



# The ANCHOR

Nebraska Admirals Association



2nd Quarter, 2016

Edition 1, Volume 1

## Nebraska Admirals Association Mission:

***NAA's primary purpose is to organize the Admirals in the Nebraska Navy into a force for the promotion and enhancement of the "Good Life of the State of Nebraska".***

*(check web page at Nebraska Admirals Association for specific goals)*

### **"Sailing Home Again – 30 Years Afloat"**

was the theme at the Annual Conference held at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument April 2, 2016 for the NAA Membership and guests in Kearney. The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference included, Opening Ceremonies, Scholarship Presentations, Luncheon, and a key note address by, Ronnie O'Brien, followed by tours to the NE Firefighters Museum and or, the Classic Car Museum.

**Fleet Admiral**, Jack McSweeney conducted opening ceremonies followed by opening remarks from Kearney Mayor, Stan Clouse. Lt. Governor Mike Foley was on board to assist in presenting scholarships, and to give remarks on some of the valuable assets in the Great State of Nebraska such as, the Ogallala Aquifer and its' people as a great resource. All had a wonderful meal prepared by Country Catering. Scholarship Awards of \$1,000,00 dollars each were presented to four recipients this year, those receiving scholarships were;

University of Nebraska at Kearney - **April Collins**

University of Nebraska at Lincoln - **Kaitlyn Watermeier**

**Annie Lundeen**

Gerald D. Decker Memorial Scholarship - **Lori Matzke**

### ***Upcoming Events***

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- USS Nebraska Navy Personnel arrive in June
- Upcoming parade
- July 16, 2017 Quarterly Meeting, All Members Welcome, York, NE
- Membership Drive

This year, as always, [Scholarship Officer](#), Dan LeDroit indicated there were a number of great candidates to choose from therefore; the Board of Directors decided to award four scholarships instead of just two. These outstanding individuals were also inducted as Admirals in the “Great Navy of the State of Nebraska” whereby, all took part in, “Walking the Plank”. Along with helping in serving cake to everyone, they also participated in securing various items for the auction conducted by, [Chief Operations Officer](#), Gloria LeDroit held during the meeting. This annual auction helps the coffers for next year’s scholarship program. Thank you, Ladies!  
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*Pictured below are the scholarship recipients’ after*

### ***WALKING THE PLANK CEREMONY***



(L to R) Lori Matzke, Annie Lundeen, April Collins, and Kaitlyn Watermeier

## Scholarship Award Winners



UNL, Annie Lundeen, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley



UNK, April Collins, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley



UNL, Kaitlyn Watermeier, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley



Decker Memorial - Lori Matzke, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley

## **"Sailing Home Again – 30 Years Afloat"**

(continued)

Pictured to the right is [Scholarship Officer](#), Dan LeDroit announcing the award winners during the general meeting. In the photo below, Stan Clouse, Nebraska Admiral and Mayor of the City of Kearney gave a Welcome to the Staff, Crew, and Guests of the Association.



## **Key Note Address**

was given by Ronda "Ronnie" O'Brien, (pictured to the left). Ronnie began by enlightening us all on the original Nebraskans, the Pawnee. Through her work experiences and education, she discussed some of the many perils and struggles of the Pawnee Tribe and the re-introduction of their crop, corn. She has helped revive the ancient sacred eagle corn tradition by finding local growers in Nebraska to help regrow the corn as,

most Pawnee now live in Oklahoma. In addition, Ronnie has helped develop school and cultural programs in conjunction with the Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney and has developed school and cultural programs of Nebraska at Kearney. Ronnie holds a Bachelor of Science in Business with emphasis in Management from the University of Kearney. Ronnie has worked in and around the Kearney area and has been the assistant and general manager of several hotel properties within the area. With over 20 years' experience, Ronnie currently, is the New Hospitality and Hotel Management instructor for the Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts (HMRM) program at the Hastings Community College. Ronnie resides near Shelton, Nebraska with her husband and they have three grown children. A great big **Admiral Salute** to Ronnie for taking time out of her busy schedule to come and visit with us! Thank you! You may visit, [www.cccneb.edu/hastings\\_videos/HMRM/Ronnie.html](http://www.cccneb.edu/hastings_videos/HMRM/Ronnie.html) for the fall 2015 photo.



