



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



Living a Good Life...
With Every Note: The Music of a Lifetime



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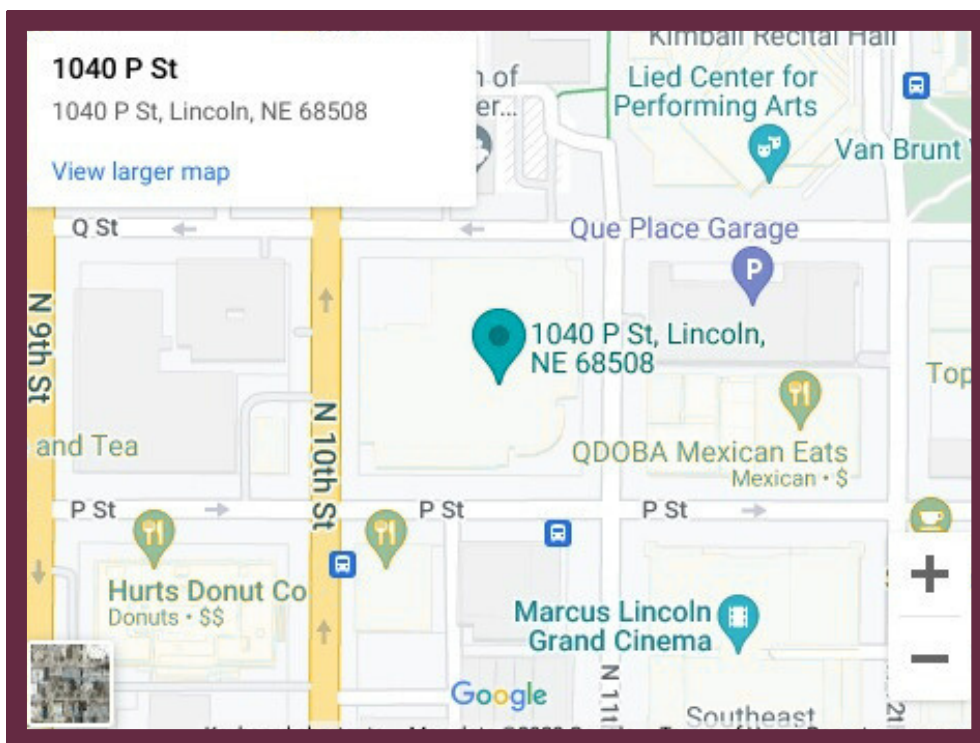
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2026 Conference Overview

Please join us for “Living A Good Life...with Every Note: The Music of A Lifetime”

Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association (NHPCA) is proud to host the “Living a Good Life...” conference each year. This regional event brings together more than 300 professionals who care for patients and families with chronic or terminal illnesses, including physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers, administrators, and counselors.

The 2026 conference, presented by NHPCA and Nebraska Association for Home Care brings home care and hospice staff together to learn and network. It will feature nationally respected keynote speaker, and author, Barbara Karnes, RN, trade show, raffle, silent auction, and breakout education sessions for personal care providers and hospice on Tuesday, April 28th. Then multi-disciplinary hospice sessions, a physician/provider track, along with the awards banquet on Wednesday, April 29th.



📍 Embassy Suites 1040 P Street
Lincoln, NE
68508

☎️ 402-474-1111

Lodging:

A room block has been set aside for exhibitors and attendees at the Embassy Suites.

Please book by 4/01/2026 to ensure block pricing. [Click here](#)

Parking:

Self-Parking: \$13.50 daily

Valet Parking: \$24.00

Que Place Parking Garage Located at the Intersection of 11th St & Q St

Barbara Karnes, RN



If it has to do with death and dying, Barbara Karnes, RN is talking about it. Her articles have been featured in The NY Times, USA Today, The Huffington Post, Thrive Global, & The Washington Post, among others. Awarded the NHPCO Innovator award for her decades as an end-of-life educator and for her iconic booklet, GONE FROM MY SIGHT: The Dying Experience (aka: "the hospice blue book"). Barbara's career spans four decades and began as an early hospice pioneer during the AIDS crisis. In addition to the many

years she has spent at the bedside caring for patients and their families as a nurse, Barbara has also served as executive director of hospice and various home-health agencies. She has worked through the hospice ranks as patient care manager, clinical director, staff, nurse, and volunteer. Barbara is a dedicated end of life educator, training professionals, authoring resource materials, booklets, movies, and her award winning blog.

