

# NORTH CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

March 2015

*"Navigate Your Way to Success with NAEOP"*  
*Elizabeth Napolitano, CEOE, President*  
*National Association of Educational Office Professionals*

## **Message from North Central Area Director:**

Communication is key to the success of any organization. I look to you, the members of the NAEOP North Central Area, for guidance to take us in the direction you would like the Area to move. Right now, I have more questions for you than answers. I have all sorts of thoughts and ideas, but my first priority is to develop a better understanding of how each state association currently functions and your goals for the future. I would like to see how the Area can help you strengthen your organizations and provide support to the affiliated associations and you, the members.

Communication is the first step to strengthening and growing the North Central Area. For communication to be effective, it must be reciprocal. So, I need to hear from you. Let's start with communication within the area:

- How often would you like to receive updates from me?
- What form would you like the communication to take – monthly/quarterly newsletters, blogs, biweekly/monthly short updates, etc.?
- What kind of information would you like included?
- How can I serve you and your members?

Please send me your thoughts. I would love to hear from every one of you. I also invite you to attend the NCA PD to have the opportunity to meet and visit in person!



Mary Guest, CEOE  
NCA Director

## *Professional Development Opportunities*

### **State Conferences:**

#### **Missouri:**

March 26-28, 2015

"Prism of Possibilities"

Higher Ground Hotel and Event Center  
Independent, MO

<http://www.maeop.net/>

#### **Illinois:**

April 17-19, 2015

"Growing Professionally Through  
IAEOP"

Chateau Hotel & Conference Center  
Bloomington, IL

<http://www.iaeop.com/>

#### **South Dakota:**

June 10-12, 2015

Mission, SD

[http://www.sdaeop.com/SDAEOP/Welcome to SDAEOP.html](http://www.sdaeop.com/SDAEOP/Welcome_to_SDAEOP.html)

### **Area Conference:**

#### **North Central Area Professional Development Days**

April 24-25, 2015

"Discover Us"

Downtown Holiday Inn and Grand  
Manse

Lincoln, NE

<http://neopa.unl.edu/node/3>

### **NAEOP Annual Conference:**

July 22-25, 2015

"Gathering Information for Tomorrow  
(GIFT)"

Hyatt Regency Buffalo,  
Buffalo, NY

<http://www.naeop.org/#>

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## ***Professional Standards Program (PSP)***

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NAEOP offers the Professional Standards Program to its members who are interested in growing their professional skills and abilities through education, briefings, conferences, and institutes. There are nine levels of certification based on your educational achievements. In addition, each level of certification requires association involvement, years of experience and professional activity. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please feel free to contact me ([mary.guest@unl.edu](mailto:mary.guest@unl.edu)) or your state president, and we will be happy to visit with you.

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## ***Congratulations to the NCA January 2015 PSP Recipients***

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### PSP/CEOE QUALIFIERS

Nebraska:  
Sandra Czeranko  
Lindsay Deahn  
Lindsey Johnson-Culver  
Cassie Macke

### RECERTIFICATIONS

Nebraska:  
Becky Carstens  
Jean Harrison  
Jeannette Pearley  
Jodi Vanek  
Donna Varney

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## ***NCA NAEOP Affiliates***

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The following NCA associations have affiliated with NAEOP for the 2014-2015 year (as of the last report I have received). If your association has not affiliated this year, you still have time! You will want to be sure that your association is an affiliate to be able to have a representative at the Advisory Council this summer.

Illinois AEOP  
Kankakee Iroquois EOP (IL)  
Indiana AEOP  
Kansas AEOP  
KSDE AEOP (KS)  
Wichita AEOP (KS)

Minnesota AEOP  
Cass County AEOP (MO)  
Northwest Missouri AEOP  
ESA of North Dakota  
Nebraska EOPA  
Lincoln Public Schools AOP (NE)

NDE Bridge (NE)  
The Frolikers, UNOPA-PP (NE)  
University of Nebraska OPA



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## ***NCAPDD, April 24-25, 2015***

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### **Dates to Remember:**

**March 15** – NAEOP Awards and Scholarships submission deadline

**April 1**- NCA member dependent scholarship deadline

**April 2** – NCAPDD registration deadline

**April 24-25** – NCAPDD, Lincoln, NE

**May 1** - Affiliate renewal deadline

**May 15** – PSP filing deadline

**July 22-25** – NAEOP Annual Conference and Institute, Buffalo, NY

**July 25** – North Central Area Breakfast, Buffalo, NY

### **Save the Date:**

**2016 NCAPDD** – April 22-23  
Rochester, MN

**2016 NAEOP Annual Conference**  
July 13-16  
St. Louis, MO

I hope you are making plans to attend the NCA Professional Development Days in Lincoln, NE, to “Discover Us.” This will be a great opportunity to come together as an area and begin planning our future. The conference provides a variety of sessions for your professional development. In addition, if you are working on your PSP certification and need education credit, you will be able to earn 15 hours over the two days. Conference registration information is available on the NAEOP NCA page:

