

The Anchor

Nebraska Admirals Association

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

Ahoy Mates! Peer through the periscope to look back at this year.

The 31st Annual Conference of the Nebraska Admirals Association was held on Saturday, April 1, at DJ's Dugout in Omaha. A highlight was recognizing the scholarship winners. Because of the generosity of our Nebraska Admirals Association members, donations to the scholarship fund made it possible to provide four \$1,000 scholarships to young people who are studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Travel and Tourism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This



2017 Scholarship Winners receive their Nebraska Admiral certificates

year's scholarship winners include juniors, Brianna Brugman, Rachel Fabry and Melissa Thalken. Junior Rachel Tyner was named the Gerald D. Decker Memorial Scholarship recipient. The students were presented with Admiral's certificates and fulfilled their "obligations" by walking the plank and taking the "pledge" to forever speak only of the "Good Life" in Nebraska. To help fund next year's scholarships, the students solicited and assembled gift packages for the auction. Their donations were attractive to bidders. Thank you ladies! To all members who support



2017 Scholarship winners Walk the Plank

this program, there is a growing list of



Auction Fundraiser

Nebraska-educated young people who appreciate your altruism.

The feature presentation of the meeting was a film entitled “Kearney Goes to War”. This video was assembled from interviews and artifacts about the “home front” in Kearney, Nebraska, during World War II. Clark Gable, the famed actor, learned to fly airplanes in Kearney while in the military. More information can be found at the following site:
<https://historickearney.unk.edu/exhibits/show/kearney-goes-to-war>

Officer Aaron Wyatt gave a report on the 2016 Operation Ornament project.



Students from Kearney, Elkhorn, Gretna, Lincoln and other towns provided Nebraska-shaped Christmas ornaments that were sent to the sailors on the USS NEBRASKA submarine crew stationed in Bremerton, Washington, Nebraska National Guard troops stationed overseas, and the four veteran’s homes in



Nebraska. Messages of “Thanks for your service!” conveyed appreciation for what our military personnel do for our country. This has been an on-going project for the organization since the days of Operation Desert Storm and has always been well-received by those who receive our token of appreciation. Thank you to the teachers and students who make



Dave Olson discusses what being a Nebraska Admiral means to him.

this project possible.

Elections were held and new officers were selected for a two-year term. The newly elected Fleet Admiral is Aaron Wyatt of Lincoln while Tony Martinez of Sutherland was elected the Operations Officer. He will



Jack McSweeney passes the torch to newly elected Fleet Admiral Aaron Wyatt.

also oversee the 2017 Operation Ornament project. Officers staying in their current association role include Gloria LeDroit of Elkhorn as Chief of Staff, Don Sluti of Kearney as Finance Officer and webmaster, Janice Wiebusch of Kearney serving as Chief Yeoman, Eddie Biwer of Omaha as Quartermaster, Scholarship Officer Dan LeDroit of Elkhorn, and Historian Elaine Sluti of Kearney.

Don Sluti gave a financial report to the Board. The total amount from last year's auction, merchandise sales, and coffee amounted to scholarship fund contributions of \$1,018.

April 1, 2017, the date of the annual board meeting marked exactly 31 years to the day that our organization was ded in Kearney.



Retiring Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney was thanked for his service

cake portioned by the traditional going Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney and the scholarship winners doing the honors.

with an Nebraska Admiral salute. Jack was commissioned an Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 2004 and subsequently elected Fleet Admiral. He has led our group of sailors since that time.



The group then "sa

iled on" to a docent-guided tour of the Durha

m



Thank you for your service Jack!

Museum in downtown Omaha. Our guide, Raleigh, shared some lesser-known stories of the interesting exhibits at the museum.



area for a welcome barbeque and local tours before heading to North Platte for the Nebraska Land Days festival. Their visit included a College World Series baseball game.

Visits with sailors from the USS NEBRASKA nuclear submarine were a highlight of the year. June brought members of the Blue Crew to



Nebraska. They traveled to the Kearney

USS NEBRASKA Lt. Greg Gerlach and wife Lisa enjoyed their overnight stay with Don & Elaine Sluti.

NTV in



\$20 Annual dues are due!



Members of the USS NEBRASKA A Gold Crew also had a fabulous to the state.



At the farewell barbecue for the sailors, each sailor was presented with a Nebraska Sesquicentennial coin from the Nebraska Admirals Association. Afterwards, they each practiced saying "sesquicentennial"!

Tyler
a

Amdahl,



Nebraska sites and attractions.

mechanic who followed in

Did you Know?

According to the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Ps and Qs were a way of keeping bar bookkeepers—and their seafaring patrons—honest in waterfront taverns. In centuries past, sailors often had bar tabs on credit, with barkeepers making marks next to each patron's name under P for pint and Q for quart. Minding one's Ps and Qs meant settling up.

uncle

when the had



and grandpa he joined Navy, quite a

smile as he reminisced about meeting the Husker cheerleaders. Originally from Great Lake, Illinois, he attended boot camp in Charleston, South Carolina. Tyler received additional training in both Ballston Spa, New York, and Bangor, Washington, and has been on the ship for the past eight months.

refurbishing. The sub was built in the early 1990's, christened in 1992, and commissioned in 1993.

The USS NEBRASKA submarine completed its sea trials after almost two years of updating and

Nebraska became the 37th state on March 1, 1867. Although the territorial capital of Nebraska was Omaha when it



Nebraska State Fair Opening Day Parade



Tony Martinez with school children who made over 100 ornaments for service members near and far.

The first admiral in the United States Navy was David Farragut; joining the Navy at age 9 and fighting in the War of 1812 at the mature age of 12. David allegedly coined the famous quote “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” at the Battle of Mobile Bay. Though he was born in Tennessee, he remained steadfastly loyal to the Union during the Civil War, and after he seized the city of New Orleans, was promoted to Rear Admiral—a rank created just for him by Congress. Following the Civil War, he was made the first Admiral of the Navy.