


NEBRASKA DIPLOMAT'S

REGIONAL ECONOMIC Celebration



Nebraska Diplomats, Inc.

Northeast
NEBRASKA
Economic Development
Network



Thank you for attending the Nebraska Diplomat's Regional Economic Celebration. We are excited to kickoff a tour of regions of our great state right here in Northeast Nebraska. Your presence at this event tells us that you represent a forward thinking business or organization that is committed to a prosperous Nebraska. Thank you for your time and thank you for doing business in Nebraska.

Nebraska is a great place to live, work and do business and the Nebraska Diplomats exemplify this. With a membership of more than 286 business executives and community leaders, the Nebraska Diplomats, Inc. is the largest economic development organization in Nebraska.

This organization – made up of business executives and community leaders – works to promote the state's productive business climate and unique quality of life. We are a nonprofit organization and we provide a connection to Nebraska leaders without political, organizational, or geographic restrictions. We would like to invite you to consider joining the Nebraska Diplomats, Inc. Below you'll find out a little more about our organization.

Nebraska Diplomat Responsibilities

- Represent the State of Nebraska and personally contact business leaders in order to interest them in establishing or expanding their business in the State of Nebraska.
- Make myself available to act as host to industrial prospects and special visitors when such people are in the state, and assist to make their visit to Nebraska productive.
- Make myself available to undertake special assignments in economic development promotion for Nebraska, at my own expense, both within and outside the state.
- Accept the commitment to pay annual dues established by the Nebraska Diplomats Board of Directors.

Are you interested in learning more about how to become a Nebraska Diplomat?

New members are now being accepted. Contact Lori Shaal to join a team of individuals that have dedicated themselves to the growth of Nebraska.

For more information contact:

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Message from 2017 President

Thank you for attending the first-ever, Nebraska Diplomat's Regional Economic Celebration.

Our organization is comprised of more than 200 business executives and economic developers from across Nebraska. The Nebraska Diplomat Organization is the largest and most influential private sector economic organization in Nebraska.

I am honored to serve as President of the Nebraska Diplomats for 2017. This is an exciting time as we move forward with DED to reach the goals and objectives our governor is striving to meet.

Our Board of Directors has set goals, which include the following:

- Reaching out to our business and industry leaders throughout the state
- Seek input from our large Nebraska companies regarding their supply chains
- Engage our members so as to increase their value in our organization
- Grow our membership to reach all areas of the State of Nebraska
- Support the efforts of our Governor and the Department of Economic Development
- It takes business leaders, like yourself, to help create economic growth in our State. The Nebraska Diplomats can give you first hand input and information regarding the economic growth of the State of Nebraska.

Please join us in being a part of Nebraska's history. Feel free to contact me or another board member if you have questions or would be interested in learning more about the Diplomats.

Sincerely,
Jane McDaniel, President





Nebraska Diplomat's Regional Economic Celebration Thursday, June 1, 2017

Master of Ceremonies - Greg Ptacek
Director of Economic Development, City of Neligh

8:00 am Registration

8:30 am Welcome - Mayor Josh Moening, Norfolk, NE

8:45 am Overview of Stronger Economies Together (SET)

**Nebraska Public
Power District**
Ken Lemke, Economist

Nebraska Extension
Carroll Welte, Extension
Educator

City of Laurel
Luke Virgil, Economic
Development Coordinator

Creating, attracting and retaining jobs as a single rural county in isolation from other nearby counties is becoming increasingly ineffective. In today's global marketplace, economic development progress is more likely to be realized when rural counties and counties with primary and secondary trade centers work together as a region. In 2015 and 2016 economic developers and community leaders throughout Northeast Nebraska came together as part of a national program called Stronger Economies Together. They developed a high-quality plan based on the region's demographic, workforce and industry cluster data. Learn more about the SET process, the data studied and goals produced that will serve as an economic driver for Northeast Nebraska.

9:00 am Housing

**Burt County Economic
Development Corporation**
Patty Plugge,
Executive Director

**Northeast Nebraska
Economic Development
District**
Lowell Schroeder,
Community Planner

**db Consulting, LLC and
Pender Economic Development**
Diann Ballard,
Economic Development
Coordinator

The need for market-rate housing for our workforce is so great it can't be totally left up to private sector housing developers and builders. Communities and employers have to be proactive in planning for the regions' future housing needs. Learn about businesses that have played a role in housing development and the programs that are available to private sector individuals that want to get involved.

9:30 am Workforce

Dividends Nebraska
Drew Theophilus, Director

Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce
Brittnay Dawson, Director of Talent
Development & Recruitment

The ability of regional employers to recruit a quality, skilled workforce is paramount to remaining competitive in our global economy. Drew Theophilus with Dividends Nebraska will share about the impacts of early childhood education on workforce development, while Brittnay Dawson will discuss the Norfolk Now initiative, including the strength of collaboration and the opportunities available to employers in the Norfolk commuting area.

10:00 am Break

10:15 am Regional Industry Council

State of Nebraska Department
of Economic Development
Dan Curran, Director of Business
Development

Baldino Enterprises, LLC
Mike Baldino, President

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development has created cluster focuses and enlisted help from industry to focus joint efforts on the most critical issues we face as a state. Regional collaboration can provide a forum for discussing industry-related challenges and resolutions. Now is the time to explore the potential for a regional industry council in Northeast Nebraska.

10:45 am Discussion facilitated by Nebraska Public Power District

11:30 am Break/Lunch Distributed

Noon Economic Development Update

State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Courtney Dentlinger, Director

12:20 pm Northeast Nebraska Diplomat Awards

Presented by:
Governor Pete Ricketts (invited)
Nebraska Diplomat President - Jane McDaniels
Nebraska Diplomat Board Member - Jeffrey Scherer

Business of the Year - Cargill, Columbus, NE
Diplomat of the Year - John F. Lohr, Columbus, NE
Community of the Year - City of Wayne, NE

12:40 pm Governor's Remarks

Governor Pete Ricketts (invited)

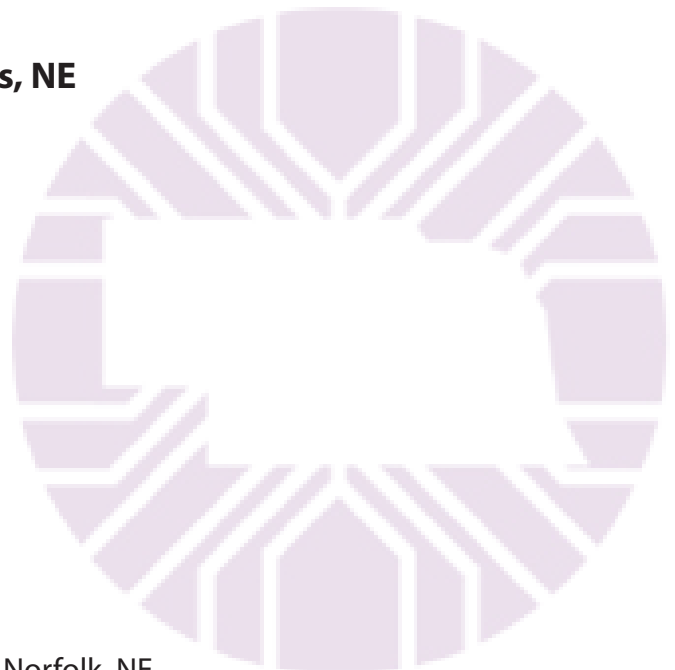
1:00 pm Closing

Nebraska Diplomat President
Jane McDaniel

1:30 pm Tours/Golf

5:00 pm Social Mixer

Divots Brewery, 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE



Tours & Golf

Nucor Steel

Tour Nucor Steel - Nebraska and learn how they melt, refine and cast the steel it takes to build America. You will see first-hand the process of turning scrap metal into new, quality steel in this 2+ hour tour of the Norfolk manufacturing plant. This 2015 Nebraska Diplomat Industry of the Year award winner has been recognized as Nebraska's Safest Company 10 years in a row and is North America's largest recycler of any material. Pre-registration is required for this tour and transportation will be provided.

Workforce Tour

Your tour will begin at The Stables with an overview from Wayne State College and the Norfolk Career Academy. Wayne State representatives will share information related to their newly announced Center for Applied Technology while Norfolk Career Academy Coordinator, Dr. Jeff Hoffman, will discuss the career readiness opportunities that are offered to Norfolk Senior High students.

Once the overview is complete, attendees will board a chartered bus to visit the Norfolk Career Academy. There they will see the ongoing construction of the facility that will offer participating students the opportunity to explore various career paths. Then the group will travel to Northeast Community College's newest educational facility, the Applied Technology Building.

Housing Tour

The housing tour will begin at The Stables with an overview of the Columbus New Neighborhoods Initiative by Roger Nadrchal of NeighborWorks. Participants will then board a bus and participate in a driving tour of Norfolk's Meadow Ridge subdivision. Learn about the partners that worked together to bring these projects to fruition and the programs that provided affordability to the developments.

Downtown Norfolk

Meet at the Downtown Coffee Company (302 W. Norfolk Avenue) to receive your guide to downtown Norfolk and learn about the various projects that have spurred growth and revitalization. Participants are free to explore the various projects, shop at the numerous boutiques, catch up on emails and phone calls at the coffee shop, explore the latest exhibit at the Norfolk Arts Center, or visit the Elkhorn Valley Museum. Transportation not provided.

Eldorado Hills Golf Club - 1227 Eldorado Road, Norfolk, NE

Known for always being in top condition, Eldorado Hills has one of the longest par 5 holes in the state, two lakes, picturesque native grass, large bent grass greens, and plenty of length. Eldorado Hills offers scenic beauty as well as a formidable challenge for golfers of all abilities. Transportation not provided.

Social Mixer - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The Brewery at Divots, 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE

The Brewery at Divots is ready to host our late crowd beginning at 5:00 pm on the patio just outside the SandBar and Grill. In this relaxed atmosphere enjoy appetizers and drinks, network with the new acquaintances you met earlier in the day, or just sit by the fire pit and enjoy live entertainment with Abby Nicole and County Road beginning at 7:00 pm.

Business of the Year - Cargill, Columbus, NE

Cargill will nearly double their employment at the Columbus facility from 240 previously to 460 employees at capacity. Cargill invested \$111 million to convert the Columbus plant from fresh ground beef to a cooked meats operation in late 2015.

DED awarded a Customized Job Training (CJT) awarded to 285 new hires at \$2,445/trainee and Cargill has used approximately \$60,000 of award training 28 new hires. The company continues to hire. Cargill has gone above and beyond their corporate responsibilities to their former employees as well as to their incumbent workers. In addition to attending training during all of the incumbent workers participated in volunteer projects throughout Columbus.

Diplomat of the Year - John F. Lohr, Columbus, NE

John F. Lohr was born and raised in Columbus, Nebraska. He graduated from Columbus High School and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science as well as a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. John served for three years in the U. S. Army during which time he volunteered for a year's tour in Vietnam's Northern I Corps. He was awarded the Bronze Star for service.

Over the years, John has been involved in many civic activities. He is a board member of NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank where he serves as Chair of the Compliance Committee and served 10 years on the Board of the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District. He was elected to the Columbus City Council in 2004 and re-elected in 2008 and 2012. He has served as Chair of the Public Property, Safety and Works Committee, City Council President and currently serves on the Public Finance, Judiciary and Personnel Committee. John is a member of the Kellogg Foundation "Rural People - Rural Policy" initiative, and a Nebraska Diplomat.

Community of the Year - Wayne, Nebraska

Wayne is a progressive community that actively seeks out funding from all levels to pursue development goals. Some of the most useful local funding has come from two sources: TIF and LB 840. The City of Wayne currently (as of February 2017) has 18 active TIF projects; \$3 million in bonds have been issued with a total TIF valuation of \$13.6 million. The Wayne Economic Development Plan (LB 840) for the City of Wayne was passed by the voters in 2008. It is funded by sales tax. LB 840 receives 40% of the 1% sales tax passed in 2008. The remaining 60% is earmarked for capital projects within the City of Wayne. The LB840 fund has provided financial assistance for 40 different projects since its inception utilizing just over \$3 million.

The City of Wayne keeps building new streets and adding infrastructure, while at the same time, maintains and rebuilds existing streets and infrastructure. The City is also investing to replace and bury many overhead power lines for safety and reliability reasons.

Most recently the Nebraska Community Foundation, Wayne Affiliated Fund, was "re-energized" in 2016. The fund in the past has been utilized for specific community projects. Now, with a new leadership team in place, the fund will build towards creating a \$1,000,000 unrestricted endowment for future community needs.

The community's leadership is the backbone to all that has and will be accomplished in Wayne. From strong governmental leadership to relentless leaders in all of the community's volunteer civic organizations, Wayne has positioned itself very well for current and future growth and leadership.

Northeast Nebraska
Business & Industry
Opportunities

I am interested in becoming
a member of the Northeast
Nebraska Manufacturing
Network

I am interested in becoming
a Nebraska Diplomat

Business Name

Contact

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Website

Description of products & services:

Nebraska Diplomat's Regional Economic Celebration Planning Team

Nebraska Diplomat's

Jane McDaniels, Nebraska Diplomat President
Jeff Scherer, Nebraska Diplomat Board Member
Lori Shaal, Nebraska Department of Economic
Development

Northeast Nebraska Economic Development Network

Co-Chairwomen

Candace Bossard, City of Norfolk/ Norfolk Area
Economic Development Council

Megan Hanefeldt, Knox County
Economic Development

Contributing Members

Candice Alder, City of Norfolk/Norfolk Area ED Council
Diann Ballard, Pender Economic Development
Wes Blecke, Wayne Area Economic Development
Cheryl Brandenburgh, Black Hills Energy
Brittnay Dawson, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce
Irene Fletcher, Wayne Area Economic Development
Mandy Gear, Northeast Nebraska ED District
Lance Hedquist, City of South Sioux City
Traci Jeffrey, Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau
Loren Kucera, Nebraska Business Development Center
Jim McCarville, Northeast Community College
Tracy Melcher, Northeast Community College
Jan Merrill, Northeast Nebraska ED District
Patty Plugge, Burt County Economic Development
Greg Ptacek, Neligh Economic Development
Lowell Schroeder, Northeast Nebraska ED District
Nicole Sedlacek, Nebraska Public Power District
Luke Virgil, Laurel Economic Development
Caroll Welte, Nebraska Extension
Mark Zimmerer, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce