

STATE OF NEBRASKA

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

News Release

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Statewide events to kick off state quarter design competition

Lincoln -- Let the competition begin.

Events are scheduled across Nebraska from Sept. 15-17 to kick off the process of selecting the design for Nebraska's commemorative quarter to be issued in 2006.

The events promise to be fun and informative, with live music and people dressed in period costumes. The public is encouraged to attend the events.

Secretary of State John Gale, chairman of the Nebraska State Quarter Design Committee, said he hopes to generate enthusiasm and public participation in the design process with the kickoff events. "This is us, this is Nebraska, and we want as much public input as possible," he said

The design for the quarter will have a lasting impact. The Nebraska design will be carried on at least 500 million quarters, which will be in circulation for up to 30 years.

The goal for the 50 state quarters is to have designs that best represent a state, its history, landmarks and symbols. "I'd like to convince Nebraskans to stretch their imagination and find something that's less plain, less vanilla and less traditional than has been issued in other states," Gale said.

He encouraged people to submit ideas for the state quarter. The deadline for submitting a design or a narrative about a suggested design is May 1, 2004.

Gale noted that the design process is not a contest. No prizes will be awarded, nor will any artist be recognized.

After the public submissions are screened, the full eight-member design committee will select three to five preferred designs, reduce them to narratives with attached examples and submit them by Sept. 1, 2004. An artist with the U.S. Mint will make engravings of the committee's selections. Then Gov. Mike Johanns, after getting public input, will pick the winner.

Here is the schedule for the kickoff events:

--**Scottsbluff/Gering**, 9 a.m. (MDT) Sept. 15, Gering Civic Center.

--**North Platte**, 4 p.m. Sept. 15, Scouts Rest Ranch.

--**Kearney**, 10 a.m. Sept 16, Museum of Nebraska Art.

--**Lincoln**, 10 a.m. Sept. 17, State Capitol, Room 2230.

--**Omaha**, 2 p.m. Sept. 17, Durham Western Heritage Museum.

For more information about the design process or to obtain a submission form, call (402) 471-6044, e-mail shambek@nol.org or go to the Web site, www.sos.state.ne.us.

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