



# 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 State Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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## BECOME A MENTOR

Omaha Compatriots, We have put this call out before, but did not have much emphasis or intensity behind it. When the idea for this program first came about, and the first call to help out with this program was given, we had no one in the pipeline as far as applications were concerned. That has changed dramatically in the past couple of months.

Currently, we have 7 new applications listed on the Application Status Report, and we should have 3–4 more, that should show up on the report in the coming weeks, and 5 more in the process of being completed. That gives us a potential to possibly be installing 10-12 new members by September and October, when we come back to having meetings after the sum-

mer break. We now have to put the call out for mentors with some “emphasis and intensity”.

For our Chapter to continue to grow, we **must** have active and participating members. This is where you can help. Your role as a mentor is to help the new member integrate into the membership, teach them what the SAR and the Omaha Chapter has to offer them, show them how they can get involved and help support our Chapter and Society in the events and activities that we participate in. Mentoring is a great way to get to know a new member, make them feel at ease when they come to meetings, and teach them what you know about the Omaha Chapter and the SAR. Being a part of our mentoring program will not take a big time

commitment on your part. Maybe you meet the new member for coffee or lunch, or whatever works for both of you, to meet and talk and get to know each other, prior to their installment ceremony at our meeting. After that, you are there to be their go-to contact for any questions they have, ensuring they know when meetings, and other activities are, helping them on their journey to be an active member. You will be their mentor for their first year of membership. If you have let Compatriot Paul Burright know of your desire to help in this critical role, Thank You! If you would still like to help and become a mentor, WE NEED YOU! With up to 12 potential new members when we return to meetings in the fall, there will be many opportunities to help a new member in our Chapter!

## FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS

Several years ago, National had a program initiative on “Forgotten Patriots”. There are many Patriots who have not been recognized by having a member submit a supplemental application. The purpose of that program was to turn these Forgotten Patriots

into Remembered Patriots, either through an original or supplemental application. This program was one of the reasons I did just a little more research on my initial Patriots. I found if their father or father-in-law was alive during the Revolution, they stood a good

chance in furthering the cause. If their name isn’t listed in the SAR index, then they are a Forgotten Patriot and you should submit a Supplemental. Your Forgotten Patriot opens up lines for future applicants. -Compatriot Bob Knott, 15 proven Patriots.

## N O M I N A T I N G C O M M I T T E E 2 0 1 9

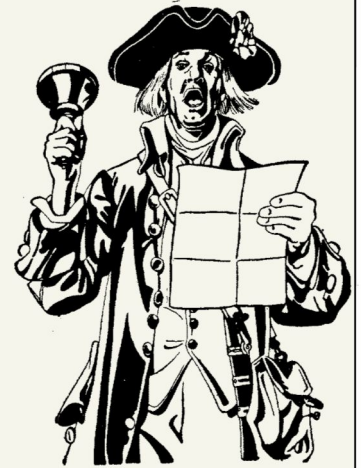
Every 2 years, the Omaha Chapter holds elections for Chapter Officer positions. 2019 is an election year for the Chapter.

We will hold elections at our December 2019 Chapter meeting. To be ready and have candidates for each of the offices on the ballot, a nominating committee is formed, to find those Compatriots that are willing to serve the Chapter.

President Tom Upton, informed the membership in attendance at our May meeting, that he has formed the committee. The 2019 nominating committee will be chaired by Compatriot Bob Knott, and he will be assisted by Compatriots Bill Webb and David KentSmith. Their task, over the next few months, will be to talk with members and get candidates for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Registrar

Chapter Registrar is a brand new elected office that was approved at the Spring State Meeting. If you have a desire to serve your Chapter and Society, please inform one of the committee members.



## T H I S M O N T H I N T H E R E V O L U T I O N

The Second Continental Congress convened on 10 May 1775, and would govern the colonies and remain in session the entire war.

The first Continental Congress had convened the prior year and tried to get some relief from the King and the Intolerable Acts, but were unsuccessful. Many were outraged due to the Coercive Acts and believed it was time to take up arms against the Crown, and the Continental Congress then reconvened to address the topics of contention.

The discussions of this Second Congress were much different than the first. In the First Congress, discussions were about reconciliation and working with the Crown on their disagreements. The discussions of the Second



Congress revolved around war. They voted to form a Continental Army with George Washington in command as General of the Army. There was much to discuss on how to man, equip, and outfit this new army, and be able to fight a war, with no means to do so.

A call for volunteers to sign up for 1 year was put out to the colonists and that is how the Continental Army was first formed. They also took donations, from those loyal to the Patriot Cause, to help outfit and equip this new Army.

The Congress also formed a foreign rela-

tions delegation to continue to politically navigate a peace with the King. Many at this point still desired to be a part of the British Empire and be loyal to the Crown. The Congress sent the delegation with the "Olive Branch Petition", seeking to have their disagreements heard and addressed by the Crown, but still remain faithful and loyal British subjects.

The "Olive Branch Petition" was ignored by King George, and the Crown sent reinforcements of troops and Hessian mercenaries to suppress the rebellious colonists. At this point, notions of kinship and friendships were set aside and Congress was all in on war and Independence from Britain. The following year, in July, a formal Declaration of Independence was drawn up and signed by every delegate in Congress.

### 2019 ROTC AWARD CEREMONIES

Every year, the Omaha Chapter presents SAR medals to deserving cadets at area high schools and universities in the Omaha metro area.

The Bronze ROTC Medal is given to JROTC cadets who foster the principle of the "citizen soldier", exemplified by the Minuteman, and are chosen by their commanding officer based on leadership qualities, military bearing, and general excellence. The cadet must also be currently enrolled in the JROTC program, should be a 3rd year cadet in a 4 year program, must be in the top 10% of their JROTC class, must be in the top 25% of their overall class, and the cadet may not have received the Bronze SAR medal previously.

The Silver ROTC Medal is given to ROTC cadets who are currently enrolled in a College or University ROTC program and foster the principle of the "citizen soldier", exemplified by the Minuteman, and are chosen by their commanding officer based on their military bearing, leadership potential, attitude, scholastic achievement, and general excellence. The commanding officer has complete latitude on who they select to receive the SAR medal.

This year, Compatriots gave their time to present 12 Bronze ROTC medals and 2 Silver ROTC medals to deserving cadets. This year's recipients are:

#### Bronze ROTC Medals

- Hsa Paw—Northwest HS
- Liam Lawson—Burke HS
- David Boyer—Central HS
- Nathan Daberkow—North HS
- Nathan Bowden—Papio South HS
- Cody Ginter—Bellevue West HS
- London Garzon—South HS
- Logan Feliciano—Bellevue East HS
- Kelsey Blinston—Plattsmouth HS



Cadet Ethan Maas  
Compatriot Tom Upton

#### Silver ROTC Medals

- Ethan Maas—UNO
- Brayden Kobiyashi—Creighton



Cadet Liam Lawson  
Compatriot Paul Burrigth



Cadet Hsa Paw  
Compatriot Ryan Fuller



Cadet David Boyer  
Compatriot Mel Burrigth

**MAY MEETING PROGRAM & NOTES**

Our May meeting was full of good information and another great program.

The Color Guard will be participating in the Purple Heart Honor Flight on Friday, May 24 in Omaha. They will also be participating in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Omaha National Cemetery on May 27.

The Omaha Chapter will have a new elected office for the next election cycle. Chapter Registrars were approved at the Spring State Meeting.

We will be have a Chapter outing on Sat, Jun 22. We will have lunch at The Rustic Inn in Fort Calhoun and after lunch, a tour of Fort Atkinson.

Larry Jacobsen, a member of the Board of Directors for Prospect Hill Cemetery, gave a very informative program on "The History of Prospect Hill".

Prospect Hill Cemetery spans 160 years of Omaha history, from 1858—Present. Omaha was founded in 1854, and there were some cemeter-

ies around town that popped up, but no major public cemeteries until Prospect Hill.

Jesse Lowe, had rights to the southern section of land around 30th and Parker, and planned to form Cedar Hills Cemetery. Moses Shinn, owned the northern section of land, around the current cemetery, and planned to form Omaha City Cemetery. Byron Reed owned a section of property between the north and south sections and wanted to form his own cemetery.

Other business prospects caused Jesse Lowe to sell off his land to the south, and Byron Reed purchased it. Moses Shinn passed away and Byron Reed ended up purchasing his Moses Shinn's land from his surviving sons. This now incorporated the current plot of Prospect Hill Cemetery and Prospect Hill was formed in 1865, as the first public cemetery in Omaha.

Omaha resident, Alonzo F. Salisbury (1808-1858) is listed in records as burial permit #1. Improvements were made to the property and a custodian house was



built in 1918. Over the years, even though many prominent Omaha residents were entombed at the cemetery, it became run down and very unkempt. Vandalism was a big issue in the mid to late 20th Century. New ownership and volunteers began to clean up the cemetery and restore many of the headstones and monuments, and it now hosts many public tours and a very large Memorial Day Ceremony. Many prominent Omaha residents are buried within the grounds, including our first Nebraska SAR President, Champion Chase.



**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**



**May Birthdays**

- Kevin Walden—May 1
- Gary Gray—May 19
- James Sly—May 19

**May Anniversaries**

- Martin Beerman—31 May 1990
- Joe Mettenbrink—16 May 2001
- David Kentsmith—15 May 2007
- Richard Ewing—19 May 2010
- Jeremy Christensen—3 May 2011
- Charles Marshall—8 May 2015

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for May!

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



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You shop. Amazon gives.

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, check out, like, and follow our new **Omaha SAR** Facebook page.

Don't forget to sign up with **Amazon Smile** and support your Omaha Chapter! Here is the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6027779>



**The Omaha Color Guard is recruiting!** If you are interested in participating and joining our ranks, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, Nebraska Color Guard Commander, at [OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com](mailto:OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com) or Paul Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at [pburrig72@gmail.com](mailto: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**

- 24 May 2019—Color Guard—Purple Heart Honor Flight
- 27 May 2019—Memorial Day Ceremonies—Omaha National Cemetery, 11am  
The Color Guard will participate.
- 22 Jun 2019—Fort Atkinson Tour  
Lunch at 11am, Fort Tour at 12:30pm

**Planning ahead**

- July 4—Color Guard—Ralston Independence Day Parade
- August 10 & 24—Compatriot Grave Markings—Omaha & NE City



**“PATRIOTISM IS AS MUCH A VIRTUE AS JUSTICE, AND IS AS NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT OF SOCIETIES AS NATURAL AFFECTION IS FOR THE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES.”**

**- BENJAMIN RUSH**

# Chapter Meeting Minutes – 14 May 2019

14 May 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 14 May 2019. Members and guests attending: Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh (Paula), Fred Walden (Jan), Mel Burrigh (Sandra), Tom Upton (Jane), State Secretary, John Reinert, David Kentsmith (Kitty), Hank Austin (Charlotte), Jeffrey Spencer, Bob Knott (Rosemary), Hugh Nehls (Katherine), Merle McAlevy, Tom Jones (Sharon), Rick Yoakum – Prospective Member, Steve Bigelow – Prospective Member, Larry Jacobsen - Speaker.

President Tom Upton opened the meeting at 1901 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 9 Apr 2019 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – N/A
- Registrar, Bob Knott – 9 new applications & 3 Supplementals awaiting approval for Chapter

Old Business:

- Fort Atkinson Trip will be Sat, 22 Jun 2019. Lunch will be at The Rustic in Ft. Calhoun with tour of Fort afterward. Pres. Upton will coordinate times and Secretary Burrigh will send out event notice to the membership.
- State Secretary, John Reinert gave a recap of Spring State Meeting. Money was approved for a Patriot Chest for Color Guard to utilize during classroom presentations, \$10 app fee was approved for new members applications, Fire Safety Medal was awarded, creating the new elected Chapter Registrar position was approved to help assist in new member inquiries and applications.

New Business:

- Compatriot Burrigh informed the members of the Color Guard participation in the Purple Heart Honor Flight on 24 May and Memorial Day Ceremony at Omaha National Cemetery. Members are welcome to participate and use loaner uniforms on hand with Color Guard Commander.
- Program on the "History of Prospect Hill Cemetery" was given by Larry Jacobsen.
- Pres. Upton informed the group that he has formed the nominating committee for the EOY elections for offices of President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. Committee is chaired by Bob Knott, and consists of Bill Webb, and David Kentsmith. Report is due to Pres. Upton by November 2019 for elections in December 2019.
- Compatriot Jeffrey Spencer mustered in his Patriot, Stephen Devol (RI)

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 10 Sep 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter