



STATE OF NEBRASKA

Jon Bruning
Attorney General

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November 7, 2014

Larry Dix, Executive Director
Nebraska Association of County Officials
1335 H Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Admission to Meetings under Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Dear Mr. Dix:

As you know, the Attorney General's Office acts as arbiter of public records and open meetings complaints. We also frequently educate members of public bodies on Nebraska laws concerning public records and open meetings.

In an opinion published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on November 1, 2014, Jack Gould with Common Cause Nebraska calls into question the current practice of requiring attendees of public meetings to sign in or otherwise identify themselves. Mr. Gould claims that some public schools are engaged in this practice using a variety of methods to obtain names of attendees.

It has been my experience as Attorney General that public bodies, with very few exceptions, make every effort to follow the law and do what is right and in the best interest of the public. In an effort to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act, I would remind the Nebraska Association of County Officials that Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412(3) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, states, in pertinent part,

[n]o public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

I encourage you to discuss this matter with your members to ensure no inadvertent violation of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act occurs. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensure full compliance with the law.

Sincerely,

JON BRUNING
Attorney General

