



Nebraska Energy

ASSISTANCE NETWORK

NEAN Meeting Notice

Thursday June 14, 2007

11 a.m. – 2:30 PM

UNL East Campus Union Bldg.

Lincoln, NE

Office: 402-472-6319

RSVP: Lunch is provided, so we need your **RSVP by Tuesday, June 12, (402) 472-6319** or (Shirley Niemeyer) sniemeyer2@unl.edu. If preferred, you may RSVP by e-mail, but we suggest you request a confirmation. Some e-mails may be blocked due to SPAM prevention software. Meeting minutes from the May 10th meeting are attached. The meeting will begin promptly at 11 a. m. and conclude by 2:30 p.m.

MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Updates on grants and surveys
- NEAN Mission/Values Discussion
- NEAN Website
- Statewide Energy Assistance Awareness/Fundraising Campaign
- Committee Reports
- Articles of Incorporation
- By Laws

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION: Dial-in #: **402-472-6290**; Do not hang up if you call before others are on the line. Hanging up before others join in will close the line. It is suggested conference call participants call in shortly after 11 a.m.

NOTE FOR ENERGY EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Energy Education Committee will meet prior to the NEAN meeting (9:15-10:45 a.m.) in the Home Economics building on East Campus, Room 104. See “Directions” on next page.

NOTE FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: Energy Assistance Committee will meet prior to the NEAN meeting (9:15-10:45 a.m.) in the East Campus Union. Upon arrival, check KIOSH for meeting room information. See “Directions” on the next page.

PARKING and DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION: Information provided on next page.

We look forward to seeing you at the East Campus Union building at UNL’s East Campus in Lincoln on June 14. Please forward this as an invitation to others that may be interested. Should you have any questions, please call.

Judi Martin, NEAN Chair
Omaha Public Power District
444 S. 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402)636-3654

Interested parties are invited to join us and learn how we can work together to meet the mission of the Nebraska Energy Assistance Network: To assist Nebraskans meet energy needs through education, collaboration and advocacy.

DIRECTIONS

NOTE FOR ENERGY EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.):

The **Home Economics Building** is the second building north of old Valentinos. The building is also labeled as the College of Education and Human Sciences. Room 104 is on the East Side of the Home Economics building (mall side) and just off the main building entrance.

NOTE FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.):

See directions for access to East Campus Union building below. Committee meeting will be in same building as NEAN meeting, but in a different room. Check KIOSH and in elevators etc., or ask at the snack area or the desk.

DIRECTIONS TO NEAN MEETING LOCATION: East Campus is located on the north side between 33rd and 48th streets on Holdrege. The primary entrance is about 35th and Holdrege. The entrance is located across from old Valentinos on Holdrege. A map of the campus is attached. If coming from Cornhusker Highway, you can take 33rd Street to Holdrege and then left onto Holdrege. If coming from 48th Street, turn west onto Holdrege and continue to the entrance across from Valentino's Pizza.