<http://naeop.org/membership/area-directors/north-central-area.html> and the NEOPA website: <http://neopa.unl.edu/>

Retiree activities are planned for Friday afternoon, April 24, 2:00-4:00 pm and Saturday afternoon, April 25, 1:30-4:30 pm. (See attached flyer.) On Friday, a tour of Porridge Papers (papermill and letterpress studio) is planned. You may access more information about this studio through this link: <http://porridgepapers.com/>

On Saturday, tours have been planned of the Nebraska State Capitol (<http://capitol.nebraska.gov/>); Sheldon Art Gallery (<http://www.sheldonartmuseum.org/>), and Licorice, International (<http://www.licoriceinternational.com/licorice/pc/home.asp>).

These tours are free, but please contact Amy Windle ([awindle@lps.org](mailto:awindle@lps.org)) if you plan to attend so appropriate transportation can be arranged.

If you have any questions, please contact the conference co-chairs, Susie Ahlberg ([sahlber@lps.org](mailto:sahlber@lps.org)) or Amy Windle ([awindle@lps.org](mailto:awindle@lps.org)).

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## ***NCA Member Dependent Scholarship***

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Our NCA scholarship of \$300 is an undergraduate program scholarship available for children or grandchildren of active, life, or retired members of NAEOP residing or working in the North Central Area. Application forms are available from the NCA Director, NCA Scholarship Committee members, and on the NAEOP NCA webpage: <http://naeop.org/membership/area-directors/north-central-area.html> Application materials must be postmarked no later than **April 1**.

Thanks to Martha Carson (IL) for chairing this committee, and to her committee members: Charla Callahan (SD), Lindsay Deahn (NE), Sharon Griffiths (MN), Debora Jensen (KS), Iris Maxwell (MO), Lola Young (NE).

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## ***The “SOUP” Experience***

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I began my message to you talking about the importance of communication. As a way to build community and create engaged relationships in the Nebraska EOPA, the members were encouraged to read Jon Gordon’s book, “SOUP.” Through this process, we have learned that it is the people and the relationships within an organization that brings success. Communication is the base of building relationships. In this fast-paced electronic age, it is easy to rely on email and text messages for most of our communication. But, it is the face-to-face conversations that really connect and engage people.

To help unite the local associations within the state of Nebraska, we started a Soup Pot that visited each association. During the visit, the members were asked to donate ingredients to make the best Soup ever! The Soup Pot represents NEOPA and the donated ingredients represent all of the members with their unique and valuable talents. It takes many ingredients to make great soup, and it takes all of the cooks working together to stir the pot.

One of the sessions offered at the NCAPDD is “Soup du Jour.” During the session we will have the opportunity to use the principles of “Soup” to learn about culture and building teams. Focus your energy on creating engaged relationships to empower your members and build a strong organization. Reading Jon Gordon’s book “Soup” prior to attending this session is recommended, but not required. Not unlike making a good pot of soup, building a good organization also takes many different ingredients (members).

The NEOPA Soup Pot will be raffled at the NCAPDD. It will provide you with all of the ingredients to made great soup – and a great team!



**“WE NEED TO GET BACK TO BASICS AND REMEMBER THAT IT IS THE RELATIONSHIP THAT IS THE INGREDIENT AND FOUNDATION FOR GREAT FAMILIES, GREAT TEAMS, AND GREAT ORGANIZATIONS . . . WE MUST INVEST IN EACH OTHER AND IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.” (JON GORDON, “SOUP”, 2010, PG. 96, JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC., HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.**

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## ***Member News and Concerns***

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Thoughts and good wishes go to Doris Beattie (IL) who broke her leg in December, 2014; and her husband, Bill, underwent heart surgery in February, 2015.

We have lost several NCA members and members' spouses, over the past several months. Please keep them, their families and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Ilene Koehler (IL) passed away November 15, 2015.  
Starlene Rudofski (IL) passed away February 22, 2015.  
Marie Bill (IL) passed away February 27, 2015.  
Inez Kronenberg (MN) passed away but I was not given the date.  
Helen Vopenka's (IL) husband passed away in February 2015.

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## ***News from YOU!***

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I would love to hear from you to share Your news with the members of the North Central Area! I know many state associations have officer elections in the spring so let's shine a spotlight on your stars. Please send me your election results and pictures, too!

It would be great to share updates from all of the states, as well as local associations. Our members do great things, and you could be the inspiration for other members and associations by sharing your special projects, new ideas, conference updates, awards and recognitions, etc.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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*"Strong relationships = Strong culture = Strong team = Strong organizations."  
(Jon Gordon tweet, 10/3/2014)*

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