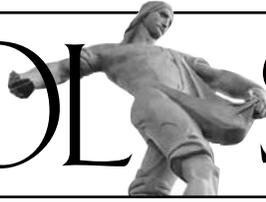


# THE CAPITOL SOWER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME TWO | NUMBER ONE | FEBRUARY 2009

## 21st Century Capitol

In the 1920's, Nebraska Capitol Architect Bertram Goodhue used the latest technologies in his 20th Century Capitol. The tower was built with a steel frame and concrete reinforced floors, relatively new building materials. The new Nebraska Capitol was a skyscraper with elevators to carry state workers to their tower offices.

Those offices were lit with electricity and had the latest in communications technology—telephones. The building was heated with steam, still the most efficient system for large scale heating needs. There were a few decades when

computers were being developed, the 1950-70's, that it seemed the Capitol might not be able to handle the new technology. Housing the huge main frame computers in the Capitol with their special climate control and wiring needs seemed a challenge. The solution was to build a separate central data processing facility to house the now obsolete mainframe computers. In the subsequent renovation of vacated Capitol space, architectural staff realized Goodhue had provided a system which could be adapted to accommodate the new modular office systems and wiring to support expanding computer use.

Now, in the 21st Century, Nebraska's Capitol accommodates the latest technology, using the innovative floor

trench system Goodhue incorporated in his original design of the Capitol. The poured concrete sub-floors contain a series of floor trenches. These floor trenches served as conduits for electric and telephone service. Within the masonry walls between offices, corridors and between floors, Goodhue placed conduits and chases to run plumbing, steam lines and trunk lines for electrical and telephone service. Now the infrastructure for new technology is routed through Goodhue's enhanced original conduit and floor trench system.

Goodhue's Capitol also fulfills a 21st

century concern for sustainable or green building. The Capitol is made with non-toxic and long lasting material- brick, limestone and marble. The Capitol's windows provide extensive natural light which lessens the need for supplemental electric lighting, an important component of modern green building design. As times and technologies change, the Nebraska State Capitol continues to meet the needs for functional office space, while providing a dignified setting for the functions of state government. The citizens who built the Capitol provided a monument to honor the pioneers who settled Nebraska and an office building to serve the needs of future generations. 



Early 1960's view of tower offices with open layout and electric typewriters.

### Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

**Dave Heineman**  
Chairman  
Governor

**Mike Flood**  
Vice-Chairman  
Speaker of the Legislature

**Janice Walker**  
Court Administrator

**Wayne Drummond**  
Dean  
College of Architecture, UNL

**Michael Smith**  
Executive Director  
Nebraska State Historical Society

**Bryce Neidig**  
Congressional District 1

**Stan Meradith**  
Congressional District 2

**Jim Cudaback**  
Congressional District 3

**Robert C. Ripley**  
Secretary  
Administrator  
Office of Capitol Commission



# The People of the OCC Office of the Capitol Commission

# OCC AT WORK Experience and Service

## ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, *Administrator*  
Tom Kaspar, *Architect*  
Mark Tonjes, *Capitol Manager*  
Tammy Honnor, *Facilities  
Construction Coordinator*  
Cecilia Curtis-Beard,  
*Administrative Assistant*

## ARCHIVE

Karen Wagner, *Archivist*

## CARPENTRY

Brett Daugherty, *Shop Supervisor*  
Ron Dulas, *Furniture Conservator*  
Roger Frink,  
*Hardware Conservator*  
Steve Janssen, *Furniture Finisher*  
Phil Lagoni, *Mason*  
Mike Marshall, *Cabinet Maker*  
Bill McClurg,  
*Furniture Conservator*

## CUSTODIAL

Perry Shuman,  
*Capitol Conservation Supervisor*  
Richard Mallam, *Custodial Leader*  
Steve Miller,  
*Custodial/Housekeeper*  
Rich Naber, *Custodial Leader*

## GROUNDS

Mike Hoppmann,  
*Arborist/Groundskeeper*  
Mark Lofgreen, *Groundskeeper*  
Don Pracheil, *Mechanic*

## MAINTENANCE

Michael Jordan, *Shop Supervisor*  
Jerry Allen, *Plumber*  
Kent Bonebright,  
*Sheet Metal Fabricator*  
Tahir Karimi, *Electrician*  
John Steele,  
*Maintenance Technician*

## TOURS

Roxanne Smith,  
*Tourism Supervisor/  
Special Events Coordinator*  
John Little, Jr., *Tourism Aide*  
Gloria Witherspoon,  
*Tourism Aide*

The Office of the Capitol Commission benefits from the experience of staff who have worked in the building for many years. These members add valuable information about past projects and

have an understanding of procedure and the day to day operation of the building. In October 2008, four Office of the Capitol Commission staff received recognition for their years of service to the state. 



