

NOMINEE DATA SHEET

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEENAME Curtis Stofferahn BIRTH DATE 6-23-52ADDRESS 5053 West Elm Court CITY Grand Forks PHONE 795-7072

BUSINESS

ADDRESS Department of Sociology/UND CITY Grand Forks PHONE 777-2187NAME OF SPOUSE N/A NAME & AGES OF CHILDREN N/AJOB CLASSIFICATION Associate Professor DESCRIBE DUTIES Teaching/Research and Service (specialty in Rural Sociology)YEARS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT 10 PREVIOUS POSITIONS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE North Dakota Economic Development CommissionPRIOR EMPLOYMENT (other than public) (3 years) South - Eastern North DakotaCommunity Action Agency. G.T.A and G.R.A during Ph.D. studies.MILITARY SERVICE N/APARTICIPATION IN NDPEA Approximately 4 years, Shop Steward, 1995-1998,Delegate at Steward's Retreat (twice).

CIVIC, FRATERNAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH YOU ARE OR HAVE BEEN A

MEMBER Masonic Lodge (Forman, ND); Faculty Advisor and House Corporation Secretaryfor Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Member Sharon Lutheran Member Church Choir, Member Social ActionCommittee, Member Sons of NorwayADDITIONAL DATA DEEMED PERTINENT Flood Relief Representative of CongressmanEarl Pomeroy, Grand Forks office; Director of Social Science Research Institute.

Public Service, Collective Bargaining, and Community Service

Initially, my North Dakota modesty and Norwegian *jante loven* kept me from accepting the chapter's nomination for NDPEA Employee of the Year, but after some persistent and persuasive chapter members, I reluctantly submitted. I don't know why one should be recognized for doing what one enjoys. I had always thought that this award should be to recognize those loyal, faithful, and dedicated public servants who have done their job well for a long period of time. I could think of a large number of our members at UND who fit that description, but who have never been recognized for it. And they keep on doing a good job even when their abilities and commitment as public servants have been questioned by some, and when they have not been adequately compensated for their service. Nevertheless, to fulfill the expectations for the nomination I was asked to write about my thoughts on public service, participation in NDPEA and contribution to community service.

I believe that we each have our calling – to use our abilities in the best possible way so as to serve our community, our country and our God. I found my calling in being a public servant because I felt I could best serve rural people as an educator, researcher, organizer, and advocate. I had always thought that being a public servant carried with it an expectation that public employees not only have to do their jobs to the best of their abilities but also that they return something to the community that employs them. I have been the beneficiary of public education. My education was made possible through taxes and through loans and grants from state and federal agencies. My employment since college graduation has been almost exclusively in the public sector. I have tried to demonstrate my gratitude for being the recipient of these public services by being active in my profession and community.

It was natural that I would become active in North Dakota Public Employees Association. Growing up in a rural community one learns quickly that collective endeavors make for improved community life, and if one does not participate in these collective efforts, community life is diminished. I was always aware that the very institutions that make community life civil and improve its quality of life were the result of the hard work, dedication, commitment and perseverance of our forebears. It was through the stories told by my grandparents and parents that I learned about their sacrifices to build the institutions of the community of which I was a beneficiary. I learned that because I had benefited from their efforts, I had an obligation to do the same for those who would come after me.

My parents were involved in a variety of community organizations, among them the National Farmers Organization. It was through their involvement in the NFO that I learned the gospel of collective bargaining. It was through observing their efforts at organizing farmers that I learned about organizing. It was through observing their dedication and commitment to a cause that I learned that our efforts may not directly benefit ourselves, but they may benefit our children. From my parents I learned that even when these efforts fail, it was better to fight the good fight than to be a victim, and that it was more dignified to be engaged in the struggle, even when the odds may be stacked against you, than it was to whine about one's lot in life.

So it is probably no accident that I find my calling in being a public servant who believes that public servants have an obligation to the community larger than ourselves, and that we can improve our situation through collective endeavors such as NDPEA. Furthermore, I don't think my experience and motivation are any different from any of our members at UND who also deserve to be recognized.

Curt Stofferahn

10/18/98 Grand Forks Herald

■ **Dr. Robert Miess** and **Dr. Curtis Stofferan** were chosen as North Dakota Public Employees Association's Employees of the Year.

