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UNOPA Press Monthly Newsletter

unopa.unl.edu

Upcoming Events

****All events are PSP eligible.****

- **General Membership Meeting**
Professional Development
 January 14, 2025 | 12:00pm
 Heritage Room, City Union
- **General Membership Meeting**
Business
 February 11, 2025 | 12:00pm
 Arbor Suite, East Union
- **General Membership Meeting**
Professional Development
 March 11, 2025 | 12:00pm
 Heritage Room, City Union
- **General Membership Meeting**
Business
 April 8, 2025 | 12:00pm
 Arbor Suite, East Union
- **UNOPA Awards Reception**
 April 29, 2025 | 3:00pm
 Massengale Residential Center,
 Multipurpose Room, East Campus
- **General Membership Meeting**
Installation of Officers
 May 13, 2025 | 11:30am
 Heritage Room, City Union



A Semester Full of Accomplishments: UNOPA's Journey Through Fall 2024

As the year draws to a close, it's a great time to reflect on all that we've achieved as a community at UNOPA. It's been a busy semester filled with engaging events, meaningful discussions, and the kind of camaraderie that makes working at UNL so special. Let's take a moment to look back on the highlights:

August: The Annual Board Retreat

We kicked off the semester with our annual retreat, a chance for the UNOPA Board to strategize and prepare for the year ahead. This retreat is always a valuable opportunity to align our goals and set the tone for the months to come.

September: General Membership Meeting at People City Mission

In September, we hosted our first General Membership Meeting at the People City Mission, a wonderful community partner. This meeting not only helped us launch the President's Charity initiative but also set the stage for the months of service and support that would follow.

October: Year in Review and Look Ahead

October brought a time of reflection and anticipation with our Year in Review presentation from Christina Franklin, UNOPA's Immediate Past President. We also heard from our current President, who gave us a sneak peek into the exciting initiatives for the upcoming year. It was an inspiring moment to appreciate our growth and look forward to what's next.

November: Professional Development Session

November's General Membership Meeting was centered around professional development, a crucial aspect of our mission at UNOPA. The session, led by UNL PD, provided valuable insights into the university's policy and procedures, particularly regarding UNL Alerts. It was an informative and timely discussion.

Looking Ahead: December Holiday Gathering

And now, we turn our attention to the final event of the semester—our December Holiday Gathering! This festive occasion is always a highlight of the year, offering a chance to celebrate, relax, and connect before the winter break.

As we head into the holiday season, I know it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of trying to wrap everything up before the shutdown. But during the holiday madness, I hope you'll take a moment for yourself to recharge, reflect, and enjoy the festivities.

I feel blessed to work alongside such a talented and passionate group of individuals at UNL, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

President's Charity People's City Mission Lincoln, Nebraska

UNOPA Office Professionals
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The People's City Mission in Lincoln, Nebraska, was chosen as the President's Charity for 2024-25. The membership visited the Mission in September. There will be a drive to gather donations of blankets, twin size sheets, hoodies, and thermals for men, women, and kids of all ages, and toiletries from until the end of January and will be delivered in February. Monetary donations will also be accepted through UNOPA's Venmo account.



The following people will celebrate birthdays in the next few months!

- Breana Garretson—January 17
- Sarah Giles—January 20
- Jan Wassenberg—February 4
- Rhonda Taylor—February 15
- Lisa McConnell February 19
- Cherie Crist—March 2
- Catia Guerrero—March 8
- Jaime Long—March 20
- Jana Wood—March 24
- Krista Hoover—April 1
- Christina Franklin—April 5
- Linda Arnold—April 17
- Skylar Wendel—April 24

happy
birthday



Happy Holidays!

The December membership meeting was spent eating lunch and playing bingo! All money from bingo card purchases was donated to the People's City Mission! Enjoy your winter break and hopefully everyone can get some time to relax and do something fun!

UNOPA Parking Lot News

There were 27 volunteers for the UNOPA parking lot this year.

- 10 Board Members (9 worked more than 1 shift)
- 9 Members (6 worked more than 1 shift)
- 1 Retiree (worked 2 shifts)
- 7 non-members (5 worked more than 1 shift)

Shifts Covered = 78

21 out of 27 volunteered more than one shift at the parking lot in 2024

Also, noteworthy news is that we completely sold out the parking lot every single home game this year. That includes the small parking lot on the North side of Whittier.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED FROM PARKING SERVICES: \$5,917.14

Members, if you would like to step up and take over the Ways and Means for 2025, please let Jennifer Greenlee know. After three years of running the UNOPA fundraiser, it might be time for some new blood to step in.

Any questions, let me know.

Thank you,
Tricia Liedle

Below are the winners drawn on October 8.

Prize	Winner
4 Tree Adventure Passes	Beth Zager
\$20 Mill Gift Card	Tricia Liedle
Goodie Basket	Mary Klucas
Bob Stephens Cooler Bag	Jennifer Greenlee
DWFI/NWC Swag Bag	Mirhuanda Meeks

Below are the winners drawn on December 10.

Prize	Winner
2 Lied Center Tickets to Parson's Dance	Emily Riggle
DWFI/NWC Swag Bag	Kevin Barnes
Grand Prize: \$50 Gift Card to Villa Amore & 1 night stay at the Graduate Hotel	Melisia Bieber

"I wanted to let you know that helping with the parking lot is not hard AND it was fun to visit with other UNOPA members I maybe had not yet gotten a chance to talk to. The people purchasing parking were nice too and it was a pleasure to speak with them". Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe



Several UNOPA members donated blood to the Nebraska Community Blood Bank during "The We Give Blood Drive" sponsored by the Big Ten Conference and Abbott. The University of Nebraska won the competition! Thanks for donating!



Congratulations to Sarah Giles! She was presented her UNOPA PSP Certification plaque at the November meeting by Mirhuanda Meeks.

UNL Staff Senate

If you're interested in learning more about Staff Senate, please go to their website: <https://staffsenate.unl.edu/> or attend a meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 9, 2025, 2:30-4:00 in the City Union, Swanson Auditorium
- March 13, 2025, 2:30-4:00 in the East Campus Union, Great Plains A
- May 8, 2025, 2:30-4:00 in the City Union, Platte River Room
- July 10, 2025, 1:00-5:00 in the East Campus Union, Great Plains A
- September 11, 2025, 2:30-4:00 in the City Union, Swanson Auditorium
- November 13, 2025, 2:30-4:00 in the East Campus Union, Great Plains A

Get to Know UNOPA

Mary Klucas

How long have you been with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln? What have your roles been?

I have been with UNL since July 1990. I've worked in the Department of Philosophy as staff secretary (7/90 – 4/96), the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center as staff secretary (4/96-1/97), and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office as Secretarial Specialist, then Administrative Technician, and now Administrative Associate (1/97-present). In my time in the CAS Dean's Office my duties haven't changed a lot more the breadth and scope of what I do. Currently, I have the best strategic partner in the associate dean I support that's about 75% of my time.

How long have you been a member of UNOPA?

I believe I joined UNOPA and became fully involved in 2008. I had been a member for a year or two earlier in my career at UNL but not involved at all.

What about UNOPA appeals to you?

The networking, the people, the professional development offered.

Are you a member of NEOPA or NAEOP?

Yes, I've been a member of both since 2011 when I became President-Elect for UNOPA. I am currently the Immediate Past President for NEOPA.

Do you have any career goals?

I figure I only have 10 or so years left before retirement. I love my job and plan to stay put BUT I also want to continue to learn and grow and stretch the box (or break the box!) of my comfort zone. I want to continue to review and improve processes and learn new technologies.



What does your life outside of work look like?

I'm already working my retirement jobs. I work as event staff at Pinnacle Bank Arena. I also work security for a local company, 402 Protection, which is mostly at the Lied Center or at Memorial Stadium. When I'm not working you'll find me with our kids and grandkids hanging out playing games. When I find quiet moments I like to read. My favorite genre right now is cozy mysteries.



UNOPA Board

ELECTED POSITIONS	
President	Jennifer Greenlee
President Elect	Vacant
Treasurer	Breana Garretson
Recording Secretary	Jess Weaver
Past President	Christina Franklin
Corresponding Secretary. .	Sarah Giles
Website Manager	Mirhuanda Meeks
Membership Coordinator. .	Jodie Barnes

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
Awards	Beth Zager/Jeanine Anderson
Elections	Christina Franklin
Professional Standards	
Program - PSP	Mirhuanda Meeks
UNOPA Newsletter	Jeanine Anderson
Ways & Means	Tricia Liedle
Planning	Melisia Bieber

Mission

Education is the birthright of every person.

We as members of the University of Nebraska Office Professionals Association pledge ourselves to safeguard that right. We acknowledge the unique role of educational office professionals and the importance of their contributions to the university and the community.

The purpose of UNOPA is to provide professional growth and promote high professional standards for educational office professionals with the University of Nebraska, as partners upholding the quality of service to the university educational system and the community.

We invite all office support staff at UNL to attend one of our meetings and get enthused about this special organization. We hope you find exciting opportunities and events within UNOPA.