



The ANCHOR

Nebraska Admirals Association



2016/2017

Edition 1, Volume 2

Nebraska Admirals Association Mission:

NAA's primary purpose is to organize the Admirals in the Nebraska Navy into a force for the promotion and enhancement of the "Good Life of the State of Nebraska".

(check web page at Nebraska Admirals Association for specific goals)

Fleet Admiral Announces Retirement

At the Admirals, regular board meeting held January 21st, 2017 in York, NE, Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney announced his plans to drop anchor and retire. Jack was commissioned an Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 2004, subsequently elected Fleet Admiral. He has led



this group of Sailors, and after 12 years, Fleet Admiral, Jack McSweeney has turned his ship into the wind and set his sights for calm waters, steering his left rudder into a harbor with beautiful sand beaches and a cool breeze. We would like to give Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney a Great Big Admiral Salute and Thank You for your years of service Admiral!! A new Admiral will be nominated and selected "Chief Admiral", at the 31st Annual Meeting on April 1st, 2017 in Omaha, along with several other positions. If anyone is interested in being nominated for a Board Position, please contact us at info@nebraskaadmirals.org we are always looking for new members; if you know of potential candidates, please nominate them by sending an e-mail to the address above.

Upcoming Events

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- **31st Annual Meeting April 1st, 2017, Omaha, NE**
- Election of Officers
- Scholarship Awards
- Sailors in June
- Membership Drive
- Funding

USS NEBRASKA (SSBN-739)

NAVY CREW ARRIVES!

June 14, the sailors arrived at Mitzi's Pavilion in Yanney Park in Kearney to see a big spread of food from Country Catering of Litchfield, NE, ready for their enjoyment. The sailors even noticed the American flags all along Second Avenue, waving a greeting in the breeze! (Thanks to the volunteers who do this every Flag Day in Kearney!) A nice crowd of Admirals and their guests had a great time getting to meet these fine young men who care for the Admirals' favorite



submarine in the US Navy. Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney and the newest/youngest sub sailor shared the honors of "saber-ing" the cake. This is a tradition in the Navy at many of their important functions, including the Submarine Ball. The sailors got to see only a little of Yanney Park's attractions before it got dark.



After the great meal, the sailors were guests at John Lowe's establishment on Railroad Street in downtown Kearney.

After a good nights' rest, the sailors were up early to make the mad dash down Highway 10 to the studios of NTV, where they waited their turn in the green room. Carol Staab and Roni Lewis were impressed by the words of appreciation the sailors expressed and the impression the people of the Kearney area and the Admirals had made upon them.



After their 5 minutes of fame on TV was over, there was another mad dash back to downtown Kearney to the studios of KGFW Radio for an "appearance" on the Talk of the Town show, hosted by Andy Mihm.





The crew and their "guide", Admiral Gloria LeDroit, then made their way to the Great Platte River Road Archway, which spans Interstate 80, the only museum to span an interstate highway in the US. As they arrived, the volunteer staff were just finishing their morning meeting. As soon as the sailors came into the room, the whole group stood up and gave a long and hearty round of applause to the crew.

After all the mad dashes, the guys enjoyed a quiet moment with a donut or two, courtesy of the Nebraska Admirals. Then they were off down the "adventure trail" to the heart of the Archway, which gave them an idea of what the pioneers and Native Americans endured to create the heart of America in the Heartland. Thank you to the Archway management and staff for giving the crew a great experience!

After the long "trek", the sailors were ready for sustenance again, this time at the Peter G. Peterson Senior Center at Yanney Park. The "seasoned citizens" always have the most fun visiting with the sailors and sharing stories of days gone by. Thank you to the Senior Center for donating the meals for the sailors! Several Admirals also attended to answer questions about our organization. Afterwards, the crew presented a signed photo of the submarine to our Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney.

Then off down the road again to Minden for a tour of Pioneer Village! Manager Marshall Nelson and his staff made sure the sailors had a great time at the Village. Some of the highlights were learning the art of sewing brooms and checking the schematics of the steam powered carousel and, of course, enjoying some cool treats on a warm day, courtesy of the Village management. Thank you to the Village for providing the entry to their interesting and enjoyable facility!



Broom making instruction at Pioneer Village



Broom making instruction at Pioneer Village



Giving it a whirl



COB, (Chief of the Boat) sews it up!

The sailors then said their farewells to the heart of Nebraska and headed down the interstate to the Old West of Nebraska with a few days in North Platte at the rodeo. Reports were received that they had a great time there, as one can imagine!

In mid-September, another crew of sailors from the USS Nebraska (one a native of Omaha!) paid a visit to the "home state", courtesy of the Big Red Sub Club. The BRSC, headquartered in Lincoln and Omaha, provides the opportunity for all the crew members selected by the sub commanders to visit Nebraska, usually one group in June and another group in September of each year. This allows sailors from both the Gold Crew and the Blue Crew opportunities to meet and greet their greatest supporters (after their families, of course!).

The September visit by five sailors started in Beatrice, where they enjoyed visiting Beatrice Baking (the source of the yummy - honest! - fruitcakes the crew enjoys at holiday time!), and other "hot spots" in the Beatrice area, such as DaVinci's and the American Legion.



They enjoyed visiting the Homestead National Monument to learn more about how the West was parceled out. They then went to Nebraska City, where they participated in the AppleJack parade organized by the Gold Star mothers. They got to meet Para Olympian and Nebraska City native Cheri Becarra-Madsen, who had just returned from Rio de Janeiro an hour before the parade! And of course, they got "clearance" to visit Cooper Nuclear Station. One of the very fun experiences they had was at the Nebraska City Fire Fighting Museum, where they slid down the pole, proving they could match firefighters in that skill! (Of course, anyone who's ever been stationed on a sub knows that every crew member on board is trained again and again on firefighting on the sub!) They also visited the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Memorial Hall & Civil War Museum, where they learned about 3300 men from Nebraska, about one-third of the state's male population, served in the Civil War.



The sailors' visit wrapped up with a visit to Lake Manawa, across the river in Iowa, where they enjoyed a few hours above water level and a delicious barbeque provided by the Big Red Sub Club. Thank you to all who provided accommodations, meals and activities for the sailors from the USS NEBRASKA!

(For more pictures and information, there are Facebook pages for the Nebraska Admirals Association and the Big Red Sub Club.)

31st Annual Meeting

The 31st Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held April 1st, 2017 in Omaha. Meeting location will be at **DJ's Dugout** on 114th & Miracle Hills in Omaha, 68154.

The Regular Business Board meeting will be held at McDonald's on 11330 West Dodge Road, and will start at 9:30 am, all members are welcome. The Annual Meeting will commence at 11:30 am. All Admirals and guest are welcome to attend. Tourism scholarships will be given and election of Officers will be held. If any Admiral is interested in a Board Position please contact, Chief of Staff, Admiral Gloria LeDroit at chiefofstaff@nebraskaadmirals.org or you may also go to our web site at, www.nebraskaadmirals.org or check out our Facebook page for the latest details on all our events.



Board of Directors

Regular Meeting, was held

January 21st, 2017 at the "Chances R Restaurant" in York, NE. Meeting started at 9:30 am with each Officer giving his/her report in their respective areas. Some brief

highlights from this meeting were, the Nebraska Admirals Association conducted its annual Operation Ornament in November. Schools in, Kearney, Elkhorn, Gretna Elementary, Washington Elementary in Norfolk and Bloomfield Public Schools had their students busily decorating a blank paper cutout in the shape of the state of Nebraska with drawings, stickers and glitter. Messages of "Thanks for your service!" conveyed their (and our) appreciation for what our military folks do/have done for our great country. The completed ornaments, which included each student's first name, age and town, were then delivered and mailed to the veteran's homes in Nebraska, to the sailors of the USS NEBRASKA submarine in Bremerton, WA, and to Nebraska National Guard folks stationed overseas. A hearty "Thanks for your help!" goes out to all the students and teachers who helped accomplish this year's Operation Ornament! Our Association's Operations Officer Aaron Wyatt did a great job of coordinating this event. Other discussion was, plans are currently underway to finalize the 31st Annual Meeting to be held in Omaha on April 1st, the Board hopes to have a Guest Speaker along with other dignitaries. Don Sluti gave a financial report to the Board, total amount from last year's auction and merchandise sales along with coffee was put into the scholarship fund totaling, \$1,018. Dan LeDroit reported, 4 - \$1,000 dollar scholarships are available if needed. Discussion to address candidates for board officer positions will be addressed at the April 1st, Regular Board Meeting.

Moving Forward

Listed below is a snap shot of our activity on Face Book. This is one avenue members can use to gain additional information as well as on our web site. Please don't hesitate to call or, (communicate) if someone should have any questions or concerns about the Nebraska Admirals Association. Again, can't stress this enough, we are always looking for new members and Board Members; if anyone knows of some potential candidates, please nominate them by sending an e-mail to info@nebraskaadmirals.org. As a reminder, Annual due membership is only \$20.00 per year, due and payable each year on January 1st.

As with any organization, Communication is vital and essential to staying afloat. The Board is always looking at ways to better communicate with the general membership. We try and utilize the latest technologies at hand, such as, but not limited to, the newsletter, e-mails, texting, Face Book, Skype, Face Time, and other methods in the technological world. Here's a look at the numbers,

Facebook by the Numbers

	<u>Last week</u>	<u>previous week</u>	<u>Trend</u>
Page visits	18	7	up 157.1%
Weekly Total	70	2	up 3,400.0%
People engaged	5	2	up 150.0%
Total Page likes	329	329	0.0%

We are looking for volunteers for this fun filled event. Please check out our website at www.nebraskaadmirals.org or our Facebook page for the latest details on all our events.



Sailing to our "East Coast":

Celebrating 31 years of the Nebraska Admirals Association!

On the "banks" of the Missouri River, come join us!

Saturday, April 1, 2017

DJ's Dugout

Miracle Hills Square, 777 N 114th St, Omaha, NE

- 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting – ALL members welcome!
AT McDonald's, 11330 W Dodge Rd
- 11:15 a.m. Registration opens **AT THE DUGOUT**
- 11:30 a.m. Catered Luncheon – Gathering of the Fleet
Welcome – Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney
Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert (invited)
Gov. Pete Ricketts (Invited)
Recognition of Scholarship Winners, Scholarship Auction
Guest Presentation
Annual Association Business Meeting, Report of Board Meeting
- 2:45 p.m. Sail on to Durham Museum (included in registration price!)
801 S 10th St (downtown Omaha) Docent guided tour!
- 5:00 p.m. Hoist Anchor for Home Ports – Drive Safely!!

If you'd like to volunteer for an office in your Association, you'll want to attend the board meeting!

Just 31 years ago, a small group of recipients of Admiral certificates, issued by the Governors of Nebraska, gathered in Kearney on April 1, 1986 (in a blizzard!!!!) to start an organization to promote tourism and enjoy the camaraderie of being Admirals! Our projects include scholarships to juniors at UNK and UNL in their tourism degree programs (since 1992), welcoming the sailors from the USS NEBRASKA SSB739 when they visit the "home state", and generally learning about our great state and sharing our enthusiasm for Nebraska with others! Our scholarship winners will be recognized and will "walk the plank"! The auction of gifts and special memorabilia will help raise funds for our scholarship program. You won't want to miss out on the chance to garner one of the items solicited by the tourism students at UNL and in the UNK Tourism Club!

Cost includes all conference events plus catered lunch and is only \$25 per person!

NOTE: Those wishing overnight accommodations before or after the Conference should make their own reservations. There are several hotels in the Miracle Hills area.

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM **BEFORE MARCH 23** !!!

To: Nebraska Admirals Association, P.O. Box 83723, Lincoln, NE 68501

NAME(S) OF ATTENDEE(S): _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
e-mail address: _____ PHONE: _____

persons attending: ___ X **\$25**/person = \$_____ Plus *Dues \$_____ =Total amount enclosed \$_____

[Our Quartermaster will be in at the Dugout with an array of selected merchandise! Check out our ship's store online and order now! Then pick up your order at the Annual meeting and SAVE the shipping fee!](#)

*****Dues are \$20 per year due January 1 of each year, delinquent on April 1. Thanks for your continued support!

Nebraska Admirals Association

P.O. Box 83723
Lincoln, NE 68501



Donations for the Scholarship Funding may be mailed to the Nebraska Admirals Association, at the address as shown, or use the credit card links on the Nebraska Admirals Association website. These links will allow you to donate with the use of PayPal.

Check out the Nebraska Admirals Association page on Facebook. too!

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

Please notify us if you change your mailing address or email address to make sure you receive future editions! Thank you!