

STATE OF NEBRASKA

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

State Capitol, Suite 2300
Box 94608
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
Phone: 402-471-2554
Fax: 402-471-3237
www.sos.state.ne.us

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CONTACT: Sharon Hambek
402-471-6044
shambek@nol.org

Design committee selects five concepts for Nebraska quarter

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Quarter Design Committee today selected five concepts to submit to the U.S. Mint for consideration for the commemorative state quarter.

The five concepts are: Chief Standing Bear and the outline of the state, with the words “Equality Before the Law”; Chimney Rock and the State Capitol; Chimney Rock and a westward covered wagon; the State Capitol with the words “The Unicameral State”; and the Capitol’s Sower with the words “The Arbor Day State.”

The committee made its selections after receiving the results of a non-binding public vote on 25 designs that was conducted on the Internet.

The public vote drew 61,492 total votes during a 13-day period. Finishing first in the poll with 7,933 votes was a design that featured Chimney Rock and a covered wagon.

Tentative designs of the committee’s five selections and the top ten designs in the public voting will be posted on the secretary of state’s website (www.sos.state.ne.us).

“As a result of the large number of people voting, the committee gave thoughtful weight to the preferences of the public,” said Secretary of State John Gale, committee chairperson. “Of the top ten choices of the public, six of those concepts are represented in the final five choices of the committee.

“The committee has been true to its commitment to involve the public in the design process.”

The committee at a Sept. 22 meeting will finalize narratives and supplemental materials on the five concepts to submit to the Mint. The Mint will then produce its own graphic designs from the narratives.

Gov. Mike Johanns will make the final selection of the quarter in spring 2005, and the Mint will issue the Nebraska quarter in spring 2006.

Summarizing the committee’s work, Gale said:

“We have had a great partnership with the public and the Nebraska media. It has been a busy year, from the design kickoff in September 2003 to the recent non-binding, preferential poll.

“We have amazed the U.S. Mint with the degree of public interest in Nebraska. But that’s us, a grassroots state of people who care.”

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