

RSAI Update: Leadership Changes, Advocacy/Implementation Resources, Survey Reminder, and Annual Meeting Save the Date

1 message

RSAI

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 11:46 AM



Dear RSAI School Leaders:

We hope you are all having a wonderful summer as you rejuvenate and prepare to hit the ground running for FY 2026 very soon. Below are several updates from RSAI!

RSAI Leadership Group Changes

We have several new faces on the RSAI Leadership Group beginning July 1st:

- **Barb Schwamman** from Osage CSD and Riceville CSD was appointed to fill the NE Region 2 Director seat vacated by Nick Trenkamp from Central CSD & Eastern Allamakee CSD, through October 2027.
- **Ron Lorenz** from Red Oak CSD was elected this summer as the SW Region 3 Director to replace Paul Croghan from CAM CSD and Nodaway Valley CSD, who retired on June 30.
- **Jeremy Hissem** from Van Buren County CSD was elected this summer as the SE Region 4 Director to replace Dan Maeder from Davis County CSD and Moulton-Udell CSD, who retired on June 30. Jeremy will also serve as an RSAI officer, taking on the role of Secretary-Treasurer.

Please join us in welcoming Barb, Ron and Jeremy to the RSAI Leadership Group. They join **Caleb Bonjour** of Gladbrook Reinbeck CSD (Chair and At-Large Director), **Scott Williamson** of Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD (Vice-Chair and At-Large Director), **Justin Daggett** of Manson NW Webster CSD (NW Region 1 Director), and **Brent Jorth** of Central Lyon CSD (At-Large Director).

RSAI Legislative Committee 2025-26

We also have several new faces representing you on the RSAI Legislative Committee for the 2025-26 school year. See the list below and be sure to reach out to them and us should you have any suggestions, information or questions around legislative issues. The group will be gathering in mid-August to begin developing recommendations for the 2026 legislative platform.

- NE (Central Rivers AEA) - Jay Marley, Tripoli CSD, Superintendent
- NE (Keystone AEA) - Erik Smith, New Hampton CSD and Turkey Valley CSD, Superintendent
- NE (Grant Wood AEA) – OPEN
- NW (Central Rivers AEA) - Ken Kasper, Garner Hayfield Ventura CSD, Superintendent
- NW (Northwest AEA) - Stan DeZeeuw, Sibley Ocheyedon CSD, Superintendent
- NW (Prairie Lakes AEA) - Brian Johnson, Southeast Valley CSD & Paton-Churdan CSD, Superintendent
- SE (Central Rivers AEA) - Rich Schulte, Montezuma CSD, Superintendent
- SE (Grant Wood AEA) - Mark Dohmen, North Cedar CSD and Olin CSD, Superintendent
- SE (Great Prairie AEA) - Adam Magliari, Mediapolis CSD, Superintendent
- SE (Heartland AEA) - Tom Messinger, Newton CSD, Superintendent
- SE (Mississippi Bend AEA) - Stephanie Mishler, Central DeWitt CSD, Superintendent
- SW (Green Hills AEA) - Deron Stender, Creston CSD, Superintendent
- SW (Heartland AEA) - Bill Watson, Martensdale-St. Mary's CSD, Superintendent
- At-Large - NE (Central Rivers AEA) - Caleb Bonjour, Gladbrook-Reinbeck CSD, Superintendent
- At-Large - NW (Northwest AEA) - Brent Jorth, Central Lyon CSD, Superintendent
- At-Large - SE (Great Prairie AEA) - Scott Williamson, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD, Superintendent

RSAI Legislative Successes from the 2025 Session

See this list of [RSAI 2025 Session Successes](#) to discuss with your legislators during the Interim. See the [DE Letter to the Field](#) which details bills impacting schools, provides resources for implementation, and often indicates that more information will be coming, especially as many of the bills require the State Board of Education to promulgate administrative rules to direct school district

implementation. Stay tuned for the RSAI 2025 Legislative Digest with additional details coming soon.

RSAI Legislative Issues Survey

As a reminder, we circulated a Legislative Issues Survey to gather input from members on establishing our legislative priorities for the upcoming session. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to complete the survey, please do so before August 1st. You can respond as an individual with your own opinions or on behalf of your district if discussed at the board table, or both. The RSAI Legislative Committee will review these responses as they prepare priority language recommendations.

[RSAI Legislative Issues Survey](#)

RSAI Annual Meeting - October 9, 2025

Save the date for this year's RSAI Annual Meeting, which will be held in Des Moines on **October 9, 2025, beginning at 4:30 pm**. This year, we'll be at the Solution Tree Event Center in Downtown Des Moines (across from the Hilton Des Moines Downtown). More details and registration will be coming soon, but block your calendars now and invite your board members or other district advocates if they would also like to attend.

Thanks for all of your support of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa and for the work you do for the students in your school and community every day!

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