



**Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission Meeting
March 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/tzfpzxd>

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Daryl Bohac, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Roll Call – Quorum confirmed.

ATTENDING IN PERSON – Daryl Bohac, Jeff Barnes, Gabriel Bruguier, Evelyn Haro, Chris Sommerich (arrived at 3:05 pm) and Chris Vail.

ATTENDING ONLINE– Candace Cain (arrived at 3:37 pm), Heidi Cuca, Kate Ellingson, Ashley Olson and Bre Wilton.

ABSENT: Roy Christensen, Tim Clark, Christopher Kratochvil, and Beth Smith.

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION – NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- The public legal notice required by state statute was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on March 17, 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)
- Mike Markey, Nebraska Arts Council - online
- Meagan Dion, Nebraska Arts Council - online
- Nancy Kile, Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs Southern Panhandle Commissioner - online
- Laura Strimple, Nebraska Governor's Office - online
- Jenn Gjerde, Nebraska Tourism Commission - online

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No comments or questions were offered.

KEY PARTNER UPDATES:

Mike Markey, Nebraska Arts Council: Congratulated Dan Worth and his team for getting one step closer to getting the I-80 Bicentennial Sculpture project on the Register of Historic Places. Looking forward to hearing back from the National Park Service soon.

Ann Cox, DAR: A Grave Marker Dedication will be held July 11th at 11 am in the Fairmont Cemetery for Clark Harrington who is a son of a Patriot. The public is invited to attend.

Nancy Kile, Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs Southern Panhandle Commissioner: Reminder that the 250th United States government and incorporation celebration is a part of First People's history because our history is American history. Keeping that in mind and within the frame of what we are doing would be great.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the February Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Bruguier

Second by: Wilton

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

EVENTS FOR CALENDAR AND WEBSITE INCLUSION APPROVAL

Clarification of the event, Scott Kirby's Main Street Souvenirs submitted by the National Willa Cather Center was provided to the group as the title was vague.

Motion to approve the Slate of 8 Events as proposed.

Motion by: Sommerich

Second by: Vail

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE EVENTS

Group discussion that with the presence of the new website, the hoped increase in planned event submissions (10-15 a day) and quickly approaching 4th of July date, the process needs to be changed so that events can be posted more often. Events will be tracked using a master Excel spreadsheet. In addition to Chris Vail, Chris Sommerich and Evelyn Haro, Jeff Barnes and Kate Ellingson will serve on the subcommittee to review and approve events. Daryl will serve as the final authority, if needed. Lisa will gather the event submissions and get them out to the subcommittee. After approval she will post events to the calendar upon approval.

Motion to approve the nominated committee members and change the review and approval process as proposed.

Motion by: Barnes

Second by: Bruguier

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion approved.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- **Freedom Quilt Presentation at Governor's Office**
 - Not a Commission-sponsored event, but a group will be presenting the Governor with a quilt and the Commissioners have been invited to attend. Tentatively July 1st at 10 am depending on the Governor's schedule.
- **Freedom Truck**
 - Just received word that the truck will be in Grand Island at the AkSarBen Stock Show in Grand Island September 24th – 27th.
- **Financial Update**
 - Reviewed current financial status.
- **Time Capsule**
 - Design proposal was submitted and awaiting approval hopefully by April 1st.
 - Actual items to be sent are due at NIST by April 30th.
 - Latest inclusions proposed include a stamp set and a bicentennial coin set.

- Commission would like to publicize photos of final submission on our website.
- **Public Service Announcements and Nebraska Broadcaster's Association**
 - Heidi Cuca and Kate Ellingson volunteered to meet with Jim Timm to discuss what types of public service announcements could be developed and cost.
- **Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) District Meeting Updates**
 - Bre Wilton, Chris Vail, Roy Christensen and Jeff Barnes each gave short Semiquincentennial slide deck presentations promoting the website, activities on the calendar and encouraging each county to submit their local activities at the regional NACO meetings in March. Attendance was greater than expected and well received. Funding questions were asked and potential local funding resources were shared.
- **Great American Fair**
 - Madeline Hart from the Governor's office is coordinating the event, arranging for donors, exhibit design and volunteer staffing. If any of the Commissioners are interested in volunteering, those interested should send an email with their schedule availability to Lisa or Daryl.
- **Nebraska Congressional Delegation**
 - Chris Sommerich, in his role as director of Humanities Nebraska, attended a congressional delegation meeting in Washington DC last week. At this point in time the representatives don't have any formal events they would like to see the Commission participate in.
 - They are interested in developing a communication method so each of their offices can see what events are planned in Nebraska and attend when possible.
- **America 250 National Update** was yesterday. Key updates will be sent to Commission members when it is released.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND UPDATES:

Community Relations and Social Media Update:

- Website is live but Artillery is working out final errors with forwarding emails to the NSHS email account. Governor's video has been taken down so it could be revised and will be reposted soon. The Commissioners viewed the tentative video. The public has submitted some events and email inquiries with soft promotion so far. Demonstrated how the event calendar and map features work.
- Once the website is fully ready the Governor's office will issue a press release using their press list.
- Nancy Kile suggested adding a section to the website page featuring the 1868 Treaty Map with overlays showing how the land has been used at different times in history. Another suggestion was adding links to a Capitol building virtual tour or other information on the artwork and other representation honoring First People on website. Will check with Capitol Commission on what might be available.
- Facebook and Instagram accounts have been shared. Ready to start sharing posts now that the website is functional. May need to consider some low cost, promoted, targeted posts to get message shared with all of Nebraska. Daryl will pursue getting some assistance from a social media person at NSHS.
- Heidi Cuca has a connection to Miss USA who is from Nebraska and volunteered to contact her to see if she could record any public service announcements to use on social media.

- Grace McDonald from Pure Nebraska at Channel 10/11 News has reached out to Candace Cain about doing some feature items on America 250.
- Working on how to the feature Nebraska Passport program on the website.

Education Update:

- Candace Cain showed the materials sent out to schools for the My America national quilt program. The national program is looking for more schools who would like to be involved.
- National Civics Challenge is sending out emails looking for participants. Candace Cain has more information that could be shared on Facebook about it.
- America's Field Trip entries close next week.
- My Nebraska, Our America artwork challenge submission date is extended until April 15th. We can help publicize winners once they are announced and promote exhibition later this year.
- COSI science stem kits have been distributed. Nebraska's First Lady is handing out some in the Columbus area.

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, April 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Central Time. Meeting will last 90 minutes.

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