

# NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

## HISTORY

1964 – 2006

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.

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 NESAs members attended the NAES (National Association) Annual Meeting in Whitewater, Wisconsin. Ten NESAs 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, NESAs 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, NESAs 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 the anniversary celebration, Ina Smith, the first president of NEOPA, died in February of 2004.

In the spring of 2005, NEOPA hosted the Central Area Professional Development Day in conjunction with the NEOPA Spring Conference. Over one hundred ladies from Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana attended the two day conference. Keynote speaker was Randy Morgan. In July of 2005, Sandy Watmore, CEOE, received the Olive T. Ritchie Educational Office Professional of the Year Award at the NAEOP conference in Tucson, Arizona. Sandy is the third NEOPA member to receive this award.

In 2006, NEOPA held its first Blood Drive, collected clothing for the YMCA Job Outfitters project and money for Phone cards for our troops overseas. All were part of NEOPA Community Service Projects for the year. NEOPA membership for the 2005-2006 year was 179 members. This total included all Active, Active retired, Associate, retired and Honorary members.