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John Chapo

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Representative from a tourism attraction that records at least two thousand out-of-state visitors per year

Term expires June 30, 2018

John Chapo, Director (Commission Past Chair)

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John Chapo joins the Nebraska Tourism Commission with more than 25 years of experience as the president and CEO of the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

John received a bachelor of science degree in public and environmental affairs from Indiana University in 1985, as well as a certificate in business management and administration in 1979. He also received a certificate in wildlife conservation and captive management and propagation from the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust in Channel Islands, Great Britain.

One of John's first jobs was at the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, where he moved up the ranks from volunteer to director before taking his position in Lincoln.

John is also a member of many local and national associations. He is the chair of the membership committee for the American Zoo & Aquarium Association, and he serves on the board of directors for Community Services Fund, where he had previously served as president. John is also a member of the Non-Profit Board Development Task Force.

In the past, John has been involved with the Human Services Federation as well as with the Visitor's Promotions Committee as a board member. He has also held positions on the Capital Humane Society board of directors, with the Lincoln Attractions and Museums Association and on the Mayor's Community Cabinet. He is an alumni of Leadership Lincoln and has served on the board of directors for the Lincoln Center Kiwanis.

John was also one of the founding board members for the Nebraska Museums Association, where he served as a board member for 11 years as well as president. In 2000, he was awarded the Nonprofit Executive of the Year Award by the Association of Nonprofit Executives. He has been a member since as 1996 and served as vice president and president in 2001 and 2002.

John's hobbies include traveling, gardening, reading and walking his three dogs.

