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NUSA PRESIDENT MESSAGE



On behalf of the Board of Directors for Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), I want to welcome you to Omaha, Nebraska and thank you for making the decision to participate in the 42nd Annual NUSA Conference on May 24-27.

Now into our 5th decade, the NUSA conference brings neighborhood leaders, dedicated volunteers, governmental staff and others together to discuss concerns, share information and develop real life-changing solutions to the problems we see in our communities every day.

In addition to a wide selection of workshops and neighborhood tours, the 2017 NUSA Conference also provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the success and accomplishments of neighborhood leaders and volunteers across the United States. We will recognize these achievements through our annual awards competition for Neighborhood of the Year, Best Neighborhood Program, Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods and our annual newsletter competition.

This past year we continued to see the world around us change at even faster speeds, which has put a tougher demand on all of us to keep up with those changes. New challenges and threats facing our neighborhoods can feel overwhelmingly daunting at times, but that's where the annual NUSA conference rises to the occasion and gives our participants the tools to meet those challenges and create new opportunities.

This year's conference will be my 13th as an attendee and my 9th as a NUSA board member. At each conference, I continue to learn about new programs and ideas that I continue to bring back to my home city of Columbia, SC. With an uncertain future and unpredictability around every corner, now more than ever before it's true that any city or county is only as strong as its weakest neighborhood. And, neighborhood leaders and engaged residents are the driving forces fighting for the survival of their communities and continued overall improvement. So, thank you for continuing to fight for the soul of our neighborhoods across America.

Thank you for your strength, courage and commitment you demonstrate every day to create a better tomorrow. I am looking forward to seeing you and talking with you in Omaha May 24-27 for the 42nd Annual NUSA Conference. And, as always, I remain...

Yours in Partnership!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tige Watts', written in a cursive style.

Tige Watts,
President – Neighborhoods, USA

Columbia, SC



WELCOME NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS!

It is a great honor to host the 2017 Neighborhoods, USA annual conference. Omaha is a city of neighborhoods and we are excited to show you around our city.

One of the many things that makes Omaha so unique is our network of neighborhood associations and alliances, led by citizen leaders.

It is my privilege to work with all citizens to build safe neighborhoods, create jobs and support job training, enhance city services, and provide excellent customer service for everyone who interacts with city government.

People often ask me how they can get involved, stay informed and be part of positive change. As neighborhood leaders in your cities, you are leading change. Great things can happen when citizens and city leaders work together to make neighborhoods safe, accessible, and connected. Strong neighborhoods build strong cities.

The conference program, "Bridging the Future", will offer new tools to improve your wonderful cities and you will see neighborhoods leading change on your Neighborhood Pride tours.

While you are in Omaha, I hope you will visit our historic Old Market, the world-renowned Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, our museums and beautiful city parks and recreation trails.

We all have the same goal to make our great cities, extraordinary cities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Stothert".

Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha