



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

January-February, 2015 • Volume V, Issue 1

Calendar

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 10	Installation of 2015 Officers (L)
Jan 17	Installation of 2015 Officers (A)
Jan 19	Installation of 2015 Officers (O)
Jan 24	Robert Burns Dinner (L)
Feb 4, 11, 18, 25	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Feb 14	Valentine's Dinner (L)
Feb 16	Ladies Night at the 'Rite (O)
Feb 21	Installation of Grand Lodge Officers (O)
Mar 4, 11, 18, 25	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 5, 12, 19, 26	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 14	Grand Master's All-Committee Meeting (Fremont)
Mar 17	Corned Beef and Cabbage (L)
Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
April 17-18	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7

(see page 3 for meeting locations)

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 22

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20

For more information
contact the Secretary in your Valley

Gene Gatti (Alliance)	(308) 762-4324
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Membership

"I have but little patience with those who are asking today, 'What can be done to bring Masonry up to date?' If we brought Masonry 'up to date' today, it would be 'out of date' again tomorrow. In my opinion, Masonry has more to offer the twentieth century than the twentieth century has to offer Masonry."

—Brother Roscoe Pound, Deputy Grand Master of Massachusetts, Dean of Harvard Law School, and Nebraska native.

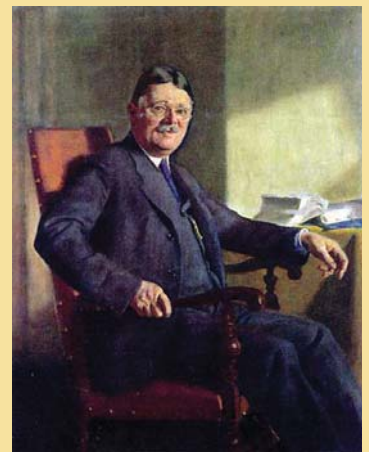
An acquaintance and Brother in Massachusetts posted this on his Facebook page recently. The responses to this quote either sided with the opinion that Masonry is timeless and should not be altered, or that Masonry should change with the times.

To an extent, Freemasonry suffers from "that's the way we've always done it" syndrome, but I think we have done a better job evolving. By "evolution," I don't mean the beautiful ritual, the symbolism, and moral lessons of the Craft, which are truly timeless. The symbols and lessons of Masonry which informed Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere are as true in their day as much as today. But the way we practice Freemasonry is finding its own in the 21st century.

A few cases to show that we are changing the way we do things and trying new approaches:

- A few years ago, the Grand Lodge of Maryland debuted a radio spot encouraging men "ready to put your mark on this world," following a similar membership drive in Massachusetts, which included television ads featuring an actor playing famous Mason Benjamin Franklin.

... continued on page 2



Nathan Roscoe Pound (1870-1964) - served as Master of Lancaster Lodge #54 and as Deputy Grand Master of Massachusetts in 1915. Pound is one of the most cited legal scholars of the 20th century.



Congratulations to the Fall 2014 Class

Front row: Bob Phillip, 33°, Don Loos, 33°, Micah Evans, 33°, **Jay Jones, 32°, Bryan Regier, 32°, Matt Ray, 32°, Scott Jackson, 32°**, Don Phillip, 33°, John Ferguson, 33°

Second row: Rich Reisig, 32° KCCH, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH, Joel Zilmer, 32° KCCH, Dwight Smith, 33°, Devin Charles, 32°, James Henry Ferguson, 32°, John Barrett, 32°, Kevin Spencer, 32°

Third row: Scott Phillip, 33°, Ralph Eatinger, 32°, Ed Morava, 32°, Darren Emerick, 32°, Geoffery Phillip, 32°, Walt Phillip, 33°, Mike Fritzler, 32°

Bob Knight, 33°, comes from a long line of Masonic brothers. His father and grandfather along with his uncle were all Masons. This year, Bob received his 50 year pin from Alliance Lodge #183. In 1974, he was elected treasurer of the Lodge and has held that position ever since. Bob has managed the Lodge and Valley investments for 40 years, and from a gift made many years ago by another brother, Bob has kept the Lodge alive thanks to wise investments. He moved to Arizona for family reasons, and has since moved to Colorado. A plaque was given to him by his Lodge brothers in appreciation for all he has done as Lodge treasurer for the past 40 years.



