



# EXECUTIVE

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## 2001 Annual Meeting & Legislative Caucus February 8

### Groundhog Job Shadow Day

**B**eginning February 2, 2001, a major effort to have thousands of workplaces welcome millions of student shadows through their doors will get underway. Job shadowing is an academically motivating educational activity dedicated to giving students an up-close look at the world of work. Throughout the year, Job Shadowing gives kids across the country a chance to "shadow" a workplace mentor as he or she goes through a normal day on the job. The State Chamber annually hosts members of the State's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) during February.

One of the principal sponsors, the American Association of Association Executives, has prepared a comprehensive how-to guide to assist businesses in planning for a shadow event. The Groundhog Job Shadow Day (GJSD) information is available at no cost to help both educators and employers make a worthwhile experience for future employees. For details, contact the ASAE website at [www.asaenet.org/jobshadow](http://www.asaenet.org/jobshadow), email [gjsd@asaenet.org](mailto:gjsd@asaenet.org), or call (202) 626-2734. For more information, contact Don Mihovk at the State Chamber (402) 474-4422. ■

**I**t's time to make plans to attend the State Chamber's Annual Meeting and Legislative Caucus, set for Thursday, February 8, 2001, at the Cornhusker Hotel and Conference Center in Lincoln. A full program will provide Nebraska business people an opportunity to meet with members of the Nebraska Legislature and state policymakers, to celebrate contributions to business by four of Nebraska's business leaders, and to get a first-hand briefing on important legislative issues of concern to the business community.

Late registration will begin in the Atrium of the Cornhusker Hotel at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Board of Directors meeting, scheduled from 10:00 - 11:45 a.m. The traditional Chamber of Commerce Month kickoff luncheon follows at noon.

The afternoon sessions will feature the traditional Legislative Leaders Panel to bring members up to date on key business issues before the 2001 Unicam-

eral. In addition, we will have programs dealing with the state's Target Industry Project regarding economic development, and a report on the state of the state's economy from a vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank. The evening banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m., following the social hour in the Cornhusker Atrium. The banquet will feature the traditional passing of the gavel from 2000 Chairman of the Board **Roy Smith** to 2001 Chairman **Richard Campbell**. The Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony will begin at 8:00 p.m., and the banquet will conclude with closing comments by Chairman Campbell.

This year's inductees into the Business Hall of Fame are: Mr. Charles W. Durham, Durham Resources, Omaha; Mr. Paul C. Mohr, Ideal Linen Supply, Scottsbluff; Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Norfolk Iron & Metal Company, Norfolk; and the late Mr. Joe R. Seacrest, Lincoln Journal, Lincoln.

### NEBRASKA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME NOMINEES FOR 2001

#### **CHARLES DURHAM, Omaha** -

Charles Durham built HDR, Inc. as a nationwide architectural and engineering company and built other companies including Continental Care Centers, two Illinois banks and one independent bank in Omaha, as well as many other investments in Nebraska businesses. A strong supporter of both the University of Ne-



**Charles Durham**

braska at Omaha and Lincoln, he has given substantially in time and funds to the Omaha community, such as the Durham Western Heritage museum and the carillon on the UNO campus.



**Paul Mohr**

**PAUL MOHR, Scottsbluff** - Paul Mohr left a career in professional baseball to return to Scottsbluff and start a laundry and cleaning business that

*(Continued on page 3)*

## State Chamber Views...

by Barry Kennedy  
State Chamber President

# "Learn From The Census"

There are several lessons already surfacing from the national census figures that have been released. As more specific numbers become public, I am sure that even more insight into the movement of people and its causes will become evident.

One of the biggest issues in Nebraska, of course, will be the redrawing of legislative, congressional and other political district boundaries. That will be a major issue in the Unicameral during the months of April and May. Projections are that the Legislature will become more urban, as the population of Nebraska appears to have moved from west to east.

But first, let's take a closer look at what the national figures already released tell us.

Nebraska has grown considerably larger than projected, with a net population gain of nearly 133,000 people over the decade. More than 50,000 people moved into the state than moved out, and it is obvious that more people are deciding to stay in Nebraska for the opportunities that are available.

This past year, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry distributed a publication that explained the benefits of Nebraska's economic development incentives. It pointed out very clearly that the incentives are "performance based" and that they have created jobs and opportunities for working people in Nebraska.

Some have tried to contend that whatever growth there has been, it would have happened anyway. The newly-released census figures are another form of proof that Nebraska businesses are doing a better job of providing work opportunities for its population. With competitive incentives, we will continue to grow.

Why is this important? It appears that at least eight other states will each lose at least one congressional seat in the U.S. Congress because of population losses. Though it was previously rumored that Nebraska could be among those states losing a representative, with the higher than expected growth, we will not lose a seat.

That leads into the second point I

would like to make. The nation is also growing, but the population is shifting to different locations. WHY?

It is always an easy answer to say that people are moving south or west for climate, oceans or mountains, but I think it goes well beyond that. While most states are growing to some extent, people keep moving to regions of the country where economic growth and lower taxes are more likely to be found.

A recent Federal Reserve Board study concluded that "tax rates are negatively related to growth and reasonably explain variations in growth rates." An Ohio University economist estimates "that on average a 1% increase in state and local taxes lowers personal income growth by 3.5%." It should be no surprise then that Texas and Florida both grew by 23% in population during the 1990s; **neither has a state income tax**. It has been calculated that 1,000 people move every day from the 41 states with a state income tax to the nine states without one.

When tax policy is considered, there is both a political and an economic impact. States that respect that impact will continue to grow and prosper while those that ignore it will suffer both economic and population losses. ■

## Lobbyist Reporting Rules Seminar March 19

The State Chamber, in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Accountability & Disclosure, will present a second seminar on current Accountability and Disclosure requirements and procedures regarding lobbying and lobbyist reporting. New changes that took effect last year will affect lobbyists and principals, and new forms will need to be used for the first report that will be due in mid-April. With so many members actively involved in state governmental issues and

legislative affairs, we encourage people who are active in government relations to learn more at this seminar on March 19 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

The cost for the workshop is \$40 for State Chamber members and \$65 for non-members. Frank Daley, Executive Director of the Accountability & Disclosure Commission, will conduct the seminar. A flyer for registration is enclosed in this issue of the *Executive*.

LB1021 passed last year, places a \$50 monthly aggregate cap on gifts from a lobbyist, excluding food and beverages provided for immediate consumption or the occasional provision of transportation within the state. The measure is currently being discussed by the Accountability & Disclosure Commission, and drafts of proposed rules are available. We encourage members with lobbyists and lobbyist members to be aware of the rules and procedures. ■

## Hall of Fame Nominees (Continued from page 1)

covers the Nebraska panhandle and eastern Wyoming. A strong proponent of growth and development in the Scottsbluff-Gering area, he has served on the State Highway Commission and numerous local organizations.

### **MARGARET ROBINSON, Norfolk** - Margaret



**Margaret Robinson**

Robinson is Chairman of the Board of Norfolk Iron & Metal Co. in Norfolk. Mrs. Robinson has led the company since her husband's death in 1974. She helped build the company from a small business with one location and 85 employees to one of the largest steel service centers in the U.S. She received the Small Business of the Year award in 1979, and Norfolk Iron now serves a 10-state area from three locations and a fleet of over 100

trucks. Margaret was the first woman to be elected to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and has served on numerous boards of civic and professional organizations.

### **JOE R. SEACREST, Lincoln, Deceased** - Joe R.



**Joe R. Seacrest**

Seacrest was directly responsible for the growth and development of four daily newspapers in Nebraska to include two in Lincoln, one in North Platte and one in Scottsbluff. Mr. Seacrest had a great influence on many important issues to business in Nebraska. The most significant may have been his influence on the state roads program and the importance of roads for economic development, as

well as support for flood control projects in Lincoln and development of a strong Game and Parks Commission. ■

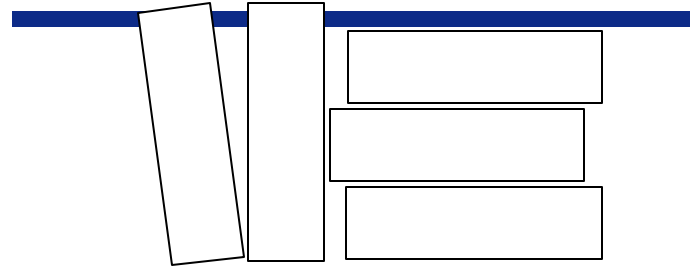
## 2002 Hall of Fame Nominations Requested

March 15, 2001, will be the deadline for nominations for next year's Nebraska Business Hall of Fame. Nominations of outstanding Nebraskans may be sent to the State Chamber office as soon as possible.

Nominees can be either living or deceased individuals who have added to the prestige and growth of business in Nebraska. In addition, a recipient can be someone from large or small businesses and corporations, or anyone who has made a significant contribution to the private enterprise system. Please contact Charlie Volnek, Vice President-Operations, to obtain a Nomination Form. ■

## Dues Deductibility

Your 2001 dues to the State chamber may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business deduction. However, a portion of dues is not deductible to the extent that the State Chamber engages in state and federal lobbying. Because of those stipulations, 50 percent of your dues may be deductible. The Budget Act of 1993 mandated that chambers of commerce and other organizations that lobby on the state and federal level, and whose lobbying expenses exceed \$2,000, must calculate the amount of dues income spent for lobbying purposes. ■



## HR Comply Survival Guide Now Available

The State Chamber and HR Comply have teamed up to offer members an impressive, comprehensive lineup of Internet-based human resource products to help any size business. The new joint venture allows State Chamber members to have access to the HR Comply *Survival Guide*, an encyclopedic volume of Nebraska and federal employment law; electronic *Turnkey Training* for employment compliance training; and a variety of essential small business employment services, including policies, forms, books, and posters. These easy-to-understand, accurate, and up-to-date resources are written with an eye to smaller businesses that can't afford to hire a full time HR staff.

The HR Comply *Survival Guide* includes an explanation of how to comply with Nebraska and federal employment laws and regulations, a weekly e-mail newsletter, user tips and updates, Nebraska and federal forms and templates, essential payroll guide, HR audit guide, sample employee policy handbook, all SHRM (*HR Magazine*) articles, legal reports, and White papers, and a Nebraska and federal wage and hour manual. The package is available to State Chamber members at a price of \$195 per year. For more information, contact HR Comply at 1-800-848-5645, or visit their website at [www.hrcomply.com](http://www.hrcomply.com). ■

### *The Executive*

**Editor: Don Mihovk**

<http://www.nechamber.com>

## Help Find Member; Win A Trip!

Your help in referring a non-member to the State Chamber can give you a chance for 2 FREE Round-trip airline tickets to wherever Frontier Airlines flies. Named the “best Domestic low-fare air carrier” by *Entrepreneur* magazine, Frontier flies nationwide from its Denver hub, with flights from Lincoln and Omaha. From now until next month’s Annual Meeting, any referral of a non-member will be given a chance for the tickets; if the referral joins as a member, you will receive another chance at the airline tickets.

There are many businesses who have either not heard of the State Chamber, or simply are not investing in the protection of our business economy. Think of competitors, manufacturing representatives, service providers, or your customers as potential members. We’d like your help in asking them to “hire” us, just as you have done. Use the flyer in this month’s *Executive* to send in your referrals of non-members...who knows, you could be jetting off for a vacation next spring! Contact James Berringer at (402) 474-4422. ■

## Cornerstone Project

The State Chamber has initiated a new membership category — the Cornerstone member. A member paying a minimum of \$5,000 in dues investment, and the company is near the recommended dues schedule would be eligible to become a Cornerstone member. The immediate Past Chairman of the State Chamber serves as Chairman of the Cornerstone members for a one-year term.

Benefits to becoming Cornerstone members include costs of seminars covered; all council or Board meeting meals complimentary; a special Cornerstone Report; two full Annual Meeting registrations at the \$5,000 level; guided tour of Capitol; e-mail legislative reports and newsletters to top people within Cornerstone company.

The key to this program is the recognition of key State Chamber members doing their fair share, and even more than their fair share (if a smaller company), to help provide additional funding for the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry to enhance and expand its services to all State Chamber members.

For more information on this program, please contact James Berringer, Vice President-Membership & Marketing at the State Chamber. ■

## State Chamber Welcomes New “Investors”

Membership in the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry is an investment in Nebraska’s economic well-being. This month, the State Chamber welcomes the following new members and encourages members to consider doing business with fellow Chamber members.

### BIRMINGHAM, AL

CIT Library

### BLAIR

Unicco Integrated Facilities Services

Ben McBride

*Sponsor: Mick Jensen, Great Plains Communications, Inc.*

### BROOMFIELD, CO

(i)Structure  
Dave Roshak

### GRAND ISLAND

ConAgra Beef Company  
Ron Gould

### GRETNA

Pinnacle Sports Productions, LLC  
Paul R. Aaron

### HASTINGS

Universal Hydraulics, Inc.  
James McKee

### KEARNEY

Dobberstein Roofing Co., Inc.  
Scott Dobberstein

Kearney Health Partners

Lori Grubs  
*Sponsor: Bruce Mansur, Pulmonary & Critical Care Specialists of Kearney*

### LINCOLN

Aventis Bio-Services, Inc.  
Bev Bissell

### KOLN/KGIN TV

Frank Jonas  
Melichar’s 66  
Bruce Melichar

### Transcript International

Mike Jalbert

### NEHAWKA

Sue E. Schlichtemeier-Nutzman

### OMAHA

Aim Consulting Services

James W. Protzman  
*Sponsor: Roy A. Smith, Old Mill Toyota*

Ameripride Linen & Apparel Services

Joe Ouren

Flinn Paving Company, Inc.  
Matt L. Flinn

Heartland Center For Reproductive Medicine, PC  
Dr. Jacques Ramey

*Sponsor: Roger Schumaker, SilverStone Group*

### Nebraska Health System

Louis W. Burgher, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Sponsors: Allen M.*

*Fredrickson, Advantage Receivable Solutions and Richard C. Hahn, Farmers National Company*

### PLATTSMOUTH

Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce  
Sheryl Parshall

### SEWARD

Tenneco Automotive, Walker Manufacturing  
Ken Bohvslavski

### WILBER

Saline State Bank  
Harley D. Bergmeyer