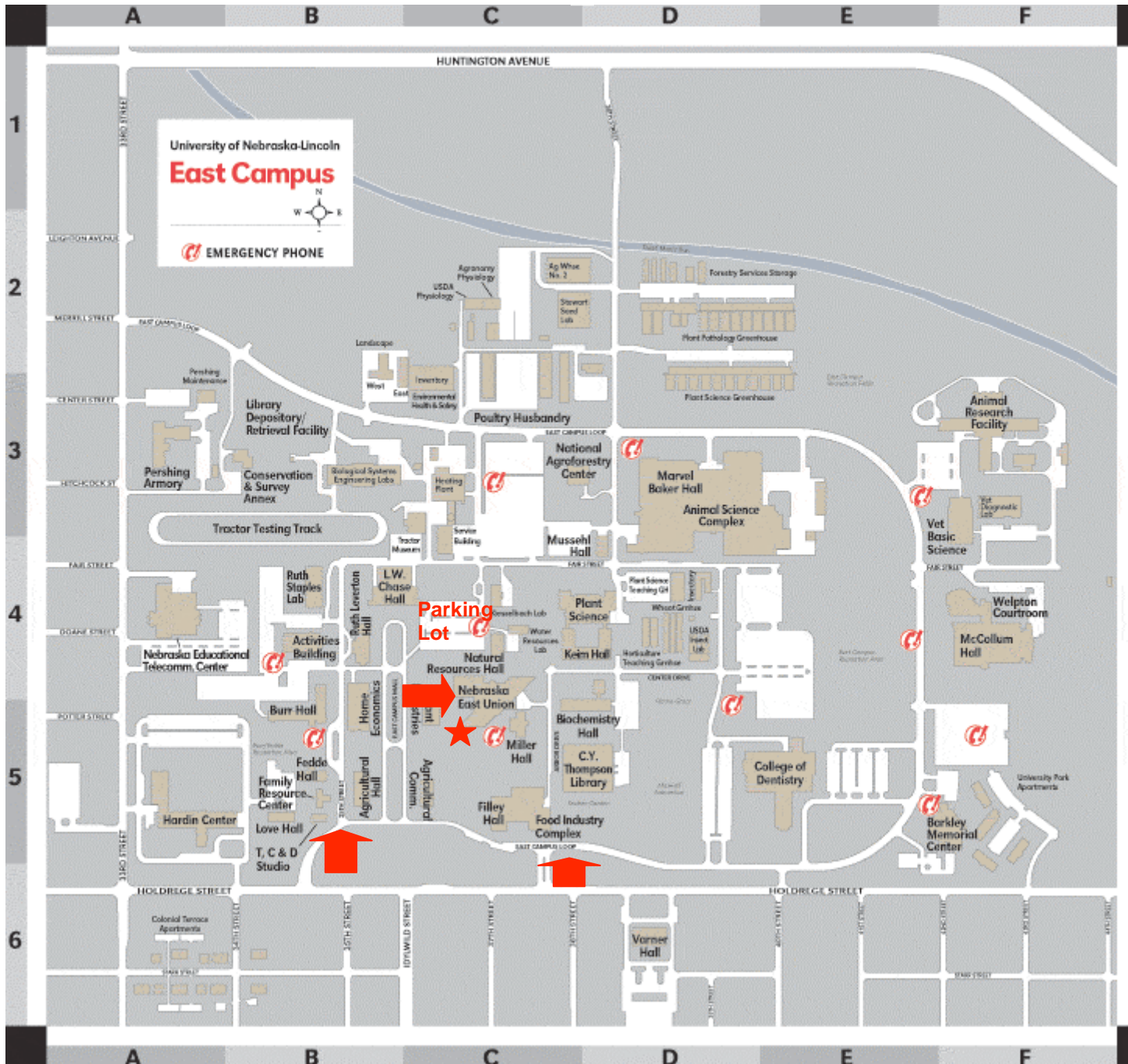
If you have any trouble locating the East Campus Union, call the office there at 402-472-1776. The room we are meeting in will be posted on the KIOSH and in elevators etc., or ask at the snack area or the desk. The East Campus Union is also north of the Dairy Store (Filley Hall) if you come in on that entrance you will have to go to the oval mall area and to the parking lot on the north side of the East Campus Union.

MAPQUEST: If using MapQuest, enter the address of the Dairy Store, near the campus: 3835 Holdrege St. A Map has been attached. (An address does not exist for the East Campus Union building, using MapQuest.)

PARKING: You may want to carpool. There are 2-hour meters to the north of the Union. You can also buy a guest parking permit at the East Campus Union desk. If you are driving a state car (i.e. NEO, NHHSS, etc.), there are special locations for you to park and no permit is needed.

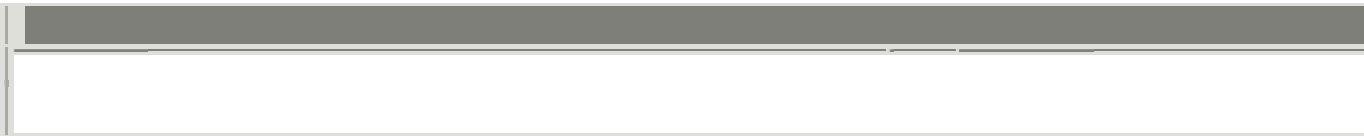
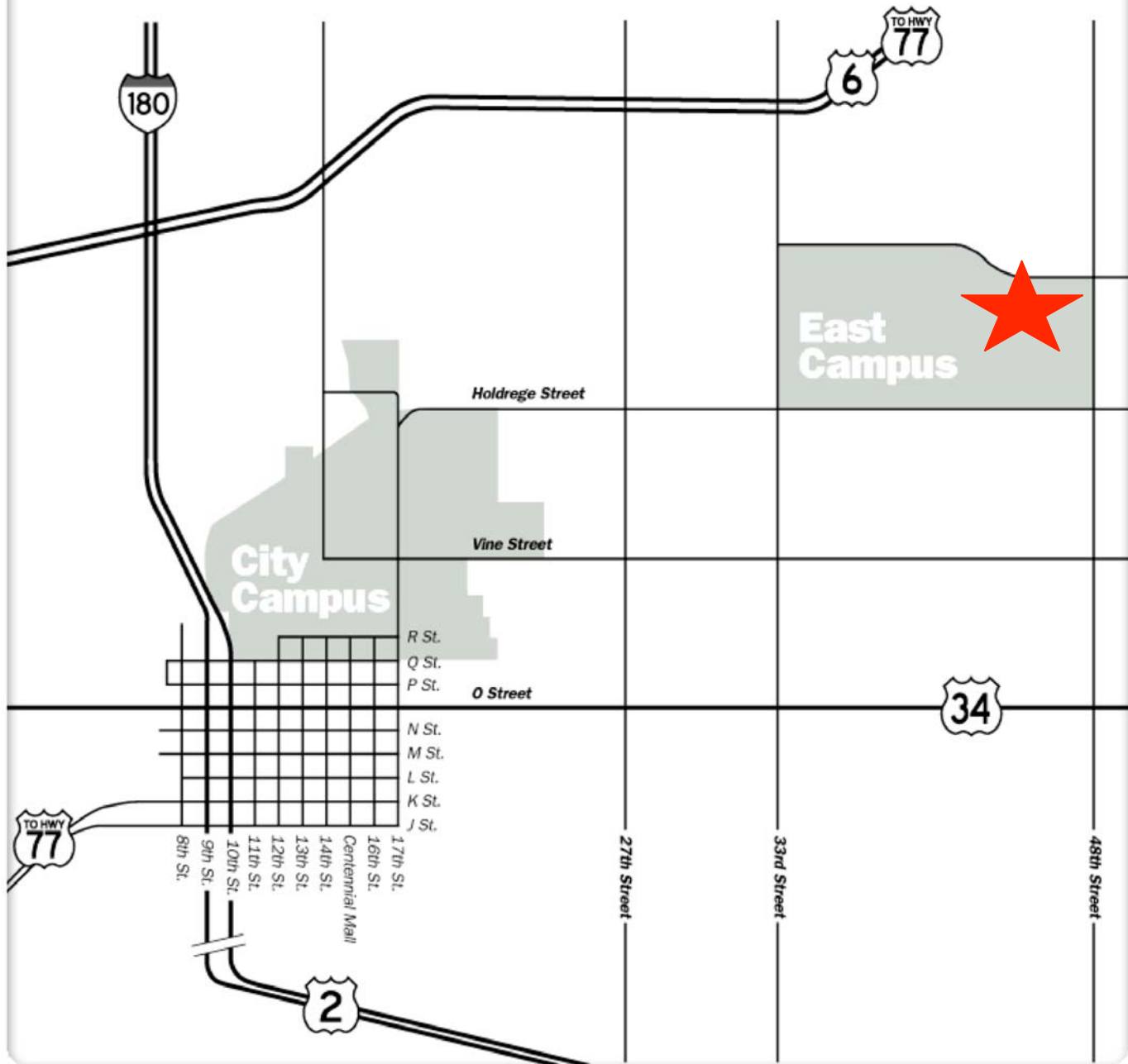
CONFERENCE ROOM FOR NEAN MEETING: Refer to posted KIOSH Sign - or signs at elevator for room location.

MAPS provided on next 2 pages.



to Interstate 80

to Interstate 80



**NEAN Meeting Notes – Lincoln
June 14, 2007**

Attendance:

Marge Buescher	Catholic Social Services
Blane Case	Lincoln Electric System
Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Lisa Comes	UNL
Jan Davis	Aquila
Dave DeBoer	M.U.D.
Kate Ellrich	American Red Cross
Linda Eidem (Conf Call)	NorthWestern Energy
Cory Fuehrer	NPPD
Krista Heineman	Goldenrod Hills
Cheryl Holcomb	CNCS
Ardith Hoins	BVCA Partnership
Roger Hunt	NPPD
Rick Hemphill	Elkhorn Rural, Stanton Co. & Cedar-Knox PPD
Paul Johnson	Aquila
Gwen Kautz (Conf Call)	Dawson PPD
Mike Kelly (Conf Call)	HHSS
Clarice Mackey	Salvation Army
Judi Martin	OPPD
Mari Matulka	M.U.D.
Peggy Mlady	Goldenrod Hills Community Action
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of NE – Lincoln Extension
Mary Beth Rathe	CAN
Char Reiman	SourceGas (formerly known as Kinder Morgan)
Roger Reikofski	NDE
Julie Thacker	M.U.D.
Diane Vesely-Robb	Lincoln Action Program

