



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**PAGE 2:**  
2023 Board of  
Directors

**PAGE 3:**  
Proposed Multi-UAS Night  
Spraying Operations without  
Visual Observers

**PAGE 4:**  
2024 Convention  
Schedule

# THE *Voice*

[www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com](http://www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com)

NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUME NO. 26

ISSUE NO. 6

## **LINCOLN NORTH STAR HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOCUS PROGRAM HOLDS OPEN HOUSE**

LINCOLN, NEB. – On Monday, December 4th, Lincoln North Star High School and community members in Lincoln, Nebraska, celebrated the completion of a new \$5.4 million hangar-style addition to the school's Aviation and Technical Education Focus Program. The program is centered around creating interest in aviation and training the next generation of pilots, technicians, engineers, dispatchers, and flight instructors.

Nearly a decade ago, Duncan Aviation and many other companies in the aviation industry recognized an impending and growing shortfall of technicians and pilots that is expected to worsen. Stewart D'Leon, director of environmental and technical operations with the National Business Aviation Association, said the industry is really struggling to keep up with the demand for technicians. Boeing's 2022 Pilot and Technician Outlook projects a worldwide need for 610,000 new maintenance technicians over the next 20 years, 134,000 in North America alone. This has prompted companies in the aviation industry to rethink strategies for educating, recruiting and retaining qualified talent for the future.

More than seven years ago, the idea of a Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) program focused on aviation curriculum started. Duncan Aviation partnered with LPS and North Star to create an Aviation and Technical Education Focus Program to expose students to the endless opportunities in aviation. There were 150 students enrolled in aviation courses during the 2019 school year, and that number quickly jumped to 215 students in 2021. It became clear the school would need a dedicated space to accommodate the growing aviation focus program. Led by Connie Duncan, wife of Duncan Aviation Board of Directors Chairman Todd Duncan, Duncan Aviation graciously donated \$3.34 million to the program.

With that, the multi-million dollar project began, moving the aviation department from a small, shared space, to a brand new 13,000-square-foot space near the front of the school, often referred to as one of the only public school airplane hangars in the nation. Because of the upgrades, the program is now able to help more than 317 students learn about and pursue careers in aviation. Students now have the ability to take a new advanced aviation maintenance course, and use industry-standard equipment to perform hands-on projects to mimic some of the skills that an airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanic needs to have.

Amanda Woodward, the career and technical education teacher at North Star who leads the program, said she is grateful for all Duncan Aviation has done for the program.

"To work with my friends at Duncan Aviation, to get tools in the hands of students, and to teach them how high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand aviation maintenance careers can look is the honor of a lifetime," she said.

Duncan Aviation Team Member Services Vice President Leon Holloway said he wants to give a special acknowledgement to Connie Duncan. "Your leadership, guidance, and attitude toward getting stuff done kept everyone accountable," said Holloway. "More importantly, your intentional passion to serve the students across Nebraska and surrounding areas was the light we all needed to believe the impossible is possible."



### **THE NATA VOICE**

Published by the Nebraska Aviation Trades Association

521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 - Phone: 531-289-8323, Email: [taylor@youraam.com](mailto:taylor@youraam.com)



[facebook.com/NebraskaAviationTradesAssociation](https://facebook.com/NebraskaAviationTradesAssociation) (NATA)

# 2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS:



### PAST PRESIDENT

Brent Vogt (23)  
Elmwood, NE  
402-540-4610



### PRESIDENT

Ryan Stuhlmiller (24)  
Alliance, NE  
308-629-8111



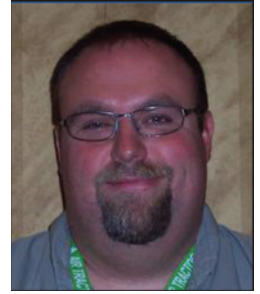
### VICE PRESIDENT

Allison Johnson (24)  
Cozad, NE  
928-920-3743



### SEC/TREAS

Flynn Baker (24)  
Kearney, NE  
402-440-9272



### NAAA REP

Casey Williams (26)  
Broken Bow, NE  
308-440-2709



### OPERATION SAFE ANALYST

Alan Corr  
Minden, NE  
308-830-3086



### EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Jennifer Weisbrod  
Lincoln, NE  
402-472-1632



### ALLIED REP.

Cass Corman (24)  
BASF  
Clay Center, NE  
402-853-1572



### ALT. ALLIED REP.

Michael Killinger (25)  
Syngenta  
Broken Bow, NE  
308-631-9059

### NATA SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Amy May \*  
Lea Van Boening  
Susan Thomas  
Janet Cavanaugh  
Mary Boardman  
Jenny Goertzen  
Rochelle Sihm  
Sue Roth  
Ellen Thomas  
Sara Vogt

## DIRECTORS:



Robert Shepard (24)  
Franklin, NE  
308-830-9759



Clifford Lakey (24)  
Imperial, NE  
308-883-2769



Randy Prellwitz (24)  
Fairbury, NE  
402-300-0076



AJ Underwood (25)  
Roseland, NE  
402-266-1536



Brent Wulf (25)  
Elkhorn, NE  
402-883-0189



Paul Stellato (25)  
Seward, NE  
402-314-1562

## NATA ADVERTISING

Contact Taylor Moore with questions or to purchase an advertisement.

521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 - Phone: 531-289-8323, Email: [taylor@youraam.com](mailto:taylor@youraam.com)

# Proposed Multi-UAS Night Spraying Operations without Visual Observers; NAAA Responds

On November 2, NAAA submitted comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding a recently published [petition](#) by [Hylío, Inc.](#) (Hylío) for exemption from 14 CFR Parts 61, 91 and 137 to conduct spraying operations with its AG-230 Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS). The [AG-230](#) is an 8-gallon capacity octocopter marketed by Hylío to produce up to a 35 ft swath width and treat up to 50 acres per hour at 1 GPA. Specifically, Hylío petitioned for relief to operate up to 3 UAS under one operator, each weighing over 55 pounds, during night, and without visual observers (VOs), within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the pilot in command (PIC).



While much of the petition was written to match relief in previously granted exemptions for other operators, it also uniquely requests to conduct self-titled advanced operations (at night, multi-ship and without a VO) simultaneously, in any combination. The petition offered no justification for why the relief should be granted. Instead, the petition repeatedly states:

“THE COMPANY believes that an equivalent level of safety will can be achieved by following additional protocols. The proprietary manuals outline these protocols and should provide the support necessary to grant the exemption and demonstrate how an equivalent level of safety is achieved.”

Overall, NAAA commented in opposition to the operations as proposed by the petitioner. Of specific concern was the proposed multi-ship (swarm) operation without VOs. NAAA did not find sufficient evidence that a single PIC would be able to maintain vigilance, in accordance with §91.113(b), to see and avoid other aircraft. Because crewed ag aircraft will share the Part 137 airspace, they are the most likely risk-bearers of this reduction in safety.

For night operations, the petitioner plans to utilize strobe lighting visible for 3 statute miles. NAAA requested that the equipped strobe lighting be required to be on for all (night and day) operations as an additional means for collision mitigation.

NAAA also reminded the FAA of the unique gravity of dispensing economic poisons, and questioned whether a single PIC can fulfill his/her [§137.37](#) duty (to not dispense in creation of a hazard) while tasked with operating 3 aircraft, potentially at night and without VOs.

In the petitioner’s Benefit to Public Interest section, they tout that “UAS may be used in the event that there is no other way to safely spray a certain land area. This will reduce the chance of manned aircraft attempting to spray certain dangerous areas.” NAAA agrees with this; UAS can allow operators to keep crewed aircraft out of the most dangerous fields. However, they then state “UAS allow for methods of precision spraying that are not possible with manned aircraft.” NAAA took great issue with this statement, citing the distinct lack of efficacy data available to support it and referencing a [letter](#) sent by NAAA to EPA on this subject in 2020, [previously reported in this newsletter](#).

**Do you have an Aviation event to promote? Let us know! Article and pictures are always welcomed. Contact us via the information below.**

521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405  
Phone: 531-289-8323 | Email: [taylor@youraam.com](mailto:taylor@youraam.com)



# Convention Schedule

## Monday, February 19, 2024

- 9:00 – 3:00 pm Exhibitor Set Up
- 9:30 AM Board of Directors Meeting
- 10:30 – 4:00 pm Registration
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Support Personnel Class – Fieldwatch
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm AgPilotX Training and Troubleshooting – Anthony Fay
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm Chem-Man Presentation Mapping, GPS, Billing and More – Drake Martin
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm NDOT Update – Jeremy Borrell, Director of Aeronautics
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm Compaass Rose – Craig Bair and Matt Hordenes
- 4:00 – 6:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open – Open Bar
- 5:30 – 7:00 pm Reception & Open Bar
- 7:00 PM Big Apple Fun Center

## Tuesday, February 20, 2024

- 7:00 – 12:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 AM President’s Welcome
- 8:15 – 9:30 am PAASS Recertification Session
- 9:30 – 11:00 am Athena Program/NATA Support Committee
- 9:30 – 10:00 am Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall
- 10:00 – 11:00 am PAASS Recertification Session
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm NATA Annual Business Meeting
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Awards Luncheon & Speaker
  - Dan Gryder
  - Sponsored by Syngenta
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm PAASS Recertification Session
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm Allied Exhibitor Meeting
- 3:00 PM Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall
- 5:00 – 7:00 pm Exhibit Hall – Reception & Hors d’oeuvres
  - Sponsored by BASF
- 6:00 PM Live Auction

## Wednesday, February 21, 2024

- 7:00 – 12:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 – 9:00 am Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall
- 8:00 – 12:00 pm Commercial Applicator Certification Test
- 9:00 – 9:50 am Recertification
- 9:50 – 11:00 am Recertification
- 11:00 – 11:10 am Coffee Break
- 11:10 – 12:00 pm Recertification
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Luncheon
  - NAAA Representative
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm Recertification
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm Recertification
- 2:50 – 3:40 pm Recertification

**FEBRUARY 19-21, 2024  
YOUNES CONFERENCE  
CENTER NORTH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**

The Nebraska Aviation Trades Association invites you to the 2024 Annual Convention. The Convention is a great opportunity for you to network with companies from across the state. Join us February 19-21, 2024 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska!

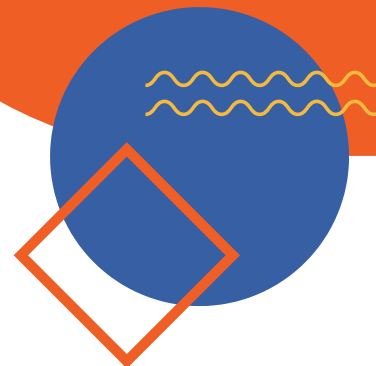
## QUESTIONS?

NATA OFFICE

PO BOX 10, MILFORD, NE 68405

P: (531) 289-8323 - F: (402) 761-2224

[KELSEY@YOURAAM.COM](mailto:KELSEY@YOURAAM.COM)



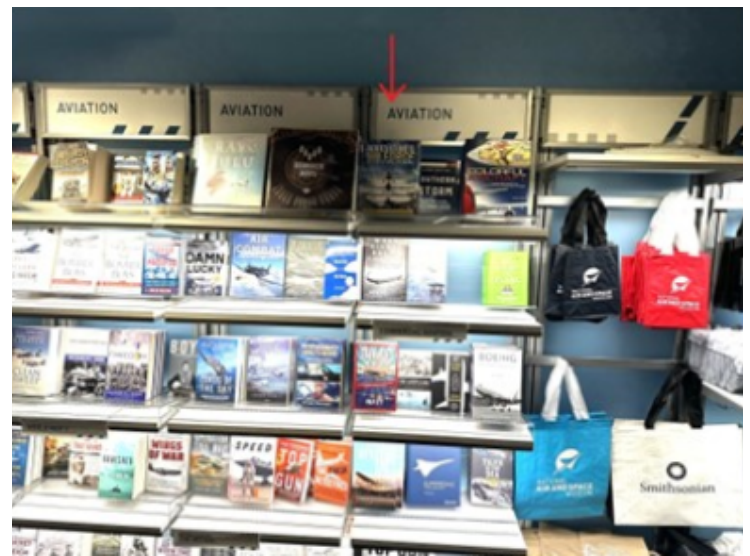
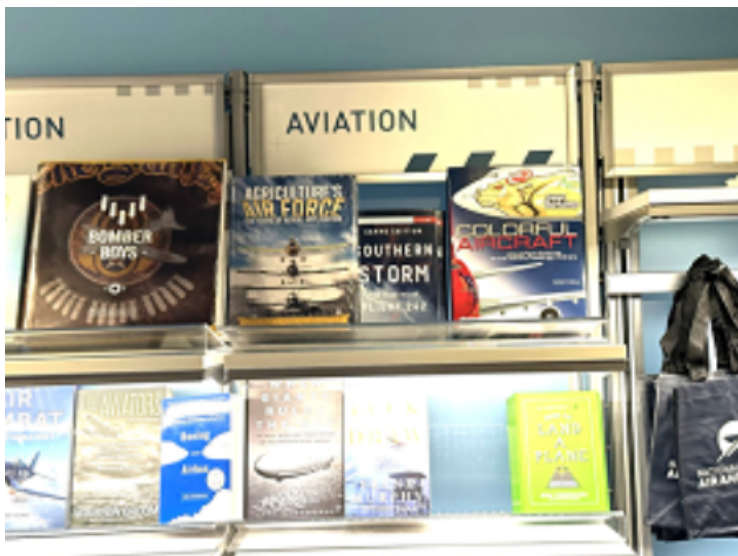
# Agriculture's Air Force: 100 Years of Aerial Application, History Book of the Industry, Hits the Shelves at the Smithsonian Institute's Air & Space Museum

After more than a year of working with Smithsonian Enterprises, we are excited to announce that *Agriculture's Air Force: 100 Years of Aerial Application*, the industry's 100th anniversary book, is for sale in the Smithsonian Institute's Air & Space Museum gift shop in Washington, DC. The book is a great addition to the museum's gift shop for aviation enthusiasts and those who want to learn more about a century of technological evolution protecting farms, forests, and public health by aircraft.

The hard-copy book chronicles the agricultural aviation industry's growth from its birth in 1921 through the boom times after World War II, and on to today's modern era of high-tech aerial application, containing 268 pages of historical information, personal stories, and photos. Now prominently featured and celebrated in the esteemed Smithsonian Air & Space Museum's gift shop, this comprehensive book takes readers on a captivating flight through history, technology, and into the intersection of agriculture and aviation that is aerial application.

Its inclusion in the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum bookshop marks a fitting tribute to a century of aviation history and innovation. If you haven't ordered a book yet, it will make a great gift under the Christmas tree;

Order your copy today at [www.agaviation.org/book](http://www.agaviation.org/book).



# NAAA's Concerns with Large Pesticide Use Limitation Areas Addressed in EPA's Update to Vulnerable Species Pilot Project

Last week the EPA released an update to their Endangered Species Act Vulnerable Species Pilot Project (VSPP). The initial proposal for the VSPP was the agency's response to longstanding lawsuits from environmental activists. It was released in June of 2023 and was focused on protecting 27 endangered species and their critical habitat that are most at risk from pesticides. After receiving more than 10,000 comments, EPA released last week's update to apprise the public on what direction EPA intends to take with the VSPP as they move forward.

The update confirms that one of NAAA's concerns with the VSPP will be re-evaluated. The VSPP, like other proposed ESA activities, will use Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULA) to assign geographical locations where endangered species are located and thus additional pesticide application mitigations are needed. Many of the PULAs in the VSPP were based only on the known range of the species, which does not necessarily mean the species is actually located in every area within a range-based PULA. This would result in many areas requiring pesticide application mitigations even if the species might not actually be present. Based on NAAA's and other comments, EPA will work to improve the accuracy of the PULAs to better represent where species are located, thus reducing the likelihood of mitigations being required when no endangered species are nearby.

One item of concern NAAA found in the VSPP update was that another commenter had requested exemptions to the VSPP for chemigation applications. NAAA is preparing data in response to that request and will follow the issue closely to ensure all application methods are treated the same. The update mentions no additional specifics about the aerial drift mitigations found in the VSPP.

The next VSPP update is expected in the fall of 2024, and NAAA will be ready to respond accordingly to ensure aerial applications are not banned or unfairly restricted by the VSPP or any other proposed ESA related activities.



## 2024 NATA Scholarship Information

The 2024 NATA scholarships are available to any Nebraska high school senior or individual continuing their education.

**Application forms must be received by December 31, 2023.** The form can be found online at [www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com](http://www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com). Please read the general instructions before completing your scholarship packet. The essay topic is: "What role does ag aviation play in producing a local commodity?" The essay must be a minimum of 400 words and must be typed and double spaced.

Application must include the signature of a Voting member of the Nebraska Aviation Trades Association.

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Moore, Nebraska Aviation Trades Association at 531-289-8323 or email: [taylor@youraam.com](mailto:taylor@youraam.com)

**Please send the completed application form to:**  
Nebraska Aviation Trades Association  
Scholarship Taylor Moore  
521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405



## Membership Application 2024

Lifetime Membership - \$1,500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 Voting Membership - \$160 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 Non-Voting Associate Membership - \$85 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 Allied Membership (Supplier/Non-Voting) - \$70 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*40% of your dues not tax deductible due to lobbyist expenses*

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The following information will be used in the membership directory

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to:

NATA  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405

Phone: 531-289-8323 | Email: [kelsey@youraam.com](mailto:kelsey@youraam.com)

***Deadline to be included in the 2024 membership Directory is March 1, 2024***

# 2024 NATA ANNUAL CONVENTION ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

February 19-21, 2024 - Younes Center - Kearney, NE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

*(The following information will be used as your membership listing in the 2024 NATA Directory)*

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of other(s) who will attend and name for badge:

\_\_\_\_\_

### NATA MEMBERSHIP DUES COST

*(40% of your dues not tax deductible due to lobbyist expenses)*

	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Lifetime Membership	\$1,500	_____	\$ _____
2024 Voting Membership - (Pt. 137/Owner/Operator/Pilot)	\$160	_____	\$ _____
2024 Non-Voting Associate Membership (Non-Pilot/Employee)	\$85	_____	\$ _____
2024 Allied Membership (Supplier/Non-Voting)	\$70/per person	_____	\$ _____

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION

	COST		QUANTITY	TOTAL
	Before Jan. 15th	After Jan. 15th		
Full Registration - Member <i>(includes PAASS)</i>	\$185/person	\$225/person	_____	\$ _____
Full Registration - Non-Member <i>(includes PAASS)</i>	\$360/person	\$400/person	_____	\$ _____
Convention Only/Support Personnel <i>(No PAASS)</i>	\$85/person	\$110/person	_____	\$ _____
Convention Meal Package <i>(Two Luncheons)</i>	\$75/person	\$75/person	_____	\$ _____
NATA Spouse	\$60/person	\$70/person	_____	\$ _____
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

*\*Convention Registration does not include meals.*

**\*\*\*\*\*YOU MUST ATTEND THE PAASS PROGRAM ON TUESDAY AND RECERTIFICATION ON WEDNESDAY TO BE CERTIFIED\*\*\*\*\***

## PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Payment Method <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Check <i>(Payable to NATA)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Invoice
Name as it appears on credit card _____
Account # _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ CVV: _____
Signature _____

*On-site registration is provided, but only credit card or check payments will be accepted before entry is allowed into the event.*

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

**Complete, sign, and date this form and return to:**

NATA, 521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 | Phone: 531-289-8329 Fax: 402-761-2224 | Email: kelsey@youraam.com



# 2024 NATA ANNUAL CONVENTION EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM

February 19-21, 2024 - Younes Center - Kearney, NE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name (as you want it to appear on your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of other(s) who will attend and name for badge:  
\_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT BOOTHS	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
____ Exhibit Booth	\$400 Before Jan. 15th /	_____	\$ _____
<i>(Includes one allied membership dues)</i>	\$425 After Jan. 15th		
____ Exhibit Booth Electricity	\$45	_____	\$ _____

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITOR ITEMS			
____ Additional Allied Memberships			\$ _____
____ Meal Package <i>(Includes two luncheons)</i>	\$70/per person	_____	\$ _____
	\$75/per person	_____	\$ _____

SPONSORSHIPS			
____ Diamond Sponsorship	\$5,000		\$ _____
____ Casino Night Sponsorship	\$5,000		\$ _____
____ Platinum Sponsorship	\$2,500		\$ _____
____ Gold Sponsorship	\$1,000		\$ _____
____ Silver Sponsorship	\$500		\$ _____
____ Bronze Sponsorship	\$400		\$ _____

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## EXHIBIT BOOTH INFORMATION

*Please refer to the Exhibitor Registration Information & layout to complete the following.*

**Exhibit location preferred:** 1st Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please indicate, by number, the location of your choice.)*

**Please list any exhibitor(s) you do not wish to be located by:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSORSHIP

*Please provide a JPG or PDF copy to NATA of your company logo.*

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I wish to sponsor an event during the convention. **List event to sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will donate an auction item - **Item Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Payment Method  Visa  Mastercard  Check (Payable to NATA)  Invoice

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*On-site registration is provided, but only credit card or check payments will be accepted before entry is allowed into the event.*

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

**I understand that NATA has no obligation to refund all or part of the exhibit fee. I have read the enclosed Exhibitor Agreement and comply with its terms. Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete, sign, and date this form and return to:**

NATA, 521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 | Phone: 531-289-8329 Fax: 402-761-2224 | Email: kelsey@youraam.com



## 2024 NATA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The directory will contain the contact name, company name, address, phone, fax numbers and emails for each NATA member and allied member.

***Please complete the below form and return with payment by March 31, 2024.***

---

### Advertising Space Order Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$225 Half Page (4.5x3.5) - Full Color Ad

\$325 Full Page (4.5x7.75) - Full Color Ad

#### AD SPACE AUCTIONED AT THE 2024 NATA CONVENTION

***Inside Front Cover  
Opposite Inside Front  
Inside Back Cover  
Opposite Inside Back  
Back Cover***

***PLEASE EMAIL YOUR AD IN JPEG OR PDF FORMAT TO [KELSEY@YOURAAM.COM](mailto:kelsey@youraam.com)***

NATA  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405