

HR Central Newsletter

DECEMBER 2008

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Providing effective, high quality services to our customers in state government and the citizens of Nebraska.



Human Resources Staff

- **Mike Carroll**
HR Administrator
471-4605
- **Patty Runge**
HR Officer
471-4162
- **Debbie Pester**
HR Officer
471-7389
- **Joni Dulaney**
HR Officer
471-4124
- **Abby Shrader**
Personnel Assistant
471-4602

Inside this issue:

AS Holiday Lunch	2
Workplace Motivation Training	2
Welcome New AS Employees	2
December History	3
Recipe Exchange	3
Customer Service Survey Coming	3
Holiday Fun	4
Picnic in Review	5

AS Employees and Managers of the Year Celebrated

It is a commitment to quality, pride in their work, and a dedication to doing whatever it takes to make things right that gets employees noticed. They are appreciated by those they work with and for, and by the customers they serve.

Administrative Services employees who have made a positive impact were honored by Governor Heine- man in a ceremony held at the Capitol followed by a reception in the Governor's Residence on October 27, and by Administrative Ser- vice with a reception that afternoon.

Craig Van Slyke, Print Shop Manager, Materiel Division, and Bob Howard, State Network Supervisor, Office of the Chief Infor- mation Officer, were named the 2008 Managers of the Year.

Bryan Prenosil, Auto- motive Technician, Transpor- tation Services Bureau, and Rinda Sawyer, Administra- tive Assistant II, 309 Task Force, were named the 2008 Employees of the Year.

The list of nominations for the Manager and Em- ployee of the Year was im- pressive, making the deci- sion a difficult one. AS is

very fortunate to have em- ployees as hard working and dedicated as these.

When you see the nomi- nees, please let them know that their hard work is ap- preciated.

Manager of the Year Nominees:

- Kerry Rodysill, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Building
- Lawanna Jackson, Secu- rity Communications, Building
- Richard Fisher, IT Com- puter Operations Super- visor, OCIO
- Don Phares, State Net- work Manager, OCIO
- Ron Dulas, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Capitol Commission
- Mike Moerer, Fleet Ser- vices Manager, TSB
- Bruce Snyder, State Fi- nancial Systems & Re- ports Manager, State Ac- counting

Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Perry Frank, Facilities Management Systems Coordinator, Building
- William Scheideler, Budget Management Analyst II, Budget
- Gary Bush, Budget Man- agement Analyst II,

Budget

- Kellie Graham, Person- nel Analyst II, State Per- sonnel
- Karen Bentz, Personnel Assistant, State Personnel
- Cindy DeCoster, Admin- istrative Assistant II, State Personnel
- Stacey Dvorak, Adminis- trative Assistant II, State Personnel
- Vicki McElroy, Adminis- trative Secretary, OCIO
- Tod Wyrick, IT Applica- tion Developer/Lead, OCIO
- Kathryn Link, IT Appli- cations Developer/Lead, OCIO
- Janak Brahmabhatt, IT Systems Programmer/ Lead, OCIO
- Fred Turner, IT Applica- tions Developer/Lead, OCIO
- Joann Largent, IT Appli- cations Developer/ Senior, OCIO
- Kim Johanns, Adminis- trative Assistant I, Mate- riel
- Mike Marshall, Facilities Maintenance Specialist, Capitol Commission
- Ramona Hartley, Ac- countant II, State Ac- counting

Thanks to all of you. Your hard work and dedi- cation are appreciated.



Mark Your
Calendars

Administrative Services Holiday Lunch Planned

The invitations have been emailed for the 2008 annual Administrative Services Holiday Lunch. This year's lunch will be held on Friday, December 12 in the NSOB Lower Level A Conference Room.

Carlos Castillo, Director, will again be hosting this annual holiday festivity.

In addition to gathering to celebrate the season, we

are taking donations of canned food and children's warm mittens, gloves and hats for those in need.



All food donations will go to Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. All mittens,

gloves and hats collected will go to the People's City Mission. All donations are voluntary.

Please be sure to check your calendar and call or email Mike Carroll to RSVP by December 8.

Thank you, Carlos, for this wonderful holiday lunch.



Go "Off The
Beaten Path" to
motivate,
recognize your
team.

Workplace Motivation Training Offered

Did you start your job with AS fired up and ready to go, ready to tackle the big issues and make a positive impact?

How are you feeling about your job now? Feeling like you need a reason to come to work? Why?

Or maybe you see this in your staff? Do they seem

to be less motivated than their first months on the job? What's going on? How can you get that spirit back into your team?

HR Central can help. How? With a new training program, Workplace Motivation: Inspiring Your Employees. Classes are open to all AS employees. Contact Mike Carroll at 1-

4605 for details.

You will leave this training with a reference workbook and inspiring ideas to motivate and recognize your employee to get your team back on track. You may even see a return of your own motivation.

So sign up now and GET MOTIVATED!!



Administrative Services Welcomes New Staff

Galina Mitchell, Mark Groh, Cynthia Miserez, Bill Dale, Joseph Salinas, Tom Ruff, Sarah Rogge. If you do not recognize any of these names, it may be because they are new to AS since October.

Galina started as an SOS temp and became a full-time IT Applications Developer with OCIO.

Mark joins Materiel Division as a Mail Material Specialist.

Cynthia is a Budget Management Analyst II with the Budget Division.

Bill is a welcome addition to the OCIO. He is the new IT Help Desk Coordinator.

Joseph is the new Dupli-

cating Technician in Materiel's Copy Services.

Tom joins OCIO as an IT Infrastructure Support Analyst/Senior.

Sarah also started as an SOS temp and is now a full-time OCIO State Network Technician.

Please welcome these new AS members.



December is a Month of Historic Anniversaries

December. Winter officially makes its presence known with cold, wind and snow, sending shivers down the spines of even the heartiest Midwesterner.

But December is also full of invention, innovation and integrity.

Even though it comes at the end of the year, December is a month of new beginnings.

Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the front of a bus

December 1, 1955. In 2008, Barack Obama is selecting his cabinet as he prepares to take the Oath of Office as President of the United States.

The pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock on December 21, 1620. The 21st is also Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year.

The Boston Tea Party happened on December 16, 1773.

Invented in 1498 by the

Chinese, the first toothbrush, a bone handle with holes for the Siberian Boar hair bristles, was patented in December 1857.

The Wright brothers made their first flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, on December 17, 1903.

On December 7, 1941, Japan used 200 aircraft to bomb US Naval ships in Pearl Harbor.

Barney Clark received the first successful artificial heart transplant in 1982.

Recipe Exchange

Submitted by Shannon Moncure, OEG

Kabocha Gratin

3 lbs. Kabocha squash (or substitute Butternut)
cooking spray
2 tsp. butter
2 C. thinly sliced leek
1 tsp. salt
3 ½ C. 1% milk
1/3 C. flour
1 C. shredded Gruyere cheese
¼ tsp. black pepper
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
2 slices bread
2 tsp. fresh chopped parsley
1 clove minced garlic

Preheat oven to 400° F. Cut squash into halves or

thirds, cleaned. Arrange pieces, cut side up, on sprayed baking sheet. Bake at 400° F for 25 minutes or until squash is tender. Remove flesh of squash from rind and chop coarsely.

Cook leek and salt in butter in skillet until tender. Combine milk and flour, stirring well with a whisk. Add to pan and bring to a boil. Cook 1 minute or until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add cheese, pepper and nutmeg; stir until

cheese melts. Gently stir in squash. Spoon mixture into a 2-quart baking dish coated with spray.

Chop bread into coarse crumbs. Add parsley and garlic; combine. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over squash mixture. Bake at 400 degrees F for 20 minutes or until top is golden brown.

If you have a recipe you would like to share, email it to Joni Dulaney, HR, for inclusion.

"If you have thoughts or input you would like to share in addition to the meetings, contact the survey coordinators."

Who Puts "Service" in Administrative Services?

The answer to this is: You do. I do. We all do.

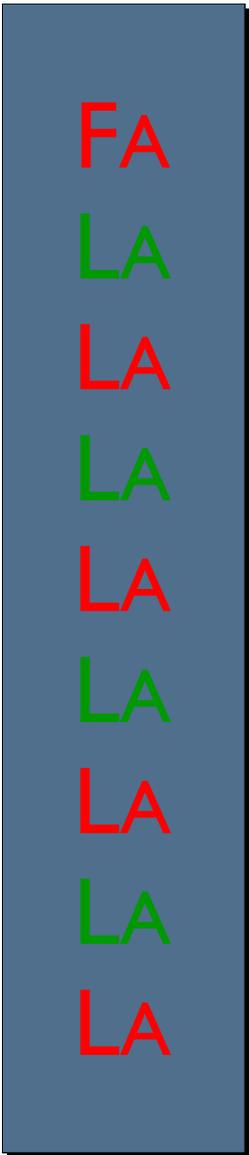
Now, how are we doing? We're about to ask. Our AS Strategic Plan calls for an emphasis on Customer Service, including a survey.

But the survey needs to ask about the things you think are important. Meeting opportunities will be offered throughout December. This is your chance to voice your ideas

for this Customer Service survey. Please look for your opportunity to join one of these meetings.

Contact Shannon Moncure and Bill Oberg with your ideas for this survey.

I heard the bells on Christmas day; their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men. — *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



Name That Christmas Carol Submitted by Bill Oberg, OEG

Here's an old quiz that has produced many a laugh at holiday time. Gather your family together and see how many you can identify. Good Luck!

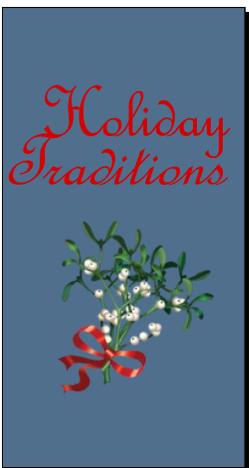
1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-colored Seed  Vesicated in a Conflagration
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs. —Weather Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Bantam Male Percussionist
-  8. Nocturnal Noiselessness
9. Red Man En Route to Borough
10. Frozen Precipitation Commence

11. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
12. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis 
13. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant
14. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals
15. Approach Everyone Who is Steadfast
16. Ecstasy Toward the Orb
17. Listen, The Foretelling Spirits Harmonize
18. Hey, Minuscule Urban Area South of Jerusalem 
19. The Autocratic Troika Originating Near the Ascent of Apollo
20. The Primary Carol
21. Embellish the Corridors
22. I'm Fantasizing Con-

- cerning a Blanched Yuletide
23. I Observed my Maternal Parent Osculating with a Corpulent Unshaven Male in Crimson Disguise
24. During the Time Ovine Caretakers Supervise Their Charges
25. Virtuous Royal Philanthropist 
26. Removed in a Bovine Feeding Trough
27. Seraphim We Aurally Detected in the Stratosphere
28. The Creator Reassures You, Lively Fellows



Think you have them all figured out? If not, let me know and I'll email you the answers so you can wow your family and friends!



Employees Share Holiday Traditions

The Christmas Pickle was, as I understand it, an old German custom, and my first memory of looking for it was at my Grandmother's home when I was about three.

 A small pickle was hung on the Christmas Tree and the child that could find

the pickle received an extra treat or gift.

I now have a glass pickle that I conceal on my tree for the Grandchildren to find.

Ramona Hartley,
State Accounting

My Christmas tradition is to prepare tea and share a cup with my daughters while I read the poem "A Cup of Christmas Tea." It never failed to bring tears to my eyes, and now that my mom has Alzheimer's, I cannot get through it.

Jeri Martinez,
Central Finance





Grilled hot dogs at the Annual Picnic made AS employees the envy of the NSOB

Large Turnout for AS Picnic

It was a beautiful, though slightly breezy, day for the Annual AS Picnic held October 8 on Centennial Mall.

Administrators served the hot dogs, chips and drinks, which were provided by Carlos Castillo,

AS Director, and baked beans brought by Doni Peterson, Deputy Director.

A pumpkin decorating contest was judged by anonymous AS employees.

Thank you to Building Division for setting up all the tables and chairs, and

to the decorating committee for making it as festive as the wind would allow. Thank you also to those who worked on the invitations and the posters printed by Materiel's Print Shop.

We hope you all had fun.

Employees Enjoy the Annual AS Picnic On the Mall

