Gothenburg's Marsha Hecox at pageant when Nebraska's Teresa Scanlan crowned Miss America.

Marsha Hecox isn't ready to quit the Miss Nebraska board of directors just yet.

But the Gothenburg resident did once say she'd continue serving until a Miss Nebraska won the national crown.

Hecox was in the audience in Las Vegas on Jan. 15 cheering on Teresa Scanlan when a glittering tiara was placed on the Gering woman's head.

Afterwards, she said Scanlan told her: "Don't you dare quit."

With 27 years of pageant work under her belt and a winner from Nebraska, Hecox said she'll probably stay involved for awhile.

The past several years, Hecox has served as a judge's chair which means she lines up people to judge the Miss Nebraska pageant each June in North Platte.

She's also been a traveling companion for Miss Nebraska contestants at the national pageant and has been asked to accompany Scanlan to some of her appearances during her 2011 reign.

In addition, Hecox judges pageants in other states, judging this past year in Idaho and Hawaii.

Hecox has chaired the Miss Nebraska board of directors so she knows firsthand what an accomplishment it is for the state to have its first Miss America.

“It’s absolutely great PR for the state and I think it makes people think of Nebraska in a different way,” she explained. “We have a caliber of girls that can be outstanding Miss Americas.”

Hecox said the entire state has embraced Scanlan who pageant officials say is the youngest Miss America since the pageant started in 1921.

Her youth is what Hecox thinks helped her win the crown.

“In the past, people said some of the contestants were too young, they wanted older girls,” she said. “Now, they’ve realized

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