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NEOPA 50th Anniversary History (2004-2014)

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NEOPA

**Nebraska Educational Office
Professionals Association**

50th Anniversary

1964-2014



Name changes:

Nebraska Educational Secretaries Association (NESAs) 1964

Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Association (NEOPA) 1977-98

Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association (NEOPA) 1993-94

**NEOPA logo and pin adopted
1997- 98**

The Nebraska Educational Secretaries Association (presently Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association, NEOPA) was founded on May 22, 1964. The association received affiliation with the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP) on July 20, 1964.

Our logo is the shape of a wheel to represent our pioneer spirit and belief that we can accomplish our goals if we continue to persevere as our ancestors did in Nebraska. Moving into the new millennium and the age of computers, this circle represents NEOPA as the central hub or central computer with spokes being the cables needed to reach other computers on the network. Like a computer network, information travels back and forth from the server to other computers on the network. Our conferences are designed with this overall purpose of offering the participants not only the opportunity to receive information, but also to share their own experiences. Each person who attends a conference brings information and experiences that will enhance the conference for all other participants.

The Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association (NEOPA) is open to anyone working as support staff in an educational institution.

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

1964 – 2004

On May 22, 1964, at the invitation of Mrs. Virginia Herrod, State Director of the National Association of Educational Secretaries, a group of educational secretaries and office workers met at the First Federal Savings and Loan meeting room in Lincoln, Nebraska, to discuss organizing a state chapter. More than 40 ladies, representing Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, and Seward, were present and enthusiastically endorsed the plan to organize a state chapter.

Mrs. Virginia Herrod served as temporary chairman and conducted the meeting. State officers were nominated and elected. It was agreed that a membership fee of \$3.00 per year be established. It was further agreed that the Executive Board, consisting of the elected officers, would prepare and adopt the first constitution of the Nebraska Chapter to be known as the Nebraska Educational Secretaries Association. Members also voted to conduct the first educational conference in the fall of 1964.

After this organizational meeting, President Mrs. Ina Smith submitted a request to the National Association of Educational Secretaries for a charter, which was granted on July 20, 1964. A request was also submitted to the Executive Committee of the Nebraska State Education Association for affiliation status, and this was granted on September 26, 1964. NESA also had the official blessing of the State Department of Education, the University of Nebraska, and several other educational institutions.

The Executive Board of the new association met in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 13, 1964. A proposed constitution and bylaws was discussed, amended, and adopted.

Nebraska Educational Secretaries Association Original Membership List for 1964-1965

Gwendolyn Alberti, OPS
 Roma Alexander, LPS
 Evelyn Anderson, OPS
 Pauline Anderson, Concordia Community
 Rose Barnett, LPS
 Dorothy Beever, LPS
 Sally Beilby, LPS
 Adeline Benson, Hastings Public
 Jean Bivens, OPS
 Terry Blankenship, Lincoln
 Peral (Caddy) Bogenreif, LPS
 Addie Brandon, OPS
 Georgia Breeden, Lincoln
 Roberta Buehler, LPS
 Dorothy Clark, Lincoln
 Ermal Collister, Lincoln
 Merle Conaway, LPS
 Luella Diekhoff, UNL
 Everlyn Erie, LPS
 Ruby Evans, LPS
 Grace Ferguson, Lincoln
 Ann Fitch, LPS
 Katereene Frenchy, NWU
 Rose Frolik, UNL
 Claudelle Gerlach, LPS
 Esther Gettemy, LPS
 Blanche Grahnquist, Omaha
 Gladys Greenfield, Hastings Public
 Norma Hartman, Seward
 Dorothy Hasenpflug, OPS
 Grace Hauschild, LPS
 Joan Hennecke, OPS
 Virginia Herrod, LPS

Gladys Herstein, LPS
 Alice Hibbert, LPS
 Mary (Fenton) Holden, LPS
 Helen Hubka, LPS
 Lorraine Jennings, LPS
 Katherine Knee, LPS
 Carol Kowalski, Omaha
 Ruth Kristy, OPS
 Imogene Lee, Lincoln
 Katharine (Retired) Lewis, UNL
 Pat Lundahl, OPS
 Helen Malek, LPS
 Clarence Martin, LPS
 Virginia Maxwell, OP
 Alcie McCoy, LPS
 Gene Mills, LPS
 Stella Moline, Lincoln
 Vera Ritchie Moorhead, Hastings PS
 Verle Morris, LPS
 Marie Mueck, LPS
 Eunice Munford, LPS
 Margaret Myers, LPS
 Valerie Nolte, Concordia Community
 Margaret Nord, LPS
 Dorothy Orr, OPS
 Selma Pavey, LPS
 Mary Piazza, Omaha
 Pauline Pierce, LPS
 Rose Stuhr Poore, Lincoln
 Diana Rakers, LPS
 Kathryn Robbins, LPS
 Arlene Rulla, Tri County
 Doris Sampson, LPS

