



# 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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## MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT

Compatriots,

Some of you may or may not realize that we have not had a new member installment ceremony in almost a year. While we have a strong membership core that is engaged, it is in the best interest of our Chapter and Society to continue to recruit and grow. If all of us recruited just one person, we could double our membership rolls, which would put us close to 100 members.

We currently have just 2 applications in preparation for our Chapter. Please think about any of your friends, family, acquaintances, etc., that you think may be interested in membership in our Society.

We are also currently looking for opportunities to have a booth

for recruiting at events around town. If you know of anything happening that would be a good fit for us to set up a recruiting booth, let a Chapter Officer know. As we have begun to be more in the public eye with our



Color Guard and at events, it is obvious, in talking with members of the community, that there is a lack of knowledge about the Omaha SAR. Many people do not even know we exist as an organization.

I have come up with a new

member handbook and Omaha Chapter recruitment brochure that are in the early stages of development and were previewed at the February meeting. I could still use some help with the Membership Committee, if anyone is interested in being of service.

If you know of anyone that you know would be interested in joining, you are absolutely able to send them my way if needed. I would be happy to help them through the application process and ensure they have a proper, updated application form.

Thank you for helping to grow your Omaha Chapter!

Paul H Burright

Omaha SAR Secretary,  
Membership Committee Chair

## CHAPTER DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thank you to the many of you that have responded with the request for information and photos for the Chapter Directory. The project is coming along, but there is still more data to input.

If you have not yet responded to Secretary, Paul Burright,

with his request for information and your head shot photo, please do so as soon as possible. A reminder email will be sent out for those members that he still needs either a photo or more information. The hope is that we will have a directory to share with our

membership that has every member filled in with a photo. We plan to publish out to the members sometime in March, so please be diligent in getting in your photos.

Thank you for your help with this Chapter project!

## AMERICANISM REPORT

Secretary Paul Burright has begun to compile data on items our Chapter is doing to include in the 2019 Americanism Report. This report, which is submitted to National for recognition in our Chapter activities, includes 16 different areas of focus. Some of these include: Chapter growth, support of DAR and CAR in our area, youth programs, SAR medals and certificates awarded, supplemental applications

approved, patriot biographies submitted, attendance at State, District, and National meetings, as well as different patriotic events that we attend and participate in wearing uniforms or colonial era clothing for parades, events, and school presentations, for which we receive bonus points for being in uniform.

We have already had Patriot biographies and supplemental applications in pro-

cess in January.

For this year, think about participating in an event with the Color Guard. We have uniforms available for use until you can procure your own. We can also gain extra points for having mentors for new members. Think about one thing you can do, one event you can participate in, or even a state meeting you could attend, that will help your Chapter in 2019!

**HELP YOUR  
CHAPTER  
AND  
PARTICIPATE  
IN AT LEAST  
ONE  
FUNCTION OR  
EVENT THIS  
COMING  
YEAR!**

## THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

Feb 3, 1779—Battle of Beaufort.

The Battle of Beaufort was also called the Battle of Port Royal Island, which was located near Beaufort, South Carolina. The battle took place not long after the British seized control of Savannah, Georgia in December 1778.

The British successfully captured Savannah on Dec 29, 1778. The remnants of the Savannah defenders combined with South Carolina

Militia under Major General Benjamin Lincoln, camped at Purrysburg, South Carolina.

Brigadier General Augustine Prevost arrived from St. Augustine and assumed command of the British garrison. He sent a contingent up the coast to occupy Port Royal Island, where he had been led to believe loyalist sentiment ran strongest, with a flotilla of small ships loaded with 200 infantry, under Major William Gardner, with orders to take Beaufort, the island's largest settlement. Gardner's men landed on Port Royal at the plantation of Andrew Deveaux, a loyalist, on Feb 2. He sent an advancement of troops to secure the ferry side of the island and was repulsed by Patriots led by Gen-

eral William Moultrie. The two forces met on the highest ground of Port Royal Island, a rise called Gray's Hill, about 3 miles from the ferry and in the middle of the island.

Gardner lined his troops at the edge of the woods with bayonets fixed and advanced. The Americans lined up in the open field, out of musket range. Moultrie fixed two 6 pound cannon in the center of his line and advanced. The Americans fired first with an artillery burst followed with musket volley. After 45 minutes and running low on ammunition, they began to retreat, but seeing the British also retreating, turned and advanced. The battle ended with an American victory and a morale boost for the troops.



General William Moultrie



**F E B R U A R Y P R O G R A M**

Our February Program was given by former Omaha Mayor and Nebraska Congressman, and current fellow Omaha Compatriot, Hal Daub. Compatriot Daub spoke to the group about how we can fix the social security debt problem. He gave some very interesting statistics about the current state of the social security trust fund. It began in 1936 by FDR and began paying out in 1942. The current unfunded debt to social security sits at \$12 Trillion. The current total national debt is \$22 Trillion. If we do nothing to fix the problem, in 15 years, benefits will drop to 79% of the current benefits received.

Some of the biggest issues with regards to social security include our fertility rate not keeping up with increase in recipients and that social security represents 100% income for 50% of retirees that currently draw benefits. When SS was conceived, it was meant to be "1 leg of a 3

legged stool". Leg 1—raise kids, send them out into the world, and pay off your mortgage. Leg 2—Save money ourselves. Leg 3—Social Security to bolster income needs. Unfortunately for half of the all recipients of SS benefits, their entire income is SS.

What is the solution?

1. Raise the retirement age from 67—69 years of age. This would fix half of the debt. Current life expectancy is 79 for men and 82 for women. This solution was done in 1986, when the retirement age was raised from 65 to 67 for those born after 1960.
2. Raise earnings cap above the \$120,000 current cap on contributions to the fund. Currently, everyone pays in the same rate, but after you make \$120,000/year, you no longer contribute on any income

over that amount.

3. If you don't pay in, you don't collect!
4. Adjust the Cost Of Living Adjustment clause. This could save \$1 Trillion over 20 years.
5. Create a "life savings account". Take 2% of the 6.2% that is currently deducted and put into a separate account. Give eligibility of up to 8% of own money, like a 401k account. It would be inheritable to your heirs. Allow to borrow against it, like a 401k account. Make it as the Federal Employee Retirement Savings currently is, which did not decrease in value during the Great Recession of 2008, as most of our 401k accounts did.

Thank you to Compatriot Daub for a very informative program!



Compatriot Hal Daub, Vice President Ben Harvey

**F E B R U A R Y M E E T I N G I N F O**

A lot of discussion was had during our February meeting.

It was proposed, discussed, and approved by a consensus vote, that we pursue a Chapter excursion to Fort Atkinson, in Ft. Calhoun, NE, just north of Omaha, for a possible lunch and tour of the fort during their living history and reenactment

weekend on June 1, 2019. More details to come.

While trying to accommodate as many members as we can, we have moved our meeting times, beginning with our next meeting in March, to have a happy hour and fellowship time at 6:30pm and dinner/meeting to begin promptly at 7pm.

Our hope is that this will help those members who are still working to be able to attend meetings. While we normally have a long recess waiting for food to arrive, we can get our fellowship in early and move through our agenda before dinner arrives. Meetings should not last any later than they currently run.



**COMPATRIOT GRAVE MARKINGS**



Patriot grave marking lug. Compatriot lug is similar in style.

Omaha Compatriots, As many of you will remember, we will be celebrating our 130th Anniversary as the Nebraska SAR next year in April 2020. President Shawn Stoner has declared 2019 as a year of celebration, leading up to the actual Anniversary of the Society. As part of this year's celebration, your State Grave Marking Committee has been working on outlining and planning two grave markings for this coming summer. We are excit-

ed to announce that we have the dates for both grave markings set on the calendars. Our first grave marking ceremony will be for our very first Society President, Champion Chase, who is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. His ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2019. Our second grave marking ceremony will be for our fifth Society President, and very first member, Aurelius Bowen, who

is buried in Wyuka Cemetery in Nebraska City. His ceremony will be held, Saturday, August 24, 2019. More details will follow for these events, however the Color Guard will be participating at both ceremonies, and we want to have great attendance from our Chapter Membership at both events. These are special events that honor our Society and our past members. Please add these dates to your calendars.

