

**OUTLINE FOR 2008 NCIP AWARDS BANQUET SCRIPT**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

**HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER – KEARNEY, NE**

I. THANK YOU SPONSORS

II. THANK YOU SENATORS

III. THEME: RENEWABLE NEBRASKA

IV. GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD (2)

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(3)

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IX. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (14)

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XI. OTTO HOIBERG AWARD (1)

XII. THANK YOU, ADJOURN

## **START SLIDE SHOW – PART I**

I AM EXCITED TO BE HERE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE WITH MY FELLOW NEBRASKANS THE MANY SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AS YOU FOCUS ON RENEWING NEBRASKA, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REFLECT UPON THE MANY SUCCESSES EACH COMMUNITY HAS ACCOMPLISHED. I HOPE YOU WALK AWAY FROM THE BANQUET FEELING INSPIRED AND ENERGIZED BY THE TENACITY AND VOLUNTEER SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA RESIDENTS.

### **I. RECOGNIZE NCIP SPONSORS**

BEFORE WE START, LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE NCIP SPONSORS.

**(SLIDE)** INVESTOR OWNED NATURAL GAS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES HAVE MADE THIS BANQUET POSSIBLE FOR THE LAST 45 YEARS BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NCIP, INCLUDING THE CASH AWARDS AND PLAQUES PRESENTED TONIGHT. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO NAME THE FIVE SPONSORS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM. PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED.

\* THE NCIP SPONSORS ARE:

- ◆ NORTHERN NATURAL GAS
- ◆ GLENWOOD TELEPHONE
- ◆ SOURCEGAS
- ◆ NORTHWESTERN ENERGY
- ◆ BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

## II. RECOGNIZE STATE SENATORS

**(SLIDE)** ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THOSE STATE SENATORS AND SENATOR DELEGATES HERE TONIGHT WHO HAVE COME OUT TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE IN THEIR DISTRICT.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMING OUT THIS EVENING TO HELP RECOGNIZE NEBRASKA'S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS.

## III. INTRODUCTION

**(SLIDE)** THE UNIQUE APPROACHES, CREATIVE SOLUTIONS, AND FRESH IDEAS YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND TO NEBRASKA WILL HIGHLIGHT THIS AWARDS CEREMONY. AS VOLUNTEERS, YOU ARE FULL OF ENERGY AND VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF NEBRASKA AND EACH OF YOUR COMMUNITIES. JOIN ME IN CELEBRATING AS WE RECOGNIZE YOUR

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS EVENING. LET'S GET STARTED WITH THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD! **(SLIDE)**

#### **IV. GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD**

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO A COMMUNITY THAT HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO A NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY OR REGION. THIS YEAR'S HONOREES ARE **(SLIDE)** EUSTIS AND FARNAM. PLEASE STAND TO RECEIVE YOUR AWARD. NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR—FRIEND HELPING FRIEND: THAT'S THE BELIEF OF BOTH OF THESE COMMUNITIES. WHEN A STORM BROUGHT 9 TO 11 INCHES OF RAIN IN A VERY SHORT TIME, FLOODING HOMES IN EUSTIS AND THE VET CLINIC IN FARNAM, THE RESIDENTS OF THE TWO TOWNS GOT DOWN TO WORK. CITIZENS OF EACH TOWN ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME TO STACK SANDBAGS AND PREVENT WATER DAMAGE. THIS IS TRULY THE SIGN OF A GOOD NEIGHBOR. CONGRATULATIONS FARNAM AND EUSTIS FOR YOUR FINE EXAMPLE OF NEIGHBORLY FRIENDSHIP!

NOW, LET'S MOVE ON TO OUR SPECIAL AWARDS. **(SLIDE)**

#### **V. SPECIAL AWARDS**

THESE AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THE FIRST CATEGORY IS: VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**(SLIDE)**

THE **CLASS II** AWARD WINNER IN VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT IS... **DESHLER.** **(SLIDE)** WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM DESHLER PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(FRIENDSHIP GARDEN)** THE RESIDENTS OF DESHLER CREATED A COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDEN CALLED THE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN. **(SLIDE)** THIS PROJECT HAS BROUGHT THE YOUNG AND ELDERLY TOGETHER FOR WEEKLY WORK NIGHTS WHERE PLANTS ARE WATERED, BUSHES AND PERENNIALS ARE PLANTED, AND DESIGNS FOR A NEW REST AND RELAXATION AREA ARE BEING CREATED. THE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A JOIN HANDS DAY GRANT, WHICH HAS HELPED TO MAKE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

CONGRATULATIONS DESHLER ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT IN VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT!

THE **CLASS III** AWARD WINNER IN VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT IS **ALLIANCE**. **(SLIDE)** ALLIANCE IS ALSO THE AWARD WINNER FOR CLASS III IN BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AND RECEIVED HONORABLE MENTION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES. WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALLIANCE PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(LIFETIME PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS)**

**(SLIDE)** AFTER GEORGE W. BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IN 2002 WHICH CHALLENGED AMERICANS "TO DEDICATE AT LEAST 4,000 HOURS—OR TWO YEARS—TO SERVICE OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES," ALLIANCE RESIDENTS FORMED THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL. THIS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEDICATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME TO BETTERING THE COMMUNITY. THROUGH THIS COMBINED EFFORT, MORE THAN 20,000 HOURS OF SERVICE HAVE BEEN PERFORMED BY THE FIVE HONORED RESIDENTS.

**(BOX BUTTE COUNTY HEALTH FAIR)**

**(SLIDE)** ALLIANCE RESIDENTS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK UP ON THEIR HEALTH AT THE BOX BUTTE COUNTY HEALTH FAIR. OVER THE YEARS, IT HAS GROWN TO BE THE LARGEST HEALTH FAIR IN THE PANHANDLE WITH OVER 50 PARTICIPANTS. THE HEALTH FAIR PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL

INFORMATION, HANDS-ON PARTICIPATION, AND A NUMBER OF HEALTH SCREENINGS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE OR A NOMINAL FEE.

**(READ FOR A RIDE)**

TAKING HONORABLE MENTION IN CLASS III COMMUNITY SERVICES IS READ FOR A RIDE. **(SLIDE)** ALLIANCE KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO READ. THIS YEAR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM, CHILDREN WERE ENCOURAGED TO MEET GOALS OF READING BOOKS AND WRITING REPORTS AS PART OF THE “READ FOR A RIDE” PROGRAM. “READ FOR A RIDE” ESTABLISHED GOALS FOR EACH AGE RANGE OVER A SIX WEEK PERIOD. ONCE THESE GOALS WERE MET, THE CHILD WAS ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A FREE WRISTBAND FOR THE ANNUAL HERITAGE DAYS CARNIVAL, ENABLING THEM TO A NIGHT OF UNLIMITED RIDES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALLIANCE FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

THE **CLASS IV** AWARD HAD A TIE FOR WINNERS IN VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. THEY ARE **FURNAS-HARLAN PARTNERSHIP AND SEWARD COUNTY**. **(SLIDE)** FIRST WOULD THE ATTENDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM **FURNAS-HARLAN PARTNERSHIP** PLEASE STAND?

**(LEADERSHIP PLENTY CLASS)**

**(SLIDE)** IN THE FURNAS-HARLAN PARTNERSHIP, LEADERSHIP PLENTY BRINGS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN EXTENSION EDUCATORS TO THE REGION TO TRAIN LEADERS. THIS CLASS COVERS EVERYTHING FROM PERSONALITY TYPE CHARACTERISTICS TO GROUP DYNAMICS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY CONCEPTS AND APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY. WONDERFUL JOB ALL INVOLVED PARTICIPANTS!

NOW, WOULD SEWARD COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PLEASE COME FORWARD TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP)**

**(SLIDE)** “THE SEWARD COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS” ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG ADULT PROFESSIONALS AND THE SEWARD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO ASSIST IN THE RETENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK AND LIVE IN THE GREATER SEWARD COUNTY AREA. THE GROUP MEETS MONTHLY FOR A BUSINESS MEETING AND SOCIAL SESSION. THE GOAL OF THE GROUP IS TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS, OFFERING A LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND NETWORKING ENVIRONMENT TO THE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE OF SEWARD COUNTY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FURNAS/HARLAN PARTNERSHIP AND SEWARD COUNTY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

OUR SECOND CATEGORY THIS EVENING IS YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. **(SLIDE)**

THE **CLASS I** AWARD WINNER IS **FARNAM**. **(SLIDE)** FARNAM IS ALSO THE CLASS I WINNER IN TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT AND RECEIVED HONORABLE MENTION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES. WOULD THE ATTENDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM FARNAM PLEASE STAND TO RECEIVE YOUR AWARDS?

**(YCIP PROJETS)**

THE FARNAM YOUTH COMMITTEE COMPLETED A NUMBER OF PROJECTS THIS YEAR. **(SLIDE)** THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE GROUP HOSTED SEVERAL PROJECTS INCLUDING THE SANTA SHOP WHERE CHILDREN COULD BUY INEXPENSIVE GIFTS FOR THEIR PARENTS, A COTTON CANDY STAND FOR THE COMMUNITY CARNIVAL, FUNDRAISERS TO BRING A CHRISTIAN ROCK BAND TO THE COMMUNITY ON FOUNDER'S DAY, A TRASH PICK-UP, AND AN ALUMINUM-RECYCLING COLLECTION TRAILER. WHAT GREAT INVOLVEMENT YOUNG ADULTS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOUR FUTURE BRINGS!

**(FARNAM FOUNDERS' DAYS IMPROVEMENTS)**

**(SLIDE)** FARNAM FOUNDERS' DAYS HAS BEEN A FAMILY FRIENDLY, COMMUNITY ORIENTED EVENT FOR MANY YEARS. EVERY YEAR, THE RESIDENTS TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS CELEBRATION. THIS YEAR, THE THEME WAS "HOG WILD" AND INCLUDED SEVERAL SWINE-GEARED ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS A CAR AND MOTORCYCLE "HAWG" SHOW, A RIB COOK OFF CONTEST, AND A WATERMELON EATING CONTEST. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE DAY WAS THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW LIBRARY AND A CHRISTIAN ROCK BAND CONCERT.

**(FARNAM LIBRARY)**

TAKING HONORABLE MENTION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES IS THE FARNAM LIBRARY. THE FARNAM LIBRARY WAS IN NEED OF MORE ROOM AND BETTER FACILITIES. **(SLIDE)** AFTER CLOSING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL A FEW YEARS BACK, A MODULAR BUILDING HAD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFORMATION INTO THE NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY. AFTER APPLYING FOR SEVERAL GRANTS AND RAISING SEPARATE FUNDS WITH THE HELP OF THE LIONS CLUB AND THE NEBRASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM, FARNAM WAS ABLE TO MAKE RENOVATIONS AND TRANSFORM THE OLD BUILDING INTO A NEW LIBRARY FACILITY.

CONGRATULATIONS FARNAM ON THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

IN **CLASS II**, THE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNER IS **RAVENNA**. **(SLIDE)** WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM **RAVENNA** PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(UNITED METHODIST YOUTH GROUP LOVE IN ACTION FOOD PANTRY)**

**(SLIDE)** THE UNITED METHODIST YOUTH GROUP, WITH ABOUT 40 MEMBERS, TOOK ON THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE LOVE IN ACTION FOOD PANTRY. PREVIOUSLY, THE CLOSEST FOOD PANTRY WAS 30 MILES AWAY, CREATING A HARDSHIP FOR A PERSON IN NEED. THE GROUP SPLIT UP AND COLLECTED MANY CANS AND NONPERISHABLE BOXED ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

CONGRATULATIONS RAVENNA!

THE NEXT SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORY IS PARKS, RECREATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS. **(SLIDE)**

IN **CLASS I**, THE AWARD GOES TO **PILGER**. **(SLIDE)** WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM **PILGER** PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

**(PILGER POOL PROJECT)**

THE PILGER POOL PROJECT WAS THE DREAM OF ONE CITIZEN OVER 10 YEARS AGO. **(SLIDE)** THE TOTAL PROJECT INCLUDED RAISING FUNDS, WRITING GRANTS, PASSING A SPECIAL BOND, AND HOLDING A NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND CULMINATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL POOL FOR THE PIGLER AREA. THE PROJECT INVOLVED THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT, VILLAGE EMPLOYEE HOURS, AND BOARD DIRECTION.

CONGRATULATION PILGER ON THIS PROJECT AWARD!

THE WINNER IN **CLASS II IS HARTINGTON**. **(SLIDE)** HARTINGTON IS ALSO THE CLASS II WINNER IN TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT. WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM HARTINGTON PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

**(FELBER PARK AND COMMUNITY COMPLEX ENHANCEMENTS)**

**(SLIDE)** WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS, HARTINGTON WAS ABLE TO MAKE SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS TO FELBER PARK AND THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX. IN THE PARK, A NEW FLAG POLE, GARDEN, WELCOME SIGN, WATER FOUNTAIN, AND ARCHWAYS ACROSS THE ENTRANCE WERE ADDED AS WELL AS RENOVATIONS TO THE BASEBALL FIELD

COMPLETED. IN THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX, NEW DUGGOUTS, FENCING, AND LANDSCAPING WERE IMPLEMENTED.

**(HARTINGTON Q125: A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS)**

**(SLIDE)** HARTINGTON'S QUASQUICENTENNIAL WAS A CELEBRATION TO COMMEMORATE AND HIGHLIGHT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S PAST AND PRESENT. THEY WANTED THE ALUMNI TO RETURN, TO ATTRACT VISITORS, AND TO CELEBRATE WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. IT WAS A DOWN HOME, FEEL GOOD, GRASSROOTS CELEBRATION THAT CENTERED ON FAMILIES HAVING FUN TOGETHER.

GOOD JOB HARTINGTON!

THE **CLASS III** AWARD WINNER IS **SEWARD**. **(SLIDE)** SEWARD WAS ALSO NAMED THE WINNER IN TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT. WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEWARD PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

**(ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS 2008)**

**(SLIDE)** SEWARD HAD BIG IDEAS FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OF 2008. AMONG THESE PLANS INCLUDED THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP DAY, RECYCLING EFFORTS, AND NINE OTHER PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY

SEWARD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL. THANKS TO NUMEROUS VOLUNTEERS, THESE PROJECTS WERE ALL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED!

**(TOURISM)**

SEWARD IS KNOWN AS THE “FOURTH OF JULY CITY, SMALL TOWN, USA”, BUT IT ALSO HAS MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES AND TOURIST DESTINATIONS TO OFFER.

**(SLIDE)** THE TOWN CONDUCTED A SURVEY TO REALIZE WHAT IT NEEDED TO MARKET. ONCE IDEAS WERE STIMULATED, A BROCHURE AND PLACEMAT WERE CREATED MARKETING THE AREA AND GIVING PROSPECTIVE TOURISTS A MAP OF THE COMMUNITY. AMONG THE ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED WERE THE “PLUM CREEK CHILDREN’S LITERACY FESTIVAL,” THE “RIDGE ROAD DRIVE,” AND THE “BARTELS ROCK AND MINERAL MUSEUM.”

CONGRATULATIONS SEWARD ON ALL OF YOUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

THE CLASS IV AWARD WINNER IS SCOTTSBLUFF/GERING. **(SLIDE)** WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCOTTSBLUFF AND GERING PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

**(EARTH DAY CELEBRATION)**

**(SLIDE)** THE CITIES OF SCOTTSBLUFF AND GERING CAME TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEEP SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING BEAUTIFUL TO PROVIDE AN

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION IN WHICH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY COULD PARTICIPATE. THE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION WOULD OFFER THE ABILITY TO RECYCLE AND ALSO LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY IDEAS TO HELP WITH ISSUES CONCERNING RECYCLING, WASTE REDUCTION, AND BEAUTIFICATION.

CONGRATULATIONS SCOTTSBLUFF AND GERING ON THIS AWARD!

THE NEXT SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORY IS TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PLANNING. **(SLIDE)**

THE WINNER IN **CLASS I IS PETERSBURG.** **(SLIDE)** PETERSBURG IS ALSO THE WINNER IN BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT. WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM PETERSBURG PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

**(IMPROVEMENTS OF WATER, SEWER, & STREETS)**

PETERSBURG NEEDED TO UPGRADE ITS WATER SYSTEM. **(SLIDE)** AFTER PROFESSIONAL INSPECTIONS, THE WATER TANK WAS CLEANED INSIDE, SAND BLASTED, AND NEWLY PAINTED. A NEW SEWER WATER PUMP WAS INSTALLED WITH A FLOW METER. TEN NEW METERS WERE ADDED IN A CONTINUING UPGRADE PROJECT. LAND WAS CLEARED AND LEVELED NEXT TO THE FIRE STATION SO WATER LINES COULD BE PLACED IN FOR THE NEW ADDITION.

**(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH FOR PETERSBURG)**

PETERSBURG HAS BEEN CONTINUING TO IMPROVE ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. **(SLIDE)** FIVE BUSINESSES ON MAINSTREET HAVE DONE EXTENSIVE REMODELING AND EXPANSION. THE LOCKER PLANT WAS BOUGHT BY FIVE LOCAL INVESTORS AND RE-SOLD AS A PORK PROCESSING PLANT AND GROUND WAS BROKEN FOR A NEW FIRE HALL. LOTS WERE PURCHASED FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN IRRIGATION BUSINESS AND A FARM MACHINERY AND REPAIR BUSINESS EXPANSION.

CONGRATULATIONS PETERSBURG ON YOUR SUCCESS IN THE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY!

IN **CLASS II**, THE WINNER IN TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PLANNING IS **WISNER**. **(SLIDE)** WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM WISNER PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT)**

FIVE BLOCKS OF THE MAIN STREET IN DOWNTOWN WISNER WERE IMPROVED AND READIED FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT. **(SLIDE)** THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT WAS TO REPLACE WATER LINES, SOME OF WHICH WERE OVER 50 YEARS OLD. THEY ALSO REPLACED THE EXISTING STREET LIGHTS, UPDATED

SIDEWALKS AND BUSINESS ENTRIES TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT, AND IMPROVED THE OVERALL IMAGE TO ENCOURAGE LOCALS TO SHOP IN WISNER AND FRIENDLY GUESTS TO STOP WHEN DRIVING THROUGH TOWN.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WISNER ON THIS GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT!

IN **CLASS IV**, THE WINNER FOR TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PLANNING IS **DAWSON COUNTY**. **(SLIDE)** DAWSON COUNTY ALSO RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN CLASS IV. WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM DAWSON COUNTY PLEASE STAND AND RECEIVE YOUR AWARDS?

**(DAWSON AREA HOUSING MARKET STUDY)**

IN NOVEMBER OF 2006, COMMUNITIES IN DAWSON COUNTY JOINED FORCES TO CONDUCT A DAWSON COUNTY AREA HOUSING MARKET STUDY. **(SLIDE)** THE STUDY IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA, THE DEMAND FOR NEW HOUSING, LAND REQUIREMENTS, AVAILABLE TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND HOUSING PRIORITIES FOR EACH COMMUNITY. UPON COMPLETION OF THE FINAL PLAN, AN AREA HOUSING FAIR WAS HELD WITH ALL COMMUNITIES HOSTING HOUSING DEVELOPERS, FUNDING AGENCIES, CONTRACTORS, AND LOCAL BANKS.

**(WWW.DAWSONCOUNTYCAREERS.COM)**

**(SLIDE)** IN NOVEMBER OF 2007, DAWSON AREA DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCATING FOR BUSINESS LABOR EDUCATION (ABLE) LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN RESIDENTS TO THE DAWSON AREA. POSTED ON THE WEBSITE ARE SUCCESS STORIES, BUSINESS PROFILES, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, HOUSING, AND MEDICAL INFORMATION, AND MUCH MORE. INDIVIDUALS CAN ALSO POST A RESUME AND UPDATE ALUMNI INFORMATION. THE SITE AVERAGES ABOUT 80-100 JOBS AT ALL TIMES.

CONGRATULATIONS DAWSON COUNTY!

THE AWARDS FOR ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES WILL BE PRESENTED NEXT. **(SLIDE)**

THE FIRST WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED IS IN **CLASS I**. WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM **BASSETT** **(SLIDE)** PLEASE STAND AND RECEIVE YOUR AWARD?

**(CEMETERY DIRECTORY KIOSK)**

THE CEMETERY DIRECTORY KIOSK IN BASSETT WAS INSPIRED BY A 100 YEAR RESIDENT OF ROCK COUNTY, ELMER SWANSON. **(SLIDE)** AFTER VISITING

MANY CEMETERIES IN HIS LATER YEARS, SWANSON NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ALL CEMETERIES HAD A DIRECTORY AVAILABLE. AFTER HIS DEATH IN 2006, HIS FAMILY CONCLUDED THAT SUCH A MAP WOULD BE A FITTING MEMORIAL FOR THEIR FATHER. THE CEMETERY DIRECTORY AND MAP ARE PROTECTED BY A GAZEBO-TYPE STRUCTURE INCLUDING TWO MEDITATION BENCHES.

EXCELLENT IDEA BASSET AND GREAT FOLLOW THROUGH!

THE SPECIAL AWARD WINNER FOR **CLASS II** IS STOMSBURG. **(SLIDE)** WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM STROMSBURG PLEASE STAND?

**(“FOR THE RECORD” RECORDINGS OF VETERANS’ STORIES)**

**(SLIDE)** AS A FORM OF RECOGNITION AND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS, THE STOMSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LEGION POST #132 CREATED “FOR THE RECORD”—RECORDINGS OF VETERANS’ STORIES. VOLUNTEERS FILMED THE SERVICE STORIES OF WWII, KOREAN, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND GAVE EACH VETERAN A COPY FOR THEIR PERSONAL FAMILY RECORD. THE RECORDINGS WERE THEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT THE STOMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY. A TOTAL OF 73 MEMOIRS WERE DOCUMENTED.

CONGRATULATIONS STROMSBURG ON AN EXCELLENT PROJECT!

IN CLASS III, THE AWARD GOES TO SOUTH SIOUX CITY. (SLIDE) SOUTH SIOUX CITY ALSO RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN CLASS III. WILL THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOUTH SIOUX CITY STAND TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARD?

**(THE WALL THAT HEALS IN SIOUXLAND)**

(SLIDE) SOUTH SIOUX CITY HAS A LONG TRADITION OF HONORING THE LOCAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY. IN AN EFFORT TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED, THE CITY APPLIED TO BRING IN THE WALL THAT HEALS, THE TRAVELING HALF-SCALE REPLICAS OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL. NEARLY 12,000 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAME TO SEE THE EXHIBIT AND PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTES.

**(21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING)**

(SLIDE) SOUTH SIOUX CITY IDENTIFIED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SKILL SETS REQUIRED BY STUDENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WORKPLACE. A SERIES OF COMMUNITY FORUMS WERE CONDUCTED, DISCUSSING THE CHANGES THAT NEEDED TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND HOW LOCAL BUSINESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION COULD PARTNER WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL TO GIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES A FULL COMPLEMENT OF CAREER OPTIONS AFTER GRADUATION.

CONGRATULATIONS SOUTH SIOUX CITY ON ALL OF YOUR PROJECTS!

MOVING ON, WE WILL NOW PRESENT THE AWARD WINNERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICES. **(SLIDE)**

IN **CLASS I**, OUR AWARD GOES TO **POTTER**. **(SLIDE)** WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD?

**(POTTER-DIX EARLY LEARNING FACILITY)**

**(SLIDE)** AFTER THE ONLY DAY CARE PROVIDER IN THE POTTER AREA GAVE NOTICE OF HER DEPARTURE FROM THE FIELD, SEVERAL PARENTS IN THE COMMUNITY WERE IN DESPERATE NEED OF A CHILD CARE FACILITY. IN RESPONSE, THE POTTER-DIX EARLY LEARNING FACILITY WAS ESTABLISHED IN TWO EMPTY CLASSROOMS AT THE LOCAL SCHOOL. CHILDREN ATTENDING THIS FACILITY RECEIVE A PRESCHOOL EDUCATION THAT IMPROVES THEIR LITERACY SKILLS AND PREPARES THEM FOR SCHOOL IN THE FUTURE.

CONGRATULATIONS POTTER!

THE **CLASS II** AWARD WINNER IN PUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES IS **LOUP CITY**.

**(SLIDE)** WOULD THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOUP CITY PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(PARENTAL INVOLVMENT PROGRAM AT LOUP CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS)**

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AT THE LOUP CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS KEY TO ITS SUCCESS. **(SLIDE)** PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND SESSIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL. PARENT SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED ON VARIOUS ASPECTS CONCERNING THE YOUTH. A CENTERPOINT STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM ALLOWS PARENTS TO OBTAIN GRADE INFORMATION, ASSIGNMENTS, AND LESSON PLANS. PARENTS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO EAT LUNCH WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEER AT LEAST ONCE A QUARTER IN THE SCHOOL.

CONGRATULATIONS LOUP CITY ON THIS FINE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

IN **CLASS III**, THE AWARD GOES TO **NEBRASKA CITY**. **(SLIDE)** WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEBRASKA CITY PLEASE STAND?

**(GROWING GREATER KIDS IN SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA)**

**(SLIDE)** GROWING GREATER KIDS IN SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA IS A FREE, VOLUNTARY PROGRAM THAT WORKS WITH WOMEN AND FAMILIES WHO ARE EXPECTING OR HAVE NEWBORN BABIES. A REGISTERED NURSE PROVIDES HOME VISITS TO THE FAMILIES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO COMPREHENSIVELY IMPLEMENT A SUPPORTIVE PARENTING PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA CITY AND THE SURROUNDING RURAL AREAS.

CONGRATULATIONS NEBRASKA CITY!

NEXT, WE WILL PRESENT OUR SPECIAL AWARDS IN THE CATEGORY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. **(SLIDE)**

THE AWARD WINNER IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR **CLASS II IS KIMBALL.** **(SLIDE)** WILL THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM KIMBALL PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

**(KIMBALL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP)**

**(SLIDE)** KNOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, THE KIMBALL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION DEVELOPED THE NEW HEALTHCARE CAREER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS WITH UP TO \$2,000 A YEAR TO STUDY IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. UPON GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE, THESE STUDENTS HAVE

AGREED TO WORK ONE YEAR AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF KIMBALL HEALTH SERVICES OR ANOTHER HOSPITAL IN THE RURAL NEBRASKA HEALTH NETWORK FOR EACH YEAR OF SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT.

CONGRATULATIONS KIMBALL!

THE NEXT SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORY WE WILL PRESENT IS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT. **(SLIDE)**

IN THE SAME CATEGORY FOR **CLASS II**, THE WINNER IS **AINSWORTH**. **(SLIDE)**

WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AINSWORTH PLEASE STAND?

**(BUILDING OUR FUTURE ONE BUSINESS AT A TIME)**

**(SLIDE)** AINSWORTH BELIEVES THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS A COMMUNITY THAT REFUSES TO STAND STILL. NINETEEN GOALS OF GROWING OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMUNITY. THE AINSWORTH VITALIZATION COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN SEVERAL ACTIONS TOWARD BUILDING A STRONG BUSINESS FUTURE INCLUDING GATHERING FUNDS, RAISING AWARENESS, AND CONDUCTING SURVEYS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OF AINSWORTH!

IN CLASS VI, THE AWARD WINNER FOR BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IS VALLEY COUNTY. **(SLIDE)** GARFIELD & VALLEY COUNTY ALSO WON THE AWARD FOR TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS CLASS. WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VALLEY COUNTY AND GARFIELD COUNTY PLEASE STAND?

**(VCED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT)**

**(SLIDE)** THE VALLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD INITIATED A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON THE RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES, ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES, ASSISTING ENTREPRENEURS, RETAINING YOUTH, AND CREATING JOBS WHILE PRESERVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN VALLEY COUNTY. AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT, VALLEY COUNTY HAS BEGUN TO FOCUS ON YOUTH RETENTION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

**(LOUP RIVER VALLEY TOURISM COALITION MARKETING CAMPAIGN)**

**(SLIDE)** THE BURWELL AND ORD CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALONG WITH THE GARFIELD AND VALLEY COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU MADE A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PARTNER AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL TOURISM COALITION FOR THE TWO COUNTY AREA. **(SLIDE)** A MAJOR GOAL WAS TO DESIGN A TOURISM PUBLICATION TITLED “ESCAPE TO CALAMUS AND SCENIC LOUP RIVER VALLEY NEBRASKA”. THE SECOND GOAL WAS TO DEVELOP A

REGIONAL MARKETING PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAVELERS VISITING THE AREA.

CONGRATULATIONS VALLEY COUNTY AND GARFIELD COUNTY ON YOUR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

**(SLIDE)** THIS CONCLUDES OUR PRESENTATION OF THE SPECIAL AWARDS. CONGRATULATIONS TO, NOT ONLY ALL OF THE AWARD WINNERS, BUT ALSO TO EVERY COMMUNITY WHO SUBMITTED A SPECIAL AWARD. YOUR WORK TO BETTER NEBRASKA IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

## **VI. FOUNDERS AWARD**

**(SLIDE)** THE NEXT AWARD IS THE FOUNDERS AWARD. THE AWARD RECOGNIZES ONE OUTSTANDING INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT IN NEBRASKA.

THE FOUNDERS AWARD HONORS DAVID OSTERHOUT AND DAVID CARSON WHO FOUNDED THE NEBRASKA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN 1963. THESE TWO HAD A COMBINED BACKGROUND BETWEEN THE THEN DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND A UTILITY COMPANY CALLED NORTHERN NATURAL GAS. DAVID OSTERHOUT ENCOURAGED THEN GOVERNOR FRANK MORRISON

TO CREATE SOME TYPE OF BROAD-BASED COMMUNITY BETTERMENT PROGRAM TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STATE'S ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NCIP BECAME PART OF A NEW STATE AGENCY DIVISION CREATED IN 1967, THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE WINNER OF THE FOUNDERS AWARD GOES TO... **(SLIDE)** THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF LAUREL-CONCORD, NEWCASTLE, COLERDIGE & WYNOT. WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM THESE COMMUNITIES PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

FOUR COMMUNITIES IN NORTHEAST NEBRASKA HAVE PARTNERED TO FORM A UNIQUE, NEW RELATIONSHIP. THESE FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS BEGAN BY CONTRACTING INNOVATION LABS TO FACILITATE A JOINT SCHOOL/COMMUNITY WORKSHOP TO REVIEW PROGRAM OPTIONS, REVENUE, AND EXPENDITURE PROJECTS. FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOPS, THE STAFF WAS PRESENTED THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING QUALITY SHARED PROGRAMS, REDUCING BUDGETS AND INCREASING EFFICIENCY TO HELP OFFSET STATE AID DECREASES. THE SCHOOLS OFFER MORE THAN 70 DISTANCE EDUCATION CLASSES TO SCHOOLS ACROSS NEBRASKA AND HAVE PROVIDED MORE RESOURCES AND CLASS OFFERINGS WITHOUT ADDING COSTS. THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION, COMMITMENT AND TRUST DEMONSTRATED IN

THESE FOUR DISTRICTS IS UNIQUE. THE SCHOOLS ARE SHARING STAFF AND USING DISTANCE EDUCATION TO CUT COSTS. THE SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO BE A CONERSTONE IN EACH COMMUNITY THANKS TO THIS UNDERTAKING.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTITIES WHO PARTNERED TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS!

NEXT, WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE **(SLIDE)**. THIS YEAR, A \$200 CASH AWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH AWARD WINNER. THE FUNDS FOR THESE AWARDS ARE A RESULT OF THE MONEY RAISED AT LAST YEARS NCIP SILENT ACTION, MONEY BEING PUT TO GOOD USE!

## **VII. YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

**(SLIDE)**. AT THIS TIME WOULD THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2008 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PLEASE STAND AS YOUR NAME IS READ: NATHAN BUSS, KYLE KLAMMER, BRIDGET SCHERBARTH, CHRISTINA RICE, JERUD BANZHAF, NEIL DEVORSS, KEVIN RIPP, MEGAN ROTEHERHAM, MICHAEL DIJACK, JESSICA LAHRS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

OF YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITIES.

THE CLASS I INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AWARD GOES TO...KEVIN RIPP **(SLIDE)** FROM PLEASANTON. KEVIN, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD.

**(SLIDE)** KEVIN'S VERSATILITY, COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND DEDICATION MAKE HIM AN INVALUABLE LEADER IN PLEASANTON. HE HAS EMPOWERED THE YOUTH OF HIS COMMUNITY TO BECOME ACTIVE IN SEVERAL NEW AND INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AND WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ENCOURAGING THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANTON TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NCIP BY ATTENDING A VILLAGE TRUSTEES MEETING AND REQUESTING A RESOLUTION BE PASSED. KEVIN HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FBLA AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONVINCING SEVERAL COMMUNITY GROUPS TO COME TOGETHER TO SAVE THE TOWN'S 1890 UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT. HE ASSISTED IN WRITING AND RECEIVING A \$174,000 GRANT FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, AND THEN WENT TO WORK RAISING THE NEEDED MATCHING FUNDS. THIS PROJECT IS JUST ONE IN A HANDFUL OF PROJECTS KEVIN HAS SPEARHEADED AND WE ARE SURE THERE ARE MANY MORE YET TO COME!

CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN!

THE CLASS II INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AWARD GOES TO...CHRISTINA RICE (SLIDE)  
FROM RAVENNA, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD.

(SLIDE) CHRISTINA RICE ATTENDED RAVENNA HIGH SCHOOL FOR HER FIRST THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL AND WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE COMMUNITY WAS DEEPLY SADDENED WHEN THE FAMILY MOVED TO KEARNEY FOR HER SENIOR YEAR AS SHE WAS A GREAT LEADER FOR ALL YOUTH IN RAVENNA. CHRISTINA SERVED AS CLASS TREASURER, CLASS PRESIDENT, AN HONOR ROLL STUDENT, A MEMBER OF THE SPEECH TEAM, A MEMBER OF THE PEP BAND, AN FBLA OFFICER, A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD AND BUFFALO COUNTY YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD, AND ALSO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL, AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS. ONE OF CHRISTINA'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS IN RAVENNA WAS STARTING A FOOD PANTRY FOR THE COMMUNITY OF RAVENNA. SHE ORGANIZED THE FUNDRAISING AND PERSONALLY WENT DOOR-TO-DOOR TO COLLECT FOOD TO GET THE PROJECT STARTED. IT HAS NOW TURNED INTO A WHOLE COMMUNITY PROJECT. AS SOMEONE IN RAVENNA WROTE, OUR LOSS IS KEARNEY'S GAIN!

CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTINA!

THE CLASS III INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AWARD GOES TO...NEIL DEVORSS (SLIDE)  
FROM NEBRASKA CITY. NEIL, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO ACCEPT YOUR  
AWARD.

NEIL IS A YOUNG MAN WITH A MISSION AND PASSION FOR EDUCATING AND  
SERVING YOUTH IN NEBRASKA CITY. NEIL RECENTLY BEGAN HIS FRESHMEN  
YEAR AT SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN LINCOLN. NEIL HAS FOCUSED  
ON INITIATING LEGISLATIVE AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE TO REDUCE THE  
TOLERANCE OF UNDERAGE DRINKING AND ADULTS CONTRIBUTING TO  
MINORS. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS  
AND IS ALREADY BECOMING INVOLVED IN HIS NEW COMMUNITY OF LINCOLN.  
FROM ATHLETIC LETTER WINNER TO OTOE COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
MEMBER, ALSO TESTIFYING BEFORE THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE IN FAVOR  
OF LB 336 TO INCREASE PUNISHMENT OF ALCOHOL SUPPLIES TO YOUTH, NEIL  
HAS STEPPED UP TO BECOME AN ACTIVE LEADER IN NEBRASKA. GIVEN HIS  
SELF-DRIVEN MOTIVATION AND HIS RESPONSIVE CARE AND CONCERN FOR  
HELPING OTHERS, IT IS LIKELY HE WILL CONTINUE ON THIS PATH IN  
WHATEVER CAREER DIRECTION HE CHOOSES

CONGRATULATIONS NEIL!

**(SLIDE)** CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR YOUTH AWARDEES. YOU SHOULD BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KNOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS DO NOT GO UNNOTICED. LET'S GIVE THE 2008 YLOCS NOMINEES AND AWARD WINNERS ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND OUR STATE.

**VIII. (SLIDE) STRETCH BREAK / BANQUET SURVEY**

*(10 MINUTES)*

- ◆ ASK PEOPLE TO STAND UP, STRETCH AND INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO THEIR NEIGHBORS
- ◆ LET PEOPLE KNOW BANQUET SURVEYS ARE BEING HANDED OUT; PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEYS BEFORE LEAVING. SURVEYS CAN BE LEFT AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE IN THE LOBBY BEFORE LEAVING. ALSO, SILENT AUCTION ITEMS WILL BE LISTED AND CAN BE PAID FOR AT THE END OF THE BANQUET.

**THANK NCIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND NCIP AMBASSADORS**

**(SLIDE)** THE NCIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO NCIP AND HELP TO GUIDE THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM. WOULD THE NCIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT PLEASE STAND UP TO BE RECOGNIZED?

## **THANK JUDGES AND ESCORTS**

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO ASSIST IN THE IMPORTANT JOB OF REVIEWING NCIP AWARD NOMINATIONS. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING THE AWARDS BEING PRESENTED THIS EVENING. WOULD ALL OF THE NCIP JUDGES AND ESCORTS THAT ARE IN ATTENDANCE PLEASE STAND UP TO BE RECOGNIZED?

## **THANK BANQUET COORDINATORS AND STAFF**

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THIS EXCITING EVENT. WOULD ALL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF PLEASE STAND UP FOR A ROUND OF APPLAUSE?

IN ADDITION, A SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO THE KEARNEY HOLIDAY INN STAFF, THE KEARNEY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AND EVERYBODY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS YEARS' NCIP AWARDS BANQUET. WE HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING YOURSELVES AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

## **X. COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK ADVANTAGE AWARDS**

**(SLIDE)** IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK ADVANTAGE AWARDS. THE JUDGES LOOKED FOR THE COMMUNITIES THAT DISPLAYED THE

BEST OVERALL EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THEY LOOKED AT ALL ASPECTS OF THE NCIP BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS, INCORPORATING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT QUALITY PROJECTS, VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS. ALL COMMUNITIES COMPLETING A NOTEBOOK SHOULD BE COMMENDED – YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS ASTOUNDING. WHILE THERE ARE ONLY AWARDS FOR FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT EACH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROCESS IS A WINNER AND YOU ARE HELPING TO ENSURE A BRIGHTER TOMORROW FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

### **CLASS I – POPULATIONS 800 AND UNDER**

**(SLIDE)** THE FIRST CATEGORY IS CLASS I, WHICH INCLUDES COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS 800 AND UNDER.

THIRD PLACE IN CLASS I GOES TOO...BASSETT! **(SLIDE)** WOULD A REPRESENTATIVES FROM BASSETT PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

NO STRANGER TO THE WINNERS CIRCLE, BASSETT IS ONCE AGAIN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS EFFORTS. **(SLIDE)** AS THE JUDGES STATED, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE INVOLVEMENT IN NCIP HAS PAID OFF WITH MANY IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE

YEARS. THIS YEAR, YOUTH WORKED TO IMPROVE THE ENTRANCE INTO THE COMMUNITY BY INSTALLING NEW LANDSCAPING AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TURNED THE OLD CREAMERY INTO A DOWNTOWN VISITORS CENTER DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE NUMBER OF AMENITIES AVAILABLE IN THE REGION. ONE UNIQUE EVENT WAS THE RE-CREATION OF THE EASTER STORY USING LOCAL SCENES AND VOLUNTEERS THAT WAS TRULY AN AWE-INSPIRING EVENT FOR ALL INVOLVED.

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN, BASSETT!

SECOND PLACE IN CLASS I IS AWARDED TO **POTTER!** (SLIDE) WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM POTTER PLEASE RISE?

POTTER PROVES IT IS A GREEN AND GROWING COMMUNITY WITH SEVERAL UNIQUE PROJECTS. (SLIDE) AFTER STATISTICS SHOWED NEARLY 57,000 VEHICLES DRIVE BY POTTER WEEKLY, THE COMMUNITY WORKED TO CONSTRUCT A ROADSIDE SIGN ON INTERSTATE 80 TO ADVERTISE THE DOWNTOWN AND PROMOTE TOURISM IN THE COMMUNITY – A HUGE TASK WHEN DEALING WITH FEDERAL HIGHWAY GUIDELINES. ANOTHER AMAZING FEAT, THE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL WORKED TO CREATE THE POTTER-DIX EARLY LEARNING FACILITY AFTER THE ONLY DAYCARE PROVIDER IN POTTER CLOSED ITS DOORS. THE CENTER CURRENTLY HOSTS NEARLY 30 CHILDREN

EACH DAY. THE JUDGES LOVED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THOSE INVOLVED AND HOPE EVERYONE CAN VISIT POTTER FOR A FUN TIME!

GREAT JOB POTTER!

THE FIRST PLACE WINNER IN **CLASS I IS FARNAM!** **(SLIDE)** WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM BASSETT PLEASE STAND TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD?

AS A LONG-TIME NCIP PARTICIPANT, THE RESIDENTS OF FARNAM CONTINUE TO PUSH FORWARD! THE COMMUNITY UTILIZED A TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING. **(SLIDE)** THE CITY WAS ALSO ABLE TO OPEN A NEW LIBRARY WHEN IT PURCHASED THE OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING FROM EUSTIS-FARNAM SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE BUILDING WAS MOVED DOWNTOWN AND MORE THAN DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE PREVIOUS LIBRARY. MOST IMPRESSIVE WAS THE YOUTH COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP THAT CONTINUES TO SHAPE FUTURE COMMUNITY LEAERS. THE JUDGES NOTED THIS IS A COMMUNITY TO BE PROUD OF AND WE ARE ALL PROUD OF YOU TONIGHT!

CONGRATULATIONS FARNAM!

## CLASS II—POPULATIONS 801-5000

**(SLIDE)** THE NEXT JUDGING CATEGORY IS CLASS II, WHICH INCLUDES COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 801 AND 5000. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ENTRANTS IN POPULATION CLASS II, THIS SECTION WAS SPLIT INTO CLASS IIA AND IIB. WE'LL START WITH CLASS IIA, POPULATION OF 801-1,700.

IN CLASS IIA, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK REPRESENTATIVES FROM **HARTINGTON**

**(SLIDE)** TO PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

IT WAS A SPECTACULAR YEAR IN HARTINGTON WITH THE Q125 BRINGING CREATING QUITE THE BUZZ IN THE AREA! **(SLIDE)** SEVERAL COMMITTEES WERE SET UP TO HOSTS EVENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CELEBRATION, INCLUDING: A STEAK FRY CONTEST, OUTHOUSE RACES, A BEARD CONTEST, AND MORE! THE CITY ALSO TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RE-DESIGN THE COMMUNITY WEBSITE AND APPLY FOR A BECA GRANT WITH FORDYCE TO INVITE ALUMNI TO RETURN TO THE Q125 AND LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO RELOCATE TO HARTINGTON. HARTINGTON ALSO BECAME ONE OF THE JUST 4 COMMUNITIES IN NEBRASKA WITH A DRIVE IN MOVIE EXPERIENCE WHEN THE HARTINGTON LEAP YOUTH GROUP SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED A DRIVE IN MOVIE THEATRE AT THE LOCAL FAIR GROUNDS. THE LEAP GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE

FOR APPLYING FOR STATE TAX CREDITS, MAKING CALLS FOR DONATIONS, DECIDING ON INVENTORY AND PRICING, AS WELL AS SCHEDULING THE EVENTS. AS ITS MOTTO STATES, OMAHAHARTINGTON TRULY IS A GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME!

GREAT JOB HARTINGTON AND CONGRATULATIONS ON AN AWARD WINNING YEAR!!!

SECOND PLACE IN CLASS IIA GOES TO...**SCRIBNER!** **(SLIDE)** WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCRIBNER PLEASE RISE?

SCRIBNER HAS WORKED HARD TO CREATE A SECOND-TO-NONE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS. **(SLIDE)** THIS PAST YEAR, A TEEN DANCE AND EASTER EGG HUNT WERE HELD TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUTH. ALSO, A HAUNTED HOUSE WAS CREATED TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE OF ALL AGES DURING THE HALLOWEEN SEASON. ONE UNIQUE EVENT IS “STEPPIN IT UP IN SCRIBNER” WHERE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A 15 MINUTE WALK IN THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLNESS. THIS WELLNESS THEME TIES INTO THE EFFORTS CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN TO BUILD A NEW \$800,000 YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX, RV CAMPING AREA, AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RESIDENTS IN SCRIBNER!

THE FIRST PLACE AWARD IN **CLASS IIA** GOES TO...**LAUREL!** **(SLIDE)** WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM LAUREL PLEASE STAND TO BE RECONGIZED?

TAKING HOME THE FIRST PLACE PLAQUE IN ITS POPULATION CLASS FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, LAUREL WORKED HARD TO CONTINUE TO GROW THIS YEAR. **(SLIDE)** STUDENTS IN THE LAUREL-CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORKED TO MARKET THE LOCAL RECYCLING CENTER BY CREATING BROCHURES AND EVEN CREATING A VIDEO ABOUT THE RECYCLING CENTER AND POSTING IT ON YOUTUBE. ALSO, THE CITIES OF LAUREL, WAYNE AND HARTINGTON, ALONG WITH PROVIDENCE MEDIAL CENTER, USDA AND CEDAR-KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT PARTICIPATED IN A JOINT VENTURE TO DEVELOP AN OUTREACH THERAPY DEPARTMENT IN LAUREL. THE JUDGES WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AND COMMUNITY.

WAY TO GO LAUREL! CONGRATULATIONS.

WE WILL NOW MOVE ON TO THE SECOND TIER IN CLASS II – POPULATIONS OF 1,701 TO 5,000.

IN CLASS IIB, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK REPRESENTATIVES FROM AINSWORTH  
**(SLIDE)** TO PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

AINSWORTH FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP AT ALL AGES. **(SLIDE)** SEVEARL  
COMMUNITY BOARDS HAVE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND THE YOUTH  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FORCE IS A STUDENT LED GROUP OF HIGH  
SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT STRIVE TO DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE  
COMMUNITY TO BECOME A MORE DESIREABLE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.  
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE YOUTH GROUP INCLUDE STARTING A YOUTH  
SOCCER PROGRAM AND A BUDDY MENTORING PROGRAM. THE COMMUNITY  
ALSO PULLED TOGETHER TO PASS LB840 CITY SALES TAX FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL BE USED TO FUND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

GREAT JOB AINSWORTH AND CONGRATULATIONS ON AN AWARD WINNING  
YEAR!!!

SECOND PLACE IN CLASS IIB GOES TO...**WAHOO!** **(SLIDE)** WOULD  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCRIBNER PLEASE RISE?

WAHOO'S THIRD YEAR IN THE NCIP PROGRAM SINCE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
1960S CONTINUES TO BE FILLED WITH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES GEARED  
TOWARD SERVING AND DEVELOPING PEOPLE. **(SLIDE)** THIS YEAR LARGELY

FOCUSED ON PEOPLE PROJECTS – PROJECTS DESIGNED TO FOCUS ON BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE LOCAL SCHOOLS JOINED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA TO IMPLEMENT THE PRICELESS PRE-TEEN PROGRAM TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS. ALSO, A SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WAS HOSTED FOR CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE. THE WAHOO CIVIC CENTER ALSO HOSTS A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, ADULTS AND SENIORS. WAHOO IS SERIOUS WHEN IT COMES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WE ARE NOT KIDDING AROUND WHEN IT COMES TO SAYING WAHOO HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RESIDENTS IN WAHOO!

THE FIRST PLACE AWARD IN **CLASS IIB** GOES TO...**IMPERIAL!** **(SLIDE)** WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM IMPERIAL PLEASE STAND TO BE RECONGIZED?

SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED IN IMPERIAL TO INCREASE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS. **(SLIDE)** VOLUNTEERS IN IMPERIAL RAISED MORE THAN \$10,000 DOLLARS TO PURCAHSE NEW SEATS FOR THE LOCAL CITY-OWNED MOVIE THEATRE, “THE IMPERIAL.” ALSO, THE COMMUNITY PASSED A CITY SALES TAX TO FUND A NEW SPORTS COMPLEX THAT WOULD REPLACE THE OUTDATED POOL AND ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD AND TRACK. DUE TO THE COOPERATION OF THE CITY OF

IMPERIAL AND CHASE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE PROJECT SAVED NEARLY 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING COSTS. THIS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WAS JUST ONE OF MANY REASONS THE JUDGES WERE WOW-ED BY IMPERIAL!

WAY TO GO IMPERIAL! CONGRATULATIONS.

### **CLASS III – POPULATIONS 5,001-AND UP**

**(SLIDE)** THE NEXT JUDGING CATEGORY IS CLASS III. CLASS III INCLUDES COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 5001 AND GREATER.

IN THIRD PLACE, WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM PAPIILLION **(SLIDE)** PLEASE STAND?

PAPIILLION SHOWED THE JUDGES JUST WHY MONEY MAGAZINE NAMED THEM ONE OF THE TOP 10 CITIES IN AMERICA AND ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE. RECENTLY, CITY OFFICIALS UNVEILED THE MAYOR’S HOTLINE TO ADDRESS RESIDENTS’ QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. **(SLIDE)** THE CITY CONTINUES TO WORK TO INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE BY IMPROVING LAKE HALLECK’S RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY ADDING SIGNAGE AND A WALKING TRAIL

AND BY RAISING NEARLY \$2 MILLION FROM 400 DONORS TO COMPLETE AN OUTDOOR THEATER THAT SEATS 350 PERSONS.

CONGRATULATIONS PAPIILLION ON ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!

SECOND PLACE IN CLASS III IS AWARDED TO...**SOUTH SIOUX CITY (SLIDE)**

WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOUTH SIOUX CITY PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

SOUTH SIOUX CITY CONTINUES TO LIVE BY ITS CARDINAL RULE: QUALITY OF LIFE. **(SLIDE)** THE CITY AND SCHOOL WORKED TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING – EQUIPPING STUDENTS WITH GLOBAL WORKSKILL SETS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WORKPLACE. THE NEW PROJECT HAS INCREASED THE PRESENCE OF BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS OF STUDY WHICH WILL ASSIST STUDENTS IN CARRER DECISIONS. ALSO IN THE COMMUNITY, CARDINAL CONNECTIONS HAS CREATED PARTNERS THAT WORK TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES, CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE, DRUG ABUSE AND PROMOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – ONE OF ONLY NINETEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE NATION TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM. SOUTH SIOUX CITY’S SUCCESS LIST COULD GO ON AND ON!

CONGRATULATIONS SOUTH SIOUX CITY!

THE FIRST PLACE AWARD IN **CLASS III** IS PRESENTED TO...**ALLIANCE!** (SLIDE)

WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALLIANCE PLEASE STAND?

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF ALLIANCE. (SLIDE) THERE ARE OVER 200 ORGANIZATIONS IN ALLIANCE AND MORE THAN 115 INDIVIDUALS SERVING ON ADVISORY BOARDS. THE LOCAL RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY AS AN AVERAGE OF 400 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS SERVED MORE THAN 65,000 HOURS, INCLUDING FOUR INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE NOMINATED FOR AND AWARDED A PRESIDENTAL LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD. VOLUTNEERS ALSO WORKED TO HOST THE BOX BUTTE COUNTY HEALTH FAIR, WHICH HOSTS MORE THAN 50 BOOTHS THAT PROMOTE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE. ONE UNIQUE PROJECT WAS THE READ FOR A RIDE PROJECT WHERE STUDENTS LOGGED THE NUMBER OF BOOKS READ AND RECEIVED RIDE TICKETS FOR THE LOCAL CARNIVAL BASED ON THE NUMBER OF BOOKS COMPLETED.

CONGRATULATIONS ALLIANCE - NCIP CLASS III WINNER!!

## CLASS VI—MULTI-COMMUNITY

**(SLIDE)** NEXT WE HAVE THE MULTI-COMMUNITY CATEGORY.

SECOND PLACE FOR THE **MULTI-COMMUNITY** CATEGORY GOES TO THE

**SEWARD COUNTY** **(SLIDE)** WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES PLEASE STAND?

SEWARD COUNTY CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THRU

THE NEWLY CREATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND THE OPEN

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL COMMUNITIES INVOLVED. **(SLIDE)**

OUT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, THE SEWARD COUNTY

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP WAS ALSO CREATED TO ASIST IN THE

RETENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE REGION. THE

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DOES NOT STOP WITH YOUNG ADULTS AS KIDS OF ALL

AGES TAKE ACTIVE ROLES TO PLAN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FESTIVAL THAT HAS

BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH SEWARD. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW

THESE LEADERS CONTINUE TO GROW SEWARD IN THE FUTURE!

GREAT JOB SEWARD COUNTY!

FIRST PLACE IN THE **MULTI-COMMUNITY** CATEGORY IS...**PAWNEE COUNTY!**

**(SLIDE)** WOULD REPRESENTATIVES FROM PAWNEE COUNTY, PLEASE STAND?

AFTER BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION SURVEYS BROUGHT FORTH THE NEEDS OF AREA BUSINESSES, PAWNEE CITY TOOK THE STEPS NEEDED TO PASS LB840 CITY SALES TAX FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO RAISE THE FUNDS NEEDED TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. **(SLIDE)** WHILE THE VOTE FAILED THE FIRST TIME AROUND, THE CITY STUDIED COMMUNITY INPUT AND TRIED AGAIN – THIS TIME PASSING THE BILL SUCCESSFULLY. MORE THEN \$4,500 IS EXPECTED TO BE GAINED EACH MONTH. THESE FUNDS WILL COME IN HANDY AS THE CITY WORKS TO RETAIN AND EXPAND BUSINESSES AND CONTINEUS TO IMPROVE THE WATER MAIN PROJECT. THE AREA CONTINUES TO LOOK AHEAD AT FUTURE GROWTH AND PAWNEE CITY IS WORKING WITH AUBURN TO BRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNIEIS TO EACH COMMUNITY BY PACKAGING A CROWN HOUSING PROJECT APPLICATION. THE TENACITY AND CREATIVE THINKING OF PAWNEE COUNTY LEADERS SHOULD INSPIRE ALL REGIONS TO COLLABORATE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

CONGRATULATION PAWNEE COUNTY FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

**(SLIDE)** AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNERS!

THIS CONCLUDES THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD PORTION OF THE CEREMONY.

## **XI. MARILYN RISTINE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**(SLIDE)** NEXT, WE WILL PRESENT THE MARILYN RISTINE LEADERSHIP AWARD.

THIS AWARD WAS NAMED FOR MARILYN RISTINE (1928-1992) WHO WAS AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER IN GOTHENBURG. SHE IS REMEMBERED FOR HER POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND WONDERFUL STYLE OF INVOLVING OTHERS. THE AWARD WAS CREATED IN 1993 TO RECOGNIZE A LONG TIME, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WHO EXHIBITS MARILYN'S EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. NOMINEES MUST BE UNPAID NCIP VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE SERVED A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS IN NCIP. THIS PERSON SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED OR BROUGHT OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP TO THE ORGANIZATION THAT POSITIVELY AFFECTS LOCAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARILYN'S FAMILY ARE HERE TONIGHT TO PRESENT THE AWARD. WOULD ROSS & CRESSY RISTINE PLEASE COME FORWARD TO PRESENT THE AWARD ALONG WITH LT. GOVERNOR SHEEHY?

THE MARILYN RISTINE LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER IS...**KATHY WORRELL**

**(SLIDE)** FROM AINSWORTH! WOULD KATHY PLEASE COME FORWARD TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD?

KATHY HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE NEBRASKA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SINCE 1991. YEAR AFTER YEAR SHE HAS SHOWN LEADERSHIP IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. SHE HAS SERVED AS THE CHAIRMAN FOR AINSWORTH NCIP AND SPENT MANY HOURS MAKING SURE THE REPORT BOOK GETS SUBMITTED ON TIME. KATHY HAS ALSO PRESENTED AT NCIP CONFERENCES AND HAS SERVED AS AN NCIP JUDGE IN THE PAST. FORMER MAYOR OF AINSWORTH, SID SALZMAN NICKNAMED HER “MRS. NCIP AINSWORTH” BECAUSE OF HER MANY YEARS INVOLVEMENT AND THE MANY AWARDS GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY UNDER HER LEADERSHIP. OUTSIDE OF NCIP, KATHY HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH THE BROWN COUNTY HOSPITAL, THE CATTLEMENS’ BALL, THE NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL, AND PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE PASSING OF LB840 IN THE COMMUNITY. KATHY AND HER HUSBAND, ROD, OPERATE THE AINSWORTH STAR-JOURNAL AND ALSO HAVE TWO GROWN CHILDREN AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN TO ENJOY.

THANK YOU KATHY FOR SHARING YOUR VOLUNTEER SPIRIT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND NCIP, AND FOR SETTING A STANDARD OF LEADERSHIP FOR US ALL TO FOLLOW! CONGRATULATIONS!

## **XII. OTTO G. HOIBERG AWARD**

**(SLIDE)** THE FINAL AWARD OF THE EVENING IS NAMED AFTER DR. OTTO HOIBERG IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA. DR. HOIBERG CONTRIBUTED TO THE PHILOSOPHY, THE THEORY AND THE PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MOST PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IMPACTED BY HIS CONCEPTUALIZATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - MANY ELEMENTS – CHURCHES, BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS – CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER AND CONTRIBUTE THEIR UNIQUE WAYS TO THE SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS.

ONE NCIP COMMUNITY, REGARDLESS OF POPULATION SIZE RECEIVES THE OTTO G. HOIBERG AWARD FOR THE BEST OVERALL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE. THE AWARD FOCUSES ON THE COMMUNITY'S DOCUMENTED SUCCESSES, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND A SHARED VISIONING PROCESS.

**(SLIDE)** THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS FROM EACH OF THE JUDGING CLASSES ARE CONSIDERED FOR THIS AWARD. THE NOMINEES FOR 2008 ARE: **FARNAM, LAUREL, IMPERIAL, ALLIANCE, AND PAWNEE COUNTY.**

AND **THE 2008 NCIP OTTO HOIBERG** AWARD WINNER IS – .....**FARNAM!**

**(SLIDE)** WOULD EVERYONE REPRESENTATING FARNAM PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

ONCE AGAIN, THE TENACITY OF A TINY COMMUNITY SHINES THROUGH AS IT WORKS HARD TO GROW AND DEVELOP. PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE INVOLVED IN FARNAM AND THE COMMUNITY WORKS HARD TO MAKE NEWCOMERS FEEL WELCOME AT THE ANNUAL WELCOME TO FARNAM BANQUET. **(SLIDE)** ACCORDING TO JUDGES, FARNAM WAS A MODEL COMMUNITY FOR NCIP AS IT WORKED FROM THE PLANNING PROCESS TO IMPLEMENTATION TO PROJECT EVALUATION. FARNAM MAY BE TINY, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO GROW AND DEVELOP AND PROVE THEY ARE VIBRANT – A TRUE MODEL FOR ALL OF NEBRASKA!

CONGRATULATIONS TO FARNAM, THE 2008 NCIP OTTO G. HOIBERG WINNER!

THIS CONCLUDES THE AWARDS PORTION OF THE BANQUET.

**XIV. (SLIDE)** ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THIS CONCLUDES THE 44TH ANNUAL NCIP AWARDS BANQUET. DON'T FORGET TO TEAM UP WITH NCIP AND KEARNEY FOR WHAT WILL BE AN EXCITING TIME IN 2009! HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, AND ALWAYS REMEMBER, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE NEBRASKA!

**CONCLUDE NCIP BANQUET**