Sara Yates

Sara is a trained death doula with certificates from the University of Vermont (UVM) and the International End of Life Doula Association in (INELDA). She is the bereavement coordinator at HoriSun Hospice, where she brings an innovative approach. Her program has includes unique "Grief-in-Action" hands-on events, in addition to traditional bereavement program resources. Sara is a member of the Mourning Hope Bereavement Council, and served on the End-of-Life Doula committee at NHPCO, now The Alliance for Care at Home. After personal loss, Sara Authored a children grief book, "Grief & I" and recently took the stage at Ignite Lincoln 17, to advocate on the value of grief informed communities.



Dr. Melissa Teply

Melissa Teply, MD, loves the power of words—written, spoken, and especially streamed through her favorite medium: podcasts. She graduated medical school from UNMC, trained in internal medicine at the University of Michigan, and practiced primary care in Baltimore before completing a Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. She returned to Omaha in 2017 and now splits her time between primary care and outpatient palliative care at UNMC, where she also serves as section chief of Palliative Medicine. Her professional mission is to help clinicians communicate with clarity, empathy, and maybe even a little joy.



Dr. Clay Hoberman



Dr. Clayton Hoberman currently serves as the Vice President of Medical Direction at St Croix Hospice, a role he has held since April 2024. With a distinguished career in hospice and palliative medicine, he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine and a Certified Hospice Medical Director. Dr. Hoberman's expertise is further underscored by his board certifications in Hospice and Palliative Medicine from both the American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the American Board of Internal

Medicine. Additionally, he has been board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Hoberman's dedication to his field is matched by his commitment to community service. He actively participates in the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization as a Hospice Ambassador, advocating for legislative support for hospice and palliative care. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Project Pink'd, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting breast cancer survivors in Nebraska and Western Iowa. Dr. Hoberman's extensive experience and compassionate approach make him a respected leader and advocate in the hospice and palliative care community.

Dr. Steven Paulmeyer



Dr. Paulmeyer is a Board-Certified Internal Medicine physician serving as the Medical Director at Cottonwood Hospice. He continues to see patients in the Internal Medicine Clinic at BCH, and serve as Chief Medical Officer for the organization, He also serves as the Board Chairman for the Bryan Health ACO. He graduated from UNMC in 2012, and was accepted into the UNMC Internal Medicine Residency and Primary Care Program, a program with a focus on training the next generation of rural primary care physicians. He is an Omaha native, but enjoys the focus on family and community in a rural setting. He and his wife Anni

live in Beatrice with their 4 children. Steve enjoys golfing, the Chicago Cubs, and attending his kids activities.

The Art of Aging, LLC- Cathy Pacholski-Taylor Wyatt

This mother-daughter duo, Cathy A. Pacholski, Founder and Owner of The Art of Aging, Inc., and her daughter, Taylor Wyatt, vocalist for The Art of Aging, LLC, will share their talent for using music intervention to meet the psychosocial and physical needs of those in hospice and palliative care, “Living a Good Life Through Every Note: The Music of a Lifetime” with our conference attendees. This dynamic



duo will teach us that music is a universal language and can elicit profound physical, emotional, social and cognitive responses. They will share their personal and professional experiences , incorporating familiar melodies to give their audience the same sense of comfort and connection with their past experiences that they can bring to the individuals and families they serve in hospice and palliative care.

