



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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For Release

October 8, 2015

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Hall County election commissioner receives national award

LINCOLN – Acknowledging her efficiency, innovation and willingness to share her expertise with other election officials, Secretary of State John Gale presented county election commissioner Dale Baker with the NASS Medallion Award for 2015. Baker was honored during an election training workshop, conducted by the Secretary of State’s office in Kearney on Tuesday.

Baker, a Republican, has held the position of county election commissioner since her appointment in August 2001.

During his presentation, Gale commended Baker for her constant willingness to try out new technologies. “She is a change-maker,” observed Gale. “In 2005 she started posting election results online in an effort to get that information out to the public efficiently and quickly. She was also one of the first county officials to install a drive-through drop box for early ballots and was the first election official in the state to give electronic poll books a try.”

Gale also marveled at the efficiency with which Baker has run her office given that she is a part-time employee and has only one other immediate full-time worker. “Dale is someone who will find a way to deal with problems that come her way, with little fuss and no complaints. The efficiency and economy with which she has operated that office serves as quite an example for the rest of us in government.”

Denise Kruse, who is the second employee in the election office, called Baker an innovator and an inspiration. “Dale has had county clerks and commissioners come to Grand Island to sit in on her training for our own election workers. She is an excellent speaker and has been asked many times to speak to various groups about

Nebraska elections, voter registration and the working process of our elections. I don't ever remember her turning any group down."

In addition to serving as election commissioner, Baker is also a member of the Secretary of State's Election Advisory Committee and the State Plan Commission, established in 2002 in order to implement the mandates outlined in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

The NASS Medallion Award is given by secretaries of state to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding service and dedication through their various roles in: elections, civic education, service to state government -- specifically the office of the Secretary of State, or through philanthropic contributions to the community in which they live.

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