

findings

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEBRASKANS FOR RESEARCH



APRIL / MAY 2006

The Legislative Front by Rich Lombardi, *NFR Lobbyist*

This spring marks the conclusion of the third Legislative Session that stem cell research hasn't been prohibited or criminalized in the State of Nebraska.

Despite long odds and a short number of votes, your public policy advocacy through the coordinated efforts of Nebraskans for Research has reaped a bounty of time for the state to use as it considers its' role as a medical research leader.

This time has not been wasted. You have grown a systematic campaign to educate and to advocate. You have listened to Nebraskans and heard their hope in medical research. You have raised money and awareness. You and your organization are poised to take the next step in making Nebraska a leader in medical research. This dream...this hope cannot be realized with draconian and repugnant public policy.

Membership in and involvement with Research Nebraska! and Nebraskans for Research creates a united state wide voice for medical research against cruel restrictions. These organizations are your tools to create a Nebraska future in "cutting edge" medical research.

Thank you for making this effort a priority.

We would not be where we are today without the tireless support of a core of Nebraska legislators who would not allow our dream to die. Although outflanked and outnumbered, these legislators used all their persuasive ability and wisdom to thwart some really bad public policy.

Several of them have served their last term, but their work will live on through our organization. History will view this period as a defining moment in the history of this state and defining moments have defining individuals. Retiring State Senators Patrick Bourne, Nancy Thompson, Chris Beutler, Pam Brown and Don Pederson are owed a debt of gratitude for their unyielding resistance to poor public policy. They are historic figures in this public debate. These folks were at the right place at the right time and they made the future brighter for all Nebraskans.

When you have a moment please send them a thank you. While you're at it, thank yourself for building Nebraskans for Research and its new friend, Research Nebraska!

There is much to do ahead – let's get going.

Contribute to Medical Research Today!

Select both options, or just one, to continue support for life-saving research.

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Nebraskans for Research Salute Harold and Marian Andersen at Fourth Annual Tribute Luncheon

Nebraskans for Research will present its fourth annual Tribute Luncheon on Monday, April 24, recognizing Harold and Marian Andersen, a Nebraska couple who has served not only the state, but the nation through their contributions to professional and community organizations and their tireless advocacy both for freedom of the press and for the freedom of scientists to pursue life-saving research.

NFR will recognize Harold and Marian Andersen at the luncheon to be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Happy Hollow Club, 1710 South 105th Street In Omaha. Tickets for the luncheon are still available for \$50 each and can be purchased by contacting Lenore Polack at (402) 393-7304.



Both Phi Beta Kappa graduates of the University of Nebraska, the Andersens have been involved in many diverse civic, community and philanthropic endeavors. Together, they have been honored by the Literacy Center for the Midlands, and Marian was the first board member to be given the recognition of Director Emeritus.

Marian has left her mark both on the state and nation through her community service and board leadership. Among her distinguished contributions, Marian has received the United Way Citizen of the Year Award, YWCA Tribute to Women honors, Outstanding Alumna of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, Outstanding Sustainer of the Junior league of Omaha, the Perry Branch Award from the University of Nebraska Foundation and the Nebraska Builders Award from the University of Nebraska system.

She is a former president of the Junior League of Omaha, a treasurer and a founding member of the Mid-American Arts Alliance, a trustee of the Museum of Nebraska Art, director and member of the board of governors at Joslyn Art Museum, and has served on the boards of opera Omaha and the YWCA. She helped and has co-chaired the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival and the Alexis de Toqueville Society of the United Way of the Midlands. She also has served on the board of Nebraska Arts council and the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Marian was the first woman to head the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross. Later, her skills were recognized on a national level when she was tapped to become vice-chairman of the board of governors of the American Red Cross. Her national roles also include serving as a director of the Public Broadcasting System. She also was the first woman to become chairman of the University of Nebraska Foundation Board of Directors.

First as a reporter and later as chairman, president and publisher of The Omaha World-Herald, Harold has advocated freedom of speech and access to public information. He was the first American to serve as president of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, is the only Nebraskan to be president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, served as a director of the Associated Press and chaired AP's Foreign Operations Committee and served also as chairman of the World Press Freedom Committee.

Under his leadership, The World-Herald made it a priority to cover health care, including the important research advancements improving health care in Nebraska. Harold Andersen retired in 1989 as publisher and chief executive officer of the Omaha World-Herald Co., but even in retirement, he has continued to speak out on issues through his twice-weekly commentary in the statewide newspaper. One of those issues has been calling for a research-friendly environment in Nebraska, urging state government not to impose restrictions on medical research which seeks ways to attack crippling and often fatal diseases.

