

NEWS RELEASE

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Handshake Across Nebraska Hosts Inaugural Meeting

The Nolles Cattle Ranch near Bassett NE was the scenic location for the first Handshake Across Nebraska Summit. A beef brisket lunch was provided by hosts Mike and Trudy Nolles, Mike Irons, Sue Greenwald, Susan Connell and Orrin Petska.

The goal was to connect County GOP leaders with lawmakers for a discussion of the best practices that will move legislation highlighted in the NEGOP legislative plan forward in 2023.

Representatives of 34 Nebraska counties were present, as well as State Senators Steve Halloran and Tom Brewer and NEGOP representative Todd Watson. Senator Steve Erdman was represented by his legislative aid. Three candidates for legislature, Barry DeKay, Loren Lippincott and Michael Reimers, joined in.

State Senators Halloran and Brewer listened to the priorities of the county leaders while also educating everyone on keys to success once the legislative session begins. "Boots on the ground" will be essential for testifiers and supporters when important bills have their committee hearings. Connecting personal stories with the issues is key to persuasive testimony or comment submittals. Now is the time to submit ideas for legislation to legislative aids.

Issues discussed with the Senators included Second Amendment rights, election integrity, and the lack of mental health services in the rural areas. An election strategies discussion was led by Todd Watson.

The informal setting was ideal for valuable networking to take place. The next Summit will be announced shortly, with regional meetings to be held for easier access. Handshake Across Nebraska organizers wish to thank all attendees for their valuable participation and look forward to making positive change happen in Nebraska.

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