



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, BOB KNOTT, BILL WEBB



OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2018-19

- Thomas Upton—President
- Benjamin Harvey—Vice President
- Paul Burright—Secretary
- John Parsons—Treasurer
- Robert Knott—Deputy Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all Omaha Compatriots and your families. I hope the holidays went well and were filled with the blessings we are so fortunate to enjoy in our country.

As some of you may have noticed, Vice President, Ben Harvey, presided over the January 8th meeting, as I was doing my best to cope with the weather in Tucson, AZ.

The Executive Committee met and has explored opportunities that might appeal to our membership and increase participation. One of the things that we identified in our survey this fall, was to explore having some activities outside of our monthly meetings. I asked Compatriot Paul Burright to include a discussion of things we might want

to do, that can include the entire Chapter.



Additionally, as we move toward our 130th Anniversary of the Nebraska SAR, we are trying to

put together a couple of Compatriot grave marking ceremonies for our earliest Compatriots, per State President, Shawn Stoner. Please keep these in mind toward late summer, early fall 2019, for your calendars.

For those who were not able to attend the December Year End Celebration and Patriot Muster, the Muster Logbook will be available during our future meetings to record your membership and muster in your Patriots.

I look forward to hearing about what was discussed and decided this month when I return in February.

Tom Upton

Omaha Chapter President
Nebraska SAR

2019 DUES

Compatriots,

As of December 31, 2018, the Omaha Chapter had 16 members who had not yet paid their annual dues for 2019.

The dues we collect contribute to the wonderful programs and activities that we do as a

Chapter and Society.

If you have not yet renewed your dues for 2019, please be sure you send those in to State Secretary, John Reinert, as soon as you are able.

Thank you, and we wish you all a Happy New Year!



Hear ye, Hear ye!

PATRIOT BIOGRAPHIES

Patriot biographies are a great way to tell the story of your Patriot Ancestor and keep his memory alive. We hope by now that you have taken the time to see the biography link on the Omaha Chapter webpage and read some of the fantastic stories and histories of our Patriots.

Unfortunately, we still have about 53 Patriots from our Chapter that we do not have biographies for. Writing a

short biography will help us in two ways: first, as we get more bios and submit them to National, we have the ability to gain more stars for our flag streamer, and more bios will be listed on the patriot search website, www.sarpatriots.org. Second, we will be able to add to our own website, your Patriot's story and history, as written by you. What a wonderful way to honor your ancestor

and their patriotism, by writing a quick bio for the rest of the chapter, and Society to read.

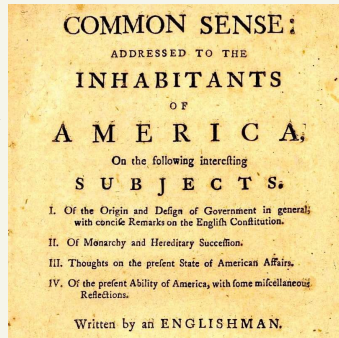
Please help us out by submitting a written biography of your Patriot, to any of the newsletter staff. It does not have to be long. Take a look at some of the bios already on the webpage to get a sense of what we are looking for and possibly some inspiration. Happy writing!



THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

10 Jan 1776—Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*.

**BENJAMIN RUSH
HELPED
THOMAS PAINE
EDIT AND
POLISH THE
SCRIPT, AS
WELL AS
SUGGEST THE
NAME FOR HIS
POLITICAL
PAMPHLET,
COMMON SENSE**



The publication, *Common Sense*, originally released anonymously, was a 48 page pamphlet that Thomas Paine started writing in 1775 under the title *Plain Truth*. With the help of Benjamin Rush, the script was edited, polished, and published with the name *Common Sense*, which Rush also suggested.

Once it was made available to

the public, it became an instant success, initially for its seemingly treacherous content. At the end of its first year in publication, R. Bell, Third Street, Philadelphia, already sold half a million copies and had 25 editions. Thomas Paine donated his earnings from the work to the Continental Army, under George Washington.

The prose was structured in a sermon like approach, with references from the Bible, and it was highly scrutinized by many, including British leaders. Paine wrote the pamphlet as an eye opener to the colonized people of America, which brought a strong, rising revolutionary sentiment towards the colonizers. In the pamphlet, it explicitly divulges

the blame towards the British leader, George III, for the suffering and grief of many colonies. *Common Sense* was written for the sole purpose of advocating an immediate declaration of independence, which indeed was achieved seven months later. The contents discussed the tyrannies involved in the origin and design of the government as well as it critiques the English constitution. It also provided convincing explanations of why America should be separated from Britain.

Common Sense was written in simple, comprehensible language that convinced people of America to fight for its independence and be free from tyranny and the cruelty of British rule.

**JANUARY PROGRAM –
"MOVING VETERANS FORWARD"**



Our January Program was given by 25 year Army veteran, Ron Hernandez, who heads up the non-profit organization, "Moving Veterans Forward" Ron discussed his background with the group, what prompted him to start the non-profit, and what his organization does for Omaha veterans.

Ron grew up in South Omaha and followed in the footsteps of his father, a Korea and Vietnam veteran, by joining the Army out of high school.

He was part of the 82nd Airborne and did 2 tours in Bosnia and Kosovo. Later on he served with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Division and served 3 tours in the Anbar Province during the Iraq War. During a mission, Ron's helicopter was shot down outside of Fallujah, Iraq. In the crash, Ron

broke his back, his pelvis, and his leg was so badly injured, it had to be restructured. He was told he would never walk again, and in his words, "being the grunt that I was, that was a challenge to me."

Ron spent a lot of time in the VA system recuperating from his wounds, learning to speak and walk again, and found that the system did not help veterans all the way to the finish line. When they were ready to leave the hospital, they would get them set up in an apartment and "wish them luck". No real support after that, and almost all the veterans had nothing coming out of the hospital, not even a bed to sleep on.

Ron prayed that God would give him a mission and he began helping veterans move into their new locations, with the help of their VA case workers. After about the 8th time helping, Ron realized that this was his mission; to help these veterans move

into these locations and get them back on their feet. He created Moving Veterans Forward.

Ron runs the non-profit completely from his pension with the help of volunteers. They have a warehouse in Papillion and they have moved 1240 veterans in their 8 years of existence.

Moving Veterans Forward takes donations of furniture, household supplies, etc. that these veterans can use to get their lives started once again. They have also partnered with Hy-Vee to start Pantry for Patriots. This allows the veteran to get 1 month of groceries when they move in to help get them started on their new life.

Check out their website at www.mvfne.org. If you have anything to donate, please consider donating to this organization that is doing great things for veterans in Omaha!



Ron Hernandez,
VP—Ben Harvey

**"I WOULDN'T LEAVE
YOU ON THE
BATTLEFIELD AND I
AM NOT GOING TO
LEAVE YOU ALONE
HERE AT HOME."**

- RON HERNANDEZ

A M E R I C A N H E R I T A G E D I N N E R

Omaha Compatriots,

The 7th Annual American Heritage Dinner, hosted by the Lincoln Chapter, Nebraska SAR, will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at the Havelock Social Hall in Lincoln, NE.

The cost for dinner is \$22 per person. Social hour will

begin at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6:30pm, and the presentation at 7pm.

The featured speaker will be Professor Donald Hickey, speaking on Paul Revere's Ride.

This event is a great opportunity to fellowship with other Nebraska SAR members, as

well as meet those from other lineage/American heritage societies. It is also a great way to support a fellow Chapter and the Nebraska SAR. For more information and to RSVP, visit the Lincoln Chapter webpage at www.nessar.org/lincoln-chapter. We hope to see many of you there!



OMAHA CHAPTER DIRECTORY



For those of you in attendance at the January 8 meeting, David Kentsmith took a photo of every member in attendance, to be used in the upcoming Chapter Directory. The directory came about by suggestions from you during last summer's member survey.

and it will be very easy to update as we gain new members.

The idea is that all members will have their own page in the directory, that will have a photo and all of your member information (National #, Patriot Ancestors, and other information about you that would be good to know, especially for a new member, such as offices you have held, etc.) It is always good for members to know who they can contact when they need a question

answered. It is our hope that this, and other things we have been doing, will help keep our new members engaged and active in the Chapter, and allow us to continue growing our numbers.

Be looking for an email from Secretary Paul Burrigh72 very soon on the specifics that we will need from you for us to complete this project. We look forward to getting this project published by May or June 2019.



There are many newer members, and also some that have been members for years, that do not know everyone who is a part of our Chapter. That will change with this new directory

CHAPTER FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

As part of our member survey this past summer, we identified an opportunity to have some fellowship activities that were outside of our monthly business meeting/dinner setting. As we have quite a few members that are unable to make our monthly meetings, due to work conflicts, unwilling or unable to drive at night, etc., we would like to come up with some activities that we can do as a Chapter

membership together to create some comradery, and events that those members that we do not see often, can be a part of.

3) dinner as a group at the Surf Side Club, along the Missouri River, sometime this summer.

Three items on the agenda to attempt are: 1) Lunch and tour at Fort Atkinson State Historical Park in Ft. Calhoun, NE, just north of Omaha; 2) a Chapter picnic/potluck at a local park during our summer hiatus from meetings;

This will be a discussion item on the Feb meeting agenda to decide what activity we all like best. Please think about which one (or all of them) that you like best and if you can't make the meeting, send the Secretary your favorite choice at pburrigh72@gmail.com.



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



January Birthdays

- Thomas Conley—Jan 7
- Ryan Fuller—Jan 10
- Timothy Cash—Jan 11

January Anniversaries

- Richard Galusha—2 Jan 2008
- James Taylor—2 Jan 2008
- Ryan Fuller—2 Jan 2017
- Timothy Fowler—12 Jan 2007
- John Parsons—26 Jan 1998
- John Anderson—29 Jan 2013

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for January!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in January, thank you for your membership and service to the SAR!



Check out our website at:

www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/

We are updating the Omaha Chapter link on the State website and adding more pages and content. Check back often to see what updates we have installed.

Also, go and like our new **Omaha SAR** Facebook page. We will post lots of pictures, posts, and articles relevant to our Chapter and the Revolution. Check it out!!

If you have any interest in joining or supporting the Color Guard in any way, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, State Color Guard Commander, at OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com or Paul Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at pburrig72@gmail.com.

Show your support for the Society and your Chapter and State Color Guards!

U P C O M I N G M E E T I N G S A N D E V E N T S

- Next Chapter Meeting—12 Feb 2019
Program: Hal Daub—“Solving the Social Security Debt Problem”
- American Heritage Dinner—16 Feb 2019—Lincoln, NE
Speaker: Professor Donald Hickey—“Paul Revere’s Ride”

Planning ahead

- 12 Mar 2019—Chapter Meeting
- 28 Apr 2019—Spring State Meeting—Mahoney State Park



“IN QUESTIONS OF POWER, LET NO MORE BE HEARD OF CONFIDENCE IN MAN, BUT BIND HIM DOWN FROM MISCHIEF BY THE CHAINS OF THE CONSTITUTION.”

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 8 Jan 2019

8 Jan 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 8 Jan 2019. Members and guests attending: Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh (Paula), Merle McAlevy, Fred Walden (Jan), John Parsons (Pauline), Tom Jones (Sharon), Bill Webb (Georgia), David Kentsmith (Kitty), Hank Austin (Charlotte), Steve Bigelow (Ginny) – prospective member.

Vice President Ben Harvey opened the meeting at 1805 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The wives introduced themselves (with member husbands) in a roundtable.

The minutes of the 11 Dec 2018 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – \$3531.52 currently. Also deposited \$320 from trust for ROTC medals. Moved by David, Seconded by Hank, Approved by vote.
- Registrar, presented by Paul Burrigh for absent Bob Knott - 3 apps in preparation. 1 awaiting approval. 4 apps pended
- Secretary – Paul Burrigh – discussed the Chapter directory and for members to watch for email on specifics

Old Business:

- Paul Burrigh discussed Wreaths Across America event and how chapter volunteered and participated.

New Business:

- Program: Ron Hernandez – “Moving Veterans Forward”
- Replacement Charter was brought up and discussion was had that we would need to contact SAR headquarters to find Omaha's original charter date. David moved to acquire replacement charter, seconded by Tom Jones. Members approved \$40 purchase of replacement charter.
- At request of absent President Tom Upton, Secretary Paul Burrigh discussed the options for a fellowship activity outside of normal business meeting. Brought up were trip to Fort Atkinson for a living history tour and lunch, Chapter picnic/potluck during summer hiatus, dinner at the Surf Side Club during summer hiatus. Members will think about the ideas and it will be brought up for discussion at February meeting.
- Hank Austin mustered in his Patriot Ancestor, Benjamin Whipple (RI) into the Chapter Muster Roll.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 12 Feb 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter