



Orient of Nebraska

January - February 2012 - Volume 2, Issue 1

Calendar

Jan 3	Installation of Officers (H)
Jan 5,12,19,26.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 7	Sesostri's Shrine Installation (L)
Jan 9,16,23,30	Monday 7:30 AM Coffee (L)
Jan 10	Lifeline Screening
Jan 13,14,15	OES District School (L)
Jan 16	Installation of Officers (O)
Jan 18	Business Mtg and Officer Installation (L)
Jan 19	Blue Man Group Concert (O)
Jan 21.....	Temple Chapter OES Installation (L)
Jan 28.....	Robert Burns Supper (L)
Jan 28.....	One-day Masonic Conferral (O)
Feb 2,9,16,23	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Feb 2-4.....	Grand Lodge Session (Kearney)
Feb 6,13,20,27	Monday 7:30 AM Coffee (L)
Feb 11.....	DeMolay Dance (O)
Feb 10-19	Opera Omaha in Theater (O)
Feb 15.....	Business Meeting (L)
Feb 20.....	Lodge-Ladies Night (O)
Feb 23-26.....	Tangier Shrine Circus (O)
Mar 1,8,15,22,29	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 5,12,19,26.....	Monday 7:30 AM Coffee
Mar 14-18.....	Sesostri's Shrine Circus
Mar 17.....	Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner(L)
March 21.....	Business Meeting (L)
Mar 23-24	Grand Commander's
.....	Leadership Conference (St. Louis MO)

After the Reunion

The Fall Reunions are now complete and there are three new members of the Alliance Valley, six new members of the Hastings Valley, eight new members of the Lincoln Valley and eleven new members of the Omaha Valley for a total of twenty-eight new 32° Masters of the Royal Secret. To the members who obtained

Membership

the petitions and to those who participated in the ritual, we thank you for your effort but the work has just begun. In many ways getting new members is easier than keeping them.

All too often the new members are somewhat ignored after they complete a Reunion. As stated earlier, the easy part is getting the petition – the really important work begins after the curtain falls for the 32nd Degree. Time and again, it has been proven that when a person is engaged in an organization they have a much better chance of contributing to the organizations growth and success.

The Omaha Valley's Knights of Saint Andrew have begun a program to provide all new members a mentor, but the mentor cannot do everything. A new member needs to feel welcome and this is best accomplished by all members reaching out to them by greeting them, getting to know them, spending time with them.

If you know a new member and see him at a Lodge of Perfection meeting or a Scottish Rite event or at any other event, take time to let him know he is a member of an organization that contributes to the community and by doing "*that which it is right to do.*" Remind him that there will be opportunities for him increase his Masonic knowledge and be exposed to opportunities to make himself a better man, husband, father, and member of the community. Also let him know he is important to the mission and goals of the Scottish Rite and he can make a difference. If you do not know a new member, but get the opportunity to meet one at a meeting or an event, go out of your way to greet him and make him feel welcome and let him know he is important to the success of the Scottish Rite as well as the numerous opportunities that will be made available to him to improve himself both fraternally and socially. If the new member has his lady with him, greet her and introduce your lady and give the new members lady an idea of the opportunities in the Scottish Rite.

Yes, the work has just begun. But it is good and important work that will enable the Fraternity to grow and do more of "*that which it is right to do*".

Ron Stites, 33° Omaha Membership Chairman

Alliance



Lincoln



Hastings





Ill. Bro. Kaufman, 33° SGIG in South Dakota and Brethren join us every two years for the 33° Conferral

Laying a Cornerstone

If you travel around to the 4 Valleys of the Scottish Rite in Nebraska, or to pretty much any Masonic Lodge, you are sure to see one thing in common. Wherever you go, there is the display case proudly bearing a Past Potentate's fez, a beloved Past Master's gavel, a Past Grand Master's ring or apron, a program from the Lodge dedication, a few pictures from some long ago event, and assorted Masonic knick-knacks and antiques. I've been to all 4 Valleys, and not only do the Valleys have the display cases full of Masonic treasures, but I am proud to say that each Scottish Rite building is a warm, inviting home to all Masons and a center for Masonic events in each community.

But there's something you don't see – the benevolence of generations of Masons, who left something to the Lodge or the Scottish Rite or the Shrine to fund the repair of the roof, the upgrade to the furnace or air conditioning, or to allow the purchase of new lights or sound systems for the stage. Not too long ago, a Brother made a bequest to the Scottish Rite which helped fund the renovation of the Valley of Omaha's historic theater, and another Brother made a bequest which will help with further upgrades to the 100 year old building. Over 50 years ago, a Brother included his farm in his estate plan, which the Valley of Lincoln recently received. The income from the rental of this land will make a significant impact on the Lincoln Valley's ability to meet its philanthropic and charitable commitments well into the future.

Whether it was \$50, \$500, or \$50,000, these Brothers wanted to leave their legacy to an organization which had been so important to them. They planted a seed years ago, which is bearing valuable fruit today, and allows our fraternity to continue thriving! Just as the cornerstone is considered the foundation of a building,

Masonry was the cornerstone for these men who made our philosophy as the foundation for their lives.

I ask you to consider Masonry as one of the key foundations of your lives, and I ask for your support to build on that foundation for the future. In November, you received an appeal letter asking you to make a donation in support of your Valley. I hope you've considered the request. Your donation makes a significant impact on how Scottish Rite Masons fund our commitment to Nebraska's children through RiteCare, support local scholarships and philanthropy, and maintain our buildings as part of the Masonic communities we serve.

I ask you to talk to your wife and family about including the Scottish Rite Foundation for your local Valley in your estate plan. Once you've provided for your wife, your children,

and your grandchildren, please consider a percentage of your estate for your favorite Masonic charity. Whatever the dollar amount, you will be leaving your



Cornerstone dedication, October 2, 1912

Masonic legacy, telling future generations what is important to you today, while helping those men who come along tomorrow make Masonry the cornerstone of their own lives.

For information on charitable gift annuities, which provide income and tax advantages for you today and a gift for the Scottish Rite Foundation in your estate, or for information about making a planned gift, please call Micah Evans, Orient Development Director at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org.

Micah Evans, 32° KCCH,
Orient Development Director

*Have you asked a
Master Mason to join
Scottish Rite this year?
If not, today is
not too late!*

To Hear - To Speak - To Understand

These are the basic steps of speech and language development in a young mind. Listen to a 2 year old. She may hear you say "cat" or "yellow" or "ball" and she tries to repeat it. As her brain develops, she masters the ability to make the right sounds for words, and to string these words together for sentences.

Yet, there are otherwise healthy children who are shut off from communication. These children's hearing, speech, language, and learning problems may arise from a variety of different causes. Research continues on the causes of poor speech and language development. Because there is a wide range for children to begin talking, parents may not at first recognize communication disorders. As they wait for their child to utter his first words, they may gradually become concerned

that something is amiss.

Speech and language disorders affect as many as 6 million children in the United States. However, many of these childhood problems do not mean that a child has a mental deficiency or emotional disorder. Often, these children are of

at least average, if not superior intelligence. What they lack is the ability to exercise this intelligence through normal speech and language channels. Today, at RiteCare clinics in Hastings, the Barkley Center in Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and at the Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha many children with communication disorders can be helped to hear, to speak, to understand.

If you suspect that your child, grandchild, or even the children of your friends, co-workers, or neighbors has a speech or language disorder, simply call your nearest RiteCare clinic for a speech and language assessment. The trained speech pathologist can diagnose and assess the child, and make a recommendation for the best program for advanced treatment.



Ben Kendle, RiteCare patient, and son of Brother Wade Kendle, 32°

In Nebraska, Scottish Rite Masons RiteCare by funding the speech pathologists salaries and programs, donating about \$700,000 each year. Scottish Rite Masons support RiteCare through their charitable donations to the 101 Club appeal, which you recently received this past September, as well as donations to our local Valleys.

You've heard a great deal about RiteCare over the past months for two reasons.

First, as everyone realizes, the economy is still shaky. But more

important, Scottish Rite Masons have been committed to supporting RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics 100%, without regard to the economy. In fact, we are launching RiteCare services at the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2012, which include telemedicine technologies. These services allow speech pathologists to serve any child in Nebraska, regardless of how far he or she may live from the RiteCare clinics.

In addition to new services, the numbers of children needing speech and language services have consistently grown over the last few years. In 2007, speech pathologists saw about 300 children in the 3 clinics. In 2011, an estimated 1,000 children will have been seen by RiteCare professionals, more than a threefold jump! This is due to greater awareness on the part of parents and pediatricians about speech and language disorders, and earlier diagnosis and therapy. The fact that Scottish Rite Masons have provided the resources for every one of these children to have received therapy, without regard for their families ability to pay is something about which we should be extremely proud!

I hope you will continue to support RiteCare through the 101 Club appeal, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, or through donations to your Valley. On behalf of the 1,000 children we've served this past year, thank you for your philanthropic donations, thank you for your membership in our fraternity, and thank you for your continued faith in our mission.

Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH
Orient Development Director



101 Club lapel pin for donors who contribute \$101 to the Scottish Rite Foundation. \$101 represents one session of therapy for a child.

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VOLUME XVIII

CEDAR RAPIDS, JULY, 1917

NUMBER 3

Daughters of the **Scottish Rite**

At the **Scottish Rite** Cathedral in **Omaha** was organized Friday afternoon the first club of the kind ever to be established in Nebraska, composed of the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of **Scottish Rite** Masons—which means thirty-second degree Masons. The membership is confined to the Northern Nebraska district, taking in all the territory that lies north of the Platte river. The plan is a most unique one and meets with the approval of all Masons of the higher degrees in **Omaha** and out in the state. The club will be strictly a social affair, with no expense to the members, and will be operated entirely by the ladies.

At the initial meeting over two hundred ladies were present. The officers of the club elected were Mrs. John E. Simpson, president; Mrs. William Berry, vice president; Mrs. Z. D. Clark, secretary, and Mrs. F. C. Patton, treasurer. The only reason why a treasurer was elected was because the ladies plan to hold a few social events where a small charge will be made to raise money for purchasing silverware and china-ware. There are no dues, everything being free to the members.

The cathedral is to be at the disposal of the members of the new club at any time they wish it, except when required by the **Scottish Rite** bodies.

The club will consist of two divisions, one composed of ladies who desire to play cards and the other composed of women who do not play cards, but will do fancy needle work. Light luncheon will be served the women at each meeting, there being two meetings each month.—**Omaha** World-Herald.

* * *

Did you notice. . . ?



The Square and Compass embedded in the patio wall in the Omaha Valley this past November was salvaged from the Omaha Masonic Building located at 19th and Douglas Street. Built in 1916 by architect (and Brother) Georg Prinz (Nebraska #1) in the Neoclassical style, the Masonic Building was the home for many Blue Lodges, York Rite Chapters, and the Shrine until the late 1970s. The building was sold and used as an office building, until 1998, when it was razed to make way for the Roman Hruska Courthouse.



In August 2011, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that both recognizes the historic significance Scottish Rite Masonry has had in Omaha as well as allows the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha to receive tax-deductible donations for the maintenance and preservation of our historic home.



Heading into 2012...

This will be an interesting year for the Omaha Valley. The budget has been set, the Line Officers and Board members have elected, and we will install the officers at an open installation on January 16, 2012. The work for the year will then begin. We have evolved into an active Valley over the past decade, and I've been assured this year will be the same.

In June we will commence the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Scottish Rite Cathedral, now called the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The following October we will again celebrate with the help of the Nebraska Grand Lodge a reenactment of the cornerstone laying. This will begin a two year celebration, culminating in the Summer of 2014, celebrating the 100th anniversary of when our Scottish Rite home was formally opened. The November Reunion Class in 1914 was the first Reunion Class to receive the degrees in the new building. They had a big class; we hope we can do the same in November 2014.

The Omaha Valley stays very focused on goals, both short term and long range. One long range goal was to make this building available to the public for rentals and performances. The renovation of the historic theater last year presented the opportunity to increase the availability. We had a great rental year in 2011 and we are already looking at most of our weekends being busy with receptions, theater performances and musicals. This is truly an exciting time to see so many people in the building. I think our forefathers would be amazed at the activities held here each month.

Our building is now a certified national historic building by the National Parks Service and the Nebraska Historic Registry. We are truly proud of this designation and have revised our Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha Articles of Incorporation to allow tax de-

ductible gifts to be given for the purpose of restoration, renovation and preservation of our building. We were blessed two years ago to get all the new chairs sold in the theater before the designation and this should give more incentive to those that truly appreciate the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Another long term goal was to establish the Omaha Valley as an ethical society within the Omaha community. This ideal started over four years ago with thoughts of how we could emulate the messages of our degree which form the framework for our members to live moral and ethical lives. Early on we brought in Dr. Rush Kidder, President and Founder of the Institute for Global Ethics, a well-known national advocate for ethics. From there our Ethic Initiative Committee worked on ideas of how could go to the public and reinforce our lessons to our membership. It was decided that these were two projects instead of one.

Bro. Chris Carter, 32° KCCH took the ethics of the ritual efforts for the membership. Last year a program about the 14th Degree and the 32nd Degree were put on to share some of the lectures (no esoteric material) followed by discussion panels that pulled the ethic lessons out of the degree and discussed how they fit our lives today. Both were quite successful with good attendance. This year other degrees will be picked and the same format will be used.

Our community ethics effort has been to get involved with the Business Ethics Alliance and the Youth Ethics Alliance already established in Omaha. Bros. Larry Jacobsen, 33°, Del Weber, 33° and Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH have joined their Boards as consultants and we attend most of the programs they produce. We also went back to the Institute for Global Ethics by asking our public schools to consider doing the Institute's three-program on ethics in their schools working with involved teachers and student leaders. We had two principals agree their schools needed this program. The Institute for Global Ethics will work with the Nathan Hale Middle school and Northwest High School to develop the program and we furnish the funding through our Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha. We applied and were given a grant from the Leon and Adah Millard Foundation to help us with funding. The programs started in the fall of 2011 and we are excited of what will happen to improve the students' lives in the future.

Membership is a focus of all Masonic organizations and it is with us. The Master Craftsman Program of-

fered by the Supreme Council has been an excellent tool to give a brief history of Scottish Rite Masonry, understand our complicated structure with the Four Coordinate Bodies, the Officer structure and a general knowledge of Masonry to our members. There is a second program that is more esoteric and needs more study but it gives a member a way to be involved in Scottish Rite. Our newer members, many grandsons of Masons, are joining with many questions about the Rite, its beliefs and beginnings. This has caused our Ritual Teams at Reunions to work harder at their performances to help these inquisitive new members a lasting experience.

Our Membership Committee has developed from a grass roots committee into a formal committee making great strides to bring in new members, involve our current members, and bring back lapsed members. With the leadership of Ill. Bro. Ron Stites, 33°, Chairman, the committee is made of three parts, Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement. Recruitment is making Blue Lodge visitations and working with people to sign petitions. Retention calls our members to update information and thank them for their membership. Reinstatement work to bring back lapse members. These committees are just getting started but once everyone is used to them it should be a big boost to all membership.

This year we implemented a credit card program for dues and petitions. A short contract is filled out to allow our office to make credit card charges each month on the member's credit card for an amount of at least \$25/month for dues. Also we are offering a candidate for membership to use his credit card for eight equal payment of \$25 to join. We are in a "plastic world" and the Omaha Valley is now part of it!

Philanthropy continues to be a cornerstone of our Valley, and I am pleased to report the addition of 17 new members to the Century Club, our annual giving program where members pledge \$100/year. I am confident that not only will we retain all of our current members, but we'll continue to grow the program with new members. We raised \$12,500 in 2010, \$19,500 in 2011, and I know we'll continue to grow this program, which supports the philanthropies of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, including our principal program, the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic.

Our social programs remain to be strong each year with the Outings at the Papillion Gun Club, Broadway Show series, Lenten Friday Fish Fry lunches and tastings of wine, beer or scotch. In 2011 we held a Lobster

Feed and it is planned to have a Pasta Day sometime this spring. A new idea is not out of reach in the Omaha Valley.

Heading into 2012 should be a fun year with celebrations, good ritual, ethical teachings and bringing in new members so we can share the good life created by Omaha Scottish Rite Masonry. The Valley is as strong as its members – we always need committee members, KSA members, and Brothers to help with building projects. This is YOUR Valley, come on down make involvement part of your New Year's resolutions for 2012.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary



Prelude to the Centennial

In June of 2012, we will celebrate the centennial of the ground breaking for the Omaha Scottish Rite Cathedral, and 2 ½ years later in November, 2014 will be the centennial of the building's dedication. In advance of this commemorative period, it's worth reflecting on the 45 year period before our building was constructed. It was, like today, "interesting times".

Scottish Rite Masonry in Nebraska began in 1867, but it evolved in fits and starts for over 20 years. Albert Pike was finishing up Morals & Dogma and he was still formulating the degree rituals. Things were in flux in Omaha too. In the mid-1870's Omaha area Masons consolidated into a new building on 16th & Capitol Ave., called Freemasons Hall, where the Zorinsky Federal Building stands today. It must have been organized chaos, as new Blue Lodges were being formed, appendant bodies evolving, and all using the upper levels of a 3-story structure with numerous retail businesses occupying the street level.

By 1891, the Omaha Valley was finally reaching critical mass with new members and the First Reunion

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was held in March, 1891 at Freemasons Hall with 25 designates. Joining the Scottish Rite was no small commitment. You arrived at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and with several degrees you were done around 8:30 p.m. You came again on Wednesday with the same schedule and new degrees. You came again on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and finished at 8:30 p.m. Then you came for the final day on Friday at 2:00 p.m., finishing the 32nd degree at 8:30 p.m., followed by a banquet starting at 9:00 p.m. For that, the initiation fee was \$115, or \$2,750 in today's values!

Reunions were held only once a year until 1910, when they changed to at least two reunions per year. Despite the Panic of 1893 that resulted in the worst depression of the 19th century, annual class size averaged 26 during the 1890's. For the first 10 years of the 20th century, the average annual class size increased to 42.

In 1906, the Omaha Valley decided they should acquire land on which to build a structure solely for the Scottish Rite. They selected a property at the southwest corner of 20th & Douglas Street. There were three wood-framed rooming houses on the site at the time, since most properties west of 20th Street were residential. However, across the street to the north was the prestigious Omaha Club, an elaborate three story Italian Renaissance Revival structure constructed in 1895, and its membership included many of the city's most influential citizens. The Omaha Valley felt they would be in good company here.

Beginning in 1910, Omaha Valley membership took a noticeable jump, and the organization decided it was time to begin planning for their new building. They selected John Latenser as their architect. Born in Liechtenstein and trained in architecture in Stuttgart, Germany, he came to Omaha and set up practice in 1886. He was a master of the classical architectural styles and was at the peak of his career having recently completed Omaha Central High School, the Brandeis Building and the Douglas County Courthouse. His exquisite detailing in stone must have been particularly appealing to the Scottish Rite board.

By early 1912, Latenser had completed the design for the Scottish Rite Cathedral. In the March 17, 1912 edition of the *Omaha World Herald* was a large article with the rendering of the building, announcing to the general public the details of this significant structure. Following are the opening paragraphs of that article:

A stately building, Greek in its architecture, fire-proof in its construction and magnificent in its proportions, equipment and furnishings is to rise at 20th and Douglas Streets opposite the Omaha Club.

It will be the Cathedral of the Scottish Rite bodies of Nebraska and will cost - grounds, building and equipment - fully \$250,000. The building alone will represent an outlay of \$150,000.

Plans for the structure were shown and approved by the Scottish Rite bodies at the banquet closing the great reunion Thursday night and met with prompt and hearty approval.

Facing on Douglas Street opposite the Omaha club house, the cathedral will be four stories high and 96x124 feet on the ground. Ionic columns sixty five feet high, chiseled from stone, and brick walls will enclose a home for the order designed to stand for the ages and be the scene of many a stately gathering and joyous reunion as well with a club for the members in the city and state.

On June 6, 1912, coinciding with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska held at Freemasons Hall, over 300 Masons preceded in a grand march from 16th & Capitol Ave. to the 20th & Douglas Street site for the ceremonial groundbreaking. And thus began our new home.

Our departed brethren who made this dream a reality certainly had no question in their mind that 100 years later it would still be owned and in use by the Scottish Rite and performing the same functions and rituals of their day. That their vision came true is an extreme rarity, for buildings and organizations transient as they are, rarely celebrate their centennial. Our Scottish Rite ancestors gave us a building to stand for the ages. We took good care of it and so it stands today, a symbol of permanence and pride. The same can be said for the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. Its timeless principles of ethics and brotherhood will, like our building, stand for the ages – if we commit to its care.



Groundbreaking Ceremony - 1912

Larry Jacobsen, 33°