

The Husker Patriot



Issue 43 2nd Qtr 2021



In Honor of Patriot Nathan Brown 1761-1842

From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Greetings:

Summer is finally here. Now we wish for a cool spring day. The Spring State meeting made history as it was our first hybrid Zoom and face to face meeting. It was well received and I will work to have the hybrid meeting a permanent fixture. We appreciate and need more out-state participation. Chris Moberg, the Vice President General, North Central District was able to attend virtually and added updates. Business items from the meeting



was the nomination and appointment of John Reinert as Historian. Ryan Fuller is the new Eagle Scout Award chairman. John Braisted and Bill Webb were appointed nominating committee for

Inside this issue:

State Spring Mtg Report	pg 3
Revolutionary History	pg 4-5
Chapter Chatter	pg 6
Color Guard Dispatch	pg 7
Memorial Day 2021	pg 8
Society Information	pg 9

"They define a Republic to be a government of laws, and not of men."

- John Adams, 1775

state officers next year. Last week, I asked Ron Stites, and he accepted, to coordinate the first responder awards.

The color guard continues to be our most visible presence to the public. Congratulations, Chad Sherrets!

I am looking forward to seeing you at the next state meeting. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Merle McAlevy



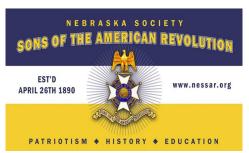
Important Society Officer Announcement

As you undoubtedly know, we generally try to rotate the State Society Presidency between the Omaha and Lincoln Chapters. Our current President is from the Omaha Chapter, meaning our next President would typically come from whoever occupies the 1st VP position, and from the Lincoln Chapter.

James L. Hoke was the current holder of the office of 1st Vice President. He has chosen to resign that office before our next set of elections in the fall.

Current 2nd Vice President, Thomas L. Upton, Omaha, will now be moved into the 1st Vice President's office. Current Lincoln Chapter President, John C. Braisted, will move into the 2nd Vice President office, to fill out the Society Officer's positions for the remainder of 2021.

In addition, Merle Rudebusch has resigned as Nebraska SAR Eagle Scout Chairman. Ryan Fuller, Omaha Chapter, has volunteered to take on that chairmanship, and he was voted into that role by the membership at the Spring Meeting held on May 16, 2021.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS

2020-2021

President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD, Omaha 1st Vice President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha 2nd Vice President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln Secretary: James L. Hoke, Lincoln

Secretary: James L. Hoke, 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

BOARD OF COUNSELORS 2020-2021

President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD 1st Vice President: Thomas L. Upton 2nd Vice President: John C. Braisted

Secretary: James L. Hoke Treasurer: John C. Braisted

Chap. President: Benjiman H. Harvey, Omaha Chap. Vice Pres: Paul H. Burright, Omaha Chap. Secretary: Dr. James Sly, Omaha Chap. President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln Chap. Vice Pres: Dale Wostrel, Lincoln Chap. Secretary: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln Past State President: Thomas Masters, Lincoln Past State President: Merle Rudebusch, Lincoln Past State President: John Parsons, Omaha Past State President: Robert Knott Jr., Omaha Past State President: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln Past State President: Fred Walden, Omaha Past State President: Dr. David K. Kentsmith, MD, Omaha

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

Husker Patriot Co-Editors

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State Society News

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, the Nebraska SAR held its first in person State Meeting in more than a year. We had a good turnout in person, with about 15 members, along with some guests, who made it out for the meeting.

For those that were not able to make it in person, the attempt was made to hold the meeting virtually, simultaneously with the in person meeting, on Zoom. That definitely had some issues all its own and the issues will continue to be addressed, to help make the virtual meeting more seamless with what is going on in person. We had about 4 or 5 members who joined the Zoom meeting, and to continue to improve the virtual meeting, we would like to get many more of you, who can't make it in person, to utilize this technology and keep up with the goings on of the Society.

The Color Guard presented the colors to start the meeting, which was the first color guard event in over a year. It was good to dust off the uniforms, flags, and muskets, and be back at it.

We did not have any First Responder medal presentations, as at the time the meeting was scheduled, things were still unsure if we were going to hold it in person or not. Hopefully we can get those medals presented at the fall meeting. (If you know of anybody that would be a good recipient of the Fire, Police, or EMT medal, let our new First Responder Award Chairman, Ron Stites, know)!

Some presentations of recognition from National did occur, as they

were unable to be presented in 2020 due to the pandemic.