Tuesday, April 28th 2026

Time	Session Title	Speaker	Track and Location
7:30-8:30 AM	Registration/Trade Show Open		Preconference Area
8:15 -8:30 am 8:30- 9:30 am	WELCOME A2: A: KEYNOTE: <u>Death Doula Discovery: What Is the Rise of Death Doulas Asking of Us?</u> Sponsored by A1:<u>In Harmony at Life's Finale: Personal Care & Hospice Partnerships that Support Every Note of the Journey.</u>	Marilee Malcom Sara Yates, End-of-Life Doula Nikki Landon, RN CHPN	KEYNOTE: All Hospice, Regent C Personal Care Chancellor 2-3
9:30 am - 9:45 am Break/Trade Show Sponsored by Horisun Hospice			
9:45 am - 10:45 am	<u>B1:When the Caregiver Needs Care: How to Live the Good Life in Demanding Caregiving Professions</u>	Marianne Chance	Home Health Session, Chancellor 2-3
9:45 am - 10:45 am	B2: BOUNDARIES AND LONGEVITY Sponsored by	Valerie Meyer, BSN RN CHPPN , Bristol Hospice	Clinical/Palliative/Volunteer/ Admin./Marketing, Regent C
	B3: FOLLOWING THE SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT CUES IN CAHPS AND HOPE Sponsored by Dragonfly	Caren Martin, Pharm D Dragonfly	Clinical/Palliative/ Admin./Marketing, Regent D
	B4: EMBALMING BASICS: UNDERSTANDING POSTMORTEM CARES FOR A DECEASED PATIENT Sponsored by	Robert Wzorek, Funeral Director and Embalmer Good Shepherd Funeral Home	Admin/Marketing, Regent E
	B5: ADVANCE NEBRASKA: YOUR VOICE. YOUR CARE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEBRASKA'S ELECTRONIC ACP REGISTRY-NEBRASKA POLST Sponsored by	Jacob Dahlke, PhD(c), MSBe, HEC-C, Office of Ethics, Nebraska Medicine; Theresa Jizba,DNP AGACNP- BC,ACHPN, Creighton University	Clinical/Palliative/Admin/Market/Psychosocial Regent F
11:00-12:00 pm	C1: Power of Partenship in HomeCare C: NHPCA Annual Meeting	Spencer Morris Bob Bleicher, NHPCA Chair	Chancellor 2-3 personal Care All Regent C
12:00m - 1:00 pm Lunch Atrium Sponsored by			
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	D1:Keynote: "THE FINAL MOVEMENT: HONORING LIFE THROUGH THE LAST NOTES" Honored Panelist: BARBARA KARNES, RN moderated by LISA RUSSELL, CEO, HOSPICE HOUSE Sponsored by	Moderated by LISA RUSSELL, CEO, HOSPICE HOUSE	Regents C All Tracks
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm Break Sponsored by McKesson			
2:30-3:30 pm	E1: The Economics of Supportive Care	Heather Schanou and Mikah Christensen	Chancellor 2-3 Personal Care
	E2: MANAGING A PARKINSON'S PROGRESSION DURING END OF LIFE Sponsored by	Karla Frese, MS, CDP	Clinical/Paliative/Admin/PsychSo Regent E
	E3: We Honor Veterans: Best Practices and Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Sponsored by	Kelly Keller, John Vela	Admin/Volunteer/PsySoClinical/Palliative Regent D
	E4: Terminal Delirium: From Turmoil to Tranquility, Managing the Symptom that Changes Everything Sponsored by	Dr. Todd Sauer, MD	Clinical/PsySo/Admin/Palliative/Marketing Regent C
3:45-4:30 pm	F1: Patient Centered Care Through End of Life in a Disease Care Medical Environment: How Can I Help?	Dr. Joe Miller	Home Health Track Chancellor 2-3
	F2: Sponsored by Mumms Software		Clinical, Regent F
	F3: INCONTINENCE CARE CONSIDERATIONS AT THE END OF LIFE Sponsored by	Jennifer Fjell, MSN, RN, CWOC, CLT	CLINICAL/PALLIATIVE/AIDE/ REGENT E
	F4: Nebraska Hospice Veteran Partnership Planning Session Sponsored by	Kelly Keller, Peaceful Heats Hospice; John Vela	Clinical/Admin/PsySo/Vol
4:30-5:00 pm	COMEDY AND COCKTAILS WITH KRIS COVI	KRIS COVI	Regent C
5:00-6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception with Vendors Join us for networking and great conversation at this complementary cocktail hour at the end of a fabulous day! Vendors and attendees will meet together, share a beverage, and celebrate our collaboration! Meet new friends and connect with old! Provided anonymously by a friend of NHPCA.		Pre-Conference Vendor Area

