



EMERITI AND RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Continuing Our Commitment

This newsletter is archived at emeriti-retirees@unl.edu

August 2026

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Welcome new Emeriti and Retirees Association Members



New Additions to the Newsletter

This edition of the ERA Newsletter features recipes along with a highlight of one of our members' volunteer experiences.



Wisherd Awardees Announced!!!!

Wisherd Awardees for Community Service, Service to UNL and National/International Humanitarian Service will be announced on September 15 at the program luncheon!

IT'S A NEW ERA YEAR! STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

BY VICKI HIGHSTREET, ERA PRESIDENT



The ERA Board of Directors started off the calendar year focused on changes that would allow for efficiencies in our operation budget. Our former fiscal year was January – December, but due to our connection with UNL we determined that changing it to a July-June fiscal year would help us line up with the many budgetary activities in which we were engaged. Once this was approved, we were required to assess the board term due to the overlap from past years. It was decided to hold over our current board for 6 months so that the new board would begin July 1, 2027.

Next on our to-do list was developing a multi-year organizational plan. An ad-hoc committee led by Past President Pam Edwards had been working for five months to identify key areas of focus: Scholarship, Collaborations (both on- and off-campus), Budget, Programs and Advocacy. The board met on June 23 to review the committee's report and establish a foundation for our new Strategic Plan. Our goal is to identify Year One activities as we begin our programming schedule in September.

The summer has been filled with pop-ups, tours, and fun activities with our OLLI partners. Connie Boehm continues her work with the Suicide Prevention Grant and intergenerational activities. This summer's event brought together Lincoln Parks and Rec, UNL and Lincoln Flying Disc clubs, and our partner OLLI to teach OLLI and ERA members how to play disc golf. Activity, food and fellowship came together at Bethany Park, where our very own ERA discs let us show off our skills.

This summer, President-Elect Tom McFarland, President Vicki Highstreet, and 2028 B1G ERA Conference Committee Chair Dean Young attended the 2026 Conference at the University of Minnesota. I had the opportunity to facilitate a panel discussion on *Relationships with Other Organizations*, and all three of us returned with valuable insights to help our association continue to grow—along with great ideas for the 2028 Conference we will host. We also capped off the trip with a river cruise on a beautiful Minneapolis evening.

The last event of the summer will be August 20, when we tour Wyuka Stables and learn about the Pershing Mural's new location.

The program committee has another great fall lineup of programs, tours, and pop-ups. The first ERA Coffee will be September 2 at Wilderness Ridge. We hope to see you all there.

Continuing our Commitment,

Vicki Highstreet

ERA 2026-27 President

WELCOME TO 120 NEW UNL RETIREES RECEIVING ONE-YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP IN ERA

BY DON WEEKS, ERA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Welcome to the 120 new retirees since April 1, 2026 - August 1, 2026. If you retired during that time period but do not see your name, please contact me at dweeks1@unl.edu so that we can include you in the next newsletter.

Thomas G. Allison, Military and Veteran Success Center

Richard K. Alloway, College of Journalism and Mass Communications

John E. Anderson, College of Business

Kathleen P. Anderson, Department of Animal Science

James B. Applebee, Print and Mail Services

Sohrab Asgarpoor, College of Engineering

Eva B. Bachman, Graduate Studies

John Robert Bailey, Glenn Korff School of Music

Rebecca A. Barnard, Raikes School of Computer Science and Management

Jack M. Beard, College of Law

Karen A. Becker, Glenn Korff School of Music

Stuart P. Bernstein, College of Engineering

Susan Budler, Landscape Services

John Carroll, School of Natural Resources

Mark E. Christensen, Information Technology Services

Doyle C. Coburn, Dining Services

Gwendolyn M. Combs, College of Business

Steven Comfort, School of Natural Resources

Richard G. Corner, University Museum

Elizabeth J. Crockett, Department of Psychology

Arlean E. Crossgrove, Nebraska Information Systems Team

Nora E. D'Croz-Mason, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Gustavo A. Delhon, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Bryan R. Desh, Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center

Dale J. Dolezal, Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Gregory G. Dorn, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Rhae A. Drijber, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Richard F. Duncan, College of Law

Richard D. Endacott, Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film

Ilya I. Fabrikant, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Elizabeth K. Fraser, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Mitzi A. Friedman, University of Nebraska High School

Cindy L. Fritsch, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

John A. Gamon, School of Natural Resources

Christina M. Gardner, Print and Mail Services

Kurt F. Geisinger, Department of Educational Psychology

Joyce L. Gettman, University Press

Roy A. Gibbons, Student Life

Ann Gradwohl, Sheldon Museum of Art

Marianna Greer, Research and Innovation

Cheryl Griffith, Center for Transformative Teaching

Debra J. Griffith, Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases

Andrea M. Halsted, Payroll Services

David J. Hansen, Department of Psychology

Brian Lee Harbourne, Department of Psychology

Rebecca S. Higgins, Department of Plant Pathology

Michael C. Hoff, School of Art, Art History and Design

Jane E. Hundt, Dining Services

Dann E. Husmann, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

Harry Albert Ide, Department of Philosophy

Christiane Jensen, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Kimberly Sue Johnson, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Finance and Personnel Office
Georgia Jones, Nutrition and Health Sciences
Richard Mark Kettler, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Jayne Kay Kapke, University Registrar
Eddie E. Kearney, University Operations
Julie J. Keys, Student Life Business Services
Azra Kulovac, Custodial Services
Sharon Suzanne Kuska, College of Architecture
David P. Lambe, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Gustavo Larsen, College of Engineering
Laura Thomas Lee, College of Journalism and Mass Communications
Neal A. Lewis, College of Engineering
Deann L. Lorraine, Procurement and Accounts Payable
Suping Lu, University Libraries
John W. Maag, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders
Timothy Raymond Mahoney, Department of History
Kay McClure, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
William Wallace McMullen, Glenn Korff School of Music
Colleen E. Medill, College of Law
Brian Robert Moore, Glenn Korff School of Music
Alan J. Osborn, Department of Sociology
David R. Pitts, Department of Mathematics
Michael J. Nagle, Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Beth Marie Nelson, Dining Services
Alan J. Osborn, Department of Sociology
Karen Sue Ouellette, University Operations
Dianne K. Pinkerton, Sheldon Museum of Art
David R. Pitts, Department of Mathematics
Diane K. Pope, Educational Administration
Clark E. Potter, Glenn Korff School of Music
Robert Powers, Department of Chemistry
Debra A. Predmore, Bureau of Sociological Research
Kamlakar P. Rajurkar, Mechanical and Materials Engineering
Richard J. Rasby, Department of Animal Science
Daren D. Redfearn, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Brian G. Reetz, Business and Finance
Donald L. Reynolds, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science
Donald L. Robertson, Information Technology Services
Clinton M. Rowe, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Gautam Sarath, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Daniel P. Schachtman, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Ross Secord, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Bradley S. Severa, Information Technology Services
Ronald C. Seymour, Nebraska Extension
Susan M. Sheridan, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools
Patricia L. Shrader, Graduate Studies
Patricia A. Simpson, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
David J. Steffen, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Terry L. Stentz, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction
Matthew C. Stockton, Department of Political Science
Richard G. Strickland, U. S. Meat Animal Research Center
Dixie L. Teten, Information Technology Services
Elizabeth A. Theiss-Morse, Department of Political Science
William H. Velandier, College of Engineering
Jerry D. Volesky, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Clarence E. Water, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction
Alan D. Wedige, Facilities Planning and Capital Programs
David A. Wedin, Grassland Studies Center
Stuart C. Wheat, Information Technology Services
Darryl A. White, Glenn Korff School of Music
Debora L. Wiebke, Admissions
Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, Department of Psychology
Jiashi Yang, College of Engineering
Tian C. Zhang, College of Engineering

ERA MEMBERS MAKING POSITIVE IMPACTS! SYLVANA AIRAN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHAIR

The ERA commends Sylvana Airan for her volunteer work with the International Student Fellowship (ISF) at UNL. The International Student Fellowship helps international students and scholars adjust to life in America and build lasting friendships during their time in Nebraska. A friendship and cultural organization affiliated with International Students, Inc., ISF is guided by biblical principles centered on Jesus Christ. The organization welcomes everyone regardless of affiliation, status, or background and fosters a caring, respectful atmosphere at all events.

With ISF, Sylvana takes students shopping for winter clothing, introduces them to sports like table tennis, leads tours around Lincoln and treats them to French fries and pizza. Please enjoy the pictures of Sylvana interacting with students who belong to ISF.



WAKE UP YOUR WELL-BEING

Resources provided by ERA members and compiled by Connie Boehm,

Wake Up Your Well-being offers a mix of helpful resources.

Click the images to explore everything.



Aging Partners Health and Fitness

Check out the many resources that **Aging Partners** offers to support your well-being!

AARP SMART DRIVER™ COURSE

"Although my insurance company didn't offer a discount for completing the course, some do—so check with your carrier. That said, I still felt the four-hour commitment was well worth it. I came away with a couple of new insights and several good reminders to help me be a safer senior driver."

Lyda Snodgrass



Check out the empowerment seminars offered by **Savvy Seniors** for the rest of 2026:

September-50 Shades of Gray Hair: The Fun Side of Healthy Aging

October- Endings That Honor: Your Story, Your Wishes, Your Way

November-Keeping Your Home Safe and Accessible

December-The Power of You: Celebrate, Reflect & Look Ahead

Roshan Pajinigar



The **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)** is offering a special rate again this year for Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) members who wish to join. Get your \$10 discount on an OLLI membership.

ERA members can purchase a yearly membership (value \$75) at a discount rate of \$65 when they join or renew their membership using the OLLI online process at www.oli.unl.edu. Click on the red tab at the top of web page labelled "Register Online." This discount is available from July 1 through Nov. 1, by applying this promo code: **ERA27**.

Nancy Mitchell

Medicare Drug Plan Workshops

Aging Partners is hosting free 1-hour workshops to help you learn how to navigate and compare Medicare drug plans for 2027. You'll have the opportunity to practice looking up plans on your own device and ask questions before enrollment opens.

When: September 16 at 1 p.m.

Where: Victory Park Senior Center, 600 S. 70th St. (east side of old Vet's Hospital)

What to Bring: Please bring your own laptop or tablet. (Note: Devices must be operational prior to the workshop, as technical assistance for personal devices cannot be provided.)

Register Today by clicking the link below!

September 16

PROGRAMMING RECAPS

Please go to the ERA website for [video recordings](#) of the Educational Programs

May 12, 2026 Coffee and 65th celebration of the ERA



Nearly 100 members celebrated the ERA's remarkable 65-year milestone at the May coffee held at Wilderness Ridge. Attendees heard from past, present, and future ERA presidents, and a historian presented a review of the ERA's history.



May 14, 2026, Disc Golf Event in Partnership with OLLI

Many suicide prevention efforts overlook older adults—yet aging, isolation, and ageism quietly erode mental health in our senior communities. ERA believes effective support blends prevention training with real opportunities for connection and belonging especially with different generations like the disc golf event held in May.

The Power of Intergenerational Connection

Intergenerational programs build bridges between seniors and younger generations, replacing loneliness with shared purpose. When people of different ages come together, everyone benefits—stereotypes fade, friendships form, and communities grow stronger.

Why Disc Golf?

Lincoln's disc golf scene is active, welcoming, and open to all ages. As a 2–3 hour, small-group outdoor activity, it naturally encourages conversation, walking side by side, helping each other learn, and building community—one throw at a time.



July 29, 2026-Pop Up

Speaker: Mary Ann Stallings, President and CEO of Bridge to Better Living.

Nearly 25 ERA members attended an informative session about the housing and support options available for seniors in the Lincoln area.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

TOUR

August 20, 2026-Stables at Wyuka Park, 9:30 - 11:00 am

The Pershing Mural has completed its move to Wyuka Park. The ERA has arranged for Liz Shea-McCoy, Chair, Pershing Mural Historic Preservation Committee to tell us more about the mural and move project.

[REGISTER](#)



COFFEE



September 2, 2026 – Wilderness Ridge, 9:30–11:00 am

Kick off the new ERA year amid the beauty of Wilderness Ridge. Enjoy great company while learning about upcoming events and plans for the year ahead.

[REGISTER](#)

SPECIAL OFFERING WITH OLLI

Suicide Prevention Training

September 9, 2026 – East Campus Union, 1:30 –3:00 pm

Learn about available resources, ways to recognize suicide warning signs and strategies for supporting individuals who may be considering suicide.

[REGISTER](#)



PROGRAM LUNCHEONS

Student Food Insecurity

September 15, 2026 – East Campus Union, 11:30–1:00 pm

Nearly one in three Husker students experience food insecurity. Learn from Sarah Frankel-Russell and Kenji Madison about the ways that UNL supports these students through Husker Pantry and more.

***Wishard recipients announced at this meeting!

[REGISTER](#)



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PROGRAM LUNCHEONS



A Multi-Million-Year Perspective on the Evolution of the Amazon Basin and Its Tropical Forest

October 22, 2026 – East Campus Union, 11:30–1:00 pm

Tropical South America was not always a continent with the Andes Mountains towering several kilometers above sea level along its western margin or with the large powerful Amazon River flowing west to east into the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by lush tropical rainforest. The Trans-Amazon Drilling project is trying to uncover the evolutionary history of the mountains, river, climate, and biodiversity of this region over millions of years by drilling hundreds of meters down into the sediments of the Amazon Basin. Stories about this journey through time will be the focus of a presentation by Sheri Fritz, George Holmes University Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at UNL.

[REGISTER](#)

University History and Architecture

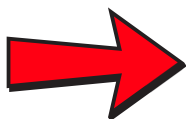
November 17, 2026 – East Campus Union, 11:30–1:00 pm

Oh no! Not another “UNL history and architecture” program. Wait, this one will have a twist. Kay Logan-Peters and Kim Hachiya will present an interactive program on overlooked architectural gems on UNL buildings. Kay is retired from UNL Libraries and is the author of “The University of Nebraska-Lincoln,” published in 2017 by Arcadia Press. Kim is retired from University Communications and Nebraska Public Media and is the author of “Dear Old Nebraska U,” published in 2019 by the University of Nebraska Press. Audience members will be challenged to guess what item is being shown.



[REGISTER](#)

SAVE
THE
DATE



Chancellor’s Luncheon sponsored by the ERA, Alumni Association and Nebraska Foundation
December 10, 2026 – Location TBD, 11:30–1:00 pm



MEMORY MOMENTS

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board mindfully watches obituaries and posts information on the website regarding deceased UNL community members who are honored with a moment of silence at meetings. The following names were announced since May 1, 2026. According to board policy, a \$500 contribution will be made each year to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Scholarship fund in honor of the UNL community members who have died that year.

Dale G. Anderson, Agricultural Economics
 Rand Wiese, spouse of Kathy Olson, College of Law
 Larry Kubert, Nebraska Public Media
 Sanford "Sandy" Grossbart, Marketing, College of Business
 Carol Hegel, Agricultural Communications and Biochemistry
 Mary Beth Helmink, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
 Tim Scholl, Theater
 Karen Sonderegger (no department was listed in her obituary)
 Edward Stauffer, Theater, spouse of Janice Stauffer, Theater
 James McClurg, NU Regent emeritus
 Ronald Helsing, Foundation Seed Division
 Diane Maly Vigna, Nebraska Extension and Education and Human Sciences
 George Darlington, Athletics

Hailey Veil, daughter of Shari Veil, former dean, COJMC
 Linda Stark, wife of Alfred Stark, Information Technology
 Elizabeth Mota, Sheldon Museum of Art and Great Plains Art Collection
 David W. Temple II, Student Affairs/student ombudsman
 Roosevelt "Ted" Pardy, School of Biological Sciences
 Gwendolyn Newkirk, dean emeritus, College of Home Economics (now Education and Human Sciences)
 Craig Eckhardt, Chemistry
 Stephen Carl Mason, Agronomy
 Rosemary Wahl, Facilities; widow of Bob Wahl, Motor Pool, and mother of Rich Wahl, Landscape Services
 Mary Jane Winqest, Nebraska Public Media
 Alex Moscu, Nebraska Public Media
 Kevin O'Hanlon, College of Journalism and Mass Communications
 Ronald Lahners, College of Law
 Mary Gwynne Burrow, spouse of Paul Burrow, Physics

ERA SPONSORSHIP

BY DON WEEKS, SPONSORSHIP CHAIR

The ERA Sponsorship Program is pleased to welcome Union Bank and Trust as the first ERA Sponsor!



<https://www.ubt.com/>

The ERA Sponsorship Program was recently established with two primary goals. The first is to help augment the **ERA operating budget** in the face of upcoming expenses associated with hosting the Big Ten University Retirees Associations conference in 2028 and with our desire to expand the number and quality of activities provided to our rapidly growing number of ERA members.

The second goal is to help build our **ERA Scholarship Fund** which aims to assist UNL students by providing academic scholarships so they can complete their college education. Funds from the ERA Sponsorship Program will enable us to increase the number and dollar amount of scholarships we can offer UNL students.