

The Husker Patriot



Issue 57

4th Qtr 2024



# Battle of Point Pleasant-250 Years Oct 10, 1774-Oct 10, 2024

# From the Desk of the President

#### Presidents Message

#### Compatriots,

As 2024 draws to a close, let us reflect on the achievements of the past year. The new SAR chapter in North Platte has been chartered, record membership growth in our state society and participation in public events and activities across the state, many with DAR chapters. The grave markings, Liberty Tree dedications and parades celebrated actions taken by our society's founders and our Patriot ancestors over 250 years ago. These events did not happen without planning and the work behind the scenes by unsung leaders who often go unrecognized.



How we celebrate and remember our

past requires each of us to study and strive to understand what the events of the 1770s and 1780s were about. It has been said that history repeats itself. The seasons of the year provide the time for planting, growth, harvest and winter rest only to restart with the cycle of the next spring. Planting a liberty tree does not provide instant shade or freedom, but will in the future if properly nurtured. Look at the mature trees in your community. These mature trees are often found on property occupied by older homes. Trees in the suburbs or new subdivisions are smaller but if you return in twenty years the growth will be noticeable.

Growth in membership is desirable, the growth of the new member requires each of us to be actively involved in retaining the individual. The motivation to join the SAR needs to be turned into a desire to become an active member of our chapter and state organizations. When we learn what the new members are interested in doing and how those desires fit into the goals of the SAR, we then are able to find the proper niche for the individual.

The coming year will be a busy one as the number of America 250

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events will be increasing and provide many opportunities for all our members to celebrate our nations independence. Take time now during the holiday season to enjoy time with your family and friends.

John C. Braisted

President, Nebraska SAR

#### **Board of Management Change**

Richard Hulse will now be the Chapter Rep. for the Platte River Chapter, as the current Chapter President. Richard Loutzenheiser, of Hastings, will finish the term as the new Member at Large Representative.



#### NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

#### 2024-2025

President: 1st Vice President: 2nd Vice President: Secretary: Treasurer: Registrar: Trustee: Alt. Trustee: Chaplain: Historian: John C. Braisted Paul H. Burright James Hoke Stanley Dale Wostrel William Webb Mark A. Byars Dr. James Sly Mark A. Byars Dr. James Sly John Reinert

Const/ByLaws Chairman— Membership Chairman— Budget & Finance Chairman— Audit Committee Chairman— Publicity Chairman— Eagle Scout Chairman— Awards & Medals Chairman— Flag Chairman— Color Guard Commander— First Responders Chairman— ROTC Awards Chairman— America 250 Chairman— America ism Chairman— History Chairman—

Paul Burright Mark Byars Bill Webb John Reinert Dale Wostrel Open Andrew Nehls Paul Burright Open Mark Byars Paul Burright John Reinert

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS 2024-2025

<u>President:</u> John C. Braisted <u>1st Vice President:</u> Paul H Burright <u>2nd Vice President:</u> John Reinert <u>Secretary:</u> Stanley Dale Wostrel <u>Treasurer:</u> William Webb <u>Registrar:</u> Mark A. Byars <u>Chaplain:</u> Dr. James Sly <u>Historian:</u> John Reinert <u>Omaha Chapter Rep:</u> Dan Davis (Secretary) <u>Lincoln Chapter Rep:</u> David Ensign (VP) <u>Platte River Chapter Rep:</u> Rich Hulse (Pres) <u>Member At Large Rep:</u> Richard Loutzenheiser <u>Immediate Past President:</u> Thomas L. Upton <u>Past State President:</u> David Kentsmith

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ISSUE 57

# State Society News





# 2024 Membership Anniversaries

#### <u>5 Years</u>

Terrance Lee Springer—May 10, 2019 Aaron James Nehls—Jul 12, 2019 Andrew John Nehls—Jul 12, 2019 Jaden Andrew Nehls—Jul 12, 2019 Daniel Paul Schildhauer—Jul 19, 2019 Steven Otis Ward—Aug 30, 2019 Eric J. Willard—Sep 27, 2019

#### <u> 10 Years</u>

William Douglas Treu—Apr 23, 2014

Dennis Russell Schildhauer—Jun 19, 2014 Jeffrey Joe Sill—Jul 14, 2014

Harold Robert Huff, M.D.-Dec 12, 2014

<u>15 Years</u> Elbert Curtis Dickey—May 7, 2009

#### 20 Years

Eldon Andrew Plettner, Jr.—May 19, 2004 William Stephen Webb—Nov 30, 2004

#### <u>35 Years</u>

Donald Dwight Wright-Apr 28, 1989

#### 40 Years

John William Reinert—Feb 13, 1984 Harold John Daub—Aug 6, 1984

#### 45 Years

Henry David Neely III—Mar 26, 1979

 $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Congratulations to all our long term members for their dedication and service} \\ \mbox{to the Nebraska SAR!} \end{array}$ 

#### Welcome New Members!

Tracy Leo Willits #231542 Patriot Samuel Bidwell, Sr. (CT) Omaha Chapter

Christopher George Stimson #231698 Patriot Michael Goodrich (CT) Omaha Chapter

William Carl Beutel III #231915 Patriot William Stacy (MA) Omaha Chapter

Tag Ryan Herbek #231916 Patriot Henry Perry (MA) Omaha Chapter

Dennis Lee Parrott #231917 Patriot James Stringfellow (MA) Member at Large (Beatrice, NE)

John Herbert Sieler #231918 Patriot Jeremiah Jackson, Sr. (MA) Omaha Chapter

#### **Supplementals**

Robert L. Knott, Jr #161712 Patriot Nicholas Arnold (VA) Omaha Chapter

Congratulations to all of our new members in the Nebraska SAR. We look forward to you all being active, participating members of the Society.

Special congratulations to Compatriot Bob Knott for having his 21st Patriot approved!

# <u>REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY-250 YEARS</u>

October 26, 1774-The First Continental Congress Adjourns

When the first calls for delegates to the First Continental Congress were chosen to convene at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, John Adams declared, "I feel myself unequal to this business...the grand scene open before me—a Congress."

Many of the 56 delegates that traveled to Philadelphia, had never set foot outside of their own jurisdictions, let alone collaborated with other colonies in such a manner. The Congress was called after the institution of the Intolerable Acts, which mostly punished Boston, for their actions in the Tea Party the past December, but many of the other colonies were thinking that Parliament had gone too far, and started to worry that if the crown could do these things to Boston and Massachusetts, could they be next? This stirred sympathy for Boston and when the call came, all colonies, except for Georgia, who sent aid to Boston but was worried they would lose needed crown support in their current struggles with area Indian tribes, did not send delegates to Philadelphia during this Congress.

Most of the delegates, outside of Massachusetts, wanted to try to petition the King in an attempt to get him to hear their side. On October 25, the last full day of Congress, they wrote up their petition to King George, as they still saw themselves as loyal British citizens. As they sent off their petition to the crown and began to go their separate ways, they agreed to convene again in the spring to discuss next steps based on the King's response. While many were hopeful, they also prepared for the worst. George Washington, then a delegate for Virginia, made some notable purchases for the future when he returned to Mount Vernon, including muskets, military garments, and a book on military discipline.

As it happens, the Continental Congress' petition reached King George in December, and he refused to even read it. This had the disastrous effect of ruining the King's standing with nearly all of the delegates, and it began to sway many of the delegates, and their colonies, toward Independence.

The First Continental Congress is sometimes forgotten over the Second Congress and all that happened when the delegates reconvened. The shooting war had begun, an army was starting to be formed, and talk of declaring independence was gaining ground and finally came to fruition with the Declaration in 1776. The First Continental Congress was the first step in bringing all the colonies together for a common purpose and setting the stage for the formation of the United States.



Delegates to the First Continental Congress

Carpenter's Hall Philadelphia, PA



# MEET MY PATRIOT

#### Isaac Sadler P-283664

#### Patriot of Bill Ruoff (#229342) and Austyn Ruoff (#229343)

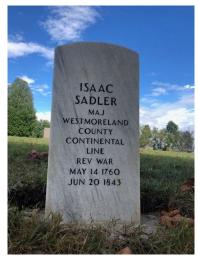
Isaac Sadler was born May 14, 1760, in York County, Pennsylvania, to Isaac Saddler and Mary Ann Hammersly and died Jun 20, 1843, at the age of 84, in Franklin Twp, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He married Jane Hunt, and they had at least one son, Rev. Dr. Isaac P. Saddler on the Methodist Episcopal Church.

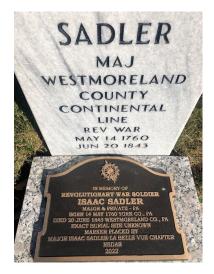
Isaac Sadler grew up when our country was wild and desolate, and savages frequented the borders. Isaac Sadler was a resident of York County, Pennsylvania for the first 54 years of his life. In 1794, he relocated to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Isaac Sadler enlisted in the military at the tender age of 16 in either August or September 1776, in the Borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He served as a Private in a company commanded by Stephen Stevenson. He remained in Carlisle for one month, and then marched to Little York, York County, PA, remaining there in the public barracks for about three months. He then marched to Trenton, New Jersey, where he remained with Col. McGaw's company of Major Campbell's Battalion until his term of enlistment was completed and he was honorable discharged at Trenton, NJ. His regiment while at Trenton in the spring and summer of 1776, was commanded by Col. McGaw. On Sept 13, 1777, he re-enlisted in Capt. Stevenson's Company and joined a battalion commanded by Major Hull of York County. This battalion rendezvoused in Carlisle and remained there until the first day of October 1777. The Company then marched to York, Pennsylvania. Major Hull resigned his commission and Isaac Sadler was duly elected and commissioned as Major. Major Sadler took command of the troops under Col. Stevenson and pursuant to order, marched to Brandywine. On the journey to Brandywine, at a point 15 or 17 miles below Lancaster, PA, Col. Stevenson was informed that the British had retired to Philadelphia where they would take winter quarters and that the attack intended upon York and Carlisle would be abandoned until the following spring. Major Sadler was then ordered by Col. Stevenson to return his battalion to York. On or about Oct 12, 1777, the Company was dismissed by order of Col. Stevenson when they were half way between York and Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Major Isaac Sadler was grated a pension for his dedicated service. His Revolutionary War Pension number is #S.22487.

In 2020, Nebraska DAR State Regent, Marcia Shavlik, Ellen Ramsey-Pagett, and Mary Kay Bothwell, members of the Major Isaac Sadler—La Belle Vue Chapter began searching for the grave of their chapter's namesake. They found documentation suggesting he was buried in the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Apollo, PA. Broken headstones had been removed in the 1940's, leaving Isaac Sadler with an unmarked grave. Research revealed more Patriots buried in the cemetery and military markers were placed on Sep 23, 2021, for Major Isaac Sadler and Pvt. John McConnell. A DAR marker was placed on Oct 29, 2022 for all 18 Patriots buried in the cemetery, with over 250 descendants and DAR members in attendance.

Written by Marcia Shavlik, Past State Regent, Nebraska DAR





### **Chapter Chatter**

#### <u>Omaha Chapter</u>

Members from the Omaha Chapter volunteered their time and provided a valuable service for the Salvation Army on Saturday, Dec 7, by being bell ringers. Omaha Chapter President Jim Sly, Treasurer Andrew Nehls, Compatriot Paul Burright, and Compatriot Todd Fleischer had a grand time ringing bells and talking with the public during their two hour shift. This was the first year that the Omaha Chapter has done this, and we did our duty at the HyVee store at 144th and Stonybrook Blvd in Millard, covering both entrance doors from 10am—12pm. We had a lot of great conversation and comments about how great we looked in our uniforms, and we were able to have some fabulous conversations with folks about our great organization, all while ringing bells for donations to the Salvation Army. Omaha Chapter members plan to volunteer again next year, and we hope to get even more volunteers to ring!

The Omaha Chapter also had its annual December chapter meeting with its Year in Review and Chapter Awards night. We bestowed the 20 year membership pin and certificate on State Treasurer Bill Webb, who was approved on Nov 30, 2004, and the 40 year membership pin and certificate on Compatriot Hal Daub, who was approved on Aug 6, 1984. The Omaha Color Guard gives the Color Guard lapel pin to all new color guard members after their first year of active duty, and the pins were presented to Chadwick Callenius and Dan Davis. The Omaha Chapter also presented it first ever Martha Washington



Medal to Nicki Byars for her excellent work in supporting the SAR and its mission by helping present 18 Patriot Chest presentations in colonial dress, reworking our state logo for our chapter flag, designing the programs and brochures for our grave markings and liberty tree dedication ceremonies, and heading up the logistics for the lunches during the many events in Beatrice and Hastings this past year. She has also attended National Leadership Meetings and National Congress. We truly thank Nicki for all her support of our Chapter and the Nebraska SAR!



Bill Webb and President Jim Sly 20 year pin



President Jim Sly, Hal Daub, and Past State President, Tom Upton 40 year pin



President Jim Sly and Nicki Byars Martha Washington Medal

### **Chapter Chatter**

#### Lincoln Chapter

On November 26, members from the Lincoln Chapter presented Lincoln firefighter, Gary Bruns, the SAR Fire Safety Medal. Firefighter Bruns is a 20-year veteran of Lincoln Fire and Rescue and is assigned to Truck 12, B shift, and also serves on the dive team, which also responds to ice rescues. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having been deployed to Iraq. He is a committed member of the Lincoln Firefighters Association and has served as elected Secretary for several years. He was subsequently elected Secretary of the Nebraska Firefighters Association for several years, and served as President in 2023. He has been instrumental in building relationships with professional firefighters across the state of Nebraska and spends much time at the State Capitol informing state legislators on current issues faced by fire and rescue personnel. One of his accomplishments in this role was the passing of LB447, which provides income tax reduction for retired firefighters for health insurance premiums and changes provisions of the Law Enforcement Education Act to include tuition waivers for professional firefighters and dependents. Congratulations to Firefighter Bruns and thank you for serving as a first responder.



L-R: State President John Braisted, Laverne Stetson, Chapter President John Reinert, VP Dave Ensign, Omaha Member Mark Byars, Terry Springer



#### <u>Platte River Chapter</u>

The Platte River Chapter held its first meetings this quarter, after being officially chartered by the Nebraska SAR on October 4, and got right down to business. The elected officers of the new chapter are: President—Richard Hulse; Vice President—Ronald Roberts; Secretary/Treasurer—Mark Shults; and Registrar—Thomas Corey. Sam Kinsinger was appointed as Chaplain for the chapter.

The chapter wrote and adopted a chapter constitution and bylaws, adopted a chapter logo (below) and is already planning on how to expand the chapter membership and what events to participate in, as a chapter. They plan to get involved in the Eagle Scout program, as well as recognize cadets in the Civil Air Patrol, of which there is a large contingent in the North Platte area.

The chapter has already sponsored a Liberty Tree dedication at the Lincoln County Courthouse, and have plans in place to sponsor another Liberty Tree in McCook, NE, where some of the chapter members reside.

Given how spread out the chapter membership is, and how volatile the winter weather can be in western Nebraska, the chapter has elected to not hold meetings in December, January, and February. They will return to monthly meetings, on the 2nd Thursday of each month, in March.





#### THE HUSKER PATRIOT

### Battle of Point Pleasant-250th Anniversary

On an absolutely beautiful October day in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant at Tu-Endie-Wei State Park, right at the point where the Kanawha River meets the Ohio River. Two Hundred Fifty years ago, October 10, 1774, the Battle of Point Pleasant was waged by Colonial Virginia militia, under General Andrew Lewis, against British backed (and instigated) Shawnee and Mingo Indian warriors, under Chief Cornstalk. Many consider this battle the actual first battle of the American Revolution, as it took place six months prior to the outbreak of fighting the British Regulars at Lexington and Concord, and it is widely thought that Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, was actually collaborating with the Shawnee from the start. It is thought he was trying to isolate the militia and have them destroyed before he arrived on the scene, to weaken the colonial forces in case a full rebellion broke out, which it did in April 1775. The colonial militia had other plans, and won the day forcing Chief Cornstalk to retreat back across the Ohio River, before Lord Dunmore's forces arrived. It was not without hardship, however, as casualties for the militia were 75 dead and 140 wounded.

Omaha Compatriots Mark Byars and Paul Burright traveled to Point Pleasant for the 250th Anniversary ceremony, which took place on October 10, exactly 250 years from the actual battle date. Mark and Paul both have



patriot ancestors that fought in the battle. Mark's 6x Great Grandfather was George Gibson, who served as an Ensign under Captain George Matthews. His company was part of the second action of the day, performed the flanking maneuver that caused the Shawnee retreat. He survived the battle, and went on to serve in the Washington County, Virginia militia and fought at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780.

Paul's 7x Great Grandfather was Isaac Van Bibber, who served as a Private under Colonel Charles Lewis. Isaac was



Mark Byars and Paul Burright in front of the Battle Monument at Tu-Endie-Wei State Park

wounded in the battle, carried off the field by his compatriots, and died of his wounds 30 hours later. His name is listed, on the battle monument at the state park, among the men who fought, and died, in the battle.

Paul and Mark participated in the National SAR Color Guard, presenting and posting the colors, as well as presented wreaths on behalf of the Nebraska SAR and the Omaha Chapter. They were only 2 presenters out of over 100 wreaths that were presented for the ceremony. (photo of both Compatriots among some of the wreaths are on the cover of this newsletter.) Compatriots Burright and Byars were also able to meet and talk with President General Addison, and as descendants of patriots of the battle, were given descendant ribbons provided by the Point Pleasant Battle Days Commission. Both Compatriots were honored to represent the Nebraska SAR, and were very happy to be able to honor their patriot ancestors and remember their contributions and sacrifices.

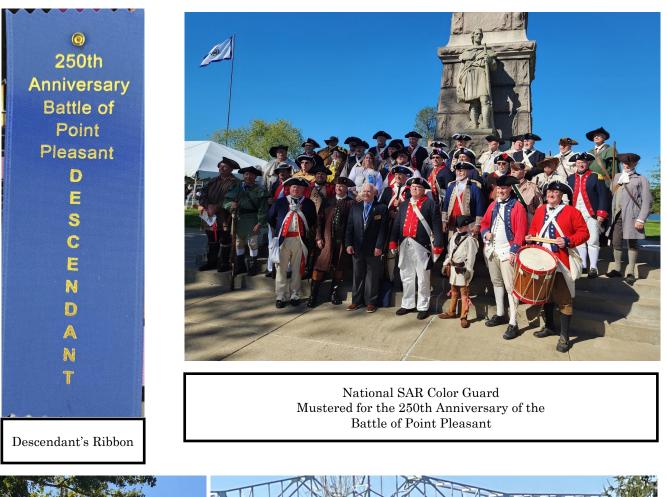
After the ceremony, the SAR hosted a dinner and colonial ball. Both Mark and Paul, along with their wives, Nicki and Paula, attended. Mark and Paul were given escort duty, to escort in the winners of the various categories of Miss Point Pleasant Battle Days. After great conversations, and meeting various SAR members and leaders from around country during dinner, the tables were all moved out and members were taught various colonial dances.



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## Battle of Point Pleasant-250th Anniversary





This cannon overlooks the Ohio River and was fired during the musket salute



Musket Salute by the SAR Musketmen



November 10, 2024-Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska SAR Color Guard once again marched in the Veterans Day Parade in Lincoln, NE. We had a good mustering of color guard members, as well as members of the Lincoln Chapter who carried our parade banner and walked with the color guard, representing our great organization. Members who mustered with us were: Commander Paul Burright, Chadwick Callenius, Capt. Jim Sly, Lt. Mark Byars, Sgt. Allyn Sheldon, Roger Rotschefer (in his first event with us in uniform), as well as Lincoln President John Reinert, Lincoln VP Dave Ensign, State Secretary Dale Wostrel, and Lincoln Treasurer Laverne Stetson.

We paired up, also, with the ladies of the Deborah Avery Chapter, Nebraska DAR, from Lincoln, and they were directly behind us in the procession, dressed in their colonial best. What a great event to honor our veterans and show our patriotism! Huzzah!







December 14/15, 2024—Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

The night before the Wreaths Across America ceremonies, Eastern Nebraska suffered an ice storm, which made driving extremely treacherous. With that in mind, and where Prospect Hill Cemetery is located, in the heart of North Omaha, the decision was made to postpone the ceremony there until the morning of Dec 15. The Nebraska SAR Color Guard presented the colors at that ceremony. Mustering for the event were Compatriots Paul Burright, Jim Sly, Mark Byars, Allyn Sheldon, and Dan Davis. After the ceremony, the guard members helped to place wreaths on the numerous veterans within the cemetery. Commander Paul Burright sponsored a grave specific wreath for Champion Chase, who was the first State President of the Nebraska SAR in 1890. This is a special event, held annually, to honor our veterans through the holiday season. We thank them for their service and sacrifices, keeping America safe and intact, through the many wars and actions throughout our history.



Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held at various ceremonies all over the State of Nebraska. Members from the Nebraska SAR volunteered their time to help lay wreaths at these cemeteries and sent in pictures from Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, NE, as well as Omaha National Cemetery in Omaha, NE. We thank our members for being a part of these hallowed ceremonies.



Top—Color Guard at Prospect Hill Cemetery Above—Fort McPherson National Cemetery Right—Omaha National Cemetery



#### 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, Dale Wostrel at dwostrel43@gmail.com.

Help us keep our records up to date!

#### **SAR Applications**

Please submit all applications through the online application system at www.sar.org. If you have any questions, contact the State Registrar, Mark Byars.

Contact information for Compatriot Byars:

Mark A. Byars 5519 N. 156th St.

Omaha, NE 68116

Email: markabyars@gmail.com

### 1st Quarter 2025 Meetings and Events

Saturday, Jan 4—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

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

Saturday, Feb 1—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Feb 11—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Saturday, Feb 22—American Heritage Banquet, 11am, Havelock Social Hall, Lincoln, NE

Feb 27-Mar 1—Spring Leadership Meetings, Louisville, KY

Saturday, Mar 1—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Mar 11—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Thursday, Mar 13—Platte River Chapter Meeting, 1pm, Lincoln Co Hist Museum, North Platte, NE

Sunday, Mar 16—St. Patrick's Day Parade, 11am, Downtown Omaha, NE

Saturday, Mar 29—Spring BOM Meeting, 11am, Sean O'Casey's, Omaha, NE

#### **Social Media and Online Presence**

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Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at www.nebraskasar.org. Nebraska SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NebraskaSocietySAR

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

Omaha SAR Instagram page: www.instagram.com/omahasar



# 12<sup>th</sup> American Heritage Banquet



Hosted by: Lincoln Chapter, Nebraska SAR

#### Celebrate your Patriotism at an afternoon with:

# Jim McKee- Thomas Jefferson Fitzpatrick with books from his ancestor who amassed a gigantic book collection

Havelock Social Hall, Saturday, February 22, 2024, 11:00 am

| Name:<br>Affiliation:   |   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| Address:  |   |
| Guest   |   |
| Affiliation   |   |
| Phone:  |   |
| Dinner will be served at 12 noon  |   |
| Displays of you organization are welcome. Let John know your table needs. |   |
| Total Buffet Dinners: at \$25.00 each. Total payment enclosed:            | - |

\*Vegetarian option available, let John know.

Please have your registration in before Monday, February 19, 2025

#### Make checks payable to: Lincoln Chapter NESSAR

Send payment to:

John W. Reinert P O Box 83251 Lincoln, NE 68501-3251 (402) 432-9168 Jr6@aol.com

If you decide to pay at the door, please email or call John Reinert with the names and number of guests.

Humanities Nebraska (HN) provides major funding for this program. HN receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations. The presentation will begin at 1pm and is open to the public at no charge.