Wednesday, April 29th 2026

Time	Session Title	Speaker	Track and Location
7:30-8:00	Registration/Trade Show Open		Preconference Area
8:00-8:15 AM	Welcome		Regent C
8:15-9:15	G: KEYNOTE: Play Your Part: Navigating The Three Timelines of Eventual Terminal Illness Sponsored by	Dr. Melissa Tepy, MD, FACP UNMC Palliative Care	KEYNOTE: All Tracks, Regent C
9:15-9:30 am Break/Trade Show Sponsored by St Croix Hospice			
9:30-10:30 AM	H1: Better Together: Hospice/ALF/LTC Leaders Talk Collaboration, Referrals and Real-World Challenges Sponsored by St. Joseph Villa Hospice	Kelly Sparr, The Grace Space; Hannah Elliot, Dial Enterprises, Melanie Frary, St Croix Hospice	Admin/Marketing/clinical Regent D
	H2: GRIEF: I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE THIS HARD Sponsored by Before the Casket	Amy Hensley, MSN, RN	Admin/Clinical/PsySo/Vol/Palliative Regent C
	H3: Integrative Approaches to Comfort: Adjunct Alternative Therapies Acupuncture, Electrical Stimulation, Massage Therapy, and Intentional Touch in Hospice Care Sponsored by St Croix Hospice	Dr. Clayton Hoberman, DO , Medical Director St Croix Hospice,	Physician/Advanced ProviderTrack Regent F
	H4: ADVANCE NEBRASKA: YOUR VOICE. YOUR CARE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEBRASKA'S ELECTRONIC ACP REGISTRY-NEBRASKA POLST Sponsored by	Jacob Dahlke, PhD(c), MSBe, HEC-C, Office of Ethics, Nebraska Medicine; Theresa Jizba, DNP AGACNP- BC, ACHPN, Creighton University	Psychosocial/Admin/Clinical/Marketing Regent F
10:30 am - 11:30 am	I1: Patient Centered Care Trough End of Life in a Disease Care Medical Business Complex Environment: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY MODEL Sponsored by	Dr. Joe Miller, MD	Admin/Clinical/Palliative/PsySo, Regent D
	I2: INCONTINENCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR END-OF-LIFE Sponsored by	Jen Fjell, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CLT	Psychosocial/Volunteer/ Admin./Marketing, Regent E
	I3: Sponsored by	Steven Paulmeyer, MD Cottonwood Hospice	PsySo/Clinical/, Regent C
	I4: The Grace of Ending: Dying as Part of Living Well Sponsored by	Kelly Sparr, The Grace Space	Admin/Marketing/Clinical/PsySo/Pal Regent D
11:30am - 1:00 pm Awards Banquet Regent A -Keynote Barbara Karnes, RN Sponsored by Hospice House-The Josie Harper Residence			
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	J1: What Do We Tell The Kids: Having End-of-Life Conversations with Children Sponsored by Grief Garden	Katie Ransdell, MS CCLS	Clinical/Admin/Palliative/PsySo/Vol Regent C
	J2: FOLLOWING THE SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT CUES IN CAHPS AND HOPE Sponsored by	Caren Martin, PharmD , BCGP, Dragonfly	Clinical/Admin/Palliative Regent D
	J3: Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy in Palliative Care and Hospice Care Sponsored by	Alex Georgiev, MD, Palliative Care Fellow UNM	Clinical Regent F
	J4: INCONTINENCE CARE CONSIDERATIONS AT THE END OF LIFE Sponsored by	Jennifer Fjell, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CLT	Clinical/Palliative/Admin/Aide Regent E
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm Break/Trade Show Sponsored by			
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	K1: HELP! I'M SCARE OF KIDS: PRACTICAL SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT AND END-OF-LIFE CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT Sponsored by	Liz Jilek, MD, Pediatric Palliative Care, Amber Kavan, Nurse Case Manager, Children's Nebraska;	Psychosocial/Palliative/Admin, Regent C
	K2: EMBALMING BASICS: UNDERSTANDING POSTMORTEM CARES FOR A DECEASED PATIENT Sponsored by	Robert Wzorek, Funeral Director and Embalmer, Good Shepherd Funeral Home and Cremation	Clinical/Palliative Regent D
	K3: Caring for People with Neurodegenerative Illness Sponsored by	Kelsey Noble, DO, Palliative Fellow, UNMC Omaha	Physician/Advanced Provider Track Regent F
	K4: Sponsored by		Clinical/Palliative Regent F
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm Break-Draw for Door Prizes Sponsored by			
3:45 pm- 4:45 pm	L: Living A Good Life: With Every Note: The Music of Your Lifetime Sponsored by	Co-Presenters: Mother-Daughter Duo Cathy A. Pacholski, C.S.A ,Founder and Owner, The Art of Aging, Inc. Taylor Wyatt, Vocalist for The Art of Aging, Inc.	Regent C

Nebraska Hospice & Palliative Care Association

Invitation to Partner With Us

The Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association (NHPCA) is a collaborative effort of approximately 70 organizations with an interest in good care for terminally and chronically ill Nebraskans. Established as a 501(c)3 community betterment non-profit in 1983, NHPCA includes Nebraska's hospices, community end-of-life coalition, and statewide health and elder care organizations.

Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association is pleased to invite you to participate in our Strategic Partner Program.

Being a strategic partner of NHPCA offers the opportunity to leverage each other's strengths, share resources and achieve greater success together. The strategic partnership fosters innovation, enhances problem solving and builds long-term relationships with our members.

