



Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the **Orient of Nebraska**

January-February 2014 • Volume IV, Issue 1

Calendar

Jan 10.....	Scotch Tasting (O)
Jan 11.....	Installation of Officers (L)
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29.....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 20.....	Installation of Officers (O)
Jan 24.....	Robert Burns Dinner (L)
Feb 6 - 8.....	Grand Lodge, Kearney, NE
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26.....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Feb 17.....	Ladies Night at the 'Rite (O)
Mar 5, 12, 19, 26.....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 17.....	Cornbeef and Cabbage (L)
Mar 28.....	Wine Tasting (O)
Apr 4, 11, and 18.....	Fish Fry Fridays (O)
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 3, 10, 17, 24.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Apr 25-26.....	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
May 1, 2, 3.....	Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
July 6-10.....	Shrine Imperial (Minneapolis, MN)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 26, Apr 16, May 21

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 24, Apr 21, May 21

For more information contact the Secretary in your Valley

Gene Gatti (Alliance)	(308) 762-4324
Phil Odom (Hastings).....	(402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln).....	(402) 435-2144
Curt Edic (Omaha)	(402) 342-1300

Membership

Recently, I was talking with a Mason who said we should recruit quality men as Masons. A lot of us say that, and we all take it as an axiom.

I mentioned this to another Mason, and he always bristles at the term "Quality Mason." What does that mean? How do you measure who is "quality?" Does that mean we only seek bank executives or country club members, as opposed to anyone else? What defines "quality?" Is it money? Is it the cut of his suit? The ability to read a financial statement? Is quality measured in his ability to confer letter perfect ritual or showing up at every Lodge meeting? Who is this ideal Perfect Man we should be looking for?

Of course, there is no guideline for what constitutes a "quality" man. Moreover, there never was. If you could step back to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in 1857, you'd probably see Robert Jordan shaking his head at guys mixing ritual from different jurisdictions, conferring degrees with breath-taking mediocrity, and I bet he said "We've got to get quality men in here."



**Today's newest
Entered Apprentice
Mason is
tomorrow's Grand
Master. Our job is
to get him there.**

Flash forward 100 years later to 1957, when your Blue Lodge had over 1,000 men on the books and 15 guys were raised each month. I bet the Grand Master shook his head and said "We've got to get quality men in here."

In 2057, the Grand Master will look back on today as the mythological good ol' days, shake his head, and say "We've got to get quality men in here."

I'm not suggesting that Quality can ever be defined. Quality is a relative measurement. After all, isn't the point of Masonry for good men to become better? It really doesn't matter what kind of man chooses to take his obligations at the altar and become a Mason.

Continued on page 2

Valley of Alliance

Unfortunately, we were not able to have a Fall Reunion, but we are planning a Spring Reunion. Please help us reach out to potential candidates. All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to meet the candidates and join in the degrees.

The Lodge is planning an awards banquet where we will present a \$1,000 check to the American Legion baseball team and a 50 year award to Ill. Brother **Wally Seiler, 33°**. We will also honor **Dr. Brandon Wilcox** for his service to the CHIP program in Alliance. There will be a Mason of the Year named, to be recognized at the time.

The Scottish Rite is often called the University of Masonry, and the symbolic lessons build on the teachings and lessons of Craft Masonry. Please help us promote the beauty of our degrees to potential Masons by reaching out to potential members. Invite members from your Lodge, or talk to relatives who may make great Masons and talk to them about petitioning. We need to promote our Craft, and we need your help!

*Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH
gene123@mail.com/General Secretary*



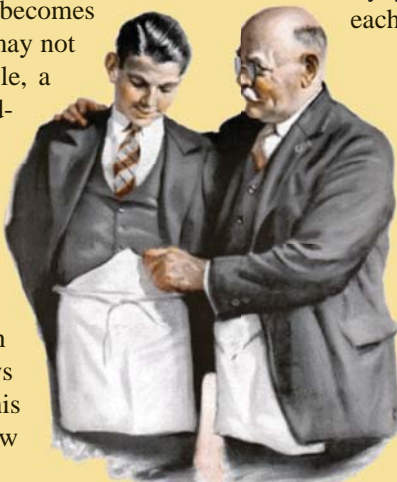
Scott Phillip became the 3rd generation of the Phillip family to be coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, receiving his 33° this past October in Omaha. Here he joins father **Don Phillip**, brother **Walt Phillip**, and grandfather **Bob Phillip**. To the best of our knowledge, the Phillip family is the only families with 3 generations of 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Masons. Congratulations, Scott!

Membership, continued

If he becomes a better Mason by working in the kitchen preparing a great dinner for after Lodge, or becoming the go-to guy for the Middle Chamber lecture, or excelling as Secretary, he is a Quality Mason. In short, "Quality" is any Brother on whom you can count. They step forward in any capacity needed. Even if a Brother never shows up in Lodge, but enthusiastically supports the Lodge by paying his dues and living by the principles of acting on the square and meeting on the level, he is a Quality Mason.

There is no pre-defined measurement of Quality, and every Brother is free to define it himself based on the enthusiasm and talents he brings to the Craft.

Think of the 20 year old college kid who becomes a Mason because Dad paid his dues. He may not come imbued with an easy speaking style, a great memory for degree work, a schedule allowing him to attend Lodge each month, a knack for leadership, or a lot of coin jingling in his pocket to give. But if we're doing our job as Masons, and we help this young man on his Masonic journey, we may find someone 20 years down the road with such a passion for our Craft that he gets involved in ways we never thought possible. If we nurture his zeal for Masonry, we'll find that this new Brother may become a man of



extraordinary qualities and leadership! We have the power within our membership to grow our own Quality Mason.

This takes us to the flip side of the Quality Mason issue: Quantity. We should have no problem with casting a wide net for potential Masons. We're going to get plenty of Brothers who don't fit a preconceived notion of "Quality," but we'll find that these men really do have the tools and the talents to be Quality in a hundred ways we hadn't anticipated. It's our job to reach out, invite them to our Lodge and make them feel at home.

Let's not look for Quality Men to put in Masonry. Let's look for Quality Masonry to put in Men.

Fifty years ago, 500 guys joined our Lodges each year, and because there was a bigger pool for finding talent, Masonry didn't have to innovate. "Quality" men simply rose to the top simply by the sheer volume.

Today, we need to innovate Masonry to draw out the Quality men we already abundantly have! The challenge for you is to reach out to potential brothers. Don't worry about whether they will fit in Masonry, but whether Masonry will fit in them. Chances are that Masonry will bring out new definitions of quality that he (and you) may not have even suspected he had!

Valley of Hastings

Dr. Tom Osborne Speaks at Hastings Foundation Banquet

Helps Raise Funds for RiteCare and Speaks About the Value of Mentoring

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings welcomed University of Nebraska at Lincoln Athletic Director, **Dr. Tom Osborne** to speak at a fundraising dinner on October 11th. Fifty-five guests gathered to hear Tom Osborne speak and enjoy a great dinner, which supported the RiteCare Clinic and the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation.

George White, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG for Nebraska, emceed the evening, and auctioned off seats at Tom Osborne's table, which raised \$870.00.



At left, Dr. Osborne poses with guests, including Vernon (top), a friend of Bob (32°) and Catherine Scott, and with M.W. Don Rasmussen, 33° and M.W. Scott Krieger, 33°.

Dr. William Nottage-Tacey, 32° from First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation, and **Deb Wilhelm, M.S.** spoke about RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. Tom Osborne spoke very eloquently about the power of mentoring.

Afterward, George White auctioned off a Nebraska Huskers football, autographed by Tom Osborne and Coach Bo Pellini, which

was purchased by **Leota Griess** and raised an additional \$200 for the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation. In total, the banquet raised \$2,390,

and there are plans to host a dinner next year to support the philanthropies of the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite.

Always the gentleman, Dr. Osborne remained afterward to shake hands and pose for pictures.

