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Upcoming Events

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

***General Membership Meeting**

PD: "How to Be Productive"

September 9, 2025 | 12:00pm
Arbor A Rm, East Campus Union

***General Membership Meeting**

Business: Year in Review & PSP Overview

October 14, 2025 | 12:00pm
Chimney Rock Rm, CC Union

***General Membership Meeting**

PD: Introduce Your Boss to UNOPA

November 11, 2025 | 12:00pm
Arbor A Rm, East Campus Union
LUNCH PROVIDED

***General Membership Meeting**

Holiday Gathering

December 9, 2025 | 12:00pm
East Campus Union
LUNCH PROVIDED

***General Membership Meeting**

PD: AI 2nd edition/ADA Compliance

January 13, 2026 | 12:00pm
227 Carolyn Pope, City Campus

***General Membership Meeting**

Business: Elections & Chair Yoga

February 10, 2026 | 12:00pm
Arbor Suite, East Campus Union

***General Membership Meeting**

PD: Active Shooter Preparedness

March 10, 2026 | 12:00pm
Chimney Rock Rm, CC Union

***General Membership Meeting**

Business: Awards Ceremony

April 14, 2026 | 12:00pm
Arbor A Rm, East Campus Union
LUNCH PROVIDED

***General Membership Meeting**

Installation of Officers

May 12, 2026 | 12:00pm
TBD

UNOPA

Press

Monthly Newsletter

unopa.unl.edu



Letter from the President

Jodie Barnes, CEOE

Summer! Hopefully you have all been hard at work on your summer projects, vacations, and some professional development! I had a wonderfully relaxing vacation (my husband and I riding our side-by-side in South Dakota), an incredibly insightful conference, and of course our yearly clean-up of our department's old items!

At NAEOP 2025 Conference we celebrated Christina Franklin's installment as the NAEOP Vice President, and myself, Jeanine Anderson and Melisia Bieber received our PSP certification as well as our CEOE distinction.

My hope this year is to bring wonderful opportunities with professional development, networking functions and of course the support for the President's charity, The People's City Mission (PCM). Melisia, our planning chair, has spent the summer scheduling a wonderful line-up of fun, interactive, and informational meetings that you will not want to miss - check out our calendar and add them to your schedules! I would like to bring your attention to the November meeting, Introducing your Boss to UNOPA! We have reached out to Celeste Spier for a wonderful hour of learning alongside our supervisors and then to celebrate with them as well (those schedules fill up fast, so I encourage you to get it on their calendars now). Sarah, our corresponding secretary, is looking into some great chances to help out at the PCM, feeding lunch or dinner to the residents, creating care packages or blankets and of course our December Holiday lunch with Bingo and a 50/50 Split the Pot for charity!

Here's to a meaningful, connected, and purpose-filled year ahead! Let's continue to grow, connect, and lead — together.

With appreciation,

Jodie Barnes, CEOE

President, UNOPA

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

Our President, Jodie Barnes, CEOE, has chosen People's City Mission as the President's Charity for the year. More information about upcoming events and how UNOPA has impacted this great charity in Lincoln will be here in future issues. Stay tuned!

Parking Lot Fundraiser

Please consider volunteering to work the Parking Lot Fundraiser on Football Saturdays. A variety of times are available and it is a great opportunity to meet fellow UNOPA members while earning money for our organization.

Please [click here](#) to see available dates and times to volunteer.

Proceeds from the Parking Lot Fundraiser are used to fund future UNOPA events. Each volunteer's name will be entered into a drawing for each individual shift worked during the football season. One prize for each home game will be given away and at the end. ALL volunteer names will be entered into a drawing for a very nice grand prize of a 1-night stay at the Embassy Suites and a \$100 Gift Card from NUFCU.

Thank you and Go Big Red!

WAYS AND MEANS UNOPA BINGO FUNDRAISER

On Friday, August 8 the evening began with a delicious potluck and lots of visiting with members and past members at the first BINGO fundraiser. There were 19 in attendance and it is believed everyone had a wonderful time. The event was hosted by Jess Weaver and Tricia Liedle. Total raised: \$95.00 A variety of different BINGO games were played (not just regular BINGO's all the time) and some won more than once, especially Morgan Tranmer. Door prizes were also given away for McCalister's Deli or 48 Bowl coupons along with the choice of \$'s made into origami shapes which were donated by past member Marcy Tintera. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to plan BINGO again in the future unless you have other ideas you'd like to share with Tricia Liedle, UNOPA Ways and Means Director.



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

Anna Mabry—September 5
Edith Peza-Martinex—September 16
Mary Guest—September 20
Roshan Pajnigar—October 4
Elizabeth Howe—October 12
Peg Johnson—October 17
Cathy Robertson—October 18
Lia Plfanz—October 23
Judith Yeck—October 23
Alison Paulson—November 13
Marla Nissen—November 25
Sue Wesely—November 27
Jodie Barnes—December 1
Jennifer Greenlee—December 24

happy
birthday

DONATE TO THE BRADLEY MUNN FUND

If you are interested in donating to the Bradley Munn Fund, which supports UNOPA member professional development through payroll deduction, please do the following:

1. Email giftprocessing@nufoundation.org directly
2. Tell them you want "X" amount taken out of your paycheck to go to Fund #01024840
3. Tell them if you are paid bi-weekly or monthly

They will take care of the paperwork to get it all established.

Your generous donations, of any size, are what make this fund and the support of professional development possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Breana Garretson with UNOPA at bgarretson2@unl.edu

NAEOP 2025 Conference Highlights

A group traveled to South Carolina for the National Conference in mid July. We enjoyed some daily rains, humidity, and of course, seeing our old friends and making new ones. A variety of local sites were visited and a lot of Carolina cuisine was enjoyed!

The conference started off with several attending the Sunday Summit with Dr. Bob Orndorff from Penn State. He was also the Keynote Speaker, “Maximizing Your Professional Competencies” at the Opening Session on Monday morning and delivered a very inspirational message. Everyone attended numerous meetings and a variety of breakouts.

PSP Recognition

Jodie Barnes, Melisia Bieber, and Jeanine Anderson



NAEOP Vice President 2025-2026

Christina Franklin

Jackie Evans Distinguished Service Award

Mary Guest



Mary was very surprised!

Marion T. Wood Scholarship

Jenna Anderson



Web Site Award

1st place

Affiliate Size - 75 or less members
(accepted by Jennifer Greenlee)



Get to Know UNOPA

Sarah Smith



How long have you been with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln? What have your roles been?
I've been with UNL for six years this summer (!). I started out at UNL Parking and Transit both as a student worker then as an office worker in 2019. From there I made the move into the CAS Dean's Office in 2022.

How long have you been a member of UNOPA?
Jaime Long and Mary Klucas had me signed up within two weeks of starting in the Dean's Office.

What about UNOPA appeals to you?
I really enjoy the networking. It can be kind of lonely on our little islands, and I really appreciate the perspective of other folks who do understand what I do from across campus.

Are you a member of NEOPA or NAEOP? Not yet, but give Mary a little more time.
Do you have any career goals?
Not exactly, but I am working on my MA in Higher Ed Administration. I was exactly halfway through last summer!



What does your life outside of work look like?
I am a crazy cat lady™ who loves to play in the garden. My husband and I have 6 cat children and I've been working on the backyard since we moved in back in 2013. I'm also an avid reader when I have time, like to make art (painting, making books, and printmaking), have a sister in Nashville that I love to visit, and will see live music whenever I have the opportunity.

Pictures included: Backyard shot of my garden from July 2023, cat children Walter (right) and Ghostling (left), and a book I made by hand.



UNOPA Board

ELECTED POSITIONS	
President	Jodie Barnes
President Elect	Tricia Liedle
Treasurer	Breana Garretson
Recording Secretary	Mel Sedlacek
Past President	Jennifer Greenlee
Corresponding Secretary. .	Sarah Giles
Website Manager	Mirhuanda Meeks
Membership Coordinator. .	Lynette Sallinger

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
Awards	Beth Zager/Jeanine Anderson
Parliamentarian	Christina Franklin
PSP-Professional Standards Program	Mirhuanda Meeks
UNOPA Newsletter	Jeanine Anderson
Ways & Means	TBD
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.