John Steele  
10 years



Brett Daugherty  
20 years



Jerry Allen  
25 years



Bob Ripley  
25 years

## Capitol Commission 2009 Meetings

The Nebraska Capitol Commission has quarterly meetings at the Nebraska State Capitol, one of which is with the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission. The 2009 Capitol Commission meetings will be held:

The joint meeting of the Capitol Commission and Capitol Environs Commission will the November 12, 2009 meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting room locations to be announced. For more information contact the Office of the Capitol Commission at (402)471-6691. 

February 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

June 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

August 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

November 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

# CONSERVATION PROJECTS

## '89 Renovation and Office Upgrades

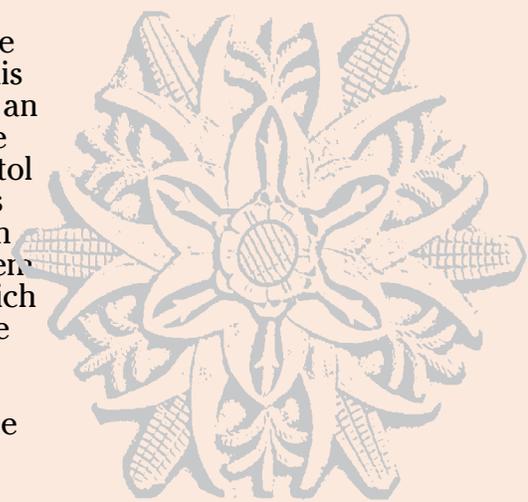
With the accelerated use of computers by state government in the 1980's, the decision was made to dedicate an entire building to central data processing and move the state's mainframes and computer support staff out of the Nebraska State Capitol; the state's printing operations were also moved to the new building. In 1989 these agencies vacated over 30,000 sq.ft. of space on first floor of the Capitol. This newly vacated space required significant infrastructure and office finish upgrading to accommodate new tenants. Previously, offices were updated on a room by room basis; wall partition construction and interior finishes varied considerably. The '89 Renovation Project provided the opportunity for the first holistic look at office space and the development of standards for construction and materials which would match original quality of construction, and provide uniform office finishes. Because the opportunity to renovate space had been driven by expanding computer technology, improving the electrical, communication and data infrastructure in the Capitol was also an important part of the project. Prior to this renovation, when additional wiring was needed, it was surface mounted and destructive to the interior finishes and unsightly. What started as an experiment to expand Capitol Architect Bertram Goodhue's floor trench system to carry new electric, phone and data soon became the backbone of the technology upgrade in the Capitol. The Task Force for Building Renewal provided the funds to expand the floor trench system on first and second floors and create a new trench system in the tower which tied into the original conduit system.

During the planning stages of the renovation it was determined that newly renovated space on first and second floors would be used

by agencies needing direct public access for the service functions of government. Legislative branch functions were given priority. At that time Senators shared offices throughout the Capitol, including the tower and third floor, less accessible areas. It was determined that senators should each have private offices with contiguous staff space on first or second floor increasing public accessibility. In the late 1970's space originally occupied by the Nebraska State Historical Society in the west center hall of first floor was converted to two large hearing rooms (1524 & 1525). During the '89 renovation two similar hearing rooms were created on the east side of the building using state of the art technology (1507 & 1510).

The '89 Renovation included a closed circuit television component. In the 1960's, Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company had provided an audio-only feed of the Legislature in session to offices in the Capitol and around Lincoln via what was called a "squawk box" system. During the '89 Renovation, the Nebraska Cable Industry volunteered to wire the Capitol for cable television. This cable network was installed using an intercom conduit system Goodhue had built into the walls of the Capitol which continues to provide access for 80% of the closed circuit system in the Capitol. The new cable system provided more channels upon which to broadcast executive, legislative and ultimately judicial activity.

The office and infrastructure improvements provided during the '89 Renovation set the standard for technology and room finish upgrades in the Capitol, and demonstrated how Bertram Goodhue's Capitol can adapt to future needs of government. 



# Closed Circuit Audio/Video Upgrade

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, in concert with Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and the Office of the Capitol Commission have recently completed a total upgrade of the closed circuit television system within the Capitol. Using state of the art camera and microphone technology, the new system allows Capitol staff and citizens to view the Governor's news conferences held in the Governor's Hearing Room; the Unicameral Legislature in session and its public hearings; and the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals in session via live internet video streaming. In the



OCC staff built a custom cabinet, above, to house the new audio and video controls, replacing the older system.