Dr. Robert Miess is the Division Chair of Science, Mathematics and Computing at Mayville (N.D.) State University. Dr. Curtis Stofferan is an Associate Professor of Sociology at UND. They were honored at the NDPEA AFT's 34th Annual Delegate Assembly held this past weekend in Grand Forks. The award was presented by Edward McElroy, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers, Washington, D.C.



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Sharon Lutheran Church

1720 South 20th Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

RAYMOND C. SIEGLE, Pastor, 772-2993
JOHN H. FICK, Pastor, 746-9593
KAREN M. JORGENSEN, Pastor, 777-9910

Office Phones 772-3122
772-6584

September 16, 1998

Dr. Jim Mochoruk
Department of History
UND - Box 8096
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8096

Dear Dr. Mochoruk:

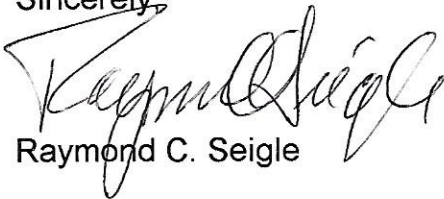
I am happy to write this letter in support of the award and recognition for Curt Stofferahn.

Curt has been very supportive to the life and ministry of Sharon Lutheran Church. He has been regular in the worship life of the congregation. He has been a faithful member in the choir and all of its activities. He has also served in a leadership capacity by being willing to serve on one of the boards of the church.

Curt has brought a concern for people, a sense of trust, a depth of character, and an obvious level of consistent values to all that he has been about. Curt demonstrates a strong faith in God and an interest in how to take care of people.

I am pleased to write this letter to you. If I may be of further help, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Raymond C. Seigle



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 8193
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58202-8193
(701) 777-2121
FAX (701) 777-3866

September 23, 1998

Dr. James Mochoruk
Department of History
Box 8096

Dear Jim:

It is a pleasure, indeed, to write this letter in support of Dr. Curt Stofferahn's nomination for NDPEA Employee of the Year. I have known Dr. Stofferahn throughout my tenure at UND and have always regarded him as one of our principal faculty leaders.

I met Dr. Stofferahn initially as a faculty member in our Sociology Department and as the director of our Social Science Research Institute. It was only later that I discovered that he was also a very dedicated alum of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Commitment to his fraternity has turned out to be absolutely vital to the restoration and reemergence of our local chapter in the past several years. In the early 90s, our chapter experienced a number of serious difficulties. Dr. Stofferahn became the alumni advisor of the fraternity and began the process of rebuilding it. Through very rigorous and highly professional retreat programs, Dr. Stofferahn enabled his young brothers to develop a vision of the fraternity's future and to chart a course which would enable it to achieve this vision. In the process, he also showed fraternity members the importance of playing a constructive role in campus activities and accepting responsibility for one's actions. The SAE fraternity is now one of the most respected chapters on our campus. This transformation is, in my judgment, due primarily to the tremendous dedication and effort of Dr. Stofferahn. In his work with the fraternity, Dr. Stofferahn did not rationalize or excuse the men's unacceptable behavior. Rather, he emphasized its destructive consequences, and then provided alternatives, principles, and expectations that would enable the fraternity to move in a positive and constructive direction. Throughout it all, he was patient but firm, and understanding but insistent.

In view of the very important role Dr. Stofferahn played in the reemergence of the SAE fraternity on our campus, I was not surprised at the equally important role he played in our community's recovery from the devastating flood of the spring of 1997. As Congressman Earl Pomeroy's representative in Grand Forks, Dr. Stofferahn was present at many of the meetings where critical decisions were made in the recovery process. In all of the meetings he was an active and respected participant in the discussions and helped to shape some of the community's responses to the disaster. Equally important, he was able

Dr. James Mochoruk

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to represent individual, institutional, and community-wide concerns and issues to our state's delegation in Congress. I have no doubt whatsoever that this representation enabled many individuals and institutions to get attention and help they would not otherwise have received.

Overall, Dr. Stofferahn is precisely the kind of individual every organization seeks. He is a leader and a contributor who always tries to achieve what is best for the whole. His is the citizenship we should all try to emulate. It is a pleasure for me to be able to support his nomination for this award. He very richly deserves it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "K. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "Baker".

Kendall L. Baker
President

klb/ten



Sigma Alpha Epsilon

To whom it may concern:

I was excited to hear Curt Stofferahn was being considered for an award at UND. It would be my privilege to write this recommendation for him.

