

Earl was one of a kind and will certainly be missed, but he has a legacy that has made a difference. When I took over as Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Student Councils, Earl Reum had conducted a one week leadership workshop in the summer for Nebraska. It was held at the Kellogg Center on the University of Nebraska Campus. He was funny, entertaining and great to work with. One day Earl asked me if I could get the Kellogg Center over the Holiday, sometime in December after Xmas or perhaps in early January. The Kellogg Center was a conference center and it had great meetings rooms plus a housing wing for students and a hotel wing for adults. Earl was interested in starting a workshop for adults who worked with youth in student activities and especially student council. He thought the facilities fit exactly what was needed and that Lincoln would be a good place to hold it as it was in the center of the U.S. and people could fly in from wherever they lived. I checked and yes, we could get the Kellogg Conference Center for a reasonable fee. So Earl asked if I would work with him so we put together a program – I handled arrangements of housing, food, meeting rooms, airport pickups, etc. and he primarily worked on a program. We agreed that we wanted to make it as much of a "hands on experience" as possible and sharing of information. So we sent brochures to people we knew on the national level and the NASSP Office of Student Activities helped with announcements in their publications. So the National Association of Workshop Directors (NAWD) was born. We continued the NAWD workshop for a number of years in Lincoln, but decided to meet in different locations to get exposure in all parts of the country. We met several times in Reston at the Marriott hotel near the airport for example. It was during this time that I got more involved with NASSP-NASC and helped with an adult seminar at the National NASC Convention each year, etc. It was also this exposure to Earl Reum and student activities that led me to do my research and writing as a college professor in the area of student activities. We developed a lot of good learning activities and I still have a file cabinet full of many of them in my basement.

Needless to say, Earl Reum was one of a kind and from a personal experience, kind of a mentor who helped me get involved with student activities. So the answer to your question about Earl's involvement with Nebraska the answer is yes – he had a tremendous impact on the state association, our summer leadership workshops and the establishment of NAWD which first met in Nebraska, and serving as keynote speaker at our State Convention a number of times are good examples. He touched the lives of many people and there are many who tried to imitate Earl, but he was the genuine one of a kind.

As a personal touch, it was not unusual to answer the phone and find that it was Earl. He would call at the darned us times and often while flying over Nebraska on his way to another "gig". I don't know if there are plans for a scholarship or some way to honor Earl, but I certainly would be interested to help and would contribute financially. The world of student activities has lost one of the greatest promoters of developing leadership in both students and adults.

Ron Joekel
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