly examined and properly documented. This can be accomplished by a member of the county roads department visiting the scene to conduct a detailed review after and in cooperation with the formal investigation conducted by the sheriff's office or other responding law enforcement agency. Effective communication between these agencies can help avoid problems that hinder the ability to defend later litigation arising out of a county road accident. In this session, two members of NIRMA's loss prevention team, Road Liability and Safety Specialist KC Pawling and Law Enforcement and Safety Specialist Todd Duncan will explain the reasons both agencies should be involved, as well as what exactly should be done on site in the review process.

Key Take-Aways

- Revisit the important purposes behind the Open Meetings Act and the consequences of noncompliance.
- Discover where some open meetings have gone wrong and the best ways to correct course after a mistake is made.
- Obtain strategies for improving your open meeting practices.

Key Take-Aways

- Obtain a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of a NIRMA contact person, and the many resources available to them.
- Review the Origami claims management software features and capabilities.
- Gain detailed information about ancillary coverage available to NIRMA members to assist with inmate medical care.
- Hear more about the roles of staff members in the NIRMA office, and how they may be able to assist you.

Key Take-Aways

- Get tips for initiating and continuing communications between law enforcement agencies and county road departments when auto accidents occur.
- Learn about the direct effects of accident investigations and road department review on later litigation.
- Identify the critical documentation that road department personnel can gather to supplement the information otherwise collected by law enforcement.
- Receive a helpful handout with sample forms and a checklist for road departments to use in reviewing accident scenes.



A Hard Reality in Law Enforcement: Scrutinizing a Death in Custody Claim

Attorney Robert Keith has represented many county law enforcement officers and agencies throughout his 25+ years of law practice with the Omaha firm of Engles, Ketcham, Olson & Keith. Rob will highlight one of the most challenging legal issues confronting law enforcement - when a person in custody dies. From inmate suicide to officer-involved shootings, Nebraska law requires a grand jury investigation into the death, but that is often only the beginning of the legal proceedings that follow. Using real scenarios, Rob will walk through some of the pitfalls and offer sound counsel on how to mitigate a death in custody claim, based on his breadth of experience in this topic area.

Key Take-Aways

- Gain insight from case law on the legal parameters that apply to claims arising from deaths in custody.
- Hear about the battles of experts that can arise in these types of claims.
- Learn about key steps that can be taken by law enforcement agencies that may assist in avoiding a claim, or better positioning it for a strong defense.
- Understand what documentation and evidence is helpful in defending death in custody claims, and what the law enforcement officers involved should do, as well as what they should not do.

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Social

6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet

Entertainment: Dueling Pianos of Andy Anderson & Mike Leeds

Friday, October 21

6:45 - 8:00 a.m. Hot Breakfast Buffet

An expansive, complimentary hot breakfast buffet will be available for attendees.

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Buried Truth Uncovered

As Eric Giguere left for work on a fall morning in 2002 to install water lines in a rural area, it was just another day. Things were good - he was earning a decent wage as a laborer, and he'd just gotten married six days earlier. But that afternoon on the jobsite, his life changed in an instant when he became the victim of a horrific workplace accident. His fellow crew members on site had to make quick decisions in a matter of minutes to save his life. Eric will share the story of his personal experience with a workplace accident that he was fortunate to survive, and what caused it. His presentation is a valuable tool in changing complacent attitudes toward routine safety measures. Eric is humble, relatable, and able to drive home the need to commit or recommit to safety awareness and ongoing training in the workplace.

Key Take-Aways

- Learn from a real-life workplace accident scenario and how safer practices could have altered the outcome.
- Gather new insight on how seemingly minor choices can have tragic consequences.
- Acquire a new appreciation for the value of safe practices in the workplace.



9:30 - 9:45 a.m. Refreshment Break

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Hot Legal Topics for NIRMA Members

In this session, Attorneys Brandy Johnson, Jeff Kirkpatrick, and Pat Guinan of Governmental Law, LLC, will give a sampling of what they see in their law practice as hot topics that counties need to be aware of. This year, they plan to discuss considerations for communicating with the media and those who may assert a claim in the immediate aftermath of a major adverse event. They will also highlight recent litigation matters they've handled for NIRMA counties and lessons learned from them, as well as case law and legislative developments of significance to county operations.

Key Take-Aways

- Identify the legal issues confronted by your peer counties so you can be better prepared to manage those risks.
- Gain an understanding of recent case law that may impact your local government operations.
- Fine-tune skills needed to minimize legal problems.

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Knock, Knock, Knocking on County Doors: First Amendment Auditors

Video doesn't lie - or does it? As part of a current social movement, First Amendment "auditors," as they call themselves, make it their mission to visit public spaces with video cameras or a cell phone in hand to test government employees' knowledge of personal rights, all the while recording the interactions. These "audits" happen with some frequency right here in Nebraska. They are nearly always uncomfortable, and can be disruptive, but there are practical ways to prepare and respond to make sure you are not the subject of an unflattering social media post or worse, a lawsuit. Robert Keith of Engles, Ketcham, Olson & Keith, PC, a longtime attorney partner of NIRMA, will return to share some of the good and bad outcomes that have come from real first amendment audits, and how you can be ready when these unannounced visitors arrive at your office.