Alan Bartels, pictured above with Lt. Governor Mike Foley, was given the Rank as Admiral in the "Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" and also took part in, "Walking the Plank". Alan served in the U.S. Army with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division from 1990-1993 during Desert Storm. In 2004, Alan began freelance writing and photography writing for several national magazines to promote a positive outlook for Nebraska, touting the natural wonders here in our great State and educating others about Nebraska's wildlife, events, history and attractions. Alan is the current Assistant Editor for *Nebraska Life Magazine*. To quote Alan, "I get paid for my passion of promoting Nebraska". Alan has received the Conservation Educator of the Year award in 2000 from the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, among other awards. In addition, Alan is very much involved in all kinds of Civic Organizations to promote and educate others about the Good Life in Nebraska. Congratulations on your New Rank as Admiral Alan! Thank you for attending!



Jack McSweeney makes a presentation to Gloria LeDroit for 30 years of service and going above and beyond the call of duty in her efforts to have another successful Annual Membership Meeting. Again, a big thank you goes to Gloria for also helping in administering “Walking the Plank” ceremonies. **Congratulations, Gloria!**



**Finance Office/Webmaster**, Don Sluti keeper of the Books and web page. Thanks Don!



Quartermaster Eddie Biwer shows the general membership some of the items available for purchase from the Admirals store found on the web. Proceeds help defray costs of the scholarship program.

## **“Sailing Home Again – 30 Years Afloat”** (continued)

**Finance Officer/Webmaster**, Don Sluti gave the financial report to the general membership during the meeting. The NAA is ship-shape, however we will need to replenish the Scholarship Fund for next year. Hopefully membership will grow and additional funds will come in through donations. Don was fortunate enough to present his wife, Elaine Sluti **Historian**, with a medal indicating a donation of \$100.00 dollars or more. Thanks for your contribution, Elaine!

## **Board of Directors**

**Regular Meeting**, was held April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 prior to the general membership meeting, starting at 9:30 am with each Officer giving a report in their respective areas. Here are some brief highlights from this meeting. Operation Ornament 2015 was reported to be a Great Success! Thank you to all who participated! Discussion was held on several members attending the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Veteran’s Home in Kearney. NAA will again participate in the Opening Day celebration of the Nebraska State Fair Parade. Parade day will be August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Grand Island with the theme of, *“Grand Champions Made in Nebraska”*. We are

looking for volunteers for this fun filled event. Please check out our website at [www.nebraskaadmirals.org](http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org) or our Facebook page for the latest details on all our events. **Chief Yeoman** Janice Wiebusch gave a Treasurer’s report during the Board of Directors meeting and also reported on an internal audit that was conducted by staff at NAA and all was found to be in good order. Discussion was held on replenishing the scholarship fund; hopefully donations will be coming in. During the Board Meeting, it was decided to nominate Elaine Sluti as Historian and the combine the Editor and Public Affairs/Operation Officer under one heading; all being in favor, Tony Martinez was nominated and selected for this position. Both offices were to be brought up to the general membership for conformation of these positions. Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney indicated this will be his last year on the Board. We are looking for new members and Board Members; if anyone knows of some potential candidates, please nominate them by sending an e-mail to [info@nebraskaadmirals.org](mailto:info@nebraskaadmirals.org)

## **Moving Forward**

Next Board of Directors meeting will be held July 16, at 9:30 am Chances “R” Restaurant in York, NE. This meeting is open to all members and all members are welcome to attend! In the planning stage for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual

Meeting to be held in Omaha, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017; time and itinerary of events are to be determined. Again, the NAA is seeking new members. If you know of someone worthy, please nominate them or contact one of the Board Members on the web page for additional information at [info@nebraskaadmirals.org](mailto:info@nebraskaadmirals.org)

## USS NEBRASKA ( SSBN-739)

### Coming Soon!

Plans are currently underway to meet and greet personnel from the submarine, USS NEBRAKA. This has been an annual event both the Sailors and NAA always look forward to. Please check us out on Facebook or our webpage to get the latest information on the arrival and activities on the Sailors!! Some interesting facts of the sub are listed below.



**Keel Laid:** May 26, 1987

**Launched:** August 15, 1992

**Commissioned:** July 10, 1993

**Builder:** General Dynamics Electric Boat Division, Groton, Conn.

**Propulsion system:** one nuclear reactor

**Propellers:** one

**Length:** 560 feet (171 meters)

**Beam:** 42 feet (12.8 meters)

**Draft:** 36,5 feet (11.1 meters)

**Displacement:** Surfaced: approx. 16,765 tons    Submerged: approx. 18,750 tons

**Speed:** 20+ knots

**Armament:** 24 tubes for Trident I and II, Mk-48 torpedoes, four torpedo tubes

**Homeport:** [Bangor, WA](#)

**Crew:** 17 Officers, 15 Chief Petty Officers and 122 Enlisted (2 crews)

## Nebraska Admirals Association



### Contact us

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Include the phrase "Nebraska Admirals Association" in the Subject line of all emails to ensure that your message will be read.

Facebook link