1960's, audio of the Legislative Session and public hearings was broadcast via a system of small speakers or squawk



NET staff installed the new high definition cameras and A/V controls.



boxes placed in offices. With the 1989 renovation and the creation of two new state of the art Legislative Hearing Rooms the system was enhanced to allow for closed circuit video feed of the Legislature and hearings. Later the



OCC and OCIO staff apply the new technology using the radiator cabinet and the Governor's podium



OCC staff mounts a bracket, right, to hold a camera in the Supreme Court, above.



OCC staff mounted the camera in the Court of Appeals using the existing drapery hardware, left. Note the camera case was colored to match the walnut panelling.

Governor's Hearing Room was added to the closed circuit system. Chief Justice Michael Heavican requested both Court Rooms be added to the closed circuit system to provide citizens access to both Courts via live video streaming on the internet.

In this coordinated effort, the Office of the Capitol Commission developed brackets to mount the cameras and microphones in the ornamental chambers of the Capitol in the least invasive manner, the Office of the Chief Information Officer routed the fiber optics to these locations, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications installed the cameras, microphones and operates the system.

Live video streaming of government now available

Log on <http://www.netnebraska.org/publicmedia/capitol.html> to view live video streaming of each branch of government.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Legislative Chamber Upgrades

The Nebraska Legislature has benefitted from improvements in technology over the years. State Senators first looked at chalkboards to follow debate where electronic displays now identify bills. Laptop computers have replaced paper bill books on Senator's desks and instantly display amendments. Early televising of the sessions required invasive lighting; the latest cameras use available light. An architecturally compatible Clerk's lectern was built to house the computerized voting system.

In 1995 the renamed East Chamber was equipped with state-of-the-art technology to accommodate the Warner Institute for Education in Democracy. The audio and video technology which allows for teleconferencing in the Warner Chamber was designed to be easily modified in anticipation of advancing technology. 

*Below, Clerk of the Legislature staff use computers to add amendments and keep track of legislation. State Senator's have instant access to amendments and information about bills via their lap-top computers, right.*



## Capitol Security

The Capitol Security Division of the Nebraska State Patrol continues to upgrade operations at the Nebraska State Capitol. Capitol Security staff provide 24-7 monitoring of over 30 locations within Lincoln, not just the Capitol. With an extensive surveillance network, Capitol Security has the ability to see state operations and appropriately act as the situation requires. One of the components of the security network is the Communications Room. Over the past four years technological upgrades have transformed the duties of the Communications Specialists and increased the efficiency of the

Security Personnel. Upgrading equipment as communication and internet technologies improve allows the Capitol Security Division of the Nebraska State Patrol to more efficiently perform its duties. 

*Communications Room  
Nebraska State Capitol*



# WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

## Capitol Collection Computerized

Since the first document was removed from the construction-era Capitol Commission's basement vault storage, Office of the Capitol Commission staff has looked for ways to make the collection of architectural drawings, commission minutes, correspondence and other materials available for use by Capitol

conservation staff and scholars. A massive volume of paper material is housed in acid-free file storage boxes on shelves in the archive.

As computer technology advanced, computerization of the collection has been a priority. In 2008, through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records

Commission, a contract archivist was hired to organize the business records of the Capitol Commission which oversaw the 1922 - 1932 construction of our third State Capitol. As the records were organized, a computer database was created as a finding aid for materials by author and subject. Newly accessible, these archival documents will add to staff resources with detailed information about the Capitol and its construction.

Architectural drawings in the collection were previously treated to this kind of in depth analysis and organization. These organized drawings greatly facilitated work on the exterior masonry project. Archival staff uses the latest in paper conservation techniques and computer scanning technology to protect fragile and irreplaceable materials, while making the information available for use. A scanned image of a document

or drawing can more easily be used by staff for daily work without harming the original item.

The Capitol Collection includes the Furniture Collection and Documentation. During construction and after, hundreds of desks, chairs, tables and waste baskets were purchased for use in the new Capitol. All Capitol original furniture was tagged before it went into service. The original agency tags form the foundation of information for the Furniture inventory. Upon the enactment of LB885 in 1980 original Capitol furniture became by law a permanent collection for use by the occupants of the Capitol. However, original furnishings had begun to be surplus in the 1950s and 60s and some were moved to the State Office Building in 1976 with the mass agency exodus from the Capitol. Capitol Commission staff has worked with cooperating agencies since 1980 to reassemble the collection. Because of its high quality, the furniture originally purchased for use in Goodhue's Capitol is either in service or in storage in the Capitol awaiting a return to service, with the exception of a few lost items. As needed, Office of the Capitol Commission Furniture Conservation staff removes pieces from service or storage for inspection, repair and restoration before returning it to service.