We offer a selection of ways to place your services and products in front of our hospice providers with four partnership levels available: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

As a Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association Strategic Partner, we offer you the unique opportunity to participate in our events. The Platinum Partner level includes a display booth at the annual conference in Lincoln, April 28-29, 2026.

By investing in NHPCA, you will have a targeted method for reaching hospice professionals in Nebraska.

Strategic Partnership Levels



Platinum
Partnership
\$6900
(1 Available)

- Banner Ad on NHPCA website home page - large
- \$600 toward 2026 NHPCA membership or additional 2 full conference registrations
- Logo on printed and web based conference materials
- Logo & hyperlink on NHPCA website for 2026
- Banner Ad in Hospice News Nebraska, NHPCA's newsletter distributed to over 400 hospice providers for 2026
- Opportunity to add one brochure in the 2026 Conference Attendee Packets
- Opportunity for up to 4 approved speaker presentations at annual conference or educational event
- Complimentary Vendor Booth for 2025 Vendor Expo with First Choice of Booth Placement
- 2 complimentary registrations to attend at the 2026 Conference
- Verbal recognition during all conference sessions, lunch banquet & awards ceremony
- Opportunity to speak to membership for 3-5 minutes at the annual meeting during the 2026 Conference
- Social media shout outs

Gold
Partnership
\$4700
(3 Available)

- Banner ad on NHPCA website home page - large
- \$600 toward 2026 NHPCA membership or additional 3 full
- Logo on printed and web based conference materials
- Logo & hyperlink on NHPCA website for 2026
- Banner Ad in Hospice News Nebraska, NHPCA's newsletter distributed to over 400 hospice providers for 2026
- Opportunity to add one brochure in the 2026 Conference Attendee Packets
- Opportunity for 1 approved speaker presentation at annual conference or educational event
- 1 registration to attend at the 2026 Conference
- Social media shout outs

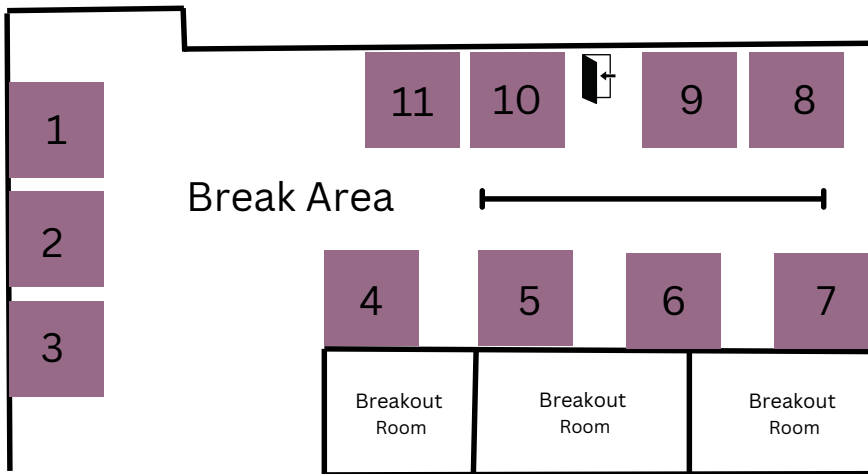
Silver
Partnership
\$3300
(6 Available)

- Banner ad on NHPCA website home page - large-
- Logo on printed and web based conference materials
- Logo on NHPCA website for 2026
- Banner Ad in Hospice News Nebraska, NHPCA's newsletter distributed to over 400 hospice providers for 2026
- Opportunity to add one brochure in the 2026 Conference Attendee Packets
- Social media shout out

Bronze
Partnership
\$1800
(Unlimited)

- Banner Ad on NHPCA Website home page - small
- Logo on printed and web based conference materials
- Banner ad in Hospice News Nebraska, NHPCA's newsletter distributed to over 400 hospice providers for 2025
- Social media shout out

Trade Show Exhibitor Opportunities



Exhibitor Schedule:

Booth Set Up Available Monday
April 27th

from 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

*Area is not locked

Tuesday April 28, 2026

7:30 pm-5:00 pm Trade Show

5:00 pm-6:00 pm Vendor Cocktail
Hour

Wednesday April 29, 2026

7:30 am-3:45 pm Trade Show

Drawings at 3:45

Teardown following break

Member Booth: \$650

***register for booth and renew membership for \$1000
before 3/15/2026**

Non-Member Booth: \$1200

Exhibitor Opportunities

[Click here to register online for trade show](#)

Trade show exhibitors will have multiple opportunities to meet and engage with conference attendees. All exhibitors receive a pre-conference attendee mailing list sent via email prior to the show, a post-conference attendee mailing list sent via email following the show, and two complimentary lunch tickets. Exhibitors may attend conference sessions and apply for CEU through IWCC.

Shipping & Storage

Inbound shipments must be scheduled to arrive no more than three days prior to the conferences.

Clearly label all boxes with your name, company name, and "Nebraska End-Of-Life Conference" and send to Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

Sponsorship Opportunities

email mmmalcom@nehospice.org to claim these!



Awards Luncheon Sponsor- 1 Available **\$2500**

includes marketing materials to all guests,
signage with logo and 4 complimentary luncheon tickets



Tote Bag Sponsor- 1 Available **\$2000**

Company logo printed on conference
attendees tote bags.



Shared Tuesday Lunch Sponsor- 4 Available **\$750**

Includes marketing materials to all
guests, signage with logo.



WIFI Sponsor- 1 Available **\$1200**

Company name as the Wifi password & logo
printed on all wifi info given to guests



Break Sponsor- 6 Available **\$500**

Company name and logo recognition
during one of the breaks.



Lanyard Sponsor- 1 Available **\$1250**

Company name printed on
attendee's name badges

Sponsor/Expo Registration

Use this form OR register online:

<https://www.nehospice.org/events/register.aspx?id=1909849>

Other Sponsorship Opportunities:

Strategic Partnerships:

Bronze: \$1800 _____

Silver: \$3300 _____

Gold: \$4700 _____

Platinum: \$6900 _____

Please create a gift basket for
me valued at \$ _____

Awards Lunch: \$2500 _____

Tote Bags: \$2000 _____

Lanyard: \$1250 _____

Wifi: \$1200 SOLD _____

Lunch x2: \$1250 _____

Break: \$500 _____

Session and Keynote Sponsorship _____ **\$250-\$3000 (check here-We will call with option)**

Vendor Booth:

Vendor Member: \$650 _____ Membership Renewal: \$600 _____

Renew membership & reserve booth package \$1000 _____

***Renewal & reservation booth option must be booked by 3/15/26*

Non-member rate for booth: \$1200 _____

Contact Information - as appears on promotional materials

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

Payment Information: _____ Check payable to NHPCA _____ Credit Card _____ Invoice me

Cardholder Name: _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVC Code: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

Gift Basket Donations Please!!

Marilee Malcom

@Marilee-Malcom



venmo



Your company has the opportunity to donate a gift basket or a prize to be raffled off at the 2026 NHPCA Conference. You can also Venmo us or have us invoice you the amount you want to contribute and we will create a basket from you!

All proceeds go toward scholarships for individuals seeking to further their education in the hospice field!

[Click here to register your basket!](#)

Contact:

Nikki Beck

n.beck@sunlightcares.com

Don't forget to submit your nominees for this year's awards!

Awards will be presented at the Awards Luncheon,

Wednesday April 29, 2026

<https://www.nehospice.org/page/NHPCAwards>

Nominations are open now! Due February 17, 2026.



Shining Star Award

The Shining Star Award recognizes an individual, group, or organization that has illustrated outstanding leadership in the promotion of end-of-life services, raised awareness on end-of-life issues, developed a new program, or developed or completed outstanding work in an end-of-life coalition.

Spirit of Hospice Award

The Spirit of Hospice Award recognizes true commitment & outstanding dedication to the hospice philosophy of care. Nominees should have promoted quality hospice care over the last year. They should display openness to the needs of all they have cared for, reverencing the dignity of diversity. All member categories are eligible!

Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Recognition

The volunteer recognition program honors exemplary volunteers from each of Nebraska's hospice programs. Each agency should submit the hospice volunteer of the year for their team. Volunteers will be honored at the 2026 Awards Luncheon April 29, 2026.



nhpca

NEBRASKA HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE ASSOCIATION

The 2026 “Living A Good Life...with Every Note: The Music of a Lifetime“ conference is offering more than ever! Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association and Nebraska Home Care Association are working collaboratively to offer both personal care track and hospice tracks on Tuesday as well as keynote speaker Wednesday. All sessions will have multi-disciplinary tracks of hospice sessions, including a physician/provider track. This conference will provide opportunities for all disciplines to grow in your role!

Conference Fees:

Before April 10

After April 10

Full Conference

Member: \$379
Non Member: \$729

Member: \$399
Non Member: \$749

One Day Only

Member: \$209
Non Member: \$438

Member: \$229
Non Member: \$458

Register Here: Hospice Sessions Here: HOSPICE SESSIONS Tuesday, Wednesday or Both
Register Here: Home Health Sessions Only Tu and select
home care ticket on second page of registration

Lunch ticket is available on second page of registration and required for anyone attending the award banquet that is not attending the full day Wednesday.

Group Registration Special:

6 or more full conference registrations from any one agency will be at \$329 per person for early bird registration and \$349 per person after April 10 for NHPCA or NHCA members only.

6 or more one-day registrations from any one agency will be \$184 per person for early bird registration, and \$204 after April 10 for either NHCA or NHPCA members only.

Contact Marilee for group registration:

mmmalcom@nehospice.org

402-477-0204

NHPCA members are eligible for one-day scholarships! Apply for scholarship here!

Conference Committee Members

Heather Elton
Sara Ruda
Nicole Beck
Diane Randolph

Lisa Russell
Diana Lecher
Ali Morimoto
Melanie Frary

2026 NHPCA Board Members

Executive Board

Bob Bleicher, MD-Chair

Beth Nelsen, RN-Vice Chair

Sue Kufeldt-Treasurer

Brooke Borer-Secretary

Work Committee Chairs

Lisa Russell, Chair of
Community Engagement

Diana Lecher, Chair of
Advocacy

Laura Peitzmeyer, Chair of
Quality and Improvement

Jena Fosdick, Chair of
Development

Diane Randolph, Chair of
Professional Education

Endless Journey

2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 Platinum Level Strategic Partner of NHPCA

MCKESSON **ST. CROIX**
HOSPICE

2026 Gold Level Strategic Partner of NHPCA

 *St. Joseph*
Villa
Proud Members of the Delmar Gardens Family

Brookestone
Home Health & Hospice

2025-2026 Silver Level Strategic Partner of NHPCA

2025-2026 Bronze Level Strategic Partners of NHPCA



 **nhpca**
NEBRASKA HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE
CARE ASSOCIATION



combined health
agencies drive
MEMBER CHARITY

www.nehospice.org

Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association

1519 M Street Cozad, NE 69130

402-477-0204

info@nehospice.org

Personal Care/Home Care Session



Marianne Chance: Described as brilliant, hilarious, awesome-sauce and so engaging you'll forget to eat your snacks, Marianne has trained over 25,000 people in nearly every state, and all over the world. She is recognized as one of the top trainers in America. In 2013, she started Work Warrior, a business that helps organizations build healthy workplaces. She's had the privilege of facilitating workshops for organizations such as Johns Hopkins, Walgreens, the International Monetary Fund, the US Army, the US Navy, the Nebraska Department of Parole, and multiple other small businesses and associations. She is also a lecturer at Kansas University, teaching business ethics, for the Professional Performance program. Marianne is a leadership trainer, utilizing her coaching certifications in business and entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, stress management, and trauma-informed care. She is the creator of "Endeavour," a difficult conversations simulator that helps leaders in the workplace practice hard conversations when the stakes are high. Before deciding to go out on her own, Marianne spent over a decade in corporate America in leadership and management roles. In 2010, she received her Master's in Organizational Development. Marianne grew up in Kansas City and now resides in Omaha, Nebraska. She loves glitter, superhero shirts, exclamation points, and Mini Coopers. Her favorite time of the year is fall.

This session gives caregiving professionals practical ways to notice, prevent, and handle burnout while staying grounded and caring. You will pick up useful skills to spot burnout, set healthy limits, and find support, so you can protect your mental health and keep giving great care.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify signs of caregiver burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress in yourself and your coworkers.
2. Differentiate between normal occupational stress and harmful burnout using simple self-assessment strategies.
3. Describe how long-term caregiving stress can affect your brain, emotions, decisions, empathy, and the quality of care you give.
4. Use at least three proven self-care and emotional management techniques during your workday.
5. Show how to set boundaries that lower emotional exhaustion but still keep caring relationships with patients and families.
6. Create a simple, personal plan to help you stay well and avoid burnout over time.
7. Understand how your well-being as a caregiver connects to patient experience, safety, and the overall quality of care.



Nikki Landon, RN, CHPN Nikki Landon, RN, CHPN: A compassionate hospice nurse dedicated to supporting patients and families through life's final chapter with dignity and grace. As a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse, she brings extensive experience in interdisciplinary care coordination and end-of-life support. Nikki is passionate about strengthening partnerships between Hospice and Personal Care providers to ensure patients can remain safely at home while receiving comprehensive, aligned care. She believes that every individual deserves dignity and compassion through the end of life, supported by teams that work together for comfort, meaning, and connection.

