

# Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the rient of Nebraska

July-August 2013 • Volume 3, Issue 4

### Calendar

Jul 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Jul 11,18, 25Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Aug 7, 14, 21, 28 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Aug 19Family Picnic at Cooper Farm (O)
Aug 9-11Kool-Aid Days (H)
Sep 4, 11, 18, 25 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Sep 5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Sep 15WalkRite for RiteCare (L)
Sep 18Fall Outing (O)
Sep 22WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
Sep 27Feast of Tishri (L)
Sep 28WalkRite for RiteCare (H)
Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Oct 25Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner (O)

#### Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month June - Aug (Dark), Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 20

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month Jul- Aug (Dark), Sep 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month June - Aug (Dark), Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month Jul 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

## For more information contact the Secretary in your Valley

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Phil Odom (Hastings)(402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln)(402) 435-2144
Curt Edic (Omaha)(402) 342-1300

## **Membership**

As I write this in May, we've completed a month of Reunions, welcoming new members into our Scottish Rite fraternity. Right after a Reunion, Brother Roy Bradburn, 32° posted this on the Scottish Rite, Valley of Omaha's Facebook page, which is worth quoting in full:

This reunion was AWESOME!!! You know, I think Don Kavalec said it best today "We tend to forget the purpose of the reunion, it is not just for our new members, but it is a chance to meet and catch up with old friends and Brothers who we have not seen in awhile." I know there was some who were concerned by us only having two candidates, but let us remember their are many organizations who have disappeared and are no longer and they were inducting new members without showing fraternal bonds to those members they already had. This weekend we had some amazing times of laughter, jokes, and unforgettable moments. To me the fact that we still put such effort into this reunion with only 2 initiates speaks volumes about our Valley.

I couldn't agree more with Roy and Don. The Reunion was awesome, and it is a great time to catch up with Brothers I haven't seen in a few months, meet our new members, and solve the problems of Masonry over lunch.



Stronger than friendship: Brotherhood. Dave Thompson, Sr., 32°, John Chester, 32°, and Mike Donham, 32° with the Knights of St. Andrew.

Now to be honest, this has been a lean year for candidates, and we could do better. A couple of us were discussing this, and one of the Brethren said "we have to tell people about all the great things we do - Scotch tastings, picnics, WalkRite for RiteCare, the Burns dinner. Once they learn about that, they'll want to join!" Another brother chewed on it for a moment and asked why they needed to join, since they can come to any of these events as a non-member and participate.

Now normally, I have a few answers I would usually use, about value of ritual and the lessons contained in the

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## Valley of Alliance



Congratulations to our new Brothers, joining in the Spring Reunion in April, 2013:

Front Row: Don Loos, 33° Luke Rawles, 32°, Richard Borie, Jr., 32°, Michael Russell, 32°, Devin Charles, 32°, John Barrett, 32°, Zacharia Jones, 32°, Todd Rehder, 32°, Richard Olsson, 32°, Jack Nichols, 33°.

Second Row: Les Evert, 33°, Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH, Ed Morava, , 32°, Art Strickler, 32° KCCH, Joel Zilmer, 32° KCCH, Joseph Belden, 32°, Robert Phillip, 33°, Frank Wooden, 32°, Mark Gwin, 33°, James Karrell, 32°.

Third Row: Walt Phillip, 33°, Joe Perkins, 33°, Gene Frizzell, 32° KCCH, Brent Van Patten, 32°, Don Phillip, 33°, Dwight Smith, 33°, John Ferguson, 33°, Terry Phillip, 32° KCCH.

#### Membership, continued

degrees, civic engagement and opportunities for leadership development, values, and ethics. But this time I'm going to boil it down to one thing - *brotherhood*.

M.W. Bryce Hildreth, Grand Master of Masons in Iowa, said this best at a Friendship Dinner in Council Bluffs, Iowa recently: *Masonry is about the ties that bind*. These ties are the formal and voluntary pledge we each made at the altar of Freemasonry, in which we are accepted as a responsible member of the family of Masons, and in turn, accept responsibility for fellow Masons.



