



## From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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### **Seward and Platte County election officials receive NASS medallions**

LINCOLN – Two county election officials have been honored by Secretary of State John Gale for their expertise, leadership and dedication in running statewide and local elections. Sherry Schweitzer of Seward County and Diane Olmer of Platte County each received a NASS medallion, a national award given by the National Association of Secretaries of State. The presentation by Gale was made during a training workshop hosted by his office in Kearney, which was attended by county election officials and staff.

“Sherry and Diane have not only been outstanding election officials for their counties, but they have also taken on additional leadership positions which have helped to strengthen election management and processes, not to mention making contributions in shaping election legislation,” said Gale.

Schweitzer is a legislative committee representative for the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO). In 2016, she was recognized as the County Official of the Year, NACO’s highest honor.

Schweitzer has worked for almost 40 years in the county office, the last 20 of those as clerk. Gale noted that due to her longevity, Schweitzer was often sought out by other election officials for advice. During the presidential election, when all of her supporting staff was still brand new, it was not uncommon for Schweitzer to come in at seven o’clock in the morning and leave well after the office closed.

“Sherry’s dedication to her staff and election administration is inspiring,” said Gale. For her part, Schweitzer responded, “Elections has always been a passion of mine and being able to call on the Secretary of State’s office to assist has been a

wonderful resource. Truly, Nebraska is very fortunate to have county officials who are so dedicated in carrying out the election process.”

Known for her willingness to speak to students and civic groups about the importance of voting, Gale also nominated Platte County Election Commissioner Diane Olmer for a NASS medallion. Olmer has held various offices for NACO, including on its legislative committee. In addition, she was member of the Vote Nebraska Initiative project for the Secretary of State’s office and is a current member of Gale’s Election Officials Advisory Committee and the Election System Task Force.

“In addition to her outreach efforts, Diane is known to be a very hands-on supervisor,” noted Gale. “Staff members say there is not a single aspect of the job that Diane doesn’t know and isn’t afraid to do herself, if the situation calls for it.”

“I am so honored to have received the NASS medallion and to be included in the ranks of other election officials who previously received this award,” Olmer shared. “I really am humbled by the fact that this plaque was given to me in the presence of many of my peers who, I have to say, are just as deserving of this award as I am.”

Olmer and Schweitzer were among seven election officials who were recognized separately by Sec. Gale for having served at least 20 years in office. Also included were: Polly Olson, Deuel County; Cynthia Evans, Gosper County; Rebecca Rossell, Lincoln County; Kathy Brandt, Morrill County; and, Janene Bennett, Otoe County.

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**About the NASS Medallion Award:**

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.