



**Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission Meeting
December 18, 2025 - 3:30 p.m.**

The Meeting was conducted in person and virtually via Teams

The public was invited to attend in person at:

Nebraska State Historical Society

Capitol View Room

1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

or virtually at: <https://tinyurl.com/593yky44>

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Daryl Bohac, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum confirmed.

ATTENDING IN PERSON – Daryl Bohac, Heidi Cuca, Evelyn Haro, Ashley Olson and Chris Sommerich.

ATTENDING ONLINE– Candace Cain, Kate Ellingson, Christine Vail and Bre Wilton. Jeff Barnes arrived online at 3:37 pm.

ABSENT: Gabriel Bruguier, Roy Christensen, Tim Clark, Tyeisha Kosmicki and Christopher Kratochvil.

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- The public legal notice required by state statute was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on December 7, 2025
- The meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act
- A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall.

OPENING REMARKS

Commission Chair Daryl Bohac welcomed all in attendance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Mark Byars, Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)
- Meagan Dion, Nebraska Arts Council
- Bill Williams, Patriotic Productions
- Carly Harroun, Stuhr Museum
- Dave Mlnarik, Nebraska Sports Council
- Madeline LaFerla, Nebraska Governor’s Office
- Scott Clarke, Clarke Design
- Mike Markey, Nebraska Arts Council – online

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Evelyn Haro, new member representing the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans. Evelyn works for the Nebraska Department of Labor as an UI Appeals Referee and lives in Lincoln, NE.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No comments or questions were offered.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the November Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Sommerich

Second by: Cuca

Yeas: Bohac, Barnes, Cain, Cuca, Ellingson, Olson, Sommerich, Wilton and Vail.

Nays: None

Abstain: Haro

Motion approved.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- Tyeisha Kosmicki has resigned her position on the commission due to personal reasons.
- The Governor’s office has a candidate for replacement in the Second Congressional District. Hope to have in place for the January meeting.
- Public announcement was issued today in regards to the recent appointment of Kate Ellingson and Heidi Cuca.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- **Time Capsule Discussion**
 - Capsule size: approx. large tote box; Nebraska's contribution limited to a single 8.5x11 inch piece of archival paper or etched metal. May be printed on both sides.
 - Ideas: Governor's letter, poem by State Poet, artwork contest, Nebraska Hall of Fame bios. Commission needs to create a set of options back to the Governor's office. Nebraska Arts Council has already commissioned the state poet, Jewel Rogers, to create a new poem with a State 250 for Feb. 4th celebration. More guidance to be posted on the Department of Interior's website.
 - **Deadline:** June 2026? Deadline not posted yet.
 - **Decision:** Form ad hoc committee in January to finalize approach

- **Website Proposal**
 - Artillery Media proposal: \$3,440 setup + \$99/month maintenance.
 - **Approval to accept Artillery Media's Nebraska 250 Website Proposal**

Motion to approve Artillery Media's proposed website contract

Motion by: Barnes

Second by: Vail

Yeas: Bohac, Barnes, Cain, Cuca, Ellingson, Haro, Olson, Sommerich, Wilton and Vail.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

- Launch splash page within 72 hours; full site by February.
 - Subcommittee volunteers: Chris Vail, Kate Ellingson, Ashley Olson, Bre Wilton.
- **Print Event Calendar/Rack Cards**
 - Discussion by Jeff Barnes, Mike Markey and group on if there is any planned printed media event coverage that would be available to the public through rest stops, county fairs or other places. Quarterly rack cards printed by the State Print Shop will be visited again in the future.
 - **Event Submission Process**
 - Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission is the sole clearinghouse for America250 national calendar.
 - Need subcommittee to set criteria for event approval and later screen events before they are posted to the website. Bre Wilton and Chris Vail volunteered to serve.
 - Bre shared example of application form from Michigan which includes event terms and agreement, event image criteria and state logo use and certification. [AM250MI EVENT Application-Form Questions .pdf - Google Drive](#). She will also research more examples. Official rollout of the logo will be at the Jan. 6th press conference.
 - Visit Nebraska has images to use on their medial library at: <https://www.cleanpix.com/cleanpix/portal/W1Kg4-Nw4-qmN>

- Lisa will research minimum requirements at the national level. A list will be compiled so the commission can review and decide on Nebraska's guidelines.

KEY PARTNER UPDATES:

Dave Mlnarik, Nebraska Sports Council: 250-mile challenge via WellPowerMovement.com; kickoff late January. Free to participate, earn virtual badges and potential to win prizes. Can participate as an individual or a company or church group. Heidi Cuca volunteered to assist with UNL Athletic Department. Will also coordinate with the Governor's Walk press conference.

Bill Williams, Patriotic Productions: Free Memorial Day weekend events with world's largest U.S. flag (Omaha & Lincoln) along with a drone show. Looking for 650 people to participate at each location to help unfurl the American flag. They also have scheduled a Memorial Day program at Memorial Park in Omaha on May 25th.

Mike Markey and Meagan Dion, Nebraska Arts Council: Feb 4 Arts & Culture Day 9 am kickoff at Capitol; State Poet commissioned; Bicentennial sculpture anniversary events. New grant program was just announced for events who include a military band.

Nebraska Tourism: 4-page spread in travel guide; passport tour; social media campaign.

Mike Byars, SAR: Has active chapters in Omaha, Lincoln and North Platte. Liberty tree dedications around the state in conjunction with signification Revolution events, has a Colonial-garbed color guard available for events, Declaration readings (hoping for one in Lincoln on the morning of July 4th and one in Omaha on the actual anniversary, July 8th), educational programs and offers a speakers bureau.

Candace Cain, DAR: Has educational contests, resources both at the state and at a national level, has developed five historical markers in the state.

Daryl Bohac, Seward 4th of July

- Not too many updates to share this month. Full schedule to be out soon.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND UPDATES:

Community Relations and Social Media Update:

- The Committee hasn't met since the last meeting.
 - Jeff Barnes reported the phone call he recently received from the Scotts Bluff monument folks. They are having a rededication of the Mitchell Pass and the monument. Would like Historical Society to participate. Planning on late July or August.
 - Possibility of stickers for kids? Jeff Barnes will investigate costs and ideas.

Education Update:

- Bre Wilton updated group on her meeting with the My America folks (in person) last week in D.C. They have sent her their toolkit link. Updates on America's Potluck and progress made on the Nebraska Education website.

- More NE250 updates on the linked document:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EYngq_1czzgLedZAX5dotbEbVguUIRTiA7HqPCkI4w/edit?usp=sharing

Fundraising Update:

- No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 3:30 PM, Central Time

Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.