Robert Knight, 33°

The Valley held their December 19th meeting in Kimball. For the past several months we have moved our meetings to other places in the Panhandle to try to gather some momentum with the Brothers. Keep an eye on the schedule when our meeting comes to your area! The Fall Reunion saw three new brothers from the Western Nebraska Valley and one courtesy member from the Central Nebraska Valley attend, and we had great degree work with great brotherhood!

Membership, continued

- Affinity lodges - geared toward young men of a particular college - are successfully engaging young men in Masonry, recruiting new members, and doing new events that encourage participation and involvement. Colonial Lodge #1821 and Boston University Lodge are growing and thriving!
- Scottish Rite "Chirp" and Freemasonnetwork.org encourages Scottish Rite brethren to communicate and reach out to one another.
- Many Masons want their philanthropy to be active rather than passive. One Nebraska Lodge began serving lunch to the homeless at a downtown church. Another rings bells for the Salvation Army.



Mitch Inman, 32° with his wife Tara and children at a Lininger Lodge #268 Lancers hockey game night in November.

. . . All of our candidates are expected to learn the full Questions and Answers, and each new Brother is assigned a mentor who works with him until he is ready. Non-mentors often work with him as well, and by the time he has been raised, he has already spent many hours working with brothers in the Lodge, and feels like he's part of the Lodge instead of feeling like the "new guy."

All this indicates a change in how we practice Freemasonry (as opposed to the way we become Freemasons, which remains timeless). Roscoe Pound would recognize the same convivial spirit of the guys in the kitchen cooking dinner and he would approve of the brotherhood that goes in to working with a new Brother as he readies himself to prove up in his degrees.

One brother recently wrote me about his Lodge, saying:

"Moving forward, one of my goals as I progress through the chairs is to do more with our families, and to focus on charity work that involves WORK (even if it's flipping pancakes) and not just money. . . If we're working together towards a goal, it serves that bonus of building fraternal feelings."

He would, however, be amazed at how Masonry today isn't the same as it was "back in his day" and how Freemasonry reinvents itself to remain relevant in the lives of its members and their families, even as the beautiful lectures and symbolism remain as timeless as ever. He would see that Brethren work hard to make certain the Lodge experience isn't "business as usual."



Scottish Rite Celebrates FEAST OF TISHRI

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite gathered to celebrate the Feast of Tishri last November 5th in Hastings, led by Commander of the Council of Kadosh, The Rev William G Nottage-Tacey, 32°. This annual Jewish Holiday is in remembrance of the dedication of King Solomon's Temple and is therefore celebrated by us as Scottish Rite Masons, for we are the "allegorical inheritors" of King Solomon's Legacy. The prayers emphasized our gratitude to God Almighty for fulfilling his promises to his people bringing them to the promised land, allowing Solomon to build a temple, and every year blessing us with new life and abundant harvest. At the appropriate times a "speaking staff" was passed allowing Valley Members to say words of thanksgiving. Afterward, obligatory toasts and lighting of the Menorah were performed.

Commander Bill is a gourmet chef as is his wife, Jenny. We were feted with a meal we will long remember. All of the dishes were authentic kosher foods from the Middle East prepared using recipes from "Jerusalem: A Cookbook" by Sami Tamimi. Our menu included:

Photos (Above-Top) Rev. William Nottag-Tacey, 32°, leading the Feast of Tishri. (Above-Bottom) Linda and Mike Small, 33°



The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings welcomes our newest Brother **Jay Jones, 32°** (above, right), who joined the Scottish Rite in November at the Reunion in Alliance. He stands with Brother Ralph Eatinger, 32°.

Both Jay and Ralph are from Thedford, Nebraska, which is 65 miles north of North Platte. Jay travels the world for the oil and gas industry, providing his expertise as a management consultant.

Feast of Tishri, *continued* . . .

1st course. . . . Barley and Lentil soup served with flat bread

2nd course. Sabih/Salad

3rd course. . . Savory sweet lamb, brown mustard gravy, wild rice with leeks and prunes, roasted cauliflower

Desert. Baklava

Wine, grape juice, water and coffee were served throughout the meal.

We all felt so blessed by the fellowship, prayers and meal shared.

*by Bob Scott, 32°
Venerable Master
bobscottster@gmail.com*

2015 Meeting Schedule

In an effort to involve brethren from around the Central Nebraska Valley, Scottish Rite meetings will be held in different locations in 2015. Please check with the Scottish Rite office for times/locations.

January 6 Hastings Masonic Center

February 3 Grand Island

March 3 Hastings Masonic Center

April 7 Kearney

May 5 Hastings Masonic Center



Congratulations to the new brethren who joined in the October 17-18, 2014 Reunion:

Back row (l to r): Roger Miner, 32° KCCH, Dennis Hecht, 32° Jim Stull, 32°, Greg Prososki, 32°, Eric Dinsdale, 32°

Middle row (l to r): David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, *John (Jack) Spray*, 32°, *Jeffrey Schumacher*, 32°, *Steven Busboom*, 32°, *Edward Boone*, 32°, *Lee Anderson*, 32°, *Brandon Dietrich*, 32°, and *Patrick Gray*, 32°

Front row (l to r): Jim Brown, 33°, Dale Lueders, 33°, Ken Beebe, 33°, Charles V Sederstrom, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH, Merv Moeller, 32° KCCH, Bruce Wood, 33°

Save the Date



Robert Burns
BREWMASTER'S DINNER

Saturday, January 24, 2015
Cocktails beginning at 5:45 pm
Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Members, Guests, and the Public are invited to enjoy a night of gourmet Scottish cuisine, including freshly prepared haggis. Enjoy a wee dram of Scotch at the bar, a glass of wine, or your favorite beverage.

The poems of Robert Burns

Live Entertainment **\$25/PERSON**
Scottish Rite Masonic Center
332 Centennial Mall S
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 435-2144
Please make reservations by Jan 21st



www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org

Meet the Men of Acacia Fraternity

by James H. Ferguson, 32°
jhferguson_69@icloud.com

Acacia International Fraternity is a Collegiate Greek Organization stemmed deep into Masonic Heritage and Ideals. A group of 14 Freemasons who were both students and faculty of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor founded the fraternity on May 12, 1904. Membership originally restricted to only men who have taken the obligations of Freemasonry leading to the original name of Acacia being The Masonic Club.



Over the years the restrictions where loosened to Freemasons and their sons, and later, Acacia dropped its Masonic restrictions altogether, Acacia, however, still teaches the lessons and history of Freemasonry to pledges and active members. The fraternity became

International in 1988 at the 45th Conclave with the petitioning of two Canadian chapters the University of Western Ontario Chapter and the Carleton University Chapter. Today, over 50,000 men have called Acacia fraternity home.

The name Acacia spelled in ancient Greek (AKAKIA) is a Greek work meaning esteem and a honor for men who where brave and upheld great integrity. It is also a tree that grows in barren wastelands and still thrives, we use the sprig of acacia to teach us these and other numerous lessons as well as bind us to the Masonic fraternity. The main symbol and representation of Acacia occurs within a 3-4-5 (base-altitude-hypotenuse) right triangle. This triangle holds very special significance to the fraternity and its members, symbolizing the imperfect nature of man as well as the struggle to approach an ideal, which symbolically is occasionally represented as a circle. The motto of Acacia is ΦΕΛΑΟΥΝΤΕΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥΣ, which means "Human Service" or "In Service of Humanity".

Acacia Fraternity's International Council serves as the organization's supreme executive and judicial body. It is composed of eight officers: six alumni and two undergraduates. Alumni officers' terms run four years, while undergraduate counselors' terms are two years in length.

The leadership of each chapter is composed of at least five major officers: the Venerable Dean, Senior Dean, Junior Dean, Treasurer, and Secretary. Most chapters also include in some capacity a Director of Service and Philanthropy, Director(s) of Recruitment, and Risk Manager. Notable Acacia Alumni are Bro. Williams Jennings Bryan (Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson), Bro. William Howard Taft (27th US President), and Bro. Frank S. Land (Founder of DeMolay), and my grandfather MW Bro. James L. Eatmon.

This year marks a great date for my chapter, Nebraska chapter, as we will be celebrating 110 years of continual labor being the oldest continually running chapter in the world!

“He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
And say ‘To-morrow is Saint Crispian.’
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars.
And say ‘These wounds I had on Crispin’s day.’

...
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my Brother . . .

Fall 2014 Scottish Rite Reunion



In William Shakespeare’s Henry V (Act IV, scene 3), King Henry spoke those words before his battle against the French, reminding those who fought side by side with him would always remember that day and would always be brothers.

On November 20, 21, and 22, the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first Reunion dedicating the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in November, 2014. The event was the culmination of two years of Centennial events, including dedicating “the Ashlars” sculpture in the courtyard and the 2012 groundbreaking re-enactment and cornerstone rededication.

Like Henry V’s oft-mimicked speech, those who joined this class and those who worked backstage, served on degree teams, worked in the kitchen, costume room, soundbooth, or at a dozen other tasks will remember this Reunion as one for the record books. Those who were there will point to the picture of all the Scottish Rite brethren present and show their children or grandchildren where they stood. The new members will always remember joining in the largest class in more than 25 years. And those who missed out will wonder why they did not spend a few hours here for this incredible, historic Reunion.

The Fall 2014 Reunion welcomed 63 new Scottish Rite Masons, representing most every Lodge in greater Omaha.

The class gathered on Thursday, November 20 for pizza, orientation, and the 4°, 7°, 8°, 9° and 10°. On Friday, we began



the evening with an excellent prime rib dinner prepared by the Culinary Masters, and a talk by Ill. Brother Bob Davis, 33°, G.C. on “The Significance of Example.” As Masons, we look toward older Masons as an example of how a Mason should be. So, too, are we an example for those who follow us in the Craft. Bob pointed to the ideal of Bob Falk, 33° G.C. as an example of the true gentleman.

Bob joined the family of our late Personal Representative Bob Falk, 33° G.C., our SGIG Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, and Personal Representative Paul Rutherford, 33° to ceremonially cut the ribbon and dedicate the Grand Cross Conference Room. Afterward, the class partook in the 13° and 14°.

We began Saturday at 6:45 a.m. with breakfast prepared by the Knights of St. Andrew. After the 15°, the class and all Scottish Rite brethren re-created the 1914 Dedication Class portrait by assembling on the north side of the building for a group photo. The Reunion then continued with the 15°, 18°, 21°, 29°, 30°, 31°, and 32°.

... continued on page 6

Photos: (Top to Bottom) Kory Kidd, 32° and Omar Diaz, 32°, two of our new Brethren; Dedicating the Grand Cross Conference Room with Carl Falk, 32°, Jan Falk, Nancy Falk Ayoub, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska, Bob Davis, 33°, G.C., General Secretary for the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and Paul Rutherford, 33°; Jim Beard, 32° KCCH in the 9°/10° degree; Dancing after the Reunion as Billy McGuigan performs in the theater. Photos courtesy of J. Robert Corsaro, 32°

After a phenomenal steak and lobster tail banquet, emceed by the Venerable Master of the Consistory Alan Smith, 32°, the Scottish Rite brethren and their guests enjoyed a two hour "Rock Legends" concert by Billy McGuigan, dancing until 11:00 p.m.

Our new Scottish Rite brethren have already created their own Facebook group (#SRO14) and have already become involved in Master Craftsman, degree teams, and the Knights of St. Andrew!

Class statistics: Candidates represented 21 Lodges in northeast Nebraska and southwest Iowa. 44% of the class were 40 and under. 51% were between 41-59 years, and 5% were 60 and over.



Top row, l. to r.: Kyle A. A. Beckner; Tyler Marsh; Alan Boulter; Jesse Magana Jr.; Theo Bourgeois; Mark Howie, Sr.; Nick Oleson; Johnny Barber; Douglas Dawson; Maurice A. Epperson; Joel D. Wahling; Andrew L. Freeman; John A. Hardy; ; Andrew H. Hopmann.

Row 2, l. to r.: Willie J. Williams; Justin R. Mathews; Robert W. V. Boulter; Timothy J. Peters; Steven C. Sexton; Douglas W. Evans; Matthew O. Johnson; Elliott T. Bottorf; Bennie D. Kugler; Robert L. Schapp Jr.; Bartholomew J. Randolph; Tyler S. Loontjer; Edward J. Mummey; Keith P. Coan; Robert M. Thomas; Mark E. Nelson; Gordon T. Wehner.

Row 3, l. to r.: William S. Blocker; Scott M. Beard; Matthew B. Schell; Robert E. Adams; Jonathan D. White; Ted R. Johnson; Kraig M. Downey; Joseph G. Sapp, Jr.; Daniel S. McMullen; Lawrence K. Perkins; Kory L. Kidd; C. T. Perry; Larry E. Larsen; Thomas A. Gibbs; George L. McMullin; John A. Zick.

Row 4, l. to r.: Jeffrey Coleman, 32°; Richard Okita; Justin Short; Daniel Marr; Omar Diaz; Joseph B. Hodges; Eric S. Cramer; Richard J. Ray; Kevin D. Grazier; Edward P. Gray; Ryan P.L. Brulinski; James E. Smith; Kenneth R. Anderson; Andrew J. Marshall; Dick L. Parcher; Glenn R. Lewis; Robert R. Lewis; Richard E. Gilmore, 33°.

Bottom row, seated, l. to r.: James O. Wolfe, 33°; A. J. Johnson, 33°; John T. Maxell 33°; Paul D. Rutherford, 33°; Dean F. Skokan, 33°; Alan R. Smith, 32°; Gregory P. Hadcock, 32° KCCH; Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°; Donovan D. Brand, 32°; Mel Morton, 32°; James Leedham, 33°; Micah I. Evans, 33°; Chris Nigro, 32°; Curtis M. Edic, 33°.

Knights of St. Andrew

As many as you know, the Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA) is a service organization within many Valleys of the Scottish Rite. Although many of the KSA chapters differ from each other, they all serve the same purpose on getting the "newer" 32° black hat Scottish Rite Masons involved within their Valley, as well as help develop future leaders within the organization. Here in Nebraska, we have two chapters, one in Omaha as well as one in Lincoln. Both chapters play an integral part within their Valley and are very appreciated by the Scottish Rite members.

This past September, the Valley of Omaha went down to St. Louis, Missouri for the second International Gathering of the Knights of Saint Andrew. The first gathering was held in Guthrie Oklahoma in early 2012, where the first Knights of Saint Andrew chapter was founded in 2001. At this year's KSA Gathering, there were close to 80 KSA members from all around the country,

some from the Northern Jurisdiction, as well as international guests from Japan. We all met to see what different chapters do within their Valleys and learn from one another what programs or events work, and what could be done differently. I am proud to say that the Omaha chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew brought eight members to the gathering, the most members attending from any one Valley. Nice job representing the Orient, Knights!

The gathering had its fair share of fun activities. For starters, many enjoyed a great night at Busch Stadium and watched the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Cincinnati Reds as their division race was coming to a close. The night at the ballgame concluded with a great fireworks display, and we could

not have asked for a better night for a ballgame!

A Masonic event would not be occur if dignitaries were not present. Our Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale,

... continued on page 7

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

for the International Gathering

by Chris Nigro, 32°
2014 Venerable Master
Knights of St. Andrew
cnigro@yahoo.com



At the Cardinals baseball game: Jim Wolfe, 33°, John Chester, 32°, David Meinzer, 32°, Chris Nigro, 32°, and Zack Sinsheimer, 32° (Also in St. Louis, Arnel MacDonald, 32° KCCH, Don Kavalec, 32° and Micah Evans, 33°)

RiteCare . . . *making a difference*

Deb Wilhelm, M.S., RiteCare clinician in Hastings sent us this note from Fred and Marilyn Engelker, RiteCare grandparents from the Wood River area:



We want to thank Debbie and Emily for making a difference in childrens' lives through RiteCare of Hastings. Our grandson, Zach, was diagnosed with pediatric apraxia of speech at age 3. For almost 2 years, Debbie has been working with Zach to improve his speech. He has made remarkable progress. As his speech improved, he became more and more outgoing. He is enjoying Kindergarten. He loves Debbie! His family does, too!

Brogan has been working with Laura Moody in the RiteCare clinic via telepractice from his home in Fremont.

My name is Brogan. I had been doing speech therapy for five years, never getting anywhere. I couldn't say my "R's." But then my mom found the RiteCare Clinic at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

I started it in January and graduated in July. They really helped me. The teachers were nice, funny, and they knew what I liked and used it in the lessons. I'm a big fan of Doctor Who, so one teacher found games and videos that involved Doctor Who. We practiced my R's using the games and videos I liked. It really helped me and I know it will help others.

Thank you for all the help you've given me.

Sincerely,

Brogan

Knights of St. Andrew International Gathering, continued

33° and at least 10 active members of the Supreme Council were in attendance to see how the Knights of St. Andrew have been evolving. Lieutenant Grand Commander Jim Cole, 33° spent time with the membership, asking what the Supreme Council can do to encourage membership, participation, and retention. Omaha members stood up to speak about the value of the KSA in building personal relationships with new members and getting them involved in the Valley.

The gathering was created to help improve Chapters and encourage Valleys to learn from each other and come up with new ideas for other Chapters to adopt. This included break-out sessions on such topics as By-Laws, regalia, a squire program, and fundraising. All break-out sessions went very well, and I think it is safe to say that we all learned something to take back to Omaha to complement what we already do, as well as possible additions and future projects.

To close the Gathering, Knights were invited to see a knighting ceremony

hosted by the Valley of St. Louis (with several of our brothers serving as the "candidates"), followed by the Feast of Tishri on Saturday night at their wonderful Scottish Rite cathedral. We gave numerous toasts celebrating our craft, and heard an inspiring address by the Grand Commander.

We all had a great time and want to sincerely thank the brethren of the Valley of St. Louis for giving us such a warm welcome and making the KSA International Gathering a success!

In closing, I have been a member of the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite and the Knights of Saint Andrew for just five years. When I went through my Reunion, I recognized the value of the KSA and I wanted to be a part of. I saw the members wearing their glengarries, introducing themselves to new members, and helping them get involved.

If it was not for the Knights of Saint Andrew, I really believe that the ugly statistic of members leaving the organization within 3 to 5 years would be even worse. I am truly honored to have

served as Venerable Master of the Omaha KSA this year. If you are not a KSA member or are and want to get more involved within the organization, please let me know and I am sure I can assist you on your Masonic journey.



(Top) Jim Cole, 33°, Lieutenant Grand Commander, and Arnel MacDonald, 32° KCCH. (Bottom) Jim Wolfe, 33° and David Meinzer, 32°

ICE BUCKET MASONRY

Micah I. Evans, 33°, Orient Development Director

This past summer, the “Ice Bucket Challenge” raised over \$115 million dollars for A.L.S. (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) research. Those taking the challenge had a bucket of ice water dumped on their head and encouraged others to do likewise while supporting A.L.S. The President of the United States, Grand Lodge officers, celebrities, and millions of people participated.



Grand Lodge officers participating in the ALS Ice Bucket challenge last August

Even as the ice bucket challenge swept the nation and demonstrated Americans’ strong capacity for empathy and inclination for charity, researchers have found that people are pretty adept at ignoring charitable appeals that aren’t right in their face. In a study, bell ringers stood at a store entrance. If they only rang the bell, people simply ignored them. If they made eye contact and spoke up, people went out of their way to go in through another door without a bell ringer present. It is not a surprise that people avoid being hit up for charity, but the study did indicate that the bell ringers who spoke up raised 60% more than the non-speaking fundraisers.

The conclusion was that people hate being asked for money, but they give generously when they are. People can’t resist an appeal to their empathy, but they do try hard to avoid having their emotions played on. (I love supporting pet-related charities, but I always change the channel when the commercial with the sad puppies in kennels comes on.)

The ice bucket challenge was a great campaign because it got past our self-protection regarding having our emotions

played, yet it never actually reminded us of the disease that was the inspiration behind it.

So how does it relate to Freemasonry?

For too long, Freemasonry has supported our philanthropy through the sale of ugly ties or challenge coins or raffle tickets, and Brethren reach into their pockets with extraordinary generosity. But we rarely try to break down the wall protecting your empathy. Even the Shriners Hospitals for Children, which so beautifully feature children who have received extraordinary care for incredibly severe or complex conditions, maintain a reserve when asking members to donate. Because of this, Masonry receives \$20 bills when other philanthropies receive \$100 bills.

This approach means that Freemasons generously give - and frequently quite large amounts - but it represents a piecemeal approach to giving. I ask you to read the stories about our RiteCare kids (or the children who receive Grand Lodge scholarships or receive treatment for burns or prosthetic limbs at the Shriners Hospitals for Children) and really think about what Freemasons do for our philanthropies. I ask you to let the stories break down that reserve, and support your favorite Masonic charity with your donations.

RiteCare is looking at a budget of approximately \$700,000 for nearly 7,000 sessions of therapy for over a thousand children. For nearly 40 years, the Scottish Rite has proudly refused to charge families for therapy. We need your help to continue providing evaluation and therapeutic services for Nebraska in 2015, and for the next forty years.

Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason, and thank you for what you do for our Masonic philanthropies.

shopping for ritecare

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska and the Rite Care Clinics have already benefitted from your generosity - simply by shopping! When you shop online, start at <http://smile.amazon.com>, and indicate *the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska* as your charitable recipient, and .5% of your purchase goes to our RiteCare kids. What could be easier?

“Your dues change the light bulbs.
Your donations change the world.”

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL[®]
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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