PLANNING FOR PITTSBURGH!

NAVA's annual meeting — our 16th — will take place this year at the Flag Plaza and the William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 8, 9 and 10. Our Program Chairman and genial host, George Cahill, is busy putting together a fine program that should appeal to each and every NAVA member. Opening ceremonies, under the direction of Tom Carrier and his committee, Charles Brannon and John Hartvigsen, are scheduled to take place on Saturday morning, October 9, at Flag Plaza, after which members will tour that facility and enjoy our first few presentations. The evening previously, October 8, members will have the opportunity to get together upon arrival at a welcome gathering planned at the William Penn Hotel, where many of the scheduled presentations will also take place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. A complete schedule will be forthcoming in a few months, but George assures us that we are in for a great time.

In the next issue of NAVA NEWS we will provide information on prices and a registration form, but early news looks as if the meeting will be within just about everybody's budget. Rooms at the William Penn Hotel, for example, will have the special convention rate of $30 or $37 for a single, and $45 for a double, very reasonable in these inflationary times! Special luxury rooms at higher rates will also be available. Plan now to join us for interesting talks, enjoyable company, and the beautiful city of Pittsburgh. Why not plan your vacation to coincide with NAVA this year? Mark your calendar now for October 8-10 and NAVA-16!

A SPECIAL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, commonly known as Shriners, can be residents of Canada, Mexico, or the United States. There is, therefore, a special Shrine Pledge of Allegiance - "I Pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the country for which it stands, One Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All." Whenever Shriners gather, the three national flags are flown with the Shrine flags.
Flag Plaza - Scout Center stands prominently and proudly at the base of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle, a short distance north of the Civic Arena. Flag Plaza is part of a patriotic and educational legacy given to the youth of America by Vivian W. Lehman, in loving memory of her husband Chester Hamilton Lehman, distinguished citizen, industrialist, philanthropist and Scout Leader. The glistening white-stone building was dedicated on Independence Day, 1968, and is entrusted to Allegheny Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Flag Plaza is the scene of the Historic Flag Ceremony held each evening and of educational programs for school groups. Here five stately poles tower to an awesome eighty feet—the height of an eight story building. The fifty-star Flag of the United States of America waves majestically atop the central and highest pole as a symbol of our never-ending quest for peace and freedom for all mankind. Four other banners flank and salute Old Glory. Three of these are the crest of the City of Pittsburgh, the colors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the ensign of the Boy Scouts of America. The fourth is one of thirty-one historic flags that have flown over this land in ages past. These, displayed and changed daily in chronological sequence, begin with the banner of the Viking Norsemen and include the flags of Holland, Britain, France and Spain. Most are American flags dating from the years 1775 to 1781, in that period when our founding fathers rebelled against foreign tyranny, risked their lives and fortunes to create and defend a new nation, and thus gave us the heritage of freedom and independence that is ours today.

For student and Scout, Flag Plaza is at once a lesson in history, civics and love of country. For the tourist, it is a unique and stirring experience. Visit Flag Plaza... taste of its patriotic flavor, sense its educational atmosphere, thrill a little to the story our flags tell of America. Observe today's youth conducting the Historic Flag Ceremony or participating in the stimulating school programs. Come to Flag Plaza and, as thousands of others have done, reverently salute the Flag of the United States of America in this invigorating setting.

THE FLAG FOR NAVA-16

The flag for NAVA-16, our next annual meeting October 8-10 in Pittsburgh, was designed by the talented Alfred Znamierowski of the Flag Design Center in New Jersey. The design utilizes the colors of Pittsburgh's city flag, black and yellow, and shows an isosceles triangle in yellow with its base the entire width of the hoist and its apex in the exact center of the fly. The remainder of the field is black, as is the unique star-design of sixteen stars placed nearly equidistant between the hoist and the flag's center. The artist-designer says that the arrangement of the 16 stars denotes a meeting of close friends in this, our sixteenth meeting. The yellow triangle further symbolizes Pittsburgh's famous Golden Triangle, the downtown site where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers join to form the Ohio. (The Flag Plaza and William Penn Hotel are only a few blocks away.)

A banner with a strange device

via Bob Gauron
Dear Rev. Szala,

Enclosed is a bulletin received from Brazil announcing a provincial flag series of stamps. The interesting thing is that they differ from the illustrations in Whitney Smith's book "Flags Through The Ages":

Pernambuco's blue is a different shade and the stripe dimensions differ as do the style and placement of star and sun; Sergipe's colors are different as are the sizes of the stars; Alagoas' stripes are reversed and grey has been added to the arms; the size of the crossed arrows is larger in the Federal District's flag and the color differ; Bahia's blue is deeper, otherwise it is the same.

The Portuguese text mentions the "tecnica quache" which permitted faithful reproduction of the colors.

The meanings of the emblems are interesting. Bahia's comes directly from a similar flag from a country somewhere north of them in revolutionary times.

Apparently this series is the first in a complete set to come out annually until the series is completed. It is also interesting to note that the cancellation is used to locate the state being honored.

Thought you might be interested in seeing this announcement.

Sincerely,
Gerald M. Knudsen
373 Sea Street
Quincy, Mass. 02169
About the Number Thirteen. That there were not wanting in the British armies those who could extract a bit of fun from what they saw in America, among the rebels, the following extract from the Diary of the Rev. Frank Moore will prove. Evidently he was a chaplain in some one of their regiments stationed in New York City.

"Thirteen is a number peculiarly belonging to the rebels. A party of naval prisoners, lately returned from Jersey, say that the rations among the rebels are thirteen dried clams per diem; that the titular Lord Sterling takes thirteen glasses of grog each morning, has thirteen enormous rum bunches on his nose, and that (when duly impregnated) he always makes thirteen attempts before he can walk; that Mr. Washington has thirteen toes on his feet, (the extra ones having grown since the Declaration of Independence) and the same number of teeth in each jaw; that the Sachem Schuyler has a top knot of thirteen stiff hairs which erect themselves on the crown of his head whenever he gets mad; that it takes thirteen congress paper dollars to equal one penny Sterling; that Polly Wayne was just thirteen hours subduing Stony Point, and just thirteen seconds in leaving it; that a well organized rebel household has thirteen children, all of whom expect to be Generals, or members of the High and Mighty Congress of the Thirteen States, when they attain thirteen years; that Mrs. Washington has a mottled tom cat (which she calls in a complimentary way 'Hamilton') with thirteen yellow rings around his tail, and that his flaunting it suggested to the Congress the adoption of the same number of stripes for the rebel flag." And we moderns might add that there were just thirteen articles in the document known as the Convention of Saratoga, by the signing of which Gen. Burgoyne agreed to surrender himself and army to these same contemptible thirteen States, and that he marched through thirteen towns and cities on his way to Boston, following the lead of that rebel flag with its thirteen stars and stripes. Sure, thirteen proved an unlucky number for Britons in this country.

from: The Story of Old Saratoga by John Henry Brandow, M.A.
The Bradlow Printing Company Albany, New York 1919 via David Coughtry, of Altamont, N.Y.
March 30, 1982

Dear NAVA Members and Friends;

Complying with NAVA's Bylaws, it is my duty and pleasure to inform you of the forthcoming 16th annual meeting, which is being held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 8-10, 1982. The event will officially open with Registration and Reception at 7:00 P.M. Friday at the William Penn Hotel, our convention headquarters, conveniently located in downtown Pittsburgh in Mellon Square. The first session will begin early Saturday at the National Flag Foundation, where most of the sessions are scheduled, and we will adjourn by 3:00 P.M. on Sunday.

I hope you are planning to join us there, Mr. George M. Cahill, the NFF's founder and director, is chairman for the meeting. He is working hard as I write this making all things ready for our arrival and subsequent activities.

The order of business at the annual business meeting will be as follows:

1. Reading of the Minutes;
2. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees;
3. Reports of Special Committees;
4. Unfinished Business;
5. New Business;
7. Election of the Nominating Committee.

I would like to remind officers and chairmen of committees herewith to prepare their annual reports for filing with the Recording Secretary. Also, I want to suggest to members bearing personal flags that they be mindful of them and bring, also, flag poles or floor stands to exhibit them at the banquet.

Do arrange to come and help us make it the interesting and successful conference it can be only if you are there!

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Lynn Knights
Corresponding Secretary