





Issue 41

4th Qtr 2020



Washington's Farewell to His Officers

December 4, 1783

THE HUSKER PATRIOT

From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Who was that Masked Man?



That was the closing question at the end of each Lone Ranger radio show. (For those old enough to remember listening.). Today it is a citizen of the 2020 pan-The demic. rescuer will not be a man in a

light blue suit with a black eye mask shooting silver bullets, but a person in blue PPE gown, face covering and holding a single dose syringe.

How different is the time we live in.

At the state level, the Nebraska society has been quiet. Several national awards have come in to be formally presented at a state meeting. Congratulations to the recipients for continuing their efforts in spite of the isolation. It is looking

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more like the spring state meeting will be a zoom meeting to take care of business. Having used zoom in teaching the medical students, one can interact on a limited basis, but can have adequate two-way communication. (The students will be really good at telemedicine when they graduate).

Be careful. Stay healthy. Looking forward to seeing you all again in person.

Merle McAlevy MD

President—Nebraska SAR



Supplemental Patriot Approved

Congratulations to Omaha Compatriot, Steven Bothwell for getting a Supplemental Patriot application approved at National!

Compatriot Bothwell has now proven his descent from Patriot Thomas Forshey (PA) and the lineage was registered on December 4, 2020.

The Omaha Chapter looks forward to seeing Compatriot Bothwell at a future meeting so he can sign his Patriot Ancestor into the Omaha Chapter Muster Roll.

If you have more Patriots in your family tree that you would like to get approved through a supplemental application, please contact your Chapter Registrars or our State Registrar for assistance.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS 2020-2021

President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD, Omaha 1st Vice President: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D., Lincoln

2nd Vice President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha Secretary: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D., Lincoln

Treasurer: John C. Braisted, Lincoln Registrar: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln Deputy Registrar: Robert L. Knott, Jr., Omaha Trustee: Fred Walden, Omaha Alt. Trustee: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

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Past State President: William S. Webb, Omaha Past State President: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln

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State Society News

<u>Notes from the Fall</u> <u>Leadership Zoom Meeting</u>

From Chris Moberg—North Central District Vice President General

The Fall Leadership Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting was held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 1 PM to 4:50 PM ET. Some of the items of business include the following:

1. Approved a motion that requires all General Officers to complete the NSSAR Youth Protection Training (YPT) program within three months.

2. Approved a motion that requires all National Education committee and CAR-SAR Liaison committee members to complete the NSSAR YPT program within three months.

3. Approved a motion that requires all chairs and vice-chairs of national committees to complete the NSSAR YPT program within three months.

4. Approved a motion to extend the Conflict of Interest policy to include the members of all Bylaw 19 standing committees.

5. Approved the 2021 budget. The application fee increase that was planned for the 2020 Congress is expected to be approved at the 2021 Congress in Renton, Washington.

6. Approved a policy to clarify the purpose of the SAR Founders Circle. Membership in the Founders Circle is open to individuals who make a bequest of \$10,000 or more to the SAR Foundation. Upon the death of the individual, the donation is placed in the Alexander Hamilton endowment fund.

7. Approved the Patriot Sons and Daughters program. This program is an initiative by the 250th Anniversary Committee to hold grave marking ceremonies for the children and grandchildren of Revolutionary War patriots.

8. Voted on first, second, and third place winners for the SAR logo contest.



The logo that won the contest is shown above and will become our new Society logo, to replace the Minuteman logo that had been in use the last couple of years. The winning logo was submitted by Compatriot Steve Harrington from the Connecticut Society.

The intent of the first three motions is to have national officers lead by example in completing the YPT program. Once the program is completed, the certification is good for three years. The course is a v a i l a b l e at <u>www.sarcourses.org</u> and takes about half an hour to complete.

The next Board of Trustees Zoom meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5th. The meeting will take up the issue of amending the



NSSAR constitution to allow for congresses to be held in a format other than strictly in-person meetings. While the current plan is to hold an in-person congress in Renton, Washington on July 10 - 15, 2021, it is prudent to have additional options should the pandemic continue to be a problem. To change the constitution, an in-person special congress of at least 25 state society delegates would be required.

Reminder

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This edition of *The Husker Patriot* is the last edition that will be automatically mailed to you through the Post Office.

All newsletters, beginning with the 1st Quarter 2021, Edition 42, will be emailed to you, in pdf format, for you to read on your computer, tablet, or phone.