On Saturday, October 12, Vic Smith from Geneva, NE and Ted Thelander from Hastings, NE received the degrees of the Scottish Rite, and were welcomed as our newest 32° Masons. Over lunch, **William "Doc" Carson, 32° KCCH** had the honor of presenting a 50-year pin to **Jack Wilson, 32°** of Grand Island, who joined the Hastings Valley in 1963. **Jim Wolfe, 33°**, **Chuck Sohm, 32° KCCH**, **Phil Harris, 32° KCCH**, and **Scott Reuman 32° KCCH** came from the Valley of Omaha to tour the building, see the degrees, and learn about the theater with George White. Over lunch, Jim Wolfe spoke about benefits of chartering a chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew - creating solidarity among new "black hat" 32° Scottish Rite Masons, and fostering membership retention.



Congratulations to the Fall, 2013 Scottish Rite Class:

Back Row: Phil Odom, 33°, George White, 33°, and Bill Carson, 32° KCCH. Front Row: **Vic Smith, 32°** and **Ted Thelander, 32°**



"Doc" Carson, 32° KCCH presents a 50-year certificate to Jack Wilson, 32°



For more photos from the Tom Osborne Banquet, visit <http://www.facebook.com/HastingsScottishRite> and click on "Photos"

Valley of Lincoln

ROAD TRIP

by James A. Marples, 32°
rosehillks@yahoo.com



On January 17th, 2013, I drove down to the historic town of Opelousas, Louisiana. It is historic because

it was the residence for several years of frontiersman, Brother Jim Bowie and his brother Rezin Bowie (Reason Bowie). On the way down there, I saw the immense watery swamplands and even saw a beautiful pelican bird just north of town. My first stop was to visit the historic and impressive St. Landry Catholic Church. While admiring the beautiful stained-glass windows, which were carefully manufactured by German window makers many years ago, I sat in the pews for a few minutes, silently praying for my friends and family.

My next stop was to the Stated Meeting of the equally historic Humble-Cottage Masonic Lodge #19, which was the same Lodge that frontiersman Jim Bowie belonged to. He lived in that area for several years before moving westward to San Antonio, Texas ---where he tragically died at the Alamo in 1836. Humble-Cottage Masonic Lodge is the oldest Masonic Lodge west of the Mississippi River, chartered in 1820. Bro. Vern Baum, the Secretary, told me that "we have cornerstones of the original Lodge Hall that are even older than that". The origins may even predate 1820!

The original Lodge Minutes or notations of meetings are still preserved today. They were written in French, but a member now is diligently translating them into English -

A Thanksgiving feast worthy of the Pilgrims



The Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite serves lunch each Thursday for \$6/plate. On November 21, the crew outdid themselves with a Thanksgiving lunch

worthy of the Pilgrims and their Wampanoag guests. The kitchen crew included Merv (32° KCCH) and Sharon Moeller, Ronell Nemecek, Linda Wood, Sandy and Ward (32°) Shires. They prepared a great feast of turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberries and dessert of pumpkin pie. Fifty Scottish Rite members, wives, and employees from surrounding offices came for the lunch. Make sure you add to your calendar the fantastic lunches each Thursday at the Scottish Rite! You can't beat the deal for \$6! If you leave hungry, the lunch crew isn't to blame.

and Jim Bowie is mentioned prominently!

Standing on the historic sites Bowie once stood upon gave me a real sense of "living history". It also gave me pause that, like so much things in life: various imitators (such as various phony or counterfeit Bowie-Knives) are passed-off to unsuspecting people. It pays to know History. And, it's even better to experience the facets of History first-hand!

CORN BEER & CABBAGE



March 17, 2014
Take-Out Plates Available - \$10/plate
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

the best in town!

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
332 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508



The Lincoln Scottish Rite presents a traditional

Burns Dinner

Celebrating the life of Scotland's favorite Son, the Ploughman Poet and Freemason

Robert Burns

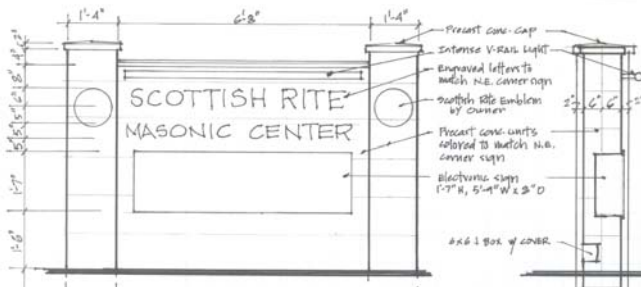
Friday, January 24, 2014
Cocktails beginning at 5:45 p.m.
Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20/person

Call (402) 435-2144 or e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net for reservations



Valley of Omaha



SIGN OF THE TIMES

The Scottish Rite Cathedral Board voted this past Fall to authorize expenses for a new sign in the grassy area just north-west of the building. This new sign replaces the wooden sign which has been there for many years.

The sign will be precast concrete, finished to look like the building, similar to the sign on the northeast side behind the fountain. Engraved lettering will match the northeast sign, and there will be cast bronze Scottish Rite medallions, also matching the northeast sign. The Scottish Rite sign will have LED lights to illuminate the board at night, with a 19" electronic board that can display time, date or upcoming events.

The sign and lights are an investment in the building. With several hundred apartment units being built in the Northern Natural Gas building, Northwestern Bell Building, and the Farm Credit building, we can promote upcoming events to the public and make the building more attractive for rentals (for example, including the names of wedding parties on the sign). The sign was designed by architect **Larry Jacobsen, 33°**, who is a member of the Cathedral Board, and built by Larson Cement Stone Co. The electronic sign will be installed by American Lift & Electronic Sign.

In partnership with NuStyle Development, the Scottish Rite



Congratulations to the new 32° Scottish Rite Masons of the Fall, 2013 Class.

Back Row: John Maxell, 33°, Darryl K. Evans, 32°, Christopher L. Atteberry, 32°, Matthew C. Briggs, 32°, Scotty R. Evers, 32°, Brett R. Bennett, 32°, Benjamin R. McClelland, 32°, Andrew J. Muska, 32°, Patrick D. Graves, 32°, Taylor R. Keen, 32°, Ryan J. Thomas, 32°, Paul Rutherford, 33°

First row: Curt Edic, 33°, Rick Gilmore, 33°, A.J. Johnson, 33°, Micah I. Evans, 33°, Matt Vandergriff, 32° KCCH, Bill Garner, 32° KCCH, Buster Hicks 33°, Jim Wolfe, 33°, George Pfeffer, 32° KCCH

Sign of the Times, continued. . .

replaced the sidewalk to the north of the building, adding historic-style street lights to the north side. Cormaci Construction repaired cracked concrete on the east side and in the courtyard. This past summer, Mulhall's undertook landscaping in the courtyard, under the direction and supervision of landscape designer **John Brommer, 32° KCCH**.

If you haven't been to the Scottish Rite in a while, come down and see the changes!



MONSTERS AND MASONRY!

After three "Creature Feature" shows with Omaha's Dr. San Guinary, played by Chris Palmer (now Brother Chris), the Scottish Rite has welcomed over 100 guests into our building for each show, hosted two movie stars (Stephen Geoffrey and Tyler Mane), picked up a little media attention, received five petitions for Blue Lodge membership, and donated over \$2,500 toward the Scottish Rite Foundation through the shows. Not a bad accounting for a few month's work!

In 2014, the Scottish Rite will tentatively host 4 live shows and show such flicks as *Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein* and *What Happened to Baby Chain*.

A big Thank You goes out to Bro Chris Palmer and the entire Creature Feature crew. You guys are really helping the Scottish Rite become the "place to be" and we look forward to 2014!

Chris Nigro, 32°
cnigro@yahoo.com

Friends of Scottish Rite DINNER & AUCTION



The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha hosted the 5th annual Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction on October 25, 2013, an event which supports the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics, Ethical Literacy education, and UNO scholarships as well as the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation. 135 guests bid on extraordinary silent and live auction items, including a Napa Valley vacation and private vineyards tour, a Star Wars movie poster autographed by the actors, a Branson condo stay donated by **Chuck Sederstrom III 32° KCCH** and a Steamboat Springs, Colorado Condo stay, donated by **Paul Ruth-erford, 33°**. About \$28,000 was raised for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha this year through tickets, auctions, and donations, which benefit the philanthropies of our Foundation.

The evening was emceed by **Rob Seiler, 32°**, who is both a Friends of Scottish Rite committee member and a RiteCare parent. Joined by wife Chris, Rob spoke about what RiteCare has meant for their son Connor. Rob introduced the new RiteCare video, produced by the **UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute** for the Nebraska Scottish Rite.

This year, the Scottish Rite Foundation recognized Ill. Brother **Del Weber, 33°** for his long service to the Scottish Rite as past Eminent Commander of the Council of Kadosh (1989), a Cathedral Board member, long time support for Scottish Rite philanthropies, as well as to his long service to the community as Chancellor of the

University of Nebraska at Omaha and his service to numerous non-profit Boards and organizations. In past years, recipients have received an engraved crystal award, but in deference to Del's already large collection of community awards, the Foundation presented him with something he could use and enjoy - a crystal Scotch decanter. Del spoke eloquently about what his Scottish Rite service has meant to him and why members should be as active as he has in the organization.

Access 66 catered the evening, serving medallions of beef tenderloin with wild mushrooms and cabernet pan-roasted organic vegetables, followed by peach melba. After dinner, guests danced to the music of "Sexy" in the auditorium, with **Bryan Dring, 32°** on guitar. This year, the Dinner and Auction featured a wine tasting with several red blends, cabernets, and chardonnays, as well as a hosted Scotch tasting by Devin Coyle, Whiskey Consultant for Spirit World who brought several fantastic Scotches to sample.

The Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner is indebted to the students from the **UNO Nebraska Student Speech Hearing Language Association**, who were on-hand to help during the evening, serving wine, hors d'oeuvres and volunteering during the live auction.

Next year's dinner is scheduled for October 17, 2014. If you are interested in serving on the Friends of Scottish Rite committee or donating an item for the auction, please e-mail micah@SRNE.org.

Photos: 1) David (32°) and Ann Meinzer, 2) Priscilla and Bryan (32°) Dring, 3) Del Weber, 33° receiving the Friend of Scottish Rite award, and 4) showing the new RiteCare video, here with Ben Kendle, son of Wade (32°) and Deb Kendle of Lincoln.

RiteCare . . . *making a difference*

Update from the Kearney RiteCare Clinic

On September 12, 2012, the University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK) welcomed their first client into their RiteCare Clinic. With the Scottish Rite goal of free therapy to children across Nebraska in mind, UNK kick-started their telepractice program with four-year-old Veronica. Veronica participated in a telepractice evaluation during her first session, which concluded with a recommendation for speech services. To date, Veronica is in her fourth semester of telepractice speech therapy at UNK. In one year's



time, Veronica has made noticeable strides with her speech. She now uses sounds she could not previously say and independently corrects her speech errors.

According to her grandmother, Veronica's speech is more easily understood by her family and peers. As Veronica was UNK's introductory case, **Laura Moody, M.S.**, the RiteCare Clinician, used this early experience with Veronica to refine the procedures and techniques for the evolving telepractice clinic. Laura reflects over the past year saying, "Veronica has really taught us about how to utilize technology to engage children in therapy over the computer to make gains toward their speech and language goals."

Along with evaluating Veronica's speech during the first

WE'RE READY FOR OUR CLOSEUP



The UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute's marketing department recently created a new RiteCare video, featuring our clinicians around the state (pictured, RiteCare clinician **Beth Hughes, M.S.**). Camera crews met with clinicians in Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha and interviewed several RiteCare parents. The video was first shown at the Friends of Scottish Rite dinner in October. It is also available online at www.youtube.com/scottishriteomaha.

session, UNK welcomed **Michael May, 32nd KCCH**, North Carolina RiteCare Chairman. Mr. May observed UNK's telepractice program to further educate himself in hopes of offering telepractice services at a RiteCare Clinic in North Carolina. Telepractice has opened many doors for families in both urban and rural settings by providing an affordable and accessible option when looking for services for their children. Laura and the graduate student clinicians at UNK are excited for the future of RiteCare at UNK—clients receive free services they may not have otherwise received, and the graduate student clinicians get the experience in learning to provide state-of-the-art therapy. As the world becomes more technologically adept, graduate students from UNK will be better prepared to continue telepractice services when they begin their professional careers.

*Laura Moody, M.S.
RiteCare Clinician (UNK)
moodyln@unk.edu*

RiteCare Mom Jen Shannon recently wrote us:

Five years ago, when our son Brady was born, we didn't know what to expect. Our sweet boy arrived in the usual way, but surprised us with an extra chromosome.

Like most parents the buzz words special needs, developmental delay and genetic disorder made our heads spin. We knew our son had Down Syndrome, but we didn't know about the community that was about to embrace us.

An integral part of that community is the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute and the RiteCare Clinic. For the past 3 years they have patiently worked with Brady on his speech development. They have lovingly helped him to develop various forms of communication. Through their knowledge and passion to help all people communicate, Brady is able to converse both verbally and non-verbally. They have given him the foundational tools to continue his verbal journey.

We are so grateful for the RiteCare Clinic. Not only do they provide amazing speech services, the families they serve are not charged a penny. The RiteCare Clinic is helping Brady bridge the verbal gap and is helping him become an engaged and productive individual. Thanks to the amazing people at RiteCare, Brady can now thank them with his words!

*Sincerely,
Jen Shannon*



Development

A few months ago, I went back to the House of the Temple with **John Parsons, 33°**, Orient Chair for the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign. This was not a “dog and pony show,” but a conversation about the scope of the campaign. I went in thinking I already knew about the efforts to renovate the House of the Temple, but I returned with a new appreciation for the work, the challenges and the true group effort this will require of everyone who works there and you, the Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska.

I wanted to take the time to share some of my notes from this day-long meeting.

1. This is *OUR* House of the Temple.

At every Annual Communication of Nebraska Grand Lodge, the Grand Master says “Grand Lodge isn’t the Grand Lodge officers. Grand Lodge is all of us.” This is true as Scottish Rite Masons, as well. The House of the Temple isn’t “them;” it’s *us*. This is our building, our headquarters, and one of the most visible symbols of Masonry in America.

The House of the Temple is one of the most recognizable symbols of Masonry in the United States and our nation’s capital. We want to encourage people to visit and learn about who we are. This will be as much about Masonry as about the Scottish Rite.

2. The House of the Temple is telling *OUR* stories.



The architect’s conception of what the museum space might look like.

The campaign is far more than painting and air-conditioning, though that is, of course, part of it. New museum space will tell our story through the preservation and display of historic documents, many of

which pertain to American Masonry’s earliest years.

Rather than static “stuff” in a display case, the campaign will tell our story through interactive technology which expresses what it means to be a Mason.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska’s Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the March-April Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-January for consideration.)

This is how we will develop a connection between us and the House of the Temple. Visitors will be able to enter their zip code and get a list of Lodges in their vicinity, names and contacts, and better still, we’ll get the e-mail that they were interested and can reach out to them!

3. This ain’t your typical Lodge remodel

John and I had the opportunity to sit down with Sean Graystone, 33° G.C. He is in charge of the entire construction program. I asked him what I need to take back to the membership, and he wanted to express the challenges of the renovation are unlike anything we’ve done before. This isn’t slapping a coat of paint or running ductwork behind the walls. What do you do when the ceiling is 100 feet up and you either can’t run ductwork for aesthetic reasons or because there is literally no space behind the walls to run it? How do you work around 100 year old bookshelves without destroying irreplaceable walnut paneling? I don’t have the background to properly express the challenges Sean faces, but to both modernize the building and completely respect the historical integrity is an extraordinary challenge.



Sean Graystone with John Russell Pope’s blueprints, discussing the challenges of renovating the nearly 100 year-old House of the Temple

So what is the takeaway from these meetings? The House of the Temple is aware that they need to represent the membership through service to us, the members, and by telling the story of Masonry in Nebraska as much as telling the story of Albert Pike. It also underscores our need to support the campaign. The House of the Temple has the potential to welcome more guests, tourists, Masons, and generate great interest in Masonry. The Museum and library holdings are among the most impressive in the nation, and we need to share them with everyone!

The next Celebrating the Craft web-a-thon is May 17, 2014. I’m asking each Valley to host a dinner, card or game night, or event to participate in the web-a-thon, support the campaign, and use the opportunity to bring potential Masons to introduce to the membership.

Micah I. Evans, 33°
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