- Paul Burright and Bill Webb were recognized for the Carl F. Bessent Award for the most outstanding Chapter newsletter, *The Quill & Parchment*, Omaha's Chapter newsletter in 2020.
- Ryan Fuller, Shawn Stoner, and Paul Burright were awarded the Lafayette Volunteer Medals for their volunteer work with the Patriot Research System and inputting lineage data, updating Patriot information, and linking SAR Patriot records with DAR patriot records.
- The Lincoln Chapter was awarded a certificate for its contributions to Wreaths Across America.
- The State Society also received awards, and streamers for the flags, from National, presented to Vice President, Tom Upton, for its work in Americanism, along with recognition for Partners in Patriotism, for the year 2019, that couldn't be presented in 2020.

Officer Reports were given.

- Treasurer John Braisted reported on the accounts and the balances of all the CD's with the bank. CD's coming due will be looked at for various interest rates that will be available.
- Registrar Shawn Stoner said he is behind with applications, but will be getting caught up shortly.
- Publicity Chair Bill Webb discussed the status of the newsletter and the money we are saving the state society by go-



ing to all digital editions (with the exception of a few that still need to be mailed out manually.

 Color Guard Commander Chad Sherrets gave an account of all upcoming events, which are finally beginning to happen and open up again.

Discussion was also had concerning the resignation of state officer positions and how that will be handled to close out this term. Announcement is on page 2 of this newsletter.

We will have elections in the fall for the upcoming year's state officers term of office. President McAlevy formed a nominating committee, comprised of Bill Webb from Omaha and John Braisted of Lincoln. Offices and Committee Chairs that will need to filled are:

President

* * * * *

- 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Registrar
- Trustee
- Alternate Trustee
- Eagle Scout Chair
- SAR Society Awards Chair
- First Responder Awards Chair
- Americanism Chair

All of these offices and Chairmanships are volunteer. If you are a member that has time to devote to one of the offices in question, can use your gifts to work for the betterment and growth of the Nebraska SAR, and would be willing to fulfill any of these duties, please let one of the nominating committee know.

Duties for the offices and chairs can be found on the Nebraska SAR website at www.nessar.org under the Constitution and By-laws section of the Nebraska SAR tab.

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Women Patriots

While they didn't enlist in the Continental Army expecting to fight as soldiers, a number of women emerged from the Revolution as real battlefield heroines anyway. Some of them were legendary—"Molly Pitcher," for instance—and some not. Elizabeth Zane of Fort Henry, Virginia, probably falls into the latter category.

Her terrifying moment of truth came one late-summer day in 1782 with Indians and redcoats sur-

rounding the small frontier fort. The odds were about 350 besiegers outside the fort versus about 60 men, women, and children inside. The Americans inside had been told to surrender or face a massacre.

Of the 60 inside the fort, mind you, only 18 were fully grown, able-bodied men.

Several assaults had been made against the small fortress, but the defenders so far had been able to beat them back with spirited, well-aimed gunfire. Still, the gunpowder was running low. Soon, there would be no

Soon, there would be no defense...and then what?

Not far away—a mere 60 yards or so, all the defenders knew—was a cabin belonging to "Betty" Zane's oldest brother, Colonel Ebenezer Zane. And inside the empty cabin, as yet undiscovered by the enemy, was a store of gunpowder. But...how to retrieve it? The 18 men vied with one another for the privilege of making the dangerous dash to the cabin and back.

Betty Zan became the volunteer instead. She was granted permission to try the desperate, suicidal errand after arguing, with irrefutable logic, that the defenders couldn't risk losing a single man. Further, the frontier-toughened lass asserted, she could run as fast as any man there. But run she did not...at first. She meandered out the gate. She merely walked, almost in promenade, while the British and their Indian allies gawked—and held back from rushing forward, since she was under the guns of her allies inside the fort. Before the besiegers knew it—or divined her intentions—she was inside the cabin.

There she wasted no time. She



grabbed a cloth, broke open a keg of gunpowder, and poured the contents onto the middle of the cloth, then jerked it up by the four corners to create a makeshift bag. So far she had been extraordinarily lucky, but she knew she couldn't' simply walk back to the fort with her prize. This time, she would have to run...run as fast as she could. Casting all thought of eighteenth-century modesty aside, she pulled off her long skirt, then stepped out of her petticoats as well.

In seconds, her freed legs pounding, she was out the door and racing for the fort. The woods all around erupted in gunfire, immediately answered by her comrades inside the fort. They still had a small store of gunpowder, but they would need every bit more that Betty Zane carried in the "bag" slung over her shoulder. She ran like the wind, untouched so far; but then, partway home, she tripped and fell.

Before the enemy could take advantage, however, she scrambled to her feet and flew on. Seconds later, she dashed through the hastily opened gate, and that was that. Gunpowder safely delivered, the Americans were able to hold out until their assailants gave up the siege

a day and a half later and withdrew.

After the surrender of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York, to the British in November of 1776, a horribly wounded American captured just outside the fallen bastion was given parole, then ferried across the Hudson River to the relative safety of New Jersey. Next, the battle victim was placed in a wagon that would bump and grind it way to Philadelphia on the primitive roads of the era. The suffering victim's jaw,

upper chest, and left arm all had been shredded by grapeshot. She would be lucky to survive, much less keep her mangled arm.

Apparently the first American woman to become a battlefield casualty of the Revolution, Margaret Cochran Corbin, had stepped forward to take her artilleryman husband John Corbin's place at his small-bore cannon after he was killed in the midst of the British and Hessian assault on Fort Washington. He himself, earlier in the action, had stepped forward to take the chief gunner's place when he was struck down.

When not tied down by her encamp-



Margaret Corbin - Battle of Fort Washington - Painting by Don Troiani

ment chores among his fellow troops, she liked to watch husband John's artillery drills. Thus, she saw and learned how to load and fire his battery's guns.

During the assault, British and Hessian forces rained down cannon shot and began to overrun one American position after another. Toward the end, the Pennsylvania artillerymen, accompanied by Virginia militiamen, still held out against the Hessians swarming toward their redoubt on Laurel Hill, a ridge just north of Fort Washington's perimeter. Then came the fateful salvos that killed Margaret's husband.

That's when she stepped forward to load and fire John Corbin's gun again and again...until she, herself, was struck down by British grapeshot, her left arm nearly torn off. The triumphant Hessians found her among the American wounded and, after giving her basic medical care, granted her parole rather than hold her as a prisoner.

The hardy young woman survived her wounds, but her arm was crippled for life. In response to Margaret Corbin's heroics, the Pennsylvania Executive Council later gave her nominal financial relief (thirty dollars!), while the Continental Congress allowed her to wear a soldier's uniform and granted her half a soldier's pay for life. For the remainder of the Revolutionary War, she served as a guard in the Corps of Invalids at West Point, New York, as the only woman member of

the unit.

Another battle and another heroine stepping forth to fire her fallen husband's cannon in the midst of hot combat were elements in the story of Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley. By her real name most Americans

today would not know her or her feats. By her nickname of Molly Pitcher, however, who doesn't know the basic story?

While no less deserving of recognition, her actions in June of 1778 in fact were almost a carbon copy of Margaret Corbin's nearly two years earlier.

Apparently born in Mercer County, New Jersey, Mary Ludwig eventually became a household servant in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she married a local barber, one John Casper Hays, in 1769. With Revolution breaking out, he became a Pennsylvania artilleryman. He then reenlisted as an infantryman in the 7th Pennsylvania; his wife, Mary, soon followed him into camp and was on hand for the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, on the hot day of June 28, 1778.

Because of the heat, she was kept unusually busy carrying pitcher of water to the thirsty troops on the front lines. She also helped tend the wounded and in one case allegedly carried a man to the rear on her back. But then her husband, assigned to the infantry's attached artillery battery, was laid low by enemy fire. The

remaining soldiers attending the artillery piece were about to take it off the line, says the legend, when Mary Hays dramatically said no, she could take over her husband's duties of swabbing, loading, and firing the cannon. She then, like Margaret Corbin, kept his cannon in action until the battle was over—an American victory in this case.

With Mary now called "Molly Pitcher," "Sergeant Molly," and even, again like Corbin, "Captain Molly," both she and her husband survived the war and returned to the Carlisle area, where he died shortly before 1790. She later remarried, to Revolutionary War veteran, John McCauley.

Given a \$40 annuity by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1822 for her Revolutionary War services, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley lived another ten years. Sources suggest her birth date could have been as early as 1744 or as late as 1754. Either way, she would have been an old woman—and already a legend—by the time of her death in 1832.

(The SAR has a medal, The Molly Pitcher medal, that can be earned by women for supporting the Chapter, State, and National SAR Color Guards, by supplying water and refreshments during events, and participating in colonial dress during Color Guard events.)

From: Best Little Stories from the American Revolution

—by C. Brian Kelly



Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

At Omaha's chapter meeting on May 11, 2021, we had a wonderful program from Nebraska DAR Honorary State Regent, Kathy Ocasio, on the Origins and History of the American's Creed.



Omaha President, Ben Harvey, Kathy Ocasio, and Past Chapter and State President and Kathy's father, Bob Knott.

Longtime Omaha and Nebraska SAR member, Bob Knott, also mustered in his 17th and 18th approved Patriots, Ninian Magruder and Edward Leach, into the Omaha Chapter Patriot Muster Roll. Congratulations!



VP & Registrar, Paul Burright, Bob Knott, President, Ben Harvey.

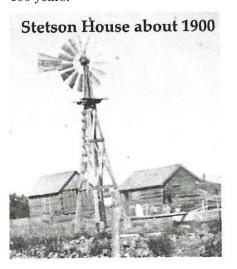
Lincoln Chapter

Longtime Lincoln and Nebraska SAR member, LaVerne Stetson, and his wife Shirley, received a second Pioneer Farm Award at the 2020 Dawes County Fair. The award was given because the same land has been in the same family since 1887.



LaVerne Stetson, with wife Shirley and family

Stetson Ranch received its first award in 1988. The Pioneer Farm Award is in its 65th year to honor the perseverance and dedication of Nebraska family farms whose land has been in the family name for over 100 years.



It is believed that Isaiah Stetson was one of the first settlers in Dawes County. He arrived in Chadron by train in the summer of 1885, shortly after the tracks had reached Chad-

ron. Isaiah brought a steam engine with him and headed west to Crawford. By 1887, Isaiah's son, Eugene, then 21, homesteaded the land that still belongs to the family. Eugene Stetson established the homestead, he lived in a dugout the first year. He then built a small house and outbuildings. By 1910, he was prosperous enough to build a two-story house of concrete blocks. His son, Orville, who was 12 years old, hauled the blocks from Crawford, 5 miles away, with a team and wagon. Although it has changed significantly, that house is still in use by LaVerne and his family.

The Stetson Ranch is currently coowned by LaVerne, his wife Shirley, and their children. They live in Lincoln, but are frequently at the ranch to use it as their families' "home in the hills".



National has challenged all Chapters and State Societies to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of events of the American Revolution. Paul Burright has agreed to chair the 250th Anniversary Committee for the Nebraska SAR.

We are starting to build our committee and coming up with ideas for events, programs, and dedications that we can do as Chapters and a Society. This is a multi-year celebration.

If you would like to help out with the committee, have any ideas for us for your town or area, or would like to donate to these celebrations, please let us know! We need your help!!

Dispatches from the Color Guard



In Honor of Nathan Brown

On Saturday, May 22, 2021, members of the Nebraska SAR Color Guard participated in a North Central District Color Guard event in Springville, Iowa. Compatriots Jim Sly and Paul Burright, both from the Omaha Chapter, participated.

The event was to re-dedicate a monument to Patriot Nathan Brown (NY). Nathan began drilling with his musket when he was just 14 years old and joined a minuteman company when he turned 16 years old. He served the State of New York for 5 years during the war.

The monument to Patriot Brown was first installed by his son, Horace, in 1886, and was damaged by time and severe weather, including a tornado in 1977 and the derecho that hit just last year. Photo of the monument is the cover photo for this edition of the newsletter.

The Iowa DAR, along with numerous historical societies and other donors, raised the money to be able to fully restore the monument. We were very happy and honored to be among the participants, along with SAR members from Iowa and Minnesota, to dedicate this restored monument to a Revolutionary War veteran.

Omaha Storm Chasers

The Nebraska SAR presented the colors, during the National Anthem, at the start of the Omaha Storm

Chasers baseball game at Werner Park on Saturday, June 5, 2021, in Omaha. Color Guard Commander, Chad Sherrets, Ron Stites and Jim Sly from Omaha, and John Braisted from Lincoln formed the Color Guard for this event.

This was our first time presenting colors in this capacity and it went off, beautifully. It was a very low impact event, without any marching, though





CG Members from Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota, including Iowa 1812

it was very warm at the start of the game, and our Omaha Storm Chasers beat the Iowa Cubs, 5-0.

We hope to be able to participate again, and get many of you out to the ball game to give us your support.

We Want You!

Your Nebraska Color Guard is always looking for more recruits to fill its ranks. The more of us there are, the better we all look at events we participate in.

You can join us, even if you don't have a uniform...We have loaner uniforms and will supply you with the basic parts to allow you to participate. If you would like join us, contact a chapter color guard member!