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, July 12, 2007 – 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

NorthWestern Energy
1023 East 25 St.
Kearney, NE
Phone: 308-237-4123

Conference Call:
1-866-213-1962
140244 Access Code

Lunch provided by Rick Cheloha – Loup Power District
Parking available near building

- I. Meeting called to order by Judi Martin
- II. Introductions
- III. Minutes accepted from May 10 meeting
- IV. Executive Committee Report
 - a. Grant – to be discussed
 - b. Reviewed and finalized mission value statement; NEAN Committee approved
 - c. Jan is working on brochure for prospective members and general correspondence
 - d. Treasurer’s Report
 - i. \$3600 in invoices sent out
 - ii. \$2500 received to date
 - iii. LES interested in becoming a member – Cory will send invoice
 - iv. \$590.80: Fee for work done on NEAN website

- V. Surveys/Grant Work – UNO
 - a. Follow-up Surveys
 - i. 263 usable follow-up surveys (60% response)
 - ii. Surveys were completed fairly well, in spite of complications
 - iii. 24 said they did not remember receiving kit
 - iv. Kit responses – 240
 - v. Most useful items in kit
 - 1. Light bulb & night light
 - vi. Why some of the items were not used
 - 1. Did not get around to it
 - 2. Already have it
 - 3. Live in an apartment and can’t use
 - 4. Nebraska City & Grand Island not used in survey
 - vii. Hanging clothes outside is more common in rural areas
 - b. Energy Burden Study
 - i. The work plan was modified from what was submitted that reduces some data gathering to OPPD Service Territory. Some state-wide data will still be included and supplemented by NEAN members.
 - ii. Review Census Bureau information already collected to determine needs and will include state-wide data. The data gathered in the Using Energy Wisely forums will be included in report.
 - iii. Determine what kind of assistance is available – other social service agencies, other organizations, non-profit, etc., Community Action Agencies will assist in gathering this data. Will need to also gather from State- LIHEAP, FEMA, Faith based and utilities as a coordinated effort.
 - iv. Hope to have results in time for an energy symposium in Jan. 2008.
 - v. Survey – additional survey costs should others wish to add to numbers
 - 1. \$2,000 – Area Tables & Charts
 - 2. \$20 per survey to collect data
 - 3. Total: \$2000 + \$20 per survey
 - 4. Set-up costs are covered by grant
 - 5. Will share script and survey with others

6. Sheila will post documents on website
 7. Cory Fuehrer will set up an ad-hoc conference call with representatives of NEAN utilities to decide if utilities would want to pick up additional costs for their own service territories
 - a. J. Davis, Linda Eidem, Cory Fuehrer, J. Martin, S. Nelson, S. Niemeyer, C. Reiman,
 - b. Approximate shared cost: \$18,000
 - c. Would need to discuss how information is divided up
 8. Random Sampling – allow for rural/urban difference
 - a. 200 +/- 7% margin of error
 - b. 400 +/- 5%
 - c. 600 +/- 3%
 - d. 800 +/- 2%
 9. Scheduled to begin collecting data in mid-July
 10. Need to conduct all surveys as the same time (not different seasons)
 11. Housing Survey (according to Shirley Niemeyer) may be helpful as a source list
- vi. What to do with data?
1. Random sampling of entire service area (OPPD), not a specific demographic group
 2. Specify where people are in need
 3. What have they done to adjust behavior?
 4. Fill in gap to see how people have changed
 5. Present at a symposium on using energy wisely
 6. Determine accommodations people have made to meet energy costs
 7. What other issues are there?
- c. Energy Symposium
- i. One in each congressional district might be an alternative
 - ii. Who can pick up other costs? Shirley will explore grant options to offset any additional costs to include complete state coverage.
 - iii. Funding for planning and speaker for symposium – some costs are covered in grant, registration fees and sponsorships can cover additional costs.

Lunch 11:45 – 12:15: Thank you UNL Extension for arranging the lunch!

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Membership Committee
 - i. What attracted you to NEAN?
 1. Roger Reikofski: Became interested when he received e-mail announcing NEAN meeting after John Turner suggested he be contacted.
 2. Rick Hemphill: Interested in Energy Education Program
- b. Energy Education Committee

- i. Met just prior to this meeting
- ii. Want to conduct additional educational forums this fall
- iii. Reviewing possibilities for subsidizing cost of kits and funding for forums
 - 1. Currently checking with Lowes, Menards, Wal-Mart, Sams & Home Depot. If you know of a company that might help with energy kits, contact Rick Cheloha, Diane Vesely-Robb or Shirley Niemeyer.
 - 2. Will discuss further with Mike Kelly to try and determine:
 - a. How many people do we want to touch?
 - b. How much will kits cost?
- iv. Energy Forums lined up and kits committed for the following
 - 1. Winnebago
 - 2. Family Housing Advisory
 - 3. Open Door Mission
- v. Judi Martin attended Conference; will provide LiHeap information; awaiting information from the people who are gathering the information
- c. Energy Assistance/Advocacy Committee
 - i. Gathering data – arrears write-off – Different information for different utilities – What common data do we want to request?
 - ii. Variances in disconnection policies
 - iii. Summertime not realistic for gas
 - iv. Request from each utility from Mike Kelly (HHSS):
 - 1. Jan 1 – December 31, 2006
 - a. # of Disconnects actually done
 - b. # of shut-offs mailed
 - 2. Provide same information for 2005 – if available
 - v. Decided we should use United Way 211 as the source for various agencies that provide assistance – provide a link on NEAN website.
 - vi. Want to find out who is providing assistance, by county- will need this data for Energy Burden Study.
 - 1. Total \$ amount
 - 2. Utility \$ amount assistance provided by utilities 2005 & 2006 (e-mail information to Kate)
 - vii. Lincoln Action Program – share #s that come out of REACH program
 - viii. There is a trend in government to change the focus from Energy Education to Health & Safety; primarily targeting elderly, disabled, and those with small children
 - ix. Data collected
 - 1. How to use data?
 - 2. Identify trends?
 - 3. Combine by state or region?
 - 4. Not to pinpoint a particular utility, energy or region
 - 5. Will check with Fisher/Colton to identify how they put the data together
 - x. Discussion regarding possible programs

1. One grant for Extensions internal funds
2. Environmental Trust
3. Indoor Air quality sources – available for use (on-line)?
4. Adopt a Family/Household
 - a. Financial assistance
 - b. Educational programs
 - c. Train the Trainer
 - d. Advise on how to get assistance
 - e. Volunteers to do energy audits or provide energy saving tips
- xi. Low-income family assistance – No real tracking regarding assistance paid
- xii. LiHeap: Mike Kelly is requesting arrearage amounts from each NEAN utility – Sheila sent out note to all NEAN members.
- xiii. Community Action Agencies see a different level of poverty than utilities
- xiv. Poverty – numbers increasing for homeless and working families who can't make it.
- xv. Role-Play poverty simulation to better understand the plight of those in need – possibly for symposium?
- d. Resource Clearinghouse Committee
 - i. Gwen is working on scripts to have a discussion forum (similar to a bulletin board) for NEAN members
- e. Grant Committee
 - i. Energy Burden Study grant approved with changes
- f. Administrative Committee
 - i. Reviewed by-laws
 - ii. Gwen and Sheila will discuss document filing system on NEAN website

VII. Fundraiser Awareness Campaign

- a. Several organizations are working together to coordinate an awareness and fundraiser campaign for those who require energy assistance
- b. Primarily targeted for Omaha metro
- c. Will create a model and encourage other communities to promote similar activities in their own communities throughout Nebraska
- d. Will approach governor to make it a state-wide effort
- e. Feb. 1, 2008 – National Li-Heap Day
- f. Planning a walk in the Omaha Old Market area – would be a “social” event encouraging participants to stop at various businesses to chat to warm up
- g. Use funds for energy assistance or weatherization?
- h. Working with media and various organizations – still in beginning planning stage
- i. Promotional ideas
 - i. Friday evening – or whatever would work in each community
 - ii. Carry flashlights

- VIII.** Helium balloons on meters
 - iii. “Round it Up” in HyVee stores
 - iv. State-wide radio-thon
 - v. Request funds when people buy sport tickets
 - vi. NFFN will provide promotional and media information to use in awareness campaign
 - vii.
- IX.** Joint Low Income Energy Conference
 - a. Nothing good to report on the federal level
 - b. Health and Safety is the dominant focus
 - i. Affect of heat and cold on the health of children
 - c. Track linkage between energy assistance and energy efficiency-trend
 - d. Next IEC Conference June 15-18, 2007, Denver, CO
- X.** Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.