This action was taken to help save the Nebraska SAR money on printing and postage, from printing and mailing over 400 newsletters a year, between our 4 quarterly editions, and will allow us to expand content as needed, and not be constrained to a certain number of pages per newsletter.

If you have let us know that you still need to receive the newsletter via mail, it will still be sent to you each quarter, in your mailbox.

We thank all of you for your understanding in this change and we hope you enjoy *The Husker Patriot* for years to come!

Bill Webb and Paul Burright - Co-editors, *The Husker Patriot*

<u>**REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY**</u>

<u>Farewell to "His Grieving</u> <u>Children"</u>

On November 25, 1783, as the British began to depart New York City, George Washington and his entourage passed by Kip's Bay, the spot on Manhattan Island where he had shouted in despair and rage at his retreating men back in 1776. That had been a low point, a rare moment of visible emotion for the commander in chief.

Now, in the last days of 1783, came a high point—at noon on December 4—a moment of high emotion, outright weeping, for the same George Washington.

The clock was still striking its twelve beats when he stepped into the long room at Fraunces' Tavern to address four of his generals and a crowd of lesser ranks. Emotions were running high. The grave, immovable George Washington they all knew so well started to speak, could not, turned away, reached for a morsel of food...and could not swallow.

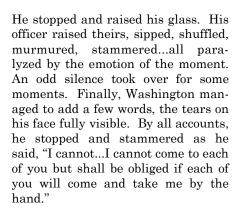
He reached for a glass of wine. So, too, stiff and silent, did his audience. That might have helped, but few actually sipped.

Washington's hand shook ever so slightly, his face was angled downward, and his expression was hard to see. His voice, when at last it issued forth, was not his normal voice. "Queer and choked" is the way twentieth century author John Tebbel has imagined it to be. "Odd, tight," is the description chosen by twentieth century historian Bruce Lancaster. Both seem so right.

The men in attendance that day were gathered in a tavern room boasting two fireplaces and five windows on the street side. The windows had been polished, the floors

waxed and the tables set with linen cloth. They held decanters of wine, along with platters and dishes heaped with food for the buffet lunch about to be served. Once the De Lancev mansion, the building at the corner of Pearl and Broad Streets now was Fraunces' Tavern; its proprietor was West Indies-born "Black Sam" Fraunces. He had hosted the Americans, George Washington among them, before the British occupied New York in 1776, and he then, until late 1783, had served the British in the same long room. Chances are that he also listened and spied for the American during the long British occupation.

As Washington stepped into the long room on this December day, however,



First to step forward was General Henry Knox, who had been with Washington ever since 1775 outside Boston when the outcome of the rash American rebellion was totally uncertain. Now bulky Henry Knox, all of



Samuel Fraunces quietly withdrew. No secrets were to be imparted, but still it was to be a very private affair, very personal...it was to be George Washington's farewell to his officers.

As the commander in chief finally regained his composure, he began: "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your later days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable."

280 pounds, moved forward extending his hand. "Washington started to take it," wrote historian "but Lancaster. memories of the old years together swept over him and he threw his arms about his Chief of Artillery..."

Added Tebbel's account of the same moment: "Frankly weeping, he [Washington]

embraced is Chief of Artillery and kissed him on the cheek."

Then, without a word spoken, according to Washington's spymaster, Benjamin Talmadge, each of the officers in the room—Baron von Steuben and Alexander McDougall among them stepped forward to receive the same warm embrace. "Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed, and hope I may never be called upon to witness again," wrote Talmadge later. As he also wrote, the explanation was a very human

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one. "The simple thought that we were then to part from the man who had conducted us through a long and bloody war, and under whose conduct the glory and independence of our country had been achieved, and that we should see his face no more in this world, seemed to be utterly unsupportable."

Talmadge, of course, was entirely wrong in on respect-they soon would see George Washington back in New York, in residence at the temporary federal capital as the new nation's first president. Tavern-keeper Samuel Fraunces, for that matter would reappear as President Washington's steward. But none of those embracing General Washington at Fraunces' Tavern that emotional day could see into the future. All they knew was that this was farewell to their leader before he left the city for home, rest, and respite, at his beloved Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Nor did the moment last beyond endurance. "But the time for separation had come," wrote the onlooking Talmadge, "and waving his hand to his grieving children around him, he left the room..."

Even now, though, the "separation" for that one day was not quite done. Outside the tavern, a guard of honor and

THE HUSKER PATRIOT

crowds awaited Washington as he made his way to Whitehall Ferry and an awaiting barge that would carry him across the Hudson to Paulus Hook as the first stage of his long trip home.

"People along the way remembered as long as they lived his tense, set face, and the convulsive throbbing of his jaw muscles..." wrote Lancaster.

Following him from the tavern were his officers, unwilling as yet to turn for their own paths homeward. They followed, wrote Talmadge, "in mournful silence."

At the wharf, "a prodigious crowd had assembled to witness the departure of the man who, under God, had been the great agent in establishing the glory and independence of these United States."

The climax of the day came quickly. Washington took his seat on the awaiting barge. Recalled Talmadge also: "and when out in the stream, our great and beloved General waved his hat and bid us a silent adieu."

- From Best Little Stories from the American Revolution,

by C. Brian Kelly with Ingrid Smyer





Lafayette Medal Recipients

Many Compatriots, all throughout the Society, have volunteered their hours to numerous different tasks that need to be accomplished, outside of the normal Society duties. Each year, volunteers are recognized for the work they do to help move the Society, and its missions, forward.

The Lafayette Medal is given to those volunteers with a minimum of 40 volunteer hours on the books, with recognition coming for each 40 volunteer hours thereafter.

We have 3 Compatriots within the Nebraska SAR that were recognized by National for their volunteer work in inputting data into the Patriot Research System. These Compatriots have been working to put in lineage data for our members, update Patriot information in the index, and linking new members with their Patriot after their applications are approved.

Congratulations to:

Ryan Fuller—Omaha—115 hours— Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf

Shawn Stoner—Lincoln—54 hours— Medal

Paul Burright—Omaha—42 hours— Medal

The Nebraska SAR thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

<u>Omaha Chapter</u>

The Omaha Chapter helps out each year with the Wreaths Across America event, which happens each December.

For the past several years, members of the Chapter have helped out at the event, which is held at Omaha National Cemetery. The Chapter has also become a fundraising partner, in helping to gain sponsorships of wreaths, to be placed on the graves at ONC. This year the Omaha Chapter helped to get nearly 80 wreaths sponsored for the event. We hope to improve our number next year.

Also for the last several years, the Omaha Chapter has donated, financially, to the cause. This year, the Chapter donated \$300 toward the purchase of wreaths for the event at ONC. Omaha Chapter member, Ryan Fuller, along with Omaha President, Ben Harvey, presented Mary Blodgett, the Wreaths Across America planner and chairwoman for the Omaha National Cemetery event, with the check, at the cemetery.



(L) - Ryan Fuller,(C) - Mary Blodgett,(R) - Omaha President, Ben Harvey

The Omaha Chapter is honored to participate and sponsor this important event, each year, to honor our veterans during the holiday season.

Chapter Chatter

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America was executed very differently during this COVID year, than in past years. Nearly all of the public ceremonies were cancelled around most of the country, to try to keep people safe.

At Omaha National Cemetery, the display of wreaths still went on, as the cemetery staff and volunteers placed the wreaths this year, in lieu of the public. Due to the COVID restrictions, the WAA coordinators could only save 1 volunteer slot for the SAR this year. Omaha Compatriot, Ryan Fuller, represented the Nebraska Society as a volunteer, on Wednesday, December 16, to put out wreaths. There are now over 3000 veterans buried at the Omaha National Cemetery, and it took the small group of volunteers about 3 hours to place all of the wreaths on the headstones of each veteran.

The ceremony was held virtually this year and could be watched online. Family of those interred were able to have their own private ceremonies after the virtual ceremony was complete.

Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, also cancelled their public ceremony, though some groups held their own small ceremonies in honor of the veterans at rest.

The Nebraska SAR is honored to contribute to this event each year.

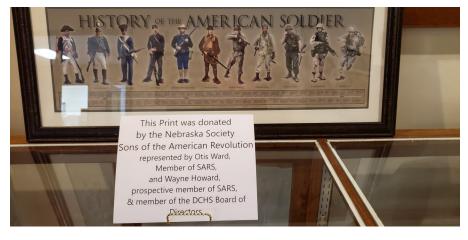
Members-At-Large

Compatriot Otis Ward of Lexington, NE, and Prospective Member, Wayne Howard, who is a Board Member for the Dawson County Historical Society, recently donated a display on the History of the American Soldier to the Dawson County Museum, on behalf of the Nebraska SAR.

Compatriot Ward's son, Lt. Col. Steve Ward, is also a member of the Omaha Chapter. Otis' wife, Sheri Ward, a DAR member in Nebraska, is helping Wayne complete his SAR application. We look forward to having Mr. Howard become a fellow Compatriot in the Nebraska SAR!



