

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Dierks to open on his resolution.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. This resolution is brought at the request of the Nebraska Chapter of the World Organization of China Painters to honor and recognize the unique and traditional art form. LR 470 asks the Legislature to declare china painting to be a fine art form and to pay special recognition to china painters across the state. I've asked the Pages to distribute a newspaper article with a copy of the resolution attached. The headline of the article summarizes the purpose in bringing this resolution. China or porcelain painting is somewhat of a traditional folk art but which rises to a level of creativity and style that characterizes it as a true fine art. China painters view themselves as porcelain artists who use fine china as their canvas. While china painting normally follows a general style, each piece is an original creation with the artist's own design, style, and interpretation of their subject. There are 23 local groups of china painters in Nebraska with over 400 members, which make up the Nebraska Chapter of the World Organization of China Painters. These groups promote the art of china painting and provide opportunities for the artists to display their work. The Nebraska Chapter will hold its state convention and show May 9th through 11th in Kearney. This group presented Governor Kay Orr with 26 individually created, hand-painted place settings which adorn the Governor's formal dining table. It was a two- to three-year project involving 23 artists representing each of the local clubs. Each setting depicts a native wildflower. The Governor's mansion has provided two plates from the collection and I would invite you to stop by my desk and take a look. We also have some other examples of fine china painting that's on display over here on the table to my right under the balcony that I'd encourage you to come and take a look at as we leave today at noon. Of course, our declaration of china painting is...to be a fine art is a purely symbolic gesture. It will not affect any grant programs administered by the Nebraska Arts Council. Private groups sponsoring scholarships, art shows, foundation grants and so forth to support fine arts are bound only by their own definitions and preferences. China painting will remain a separate division of the fine arts competition at the State Fair. China painters see their art form as rising above being a craft. This resolution would help their efforts to distinguish