**ROTC AWARDS**



As we move into the spring months, the annual ROTC awards ceremonies are fast approaching. Our Omaha Chapter participates in recognizing outstanding cadets for approximately 15 ceremonies at local high schools and universities in the Omaha area.

We already have some volunteers for ceremonies at Uni-

versity of Nebraska at Omaha (Tom Upton), North HS (Bill Webb), Benson HS (David Kentsmith), Bryan HS (Ben Harvey), Burke HS (Paul Burright). We are looking for volunteers to give a couple hours of their time to represent the Chapter and Society and present a medal to a cadet during the ceremony at Creighton University, Plattsmouth HS, Bellevue

East HS, Bellevue West HS, Papillion South HS, Millard South HS, Northwest HS, South HS, and Central HS. If you would be willing to help, please contact John Parsons at [parsoni1@q.com](mailto:parsoni1@q.com). He would be happy to add you to the list. Most of these occur in April and a complete list of dates and times will be available at our next meeting. Thank you for your help!



**February Birthdays**

- Hugh Nehls—Feb 21
- Timothy Walden—Feb 22

**February Anniversaries**

- Ward Reesman—1 Feb 1982
- Mark Diercks—10 Feb 2010
- Charles Reynolds—15 Feb 2018
- Harry Deeths—19 Feb 1976
- Timothy Walden—27 Feb 2013



**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for February!

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



Check out our website at:

[www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/](http://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](mailto:OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com) or Paul Burrigh, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at [pburrigh72@gmail.com](mailto:pburrigh72@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

- President’s Day—18 Feb 2019
- Next Chapter Meeting—12 Mar 2019  
**Program: Jeff Barnes—”150 @ 150: Nebraska Landmark Buildings”**

### Planning ahead

- 9 Apr 2019—Chapter Meeting
- 28 Apr 2019—Spring State Meeting—Mahoney State Park
- ROTC Award Ceremonies—April/May 2019 (Volunteers needed!)



“UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL. LET US NOT SPLIT INTO FACTIONS WHICH MUST DESTROY THAT UNION UPON WHICH OUR EXISTENCE HANGS.”

- PATRICK HENRY, LAST PUBLIC SPEECH BEFORE HIS DEATH – MARCH 4, 1799

# Chapter Meeting Minutes – 12 Feb 2019

12 Feb 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 12 Feb 2019. Members and guests attending: Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh (Paula), Merle McAlevy, Fred Walden (Jan), John Parsons (Pauline), Bill Webb (Georgia), David Kentsmith (Kitty), Steve Bigelow (Ginny) – prospective member, Mel Burrigh (Sandra), Tom Upton (Jane), Hugh Nehls, Richard Ewing (Lynn), Hal Daub, Bob Knott, State President Shawn Stoner.

President Tom Upton opened the meeting at 1820 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The members introduced themselves and spouses and guests in a roundtable.

The minutes of the 8 Jan 2019 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – \$3500.52 currently. Moved by David, Second by Ben, Approved by vote.
- Registrar, Bob Knott - 3 apps awaiting approval (2 new, 1 supp). 4 apps pended

Old Business:

- Paul Burrigh and Tom Upton discussed activities outside of normal meeting. After member discussion, trip to Fort Atkinson was approved by consensus for June 1<sup>st</sup> during living history and reenactment weekend. Secretary Burrigh will further look into plans for the weekend and report back.
- Meeting time was changed for next meeting and ongoing to Happy Hour at 6:30pm and Dinner and business beginning promptly at 7pm to allow those that work to have more time to arrive and participate.
- Photos were taken of those needed for directory
- Replacement Charter update – no one has actual charter date. Checking with Douglas County Historical Society was suggested. Secretary Burrigh will continue to inquire.

New Business:

- New membership and recruiting documents were passed around for inspection
- Secretary Burrigh discussed fundraising opportunities and will proceed
- Program: Compatriot Hal Daub on "Fixing the Social Security Debt Problem"
- Patriot Muster – Compatriot Hal Daub mustered in his Patriot, Robert Stevenson (PA) and Compatriot Richard Ewing mustered in his Patriot, William Ewing (VA)
- Bill Webb reminded the group to submit Patriot Bios to either him or Bob Knott for submittal to National

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 12 Mar 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter