



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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**Sec. Gale salutes long-serving Nebraska poll workers**

LINCOLN -- Ninety-five poll workers have been recognized by Secretary of State John Gale for twenty years or more of service following the 2014 general election. Inductees into the Nebraska Poll Worker Hall of Fame represent the following counties: Buffalo, Cass, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Keith, Madison, Richardson, Sarpy, Scotts Bluff and Wayne.

As chief elections officer, Gale said, "The voluntary civic service provided by these individuals is invaluable. Election Day, which is when 77 percent of all voters cast their ballots, could not happen without them. We rely on them for positive, helpful, and friendly assistance to our voters. They put in long, and sometimes frenzied, hours to ensure that things go smoothly. We truly have few glitches."

The Poll Worker Hall of Fame started in 2006. Since then, more than 1,400 workers have been honored from across the state. Only those with a minimum 20 years of consecutive service can be nominated. In 2014, 12 people were honored for more than 40 years of service. One person had 42 years of service and another, 46 years of service. Names can only be submitted once.

"It really is a patriotic commitment on their part to serve year after year. They are the unsung heroes who make our democracy work," Gale added, "It's a great example of the type of civic commitment and pride that many people feel in serving their state and communities as volunteers."

Approximately 9,000 election workers are needed at the polls in Nebraska. They must be registered to vote in the county in which they are assigned and are

required to attend a training class prior to each primary and general election. Workers are paid at least minimum wage. Employers in Nebraska are required to allow people to serve as poll workers, without workers having to use sick leave or vacation to cover their time away from work.

Gale says new poll workers are always needed to fill the ranks of those who are retiring. "I encourage anyone who has the ability and inclination to help out. Many of our poll workers tell us what a rewarding experience it is for them. From our largest counties down to the smallest, we could not operate with the efficiency that we do on Election Day without the help of our dedicated poll workers."

### **2014 Poll Worker Hall of Fame inductees:**

**Buffalo:** Jeanne Ackerman, Kearney.

**Cass:** Laura Weatherby, Murray; Diane Lynn Baxter, Murray; Shirley Thompson, Plattsmouth; Shirley Stipe, Plattsmouth; Barbara Meisinger, Plattsmouth; Janet Meisinger, Plattsmouth; Karyl Terryberry, Murray; Barbara Jameson, Nehawka; Helen Mather, Weeping Water; Hallie Mills, Murdock; Lauraine Harris, Louisville; Ruth Ann Hlavac, Louisville; Linda Flynn, Louisville; Norma Jean Reinke, Ashland; Sheila Speck, Plattsmouth; Wanda Hudson, Plattsmouth; Janice Amick, Weeping Water; Norma Rupp, Weeping Water; Joanne Richardson, Weeping Water; Carlene Ostrander, Avoca; Joan Meyer, Avoca; Theresa Ehmke, Avoca; Christopher Spangler, Murray; Leslie Krings, Greenwood; Sandra Rieckman, Alvo; Martha Baumgart, Plattsmouth; Mary Lou Salazar, Plattsmouth; Ramone Oehlerking, Murdock.

**Cuming:** Ruthann Bargmann, Bancroft.

**Dodge:** Arlette Engelhardt, Fremont; Charlene Shandera, Fremont; Jo Iehl, Fremont; Maxine Barnhill, Fremont; Betty Peck, Hooper.

**Douglas:** Lonnie House, Omaha; Wayne Bennett, Omaha; Margaret Hermanson, Omaha; Brian Zdan, Omaha; Caroline McBride, Omaha; Jack Mays, Jr., Omaha; James Waszgis, Jr., Omaha; James McLochlin, Omaha; Alan Kopetzky, Omaha; Essie Jefferson, Omaha; William Kolm, Omaha; Janice Anderson, Omaha; Rodney White, Omaha; Katherine Wilson, Omaha; Mary Sekera, Omaha; Judy Scarlett, Omaha; Edward Betzer, Omaha; Richard Krambeck, Omaha; Donna Owen, Omaha; Margaret Baier, Omaha; Kenneth Church, Omaha; Paula Partsch, Omaha; Kenneth Dudek, Omaha; John Zak, Jr., Omaha; Helen Kieffer, Omaha; Cora Mather, Ralston; Roseann Lilla, Omaha; Fernando Godinez, Omaha; Mary Maynard, Omaha; Janet Neumann, Omaha; Marilyn Schmieding, Omaha; Joseph Bonaiuto, Omaha; Maureen Folda, Omaha; Wayne Hohndorf, Omaha; Daria Sweazy, Bennington.

**Hall:** Carolyn Woodman, Kenesaw.

**Keith:** Sherri Walker, Ogallala.

**Madison:** Everett Breach, Norfolk; Midge Hedrick, Norfolk; Donna Kortje, Norfolk.

**Richardson:** Elaine Burgett, Humboldt; Carol Kean, Dawson.

**Sarpy:** George Embrey, Bellevue, Ivan Sysel, Bellevue.

**Scotts Bluff:** Kathleen Busekist, Scottsbluff; Betty Case, Minatare; Marcella Castaneda, Scottsbluff; Geraldine Ehler, Scottsbluff; Meredyth Gentry, Gering; Eslie Ann Green, Gering; Beverly Lee, Scottsbluff; Josefa Guadarrama, Scottsbluff; Cynthia Neuwirth, Scottsbluff; Christy Strong, Mitchell; Susan Williams, Mitchell.

**Wayne:** Madge Bruflat, Wayne; Delores Rebensdorf, Wayne; Karen Mangels, Winside; Jane Lubberstedt, Wayne; Bonnadell Koch, Wayne.

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