



**Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission Meeting
February 26, 2025 - 3:00 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/bder5t7v>

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Daryl Bohac, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum confirmed.

ATTENDING IN PERSON – Daryl Bohac, Jeff Barnes, Gabriel Bruguier, Roy Christensen, Heidi Cuca, Evelyn Haro, Beth Smith and Chris Sommerich (arrived at 3:20 pm).

ATTENDING ONLINE– Candace Cain (arrived at 3:31 pm), Kate Ellingson (arrived at 3:20 pm), and Ashley Olson.

ABSENT: Tim Clark, Christopher Kratochvil, Christine Vail and Bre Wilton.

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- The public legal notice required by state statute was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on February 15, 2026
- 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

- Ann Cox, Nebraska State Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- Kami Voboril, Deborah Avery Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- Carly Harroun, Stuhr Museum
- Mark Byars, Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)
- Laura Strimple, Nebraska Governor's Office – online
- Madeline Hart, Nebraska Governor's Office – online
- Laura Osborne, Auburn's America 250 Committee - online
- Jenn Gjerde, Nebraska Tourism Commission - online

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No comments or questions were offered.

KEY PARTNER UPDATES:

Mark Byars, SAR: Working on scheduled calendar events.

Ann Cox, DAR: Ann has just returned from a trip to Washington, DC where the national DAR is kicking off events and exhibits that they are excited to share with the state. If there are events or organizations that would like the SAR or DAR to participate, please send them to either Kami Voboril or Mark Byars.

Stuhr Museum Grand Island 4th of July Event: Carly Harroun shared plans for the community celebration including fireworks to be held at the museum all day on July 4th. They are also working on an *Our American Dreams* exhibit that will be compiled of artwork from artists in all 93 counties. The art challenge question is *"What does the American dream mean to you?"*

Nebraska Arts Council: Daryl Bohac gave a quick update on behalf of Mike Markey. They are continuing to develop the celebration events for the I-80 sculpture project and have added an event in York that will include a drone show, music and other activities. They are also sponsoring a project for public art design for students who will submit proposals for public art through July 4th. They may have grant money available for artists.

Nebraska Tourism Commission: Passport stops will be announced next week and there is a special Semiquincentennial tour. Summer media planning is underway, and America 250 is an integrated strategy. Nebraska is included in the Smithsonian 250 map initiative. The I-80 Sculpture Garden is also featured in an episode of Nebraska Stories by Nebraska Public Media.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Christensen

Second by: Cuca

Yeas: Bohac, Barnes, Bruguier, Christensen, Cuca, Haro, Olson, Smith

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

TIME CAPSULE PROJECT DISCUSSION

- Written proposal/description for America 250 time capsule submission is due to the national organization by March 15, 2026.
- Decided to form subcommittee of Jeff Barnes, Gabe Bruguier and Candace Cain.
- Two-sided 8.5x11" sheet of archival paper with Jewel Rodgers poem (including link to her performing it or an actual digital recording) on one side and the Nebraska History in 250 words with quotes and a map(?) on the other. Address to state time capsule?
- Have potential to use a 6x5x2 inch box. Seeds have been suggested and UNL/PBS Backyard Farmer folks are interested in helping to supply seeds and determine what would be the best way to store them. Indigenous corn seeds are another possibility. Museum of the Fur Trade has sold native vegetable seeds from their native garden they raise onsite.
- Link to live poem performance by Jewel Rodgers
<https://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov/america250-nebraska-celebrations/>

APPROVAL OF 29 EVENTS TO BE POSTED TO AMERICA 250 CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Slate of 29 Events proposed.

Motion by: Cuca

Second by: Christensen

Yeas: Bohac, Barnes, Bruguier, Christensen, Cuca, Ellingson, Haro, Olson, Smith, Sommerich

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- **Great American Fair**
 - In Washington, DC. It starts June 25th thru July 10th. Each state and territory gets 30x30 foot pavilion.
 - Madeline Hart from the Governor's office is coordinating the event, arranging for donors, exhibit design and volunteer staffing.
 - NSHS will assist in providing copies or reproductions of items they are interested in displaying.
 - Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation will be the fiscal sponsor to hold donor funds and pay the bills.
- **Nebraska 250 Website Update**
 - Plan for it to be live Friday, March 6th. Working to review draft site.

- Still waiting on the Governor's video to be finalized.
- **Flag Sojourn 250**
 - It was announced the flag will be in Nebraska March 10th. No other information available but have been reaching out to national and state partners.
- **Freedom Truck**
 - Discussion on whether truck could be located outside of the State Fair paid admission area. Daryl will follow up.
 - If it doesn't work out at the State Fair, are there other areas in Lincoln or outside the College World Series to have the truck visit without an admission fee?
- **America 250 National Update** will occur Wednesday, March 25th. Key updates will be sent to Commission members.
- **Financial Update** Daryl shared a current Cash Fund Report. Have received two large recent donations (\$2500 from Christensen Hearing Analytics and \$1000 from Hampton Enterprises) and a few small ones. Expenses have been for Founders display and pamphlets, the website development and some travel expenses for commission meetings and presenting at NACO regional meetings.
- **Nebraska Tourism Conference Visionary Award Nomination.** We were a finalist for the Visionary Award but did not win. Evelyn Haro also attended on the behalf of the Commission.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND UPDATES:

Community Relations and Social Media Update:

- No report since the last meeting.
- Hy-Vee is interested in being contacted to see how they can become involved as a community partner.
- Chris Vail is at a Keep America Beautiful national conference and unable to join. She does have social media accounts set up thru Facebook and X to link to our NE 250 website once it is up and running.

Education Update:

- Candace Cain showed the materials sent out to schools for the My American national program. Kids will design the fabric squares provided and send back to be assembled in a large American flag and displayed in DC in December 2026. Candace also shared that she will be in DC during the time of the Great American Fair and will represent the Commission by stopping by the booth.

Fundraising Update:

- Received \$1000 donation from Hampton Enterprises.
- Roy is willing to reach out to potential donors but would appreciate if commissioners would refer contacts to him and let the contact know Roy will be contacting them so it is not a true cold call.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn proposed.

Motion by: Cuca
Second by: Christensen

Yeas: Bohac, Barnes, Bruguier, Cain, Christensen, Cuca, Ellingson, Haro, Olson, Smith,
Sommerich

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Central Time. Meeting will last 90 minutes.

Minutes approved by:
Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission
March 26, 2026