Memorial Day 2021 How did our Compatriots honor our Veterans



Omaha Chapter President, Ben Harvey, and Omaha member, Hugh Nehls, volunteered their time to the Westlawn Memorial Day Flag Project. Westlawn Cemetery is one of Omaha's largest cemeteries, and over 8000 flags are placed on veterans graves within the cemetery every Memorial Day Holiday.



L—Hugh Nehls, R—Ben Harvey

Omaha Chapter member, Drew Whitler, visited some of his family member's gravesites, laying flowers and honoring their service in World Wars I and II, Korea, and Cuban Missile Crisis.



Drew Whitler

Omaha Chapter member, Ryan Fuller, along with his son, Eli, volunteered their time and efforts in setup and teardown of the "Avenue of Flags" in Gretna, Nebraska. Eli is a member of Scout Troop 363 and Ryan helps out as a Troop Leader. Troop 363 partners with the Gretna American Legion Post to ensure this display is done each year for Memorial Day.



Ryan Fuller, with son Eli

Lincoln Chapter member, and State Registrar, Shawn Stoner, laid a wreath from the Lincoln SAR, during the wreath laying ceremony at Soldier's Circle in Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska. He also laid wreaths at the graves of Compatriot/Past National President, Sterling F. Mutz (1941-1942), and Compatriot/Past State President, Herbert Bushnell (1916).



Wyuka Cemetery—Lincoln, NE





Headstone of Past National President, Sterling F. Mutz

Omaha Chapter member, and former U.S. Congressman, Hal Daub, was Master of Ceremonies for the patriotic parade and concert in downtown Omaha on Friday, May 28. He then attended the re-dedication of military memorials at Omaha's Memorial Park on Saturday, May 29. On Memorial Day, he was the featured speaker for the American Legion Post 252 Memorial Day Ceremony in Winside, Nebraska.





L-Adjutant Bud Neel, R-Hal Daub

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER & HONOR

Lincoln Chapter member, LaVerne Stetson, along with 3 of his grandsons, helped poke holes and install flag poles, with flags that have the name of deceased veterans on the border of the flag, and a metal tag with the same name that is attached to the pole. They volunteered their time, along with the local American Legion Post in Crawford, Nebraska.

A total of 178 flags are installed in this manner. LaVerne also laid an SAR wreath at the ceremony at Crawford Cemetery. After the ceremonies were concluded, they helped to take down, fold, and pack away all the flags.



LaVerne and grandsons
—in Crawford, NE



LaVerne and wife, Shirley

Memorial Day 2021 How did our Compatriots honor our Veterans

Omaha Chapter member, Ron Stites, was one of 6 National Sojourners, Incorporated, from Omaha Chapter #19 and four ladies that participated in a National Sojourners "Building the Flag Program", in conjunction with the Basset American Legion Post #123, for the annual Basset Memorial Day Ceremonies in Basset, Nebraska. The National Sojourners is an appendant body of Freemasonry, whose primary purpose is to organize current and former members of the Uniformed Forces of the United States and honorary members by supporting patriotic aims and activities in Freemasonry and developing true patriotism and Americanism through the nation.



Memorial Day Quotes

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he is vigilant in its preservation."

- General Douglas MacArthur

"Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory there would be no civilization, no future."

- Elie Wisel

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God such men lived."

- George S. Patton

"Freedom in never more than one generation away from extinction. We did not pass it to our children in the blood-stream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

- Ronald Reagan

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work they who fought here have so nobly advanced. It is rather for us here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

- Abraham Lincoln



Compatriot Ron Stites (far right) - in Basset, NE

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!

SAR Applications

Effective July 1, 2021, please submit all application questions, completed applications and proofs to Compatriot Paul Burright.

Contact information for Compatriot Burright is:

Paul Burright 1311 N. 208th St

Elkhorn, NE 68022-6940

Email: pburright72@gmail.com

3rd Quarter 2021 Meetings and Events

Sunday, Jul 4—Independence Day Parade, 1pm, Ralston, NE

July 10-15, 2021—National Congress, Renton, WA

Saturday, Jul 17—Omaha Chapter, Cemetery Clean Up Day, 9:00am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Friday, Aug 6—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Aug 28—Omaha Chapter, Cemetery Clean Up Day, 9:00am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Friday, Sep 3—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Sep 14—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Saturday, Sep 18—Omaha Chapter, Cemetery Clean Up Day, 9:00am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Sunday, Sep 26—State Fall Meeting, 2pm, Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE

September 23-25, 2021—Fall Leadership Meeting, SAR Headquarters, Louisville, KY

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