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Tribute to Rose Frolik – April 10, 2007 General Membership Meeting

Information taken from interview between Rose Frolik and Sandy Lineberry in 2003 prior to the 40th Anniversary celebration.

Unfortunately, this year we did not have any nominees for the Rose Frolik award. We are very disappointed about this, since this year we raised the cash award from \$300 to \$600. So get your nominations ready for next year – EARLY!!

However this has given us an opportunity to give tribute to Rose.

Rose Frolik is unable to be with us today, but hopefully she has received the bouquet of flowers that were sent to her. Peg Johnson's husband has been so kind to tape this meeting for Rose so that she can watch it at her convenience.

While listening to the taped interview between Rose Frolik and Sandy Lineberry in 2003 prior to the UNOPA 40th Anniversary the word resiliency came to mind. In the American Heritage Dictionary the definition of resiliency is the **ability to recover quickly from illness, change, or misfortune; buoyancy.**

Rose's father came to the United States from Czechoslovakia at the age of 21. He met her mother in Crete Nebraska where Rose, the oldest of three girls, was born on June 25, 1909. That will make Rose 98 years **"YOUNG"** this year!!

Rose's father was a tailor by trade and he bought a shop in Gothenburg, Nebraska where he moved his wife and baby, as Rose

says to the “shack” in back part of the store. As a baby, Rose contracted pneumonia and was not expected to live – that’s resiliency at an early age!

Rose went to school and during that time was asked if she would like to “skip” a grade. Rose did that, however she said “that she wouldn’t recommend it because you just miss out on too much information in a year.” She took piano lessons and she and her “fingers” liked the piano very much. This made her eligible for the Commercial Arts classes at her school.

When Rose was a senior a gentleman from the Remington Typewriter Company came to visit her school. He administered a typing test, to Rose and 11 other girls, in which they were not to make any errors and during 15 minutes of straight typing. After the test,

Rose kept inquiring of her typing teacher if she had heard anything about the test and she was told that she had heard “not a word.” Towards the end of the school year there was a senior play being shown outdoors in the park and Rose was part of this play. At the end of the play Rose’s typing teacher came toward her with a case and handed her a typewriter from the Remington Typewriter Company. That was one of 27 typewriters given in the United States that year.

When Rose graduated from high school her typing teacher took her from Gothenburg to Lincoln and introduced her to all the Commercial Arts teachers at the University. During the time Rose was a student she met the two Frolik brothers whose mother happened to be a friend of Rose’s mother when she lived in Crete. The oldest asked

her out, but Rose had goals – As Rose says – “it was a lot of studying and it was not easy”, but I graduated in the honor society with 133 credits. She then taught for three years to help her father send her sister’s to school. She sent home \$100 a month to her father so that her sister’s could go to the university. Again Rose shows Resiliency!

After Rose completed her three years of teaching her father suggested that she start writing to that Frolik boy. As Rose said “that started something.” Rose said the first time she met Anton’s parents it didn’t go too well, as the dogs barked and came at her. Later she realized that they were taught to raccoon hunt and she was wearing a coat made of raccoons! After a short courtship Rose and Anton were married.

Rose and Anton moved to Wisconsin University so that he could earn his Doctoral degree. At the age of 33 the army called him, so Anton, Rose, and their son moved to Ft Leavenworth KS. Anton was an officer in the army when, while he was on the post, fell from his horse, had a concussion and died a few days later. This was during Pearl Harbor year and any widow was given extra benefits but no one had claimed them – Rose talked to a lawyer and Washington to receive her extra benefits. Soon she had other widows calling her and wanting to know the route to take to get their benefits. The ultimate Resiliency!

Rose came back to the University and started working part time in the Ag College for one semester. She took that summer off and then returned to work in the fall of 1947.

She kept working her way up to better jobs until she retired 22 ½ years later.

During the time Rose worked at the University she and another woman became interested in the Department of Education's Certified Educational Secretary certificate. They took a few classes and earned what is now known as their PSP. The University's personnel department called her and asked if she would be interested in telling other women on campus about the program. After Rose's presentation the women felt that they needed their own local association that promoted the PSP program. University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association was formed and Rose Frolik was elected the 1st President in 1962/63. At that time dues were \$1.00 a year, and there was a monthly paper put out explaining to people how to get their certificate. Rose also was involved

at the state and national levels and is still a member of all three associations.

Rose's advise for anyone wanting to earn their PSP – "Go for it – anyone can do it – you only need the desire!!"

As President of UNOPA I was given the opportunity to visit with Rose – because she takes the time to personally call each President during their time in office. That is how much she cares about UNOPA and the people that represent UNOPA.

I want Rose to know that I am proud to be serving as the 45th President of the organization that she started with a vision of helping educational secretaries be the best

that they can be. Rose you are one amazing woman!!!

A few of the Rose Frolik Award recipients have asked to say a few words – Jan Harris is the 1990 award recipient, Lola Young the 1991 recipient, Nelvie Lienemann received the award in 1997, Rhonda Zugmier in 1999, Sandy Lineberry in 2000 and Dora Dill in 2006. Ladies – I turn the floor over to you.