Margaret Saunders, OPS
 Elizabeth Sawyer, LPS
 Margaret Schemmel, LPS
 Dorris Schmidt, LPS
 Esther Schroeder, Lincoln
 Marjorie Seidel, UNL
 Grace Sievers, LPS
 Ina Smith, LPS
 Dorothy Spencer, LPS
 Inge Steffens, LPS
 Dorothy Stepan, UNL
 Wilma Taylor, UNL
 Leona Terry, LPS
 Arbutus Thompson, LPS
 Edna Uman, OPS
 Helen Unger, LPS
 Dorothy Vanderslice, LPS
 Mary Vogt, LPS
 Viola Welsh, LPS
 Adrian Westberg, Omaha
 Elsie Zemke, LPS

1964 – 1965
NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Mrs. Ina Smith
Vice President	Miss Arlene Rulla
Treasurer	Miss Pat Lundahl
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Katharine Lewis
Recording Secretary	Miss Valeria Nolte
Member-at-Large	Mrs. Claudelle Gerlach
Member-at-Large	Miss Dorothy Stepan
Advisory Member	Mrs. Virginia Herrod

Membership dues were set at \$3.00 per year with the registration fee for the first Fall Conference set at \$2.00. The organization held their first NESA Fall Conference on November 7, 1964 at the Lincoln Public Schools Administration Building, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appropriately, the theme for the conference was “Opening the Door in ’64.”

In 1965, fifteen NESA members attended the NAES (National Association) Annual Meeting in Whitewater, Wisconsin. Ten NESA members received Professional Standards Program Certificates at that meeting.

In the 1968-69 Association year, three Spring Regional Workshops were held, in Norfolk, Lexington, and Scottsbluff, and a year later, a record 218 members were enrolled from 54 Nebraska towns. Pat Lundahl was Membership Chairman that year, and her efforts were matched in only one other year, 1980-81, when Jan Wacker served as Membership Chairman.

The spring 1972 NES (Nebraska Educational Secretary) contained the interesting tip that Liquid Paper was now available in pink, blue, yellow and green as well as white in case you make a mistake. The NES also contained interesting articles from the various affiliates about their activities.

Membership dues remained at \$3.00 until 1973-74, when they were raised to \$5.00. In 1974, NESA hosted the NAES Spring Regional Meeting at the Radisson Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. Vivian Valentine of Mississippi was NAES President and presided at the installation of 1974-75 officers. Bob Devaney, Athletic Director of the University of Nebraska, was a keynote speaker. At this meeting, NESA members assisted the National PSP Committee in updating and improving the Professional Standards Program.

In May 1976, a two-day session was planned for the Spring Conference, which was held at the Lincoln Hilton Hotel. A surprise guest speaker at the meeting was President of the United States, Gerald Ford, who happened to be at the hotel, and generously gave his time to talk to the Association.

The 1977-78 Association year was a year of change. The Association's name was changed to Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Association, to coincide with the change in the National Association name to the National Association of Educational Office Personnel. At this time, a state logo was adopted, and the pin bearing the logo design was designated as our official state membership pin.

During 1978-79, the State Association adopted the "Employee of the Year" award as a way of recognizing and honoring an outstanding member of our profession. Marianne Bollich of Omaha was the first recipient of the new award of merit. This was also the last year for the Executive Board to have two secretaries and two members-at-large. Starting in the fall of 1980 the Executive Board consisted of the President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President.

July 1980 was a time of a great concerted effort on the part of all NEOPA members in hosting the NAEOP Annual meeting on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. Naomi Robison was the chairman of the Conference Committee, organizing the time and work of all members in making this meeting a great success. At this meeting, Mr. John Prasch, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools, was named NAEOP "Administrator of the Year". The fall 1980 newsletter contained one article on the conference, which was a glowing report of what a great success the National Annual meeting had been. Just like any good secretary, NEOPA then moved on to conduct business as usual by planning their fall and spring conferences for 1980-81.

In August of 1981 the NEOPA Executive Board approved the formation of the Marion T. Wood Scholarship committee. The committee worked to establish guidelines and application forms, which were approved by the Executive Board on November 7, 1981. The first NEOPA scholarship candidate was Connie Lea Hartman of Red Cloud, Nebraska.

For the 1983 NAEOP Annual meeting, Nebraska joined with three other states as hosts with the meeting being held at the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana. Five hundred cornhusk dolls were made by NEOPA members as part of the decorations for the meeting. The newsletter for that year contained the pattern and instructions for making the dolls, which then had to be transported to Illinois.

May of 1984 marked the twentieth anniversary for NEOPA. NEOPA had 171 members from ten affiliate associations. The membership celebrated at the spring conference with a birthday cake served as the dessert for the luncheon. A sad note to the celebration was the death of Virginia Herrod. She was instrumental in the organization of NEOPA as well as the Lincoln Public Schools Association.

The 1986 spring conference was held in Lincoln on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd. The opening event was a luncheon held at the Governor's Mansion and was followed by a tour of the Mansion. This was followed by two afternoon workshops and an evening Awards Banquet. The next day was a full day of workshops and the annual meeting.

A curious event happened in 1988-89. The first two issues of the newsletter were published as Volume 24 Issue 1 and Issue 2 and the last two issues were published as Volume 25 Issue 3 and

Issue 4. The issues for 1989-90 were published as Volume 26. The newsletter volume number has been off by one year since this event.

A change was made to the Executive Board at the spring conference in 1991-92. The Executive Board will consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president and all committee chairs.

The Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Newsletter was awarded first place in the Rachel Maynard Excellence in Communication State Newsletters competition in 1992. The editor was Sue Drammeh of Lincoln. With the fall 1992 issue, the NEOPA Newsletter became the Nebraska Educational Office News or NEON.

In 1993, Joyce Graybill of Blair became the first NEOPA member to receive the Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year Award from the National Association. What a great honor for Joyce and for NEOPA.

During the 1993-94 year, NEOPA changed its name from the Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Association to the Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association. This reflected the change made by the National Association.

The Central Area Professional Development Day was hosted by NEOPA in February of 1994 and was held in Lincoln. Dr. Marion T. Wood was one of the speakers for this event. May of 1994 was the thirtieth anniversary of NEOPA. There is no indication in any of the minutes or notes that anything special was done for this event. The thirty-first year of NEOPA had 152 members representing sixteen associations.

The 1997-98 year provided another interesting challenge for NEOPA. President Linda Primm had to resign because of a move to an administrative position at work. Lola Young, President-elect took over as President. Phyllis Schnepel, Vice President, became the President-elect/Meetings Coordinator/Membership Chair. Lola then served her scheduled term as President the next year. This made Lola one of only two people to serve a multi year term as President. Ina Smith was President from 1964 to 1966.

During the 1997-98 year, the Constitution and By-laws committee did a complete study of the document, going over each article. By 1998-99, they were ready to make recommendations for changes. They presented a number of changes. One change was in the name of the document. It will now be called the Bylaws and Standing Rules. The National Association has By-laws instead of a Constitution. According to the notes of the committee, a constitution is for countries and bylaws are for organizations.

Nebraska had its first National scholarship winner in 2001. Amber Holl, who was our Nebraska Scholarship winner, received the third place Marion T. Wood Student scholarship of \$1000.00.

In July 2003, Lola Young of Lincoln received the Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year award at the National meeting in Boise, Idaho. This is a great honor for Lola and for NEOPA. Lola is the second NEOPA member to receive this prestigious award.

NEOPA celebrated forty years as an organization at the 2004 Spring Conference. Present were Charter Members, Past-Presidents, and National Officers. Past-Presidents Pat Lundahl, Joyce Graybill, JoAnne Lahm, Marcella Shotwell, Sandy Lineberry, and Lola Young shared their experiences of NEOPA during one of the conference sessions. National President, Anne Bomar, presided at the installation of the 2004-05 officers during the banquet on Friday evening. Pat Lundahl was recognized for 40 years of continuous membership. A sad note at another anniversary celebration, Ina Smith, the first president of NEOPA, died in February of 2004.

Over the course of 40 years, NEOPA has had 79 fall and spring conferences. These conferences have been held from Omaha to Scottsbluff and from Wayne to Falls City. There have been one-day, two-day, and three-day conferences. The membership has ranged from 73 to 218. There have been 316 members who have received their PSP and 110 their CEOE. We have gone from typewriters to computers and from dresses and suits to business casual and Friday "Dress Down Day". Over the years, as old members have left and new members have arrived, NEOPA has undergone changes, but what has remained the same is the sense of pride in being a member, the friendships and the sharing. The purpose and objectives of NEOPA reflect this:

"The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the advancement of education by improving the quality of service by educational office personnel to institutions of learning and the profession. The objectives of the Association shall be to provide professional growth opportunities, to recognize office personnel as members of the educational team, and to elevate the standards of office personnel in education. This association shall encourage educational office personnel to continue in their professional growth through the National Professional Standards Program (PSP) and promote participation in the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP)."

Respectfully Submitted April 2004
Peg Aldridge, AdHoc Archives Committee Director

Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association (NEOPA)

History 2004-2014

2004-05

President, Jeanne Ann Kardell, CEOE, (WEOPA) – theme “Step Up & Reach for the Future.”

Sandy Watmore, CEOE (UNOPA) won the NAEOP Olive T. Ritchie Office Professional of the Year. This is the third time since 1993 a Nebraska candidate would be receiving this award. Joyce Graybill in 1993 and Lola Young in 2003 have received this same honor.

NEOPA Past Presidents awarded a scholarship to Jane Rumbaugh (OEOPA).

In 2004-05, there were 19 individuals who earned their Professional Standards Program certificates (PSP). Currently there are 85 current members with PSP certification.

Currently there are 166 NEOPA Members.

The NEON won 1st Place – State Newsletter – Category 1, NAEOP Rachel Maynard Award for Excellence in Communication, Deb Ryan, CEOE, Editor.

NEOPA Spring Conference/NAEOP Central Area Conference was held in Lincoln on March 31 – April 2, 2005 at the Cornhusker Hotel.

2005-06

President, Deb Ryan, CEOE (LPSAOP) – theme “Bringing Attitude, Skills, Knowledge and Excellence Together.”

Chris Cary has been named “Nebraska Educational Office Professional of the Year” and will be our candidate for the NAEOP Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year award.

The 2006 NEOPA Student Scholarship winner was Laura Hays of Millard North High School. She plans to double major in Art and Business at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The first state-wide blood drive was held this summer (June-September). A total of 40 blood donations were made in NEOPA's name.

2006-07

President, Carol Bom, CEOE, (NDE) - theme “We are STARS – Supporting Teachers, Administrators, Researchers, and Students.”

Haven House was selected as NEOPA's community outreach project to assist school-age children who are directly affected by abuse. Haven House serves northeast Nebraska families but is a branch of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition.

The 2006-07 NEOPA Educational Office Professional of the Year Award was presented at the Fall 2006 Workshop to Lisa Morehouse, CEOE.

Dr. Giacomo (Jack) Oliva, Dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was named NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year.

As of the end of March 2007, there were 219 NEOPA members.

Fourteen NEOPA members gave generously to the Community Blood Bank, NEOPA Blood Drive on July 27, 2006. Because one unit of blood can potentially save up to three lives, NEOPA helped 33 patients with those blood donations.

The recipient of the NEOPA Student Scholarship this year was Kayla Neuhalfen from Laurel-Concord High School in Laurel, Nebraska.

2007-08

President, Christine Cary, CEOE (UNOPA) – theme “Take the Lead.”

Deb Ryan, CEOE (LPSAOP) NEOPA Office Professional of the Year.

As of April 2008, there were 235 members.

Pat Lundahl was presented a certificate recognizing continuous membership since her charter membership in 1964, a total of 43 continuous years.

Dr. Giacomo Oliva was named the NEOPA Administrator of the Year.

A certificate for the honorary membership was given to Linda Sockwell, CEOP, CEOE, and President-elect of NAEOP.

“A Rainbow of Opportunities” was the theme for the 2008 Spring Conference held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, NE, with forty-nine registered.

2008-09

President, Becky Hastings, (UNOPA) - theme “Key to Success is You.”

Videoconferencing allowed the NEOPA Executive Board to meet in two locations, Wayne State College and the Nebraska Television building in Lincoln, on Saturday, February 7, 2009. The meeting went so well that the board asked the Finance Committee to include funding for video or teleconferencing in next year’s budget.

The NEON costs approximately \$1.80 to print and approximately \$1.30 to mail out individually. The NEON is trying to go Green by sending out an electronic copy rather than a printed one.

Donlynn Rice, Nebraska Department of Education, was the NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year Award winner.

“Make a Ripple, Make a Wave, Let Your Talents Shine Through” was the theme for the NEOPA Spring Conference that was held at Southeast Community College Continuing Education Center, Lincoln, NE.

For our Ways & Means fund raising project, 500 cookbooks were printed to sell at \$10.00 each.

Nebraska had 49 members attend the NAEOP national conference in Broomfield, Colorado, July 7-11, 2008.

Dr. Z.B. Mayo received the NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year Award. Dr. Mayo also received the National Educational Administrator of the Year award from NAEOP.

A newly formed local, Nebraska Department of Education Office Professionals Association (NDEOPA) was established and installed their new officers, June 19, 2008. This new association has 12 members.

2009-10

President, Carol Reed, CEOE (LPSAOP) - theme "Above & Beyond: You Make a Difference."

Thirty-nine (39) NEOPA members attended the 75th NAEOP conference which was held in Bloomington, Minnesota.

"Bridging Opportunities for Educational Office Professionals" was the theme for the NEOPA Fall Workshop held in Omaha, NE. There were approximately 86 people in attendance.

Carol Bom, CEOE, received the NEOPA Office Professional of the Year Award.

Dr. Pat Roschewski, Nebraska Department of Education, received the NEOPA Administrator of the Year Award.

NEOPA Spring Conference and the NAEOP Central Area Professional Development Day was April 23-24, in Lincoln. The theme was "Piecing Together Your Professional Career." NEOPA was in charge of the PSP banquet during the conference held in Kansas City.

Becky Hastings, Past NEOPA President, passed away unexpectedly on January 17, 2010 due to complications following minor surgery.

2010-11

President, Diane Wasser, CEOE (UNOPA) - theme "Angels Shining Light on Learning."

Doris Merriman, NEOPA President 1990-91, passed away on April 29, 2010 at the age of 77.

Twenty-eight applications were judged for the NEOPA Scholarship. The winner was Chaney Black, West Boyd High School, Spencer, Nebraska.

NEOPA members contributed their talents to a card-making extravaganza to make three cards for each participant attending the PSP banquet at the July 2010 NAEOP Conference. As with any large undertaking, it helps to share the leadership and joy of committee work.

The Eva Sheaff Memorial Member Scholarship was awarded to Chris Cary, CEOE, by the NEOPA Past Presidents.

Forty (40) NEOPA members were in attendance at the 76th NAEOP Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, July 5-9, 2010.

“Be all You Can Be ...And More!” – 2010 NEOPA Fall Workshop was held October 21-23, 2010 in Lincoln, NE., and hosted by NDEOPA.

Dr. Timothy Alvarez was named the NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year. Dr. Alvarez is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Carol Reed, CEOE, won the 2010-2011 NEOPA Educational Office Professional of the Year Award at the fall workshop in Lincoln. Carol has been employed by Lincoln Public Schools since 1994.

The royal wedding of William and Kate has created worldwide excitement.

Lincoln Public Schools Association of Office Professionals had 36 of their members lose their offices in the fire that destroyed the District Office. Approximately 250 LPS employees were displaced because of this fire.

Jacob York won the NEOPA Student with Special Needs Scholarship. Jacob is the son of Mary York of Aurora, NE.

Jhany Alvarado was awarded NEOPA's student scholarship award of \$1,000, but also went on to win NAEOP's second place scholarship for another \$1,000.

Total membership stands at 175 with 12 new members.

NEOPA Professional Growth award winners were: Lanette Dunn - \$100; Rose Wiechert - \$75; Diane Wasser - \$50; and Denise Mostek-\$50.

Twelve NEOPA members received their PSP certification or upgrade between May 15, 2010 and January 15, 2011. Nine members recertified also.

2011-12

President, Kathy Bennetch, CEOE, (UNOPA) – theme “Shaping the Future.”

NAEOP President, Allie Faye Matthews, was the keynote speaker at the NEOPA Spring Conference, April 13, 2012 in Wayne, NE. The board presented Allie with an honorary membership to NEOPA. The Wayne Educational Office Professionals Association (WEOPA) hosted this conference.

Replacement PSP awards – Nebraska-shaped acrylic paperweights that were lost from the fire, were given to the members from the district office. A replacement plaque for her NEOPA Educational Office Professional of the Year was presented to Lisa Morehouse along with a new President's plaque, including another special replacement carved train.

A special surprise presentation was arranged to present Dr. Roger Breed, Commissioner of Education for the State of Nebraska, the NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year award at a State Board of Education meeting. Dr. Breed received a plaque, a \$100 check and a one year NEOPA membership. Dr. Breed's nomination was sent forward to NAEOP.

Mary Guest was presented the NEOPA Educational Office of the Year Award. Mary received a plaque, a \$100 check and one year NEOPA membership. Mary will be our nominee for the NAEOP Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year in Costa Mesa, CA.

The NEOPA fall workshop, "Staying Connected in a Changing World," was held at the Central Community College, Columbus, NE.

Suzann Wenzl, NDEOPA, *NEON* editor, won 1st place in the "Newsletter State Category 1" from NAEOP.

Our own Lola Young was installed as the 2012-13 NAEOP President at the July NAEOP conference in Costa Mesa, CA. Her theme was "Caring Enough to Share."

Five NEOPA members completed their PSP Certifications while thirty-seven completed their PSP recertifications.

Shyanne M. Thompson from Minden was the 2011-2012 NEOPA \$1,000 Scholarship recipient. There were 29 qualified applications for the scholarship.

The NEOPA Board approved that the University of Nebraska Libraries, Digital Commons, will be the place to store our historical records.

2012-13

President, Joyce Trevett, CEOE, (WEOPA) - theme "Building Bridges to Success."

NEOPA launches new E-Series to Empower, Engage, Explore, and Energize. Participants will be able to earn 30 hours of education credits upon completion of the series.

NEOPA's Administrator of the year, Dr. Roger Breed, Commissioner, NE Department of Education, was the recipient of the NAEOP Administrator of the Year for 2012 at the Awards Luncheon on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

NEOPA, our organization, is undergoing some changes. The board has undertaken the task of making the necessary changes through a process called Strategic Planning. Jolene Palmer, from the Department of Education, has been leading us through this process.

Gretchen Walker, CEOE, (UNOPA) received the NEOPA Office Professional of the Year.

2013-14

President, Gretchen Walker, CEOE (UNOPA) – theme "NEOPA: Onward & Upward."

NEOPA Scholarship recipient, Jessica Dolan from Minden, NE, also received the NAEOP Student Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 at the annual conference.

The NAEOP Louise Henderson Nelson Award gives recognition to the outstanding affiliate associations based on a five year participation that includes PSP/CEOE certificates earned, association programs and activities. NEOPA received 2nd place in the State Association category at the national conference.

At the fall workshop, Dr. Candice Batton, Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha, was named the NEOPA Educational Administrator of the Year. NEOPA will forward Dr. Batton's application onto NAEOP for consideration of the NAEOP Administrator of the Year. Nominated by Barbara Homer (UNOPA), Dr. Batton was given a plaque, a \$250 stipend, and one year NEOPA membership.

Jolene Palmer, Nebraska Department of Education was presented with an Honorary membership to NEOPA.

At the fall workshop, sixty NEOPA members were recognized for their PSP accomplishments.

The new NEOPA mission statement is: Provide Professional Development and Support for Educational Office Professionals. **NEOPA is celebrating our 50th Anniversary!** A celebration banquet in honor of NEOPA was held April 10, 2014 at Windsor Stables and hosted by NEOPA Past Presidents Association. Theme - "Turning the Page What Will Your Next Chapter Be?"

Source: NEOPA minutes, NEON newsletters and Annual Reports from 2004-2014. Compiled by Kathy Bennetch, CEOE.

Past Presidents' Themes 1964-2014

Past Presidents of Nebraska Association of Educational Secretaries				
Year	President	Association	Theme	Deceased
1964-65	Ina Smith	LPSAOP		2/2004
1965-66	Ina Smith	LPSAOP		
1966-67	Arlene Rulla Balderson	BEATRICE		10/1997
1967-68	Margaret Myers	LPSAOP		
1968-69	Agnes Kleier	HASTINGS		1989
1969-70	Erva Kackmeister Piersol	AINSWORTH		
1970-71+	Erva Kackmeister Piersol	AINSWORTH		
1971-72	Pat Lundahl	OEOPA		
1972-73	Peggy Barthule Mitchell	UNOPA		
1973-74	Wilma Borgens	LPSAOP		12/2006
1974-75	Ruth Leopold	MCCOOK		Deceased
1975-76	Oriel Kinley	CNTC GI		
1976-77	Luella Diekhoff	UNOPA		Deceased
Past Presidents of Nebraska Educational Officer Personnel Association				
1977-78	Carma Lea McPheron	UNOPA		
1978-79	Patricia Nicol	UNMed		2/2003
1979-80	Nelsine Scofield	UNOPA	If It Is To Be, It Is Up To Me	7/2013
1980-81	Jan Wacker	UNOPA	Onward and Upward Together in Nebraska	
1981-82	Naomi Robison	LPSAOP	Be Professional - Communicate	
1982-83	Yvonne Nelson	LPSAOP	Excelsior, Ever Upward	
1983-84	Glenna Brott	OEOPA		3/2013
1984-85	Leanna Bounds	OEOPA	Grow with NEOPA	
1985-86	Joyce Graybill, CEOE	OEOPA	Vision Plus Action	

1986-87	Eva Sheaff	LPSAOP	In Unity - Our Horizons Are Boundless	5/1994
1987-88	Nancy Rose	FRANKLIN	Quest for Quality	
1988-89	JoAnne Lahm	LPSAOP	Ringing in the New Year, 1988-89, with NEOPA	
1989-90	Eva Stark	FALLS CITY	NEOPA - A Winning Team	
1990-91	Doris Merriman	OEOPA	Pursuit of the Positive	4/2010
1991-92	Marcella Shotwell	LPSAOP	NEOPA - A Key to Growth	
1992-93	Delores Wenz	LPSAOP	Linking Past Successes With Future Possibilities	
1993-94	Sandy Lineberry	UNOPA	Ring Out With Enthusiasm	
1994-95	Kathy Svoboda	OEOPA		
Past Presidents of Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association				
1995-96	Linda Pence	UNOPA	Care	
1996-97	Marvil Summerfield	UN OMAHA	NEOPA Accomplishments	
1997-98	Linda Primm	OEOPA	Resigned 10/97	
1997-98	Lola Young, CEOE	UNOPA	Reach for the Stars	
1999-00	Christina Wiles, CEOE	LPSAOP	Bridging the Gap	
2000-01	Marlene Einsel	UN OMAHA	Exploring Our Treasures	
2001-02	Vira Brooks	OEOPA	Know the Way; Got the Way; Show the Way	
2002-03	Lisa Morehouse, CEOE	LPSAOP	Get on Board Stay on Track	
2003-04	Dianne Dickey, CEOE	LPSAOP	Share the Light	
2004-05	Jeanne Ann Kardell, CEOE	WEOPA	Step Up and Reach for the Future	
2005-06	Deb Ryan, CEOE	LPSAOP	Bringing Attitude, Skills, Knowledge & Excellence Together	
2006-07	Carol Bom, CEOE	NDE	STARS - Supporting Teachers Administrators Researchers and Students	
2007-08	Chris Cary, CEOE	UNOPA	Take the Lead	
2008-09	Becky Hastings	UNOPA	The Key to Success is You!	1/2010
2009-10	Carol Reed, CEOE	LPSAOP	Above & Beyond You Make a Difference	
2010-11	Diane Wasser, CEOE	UNOPA	Angels Shining Light on Learning	

2011-12	Kathy Bennetch, CEOE	UNOPA	Shaping the Future	
2012-13	Joyce Trevett, CEOE	WEOPA	Building Bridges to Success	
2013-14	Gretchen Walker, CEOE	UNOPA	NEOPA: Onward and Upward	
2014-15	Mary Guest, CEOE	UNOPA		

+ Installation of officers changed from fall to spring (1970-71)

50 Years of Nebraska State Conferences 1964-2014

(3/26/2014)

1964	Nov	Opening the Door in 1964	Lincoln Public Schools Clerical Assn.	LPS Admin Bldg	131
1965	Nov	Up the Ladder of Success	Omaha Educational Secretaries Assn.	Lewis & Clark Jr High	82
1966	May	NESA Spring Workbasket	Concordia College Office Personnel	Concordia College, Seward	N/A
1966	Oct	The Secretary's Role in Education	Hastings Educational Secretaries Assn.	Hastings High School	N/A
1967	May	Let's Get the Next 100 Years Off to a Good Start	Lincoln Public Schools Clerical Assn.	LPS Admin Bldg	N/A
1967	Oct	Set Sail—In Spite of Things	Gage County Educational Secretaries Assn.	Beatrice High School	80
1968	May	"Open Doors" – Be a Well Rounded Individual!	NESA Officers and Area Secretaries	Kearney State College	120+
1968	Oct	Focus on the Future	Lincoln Public Schools Clerical Assn.	East High School	200+
1969	Apr	The Challenge of Spring	NESA Officers and Local Secretaries	Northeastern Nebr. College	N/A
1969	Apr	President & Publicity Chair met w/14 Secretaries		Scottsbluff High School	14
1969	May	Unity — Vision — Venture	NESA Officers and Local Secretaries	Lexington Public Schools	N/A
1969	Oct	Use the Keys of Professionalism	Hastings Educational Secretaries Assn.	Hastings High School	N/A
1970	Apr	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Peru State College Secretaries Assn.	Peru State College	141
1970	Oct	N/A	SW Nebraska Educational Secretaries Assn.	McCook High School	80
1971	May	Turned On — Tuned In — With Motivation	Omaha Educational Secretaries Assn.	Royal Executive Inn, Omaha	149
1971	Oct	Happiness Is ...	Kearney Educational Secretaries	Kearney State College	N/A
1972	May	Do You Glow as a Pro?	UNL Office Personnel Assn.	Student Union	126
1972	Oct	On Our Way with NESA	Grand Island Educational Secretaries	Grand Island High School	N/A
1973	Apr	Do You Like What You See?	Fremont Area Office Personnel	Fremont High School	N/A

1973	Oct	A Sense of Values	Concordia College Office Personnel	Concordia College	N/A
1974	Apr	Thought is the Seed of Action	NAES Regional Conference	Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln	292
1974	Apr	We've Made a Lot of Friends Through the Years!	Nebraska Annual Meeting	Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln	166
1974	Oct	Be the Best of Whatever You Are	SW Nebraska Educational Secretaries Assn.	McCook High School	N/A
1975	Apr	Buds of Knowledge	Hastings Educational Secretaries Assn.	Hastings College	90
1975	Nov	All Roads Lead to Norfolk	Northeast Technical Community College Staff	Villa Inn Convention Center	141
1976	May	Build a Super Secretary	UNL Office Personnel Assn.	Hilton Hotel, Lincoln	176
1976	Oct	N/A	Grand Island Educational Secretaries	Grand Island High School	160
1977	May	It's A Small World	UNO Educational Secretaries	UNO Campus	130
1977	Oct	We've Come a Long Way	Lincoln Public Schools Clerical Assn.	UNL East Campus	162
1978	May	Rainbow of Communications	Wayne Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Wayne State College	89
1978	Oct	Time Management	Omaha Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Lewis & Clark Jr High	216
1979	May	Woman – You're On the Move	Dept. of Education Office Personnel Assn.	Holiday Inn, Lincoln	106
1979	Nov	Feelings in Motion	Concordia College Office Personnel	Concordia College, Seward	95
1980	May	Swing Into Spring	Fremont Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Milliken Park School	110
1980	Oct	Minutes of Gold	UNL Office Personnel Assn.	East Campus	100
1981	Apr	Spring Roundup	SW Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Elks Lodge, McCook	81
1981	Nov	The Future—Make Your Place in It	UNO Educational Office Personnel Assn.	UNO	115
1982	Apr	Be Professional—Communicate	LPS Association of Office Personnel	UNL East Campus	98
1982	Oct	Building Blocks and Stepping Stones in Professional Excellence	Kearney Unit of NESA	Kearney State College	69
1983	Apr	Up with NEOPA	Millard Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Millard South High School	132
1983	Oct	NEOPA—The Gold in Your Rainbow	Omaha Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Burke High School	179
1984	May	We Are Witty, Optimistic, Mysterious, Energetic, Nifty	Fremont Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Milliken Park School	N/A
1984	Nov	A Better You	Dept. of Education Office Personnel Assn.	Hilton Hotel, Lincoln	140

1985	Apr	Challenge Your Future and Win	UNO Educational Office Personnel Assn.	UNO	98
1985	Oct	The Total Woman: Staying Alive & Well	Concordia Office Personnel Assn.	Concordia College	93
1986	May	Vision + Action = Reality	LPS Assn. of Office Personnel	Hilton Hotel, Lincoln	140
1986	Oct	Keys to Professional Success	Wayne Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Wayne State College	76
1987	Oct	“Fall” Into Place with Educational Office Personnel	Grand Island Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Grand Island High School	137
1988	Apr	Spring Into Action	SW Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Assn.	McCook Jr-Sr High School	60
1988	Oct	Autumn Leaves “Changing You”	SW Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Falls City High School	67
1989	Apr	Come “Grow” With Us	Doane Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Doane Collge, Crete	99
1989	Oct	Hats Off to NEOPA	Omaha Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Administration Bldg	92
1990	May	Blazing Trails to New Horizons	Sandhills Educational Office Personnel Assn.	North Platte High School	88
1990	Oct	Harvest a Plenty with NEOPA	Member Kathy Warren	Bradshaw School, Bradshaw	73
1991	Apr	The Key to Positive Growth	LPS Assn. of Office Personnel	Clayton House, Lincoln	96
1991	Oct	POSITIVELY the BEST	Dept. of Education Office Personnel Assn.	Clayton House, Lincoln	89
1992	Apr	Nebraska: Our Heritage—Our Future	Wayne Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Wayne State College	67
1992	Oct	Linking Past Successes with Future Possibilities	NEOPA Past Presidents	Millard PS Admin Bldg	80
1993	May	The Joy of Living	UNO Educational Office Personnel Assn.	UNO	66
1993	Oct	Reflections of the Past—Glimpses of the Future	UNL Office Personnel Assn.	East Campus	67
1994	Apr	Pride in Our Profession	Southeast Nebraska Office Personnel Assn.	Cobble Stone Center, Falls City	53
1994	Oct	Pride in Our Profession	Grand Island Educational Office Assn.	Central Community College	65
1995	Apr	“Care”	Omaha Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Administration Bldg	55
1995	Oct	N/A	LPS Assn. of Office Professionals	Administration Bldg	61
1996	Apr	Cruising the Superhighway	Wayne Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Wayne State College	56
1996	Oct	Harvest of New Ideas and Personal Development	Dept. of Education Office Professionals Assn.	Harvester Motel, Lincoln	41
1997	Apr	Cultivating Tools for Growth & Renewal	UNO Office Personnel Assn.	Kiewit Conference Center	69