You can go to a pancake breakfast at your church, lunch at Rotary, or a potluck at your neighborhood block party, but you just can't get the same ties of brotherhood there. However, walk up to some random Mason wearing a Masonic ring or jacket in another town and tell him you've noticed he's been to the East. He'll grab your hand, ask you about the state of Masonry in your city, and happily chat about Masonry in his city. He may even sheepishly admit that he hasn't been to Lodge in years, but he'll proudly tell you that he keeps his dues up each year, and you can hear the pride in his voice that he is a Brother, regardless of how active he may be.

There are no groups that share these ties quite like Masonry. You may share a bond with someone from your home town, someone who graduated from the same high school as you, or someone who served in the same branch of the service, but I suggest that those ties aren't nearly as strong as the ties between Masons. We've all "been to the East," and we all took the same solemn obligation at the altar of Masonry.

Among the many benefits we gain as Masons, perhaps these ties that behind are the least understood and the most important. Think about why you've paid your dues year after year, particularly if you aren't really active in Masonry. That tie, that bond, means something to you. That idea that you can shake the hand of a Brother and conclude a deal tighter than anything a lawyer could draw up, or the idea that your children would be as safe in a roomful of Masons as in your own arms is something we don't often think about. But isn't that something we expect from men who are Brothers?

So when we're talking about the value of membership to potential Masons, think about the least tangible but most important benefit of membership: the indescribable ties of brotherhood. Every man who has taken the obligations of a Mason to heart is more than a friend; he is a Brother. Describe these ties to potential members, and if they are truly interested in partaking in these bonds that are lighter than air, yet stronger than iron, they'll want to join you as more than a friend - they'll join you as a Brother.

## Valley of Hastings





It is fair to say there were no pool-room hustlers at the Hastings Masonic Center last May at Stag Night. But there was a lot of great Brotherhood and laughs as members of the Scottish Rite got together for an evening of shooting pool, a few drinks, and chips and snacks.

Venerable Master Bill "Doc" Carson called for a Stag Night to promote brotherhood and fun. in what he hopes to be the beginning of a new tradition for Scottish Rite Masons in the Central Nebraska Valley at Hastings. "Our members come from Grand Island, Kearney, Wood River, and Hastings," said

Bill. "This is a great way to get together, have some fun, and use this fantastic building which doesn't get used to its fullest potential. Maybe we can even bring a few potential members to come and get interested in Freemasonry."

About fifteen guys came to the first stag night, and Doc is thinking about planning more evenings like this during the year. As Sovereign Grand Commander Ron Seale said at the all-Nebraska Reunion in 2011, "Masonry doesn't just happen in the Lodge room. It happens in the kitchen before Lodge, it happens when two Brothers solve the world's problems over donuts, and it happens whenever Brothers get together in the spirit of harmony."

#### SAVE THE DATE



A family-friendly fun walk for the **Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation**, benefitting
the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic

- Open to the entire community
- Choose your own distance to walk
- Lunch provided by Scottish Rite Masons
- \$25 registration fee, with t-shirts for all registrants
- Donations are tax-deductible

#### **September 28, 2013**

(rain or shine) at the Hastings Masonic Temple 411 N. Hastings Avenue

Hastings, NE 68901



Glen Jorgenson has retired as General Secretary of the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite in Hastings. For at least the past 10 years, Glen has served as Recorder for Tehama Shrine, General Secretary for the Scottish Rite bodies, and Secretary of Hastings Lodge #50. Glen served as Master of the Lodge in 1989.

Glen has been active with the Boy Scouts since age 8. He was an Eagle Scout, and has been a member of the executive board for the Boy Scouts' Overland Trails Council. Glen has also been active in the Hastings community as a member of the Lion's Club, the Jaycees, and the United Commercial Travelers.

Glen was elected to receive the KCCH in 1999, and was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary 33° in 2001.

The Hastings bodies are pleased to welcome Phil Odom as interim Secretary for the Scottish Rite and Recorder for Tehama Shrine. Phil has been an active Mason, having served as President of the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation. Phil has lived in Hastings since 1981, and served as Mayor in 1991. He was elected to a term in 1992, and a second term in 1996. He returned to politics in 2006 as a City Councillor, and continues to serve on the Council.

## Valley of Lincoln



Scottish Rite Masons across Nebraska tuned in to scottishrite. org to *Celebrate the Craft* on May 18th. Hosted at the House of the Temple by comedian Norm Crosby and history enthusiast, explorer, documentarian, and

TV personality Don Wildman, *Celebrating the Craft* featured the talents of Scottish Rite brethren around the nation and raised funds for the preservation and renovation of our historic House of the Temple.

In Lincoln, Andy Seachord prepared a Cajun dinner and hosted a night of cocktails, cards, and games, welcoming about 20 members. Several members donated prizes, including a Scottish Rite cap box, golf balls, and a few bottles of Scotch.

During the telecast, Curt Edic, 33°, General Secretary from the Valley of Omaha, made the announcement that Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska would make a commitment of \$100,000 over 5 years from our Scottish Rite Foundations. Members around the state generously donated approximately \$5,000 in addition to the pledge.

The goal of Celebrating the Craft is to renovate the historic House of the Temple, to create a space that will attract tourists, Masons, and host meetings and events which will promote Masonry to thousands of visitors in the nation's capital.



Four new members joined the Scottish Rite at the Spring Reunion on April 26 and 27th. Congratulations to our new Brethren:

Top Row (I. to r.): Greg Proski, 32°, Micah Evans 32° KCCH, Shane Rhian, 32°, Eric Bachenberg, 32°, Jim Batten, 32°, Adam Thayer, 32°

Middle Row (l. to r.): Joe Huskey, 32°, Dale Lueders, 33°, Bruce Wood, 33°, Jim Stull, 32°, Jerry Rauch, 33°, Andy Seachord, 32°

First Row (I. to r.): Jim Brown, 33°, Roger Stanley, 32°, Keith Plummer, 32°, Craig Gavin, 32°, Greg Mason, 32°, Ken Beebe, 33°, David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH

Celebrating the Craft will be an annual event, and members of all Valleys are invited to participate again in 2014 as we continue our goal of supporting the House of the Temple.



Bev White (left) celebrates her honor as the annual Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year with Lincoln Board of Education member Kathy Danek.

# Valley of Lincoln Presents Annual Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award

Bev White went to a training session for Lincoln Public Schools special education teachers, but took home more than new lessons.

In a surprise presentation at the close of the session, she was named the 2013 Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the Scottish Rite.

I've wanted to be a special education teacher ever since I was in junior high, and I've never wanted to do anything else," said White, an educator with Lincoln Public Schools for 37 years. "I love knowing that I can make a difference - that I can help make sure all children have equal opportunities."

Mary Ellis, her supervisor, wrote of White in her nomination letter: "Each day she lives her mission to improve learning and the quality of life for individuals with special needs. Through excellence and advocacy, Bev steadfastly en-

hances the authentic engagement of students with disabilities and their families in the community. She is passionate about her work, focused on results, and creative in response to any special needs."

Scott Dodge, 32° KCCH, presented the award and the prize of \$2,500, and her portrait will be featured in the new LPS District Office along with other Scottish Rite winners.

## Valley of Omaha



Don Kavalec, 32° and Chris Nigro, 32° at the Kansas City Multi-State Reunion with Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Brother Ron Seale, 33°

On April 26 and 27, 2013 a Multi-State Spring Reunion was held in Kansas City, Missouri, honoring President Harry S. Truman 33°. President Truman served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, as District Deputy Grand Master, and District Lecturer. He was active in just about every Masonic organization, including the York Rite, Knights Templar, Shrine, and Order of the Eastern Star.

