

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate  
January 09, 2013

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the first day of the One Hundred Third Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Nelson. Would you all please rise. Correction, Senator Harms.

SENATOR HARMS: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Harms. I would ask you to remain standing. We will now have the Presentation of the Colors from the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Please help me thank the members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard. And you may be seated. Pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of Nebraska, the One Hundred Third Legislature, First Session of the Legislature of Nebraska, assembled in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber of the State Capitol, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on January 9, 2013, is now called to order. (Gavel) Mr. Clerk, will you please call the roll for the purposes of establishing a quorum.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Will the members and members-elect please indicate their presence by saying aye, here, or present when you hear your name called. (Roll read, Legislative Journal page 1.) Mr. President, I do have a quorum present.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now proceed to the appointment of temporary officers. The Chair recognizes Senator Wightman for a motion.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Mr. President, I move to appoint Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell as temporary Clerk of the Legislature, and Mr. Ron Witkowski as temporary Sergeant at Arms.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the appointment of the temporary officers. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have any resignation or appointment letters?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. I have a resignation letter from Senator Deb Fischer, submitted to the Clerk and the Governor on December 20, effective for January 3, 2013.

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That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 2-3.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator McCoy for a motion.

SENATOR McCOY: Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the election of five persons to serve as the Committee on Credentials who with forthwith report to the Legislature on the credentials of those claiming to be elected to the Legislature in the general election in November 2012.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McCoy. The question is the adoption of the motion to elect the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator McCoy.

SENATOR McCOY: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time I would nominate the following five members to the Committee on Credentials: Senator Ashford, Senator Avery, Senator Adams, Senator Carlson, and Senator Christensen.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion on the adoption to nominate the five senior members to act as the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Would the five members and the Clerk retire to the rear of the Chamber. The Chair recognizes Senator Ashford for a motion.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I would move to approve the Committee on Credentials' report, as certified and presented by the Secretary of State. (Legislative Journal pages 3-5.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Ashford. The motion before you is to approve the report of the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The report is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Sullivan for a motion.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the members of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. You have heard the motion before you to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair appoints the following committee members: Senator Ashford, Senator Adams, Senator Avery, Senator Christensen, and Senator Carlson. Will you please retire to retrieve the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms. (Gavel)

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Please be seated. The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Judge Mike Heavican.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I will now call the names of the new legislators to be sworn in, and if you would then come down to the well, please: Senator Dan Watermeier, Senator William Kintner, Senator Scott Price, Senator Heath Mello, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, Senator Sara Howard, Senator Tanya Cook, Senator Charlie Janssen, Senator Dave Bloomfield, Senator Jim Scheer, Senator Ken Haar, Senator Jerry Johnson, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Kate Bolz, Senator Rick Kolowski, Senator Les Seiler, Senator Mike Gloor, Senator Galen Hadley, Senator Beau McCoy, Senator Kate Sullivan, Senator Al Davis, Senator Sue Crawford, Senator Ken Schilz, Senator John Murante, and Senator Ernie Chambers. We have everyone present, so please raise your right hand, each of you. (Oath of office administered, Legislative Journal pages 5-6.) Thank you very much and congratulations.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Will the committee please come forward and escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber. Senator McGill, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. President, I move that the rules, as now in our possession, be adopted for today only, Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is on the adoption of temporary rules. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The rules are adopted. We will now move to the election of permanent officers. The Chair recognizes Senator Wightman.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Mr. President, I move that the following officers recommended by the Executive Board be elected to serve for the One Hundred Third Legislature: Clerk of the Legislature Patrick J. O'Donnell, Assistant Clerk of the Legislature Richard K. Brown, and Sergeant at Arms Ron Witkowski.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wightman. The motion before you is the election of permanent officers, serving as Clerk of the Legislature, Patrick J. O'Donnell; the Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard K. Brown; and the Sergeant at Arms, Ron Witkowski. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. First of all, I personally just want to say congratulations to all of you who were sworn in today and I know that we are going to have a very exciting calendar for the next 90 workdays, but at this time we do have to get to work. And we appreciate all the family and friends joining us this morning in the Legislative Chamber, but for us to get to our business I now need to ask family members and friends to step from the floor. Senator Price, you are

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recognized for a motion.

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to proceed to the election of the Speaker. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Adams, you are recognized.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I would like to put my name in for nomination for Speaker. As I do so, I do so with a great deal of humility. I've thought about this and I am humbled by those who have been Speakers in the past, their skill set, what they have brought to this body. And I'm humbled by, well, very frankly, the responsibility of this position, a responsibility to all of you, a responsibility to the citizenry of Nebraska, and a responsibility to this wonderful institution--the Legislature. I was asked not long ago, Adams, what's your agenda? And I have no political agenda, but I do have an agenda. My agenda is to help you be the best senators you can be, to help you do your job, to help you in any way that I could blend your political life with your personal lives. I have an agenda for fairness above all else, of making good policy, and an agenda for protecting and promulgating the integrity and the culture and the history of this institution. I would tell you there are few things in my life that I have honored more than my service right here. I would be honored to serve you. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Adams. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and by unanimous vote of acclamation be cast for Senator Greg Adams.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Adams Speaker by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Senator Adams is declared the Speaker. Senator Krist, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR KRIST: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the officers of our Legislature.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion before you to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice for the administration of the oath. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair appoints the following committee

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members: Senator Coash, Senator McGill, Senator Bloomfield, Senator Hansen, and Senator Burke Harr. Would you please retire to the back of the Chamber to escort the Chief Justice. (Doctor of the day introduced.) The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms. (Gavel)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice of Nebraska Supreme Court, Mike Heavican.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you again, Mr. President. It is now my good pleasure to swear in the Speaker of the Legislature, Mr. Greg Adams. Senator Greg Adams, would you come forward, please. Raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to Speaker Adams.) Congratulations. And now I will swear in the Clerk of the Legislature, Patrick J. O'Donnell. Raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to Clerk O'Donnell.) Congratulations. And now the Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard K. Brown, will take his oath. Mr. Brown, raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to Assistant Clerk Brown.) Congratulations. And now the Sergeant at Arms, Ron Witkowski, will take his oath of office. Mr. Witkowski, raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to Sergeant at Arms Witkowski.) Congratulations. And that concludes today's swearing in.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Chief Justice Heavican. Will the committee please come forward and escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber. The Chair recognizes Senator Bloomfield.

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of Chairperson of the Committee on Committees.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Bloomfield. The motion before you is to proceed with the election of the Chair of Committee on Committees. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is now open for nominations. The Chair recognizes Senator McCoy.

SENATOR McCOY: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I rise this morning to place my name into nomination for the Chair of our Committee on Committees. Unlike all other state legislative bodies in our nation, we select the committee leaders and members. We put Nebraska citizens ahead of any parties and politics. Out of 7,382 state legislators across America, only the 49 of us in this Chamber this morning get to elect our leadership and committee members in this manner. If elected to this Chair position, I pledge to preside over this uniquely Nebraska process with fairness, honesty, and will strive to promote collegiality and civility. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McCoy. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Beau McCoy.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator McCoy Chair by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator McCoy. Senator Coash, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the remaining 12 members of the Committee on Committees and that we authorize the members residing within each of the three districts, as enumerated in Rule 3, Section 2, to nominate 4 members to be elected by the legislative body to serve on the Committee on Committees. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Coash. The question is the motion to elect the remaining members of the Committee on Committees. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, you have the caucus reports before you.

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Thank you. The 1st District Caucus reports Senators Campbell, Adams, Conrad, and Coash have been selected by their colleagues in that caucus for representation on the Committee on Committees. Caucus 2 has selected Senators Ashford, Krist, Lathrop, and Mello as their representatives. And Caucus 3 has selected Senators Davis, Hadley, Sullivan, and Carlson as their representatives on the Committee on Committees.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Christensen, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the approval of the nominees to the Committee on Committees.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question before you is the motion to approve the nominees for the Committee on Committees. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We'll now proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. The Chair recognizes Senator Harms.

SENATOR HARMS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question before you is the motion to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is open for nominations. The Chair recognizes Senator Wightman.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you. As most of you are aware, I have had the privilege to serve in this position for the past four years and desire to serve again. I must admit that about three and a half months ago I had a lot of doubt whether I would be in this position or any position in the Legislature, but thanks to God I have had a quick recovery, I guess. Whether I'm totally recovered I guess remains to be seen, but at this point it appears that I've had a good recovery. So I do ask for your vote to continue to serve for the next two years as Chairman of the Executive Board. Again, I've had four years of experience and feel that I can continue to do this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wightman. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, nominations cease. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator John Wightman.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Dubas. You have heard the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Wightman Chair of Exec Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Wightman. Senator Smith, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the motion to proceed to the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Nelson, you're recognized.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the...and colleagues of the Legislature. It is...has been a real honor for me to represent you as Vice Chair of the Executive Board for the last four years. You've seen fit to reelect my good friend and colleague, Senator Wightman, as Chair. I think you have made a good decision there. And we all recognize that he has made an excellent recovery from significant health issues, and of course we wish him well. As Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, I have had and would continue to have two main responsibilities. One is to preside when the Chair is absent, and I've had a number of opportunities to do that in the past two years. The other is to represent this body and defend its interests and advocate for it as a voting member of the Executive Committee. We have to deal with important issues

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regarding the Legislature and its employees. And as a member of the Appropriations Committee for the last six years, I have advocated for this Legislature in its budget and its operation. As you all know, we have had serious revenue shortfalls and difficult budget issues. My parents went through the Depression on the farm and they taught me some valuable lessons as a result of that. They taught me to save and also to spend wisely, and I've tried to operate under those directions all the time here while I've been serving the people of Nebraska in this Legislature. My first two years on the Appropriations Committee, I worked very hard to build up a Cash Reserve, a large Cash Reserve, and we had one and thank goodness we did because it was a great deal of help to us with our fiscal downturn and the necessity of reductions across the board, which made it difficult, but we managed to do it. And I look back on that as a great opportunity. It helped us through our fiscal crisis and we came out in much better shape, probably as good as any state of the United States. For the benefit of our new members, I'd like to give you a little bit of background about myself. I am a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and of Creighton Law School. I was a commissioned Navy officer. I went aboard a destroyer. We made three WESTPAC deployments. I was responsible, as a division head, for 60 men and I was responsible for paying, feeding, and the welfare of 270 sailors. Prior to each deployment, it was necessary for me to go with an armed guard to a bank and come back to the ship with about a million dollars and put it in the safe before we left. And it was also necessary for me to pack a pistol at that time, long before we knew anything about concealed carry. I continued then to serve in the Navy Reserve and retired as a commander. Three years ago, I was privileged to go to the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership, where I was able to work on a concentrated effort of honing my legislative skills. As a lawyer over a long period of years, I have counseled and represented a great many clients and I have learned to listen, to be a good listener, and to look at both sides and to advocate for a just and fair resolution. During this last session I introduced LB1089, which provided \$50 million out of the Cash Reserve for the Med Center in Omaha for a cancer research tower. I was very privileged to do that because that was the seed money for getting started with that. And it was a \$310 million project, still is, but that seed money was necessary to get the donations and contributions. And we're moving forward on that, and it's going to be a great benefit of the state of Nebraska and Omaha, as far as our economy, and also for the tower and the adjoining facilities that are going to be at the leading edge of cancer research.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: There are a number of us now in our final term, our final two years, and we all want to finish well. I've spent most of my life serving people as a naval officer, as a deputy election commissioner in Douglas County, as an active member of my church and community, and as a member of this body. I would greatly appreciate your support in reelecting me as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Are there further nominations? Senator Krist, you're recognized.

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to nominate myself for the Vice Chair of the Executive Board. Colleagues, staff, guests, welcome to the first day of the 76th year of our one-of-a-kind Unicameral. After many conversations and encouragement, I have decided to ask for your vote for the Vice Chair of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. I believe, in this term-limited environment, we must be diligent to provide continuity of leadership and experience to our successors. About a third of us, a third of the 49 here in this One Hundred Third Legislature, will be term limited in 2014. I would compare the jurisdiction and the subject matter of the Executive Board to the responsibilities of my past life as a leader in the United States Air Force. In both of these processes, they work best if the people and the logistics are taken care of, allowing the mission to succeed unimpeded. I have, by example, demonstrated profound care of staff during my service in this body. In addition to my past experience and performance, you can count on me to bring new energy and attention to detail 60 minutes out of every hour, every hour out of every day that we are in session and in the interim. I was honored to be part of a team that brought key issues regarding juvenile justice, child welfare, and family services into proper focus and that coordinated effective and solution-orientated legislation to address these issues. I would only add that one of my top priorities is the preservation of this unblemished integrity and tradition of the Nebraska Legislature and the continuation of our rich traditions. I'm extremely honored to serve with all of you. I thank you for your consideration and I ask you for your vote.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Krist. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, members, we will now proceed to vote. At your desks you will find a piece of paper that you can use to write the name of the individual for which you are voting for. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will collect the ballots. At this time, I would appoint the following three senators as tellers: Senator Schumacher, Senator Lautenbaugh, Senator Conrad. Would you please come forward. Following the balloting, Senator Krist has been selected as the Vice Chair of the Executive Board. Senator Burke Harr, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR HARR: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the other six members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, as outlined in Nebraska Revised Statute 50-401.01.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the question is on the adoption of the motion to proceed to the election of the members of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, you are recognized to deliver the reports from the caucus.

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CLERK: Mr. President, the 1st Caucus has selected Senators Avery and Senator Campbell as their representatives to the Executive Board. The 2nd Caucus has selected Senators Lathrop and Chambers as representatives to the Executive Board from that caucus. And the 3rd Caucus has selected Senators Karpisek and Christensen as their representatives.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Nelson, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, I move the approval of nominees of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question before you is the adoption of the caucus report and members. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The caucus reports are adopted. We will now move to the election of the standing committee Chairpersons. Senator Wallman, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR WALLMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the standing committee Chairpersons by secret ballot, in accordance with Rule 3, Section 8(a).

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the adoption of the motion to proceed to the election of the standing committee Chairpersons. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. We will start with the Chair of the Agriculture Committee. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Schilz, you're recognized.

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. Good morning. Welcome back. At this point, I would like to place my name in nomination for the Agriculture Committee Chair for the Legislature of Nebraska. In serving the Legislature over the last four years, it has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I know we heard Senator Adams talk about the same thing. I think all of us here feel it. The other thing that has been one of the most...the other fulfilling experience in my life, one of them, is being lifelong involved in agriculture. I'm a third-generation family farmer and cattleman, and I've learned everything that I've learned about life basically on the farm. I'm running for Ag Chair because I understand the importance of ag to the state of Nebraska. For three generations my family has farmed and fed cattle in Keith County. For five generations we've been involved in farming and ranching in the state of Nebraska--just a little bit about myself so that you understand I am capable and able to handle this job. I've been very involved in my community, be it on the local, county, state level. I've been involved in numerous organizations. Nebraska Water Users, I was past-president, dealt with people all across the state on water issues, water policy, and how to make things better for farmers and ag folks in the state of Nebraska. I served on Governor Johanns' and Governor Heineman's Platte River Advisory Committee (sic), where I represented recreational interests. I've also served on the Water Policy Task Force, where I

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represented South Platte Basin interests. I've also served locally on Keith County Area Development, which is our local county economic development board, where I served five years as president there. I've also served on the Nebraska Cattlemen and been members of Farm Bureau and many other farm organizations. I understand that there are interests on all sides of an issue. I understand that those interests have to come together and be brought together to have equitable and meaningful policy. I would appreciate your support and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the state of Nebraska. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Schilz. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Ken Schilz.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion for nominations to cease and to accept Senator Schilz by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Schilz. We will now proceed to the Appropriations Chairman nominations. The floor is now open. Senator Hansen, you're recognized.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. It's amazing how this body of 49 people can come from so many varied backgrounds, so many different walks of life. And it's been great serving here for six years. I congratulate the new senators and the newly reelected senators that took the oath this morning. You will enjoy this body. You will be frustrated by this body. You will make consensus with this body. All the possibilities are there. It will be what you make it and I wish you the best of luck. After spending the first 60 years of my life in the ranching business, I think there's a lot of the way that I look at the big picture. There's ups and downs. There's good years, there's bad years, there's years that aren't so good. This year with all the fires and the drought in across the state, it wasn't especially a good year for ranchers. State budget is a lot like that too. It has good years and it has bad years. And we have to react to the big picture, where the future is always bright, but still we can't spend the money we don't have. That's why I'm on the Appropriations Committee and that's why I stand here before you today asking for your vote to be Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Appropriations Committee always has a big job every year, especially in the long session that we're starting now. We do have a great staff to help us along the way from the Fiscal staff. They're here to help a new Chairman, they're here to help the committee, and they're also here to help every member of this body. If you have fiscal questions, questions why your bill has such a fiscal note on it, you can always contact the Fiscal Office and they will help you wherever they possibly can. On the seventieth day of this session, this budget will become yours, and we're still going to be talking about the future. There will be challenges to the state through our financial situation in

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the next two years, there always is and this two-year cycle will be no different. We have to set priorities and priorities will be our main goal in the Appropriations Committee. I look forward to serving on the Appropriations Committee again and I would ask for your vote for Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Mello, you're recognized.

SENATOR MELLO: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise humbly to nominate myself to be the next Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and I offer myself to you as a candidate, not because of my four-year tenure on the committee but because of what I've learned over those four years on the committee. I've been fortunate enough, as have other colleagues, to spend four years learning from our past Chairman, Senator Lavon Heidemann. And while many of you know Senator Heidemann and me have not always agreed on everything, we did agree on an awful lot. And if anything we did agree on was his ability to teach younger members the ways of how the committee works, the processes that are involved, and the values that are needed to help bridge compromise and build consensus. A few of those values that I think I bring to the table for us to consider, the first one is an openness and an approachability. I know that we may not always agree on the committee because we have a diverse set of views and a diverse set of ideas in regards to how we feel we can move the state forward. But the next Chair, I feel, has to be able to approach everyone with an openness and to be able to put aside what our own views may be in a certain area to be open-minded and accept everyone's views, not just in the committee but those of you who are not on the committee, because ultimately the budget is not just a document of the nine Appropriations Committee members. It's a document of the entire Legislature and will take everyone's feedback and everyone's priorities to help get it passed and provide it to the Governor. A second value that I think I possess and I think is very, very fundamental to this Legislature as a whole of any committee Chair is the ability to be fair, the understanding that we may disagree but after those disagreements dissipate people feel comfortable about the process. They feel that their voices have been heard. They feel they've been able to make their arguments and make their case. And wherever the vote may be, they feel good about the system and the process. There's a fairness that also encompasses not just the committee but those members who sit outside of the committee who may bring appropriations bills to the committee and want to talk with not just the Chair, individual members but the Legislative Fiscal Office. And that's important to be able to ensure that each member of this body feels they're being treated fairly by the committee in all branches and aspects of the appropriations process, including our Fiscal Office. The third component, and I would say those who have worked with me on bills or have opposed me on bills would no doubt possibly agree that an attribute that's needed more so with the economic times that we're in, that are not as bad as they have been the last four years, is the sense and the ability to be dedicated to the process at the end of the day. I think those who have worked with me feel and realize that I put a lot of time and energy into what I do. I'm

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tenacious. I try to go above and beyond in regards to knowing what I'm talking about, and when I don't know what I'm talking about, finding out those who do know what they're talking about. And as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, we know that Lavon Heidemann had multiple meetings every day, multiple phone calls every day, multiple agency meetings every day, and yet he was still able to come to the committee, judge, and run a fair process and be open-minded to all eight of us, who he may not have agreed with but at the end of the day tried to build what the dedication of all of us were, which was a consensus-driven budget; that all nine members of the committee sought to put aside our own parochial and our own individual issues to work for the better cause to provide this Legislature a consensus budget that brought various ideologies, various issues to play and set statewide priorities that urban and rural could both get behind. I think I can do that. I think I've been able to do that working with Senator Heidemann, working with Senator Harms and the other committee members the last four years. I may have won some issues and I may have lost some issues, but the "underriding" principle and the "underriding" goal was to build a consensus, and that consensus is needed now more than ever as we move forward. I'm honored to be put in front of you and for your consideration. It's something that no doubt my colleague, Senator Hansen, is a good man. We've talked earlier and I think he'd be a good Chair as well. But I think ultimately I bring a set of attributes and a set of skills that I think can help build consensus within this body, knowing we have big issues ahead of us: early childhood education to water policy to Medicaid to rebuilding the Cash Reserve. And I feel I can bring those skills to be able to build that consensus to help move the state forward and help all of you be part of the budget process. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Mello. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Members, we will now proceed to vote. As previously, you will find a piece of paper on your desk that will be collected by the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk. I would appoint the following three senators to come forward to act as tellers: Senator Coash, Senator Smith, Senator Cook. Following the balloting, Senator Mello is selected as Chair of Appropriations. We will now move to the selection of Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Gloor.

SENATOR GLOOR: Good morning and thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, members. Thank you for this opportunity to place my name in nomination for the Chair of Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. I'd like to thank those members that encouraged me to pursue this nomination. I especially would like to thank Senator McCoy for bringing to our discussions on this position the same intelligent and enthusiastic level of dialogue he brings to debate and I'm very appreciative of that. And also to Senator Pirsch for his thoughtful deliberation of personal commitments versus the time commitments of the Chair and I honor his difficult decision. I've been a member of this committee for the past four years. I have enjoyed being a member of this committee. I look forward to--God willing--the next two years and hopefully beyond in

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whatever role. Most of you know that in my past background I've served on bank boards, been responsible for development of a health insurance company owned by Providers, and, of course, a career...my entire career in healthcare. That career, I believe, will be of help to the body, to the committee, and eventually, I hope, Nebraskans as we move forward in some of the difficult decisions we have to make related to implementation of the Affordable Care Act. We are all full-time senators, a fact we know gets lost on the general public and our constituents, but we are all full-time senators. Some of us, like me, have extra time to be able to spend in this job and I will, if voted into this position, certainly spend that extra time doing so and look forward to that. I would say finally, and echoing comments that have already been made, one of the keys in a Chairmanship, I believe, and one of the keys to the work that I did in managing healthcare organizations was to try and bring a degree of impartiality weighing both sides of an issue, recognizing the fact that it's important to get people to come to consensus but if you can't, you've got to be pushing for decisions, decisions you yourself may have to make. But it's also important to know that you're always learning, and I have always been learning how best to do that and my pledge is, I will continue learning how best to do that. I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Gloor. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Mike Gloor.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Gloor as Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Gloor. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Business and Labor Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Lathrop, you are recognized.

SENATOR LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I stand to put my name in nomination for Chair of the Business and Labor Committee. And for those of you who are new to the process, the Business and Labor Committee is where we deal with the...primarily deal with the employer-employee relationship. I've had the privilege of Chairing that committee for the last four years during which time I think I can report to you that we have made balanced changes in the employer-employee relationship that I think moved the state forward. They have been, as I said, balanced solutions to the problems that have presented themselves in that committee. I ask for your continued support and your vote as...for me as Chair of Business and Labor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Are there further nominations?

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Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Steve Lathrop.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Lathrop as Chair of Business and Labor. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Lathrop. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Education Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Sullivan, you're recognized.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President. The Legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of this state of all persons between the ages of 5 and 21 years. The Legislature may provide for the education of other persons in educational institutions owned and controlled by the state or a political subdivision thereof, Article VII, Section 1, of our Nebraska Constitution. Colleagues, these will be my marching orders if you choose me and elect me as your Chair of the Education Committee. I think you already know how much I value the role of education in this state. It's the key that unlocks potential, opens the doors of opportunities, and paves the way for our young people to become productive adults and tomorrow's leaders. It is one of our most important duties and responsibilities in this body, one of which we cannot shirk, one we cannot ignore, and one we must always examine and reexamine to see how we are meeting our constitutional responsibility. For four years I've served on the Education Committee and I've worked hard to understand the many issues facing education today. I want to continue to guide that process as Chair of the committee. This body has had a longstanding tradition of strong leadership on education policy. I pledge to continue that tradition by concentrating on equity, in program funding, accessibility, accountability, and quality. Please know, colleagues, that I am a willing listener, an eager learner, and one who wants to work with all of you on educational issues. I promise to guide the committee with organization and openness, and strive to bring you legislation that is thoughtful and important educational policy that says that we want to do what's right for the education of our young people. So I thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for your vote as Chair of the Education Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Kate Sullivan.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Sullivan, by acclamation, Chair of Education. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Congratulations, Senator Sullivan. We will now continue to the selection of Chair of General Affairs. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Karpisek, you're recognized.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I would like to put my name in to Chair the General Affairs Committee. I've had the distinct pleasure of being the Vice Chair, as a freshman senator, in Chairing the last four years. The General Affairs Committee should probably be named something else and we can maybe work on this this year, but we mainly deal with gambling issues, alcohol issues, cemeteries, and electrical. Somehow they all fit together. (Laughter) Speaker Flood once told me, you know, "Karpy," I don't know a senator that was ever more fit to head a committee. I don't know what that meant but I did appreciate his kind words. I would appreciate your vote to still Chair General Affairs Committee and I appreciate everyone's hard work and open-mindedness in the body this morning. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Russ Karpisek.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Karpisek Chair of the General Affairs Committee by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Karpisek. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair for the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Avery, you're recognized.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. It is a privilege to stand for reelection as Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I have served on that committee the entire six years of my tenure in this body, and it has been a very rewarding experience. I have to tell you that the work of this committee is where my interests lie, and it is where I have the most experience. As most of you know, I spent the major part of my adult life at UNL teaching government and I served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. I used the GI bill to help me get a college education and this was a life-changing experience that I could not otherwise afford. These experiences have shaped me and prepared me to lead this committee. Over the past four years I have been privileged to represent this body and the committee at numerous National Guard deployment ceremonies and welcome-home events and I have been happy to do that and proud to represent this

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institution. Most of you know me. You know that I'm fair-minded, work hard, and I'm pragmatic, that I approach every issue in a thoughtful and deliberative manner and I will continue to do that. You know also that I'm somebody who listens and someone that you can work with on virtually any issue. I have made many lasting friendships in this place over the past several years and that is something I cherish and will always take with me. I care deeply about this institution and the people who serve here and I will do everything in my power to protect the institution, to strengthen it, and to support those of you who serve here. So I hope you will consider these attributes worthy of another term as Chair of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Avery. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Bill Avery.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Avery as Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Avery. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee Chair. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Campbell, you're recognized.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. President and good morning, colleagues. I wish to submit my name in nomination as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Each day while we are in session, I make a point to enter the Chamber from the Rotunda and fully appreciate the history that we are a part of. What a privilege we all feel it is to serve Nebraska. And as much as I respect that legacy, I also respect the work that we as a body have accomplished together in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and the professionals that serve them. Over the last two years it has been truly an honor to serve as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, and without question, the work that was achieved by this body would not have been done without a great committee that worked tirelessly with me. And so it is an honor and I hope to continue to work with each of you as we serve all of Nebraska citizens. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Campbell. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Kathy Campbell.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Campbell Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Campbell. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Judiciary Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Ashford, you're recognized.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and I rise to place my name in nomination for the position of Chair of the Judiciary Committee. And very briefly, there are really three reasons why this committee is so meaningful to me and I believe to the entire state. First of all, it's the people who come before us, the citizens of Nebraska, all of the groups who work in the area of criminal justice and the related issues that we deal with on a daily basis in our committee. Secondly, the committee members that have been serving with me over the last six years, I cannot say enough about all of them. They're tremendously devoted, hardworking members of this Legislature, and they tackle the toughest of issues without complaint and with great work and tenacity. And then thirdly, my staff that has been with me for all these six years, you could not ask for a better, more committed staff than I have had the honor of working with in the Judiciary Committee. And so with that, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I would move my nomination. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Brad Ashford.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Ashford Chair of the Judiciary Committee by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Ashford. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Carlson, you're recognized.

SENATOR CARLSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to nominate myself as a candidate for Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. I've served on Natural Resources Committee for the past six years and most of you know, I've been Chair of the Ag Committee for the past four years. I believe I've been a strong advocate for agriculture and I'll continue to do what I can for agriculture. It is our number one industry. It should continue to be our number one industry and it should continue to be profitable. Agriculture is the main reason that we've been able to balance our budget. It's the main reason we have much less state debt per capita than any other state in the United States. The mission of agriculture is to feed the world. And I've said many times

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before, that mission is second only to the mission of the church. It's a noble mission. Agriculture is critical to our economy, but water is the lifeblood of agriculture. In Nebraska water is also very critical to industry, to municipalities, to domestic users, and outdoor recreation. Water is life. We must manage our most important resource well. Many other states aren't doing that. The Ogallala Aquifer is the best, most plentiful natural resource in the United States. It's our responsibility to see that it's managed so that we have a clean, ample supply of water for many generations into the future. We also have a great public power system in Nebraska, and we need affordable, reliable electricity. It's the lifeblood of our economy. We must continue to produce electricity through coal-fired generation, through natural gas, through hydro, through nuclear, through wind, through solar. And as we bring more and more renewable power into our production, it must be affordable and it must be reliable, but we're having customers that want green energy. The Natural Resources Committee is involved in the production of electricity. The Department of Energy performs an important function for Nebraska. Other forms of energy are also critical. Fossil fuels are still very important to our state. And many of you had a significant part in providing recommendations to relocate the pipeline outside the Sandhills. I think the completion of that project is very important to Nebraska and we now have--thanks to you--a policy and procedure companies must follow for future pipelines in Nebraska. We care about the environment in Nebraska and I believe we're fortunate to have the Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ, under the leadership of Mike Linder. They carry out their responsibilities in a reasonable manner and we can work well with them. They try to stay on top of waste issues and promote recycling whenever appropriate. The Game and Parks system is the lifeblood of outdoor recreation. We must help them stay adequately funded to properly manage that important part of the Natural Resources of Nebraska. The Environmental Trust provides key funding for all areas of Natural Resources and it's important that we help them in their mission to have a positive impact for all Nebraska. What should a legislative committee do? I believe conduct a quality hearing. I believe we must listen. I believe we must respect those who testify. We must ask hard questions in a polite and civil manner. We make testifiers, and particularly private citizens that come to our hearings, feel welcome and as comfortable as we can make them and make them understand that we are listening. We do hear them. The Chair of the committee has a great influence on whether or not this happens. The Chair must also pull together and meet with groups who are opposed to a bill. Getting people of different views together, to iron out differences, is an important skill for the committee Chair. Senator Langemeier did a good job of this when he was Chair and I believe I was able to do that successfully many times on the Ag Committee. I will commit to doing likewise on the Natural Resources Committee. I appreciate your consideration of me and I ask for your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Carlson. Senator Christensen.

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Welcome, Senators. I think it's

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very important that you understand when we look at Natural Resources what is the important issues that we're going to look at. Nebraska sits on one of the largest pools of water, the Ogallala Aquifer, there has been...that there is in the United States. It is our largest natural resource and extremely precious resource. And I've had the opportunity to live and farm on top of that Ogallala Aquifer and have the opportunity to irrigate and conserve all natural resources. I believe that to be a Natural Resources Chair that you have to be open-minded to all ideas and lead the discussions in an open and honest opportunity given to everyone so that they can express their views so that we can do what's best for the state of Nebraska. I believe in the commitment that it takes to confronting tough issues, but finding the solution for the issues. The pipeline situation, it's just one classic example of what the Natural Resources Committee has done while I've served on that committee. Cooperation. I believe that you got to be approachable. You got to be open to new ideas and embrace the discussions of the issues in an open and honest manner. I believe it takes leadership, joining forces to work with interested parties in a fair and honorable demeanor. I've had the opportunity while just being a member of the Natural Resources Committee to approach a couple of senators that are here today and say, your bill is caught in committee. If you'd be willing to change your bill and either take a similar idea, or take just a portion of it, I told them we could get it out of committee. I told them when I visited with them that I would get it done and we did. We accomplished it. I believe that's a sign of a leader and a committee Chairman. And that's what I have done before and I would be willing to work with everyone on their ideas again. I've had the opportunity to pass LB701, my freshman year in 2007, one of the largest water bills that's been passed in the last 10 years or 20. I approached several of the water lobby and asked them, what is the top three bills that's been done in the last 20 years? There was four bills mentioned, but each group mentioned two of them, LB962, which was done ahead of us coming in, and LB701. The other two that both got mentioned were LB229 that Natural Resources Committee worked on from Senator Fischer, and also LB108 was conjunctive use of water. Nebraska has many natural resources in the state from water to wildlife to state parks. And this committee examines all of them. I've had the awesome opportunity to tour from the uranium mines in the Panhandle to windfarms in the north to the whole Platte River system from the beginning fingers in Colorado, Wyoming, all the way through the whole Platte system where it joins to Missouri. One of the neatest tours that I got to go on was this last summer when we toured the Missouri River and the flood damage. These tours I'm talking about are put on by the University of Nebraska. I've taken the time every year to go on the tour to see natural resources in this state. What was unique about the one this year on the Missouri River was not seeing all the damage, because that was dreadful, but at the same time it also included Eppley Airfield, the dewatering wells they put in, the management forces they put together to protect Eppley Airfield, and to keep it open so the state of Nebraska's largest airport operated even though it's on the banks of the river, even though it was out around. Besides touring the Platte system, Missouri, I've had the opportunity of doing the Niobrara, the Loup, Elkhorn River, the Republican River. I went though Central Public Power and Irrigation, Frenchman Cambridge

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Irrigation system, riverside. Got to see the vegetation management on the Platte and the Republican. I've toured coal-powered plants in Omaha, in Sutherland, Gerald Gentleman, as well as the last tour I took this fall I went over to Geneseo, Illinois, on a wind tour. Got to go into a windmill, got to climb it, got to see how it operated. I even got to go into the city of Geneseo. They have a wind trader that buys, sells, and trades electricity. That was an awesome experience. I've been a commodity broker, bought, sold and trade on Chicago Board of Trade, so that was really interesting to me how they used that tool to keep their cost of electricity down. I want to thank you for this opportunity today and I'm going to thank you in advance for your vote to be the next Natural Resources Chair. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, members, we will now proceed to vote as previously, please write the name of the...that you're voting for on the piece of paper. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will come through and pick up your ballots. I would ask Senator Campbell, Senator Larson, and Senator Wallman to please come forward to be tellers. The results of the balloting, Senator Carlson is selected Chair of Natural Resources. Congratulations, Senator Carlson. We now proceed to the selection of the Chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Nordquist.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: Mr. President and members, I rise to place my name in nomination and rise to humbly ask for your support to continue my work as Chairman of the Retirement Systems Committee. For the past two years I've had the honor of holding this position and prior to that for two years holding the position of Vice Chair. With the entire committee we built collaboration, moved significant pension legislation forward, unanimously out of committee and often and I believe, all the major pieces received unanimous support on the floor. And that was because we sat down with the interested parties, worked through our disagreements, and brought out good solid pieces of legislation. I just offer that I'm dedicated to this institution. Prior to getting elected to the Legislature, I started here as a staff member in 2004. Directly prior to being elected I served as the research analyst for the committee which allowed me to build a solid foundation of the issues before this committee. We're doing a good job in Nebraska comparatively to other states. We are often ranked as a solid performer by Pew Research on their national studies of pensions, and that is even through the economic downturn. But we do have challenges ahead and how we address those challenges to balance our state's fiscal picture, along with the benefits that we have promised to our public servants, is a difficult task but it's a task that we can meet with collaboration and consensus. So I would appreciate your support for my reelection to this position. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Nordquist. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations are closed. Senator Dubas, you're

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recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Nordquist Chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Nordquist. We will now proceed to the selection of Chair of the Revenue Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Hadley, you're recognized.

SENATOR HADLEY: Mr. President, members of the body, I am humbled to rise and seek the position of Chair of the Revenue Committee in this body. And I just want to take a quick second and say, I was born 70 years ago two blocks to the south of here and seven blocks west of here. I grew up in the south German bottoms of Lincoln. I came up here and rode my bicycle around the outside balcony. I snuck a cigarette on the steps of the south entrance. When I walked to high school we would walk through the Capitol because it was warm and it was about halfway between my home and Lincoln High School. And if I had ever thought that I would be sitting in this august Chamber, it just never crossed my mind. I believe I have the abilities to help the Unicameral and the citizens of Nebraska. As a member of the Revenue Committee for the past four years, I've learned a great deal about the role of the Revenue Committee in shaping Nebraska's future. I worked closely with the Revenue Committee members and staff in order to better understand Nebraska's revenue producing process. Having sponsored and had bills enacted into law that came out of the Revenue Committee, I have a firm understanding of that process. As the senior member of the committee in terms of years of service on the committee, I will do my best to be fair and reasonable in the exercise of the duties and responsibilities as Chairman of the committee. There have been a great number of great Revenue Committee Chairs, including, but not limited to, Senator Jerry Warner, Senator Bob Wickersham, Senator Dave Landis, Senator Ray Janssen, and Senator Abbie Cornett. They have left a tradition of excellence that I will strive to continue. I ask for your support as I seek the Chair of the Revenue Committee of the Nebraska Legislature and look forward to serving with you. I will leave you with a quote that Senator Raikes gave us when we went through our indoctrination four years ago. His quote was, "The Appropriations Committee cannot appropriate money if the Revenue Committee has given away the funds of the state." So I will pledge to you that we will make this a fair process and hopefully the Revenue Committee and Appropriations Committee can work together to come up with a fair, balanced budget that includes sources of revenue and expenditures of that revenue. I appreciate your vote. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Hadley. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're

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recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Galen Hadley.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Hadley the Chair of the Revenue Committee by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Hadley. We will now proceed to the election of the Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Dubas.

SENATOR DUBAS: Good afternoon, colleagues. And I'd like to extend a special welcome to our newest members of the Legislature. I wish you all the best as you begin this incredible journey. Running for the Chair of a committee is a lot like campaigning for the Legislature. You reach out to your constituency asking them to believe in your abilities and that you will work hard to represent their interests. That is what I am humbly asking of you today as I place my name in consideration for the Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. A committee Chair is there to serve the needs of their fellow committee members and the Legislature as a whole. Our committee system is an integral part of this one of a kind form of government, our Unicameral. We engage our second house, Nebraska citizens, through the committee process. It's our workroom where ideas are brought forward, opinions and suggestions are expressed with the ultimate goal to produce sound policy that will benefit our citizens and the state as a whole. My track record demonstrates a willingness to listen to all sides of an issue and a desire to work cooperatively and collaboratively to get things done. Those attributes along with being prepared, paying attention to detail, and treating all senators in a fair, respectful, and honest manner are what I offer to you as a Chair. My first obligation will be to support and assist fellow committee members. It's important that you have all of the materials and information necessary before each hearing as well as when we are deliberating on legislation. As a committee Chair, my focus will be to respect the legislative process by presenting bills that are ready for action. Through all levels of debate, committee staff and I will be readily available to give your questions and concerns timely and accurate answers. It will be my job to support senators who bring bills before the committee. Through a fair and open hearing process, we can then make any necessary changes to the bill or bring stakeholders together to find common ground in order to move that legislation forward. I will also be honest with you if the support is simply not there for your bill, that doesn't seem to have the support for advancement, and I'll give you the reasons why. Finally, the tone for every hearing will be one that values input from each and every participant. Whether you are a citizen, a lobbyist, legislative staff, the bill's introducer, or senators on the committee, everyone will be treated with respect, appreciation and consideration. I pledge my full commitment to each of you. I fully appreciate the many important issues that come before the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, roads,

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infrastructure, railroads, motor vehicles, public safety, and wireless accessibility, just to name a few. Each committee has a variety of agencies that fall within their jurisdiction. Building on my established working relationship with the directors and the staff of the Public Service Commission, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Roads, and other vested partners, we will work to map out statewide policy for the short- and long-term infrastructure needs of our state. It is only through sound Transportation and Telecommunication's policy that we will make all of Nebraska an inviting place for families and businesses to put down roots. It would be an honor for me to serve as your Transportation and Telecommunications Chair as together we map out that course for our state, and I humbly ask for your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Dubas. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise to place my name in nomination for the position of Chairman of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. It's been my privilege and my pleasure to serve in the Legislature for the last four years. Over this time I've seen and learned firsthand how this venerable institution works and how important it is to respect this body and its traditions, this separate, yet equal branch of government. I've had the privilege to observe and learn from Senator Avery as a Vice Chair and Senators Carlson and Karpisek and others. Not only the duties of a Chairman but more importantly the manner in which those duties are carried out. I've seen how important it is that all who come before the committee be treated with respect and fairness. I believe my 20-plus years of service in the military stand as a testament to my deep commitment to tradition, and core values such as service and excellence. Throughout my career I had the opportunity to lead, develop and execute policy in programs which impacted national security and the safety of personnel around the world. My professional and educational background in technology, licenses in radio operations, certifications and acquisitions in contracting, provide me with a strong foundation to address the issues that come before the committee. Possessing this strong understanding of the technical aspects of communications, technologies, and "programatics" allow for more time to work on proposed policy and working with parties to resolve issues that may arise. Nebraska's transportation and communication networks are vital to all of Nebraska. Not only do they play a critical role in our economy, but also for the health and safety of our citizens. For the past four years it's been my pleasure to serve as a representative for the Legislature on the Nebraska homeland security policy group where I have developed a broad understanding of the emergency communications architecture across the state, and seen firsthand its implementation in the recent fires and the previous year's flooding. I've had the opportunity to work with various political subdivisions and with citizens on their issues across the state, whether it was an intersection in a rural area, or was a bridge linking our neighbor state, Iowa, to Nebraska. I believe that all of us value our service here in the Legislature and to the people of Nebraska. It is a tremendous honor to serve in this body, and because I enjoy that service, I would like to seek and ask for

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your support to be your Chair of this committee. I pledge to you that with the assistance of the other members of the committee, I will carry out the responsibilities of the Chair in an appropriate fashion. We will work with each of you when you bring proposals to the committee. We will assist you as your bill proceeds through the committee process and advances on the floor and during debate. It is not about those of us who have the privilege to sit in these seats. No, the work we do is for the people of Nebraska. I thank you for your indulgence, and today I ask for your vote to serve as Chair of your Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Price. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations are closed. Members, as previously, you're asked to vote on the pieces of paper which are provided at your desk. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will collect the ballots. I would ask the following members when they are done voting to come forward to serve as tellers: Senator Seiler, Senator Ken Haar, Senator Nelson. Following balloting, Senator Dubas is selected as the Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. We will now proceed to the selection of the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator McGill, you're recognized.

SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise asking for your support for myself once again as Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee. I have been Chair for the last three years. I tend to speak from my gut and right now my gut is telling me that I'm hungry, and so I will be very, very short. It's been a privilege to Chair this committee and working on building codes, TIF, natural gas and municipal law, the really sexy stuff of the Nebraska Legislature. And in all seriousness, the Legislature brings such joy to my heart. All of you who are new, you'll know what this feels like, you know, as you progress and grow and learn, and I am ready to get back to work. So, I ask for your support as Chair of Urban Affairs Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McGill. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Amanda McGill.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator McGill Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator McGill. Senator Janssen, you are recognized for a motion.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Special and Select Committee Chairpersons by secret ballot.

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the motion to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Special and Select Committee Chair by secret ballot. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is now open for nominations. Senator Lautenbaugh.

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am rising to nominate myself to continue on as Chair of the Rules Committee. We've had some good discussions over the last several years in Rules about things we can do. One of the initiatives I pushed forward with, or tried to push forward with, was something to reduce paper and waste of paper. So keeping in the spirit of that I did not send you all a letter telling you I was going to run for reelection. And since I like to conserve electrons and bits, I didn't even send you an e-mail telling you I was going to run for reelection. But I think we've had a good committee, a fair committee, and we've approached our work seriously and either made changes that we felt were needed or did not if we did not. So, I would appreciate your support for reelection as Chairman of Rules.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lautenbaugh. Are there further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you are recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Scott Lautenbaugh.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Lautenbaugh Chair of Rules of the Select Committee Chairs. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Lautenbaugh. We will now proceed to the selection of the Chair of Enrollment and Review. Senator Larson, you're recognized.

SENATOR LARSON: It is my great pleasure that I nominate Senator John Murante to follow me as the E&R Chair.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Larson. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, the Chair declares the nominations closed. Senator Dubas, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR DUBAS: I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator John Murante.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Murante the Chair of the Enrollment and Review Committee by

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acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Congratulations, Senator Murante. Senator Lautenbaugh, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Mr. President, I move that a committee of three be appointed to escort the Secretary of State to the Chamber to deliver the election returns of the general election of November, 2012.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the adoption of the motion to appoint a committee to escort the Secretary of State. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. I appoint the following senators: Senator Pirsch, Senator Sullivan, and Senator Brasch to escort the Secretary of State to deliver the election returns. Would the three senators please retire to the back of the Chamber. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Nebraska Secretary of State, John Gale.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The Chair recognizes the Secretary of State, Mr. John Gale.

JOHN GALE: Mr. Clerk of the Legislature...thank you. Mr. Clerk of the Legislature, I deliver to you the abstracts of the 2012 general election from the 93 counties in Nebraska are canvassed by the members of the 103rd Nebraska Legislature.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Secretary Gale. Would the escort committee please retire the Secretary to the back of the Chamber. Senator Nordquist, you are recognized for a motion.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: Mr. President, I move pursuant to Article IV, Section 4, to approve the report of the Secretary of State and the candidates stated therein be declared duly elected.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The question is the adoption of the motion to accept the report from the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 4, of the Nebraska Constitution. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Speaker Adams, you are recognized for remarks.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, we are at the final item on today's agenda and I want to make a very brief announcement and follow it with a motion. We will convene tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and we will begin bill introduction, and probably somewhere around noon we will recess, but then at 1:30 we will be back in session for our inaugural ceremonies which should take approximately one hour. So, if you would please plan accordingly. In light of that, Mr. President, I would make a motion that we arrange and hold the inaugural ceremonies for the newly elected state officials

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on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 1:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Adams. The question is the motion to hold inaugural ceremonies. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, messages, reports, or announcements.

CLERK: I have one item, Mr. President. The Committee on Committees will meet at 2:30. Committee on Committees at 2:30 in Room 1524. Committee on Committees, 2:30, Room 1524.

Mr. President, I have a priority motion: Senator Avery would move to adjourn the body until Thursday morning, January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion to adjourn until Thursday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We are adjourned.