The Capitol Archivist and Capitol Conservation staff are beginning the process of integrating the existing note card and furniture tag inventory program with a powerful new computer inventory system. The new system will be used to identify and catalog each piece of furniture and office equipment as well as document repairs and restoration for the benefit of Capitol staff. This is another way computer technology is helping the Office of the Capitol Commission meet the challenges of taking the Capitol and its contents into the 21st Century and beyond. 



*Kent Randell, Project Archivist, prepares to sort and catalog another box of original materials from the construction era Capitol Commission.*

# CAPITOL EVENTS

## **Help Children See Their Future**

**February 2-6, 2009**

Display in 1st Floor Rotunda sponsored by Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision.

## **Capitol Goes Red for Women**

**February 6-8, 2009**

In honor of National Wear Red Day the American Heart Association has requested the Capitol be lit red.

## **Abraham Lincoln 200th Birthday Vigil**

**February 12, 2009**

Local Civil War Re enactors and the Sons of Union Veterans will stand honor guard at the Lincoln Memorial on the west side of the Capitol from dawn to 4:00 p.m.

## **The Gift of Quilts**

**February 23-27, 2009**

A 1st Floor Rotunda display of quilts made by the Nebraska Legislative League which will later be donated to the Omaha Children's Hospital.

## **American Institute of Architects Award Winner's Display**

**March 2-6, 2009**

AIA-Nebraska 2008 Design Award winning projects on display in the 1st Floor Rotunda of the Capitol.

## **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Display**

**March 2-6, 2009**

MS Society of Nebraska sponsored display in 1st Floor Rotunda.

## **Music Education Week at the Capitol**

**March 2-6, 2009**

Nebraska Music Educators Association's annual series of noon



*The Chase County School Band performs in the Second Floor Rotunda as part of the 2008 Music Education Week in the Capitol concert series. Annually schools from across Nebraska send instrumental and choral groups to perform in the Capitol.*

concerts in the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol.

## **Youth Art Month Celebration**

**March 7, 2009**

Nebraska Art Teacher's Association's annual youth art awards ceremony at 1:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol.

## **Statewide Rural Transit Association Display**

**March 19, 2009**

Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers one day display in 1st Floor Rotunda of the Capitol.

## **Chamber Singers Concert**

**April 5, 2009**

A University of Nebraska School of Music sponsored performance in the 2nd Floor Rotunda at 3:00 p.m.

## **Nebraska Holocaust Commemoration**

**April 19, 2009**

The 3:00 p.m. remembrance is sponsored by the Jewish Federation.

## **Arbor Day Display**

**April 20-24, 2009**

Week long 1st Floor Rotunda exhibits of non-profit tree and tree care organizations sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

## **National Peace Officers Week-Law Enforcement Memorial**

**May 11-15, 2009**

Memorial display in 1st Floor Rotunda honoring Nebraska's fallen law enforcement professionals. Sponsored by the Nebraska State Patrol.

## **API Interactive Technology Exhibit**

**May 19, 2009**

One day exhibit sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute to highlight oil and gas technology.

## **Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Awards**

**June 14, 2009**

The ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Rotunda and is sponsored by the Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska Council.

**All events at the Nebraska State Capitol are free and open to the public.** 

## **Nebraska State Capitol**

**Guided Tours** are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m., except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m., except at noon and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call (402)471-0448 or visit [www.capitol.org](http://www.capitol.org) for more information.



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | FEB 2009

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Nebraska State Capitol

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[www.capitol.org](http://www.capitol.org)



Capitol Architect  
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue

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## Holiday Tree Changes Appearance

On December 7, 2008 Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem lit the Official State Holiday Tree in a ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The hundreds of people in attendance counted down and the Governor flipped the switch to light a thousand new LED bulbs. The use of LED bulbs on the tree enabled the Office of the Capitol Commission to triple the number of lights on the tree *and* decrease energy consumption. The new lights illuminated many new ornaments. This year the Legislative League completed a project begun several years ago to update and add ornaments to the tree. With the help of the League, the Nebraska State Jaycees, County Extension Clubs and citizens, all 93 of Nebraska's counties are well represented on the Holiday Tree. 



The Capitol Sower, a quarterly newsletter published by the Office of the Capitol Commission, is available via e-mail by contacting the Tourism Supervisor at <[roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov](mailto:roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov)>. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the content.

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