



American Society for Public Administration

*.....advancing excellence in public
service since 1939.*

Nebraska ASPA Chapter Newsletter

Annual ASPA Awards Luncheon To Be at UNO Alumni Center

ASPA ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 27th, 2006

11: 30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

UNO Alumni Center
6705 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska

The ASPA-Nebraska Chapter and Pi Alpha Alpha will be hosting the Annual ASPA Awards luncheon on Thursday, April 27th, 2006 at the UNO Alumni Center. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 and will feature a keynote speaker and the presentation of several awards.

As in past years, the Outstanding Elected Official of the Year and the Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year will be honored. A nomination form is included in this letter and you are encouraged to get your nominations in early.

The award for the Outstanding Elected Official recognizes a current elected official whose career exhibits the highest standards of dedication, excellence and accomplishment. Nominees for the award must represent the citizenry within Nebraska. The nomination should present evidence of the nominee's outstanding leadership qualities, high professional and ethical standards, admirable record of achievement,

strong commitment to public service and a dedication to democratic ideals.

The award for the Outstanding Public Administrator recognizes a public official within Nebraska who is currently working within the field of public administration. The nomination should demonstrate the nominee's noteworthy contributions to public service through their professional specialty and achievement of their organization's goals and objectives. The nominee should have demonstrated a tradition of excellence through outstanding achievements, a commitment of professionalism, exceptional leadership qualities, high ethical standards and a devotion to public service and democratic ideals.

New this year will be the addition of an award for Lifetime Achievement. The Nebraska ASPA Council will be selecting an individual for this award.

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A Message from your ASPA-Nebraska Chapter President

Hello!

The holiday hustle and bustle is behind us but the ASPA Council seems to be as busy as ever with events for our members. As you will see in this ASPA Nebraska newsletter we have several networking events taking place over the next couple of months. In addition, we will be submit-

ting the proclamation for Public Service Week for recognition by the Governor. I invite each of you to attend this event. Mark your calendar for April 27th for the Annual Public Service Awards Luncheon. The date has been set to serve as a kick-off to public service week and recognize not only our annual awardees

but each of you that dedicate your career to public service. This is a great time for each of us to improve our role in 'promoting and improving public service'. We look forward to hearing from our members about any ideas or projects we are working on. Please contact me or any Councilmember with your ideas! Sheri

***A Tip of the Hat to
Public Service!***

*In 1865 approximately 1/3 of
the U.S. currency was forged,
prompting the creation of the
US Secret Service!*

*Courtesy of:
The Council for Excellence
in Government*



ASPA Code of Ethics

- I. Serve the Public Interest
- II. Respect the Constitution and the Law
- III. Demonstrate Personal Integrity
- IV. Promote Ethical Organizations.
- V. Strive for Professional Excellence

Career Networking Reception Date Set

The ASPA Nebraska Chapter will be hosting a Career Networking Reception on March 28th, 2006 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Alumni Center. Last year's event consisted of fifteen professional public administrators from the fields of city management, economic development, urban planning and not-for-profit management. These professionals shared information about their career choices with students and ASPA-Nebraska members. The event is great opportunity for students to learn about the various public administration career choices and for practitioners to network with other professional public administration peers. The event is free of charge, mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

■ Awards Luncheon

category will not necessarily be an annual award, but will be given when the Nebraska ASPA Council desires to honor an individual in public service who has exemplified long term dedication to excellence in public administration and to the public they serve.

To nominate an individual for the Outstanding Elected Official of 2006 or for the Outstanding Public Administrator for 2006, please fill out the form in this newsletter and return the form along with a description detailing support for the nomination. The award category should be clearly marked with the nomination form complete. The nominator will have the opportunity to present the award to the recipient at the ASPA awards luncheon which is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th, 2006. The ASPA Awards Committee will let the nominator know when it has received the nomination and when a recipient is chosen.

Public Service Week and Proclamation

The only way the image of government can change to reflect a more accurate picture of its effectiveness is through your proactive and direct participation in community outreach. Through this effort, we also empower citizens to contribute more effectively to the success of government. Working together, we can make the most of our resources and more quickly see the results.

Public employees must make a special effort to inform our customers, the American people, about what we do, why we do it, and how well

we do it. Americans are demanding a government that is lean, effective and efficient. They want to know that their government is spending their money wisely as they would spend it themselves.

It is not enough that we in public service know we are doing more with less. Unless the American public is convinced, their support for essential programs will vanish, and those programs will be cut or eliminated. If that happens, and the impact is unacceptable, citizens will ask why we didn't tell them.

Public Service Week, May 1 through May 7, offers an opportunity to increase awareness of the scope, range and importance of public service and has become a valuable means of educating young people about government.

Plan now on passing a resolution supporting the value of public service during Public Service Week, or encourage your elected officials to do so.

Courtesy of: The Council for Excellence in Government

Sample 2006 Public Service Week Proclamation

**CITY OF HAPPY CONSTITUENTS USA
PROCLAMATION**

- WHEREAS,** A high quality and professional public service is essential to every Nebraskan's quality of life and to the continuity and stability of government at all levels of our democracy; and
- WHEREAS,** Professional public service requires a wide range of skills, such as managerial, political and legal, to implement public policies and programs and to provide government services; and
- WHEREAS,** Public employees gain those skills through experience and by pursuing advanced degrees in public administration; and
- WHEREAS,** Public employees maintain and enhance those skills by being actively involved in professional organizations, such as the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA); and
- WHEREAS,** Public employees serve citizens as officials of city, county, state and federal government organizations, such as law enforcement personnel, social workers, health care professionals, contract specialists, educators, military personnel, planners, financial analysts and many more, as they provide the services the Nebraska people require of their government; and
- WHEREAS,** Public employees represent government in their day-to-day interactions with citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** The citizens of Nebraska deserve a high quality, professional and responsive public service today and in the future; and
- WHEREAS,** To maintain a high quality and professional public service for future generations, government must attract and retain talented people with the required skills and who will use those skills in service to the people of Nebraska.
- WHEREAS,** I, (Chief Elected Officials Name), (Title), DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, the week of May 1 through May 7, 2006 as

PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK

in the City of Happy Constituents USA, and I hereby do commend the Nebraska Chapter of ASPA for promoting and improving quality public service. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of public employees in providing responsive and effective government for Nebraska. All citizens are challenged to do their part in recruiting and retaining talented people to serve as professional public servants for the City of Happy Constituents USA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand, and cause the Seal of the City of Happy Constituents USA, to be affixed this (date) in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Six.

Mayor

ASPA-Nebraska Is Working For You!

An ASPA-Nebraska membership option is now available for only \$20 a year! This is a tremendous opportunity to be a part of a growing and exciting professional development organization.

For more information or to download a membership application you can visit the Chapter website at: www.aspaonline.org/nebraska.

Students! This is a wonderful and economical opportunity that will benefit you in the classroom and all throughout your career! Current members...do you know someone who should hear about this? If so, please pass on the information to your peers or students!

MPA Alumni Association News

In December, the MPA Alumni Association hosted a December reception at the Nebraska Arts Council. Due to the number of alumni who indicated they were interested in participating in other alumni activities, the MPA Alumni Association has started to develop the Networking, Membership, Fundraising, and Social Committees. If you are interested in becoming involved with the MPA Alumni Association please contact Denise Ibsen-Cole. You can reach her at tricknyou@cox.net.

A spring social activity is currently in the planning stages. Please go to <http://spa.unomaha.edu/alumni.php> for future updates and information. Bookmark the link today and plan now on becoming an active member of your MPA Alumni Association!

SAVE THE DATE

2006

Feb. 6-7, Nebraska League of Municipalities Midwinter Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska

Feb. 8-9, Resume Review and Mock Interviews, UNO Campus, Room 129, UNO Engineering Bldg

Feb. 22-26, Annual Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Mar. 12-17, Nebraska Municipal Clerks Institute, North Platte, Nebraska

Mar. 28, ASPA Networking Reception, UNO Alumni Center Omaha, Nebraska

Apr. 1-4, 67th Annual ASPA National Conference, Denver, Colorado

Apr. 27th- ASPA Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, UNO Alumni Center, Omaha, Nebraska

June 21-23, Nebraska League of Municipalities, Accounting & Finance Conference, Kearney, Nebraska

Inside ASPA-Nebraska

Welcome to our new ASPA-Nebraska Members!

Dr. Richard C. Box- UNO
Kimberly Ramsey- Marketing Director for Sacred Heart School/CUES

Welcome to our new ASPA-National Members!

Joseph J. Johnson-UNO
Jorge Montoya-UNO

New Jobs!

Congratulations to Jordon Fuller accepting a new position as City Administrator/Clerk for the City of Manning, Iowa. You can reach Jordon at his new email address in Manning at, mancity@longlines.com.

Congratulations to Patrick McNamara, a UNO Doctoral candidate in public administration for his new position of Director of Philanthropic Services at the Omaha Community Foundation. Patrick will be working with donors to help them create strategic giving plans consistent with their values, and with non-profits to help them find resources and collaborate around community needs.

Congratulations to Dr. John Bartle on his appointment as Director of the School of Public Administration for University of Nebraska beginning in July 2006.



Nebraska ASPA Chapter Newsletter

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The ASPA Nebraska Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly. The newsletter is distributed to all Chapter members and is posted on the Chapter's website.

We're on the Web!

www.aspaonline.org/nebraska

2005-2006 ASPA Nebraska Board

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Jodie Drapal-Kluver, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Dr. Mary Hamilton, University of Nebraska-Omaha

ASPA-Nebraska Treasurer's Report

December 2005 ASPA-Nebraska Chapter Financials

Checking Account Balance: \$1066.02

Money Market Account Balance: \$5588.36

Civics Nebraska Partnership Program Launches Website

A survey commissioned by the National Conference of State Legislatures and Rutgers University concluded that attitudes about civic participation and voting were directly tied to student access to quality civic learning in the schools. Accordingly, each state has been participating in a series of annual, national civic education conferences to develop strategies and coalitions to improve civic learning in our schools.

The Civics Nebraska Partnership is an outgrowth of Nebraska's participation in the Congressional Conference on Civic Education, an annual event funded by Congress and sponsored jointly by the Center for Civic Education, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Center on Congress at Indiana University. The Partnership was formed as a coalition of agencies, public officials, organizations, and educators who agree with broad principles adopted by the

Participants in the 2003 Congressional Conference. Those principles are as follows:

- Civic education should be a central purpose of education essential to the well being of representative democracy.
- Civic education should be viewed as a core subject.
- Strengthening the civic mission of schools must be shared responsibility of the public and private sectors at the community, local, state and national levels.
- Policies that support quality teacher education and professional development are important to ensure effective classroom civic education instruction and raise student achievement.

- Classroom programs that utilize methods such as service learning, discussion of current events, or simulations are essential to civic education.

To fulfill those principles, the Civics Nebraska Partnership has adopted a work plan aimed at recognizing existing civic education and engagement programs, identifying civic programming needs, and forming a strong coalition that can coordinate civic education efforts and leverage needed resources.

The Civics Nebraska Partnership is a coalition of various agencies, organizations and educators who support the mission of strengthening civic education and involvement. For more information on this program:

info@civicsnebraska.org

www.civicsnebraska.org

Courtesy of: Civics Nebraska Partnership