The Reunion was an opportunity to observe various Valleys preform thirteen Scottish Rite degrees. They included Valleys from Dallas, TX; Columbia, MO; Joplin, MO, Kansas City, MO; St.

Joseph, MO; Des Moines, IA; and St. Louis, MO. In addition to observing the degree work, it was an opportunity to meet fellow Brothers from the Midwest and visit the impressive Kansas City Scottish Rite built in the late 1920's. Members from the Omaha Valley attending were: Charles Sederstrom Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska; Paul Rutherford 33°, Personal Representative of the SGIG for the Omaha Valley; Dean Skokan 32° KCCH; Charles Sederstrom III 32° KCCH; and ourselves. The hospitality was second to none and was very much appreciated.

Highlights of the reunion had to be the 22nd Degree, Knight of the Royal Axe, performed by the Valley of Des Moines as well as the 27th Degree, Knight of the Sun, performed by the Valley of Kansas City. Both degrees were done extraordinary well and the class really seemed to enjoy themselves and learned something about Scottish Rite Masonry.

Among the highlights was the opportunity to visit with the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale, 33°. Seale spoke to the entire candidate class, welcomed them to the Scottish Rite, and congratulated them on one of the best decisions they have made in Masonry.



Congratulations to our new Brothers, joining in the Spring Reunion in April, 2013:

Top Row (I. to r.) - John Maxell, 33°, Rick Gilmore, 32° KCCH, **Hillmann N. Holland, 32°, Zachery A. Sinsheimer, 32°**, Dean Skokan, 32° KCCH, and Paul Rutherford, 33°.

Bottom Row (I. to. r.) Curt Edic, 33°, Matthew Vandergriff, 32°, Micah Evans, 32° KCCH, S.G. I.G. Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, William Garner, 32° KCCH, Buster Hicks, 32° KCCH, and James Wolfe, 33°.

We also had the opportunity to discuss the Master Craftsman program with the Sovereign Grand Commander.

If you ever have a chance to see a Reunion in another Valley, go see how our Brethren do our degrees

If you ever have a chance to see a Reunion in another Valley, go see how our Brethren do our degrees. Each Valley does degrees somewhat differently, and you will learn something new about the degrees and Masonry each time. Having seen the Reunion in Guthrie and now in Kansas City, we hope we can do something like this in Omaha, inviting other Valleys to our Reunion, seeing their degree work, and hopefully bringing our degree work to them.

Chris Nigro, 32° cnigro @yahoo.com

Don Kavalec, 32° donkavalec @cox.net

#### **Upcoming Events**

**July 25** - Century Club Dinner, open to all who supported the Century Club with a \$100 donation between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

**August 19** - Family Picnic at the Omaha Home for Boys Cooper Pavillion (8602 Mormon Bridge Road). Open to all Scottish Rite Masons and their families

**September 18** - Fall Outing (Papillion Gun Club (16712 S. 87th Street, Papillion)

**September 22** - WalkRite for RiteCare (Zorinsky Lake Picnic Pavillion)



Billy Corbin, 32° presents a medal to Plattsmouth High School JROTC cadet Sabrina Johnson. Commencing in 1998 and approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense, the Supreme Council

In 2011, it was suggested that the

Omaha Valley consider a sculpture to

add further interest to the large, exte-

rior courtyard in front the Scottish Rite

(SMJ) initiated a program of recognition for outstanding Junior ROTC students. This initiative recognizes high school youth enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) unit for their scholastic excellence and patriotic Americanism efforts. The award consists of a medal, ribbon and a certificate.

Congratulations to
Brother Ed
Ticknor,
32° who
received his
50-year pin,
presented
last March
by P.G.M.
John Parsons and



Grand Senior Warden John Maxell. Ed is a member of Silver State Lodge #95 in Pueblo, CO. Ed's 50-year pin was presented on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Colorado. "50 years goes by quicker than you think," said Ed. Ed is an active Scottish Rite Mason, attending the Lodge of Perfection and Knights of St. Andrew meetings and events.

#### PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE AT THE OMAHA VALLEY



Masonic Center. Since the Omaha Valley has had a long relationship with the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) in providing scholarships for students, the Omaha Valley decided this would be great opportunity for UNO art students to compete in the design of a courtyard sculpture.

The idea was enthusiastically embraced by the LINO Art Department under the



The idea was enthusiastically embraced by the UNO Art Department under the direction of Professor David Helm and Chairperson Robert Carlson. Seven art students visited the Omaha Valley facility and were given background information on Scottish Rite Freemasonry's symbols, allegories and metaphors. They were given a month to prepare their designs and each brought a maquette (small model) of their sculptures and presented before a jury of ten Scottish Rite members.



Larryja

The presentations were fascinating in their creative interpretations of Scottish Rite values and symbols. The competition winner was Charles V. Fisher and the piece was later titled The Ashlars. Charles took the idea of the rough and finished ashlars which we find in every Masonic lodge room and created a large, mottled gray, four-foot, hollow cube with many random penetrations representing the Rough Ashlar, and the center of this large cube was a much smaller, but perfect cube of gold color representing the Perfect Ashlar.

It was a wonderful, contemporary interpretation of one of Masonry's valuable lessons in personal growth. The sculpture will be a significant addition to downtown Omaha's body of public art.

The sculpture was installed April 12, 2013 and was dedicated at the Omaha Valley membership meeting on May 20, 2013.

Larry Jacobsen, 33° Larryjacobsen1218@msn.com





#### The Ashlars

Charles V. Fisher, Sculptor, 2013

Just as the workman takes the rough cut stone and hews it to the perfect stone, we are reminded of our rude and imperfect nature, and seek that state of perfection by virtuous education, our own endeavors, and faith

### **RiteCare**



When Jackson was 18 months old he couldn't speak...he gestured.
Jackson began receiving home-based speech therapy through Lincoln Public Schools: when it became apparent that sounds he mastered one day he could not say the next, our home-based speech therapist suspected Childhood Apraxia.

We tried 3 different private speech therapists over the next 18 months with little sign of improvement. The RiteCare Clinic came very highly recommended to us. Jackson was accepted into the program when he was just three years old and had less than twenty words.

Every month we saw results! Jackson has continued to amaze us with his speech progress the past two years. He has been very fortunate to have had two very special RiteCare speech therapists: Dvann Rupp who got us headed down the right path and then Amber Jara who has continued with therapy as we transitioned out of and no longer qualified for services through the public schools.

Today Jackson continues to see Amber Jara on a weekly basis. His vocabulary has dramatically expanded and his speech continues to improve daily. I do not believe that anyone conversing with Jackson today would ever suspect he has a motor speech disorder.

Amber engages with our son, and he has such fun with her he isn't even aware of the hard work he puts in, he only knows he is smiling and laughing quite a bit when we see her.

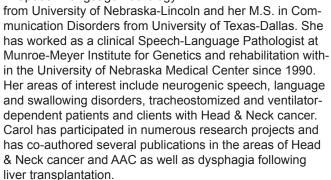
Every night during Jackson's prayers we thank God for leading us to the RiteCare Clinic and for the generous Scottish Rite Masons for allowing our child without many sounds to receive the gift of his voice and for his parents to receive the guidance and support to build on his communication skills.

Jackson's life is mapped out so much differently than it was three years ago and we thank everyone who made this happen. God bless all of you!

> Sara and Allan Lipka RiteCare parents

The RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic is pleased to welcome **Carol Gaebler, M.S.** as interim director of the RiteCare clinics in Nebraska. She will oversee the clinicians around the state and the programs and services. Carol succeeds Marsha Sullivan, who retired at the end of June.

Carol Gaebler received her B.S. in Speech-Language Pathology





I have been taking my twin boys Jackson and Carter to the RiteCare Clinic in Hastings for almost a year now. When we first started going there, both boys were able to speak but did so using two or three word sentences with a limited vocabulary. They would use aestures or tua on my shirt to get my attention. Now, both boys are making significant progress and reqularly use sentences of 6 or more words. It has been a real blessing to be able to have them

both go at the same time. Deb and Emily are amazing with the boys. Most of the time when I go to drop the boys off, I don't even get to say goodbye to them, they run right in and cannot wait to get started. It makes me feel great to know that my children are in such good hands and are enjoying themselves while receiving "services" for their language delay. Deb and Emily do such a great job with the boys, Thank you so much for providing my family with this amazing gift!

Josh Hall RiteCare dad

## Development

This might be more the making of a membership article but this is a particularly moving story, so I am going to include it in the development column.

I recently stopped to visit a brother in the hospital, and several of us happened to be there clustered around the brother as he laid in bed, chatting about things. It was one of those rooms with a curtain and another man was in the other side. We could hear him visiting with his daughter and grand-daughter.

They left after a while, and we didn't hear anything from the man, so we assumed he had fallen asleep. After a bit, I heard something crash, so I stepped to the other side of the curtain to see if he was okay. He had merely dropped the remote to the TV. He looked up and asked if I was a minister. I was wearing a dark suit, so perhaps I could have passed as one (unless you know me, in which case you know I wouldn't get far passing as a man of the cloth). I said, no, we were merely visiting our friend. Though he didn't know us, he asked "Are you Masons?" I said I was a Mason, and asked if he was a Mason. He said he wasn't, but his brother and father had been lifelong Masons. Of course, I immediately did as any good Mason would do, and asked if he wanted to be a Mason. He said he couldn't because he had terminal cancer, and he was moved to tears because of his situation.

Another Brother immediately stepped to this side of the room, and we sat with the man (his name is Tim), and comforted him for a long while, listened to his story, held his hand for a while, and he found genuine comfort in a couple of strangers whom he knew to be Masons. He took solace knowing that we were sitting with him, listening, and offering a sympathetic ear, even though we were perfect strangers. He was very much moved - not so much over his own situation, which he had come to terms with, but over the fact that our Mason friend on the other side of the curtain had a steady stream of visitors ready to lend a hand, mow the lawn if needed, provide comfort and support, and share a few laughs. He knew how much this Brotherhood had meant to his father who had been a life long Mason.

If there is a lesson to be learned from this, it goes back to the Membership article on the first page of the Nebraska insert of the *Scottish Rite Journal*. Our most important benefit, and the least promoted, are *the ties that bind*. Fraternity. It is brotherhood that transcends mere friendship. When you talk to potential members, please let them know about these ties.

While I was there visiting our brother in the hospital, we happened to be talking about the RiteCare Clinic. Someone mentioned that the clinic's iPad came from an anonymous Brother who simply and quietly purchased it. To the Brother who stepped up to take care of a need for the clinicians, thank you. I saw the clinicians working with the iPad and children, and I can tell you that your generous donation is making a significant difference to those children every day.

I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't bring this back to an appeal for your support. You should have received by now the appeal letter for \$101 (the cost



of one session of therapy for a child). I'd like to ask your support. This is a quiet fundraiser, with little fanfare and little recogniton (other than the 101 Club lapel pin, which I hope you will wear with pride). Your money goes right back to the kids we serve at the clinics in Nebraska. Other than knowing that the Scottish Rite underwrites the clinics, most never know who we are. But we don't do this for thanks and recognition, do we? We do it because we do "that which it is right to do."

To the hundreds of Brothers who generously practice their Masonry in so many kind, quiet ways, thank you. These ties are noticed, and more men are slowly asking about how they can both join our ranks and support our philanthropies.

Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH Development Director, Orient of Nebraska micah@SRNE.org



"Our dues may change the light bulbs, but our philanthropies change the world."

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