Compatriot Otis Ward and Prospective Member, Wayne Howard







Meet My Patrict



Nathaniel Fairfield, P-156212

Nathaniel Fairfield was baptized at the First Church of Boston on 4 Oct 1730, the son of Nathaniel Fairfield (1704 -1745) and Abigail Jones (c. 1708-1793). He married at Westfield, Hampden Co., Massachusetts on 6 May 1752 Judith Pierce (1732-1775), likely the daughter of John Pierce and Ruth Hilton. She was born 10 Dec 1732 at Gloucester, Essex Co., Massachusetts and died in Pittsfield, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts on 3 Dec 1775. Nathaniel and Judith were the parents of nine children, born Pittsfield, except Abigail, who was born at Westfield:

- Abigail Fairfield (1752-1778), died Pittsfield. Married Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot William Brattle.
- John Fairfield (1757-1828) died Pittsfield. Married first Lucy Howland and second, Lucy's sister, Elizabeth Howland. *Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot.*
- Ruth Fairfield (1759-between 1801 & 1818), died probably Floyd, Oneida Co., New York. Married Connecticut Revolutionary War Patriot Dan Blackman.
- Judith Fairfield (1763-1820), died Pittsfield. Married Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot Zebulon Herrick Jr.
- Sarah Fairfield (1766-1854), died Orwell, Addison Co., Vermont. Married Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot Eli Root.
- Nathaniel Fairfield (1768-1837), died Pittsfield. Married Martha Wells.
- Enoch Fairfield (1769-1832), died Pittsfield. Married first Zulima Lawrence and second Huldah Wing.
- Naomi Fairfield (1770-1857), died Pittsfield. Married Aaron Noble.
- Samuel Fairfield (1774-).

Following the death of his wife, Judith, Nathaniel married second at Pittsfield, March 16, 1776, Mrs. Abigail (Fairfield) Phelps, widow of William Phelps. Her identity is not known, although she is probably a cousin. She died in Pittsfield 20 Aug. 1813, age 80.

In addition to his service in the Revolutionary War, he is listed as a Private in *Massachusetts Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars 1744-1755*, serving for 21 weeks and 5 days from 18 April to 26 June and 27 July to 16 Oct 1749 in the Ashuelot Military Expedition.

Nathaniel was among the first settlers of Pittsfield, then called Poontoosuck, in 1749.

Nathaniel died in Pittsfield 17 Sep 1817 and was buried in the Old Burying Ground. Graves here were later moved to Pittsfield Cemetery; no gravestone survives and the exact location of his grave is not known.

On his father's side, he was a descendant of Gateway Ancestor Rev. William Skepper of Essex Co., Massachusetts.

Revolutionary War Service:

- Marched from Pittsfield to Kinderhook 4 May to 11 May 1777. Service: 1 week.
- Marched from Pittsfield to Fort Ann 30 June 26 July 1777. Service: 3 weeks, 5 days.
- Private, Capt. John Strong's Co., Col. John Brown's Regiment, enlisted 30 June 1777, discharged 20 July 1777. Service: 20 days.
- Marched from Pittsfield to Skeensborough 6 September 1777; dismissed 1 October 1777. Service: 3 weeks, 5 days.
- Pvt., Capt. John Strong's Co., Col. John Brown's Reg't, enlisted 6 September 1777, discharged 2 October 1777. Service: 26 days.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, Vol. 5, p. 474.

Submitted by Martin W. Beerman

NSSAR #135089; Nebraska #1014.

Patriot Biographies

We are still in need of Patriot Biographies!

If you have not yet submitted a biography for your Patriot, please get this done ASAP. Our goal is to have biographies submitted, and put up on our website, for every current member's Patriot ancestor. For us to accomplish this goal, you must write up a quick bio for your ancestor.

Please send bios to Paul Burright or Bill Webb. Their email is on page 2.

Help us accomplish this important goal and let your fellow members read about your ancestor and how they contributed to the cause of Liberty!

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

 Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge

 Identification Badge

Many of you have probably seen the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, but do you know the significance of the rituals and the honor of being selected as part of the Honor Guard? There was a question about it on the gameshow Jeopardy, and none of the contestants knew the answer.

- 1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why? **Answer:** 21 steps. It alludes to the 21-gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
- 2. How long does he hesitate before his about face to begin his return walk and why? **Answer:** 21 seconds, for the same reason as answer #1.
- 3. Why do the guards keep their gloves wet? **Answer:** His gloves are moistened to prevent him from losing his grip on the rifle.
- 4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder the entire time, and if not, why not? **Answer:** He carries his rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. As he executes his about face, he moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
- 5. How often are the guards changed? **Answer:** Guards are changed every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of a guard limited to? **Answer:** For a person to apply for guard duty at the Tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size can not exceed 30.

The Guards must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel, signifying they served as a guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives, or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are made of very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the load click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds, or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full length mirror.

The first six months of duty, a guard cannot talk to anyone or watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Howard Taft, Joe Lewis (the boxer), Audie Murphy (Medal of Honor winner and most decorated WWII veteran and Hollywood actor).

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003, as Hurricane Isabella was approaching Washington D.C., Congress shut down for 2 days in anticipation of the coming storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers of the hurricane, the military members assigned to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend their assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God bless these servicemen!





5 Years-2015

<u>Omaha</u>

Hank Austin—March 23 Charles Marshall—May 8 Tom Upton—May 15 Ben Harvey—August 17 Tom Jones—August 21 Jeffrey Spencer—December 18

<u>Lincoln</u>

John Braisted—March 6

<u>At Large</u>

Scott O'Neal—March 9 Gary O'Neill—March 27 James Knott—August 10 Jake Albanez—September 1

10 Years-2010

<u>Omaha</u>

Mark Diercks—February 10 Richard Ewing—May 19

<u>Lincoln</u>

Stanley Wostrel—Mar 16

<u>At Large</u>

LeRoy Louden—February 25

<u>20 Years—2000</u>

<u>Lincoln</u>

Stephen Fitts—March 31 LaVerne Stetson—July 19 Carroll Reinert—October 4

<u>At Large</u>

Richard Richardson—July 27

25 Years-1995

<u>Lincoln</u>

Merle Rudebusch—August 25

<u>30 Years–1990</u>

<u>Omaha</u>

Martin Beerman—May 31

<u>At Large</u>

Ronald Roberts—September 25 Shane Roberts—September 25

Congratulations to all of our long term members.





Timothy Lee Walden (1956-2020)

Compatriot Timothy Lee Walden was born Feb 22, 1956. His parents are Past State President, Fred and Jan Walden.

Timothy Walden was a member of the Omaha Chapter, along with 5 other members of his family, including his father. He was accepted and registered with the SAR on Feb 27, 2013 as a descendant of Samuel Bridge (PA).

Timothy Walden passed away on Oct 5, 2020 at the age of 64. Please keep the Walden family in your prayers.

Pictured below is Compatriot Tim Walden (middle), along with his brother, Chuck Walden (right), whom we lost in 2019. Past State President Fred Walden is on the left, with his wife Jan.



SOCIETY INFORMATION



Contact Information Update

If you, as a Nebraska SAR Member, have recently had a change of address, telephone number, or email contact information, please inform State Secretary, James Hoke at chaphoke@hotmail.com.

Help us keep our records up to date!

1st Quarter 2021 Meetings and Events

Friday, Jan 8—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Jan 12—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Friday, Feb 5—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Feb 9—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Monday, Feb 15-President's Day

Saturday, Feb 20—American Heritage Dinner—6pm, Lincoln, NE

Friday, Mar 5—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Mar 9—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

SAR Applications

Please submit all applications through the online application system at www.sar.org. If you have any questions, contact your Chapter Registrars.

Omaha—Paul Burright—pburright72@gmail.com

Lincoln-Open-

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All Member-At-Large applications will be processed by, our Nebraska SAR State Registrar:

Compatriot Shawn Stoner

2710 N. 4th St

Lincoln, NE 68521.

Email: nessar.registrar@gmail.com

<u>**Due to current COVID concerns, all meeting</u> and event date and times are tentative.**

<u>**Please visit our website, www.nessar.org, for</u> <u>updated information regarding changes.**</u>

From the editors—*The Husker Patriot* will be published on the first week of following quarter. For example, the 2nd quarter ends on June 30. The 2nd quarter newsletter will be published the first week of July.

Follow this deadline schedule to get information, articles, and photos in to the editors (contact information on page 2):

1st Quarter—Mar 15, 2nd Quarter—Jun 15, 3rd Quarter—Sept 15, and 4th Quarter—Dec 15. Thank you for your help getting quality content into your Society newsletter!

Social Media and Online Presence



Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at www.nessar.org.

Nebraska SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NebraskaSAR

Omaha SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR