



AROUND NDE

A Publication of the Nebraska Department of Education Office of Human Resources ♦ January 2008

Insurance ID Cards

Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Coventry Health Plans

ALL employees enrolled in a State health plan will be receiving new health insurance ID cards for 2008. This is necessary as a result of the new office co-pays for 2008, which are indicated on the cards. BCBSNE has delayed the processing of membership cards as a result of questions with the most recent membership file. Problems resulted from incorrect dependent information entered by employees during open enrollment. BCBSNE will mail the 2008 membership cards "as is."

Employees enrolled in either the Coventry HMO or POS plan will receive a Coventry Healthcare of Nebraska ID card, rather than a Mutual of Omaha ID card. Many employees have received their Coventry Health Care membership cards with a different Primary Care Physician (PCP) than what they entered during open enrollment. Employees are not required to go to the PCP indicated on the card and may continue using the current PCP, as long as the provider is a member of the Coventry Provider Network. There have been concerns regarding the effective date indicated on the Coventry membership cards. This information reflects the effective date for the PCP, not the member.

Walgreens Health Initiative (WHI Prescription Coverage)

Only new enrollees in the State's health plans will receive new WHI ID cards. PLEASE NOTE; Dependents are not listed on the WHI card; dependent changes will appear at the pharmacy within WHI's eligibility file when a dependent obtains a prescription.

Ameritas Dental Coverage

All employees will receive a new Ameritas ID card.

Vision Service Plan (VSP) Vision Coverage, MetLife Long Term Disability and ASI Flex Plans.

As in past years, no ID cards are issued for these plans

Holiday Giving Project



Proceeds from this year's Holiday Giving Project were donated to the Center for People in Need. NDE employees donated toys and more than \$900.00 in cash to the Center. Donations were presented to the Center for the People in Need, by Carol Rempp, Chair of the 2007 Holiday Giving Project, at the NDE Holiday Celebration on December 17, 2007.



NDE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Employees were recognized for their years of service to NDE at the Holiday Reception. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Those employees without a worksite following their names are located in the NSOB—Lincoln.

15 Years



Pictured (l to r): Janice Eret, Marcia Corr, Bev Newton, Doug Christensen and Polly Feis

Not pictured: Howard Camp, Marty Toumbs, Kathi Vontz

5 Years



Pictured (l to r): Diana Schweitzer (DDS), Susan Koch (DDS), Mike Kozak, Rebecca Hasty, Craig Frederick, Doug Christensen and Polly Feis

Not pictured: Susan Brees

20 Years



Pictured (l to r): Mary Howard, Peg Kirby, Vicki Bauer, Marilyn Peterson, Doug Christensen and Polly Feis

10 Years



Pictured (l to r): Janet Raguse (DDS), Julie Burbach (DDS), Connie Knoche, Dolores Harms, Don Green, Karen Calvin, Doug Christensen and Polly Feis

Not Pictured: Jan Stones, Betty VanDeventer, Paul Absalon (DDS) and Deb Carlson (DDS)

Congratulations

NDE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION — Continued

25 Years



Pictured (l to r): Ginny Carter, Georgia Stewart (DDS), Doug Christensen and Polly Feis

35 Years



Pictured (l to r): Polly Feis, Laura Slaughter, Bob Lundberg, John Clark and Doug Christensen

Not pictured: Karen Bach (DDS), Sheila Hines, Ann Masters, Susan Petersen and Kathy Schamp

30 Years



Pictured (l to r): Russ Inbody, Lori Henkenius, Paul Haas, Cheryl Ferree, Doug Christensen and Polly Feis.

Not pictured: Sheri Cherney



Commissioner Doug Christensen and Deputy Commissioner Polly Feis welcome NDE employees to the Holiday Celebration.

**With deepest appreciation
to all employees being honored
for their years of service with
the Department**

NDE's Third Annual Soup Cook-off

On December 17th, the Department sponsored it's Third Annual Soup Cook-off, which followed the holiday reception. Twelve employees entered the cook-off and had their soup judged by a panel of employees. The coveted Winner's Cup went to Brenda Wid.



Brenda Wid, with her trophy for winning the third annual Soup Cook-off



Holiday Celebration committee members and volunteers serve the soup during the luncheon. Pictured r to l: Lora Sypal, Carol Rempp, Brenda Wid, Jayne Uher, Bob Lundberg, Carol Grell and Peg Kirby



Frank Lloyd entertains NDE employees as they wait for the festivities to begin.



A special thanks to Lora Sypal, who chaired the soup cook-off. Lora, pictured above, checks on one of the soups being heated before the luncheon begins.



Jeff Schneider EMCEEs the Holiday Celebration



The North Star Jazz Band, under the direction of Tobin Stewart, performs for NDE employees at the Holiday Celebration

THANKS!

A word of thanks goes to all of the LCs who donated funds to be used for gift cards for the North Star Jazz Band for its performance at the 2007 NDE Holiday celebration.

Thanks also to the following individuals who assisted with the event: Heidi Arndt, Debe Dockhorn, Pam Goeschel, Peg Kirby, Bob Lundberg, Jean Kubik, Shayne Ortmeier, Tammi Hicken, Carol Rempp, Joel Scherling, Jeff Schneider, Lora Sypal, Jayne Uher, Brenda Wid, & Rhonda Wisdom. Kudos to Ann Masters who took on the Reception Desk duties during the event.



A special thank you goes to the individuals who toiled in their kitchens to provide the soup: Brenda Wid, Denise Fisher, Bonnie Sibert, Donlynn Rice, Debe Dockhorn, Mary Duffy, Freida Lange, Lori Henkenius, Helen Saathoff, Carol Rempp, Janice Eret, and Laurie McEntarffer.

December Graduates



Employee: Carol McClain
Graduate: Noah McClain
School: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Degree: Bachelor's in Marketing

Employee: Donna Dixon
Graduate: Rae Dixon
School: Wesleyan University
Degree: Master's in Forensic Science with emphasis in Psychology

W-2s for 2007

DAS Accounting will not be mailing W-2s. They will be provided to NDE for distribution. The exact date of W-2 availability has not yet been determined.

Employees who have address changes are urged to notify NDE Human Resources no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 11 so the changes can be input prior to DAS processing.

New Employee

Anne Christensen, VR Service Specialist, West Omaha Office, 1/1/08

Welcome to NDE

Lincoln VR Office Collects Donations for the Good Neighbor Center

Angie Thiel in the Lincoln Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) reported that employees collected over 2500 diapers for the Good Neighbor Center. The Center distributes the diapers to those in need throughout the community.

The Lincoln Office was fortunate to have Wal*Mart match some of their dollars and donate an equal amount in diapers as well. It was a very worthwhile cause.

As a reward for collecting the diapers, VR employees will get to wear jeans on an approved day.

