

The Anchor

Nebraska Admirals Association

Summer 2019

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

Our 33rd Annual Gathering, USS Nebraska and USS Omaha sailor visits, and more filled the spring and summer for the Nebraska Admirals!

On a lovely Saturday in early April, a good-sized group of Nebraska Admirals “crossed the water” of the Platte River into Grand Island for the organization’s 33rd Annual Conference, held at the United Veterans Club. During the board meeting, some new officers were elected for a 2-year term. Congratulations to David Olson of North Platte, who was elected as our newest Fleet Admiral, only the 12th one since 1986 to hold that office! He will also continue as Quarter Master, with his appropriately-decorated trailer! Ed Meedel of Grand Island was elected Operations Officer, succeeding Tony Martinez who had ably fulfilled his duty of helping round up schools to create the Nebraska-shaped ornaments for the sailors of both the submarine and the littoral combat ship. Ed will have some great help in that area, as our re-elected Chief Yeoman Annette Partridge, also of Grand Island, signed up some new schools last year. Also new to the Board

is Fred Roeser, also of Grand Island, as an “At-Large” officer, serving in that capacity along with Eddie Biwer of Omaha and Jack McSweeney of Kearney. Board members retaining their positions on the board include Gloria LeDroit of Elkhorn, Chief of Staff; Don Sluti of Kearney as Finance Officer, Sue Dimmitt of Omaha as Public Affairs/ Newsletter Editor, Annette Partridge of Grand Island as Chief Yeoman, Elaine Sluti as Historian, and Dan LeDroit as Scholarship Officer. Congratulations to all! Thanks to those who volunteer to serve our organization! And Thank You to retiring Fleet Admiral Aaron Wyatt!

***Check out our
organization’s website
(www.nebraskaadmirals.org)
for more information about
our crew, and how you can
become a part of it!***

Sailors visit the Namesake State

On June 11, six lucky sailors set foot on the ground of the “namesake state” and climbed into a van for a trip “out west,” where The West Begins! Their first stop was in Kearney, where Don & Elaine Sluti and Dan & Gloria LeDroit took them to the cellar.....no, not that one....to the Cellar Lounge, which was celebrating 35 years in business as one of Kearney’s favorites.



After a restful overnight, the sailors headed to the Archway, not only for the history lesson, but especially for the “boomer” cookies presented by the Cookie Lady (a.k.a. Kooky Lady) and her apprentice (grand-daughter) “sMiles.” DeAnna Anderbery continues this tradition because her son also served on a submarine. Word is she is working on a special recipe for the LCS (littoral combat ship) sailors when they come in September!



The sailors achieved “Star Status” with an “appearance” on the local radio station, KGFW. Some callers got to ask them questions, which the sailors answered, as long as it didn’t reveal any “classified” info!

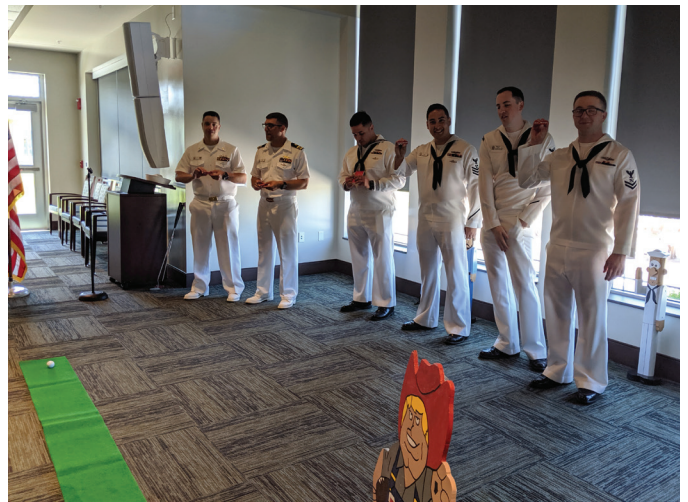


The sailors visited the Youth Rehabilitation and Training Center (YRTC) and spoke to the upperclassmen about the responsibilities of operating and maintaining a multi-million-dollar machine. They also emphasized the importance of doing the right thing and being on “best behavior” for duties under the sea.



sailors, who spread out to many tables to speak to as many guests as possible. After the meal, the crew headed out to the Classic Car Museum to enjoy “a trip through automotive history” that’s on display there.

The final stop in Kearney was at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home, a brand new facility with all the latest comforts and activities. Nancy Klimek continued her tradition of fun and interesting events and activities for residents, after following “her veterans” to the new location. The sailors learned that playing golf indoors isn’t always so easy, but everyone enjoyed the afternoon, including the residents!



Lunch was at Peterson Senior Center, where a large crowd had shown up to have a chance to visit one-on-one with the



With a friendly wave and a wish for “smooth sailing,” the sailors headed off to North Platte for a wild and wooly few days at the rodeo and other fun at NEBRASKAland Days.

The following week, a farewell barbeque was held by the trip's organizing group, the Big Red Sub Club, at Lake Manawa just across the border in Iowa. Chief of Staff Gloria attended and asked the sailors about their week's experiences. LCDR Matt C. hails from San Diego, has 16 years in the Navy, with



three years on the USS NEBRASKA, and has missed out on the Dorothy Lynch dressing and Runza, too, but plans to search them out soon! MMW2 Trevor V. hails from Texas, and had yet to have D.L. dressing or a Runza, but planned to correct that someday soon. However, he had enjoyed an unusual pizza at Pals Brewing Company in North Platte, with

mustard and cheese! ETVC Austin A. has been on this sub for only 14 months, but he had such a fabulous time at the rodeo that he lost his voice! MR2 Garrett A. hails from Tulsa, OK, with 2½ years in the Navy so far. He said he'd never, ever, felt like a celebrity until he had the great fortune to be on this trip. ETV2 Phil R. comes from Phoenix and has enjoyed 3 years of his 5-year Navy career so far on this boat. Phil actually is somewhat familiar with Nebraska, having grown up in Minden, Kearney and Omaha with his family. He was impressed and surprised by the Henry Doorly Zoo. MMN1 Jacob P. echoed the other's enthusiasm for the trip, which also included a College World Series game (Mississippi State vs. Auburn). The CDR summarized the crew's thoughts by saying this was the first place he and his sailors had ever been where they felt like they were with "family" right from the start of the visit. Before the crew members left to return back to Seattle, they got a first-hand view of the flooding damage and work progress at Offutt Air Base.

Of course, they also received sincere invitations to "ya'll come back and see us sometime!" Thanks to the Big Red Sub Club for "sharing" these young men with the people of Nebraska!

The fall sailors' visit is planned for mid-September. A report is planned to be filed in our next newsletter.

Speaking of water problems, several Admirals were ready and rarin' to go for the Opening Day parade at the Nebraska State Fair on August 24, but the rain had the last say and the parade was cancelled. Grand Island had received quite a bit of rain (about 6 inches or so) right when the State Fair was set to start. Photos posted by others on Facebook show one fella traveling down the main avenue in a kayak!

Fair officials were as prepared as they could be, with parking eliminated on the soaked grassy lots on the grounds, and replaced by remote concrete parking places around town serviced by shuttle buses.

So, NO PICTURES for the parade this year! We'll definitely try again next year!

A Conservation Minute:

In 1941, 47 acres of Penny Pines were planted in the only National Forest located in Nebraska, near Halsey. This National Forest is a unique hand-planted green island in the middle of the sand hills of central Nebraska commonly known as the "Forest in the Sand." The area known as such because of where it is located and the trees share space with cactus and yucca plants. In 2009, a dedicated group of volunteers planted over 255 pine seedlings to keep the area

growing and green.

Do You Remember?

September of 2019 marks 18 years since the devastating events of 9-11. The "official" poster used by the United Way, American Red Cross and Salvation Army to raise funds for disaster relief and memorialize that day was created by a 1991 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Brian Niemann. It depicts an American flag hanging up and down with two stripes of "clear blue sky," signifying the emptiness of the New York City skyline after the towers came down. The black area at the bottom says, in white letters, "In Memory 9-11-01," followed by the ghostly outlines of four large passenger planes centered on either side of the outline of the 5-cornered Pentagon building with a gap signifying the damage done by one of the planes. At the very bottom of the black area are two small pillars, which could be construed to serve as a last statement, **"Do not forget the towers."**

Important Notes:

Dooz-r-doo-soon!

(Translation: Dues are due soon!) Annual dues are just \$20 and due on December 31st of each year. Our organization tries to keep the dues stable and still provide enjoyment and the news for you, the members, interesting and

educational, while still supporting the sailor visits. Thanks for YOUR support!

PAY DUES



A Nebraska Historical Moment:

It was over 100 years ago that the need for a continuous transcontinental highway to facilitate the transport of military and its vehicles became apparent. This year, in 2019, a group of rugged vehicles, including some antique military vehicles, made a series of stops along the Lincoln Highway, which is made up mostly of US Highway 30, from New Jersey to Wyoming. It starts in Boston as Highway 1, then Highway 30 all the way from New Jersey to Wyoming, joining up with Highway 530 into Utah, where it is named Highway 40 until it reaches Nevada, where it is labeled as Highway 50, becoming Highway 40 again in California, until it ends in San Francisco. (Check online for: "Lincoln Highway Association")



At the meeting in Grand Island, it was proposed that our organization make a donation for Flood Relief in Nebraska. The flooding was fast and furious all over the state, but especially in central and eastern Nebraska. Here, Chief of Staff Gloria presents the check to a representative of the Salvation Army. The funds were designated to be used for helping citizens who suffered flood damages.



TRIVIA

USS Nebraska may refer to...

USS Nebraska was the name given to the never commissioned Kalamazoo-class monitor *Shakamax* in 1869.

USS Nebraska (BB-14) was a Virginia-class battleship from 1904 – 1923.

USS Nebraska (SSBN-739) is an Ohio-class submarine launched in 1992 and currently on active duty.



ALL HAIL HER ADMIRALTY! SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN THE NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION

	Ball Cap with Screen printing \$8.00		License Plate Holder \$20.00 (Silver frame with Blue plaques and white lettering)		Nebraska Admirals Association Flag (12" x 18") \$20.00
	Blank cards and envelopes featuring 3 each of U.S.S. Centennial, U.S.S. Nebraska, U.S.S. Nebraska submarine, and the Viktoria. 12 total \$3.00		Golden Lapel Pin \$4.00 Anniversary Golden Lapel Pin With Faux Diamond Accent \$7.50		<i>I Christen Thee, Nebraska...</i> By Monty McCord Only a few copies left \$18.00

Plank Walk Patches \$5.00	Numbered Commemorative Coin \$15.00
Polo Shirts \$25.00	Scrambled Eggs \$3.00
Nebraska Admirals Patch \$5.00	
We also have Sweatshirts, and Ladies crew neck t-shirts with the NAA logo \$25.00 Your Purchases help fund the NAA Scholarship and Sailor Hosting Programs.	

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Olson at 308-520-3870.

To Order any of the items above, please fill out this form and send along with your check made out to NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION to DAVID OLSON, BOX 370
410 EAST LEOTA STREET SUITE 5 • NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Mail this form to: Quartermaster David Olson Box 370 • 410 East Leota St. Ste. 5 North Platte, NE 69101		Subtotal:	
		Shipping & Handling:	\$7.00
		TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT:	

Nebraska Admirals Association
P.O. Box 83723
Lincoln, NE 68501



Snowbird alert!

If you will be a “snowbird” soon, please notify us of your snowbird mailing address! Our next newsletter will probably be sent out while you’re keeping warm away from your home address, so we’ll need to know how to get your newsletter to you! Please notify us at:

chiefofstaffnebraskaadmirals.org