



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

July-August, 2015 • Volume V, Issue 4

Calendar

July 3-9	Shrine Imperial Session (Houston, TX)
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Aug 5, 12, 19, 26	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Aug 6, 13, 20, 27	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
August 17	Scottish Rite Family Picnic (O)
August 22-25	Supreme Council Biennial Session Washington, D.C.
Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Sept 3, 10, 17, 24	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Sept 19	WalkRite for RiteCare (H)
Sept 25	Feast of Tishri (L)
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Oct 23	KCCH Investiture in Lincoln
Oct 24	33rd Degree Conferral in Omaha
Oct 30-31	Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)
Nov 6-7	Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
Nov 19, 20, 21	Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
Nov 21	Hastings Fall Reunion(H)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
(June-July Dark), Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
July 7, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6
(see page 3 for meeting locations)

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
(June-August Dark), Sept 16, Oct 21

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
July 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19

For more information
contact the Secretary in your Valley

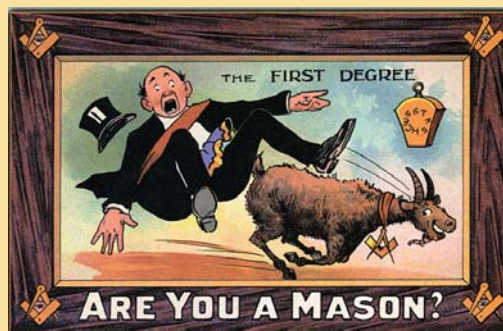
Gene Gatti (Alliance)	(308) 762-4324
Phil Odom (Hastings)	(402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln)	(402) 435-2144
Curt Edic (Omaha)	(402) 342-1300

Membership

A few years ago, a man petitioned his Lodge, was accepted, and joined the Masons in Nebraska in the usual way. A few years later, his name was on the suspension list for non-payment of dues.

What makes this case interesting, sadly among too many similar situations, is that in retrospect, he did not become a Mason for the right reasons. For this particular Brother, Masonry was his next "spiritual fix." He had researched eastern philosophies, sought out Native Americans for wisdom, and delved into spiritualism. Freemasonry was just another road-stop on his quest for enlightenment.

Not long ago, a Brother came by the Scottish Rite to talk. He joined in a one-day a few years ago, attended meetings sporadically, but was confused "what it was all about." We promise the prospective member "Truth," he said, but we don't deliver "Truth," presumably in easily-digestible nuggets of wisdom. Unlike in the movie "The Ten Commandments," the Ark of the Covenant does not open and impart enlightenment in a brilliant light to the members as it did for Charleton Heston!



Is this one of the misconceptions we are "selling" to a potential member?

He seemed to feel that we were withholding these Masonic secrets "until he was ready," and that all these promises were being held until he joined the

next Masonic body or crossed the next horizon. . . at which point these great secrets would be again withheld until he crossed yet one more horizon. Wiser brethren than myself tried explaining that there is no "Great Truth" or magical enlightenment, and that one has to seek these things for himself in Masonry, and that each person's search for those answers is unique to himself. We don't provide a treasure map to "making good men better," but we anticipate that a Brother seeks to make himself better in his own way in the company of other Brethren working to improve themselves in their own way.

... continued on page 2



Congratulations to members of the Valley of Alliance's 179th Reunion, the Allen W. Knott Memorial Class, joining April 17-18, 2015.

Front row: Les Evert, 33°, Don Phillip, 33°, Bob Phillip, 33°, **Hector Alverado, 32°, Rudy Hoffa, 32°, Tommy Yung, 32°**, John Ferguson, 32°, Kevin Spencer, 32°, Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH

Second Row: Kurt Blazek, 32°, Terry Phillip, 32° KCCH, Scott Phillip, 33°, Don Loos, 33°, Dwight Smith, 33°, Dale Anderson, 33°, Josh Gillming, 32°, Joe Belden, 32°

Third Row: Devin Charles, 32°, Richard Reisig, 32° KCCH, Walt Phillip, 33°, Robert Maurer, 32°, Art Strickler, 32° KCCH, Micah Evans, 33°, James Ferguson, 32°, Frank Wooden, 32°, Ed Morava, 32°, John Barrett, 32°, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH



I'm honored to congratulate Ed Morava, 32°, who completed the Master Craftsman class. We were proud to present Ed with his lapel pin and certificate from the Supreme Council. The Valley of Alliance Scottish Rite will be dark June and July. Brother John Barrett is in the process of repairing the building. He has finished the plaster work in the lodge room and will be replacing the missing stucco finish on the outside soon.

Alliance Lodge #183 will host a BBQ lunch after the Heritage Days parade on July 18th, which feeds 100 to 150. We serve beef barbecue, baked beans, chips and drinks along with cake or brownies. Additionally, Several Past Masters are working on personal certification and should be done this year.

The Scottish Rite hosts a group of ladies once a month who come in to sew projects they are working on. They have agreed to make a quilt for RiteCare and we will be selling raffle tickets for that soon with the drawing at the Fall Banquet.

Beam Me Up, Scotty!

Stardate: 2015. Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH, General Secretary for the Alliance Valley, recently received a letter addressed to "the Sons of Light," informing the membership that it was the "end of creation" and that "your family is meant to be taken from Earth by spacecraft." To prepare for it, the Valley only needed to buy the author's book, modestly priced at \$15, and preferably ordered in blocks of twenty. Fourteen volumes had already been sent to the House of the Temple, so interested parties may find it already on the stacks at the House of the Temple library. The Scottish Rite is always on the lookout for new books to add to our libraries, but perhaps the Valley will forego this particular volume.



Membership, continued

These anecdotes illustrate the question of how we as Freemasons communicate what Masonry means to a prospective member. Do we promote the rich symbolism contained within the degrees, stress the social aspects of Freemasonry, or talk about the philosophy, or are we suggesting that Freemasonry is like "the Force" from Star Wars or a Lord of the Rings quest (yes, that has happened!)?

Traditionally, Masons didn't solicit. A prospective brother had to ask about it. This approach naturally caused hurt feelings as sons wondered why fathers never invited them to petition, or close friends never reached out to talk about it. Since we are expected to arrive at Masonry "of our own free will and accord," the traditional approach anticipated that membership would be stronger for having candidates take an active approach to joining as opposed to passively accepting anyone wandering into the Tyler's preparation room flapping a petition and a fifty dollar bill.

That being said, if the investigation committee or the top-line signer isn't having a real conversation about the financial and time investment into Brotherhood, some candidates approach Masonry with the idea that they are going to receive the keys to

Fort Knox and knock back a few beers, play cards, and enjoy the fraternity as if it were the ultimate "Man Cave."

Spoiler alert: you won't.

Without the proper due process from the investigation committee, we sometimes raise men whose knowledge of Masonry comes more from the Discovery or History channels than from reality. (Think of the Judge's admonition in the 30th degree: *Without due precaution, we have sometimes admitted and advanced unworthy members, who have themselves done us much harm and deterred good men from uniting with us.*)

It isn't that such men are bad men - far from it. They simply have the wrong idea of what Freemasonry is about. The answer is not to expect men to broach the subject of Masonry on their own before they can petition. However, it is incumbent on us as members, and particularly for the investigation committee, to help a potential brother investigate his own lifestyle and expectations to see if Masonry is right for him.

Freemasonry will be stronger for this, and we will bring in men who are more apt to remain engaged and involved.

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.

July 7..... Hastings Masonic Center

6:30 p.m. Master Craftsman Study Group

7:30 Lodge meeting

August 4..... Burwell

6:30 dinner at local restaurant TBD

SAVE THE DATE



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

September 19, 2015
(rain or shine)

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

Spaghetti Feed a great success!

The annual spaghetti feed dinner on April 12, 2015 was a great success! 166 tickets were sold, and volunteers served spaghetti, sauce, and breadsticks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hastings Masonic Center. Volunteers served both indoors and provided over 100 carry-out meals to families. All told, the Scottish Rite raised \$2,458.

The Spaghetti Feed owes a debt of gratitude to our Chair, Bill "Doc" Carson, Bob Scott, and RiteCare clinician Emily Johnson and daughter Madeline, Monte Malouf, Steve Chapman, Dana and Phil Odom, and Gertrude Kuehn (with apologies for any whom we omitted). Plans are already in the works for the 2016 Spaghetti Feed!

Give to Hastings Day

The Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Foundation participated in the Hastings Community Foundation's Give to Hastings Day on May 1, 2015. 69 participating non-profit organizations raised \$344,427 in a single day of online giving. Participating for the first time, the Scottish Rite Foundation raised \$3,373 from 37 donors, representing RiteCare families, relatives, friends, and members. The average gift was over \$91/donor!

Money raised stays in Hastings, supporting RiteCare services for local kids. The total represents the cost of about 33 sessions of therapy! Research shows that every \$1 invested in quality early intervention services saves \$7 in later

Research shows that \$1 invested in quality
Early intervention saves \$7 in future costs

costs. The cost savings comes from improved participation in school, fewer behavior problems, and better participation in work and community activities later on in life.

A Call for Membership

Bob Scott, 32°

Venerable Master

bobscottster@gmail.com

By now, most members of the Hastings Valley know that we cancelled the Spring Reunion, originally scheduled for April 24-25th. The Valley leadership unanimously believes that we need at least three candidates to justify the time and expense of a Reunion.

degree work and preparing. Why would brethren continue to participate if their time is not respected, and we cancel a Reunion? For all the brethren who are prepared for each Reunion, thank you for your dedication.

Cancelling a Reunion represents a failure on several levels. At the very least, so many brethren have spent literally hundreds of hours learning roles for

But more important, cancelling a Reunion represents a setback for membership. Hastings is a unique Valley, with Adams County (19%), Buffalo County and Hall County (12%) representing 43% of the membership, and other counties each representing 4% of the membership or less. That means more members collectively live outside Hastings than in. So how can we make Scottish Rite Masonry relevant to a Brother in, say, Broken Bow or Thedford? . . . continued on page 10



Our newest member? Special thanks to volunteer Madeline Johnson, daughter of our own RiteCare Clinician Emily Johnson.

Congratulations to our new brethren, joining at the Spring, 2015 Reunion



Back row: Stephen Kennedy, 32°, Mark Peterson, 32°, Dale Lueders, 33°, Tregg Lunn, 32°, Greg Vlasnik, 32°, Michael Shambaugh-Miller, 32°

Front row: Dennis Brydl, 33° Andy Seachord, 32°, Dennis Hecht, 32°, Jim Brown, 33°, Mike Gray, 32° KCCH

Breakfast with the GRAND MASTER



The Lincoln Scottish Rite hosted M.W. John T. Maxell, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska for breakfast on May 16th.



Joel Green from East Lincoln Lodge #210, wife Tiffanie and daughter Brooklyn joining us for the Grand Master's Breakfast

Volunteers prepared bacon and sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, and fresh coffee and orange juice, hosting about 65 guests including Grand Lodge officers.

After breakfast, John spoke briefly to the guests referencing Simon Sinek's book *Start With Why*, offering leaders a way to think about creating a long-term vision.

Teacher of the Year



Mr. Alan Eighme, LPS' Distinguished Teacher of the Year

Eastridge Elementary School fourth grade teacher Alan Eighme watched as children, teachers and staff piled into the gymnasium Tuesday afternoon — thinking they were there to celebrate the school's Walkathon.

Moments later he was named the 2015 Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year — to the tune of roaring applause, surprised family members in the audience and a \$3,000 check. The Scottish Rite's Distinguished Teacher of the Year award, first presented in 1964, is Lincoln Public School's most prestigious award.

Eighme said he loves helping kids grow and celebrating what they do — describing a student's education as a long strand of yarn, and "every time you learn something, you put a new bead on that yarn... I love the expression on a child's face when they get it — for the first time."

Nomination highlights from Eastridge Principal Deb Dabbert:

- Excellence, commitment, dedication and passion are at the core of Mr. Eighme's teaching. Mr. Eighme's philosophy is that every child will be successful and through his instruction, the students accomplish this on a daily basis. When one enters his classroom, you immediately sense that the students are experiencing a unique educational opportunity. Positive relationships are quickly established with every student, and Mr. Eighme engages every learner in the activity at hand.
- Eighme is a life long learner. He constantly attends workshops and applies his learnings in his classroom. Students immediately feel the impact of his learning... Mr. Eighme serves a unique role as he extends his expertise beyond his classroom walls. Teachers and peers benefit from his skills. They constantly seek him out to ask how he would teach a lesson or how he would handle a situation. Mr. Eighme is highly respected for his exemplary and innovative practices.
- He exemplifies the master teacher and leader as his skills and dedication surpass the majority of educators. Students, families, and staff members reap the benefits of his educational skills.



Congratulations to the new brothers from the Spring, 2015 Reunion

Top row: Richard L. Corwine, 33°, Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, **William P. Cornell, 32°, Kristopher M. Cole, 32°, Gary H. Williams, 32°, R. Justice Braimah, 32°, Michael A. Deerr, 32°, Zachery A. Powell, 32°**, Richard E. Gilmore, 33°, Micah I. Evans, 33°

Bottom row: Venerable Master James M. Sklenar, 32°, Frank W. Kroupa, 33°, Wise Master Melvin N. Morton, 32°, James A. Leedham, 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska, M.W. John T. Maxell, 33°, Jeffrey M. Coleman, 32°, Venerable Master Christopher M. Carter, 32° KCCH, Christopher S. Nigro, 32°, Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary



The Spring 2015 Reunion was a great success, welcoming seven new brethren into the Scottish Rite through two evenings and a full Saturday of degree work.

This year, we welcomed the 25th Degree, a new degree team made up of members from North Bend Lodge. After the Reunion, the Scottish Rite Ladies Group hosted a Kentucky Derby party. Over a dozen Scottish Rite ladies came in their finest Kentucky Derby hats, and enjoyed mint juleps, watched the races, and welcomed new members and their wives.



Photos: 1) Marnie Corsaro, Sherri Sederstrom, Jennifer Carter at the Derby party, 2) The members of the 25th degree team, 3) M.W. Charles D. Yates, 33°, Grand Master of Iowa and M.W. John T. Maxell, 33°, Grand Master of Nebraska. 4) Chris Carter, 32° KCCH in the 9th/10th degree.



Scottish Rite Masons enjoy annual Spring Outing

Despite an uncharacteristic chilly May evening, 200 Scottish Rite Masons, prospective members, and guests enjoyed the annual Spring outing at the Papillion Gun Club on May 20, 2015.

The Lodge of Perfection had charge of the outing, and the Culinary Masters prepared a great dinner of steaks, baked potatoes, corn, and fresh salad. Paul Rutherford drew a dozen raffle prizes afterward.

Mark your calendars today for the Fall Outing on September 23!

Horseshoe champions Pete Peters and Ben Harvey (with Tom Begley photobombing)



Bob Pelletier, Kyle Beckner, and Wade Ridout



Tim Peters and John Chester



An end of an era: Valley of Omaha General Secretary Curt Edic, 33°, Announces His Retirement



After nearly twenty years at the helm, Curt Edic, 33° announced his retirement as General Secretary. Curt has served as General

Secretary of the Omaha Valley since 1999, and as assistant General Secretary since 1996.

Joining in 1975, Curt originally planned to use the Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite as a gateway to be active with the Shriners. Instead, he found himself increasingly involved in the Scottish Rite, on the 16th and 30th degree teams, as a line officer, serving on committees and editor of the Omaha Valley News for 12 years. He worked with some of Omaha's best leaders in the business community, including businessmen like Jerome Given, John Webster, Robert Falk, Jerry Hall and Art Pinkerton.

Potentates from Tangier Shrine, and that the Grand Master or Grand High Priest are on committees and degree teams!

Thanks to Curt's involvement with Downtown Omaha, Inc., Rotary, and Chamber of Commerce, the Scottish Rite is well-respected in the business community, and often hosts civic organizations' events.

Under Curt's leadership, rental revenue has grown to comprise a significant portion of the Valley's revenue. The Heartland Youth Ballet and the Symphony regularly call the Scottish Rite home for events.

When the Shriners dropped membership in appendant bodies as a prerequisite, Curt recognized an opportunity to fill a void in offering social activities: Scotch or wine-tastings, the Broadway series, and Spring and Fall outings were organized, offering members social opportunities.

Thanks to these events, and due to the extraordinary volunteer base Curt has developed, the Omaha Valley has one of the lowest membership loss rates in the entire Scottish Rite!

We'll have a special farewell event for Curt in January, so plan to be there to thank him for his years of service!

As a staff member, Curt has been responsible for overseeing renovations and upgrades in the building, including the first floor in 2000, the second floor in 2002, the theater, the installation of the backdrops from Kansas City, professional sound and light upgrades, and numerous projects that keep the building looking professional and modern for members and guests.

Curt has promoted extraordinary Masonic Unity that defines the Omaha Valley. Other Orients are often surprised to learn that the Culinary Masters are large ly comprised of Divan members and Past

"I have been blessed to have served as General Secretary for the Omaha Valley. It has opened many avenues to meet and become with friends and Brothers as well as Masons around the United States," Curt wrote in his letter to the Cathedral Board.

The Cathedral Board and Line Officers reluctantly accepted his resignation and called for applicants to submit their resumes for consideration. They plan that a successor be in place by early August to begin working for a smooth transition.



Who knew in 1975 that this young man would become General Secretary nearly 25 years later?



Curt and Carol Edic in 2001 at the Charleston, South Carolina bicentennial celebration of the Scottish Rite



As General Secretary, Curt joined Grand Commander Ron Seale, 33° and dignitaries in dedicating the renovated theater in 2011.



Curt and Carol at WalkRite for RiteCare in 2014.

Nebraska RiteCare . . . *making a difference*

RiteCare began in Nebraska

with an investment of \$2,000 to provide therapy for one child. Pleased with the result, Judge Herbert Ronin, SGIG in Nebraska, began a program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln under the direction of Dr. Sheldon Stick, 33°. By 1979, Scottish Rite contributions amounted to over \$75,000 for evaluations, which were then administratively directed by the UNMC Munroe-Meyer institute.

Today, there are nine RiteCare clinicians at four clinics, with a 2015 budget of over \$658,000. In 2014, 1,097 children received services in Nebraska through 5,568 sessions of therapy.

Our RiteCare clinicians bring nationally-recognized expertise and have been recognized by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) for their presentations, research, and work with children.

MEET THE NEBRASKA RITECARE CLINICIANS

Amy S. Nordness, Ph.D., CCC-SLP



I joined the RiteCare Clinic this January as the new Director. I received my Bachelor's degree from Marquette University and my Masters and Ph.D. from University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I worked three different roles at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital including a pediatric SLP, Pediatric Program Manager, and Director of the Speech Department. I also taught

and supervised students at Western Illinois University for 4 years. I worked at Munroe-Meyer Institute for 2 years in the past and am thrilled to return as the Director of Speech-Language Pathology. I specialize in motor speech disorders and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) across the age span. I enjoy working with children with pediatric feeding disorders, childhood apraxia of speech and helping individuals of all ages gain independence in their communication using AAC. I am interested in expanding our expertise and developing a clinical research program. My husband, Phil, is a professor at UNO and we have 2 kids, Sydney (12) and Bergen (9).

Paul Laikko, M.A., CCC-SLP



In 1988 the Scottish Rite Clinic at Munroe-Meyer Institute was dormant but with the help of the leadership of the Scottish Rite, Dr. Bruce Buehler and Marsha Sullivan the clinic was re-established bringing in Paul Laikko as therapist. The mission of the Scottish Rite clinic and Munroe-Meyer Institute at that time was to build working relationships with the commu-

nity schools and it became clear that there was a need for expert support of school therapists in areas that required specialized training. Paul brought experience not only in speech and language disorders, but also in helping infants and children with feeding and swallowing problems. After 25+ years he has continued to focus on these areas providing support to the children, their families and schools in planning and coordinating intervention for children with difficult cases in Omaha and across the state. In addition to enjoying 8 grandchildren, Paul and his wife volunteer with Homeward Bound of the Heartland Animal Rescue group fostering cats. (So if you are looking for a cat - you now know where you can call.)

Deb Wilhelm, M.S., CCC-SLP



I have been working for the RiteCare Clinic in Hastings for 18+ years. I graduated with my Master's degree in speech/language pathology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I live in Henderson, which is a 54 mile commute, one-way. When I give talks to various service organizations in the area, I always tell them that after 18 years of driving almost 2 hours each day, I must really have bought in to the wonderful philanthropy of the Scottish Rite Masons.

I truly love the flexibility of making a plan that fits each child's individual needs. If I feel a child needs services 3-4 times a week, and the caregivers are willing/able to provide transportation to and from the clinic, then I can schedule quality speech time for what I believe the child would benefit from, and not what my rigid schedule allows me to bill for. Thank you! Working in a somewhat rural area, I have found that each hour is a unique experience. We get referrals for children with a variety of needs and we have always done our best to work them in. I think what I love most about working in the RiteCare Clinic, is the opportunity to allow these children to become a special part of my life. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to share your philanthropy with the families I work with!

Beth Hughes, M.S., CCC-SLP



I have been fortunate to work at the RiteCare Clinic for almost 9 years. I provide therapy in individual sessions, the preschool program, and provide Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluations. Providing a way for individuals who are non-verbal with a way to communicate is the best part of my job! I am interested in expanding RiteCare services to include additional support for clients using AAC devices outside of the clinic setting. When I'm not at work, my husband, Chris, and I try our best to keep up with our kids - Kit (6), Levi (4) and Jane (2).

Emily Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP



I was raised in Sudbury, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. I completed my undergraduate education at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. I was preparing to go to medical school when I discovered the field of speech-language pathology. I decided to pursue my Master's degree outside of Boston in order to escape the snow! I graduated in May 2000 with my Master's degree in Speech and

Hearing Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

While in graduate school, I was on a training fellowship to work with children with autism spectrum disorders. I received TEACCH Level 1 and 2 training during my graduate training as part of my autism training fellowship. Upon graduation I got married; my husband's job brought us to Findlay, Ohio. Prior to joining the Hastings RiteCare Clinic, the majority of my experience was in early intervention and preschool settings in Ohio. I was trained in coaching parents and caregivers to work with their children in settings outside of a clinic. I provided feeding therapy as well as helping children communicate. I have worked in the Hastings RiteCare Clinic for 2 ½ years.

I moved to Hastings, Nebraska from Findlay, Ohio in June 2012 for my husband's job at Hastings College. Here in the Hastings RiteCare Clinic, I work with students with a variety of needs including apraxia, autism, and communication delays.

Leslie Van Winkle, M.A., CCC-SLP



I am the newest member of the RiteCare team in Omaha. I have spent the last year here at MMI learning more than I could have ever imagined in the two areas I love most: autism and AAC (alternative and augmentative communication). I have had the opportunity to collaborate on a more regular basis with the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and am constantly energized by all the ways we can better serve children! I am enjoying learning from other fields and plan to take courses specific to applied behavior analysis (ABA) for children with autism in the fall. In March I attended an all-day workshop about speech intervention for children with autism, and in August I will be attending a 4-day autism conference at Penn State University. I look forward to learning even more about my interest areas and am so thankful for the opportunity to serve children as a RiteCare clinician!

Korey Stading, M.S., CCC-SLP



Korey Stading has worked in the RiteCare Clinic in Omaha for almost 18 years. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and her Master's degree from Texas Christian University. She enjoys working in the preschool program and providing literacy intervention to children with Down Syndrome. She is an expert in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and continues to learn new technologies and communication devices as they become available.

Korey regularly participates in research studies, some of which have focused on AAC use in childhood apraxia of speech and eye gaze access to AAC devices in children. Currently she is conducting a study looking at the benefits of AAC in early intervention with young children with Down Syndrome. She is eager to learn and identify ways to best serve the children seen in the clinic.

A Hastings RiteCare Success Story!

Jennifer was a verbal child... and so excited about communicating that we noticed her taking on a tendency to stutter.

Although we had been around numerous children who had some degree of stuttering problems, Jennifer was our first child and we really didn't know what options were available to us. It was actually a situation that we really hoped "wouldn't happen to us."

Fortunately, a neighbor, who was a speech therapist, suggested we look into the local Scottish Rite RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. After a visit to our pediatrician, we went in for an evaluation.



Then: Jennifer as a RiteCare kid



Today: Jennifer is a talented, bright young lady

A year later, Jennifer went in for our local 'kindergarten roundup' with no hint of stuttering. Therapy appointments should have probably been termed activity sessions. . . to this day, she does not remember attending 'speech therapy.'

Although it was a relatively short period of time, the help Jennifer received at the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinic removed anxiety and self-consciousness years later in class presentations, spelling bees, Leadership Academies, Math competitions, Science Fairs, Church readings, and everyday communication.

We are now the ones suggesting RiteCare services to others!

*Traci Boeve
RiteCare Mom*

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) website, most treatment programs for people who stutter are "behavioral."

They are designed to teach specific skills or behaviors that lead to improved oral communication. For instance, many Speech-Language Pathologists teach people who stutter to control and/or monitor the rate at which they speak. In addition, people may learn to start saying words in a slightly slower and less physically tense manner.

They may also learn to control or monitor their breathing. When learning to control speech rate, people often begin by practicing smooth, fluent speech at rates that are much slower than typical speech, using short phrases and sentences. Over time, people learn to produce smooth speech at faster rates, in longer sentences, and in more challenging situations until speech sounds both fluent and natural. Follow-up or maintenance sessions are often necessary after completion of formal intervention to prevent relapse.

Remembering RiteCare



*Chuck Karpf, 32°
Valley of Alliance*

The RiteCare Clinics received a generous donation of \$5,000 recently, made in memory of Charles (Chuck) Karpf, a long time member of the Valley of Alliance. Chuck passed away on Friday, January 30, 2015 at his home in Friday Harbor, Washington.

Chuck spent his early years in Morrill and received his elementary education in the Morrill schools. He also lived in and attended school in Watts, California, in the early 1930s. His family moved to Omaha in 1934. He graduated from

Omaha Central High School in 1939, and helped host an annual Reunion of the "Central High School 39ers" for a long time afterward.

Chuck enjoyed a long career in banking and was active in both local and state banking organizations. He became President and CEO of the First National Bank in Morrill and oversaw the growth of the organization to include banks in Minatare, Lyman and Ansley, Nebraska.

Chuck was active in his community, serving on the Morrill School Board for many years and was a founding member of the Morrill Lyman Henry Community Development organization. He served on several state boards and commissions, and was an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy.

Chuck's daughter and son-in-law wanted to both honor his long-time Masonic membership in Nebraska, of which Chuck was justifiably proud, while doing something to help the speech and language services provided by the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinics. Their daughter - Chuck's granddaughter - had received speech-language therapy, and this was an opportunity to give back in appreciation for what she had received.

This significant gift in Chuck's memory will both perpetuate his philanthropic legacy as a Mason, and serve tomorrow's leaders through speech-language therapy throughout Nebraska. Nearly 50 children will receive a session of therapy thanks to this gift!

RiteCare's success is due to the generosity of Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons. To help serve our children, please consider a planned gift or a legacy gift.

PLAY TIME



Children learn to speak through play activities, which helps children WATCH facial expressions, body language, and the movements of the mouth. Children LISTEN to the words and sounds we make and the sentences we form. Through play, children learn to explore the world around them and manipulate their toys. For example, they learn what “in” and “on” mean as they play and listen to you. Exploring and listening pays off as children IMITATE your actions. The gross motor imitation your little one starts doing in the form of clapping, waving, moving, etc as an infant is actually a pre-language skill! All those skills he has been working on...all that watching, listening, exploring and imitating is going to help your child begin to create and formulate his own words and sentences. Then, he will be using this language for purpose. He will use these new words to communicate his needs and wants and share information.

A Call for Membership, *continued from p. 3*

The Scottish Rite enhances the experience of the Blue Lodge’s symbolism and lessons. While the 3° is a time of mourning, there are profound lessons to learn before we pursue the Ruffians in the 9°/10°, who themselves represent the three chief enemies of human progress: Ignorance, Fanaticism and Ambition.

The degrees of the Rite not only provide the moral and symbolic wisdom of the degrees themselves, but also the opportunity to work on degree teams and hold positions that may not be available in Blue lodge. For instance, if you have a Blue lodge that has a firmly established line of officers, it could be as much as 7 years before you get to the East. It could even be a few years before you may be afforded the chance to be a Steward! In the Scottish Rite, there are dozens of degree teams and more opportunities for leadership. In short, here are chances to do more than just sit on the sidelines and vote on bills

petitions. This should be particularly attractive to new Masons.

To Masons who have been a part of the Craft awhile, the Scottish Rite offers continued Masonic activity. Often times, once a man earns the title “Past Master” he ends up having to take an advisory role, and in a way is put out to pasture. However, in the Scottish Rite, there is always work to be done, and leadership skills are always in demand.

In short, Blue Lodge meetings are Masonry in theory, but Reunions and functions are Masonry in ACTION.

We have prepared beautiful brochures for members to use to invite candidates to our Reunions, which we are handing them out as we hold meetings around our Valley. The Fall Reunion will be a One-Day on November 21st. Please reach out to brethren and help explain why they ought to join us as Scottish Rite Masons.

Carrie Kenny, M.S., CCC-SLP, CBIS



My name is Carrie Kenny, and I am the newest Scottish RiteCare clinician in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I earned my Bachelors of Science from the University of South Dakota in 2011 and my Master’s in Speech-Language Pathology in 2013 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

During my time as a clinician, I have worked in a variety of settings, including: the public school system, acute rehabilitation hospital, and outpatient speech and language clinic. I enjoy learning more about this diversified field every day and have developed specific interests in the areas of pediatric dysphagia and traumatic brain injury. I also enjoy research and reading about the latest research-based practices in our field.

I love working with children and families and feel very fortunate to join the talented group of Scottish RiteCare clinicians this summer. On a personal note, my husband is Chris, a teacher here in Lincoln, and we have two dogs (Lilly and Larry).



The Valley of Lincoln is sad to lose Amber Jara, M.S. from the RiteCare’s Clinic’s Barkley Memorial Center on the UNL East

Campus, as she pursues her Doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology. Miss Amber has been the Lincoln RiteCare clinician since 2012.

Kearney RiteCare clinician Laura Moody sent us this letter from a grateful recipient of telepractice speech therapy

Laura Moody, M.S.Ed., CCC-SLP



Following a severe car accident Easter weekend of 2014, I was hospitalized for weeks due to injuries and received ongoing physical therapy after returning home.

About six weeks after my accident, a fellow graduate school friend of mine who works in rehabilitation stayed with me in my home so that my husband and son could keep their plans to go with a church group on a Father-Son Canadian Fishing Retreat. She confided in me that she thought I needed speech therapy. I could not see it but asked for an evaluation locally. The therapist had some recommendations but typically did not work with higher functioning deficits.

After my body started to heal and I began to return to my somewhat hectic schedule of being the wife and mother of four very active children ages 6 to 19, I started to notice some moments of anxiety that concerned me. I kept forging forward planning to return to my part time work in the schools after the first of the year. But the episodes of anxiety were still occurring especially when multitasking which is the NORM for a working mom. I scheduled an evaluation at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln in December. They concurred that it was a higher level need and recommended speech therapy twice a week in Lincoln.

It was winter and the drive to Lincoln was six hours round trip. This alternative was not going to reduce the anxiety! My coworker had mentioned that the University of Nebraska at Kearney had an excellent professor who worked with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and that they were starting telepractice therapy which Madonna could not offer. I contacted them and started sessions in January.

It has been a perfect fit for me! My therapist and I meet once or twice a week, which is getting increasingly more "back to the normal busy".

With my laptop, I can meet with him sitting in my bed or anywhere there is an internet connection! Last week I logged on at my daughter's school immediately following her parent-teacher conference. My therapist is meeting me where I'm at with my needs of simplifying, organizing, planning, and troubleshooting. My background in speech-language obviously helps, but I have never worked in rehabilitation so I definitely need the guidance.

If it weren't for the Scottish Rite Mason's RiteCare program, my return to the "new normal" for me would not be going nearly as smoothly. Thank you to all who made this possible for me and my family!

*Sara Wilke
a thankful wife, mom, and SLP*

Laura Moody is a speech language pathologist at the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) RiteCare Clinic, where she supervises graduate students providing speech and language therapy services. Laura has a deep love for Kearney as she grew up there and completed both her bachelors and masters degrees at UNK. After graduation, she worked in an outpatient pediatric rehabilitation clinic in Colorado Springs specializing in pediatric feeding, swallow studies, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), and complex diagnoses.

At the UNK RiteCare Clinic, she serves all types and ages of clients, but Laura still has a passion for pediatric feeding and swallowing, AAC, and working with nonverbal children. The UNK RiteCare Clinic, specifically, provides telepractice therapy, which allows the UNK RiteCare Clinic to reach families needing services across Nebraska.

Laura is married to her husband Evan, and has two daughters, Adalyn (4 years) and Jael (18 months).



On May 19, Nebraska's RiteCare Clinicians met in Lincoln, as part of a statewide meeting to

introduce clinicians to Scottish Rite leadership and provide a forum for discussion among the clinicians themselves as well as to provide continuing education.

After discussion, RiteCare director Amy Nordness, PhD concluded that the goals would be: to make RiteCare a referral destination for physicians or therapists; collaborating with the community to support service; finding better ways to serve children in the com-

munity; better training to help parents work with their child outside of therapy; and helping children and parents better use alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) devices.

In addition to RiteCare clinicians from Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha, Scottish Rite Masons attended from around the state. Part of the plan to brand RiteCare as a statewide service will be an annual meeting and quarterly teleconferences.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

It is not uncommon to hear of a brother who joined Freemasonry as a way of giving back, in appreciation for services he may have received (or his child or even sibling) from the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

You can't help but be moved by those stories. This might be a first, but a brother recently joined Freemasonry because of the services his beautiful little girl received at the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic. He spoke at the May Scottish Rite business meeting, and he was moved to tears at how RiteCare helped his girl confidently express herself. I challenge any brother at that meeting to say they weren't equally taken by this sweet girl as she sat in his lap. Perhaps the most poignant comment he made was that after numerous surgeries, therapies, and hospital visits, here was just one service for his daughter that didn't come with a price tag. On top of that, RiteCare therapy was one service that had an immediate, positive effect on her ability to communicate.

This is why I am so proud to be your Orient Development Director. My

job is not to raise money simply to stuff inside the Scottish Rite mattress. My job each day is to work each day to help little Maggie and all the children you have read about in the *Scottish Rite Journal* over the past few years.



Maggie is the reason RiteCare exists!

You have noticed extra pages in this month's Journal, introducing you to the clinicians and sharing stories from grateful families. I hope you have taken time to meet the clinicians in your Valley and share the good work they do with your

friends, brethren, and families.

If these stories pull your heartstrings as they do mine, please think about how you can help Scottish Rite Masons continue to help Maggie.

- Please support our events: WalkRite for RiteCare, the RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit, Robert Burns Dinner, Friends of Scottish Rite. . . or put together an event you want to see!
- Be a Century Club or 101-Club member. Your donation of at least a \$100 makes a significant difference in offering RiteCare services to children in Nebraska.

- A charitable gift annuity can provide you income for life and make a significant gift for RiteCare or your favorite Masonic charity.
- Consider a planned gift, leaving a portion of your estate to your Scottish Rite Foundation.
- Simply shop: visit smile.amazon.com, and search for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, and a portion of your total processes benefit RiteCare.

I am proud that Nebraska's Scottish Rite Valleys are committed to RiteCare services, and we will continue to expand services to any child who needs therapy in Nebraska. This is something we can be proud of and should share with potential Masons.

You have a lot of demands made on you to support Masonic philanthropies, and I am grateful for all you do for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, the Knights Templars Eye Foundation, Masonic Youth Foundation, the Masonic Home, and Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children. However you choose to support our Masonic family, please think about how our RiteCare services are making a huge difference in the lives of children, and think about how we can continue to be there for children like Maggie!

Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director

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SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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

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