



**NMA**  
**THE Leadership Development Organization**

## President's Message Mike Davis

My son said to me, “have you been laughing.” My son had guessed it right, I had been laughing. He could tell because when I laugh my face turns slightly red and lines appear around my eyes. I realized at that moment that I don’t laugh enough.

“Berkeley psychologist Prof. Bob Levenson asked couples to discuss something about their partner that annoyed them – a touchy subject. The couples that used laughter and smiling not only felt better immediately but also reported higher levels of satisfaction in their relationship, and stayed together for longer (“10 things you may not know about laughter” Prof Sophie Scott, University College London, October 26, 2014).” Laughter can make us feel better especially if we are facing a difficult or stressful situation.

I often have the opportunity to see bus drivers and passengers interact. On one of my bus rides the driver pointed to a scarecrow that was tied to a light pole. The driver commented, “That guy (scarecrow) has been waiting for the bus all day”. All the passengers laughed.

On another recent bus trip I was riding, which was running behind schedule, one of the passengers spoke up and said: “I would make it on time if you didn’t drive like my grandma.” The driver responded “I *will* get you back.” In the end both were laughing which made the stress of a late bus much easier.

I recently heard a story on National Public Radio (“A ‘Wisdom Keeper’ draws from a deep well of Navajo culture,” January 12, 2016). I was intrigued by the difficult situations this teacher faced, such as kids missing too much school, and yet when her students were asked what they like about her they responded “‘She never gets angry,’ says one girl. A boy adds: ‘She’s funny and likes telling jokes, like the one she told the other day. What do ghosts like to eat? Sbooghetti.’ Everyone laughs.”

I feel as a leader you need to encourage fun and humor. Nicolas Chamfort said “The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.” I challenge you to lighten your day with a little more laughter and fun. You may never know the positive impact this will have on others.

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**Community Service  
Jann Douglas, Chair**

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations to The Bridge. Your generosity was very much appreciated!

Watch for details for our Spring Project – Coming Soon!

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**Awards Committee  
Charlotte Burke, Chair**

The Team Work Award will be presented at the February 23, 2016 meeting.

Leadership Link is seeking nominations for the annual Team Work Award. This award honors teams of employees who have worked together in such a manner that they have exceeded expectations to achieve a common goal. It is not necessary to be members of Leadership Link to either nominate or be nominated for this award. We have many deserving teams of employees working for our City, County, and State.

The nominations are to be sent to Charlotte Burke at [cburke@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:cburke@lincoln.ne.gov) and must be received by February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The recipients of the Team Work Award as well as all nominees of the Award will be recognized at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Leadership Link.

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**Membership Committee  
Barb Boggs, Chair**

Welcome to our six new members!

Tera Prucha and State of Nebraska transfers – Chris Peterson, Peggy Donsheski, Linda Zabel, Heather Sullivan and Janis Heim.

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# Programs Committee Martha Hakenkamp, Chair

## Leadership LINK February Luncheon Meeting

- SPEAKER:** Leirion Gaylor Baird, Council Vice-Chair  
Lincoln City Council
- WHEN:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 11:30 AM
- WHERE:** Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Training Center, 3140 N Street
- NOTES:** \$5 for Leadership Link and State Chapter members & \$10 for non-members
- MENU:** Assorted Sandwiches, Chips, Fruit, Dessert & Beverages
- RSVP:** By Noon Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to Elaine Walsh at [ewalsh@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ewalsh@lincoln.ne.gov)



Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected to the Lincoln City Council as an at-large representative in May 2013 and currently serves as the Council Vice-Chair. Her priorities include public safety and improved emergency response times; repair and growth of Lincoln’s street and sidewalk network; continued support of libraries, parks, pools, and trails; sustainable access to a clean and sufficient water supply; tech infrastructure development; increased efficiency and cost-savings in the City/County procurement process; and ensuring Lincoln remains a top-ranked city in which to work and raise a family.

Prior to her election, Leirion was a Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commissioner and a member of the LPlan Advisory Committee that produced the 2040 Comprehensive Plan - the strategic roadmap for Lincoln’s growth and development over the next three decades. These experiences deepened her commitment to smart urban growth that promotes economic opportunity and enhances our health, safety, and quality of life.

Leirion began her career as a management consultant, helping Fortune 500 companies become more efficient. She has also worked as a city budget analyst and as a director of an innovative after-school and summer enrichment program designed to improve educational outcomes for children from low-income communities.

Leirion has a B.A. in History from Yale and a Master’s degree in Comparative Social Policy from Oxford. She and her husband, Scott, have three children.

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## Board of Directors 2015-2016

Mike Davis President	Brad Thavenet President-Elect	Elaine Severe Secretary	Steve Owen Treasurer	Pat Borer Past-President
Barb Boggs Member Relations	Charlotte Burke Awards	Martha Hakenkamp Programs	Jann Douglas Community Service	

## Executive Advisors

Judith Halstead Health	Doug McDaniel Human Resources	Gwen Thorpe County Commissioners
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### NMA Code of Ethics

I will recognize that all individuals inherently desire to practice their occupations to the best of their ability.

I will assume that all individuals want to do their best.

I will maintain a broad and balanced outlook and will recognize value in the ideas and opinions of others.

I will be guided in all my activities by truth, accuracy, fair dealing and good taste.

I will keep informed on the latest developments in techniques, equipment, and processes.

I will recommend or initiate methods to increase productivity and efficiency.

I will support efforts to strengthen the management professional through training and education.

I will help my associates reach

### NMA Statement of Principles

We believe in the highest standards of personal and organizational integrity and respect for the individual.

We believe in lifelong learning, continuous improvement and the development of a workforce capable of sustaining a competitive posture in the global economy.

We believe management is a creative, dynamic, and essential process enabling people to achieve personal and organizational objectives.

We believe that managerial responsibility is shared among all individuals at all levels of the organization and that leadership is critical to management success.

We believe that individuals and organizations have a community and civic responsibility.

### NMA Mission Statement

NMA offers leadership development products and creates opportunities that maximize the potential of our members, sponsoring organizations, and communities.

personal and professional fulfillment.

Contribute to the effectiveness of sponsoring organizations.

I will earn and carefully guard my reputation for good moral character and good citizenship.

I will promote the principles of our American Enterprise System to others, by highlighting its accomplishments and displaying confidence in its future.

I will recognize that leadership is a call to service.

### The NMA Leadership Model



Derived from a similar model in Results Based Leadership by Ulrich, Zenger, & Smallwood.