Previous recipients of this honor include:

2005 Rik and Dr. Shannon Bonness

2004 Dr. Michael F. Sorrell

2003 Charles Durham

Candidate Questionnaires

Outlined below are condensed responses NFR received from candidates running for the legislature in the Primary Election, May 9. Both candidates who returned their NFR questionnaires and candidates who did not, are listed by Legislative District. This information is provided to NFR members for educational purposes. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Julie Erickson at 402-475-0727 or jerickson@acgusa.net.

Jerry Bond, Legislative District 02
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Jeff Cooley, Legislative District 02
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Robert Cooper, Legislative District 02
Did not respond

Robert Howard, Legislative District 02
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Dave Pankonin, Legislative District 02
Did not respond

Kurt Poole, Legislative District 02
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Don Deninger, Legislative District 04
Did not respond

Pete Pirsch, Legislative District 04
Did not respond

Tony Sorrentino, Legislative District 04
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Barb Velinsky, Legislative District 04
Did not respond

Todd Frazer, Legislative District 06
Did not respond

Patricia Hannan, Legislative District 06
Generic Response

Lee Myers, Legislative District 06
SUPPORTS stem cell research

John Nelson, Legislative District 06
Did not respond

Lynne Sarafian Anderson,
Legislative District 06
SUPPORTS stem cell research

John Comstock, Legislative District 08
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Ron Cook, Legislative District 08
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Marc Kraft, Legislative District 08
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Matthew Stelly, Legislative District 08
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Tom White, Legislative District 08
Did not respond

Mike Friend, Legislative District 10
Did not respond

Robert Wimberly
Legislative District 10
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Steve Lathrop, Legislative District 12
Did not respond

Jean Stothert, Legislative District 12
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Tim Gay, Legislative District 14
Did not respond

Ian Hartfield, Legislative District 14
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Jeff Bush, Legislative District 16
Did not respond

Kent Rogert, Legislative District 16
Did not respond

Mick Mines, Legislative District 18
Did not respond

Scott Yahnke, Legislative District 18
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Carol Casey, Legislative District 20
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Brad Ashford, Legislative District 20
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Arnie Stuthman, Legislative District 22
Did not respond

Curt Friesen, Legislative District 24
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Gregory Adams, Legislative District 24
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Marvin Havlat, Legislative District 24
SUPPORTS stem cell research

James Ruby, Legislative District 24
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Larry TeSalle, Legislative District 24
Did not respond

Steve Guittar, Legislative District 26
Did not respond

Amanda McGill, Legislative District 26
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Sean Zehtab, Legislative District 26
Did not respond

Bill Avery, Legislative District 28
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Mark Munger, Legislative District 28
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Bob Swanson, Legislative District 28
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

John DeCamp, Legislative District 30
Generic Response

Jana Hafer, Legislative District 30
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Shawn Boyd, Legislative District 30
Did not respond

Sue Fix, Legislative District 30
Did not respond

Edward McClure
Legislative District 30
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Tony Ojeda, Legislative District 30
Did not respond

Norman Wallman
Legislative District 30
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Jeanne Combs, Legislative District 32
Did not respond

Russ Karpisek, Legislative District 32
Did not respond

George Shada, Legislative District 32
Did not respond

Annette Dubas, Legislative District 34
Did not respond

Dennis Jarecke, Legislative District 34
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Greg Senkible, Legislative District 34
SUPPORTS stem cell research,
with restrictions

Dick Pierce, Legislative District 36
SUPPORTS limited stem cell
research, with restrictions

John Wightman, Legislative District 36
Did not respond

Tom Carlson, Legislative District 38
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Wayne Garrison, Legislative District 38
Did not respond

Kyle Kopitke, Legislative District 38
Did not respond

Duane Dean, Legislative District 40
Did not respond

Cap Dierks, Legislative District 40
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

Tom Noecker, Legislative District 40
Did not respond

Thomas Hansen, Legislative District 42
Did not respond

Marc Kaschke, Legislative District 42
Did not respond

Ronald Ruff, Legislative District 42
Did not respond

Mark Christensen
Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Jeff A. Tidyman, Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Angus Garey, Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Frank Shoemaker
Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Bill Weaver, Legislative District 44
SUPPORTS stem cell research

Kathy Wilmot, Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Bernard Wood, Legislative District 44
Did not respond

Carol Brown, Legislative District 46
Did not respond

LaRae Eifert, Legislative District 46
Did not respond

Danielle Nantkes
Legislative District 46
SUPPORTS stem cell research

John Harms, Legislative District 48
Did not respond

Edwin Mayo, Legislative District 48
SUPPORTS stem cell research
ONLY from umbilical cord

George Schlothauer
Legislative District 48
DOES NOT SUPPORT
stem cell research

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Research Today for Healthier Tomorrows

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