Key Take-Aways

- Learn about the background of the social movement toward First Amendment audits and the goals the auditors are seeking to accomplish.
- Amplify your understanding of what to do and what not to do during the course of a First Amendment audit.
- Visualize exactly how a First Amendment audit might play out in your county.

12:00 noon NIRMA Membership Lunch, Annual Association Business Meeting

You are invited and encouraged to attend NIRMA's Membership Luncheon and annual Association Business Meeting. In addition to the election of four members to the NIRMA Board of Directors, a planned dividend will be distributed to eligible members for the 27th consecutive year, pending Department of Insurance approval.



Here's Who's Presenting

Sean Bott

Comedy Mentalist,
Keynote Speaker
Salt Lake City, UT

Pamela Bourne

Attorney
Woods Aitken LLP
Omaha, NE

Nicholas Brand

CISA Cyber Security Advisor
Nebraska State Coordinator
Lincoln, NE

Charles Campbell

Attorney
Angle, Murphy, & Campbell, PC
York, NE

John Christensen

NIRMA Property/Liability
Claims Manager
Lincoln, NE

Todd Duncan

NIRMA Law Enforcement
and Safety Specialist
Lincoln, NE

Chad Engle

NIRMA Loss Prevention and
Safety Specialist
Lincoln, NE

Kaiti George, RD, LMNT

Registered Dietician
Kearney, NE

Eric Giguere

Motivational Safety Speaker
Geneva, NY

Dr. Kathy Gruver

Stress and Communication
Expert
Santa Barbara, CA

Patrick Guinan

Attorney
Governmental Law, LLC
Lincoln, NE

Denise Hardison

NIRMA Workers' Compensation
Claims Manager
Lincoln, NE

Brandy Johnson

Attorney
Governmental Law, LLC
Lincoln, NE

Robert Keith

Attorney
Engles Ketcham Olson & Keith
Omaha, NE

Jeffery Kirkpatrick

Attorney
Governmental Law, LLC
Lincoln, NE

Shawna Lammers

NIRMA Administrative Assistant
Lincoln, NE

Dan Lancaster

Hunt Insurance Group
Tallahassee, FL

KC Pawling

NIRMA Road Safety and
Loss Prevention Specialist
Lincoln, NE

Larry Pelan

NIRMA Underwriting and
Risk Manager
Lincoln, NE

Tod Thieman

NIRMA Senior Systems
Engineer
Lincoln, NE

How to Register and Additional Information

Registration - NOW OPEN

We are pleased to continue our long-standing tradition of charging no fee for member officials and employees to attend the annual conference. All registrations must be submitted through the NIRMA website - nirma.info.

Click on the conference registration link on the home page. You will be prompted to fill in several required information fields, including selection of the sessions and meals you plan to attend. Please be sure to enter any dietary restrictions in the appropriate field. When all fields are complete, click the "submit" button. If you are registering multiple individuals, you must submit a separate registration for each.

You will receive an automated confirmation email verifying the registration has been received. **Registration Deadline: Monday, October 3.**

Cancellation Policy

While there is no registration fee, due to the costs associated with presenting the conference, including printing materials and meal guarantees, our policy is to bill a member \$50 per person for those who register, then do not attend without providing NIRMA sufficient advance notice of their cancellation. In the event you need to cancel your registration, please call the NIRMA office at 800.642.6671 no later than **Wednesday, October 12.**

Hotel Reservations

We've pre-arranged a room block at the Crowne Plaza Hotel connected to the Younes Conference Center North for attendees who require overnight accommodations and wish to stay on site. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and the discounted group room rate is \$119.95. You are encouraged to make your reservation as soon as possible, as reservations made after September 22 will be subject to availability. To make a reservation, call the Crowne Plaza at 308.238.7000, and specify that you are attending the NIRMA Conference and are eligible for our discounted group room rate.

Alternative hotels within walking distance of the conference center include the Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Candlewood Suites, Comfort Inn, LaQuinta Inn, and the Holiday Inn & Conference Center (contact each facility directly for rates and availability).

Continuing Education Credits

NIRMA has submitted requests to several state agencies seeking continuing education hours for county officials who are required to meet state-mandated annual training requirements, including county attorneys, sheriff's office personnel, county clerks, clerks of the district court, and assessors.



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Lincoln, NE 68501-5210

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The Right Direction



SELF DEFENSE
FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
— CONFERENCE —

October 20-21, 2022

AT A NEW LOCATION

Younes Conference Center North - Kearney
707 Talmadge Street

Nearly 19 hours of educational sessions on
timely and relevant topics that are of interest
and importance to our members!

presented by