This session explores how Personal Care services and Hospice teams can intentionally align to provide seamless, compassionate, and holistic support at end of life. Using the conference theme as a framework, this presentation will demonstrate how coordinated partnerships ensure that each "note" of a patient's final chapter is supported physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The purpose of this session is to educate hospice and palliative care professionals on the value, structure, and best practices of collaborative partnerships between Personal Care agencies and Hospice providers in order to enhance quality of life, reduce caregiver burden, and promote continuity of care at end of life.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the distinct roles and regulatory scopes of Hospice and Personal Care services.
2. Explain how strategic collaboration improves patient comfort, caregiver support, and overall quality of life.
3. Identify practical strategies for communication and care coordination between Hospice and Personal Care teams.
4. Recognize common barriers to partnership and develop solutions to overcome them.
5. Apply partnership models that enhance patient dignity and allow individuals to "live a good life...with every note" through the end of life.

Personal Care/Home Care Session



Mikah Christensen: Serves as Director of Care Coordination for AmanaCare, a faith-based non-medical Home Care provider serving all of Nebraska. For the past twelve years, Mikah has held numerous public health roles and currently serves on the board of the Lincoln Tree of Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting individuals and families navigating hardship. What truly sets Mikah apart is her lived experience. Having personally provided care to hospice clients in the home setting, she carries a profound understanding of the vulnerability, courage, and sacredness found in end-of-life care.

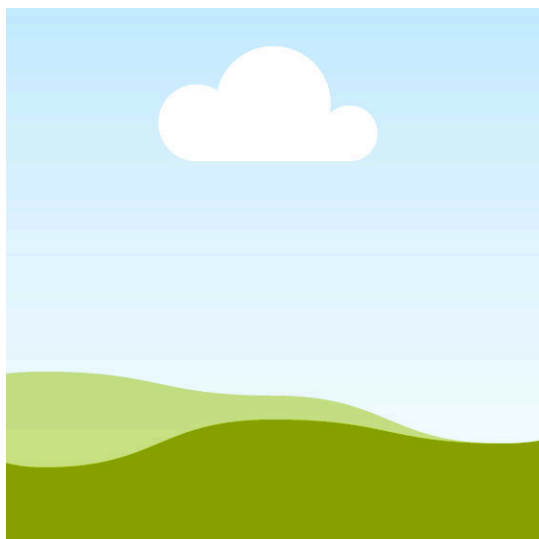
The purpose of this presentation is to equip hospice professionals with a practical framework for collaboration between hospice and non-medical supportive care. Attendees will learn how structured non-medical support can stabilize the home environment, reduce preventable crises between hospice visits and support both clinical outcomes and operational sustainability.

Learning Objectives

1. **Identify at least 3 common “home instability” drivers that negatively affect hospice outcomes and describe how supportive care can address them between visits.**
2. **Discuss the “Length of Stay Multiplier” concept and list early decline indicators that home care teams may recognize to support timely hospice conversations and appropriate referrals.**
3. **Apply a simple collaboration framework by outlining actionable steps to improve coordination between hospice teams and supportive care partners.**



Heather Schanou: Director of Marketing for AmanaCare, a faith-based non-medical Home Care provider serving all of Nebraska. A passionate advocate for dignity-centered care, Heather integrates professional strategy with personal conviction. After experiencing the loss of both parents, she committed herself to helping others process grief in healthy ways and is currently pursuing Grief Coach Certification. Heather is active in community service throughout west central Nebraska and regularly presents topics related to home care, caregiver support, and community collaboration. Heather also provides education for organizations including dementia coalitions, brain injury alliances, church communities, and family support networks.



Joe Miller: Graduated from college from Creighton University, Medical School from UNMC and Family Medicine residency from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was a full scope rural Family Physician in Lexington, NE for 32 years. He was CMO at THINK Whole Person Care in Omaha for 3 years and now has been associate medical director/medical director of Hillcrest Hospice for over 5.5 years. He is board certified in Family Medicine since 1984 and has been awarded the FFAFP from the AAFP. He is one of 7 HMDC (Hospice Medical Director Certified) Physicians in NE. His passions are Patient Centered Care, Value Based Medicine, Family Medicine and Hospice. He is married to Linda for 47+ years and now lives in Lincoln where two of his three married children live along with all five grandchildren.