1997	Oct	Reach for the Stars	NEOPA Past Presidents	Harvester Motel, Lincoln	41
1998	Apr	Hats Off to Spring	SW Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Assn.	Elks Club, McCook	43
1998	Oct	In the Spirit of Communication, Service and Professionalism	UNL Office Personnel Assn.	East Campus	37
1999	Apr	Bridging Our Way into the New Millennium	Member Sharon Fuller	New World Inn, Columbus	36
1999	Oct	It's in the Bag	Omaha Educational Office Professionals Assn.	Administration Bldg	47
2000	Apr	Slice of the Good Life	Members Judy Rastede & Sandy Lineberry	Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk	30
2000	Oct	Humor: A Lifesaver	UNO Educational Office Professionals Assn.	Settle Inn, Omaha	41
2001	Apr	Listening/Laughing/Relaxing—All in a Day's Work	Member Glenda Maury	Southeast Community College	44
2001	Oct	Catch the W.E.A.V.E. – Weaving Education Amongst Valuable Employees	LPS Assn. of Office Professionals	Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln	147
2002	Apr	Surviving the Office Jungle	Wayne Educational Office Professionals Assn.	Wayne State College	74
2002	Oct	Get on Board and Stay on Track	2001-02 & 2002-03 Executive Boards	Ramada Inn, Kearney	66
2003	Apr	Sparkle Where You Are	UNL Office Professionals Assn.	East Campus	124
2003	Oct	Refresh and Renew	Omaha Educational Office Professionals Assn.	Administration Bldg	64
2004	Apr	Celebrate 40!	2002-03 & 2003-04 Executive Boards	Villager Courtyard & Gardens	107
2004	Oct	Fall Into Step	Wayne EOPA	Wayne State College	
2005	Apr	Taking Care of Business, also Central Area	NEOPA/LPSAOP	Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln	
2005	Oct	N/A	NEOPA Board and ESU #3	ESU #3, Omaha	
2006	Mar	Daffodils, Daisies and Dandelions	UNOPA	East Campus Union	
2006	Oct	N/A	Wayne EOPA	Wayne State College	
2007	Mar	Back to Basics—The Three R's	9 Members—Peg Aldridge, Carol Bom, Chris Cary, Amy Chandler, Lila Corner, Kathy Janda, Julie Kleager, Michelle Lemke, Lisa Morehouse	Southeast Community College	
2007	Oct	Take the Lead and Change Your World	NEOPA Past Presidents	Southeast Community College	
2008	Apr	April Showers Bring... A Rainbow of Opportunities	LPSAOP	Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln	

2008	Oct	N/A	Wayne EOPA	Wayne State College
2009	Apr	Make a Ripple, Make a Wave, Let Your Talents Shine Through	UNOPA	Southeast Community College
2009	Oct	Bridging Opportunities for Educational Office Professionals	OEOPA	Double Tree Suites, Omaha
2010	Apr	Piecing Together Your Professional Career	NEOPA/UNOPA/NAEOP Central Area Conf	Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln
2010	Oct	Be All You Can Be... And More!	Nebr Dept of Ed OPA	Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln
2011	Apr	A Kaleidoscope of Opportunities	LPSAOP	SE Community College, Lincoln
2011	Oct	Have a Ball in Columbus!	NEOPA Board	Central Community College, Columbus
2012	Apr	Getting Your Professional Ducks in a Row	Wayne EOPA	Journey Christian Church, Wayne
2012	Oct	Tools for Success	LPSAOP	SE Community College, Lincoln
2013	Apr	It's All About You	NEOPA Board	SE Community College, Lincoln
2013	Oct	Charting a New Course with NEOPA	UNOPA	SE Community College, Lincoln
2014	Apr	Turning the Page: What Will Your Next Chapter Be?	NDE Bridge	SE Community College, Lincoln

NEOPA members who have won the NAEOP Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year Award		
1993 Joyce Graybill	2003 Lola Young	2005 Sandy Watmore