I have known Curt for over 5 years. I was lucky enough to have him as an instructor for my Rural Sociology class during the spring 1993 semester. I was not aware that Curt was also a member of our fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon or SAE until a few weeks into the semester. I wore letters (ΣΑΕ) to class one day and he inquired about the sweatshirt after class was dismissed. After speaking briefly, I invited him to our chapter house to meet the undergraduates. Being the chapter president, I thought it was my duty to extend the invitation. I am very glad that I did. His acceptance has had a dramatic impact upon our local chapter as well as our international fraternity.

Curt has served as the Chapter Advisor and has been a member of the Housing Corp. for several years now. I feel his excitement for what he does, his attention to detail and his guidance has kept our chapter going through some several trying times and has added strength to the programs that we offer. We are truly lucky to have him as an SAE at UND.

When Curt did come over for the first meeting, it was not the best of meetings to attend. The chapter had some tough decisions to make that may have frightened most other alumni volunteers away, but not Curt. He was excited for the challenge and, though reserved, made his help and knowledge available to us. His commitment to his fraternity, even though it was not his chapter, shows not only pride in something positive, but also determination to make sure it remains a positive influence through shared knowledge and experiences.

The knowledge he possesses and the calm manner in which presents it has worked effectively for our chapter. Undergraduates can sometimes become frustrated over their failure to express their ideas and thoughts. I believe Curt is able to work with these frustrations and turn them around so others may benefit. This was evident during the time I spent as his student and now as a co-member of Housing Corp. He takes the time to listen to the issue and draws upon his various roles, as a student, a teacher, a community member and an advisor. Flexible with the ability to see many different sides of an issue would sum up Curt's approach to the sometimes-difficult issues faced by today's fraternities.

Curt has been involved with most aspects of the fraternity. He has been strong on helping us realize our financial goals for both the undergraduates and the Housing Corp. Other areas Curt has been of great assistance is membership education, especially for new members, alumni relations, campus involvement and relations, community participation and brotherhood.

High scholarship achievement is a constant battle for undergraduates, but it is one that Curt has taken to task. His strong contribution to scholarship has earned him the position of Province Scholarship Chairman representing Province Tau. Province Tau is comprised of 12 SAE chapters located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. The purpose of this board is to strengthen scholarship programs for all chapters in the US and Canada.

In addition to serving the fraternity as chapter advisor, Housing Corp. member and Province Scholarship Chair, Curt also volunteers his time to facilitate educational seminars presented on a provincial and national level. Each Fall our province holds a leadership school. Various mini-seminars are presented during the weekend event. Curt has been a sought after facilitator at many of these events. He also has been asked to facilitate similar mini-seminars at our International Leadership School held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Curt's contribution to Sigma Alpha Epsilon is beyond what could normally be expected of any alumni member. I know the local chapter, the province and the national fraternity are very proud to have him as a member. I believe the City of Grand Forks, the University of North Dakota campus and faculty who work with him should also feel proud to have such a committed and caring man as one of them. He is truly a friend and an asset for those who know him.

Thank you for this opportunity to share a few of my experiences and comments about Curt with you. There is more to Curt's generosity and commitment than can fit onto these two brief pages. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me during the day at (701) 277-6835 or via email at jeff.deloss@bcbsnd.com. I would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff DeLoss", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey E. DeLoss, '93
President, Housing Corporation



Earl Pomeroy
Congress of the United States
North Dakota

September 22, 1998

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Employee of the Year
NDPEA, Chapter 46
Dr. Jim Mochoruk
UND, History Department
PO Box 8096
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dear Dr. Mochoruk:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination, by Chapter 46 of the North Dakota Public Employee Association (NDPEA), of Curt Stofferahn for Outstanding Public Employee of the Year. I have known Curt for several years and he also worked on my state staff during the summer of 1997.

I can think of no better candidate for Outstanding Public Employee of the Year than Curt Stofferahn. With the early closing of the University of North Dakota, Curt reached out to our office and offered his assistance in the flood recovery. During the summer of 1997, he served as liaison for our office to Grand Forks and the surrounding communities in the aftermath of the disastrous spring floods. I saw first-hand the skills Curt had during the flood recovery and planning issues. He is smart, tenacious, and a creative thinker, and he actively utilized those skills to help the community rebuild.

As Curt was recovering from the flood that damaged his own home, he continued to work with residents and city officials in Grand Forks as they recovered and rebuilt from the devastation. Curt was a strong advocate for the people of Grand Forks, especially for those of low and moderate income. He concentrated his efforts on searching for available assistance and worked closely with individuals with limited resources in identifying and applying for those sources of assistance.

Even though a year has passed since the flood, Curt continues to play an active role in the rebuilding of Grand Forks. Without a doubt, I believe Curt represents the best of what it means to be a public employee.

I strongly support the nomination of Curt Stofferahn for North Dakota's Outstanding Public Employee of the Year.

Sincerely,

Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
P.O. BOX 8096
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58202-8096
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Employee of the Year Committee,
NDPEA, Chapter #46

It is my great pleasure to nominate Dr. Curt Stofferahn as the NDPEA employee of the year. While I have only known Curt for a little over five years, in that time I have come to realize that he is one of the hardest working and most involved social activists I have ever come across - and I say this after having been involved with many of the leaders of the Manitoba labour and progressive movements for the past 15 years, so I would venture to say that I know hard work, community leadership and social activism when I see it.

Curt's outstanding reputation on the UND campus is based upon several distinct factors. His work as the Director of UND's Social Science Research Institute and the fine "rural life polls" which he conducted while in this position, as well as his role in creating the Center for Rural Studies at NDSU speak volumes about his commitment to the people of this state. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the problems of the farmers, farm workers and farm families of North Dakota are not only his research specialty but his passion as well. But this commitment is only one small part of Curt's contribution to this campus and to the community of Grand Forks. Almost single-handedly he has revived faculty interest in the NDPEA and has given vast amounts of his time to turn UND into a pro-union institution - a daunting challenge. But even union activities, an ambitious research and publication program, and an incredible amount of university and departmental service work have not been enough to utilize all of Curt's energy and talents.

It is almost frightening to contemplate the range and breadth of Curt's community involvement. Since the 1980's he has been heavily involved in Democratic-NPL Party activities, particularly in Districts 47 and 18, where he has served as District Chairman. He has also been an advisor to a major fraternity - and is one of the house corporation's most active members at both the local, provincial and national level. Curt was also one of the founders - and is still an active member - of the North Dakota Progressive Coalition. Beyond this, he is an active member of the Sharon Lutheran Church, a member of its senior choir and active on several of the church's social action committee. Curt is also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Forman, ND, and both a member and a frequent guest speaker for the Sons of Norway.

What I have listed above does not even begin to address the full range of Curt's involvement with his place of work, his union, and his community, but I need to cut this section short so that I may say something about Curt's involvement with the flood recovery efforts in Grand Forks over the past 19 months. Curt, like so many others, was a victim of the "flood of the century." However, to badly paraphrase an old George Bernard Shaw line, while there were some who looked at the devastation and asked why, Curt looked at it and said: "what can I do to

help?" In essence, with his own home lying in ruins, Curt picked up the phone, called Congressman Pomeroy and volunteered his services to any flood recovery work that Pomeroy could think of. As a consequence, Curt spent the next several months working as a part of Pomeroy's Disaster Recovery Field Staff. I well remember the first time that I saw Curt after the flood: I was just coming off a shift at "The Virtual University" when we bumped into each other at the western/dry end of campus. Despite a whole slew of jobs to be carried out for Congressman Pomeroy, Curt took time out to stop and talk about the flood, asking me about my family and our flood experiences - while downplaying his own losses - and then with his characteristic energy, he immediately began planning for the future, suggesting the preparation of some sort of history of the flood - sort of a "sand-baggers own History" of the flood. And Curt's unflagging devotion to the community and its flood recovery efforts did not end with the resumption of classes in the fall. Since that time he has worked tirelessly with prominent members of the business and political community to co-ordinate evaluations of the dike/diversion plans for Grand Forks.

Having said all of this, I can only conclude that Curt Stofferahn is not only worthy of our chapter's nomination as NDPEA employee of the year, but is justly deserving of the highest recognition that our union can grant.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Mochoruk', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Jim Mochoruk
Assoc. Professor of History
University of North Dakota

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
NOMINATING FORM

NAME OF NOMINEE Curtis Stofferahn

CHAPTER #49 CHAPTER PRESIDENT James A. Riley

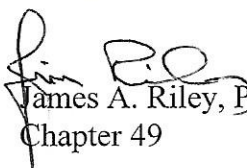
Curt Stofferahn is the epitome of the public employee all of us would like to become. He believes in his public work and that he gives his best effort every second he is involved. This includes his public employment as well as church and other community activities.

Curt has a very low key and unassuming manner. This makes him easy to approach by others. Also, he is absolutely serious in his comments when he states that he feels there are many others at the University of North Dakota and within Chapter 49 who deserve the award at least as much and probably more than he does. However, while there are certainly other very deserving members, it is certainly not true that any other member in Chapter 49 is as deserving of this award as Curt Stofferahn. Curt is the primary steward for the University of North Dakota members. He devised an E-mail system which he uses to inform all faculty and many classified staff members of Chapter 49 of current and upcoming events. This is an invaluable service for the Chapter and has been a great benefit in recruiting new members as well as raising the morale of the membership.

Curt has attended almost all of the stewards' retreats. Also, he was a driving force in setting up the first higher education breakfast which resulted in a greatly increased feeling in the higher education community that the best way to make a difference for higher education public employees is to work through the North Dakota Public Employees Association. Curt is also the member who recommended that a higher education faculty member from another state attend this delegate assembly to talk with our higher education members about how the public employee union in his home state worked to be part of the solution when they were faced with the threat of closing institutions of education.

Curt is recognized by his fellow members in Grand Forks as the consummate North Dakota Public Employees Association member. He is depended upon by most of the membership to provide leadership by example and to give that pat on the back and the words of encouragement which they need to "keep up the fight."

Curt Stofferahn is the kind of a person, public employee and member which every chapter president hopes and dreams of having in his or her chapter. He is very deserving of the award of Chapter 49 Outstanding Public Employee of the year and he will be very deserving of the statewide award as well!


James A. Riley, President
Chapter 49

Scott B. Stofferahn
1739 37th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104

September 30, 1998

Jim Riley
NDPEA President
311 S 4th St.
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dear Jim,

I am proud to lend my support to Curtis Stofferahn's nomination for Public Employee of the Year. Certainly, he is one of the most deserving public employees in the state of North Dakota.

A review of his activities and accomplishments while working for the state say volumes, but there is probably more to the story that is not evident. For instance, when Curtis worked for the Economic Development commission in 1986-7, the report he wrote became the foundation for agricultural and rural economic development activities from that time on. The well known Marketplace of Ideas held each January in Bismarck was only one of the suggestions Curtis brought forth. One main foundation for rural development cited in his report was to use the cooperative model for value added processing of agricultural products within North Dakota. Perhaps the strategies he suggested were the seed for successful ventures like the Dakota Growers Pasta in Carrington and the North American Bison Cooperative in New Rockford.

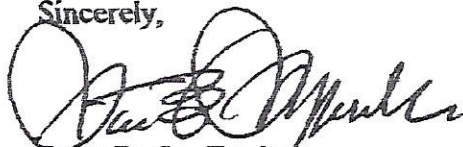
I believe Curtis became a teacher because he knew what a difference a real good teacher makes in the lives of others. He holds himself to high standards as well as his students. Those students who understand that his classes are a place to learn rather than a location to occupy time, often thank him for the valuable experience they have gained from his classes.

In the spring of 1997, I saw my brother respond to the needs of Grand Forks as they battled the rising waters of the raging Red River. For weeks, he headed off to sandbag the dike after work and until the wee hours of the night would volunteer to walk the dike while others were sleeping. Although he was emotionally spent once the flood occurred within the city, he simply could not sit by and wait for someone else to act. Instead, he contacted Congressman Earl Pomeroy offering his services to assist Grand Forks citizens, city leaders, and federal officials as they dealt with the aftermath. He was tireless in his commitment to the city during that period. Acting on behalf of the Congressman, Curtis spoke for countless people in need of an advocate who fully understood their anguish.

Last January our beloved father, Warren Stofferahn passed away. For all of our family this was a huge loss. As each family member adjusts to this new reality, we can all say that Curtis's assistance has been critical. He has helped each of us heal from the loss. His assistance this spring and summer at the farm to build fences, help with livestock, and prepare for an auction was for me was a god send. Nothing I can say can adequately express the appreciation and love I hold my brother, Curtis.

I thank you for honoring my brother by considering him for North Dakota Public Employee of the year.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Stofferahn