# Calendar

Mar 9 & 10	Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
Mar 14	Corned Beef & Cabbage (L)
	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
	Remembrance & Renewal (L)
	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
	Scottish Rite Stag (L)
	Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
	e Spring Reunion (One Day) (A)
•	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
•	ti-State Reunion (Kansas City, MO)
	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
	Spring Outing (O)
	Kool-Aid Days (H)

#### **Lodge of Perfection meetings:**

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month Mar 22, Apr (Dark), May 24, June - Aug (Dark)

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, June - Aug (Dark)

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, June - Aug (Dark)

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17

For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley:

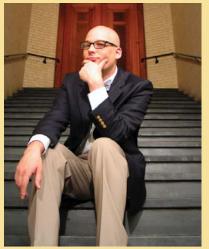
Gene Gatti (Alliance)(308) 762-4324
Glen Jorgenson (Hastings)(402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln)(402) 435-2144
Curt Edic (Omaha) (402) 342-1300

# Membership

My wife and I moved to Washington, D.C. in 2005 from Milwaukee - she to teach, and me to finish school at The George Washington University. And overall, Washington is a really easy city to live in. We don't have to own a car (which is one of the most liberating things I have ever done), and there is a ton to see and do during our free time.

But one thing I have never gotten used to is this city's obsession with what one does for a living. I suppose it is a pretty important part of a person, but is it the first thing I want to know about someone? I'm not sure.

However, here in our nation's capital, usually the first question out of a newly introduced person is, "So, what do you do?" And most people have to respond, "I am a lawyer," because Washington is approximately 99.9% attorney (like a demented bar of Ivory soap).



Jason Van Dyke Manager of Media & Public Affairs House of the Temple, Washington, DC

But I am fortunate. I get to say, "I work for the Freemasons." Let me tell you, this gets attention. And the best part is I then have their undivided attention while I explain what our fraternity is about, what we "do," and why I love it so much. And it has led to more than one petition from men who have become really fantastic Brothers (even if they are lawyers).

You see, as the relatively young (I'm 38) Manager of Media and Public Affairs for the Supreme Council, I have the opportunity to participate and direct some very cool programs: videos, podcasts (The Life Masonic – it's available on iTunes, Facebook, Stitcher Radio, and the Supreme Council's website – go check it out), The Master Craftsman Education Program, new social media initiatives, and website high-tech-iness. But, it turns out that the most important thing we do is something the older, more experienced Masons all know how to do very well – and that makes a real, personal connection to the people around us.

-Continued on page 2

# Valley of Alliance

#### Rite Care Clinic Ready to Serve

The Rite Care Clinic has been readied and is now available for use at the Masonic Center in Alliance (123 W. 3rd Street). Students will be seen by a speech pathologist and students from the University of Nebraska-Kearney via a telemedicine link.

Services are provided at no cost to the families. Applications for initial screenings are being taken. For more information call the Alliance Valley at (308) 762-4324. Please share this news with anyone you may know with children who can benefit from RiteCare services.









May 18, 2013, 6 pm to Midnight EDT

4 pm Mountain time | 5 pm Central time

### Membership, continued

That's where our bread is buttered. In fact, it's what makes this Fraternity great – not what we do for a living or how well you can use new technology – but how well you can relate to your fellow man, and in turn give them the fellowship and Brotherhood they need to support them in their journey to reshape themselves into a better son, father, sibling, friend or co-worker.

Let me give an example: This is the second time my wife and I moved across the country to try our hand at a new city. The first time was San Antonio, Texas. But we only lasted a year. Not because we didn't like the city or anything; we just never made a connection with anyone there that would hold us to that place. It felt like we were alone the entire time we were there.

When we moved to DC, things were different. We started to make connections and build lasting relationships. It wasn't overnight, but we began to surround ourselves with people we liked and trusted.

The only difference between those two places? I was a Freemason in DC. And that's where I was able to connect with a group of men I was able to trust immediately, and who had at least one similar experience with me.



A SCOTTISH RITE, S.J. PODCAST

Jason hosts *The Life Masonic*, a Masonic podcast exploring society through the prism of Masonry. You can listen to the podcasts at <a href="http://www.thelifemasonic.libsyn.com/">http://www.thelifemasonic.libsyn.com/</a>

Today, I think it would be much easier to move across the country and start again – because I have a ready-made support group in Masonry waiting to welcome me and ground me in my new home. But, I think I'll stick with Washington for now. And while the initial banality of conversation here can frustrate me at times – I try to remember my own commitments to patience and kindness as I look forward to making a new bond with someone. Someone I just might be calling Brother someday soon, or maybe best friend years down the road.

Jason Van Dyke, 32° jvandyke @scottishrite.org

# Valley of Hastings

Congratulations to the Hastings Valley officers, elected for 2013. The officers were installed on January 8th by George W. White, 33°

#### **Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master William C. Carson, 32° KCCH

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Almoner

General Secretary

Robert W. Scott, 32°

Ryan D. Crouch, 32°

Donald E. Rasmussen, 33°

W. Glen Jorgenson, 33°

#### **Chapter of Rose Croix**

Wise Master Lynn W. Naber, 32° KCCH

Senior Warden Gary L. Kruse, 32° Junior Warden J. Phillip Odom, 33°

#### Council of Kadosh

Commander George W. White, 33° First Lt. Commander William Nottage-Tacey, 32° Second Lt. Commander Steen F. Kendle, 32°

#### **Hastings Consistory**

Master of Kadosh
Prior
Prior
Preceptor
Patrick G. Yates, 32° KCCH
Kenneth A. Bills, 32° KCCH
William H. Schuster, 32°

Help us recruit candidates for the Hastings Spring Reunion!

## March 9th and 10th, 2013

Petitions for membership \$175 (\$125 for Masons 31 and under)

Stated meetings are 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Call Glen Jorgenson, 33°, General Secretary at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail masonictemple@windstream.net for more information.

The Valley of Hastings is on Facebook! Simply visit

www.facebook.com/HastingsScottishRite
and "like" the page for updates on
meetings and events on your
timeline.

# Now Now is the time!

In the movie *Lincoln*, President Lincoln (played by Daniel Day Lewis) tries to inspire his people to support the critical vote to pass the 13th Amendment. As he is pointing his finger, urging them to get the Congressmen to support him, he says "This is the time - *Now, Now, Now!*"

Our time is also *Now!* and the urgency is critical as well. In an effort to better communicate with you, the members of numerous Valleys in the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction have implemented a plan to call you on or before your Birthday. This includes all four Valleys in the Orient of Nebraska. To make this

happen, we need YOUR HELP in updating our data base. Maybe you have moved, changed your e-mail, or disconnected your land line and went to a cell phone. Please call your Valley to update your information.

Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH, General Secretary

E-mail is gene123@mail.com Phone: (308) 762-4324.

Bruce Wood, 33°, General Secretary E-mail: scottishrite@windstream.net

Phone: (402) 435-2144

Glen Jorgenson, 33°, General Secretary E-mail is masonictemple@windstream.net

Phone: (402) 462-5813

Curt Edic, 33°, General Secretary E-mail: cedic@scottishriteomaha.org

Phone: (402) 342-1300

Another great way to update your contact information is when you send in your dues. Just put this contact information on your dues renewal notice. Lets make this update happen. *Do it Now!* 

The Spring Reunions are coming up soon. In the state of Nebraska there are roughly 12,000 Master Masons and of that number there are only about 3,000 Scottish Rite Masons. Therefore, only about 25% of Masons in Nebraska are Scottish Rite Masons. Of course, the Blue Lodges are where our candidates are. We need to promote the Scottish Rite at those Blue Lodge meetings. Tell them what is happening and invite them to a function. Tell them what our RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics in Nebraska are doing for our KIDS with speech issues. Ask them to join and become a 32nd degree Mason. You can make a difference! Just try it - you might be surprised!

Robert Maline, 33° Orient Membership Chair rsmaline@msn.com

# Valley of Lincoln

The Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite is fortunate to be in a beautiful, historic building in the heart of downtown Lincoln,

in the shadow of the State Capitol

The second theme of this campaign is **MEMBERSHIP**. Some members have asked why we would invest hardearned money into a building before we have the members

Nearly a century ago,
Lincoln's Scottish
Rite Masons had a
vision for a grand
home that would make
a statement about the
community and about
the organization.
Renowned architect
Ellery Davis designed
a Neo-Classical
treasure which has
graced Centennial
Mall since 1917.

## Lincoln Scottish Rite Capital Campaign

building, and on a prominent corner on Centennial Mall. For these reasons alone, we are one

of the jewels of Nebraska Masonry. Scottish Rite Masons should be justifiably proud of our nearly 100 year old home. to keep it up for the long term. They suggest we put our resources into recruiting, retention, and reinstatement.

We couldn't agree more! Our view is that by making the Scottish Rite the jewel of downtown Lincoln, people will want to be here! Guests will come in with their eyes wide in amazement and wonder how they can join. We refuse to wait for a Utopian future when Americans become a nation of joiners again.

We have to work on membership hand-in-hand with renovations. A great building is worthless without

the Brethren to make up the Valley! A Lodge is the membership, not the physical structure.

town, and the rich creativity of the college campuses.

This is where you come in. We have at our disposal the extraordinary talent in the state and municipal offices down-

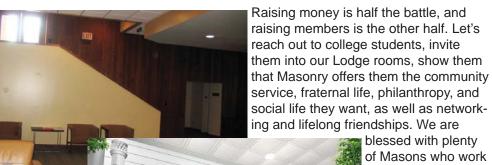
But we have not kept up our home as we should have. Our entrance way is not inviting. Our Grand Ballroom is showing signs of age. Our building has phenomenal potential to generate revenue from rentals as well as to serve as a center for the community, a place for meetings, lectures or concerts, but to do this, we need

We've taken stock of that situation, and the Valley has undertaken a \$3 million dollar capital campaign to address these much-needed renovations. This Capital Campaign is designed to raise substantial funds to renovate our historic building, create a showcase

to invest in the Masonic Center.

for Scottish Rite Masonry, and highlight our place on Centennial Mall (itself being renovated). Members of the committee plan to approach a select number of Brothers and ask their support to support significant renovations of the Great Hall, entrance way, and lounge. With that start, we can begin renting out the facility, welcome the community, and take our place as one of the great jewels of Nebraska Masonry. Our goal is to be well underway by the time we celebrate our building's 100th anniversary. The Capital Campaign committee has begun reaching out to prospective donors, and we are confident that we will be able to begin the first phase of renovations.

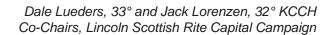
While we are talking to a few Masons first, there will be an opportunity for you to support the Capital Campaign. Talk to us, or talk to Bruce Wood about planned giving options, as well as gift options or a pledge which will support these renovations.



of Masons who work for "Town and Gown" (government offices and the university), and we call on you for your leadership. Help us reach this rich resource of prospective members!

Please join us on our mission to renovate our historic home, to bring in new Brothers to carry on the vision our predecessors had when they

set forth to build this showcase of Scottish Rite Masonry.





From darkness to light: a dark entrance would be replaced by a light, inviting grand entrance (architect's conception).

# Valley of Omaha



Matt Vandergriff, 32° **Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection** 

I was born in Kansas City, MO. My family moved around quite a bit as my dad worked in the power generation industry. I went to high school in Poway. CA, just outside of San Diego, and then moved back to Missouri to attended college at the University of Missouri - Rolla (now called Missouri Science and Technology), where I earned a B.S. in Computer Science. After graduation in 1998, I relocated to Omaha to start work at West Corporation. While working at West, I have held several positions before settling into my current technical programming role.

Wise Master **Chapter of Rose Croix** 

I was born in Pittsburgh, PA, but grew up in Omaha when my parents moved here in 1975. I attended Omaha Public Schools, and graduated from Central High in 1990.

I majored in History and Political Science at Boston College, graduating in 1994, and receiving my Masters in Public Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Boston in 2001.

Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH In 2002, I moved back to Omaha to take advantage of a stronger job market, and my then-fiance Jennifer joined me

from her home in Florence, South Carolina (imagine her surprise at Nebraska winters!). We married in 2002 and bought a Victorian home in the Ford Birthsite neighbor-

hood, which we continue to restore.

I was initiated into Shiloh Lodge 327 in August, 2004, and joined the Scottish Rite in November, 2004. I served in several offices at Shiloh, and was elected Master in 2010 and 2012. Starting in

2013. I will start a new role in Shiloh as their Secretary.

I have been active in the Scottish Rite, working in both the 14th and 30th degrees. In 2011, I became Degree Director for the 14th degree.

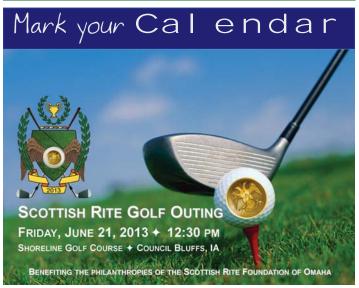
Through Masonry, I met my lovely fiancee, Kristi. She is an active member of Aksarben Chapter 277, OES, and a Past Matron. We met at a Shiloh installation in 2008 and started dating in October, 2010. We will be married, at the Scottish Rite, in May, 2013.

Next edition: William Garner, Eminent Commander of the Council of Kadosh, and Buster Hicks, Venerable Master of Consistory

I worked as an accountant in the nonprofit community until I had the opportu-Meet the nity to move to Fundraising and Development. When Ben Harvey, 33°, retired as Masters Development Director for the Orient of Nebraska, I had the opportunity to join the staff to help raise funds for Scottish Rite philanthropies in the 4 Valleys.

> I was raised at Florence Lodge #281 in 2002 and joined the Scottish Rite in April, 2003. I served as Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew in 2007 and Master of Florence in 2008. I am active at the Scottish Rite in the 16th and 30th degrees and the Knights of St. Andrew. I am also a member of Omaha #1 RAM and Tangier Shrine.

> In my spare time, I collect antique maps, am an avid history researcher, and chase my dogs around the house.





KSA Venerable Master Chuck Sohm, 32° presents the Service Award to Tom Begley, 32°

Congratulations to Brother Tom Begley, 32°, who was presented the 2012 Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award at the KSA Appreciation Dinner on January 11. This award is named in honor of Past Venerable Master Dennis Samuelson, 32° KCCH, and is presented annually to a 32° KSA Mason for his service and dedication to the Scottish Rite. Tom certainly exemplifies that spirit. Last year's recipients were John Chester, 32° and Jim Beard, 32°.

#### Happy Birthday, Brother!

#### Thank You for being a Mason!

#### Thank You for being a Scottish Rite Mason!

If your last birthday has taken place since June 2012 you probably have heard these words or something very similar. During the Scottish Rite Leadership Conference this past April, Scottish Rite Masons learned about a birthday calling

# Happy Birthday from

program, which had proven successful in other Orients. Curt Edic, 33°, General Secretary for the Omaha Valley, suggested we start a program in Omaha. We've been making the calls for about seven months, and I'm happy to report the program has been well received by 99.44% of our members. Only 1 or 2 grouches have prevented us from achieving 100%.

Who makes the calls? To give purpose to our Honors members (remember, we told you the Honor is not for what you've done, but for what you will do!), our KCCH and 33° members have been making the calls. To date, we have 8 teams of about 10 members per team. Only one Brother has elected not make calls.

The calling committee tries to make calls on the Brother's birthday or as close to their birthday as possible. We do this to stay in contact with our members. If you come to events at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, you see the birthday list and know who was born the same month as you. Not all our members can come to the Scottish Rite. so we call them to stay in contact. Other than the receiving the Scottish Rite Journal, this may be the only contact they have with the Scottish Rite each year! We make this personal contact with the hope of answering questions and letting our members know that we

How long does it take to make the calls? About 3 minutes each, unless it is someone you know, and those calls can take 25 to 30 minutes each! Some of our Red and White hats have been around for a long time, and have many Masonic friends and the calls take longer. We aren't

know that this is their special day, and that we are making a

personal effort to greet them.

collecting dues. We aren't asking the Brethren to attend a Lodge meeting or event. We're not fundraising for RiteCare or another program. We're simply wishing a Brother happy birthday and letting them know that we're thinking about them.

What have been the results? WOW! THANKS! NOBODY HAS CALLED ME BEFORE! HOW DID YOU FIND ME? We use People Search, local phone books, internet and process of elimination. In a few cases we reach a wrong

# the Scottish Rite!

number and have been directed to the correct number by the holder of our wrong number.

Have there been any side benefits? When we started this project we had about 25% of our members' e-mail addresses. We have added about 150 e-mails and are now at about a third of the membership. (And please e-mail me or the Scottish Rite office if you've changed your e-mail or want to be added to our data base for the periodic e-mails about upcoming events or other Lodge information!) In addition we have updated our member home phone numbers, addresses, and other records. Our callers report that the experience has been uniformly pleasant. In addition to updating our records, we have the added advantage of knowing that a Brother who feels like he is still part of the Masonic family is more likely to remain a member.

MOST IMPORTANTLY we have reached out to our members to help them celebrate their birthday. So to all our Brethren, thank You for being a Mason and thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.

Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH armelmacd@yahoo.com

If your Valley's Membership Committee is interested in the Birthday Calling committee, please don't hesitate to e-mail Brother Armel for thoughts or ideas.





The Nebraska Masonic Home is happy to announce that we have a new website, www.thenebraska-

masonichome.org. Take a minute to learn about all that The Home has to offer Masons and their eligible female relatives. Scroll through photos of all of our facilities, new dining areas, new apartments and much more. The Nebraska Masonic Home provides gracious assisted living and quality nursing care.

## **RiteCare**

A RiteCare Mom writes us from the Hastings Valley:

When Caleb turned 24 months and still wasn't talking, we knew he needed help. It was history repeating itself. We'd already been down this road with Caleb's older brother, Campbell. Although this time, in our search for professional therapists, we found the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Hastings.

From the moment we stepped foot in the office, we knew we had found a home. The staff was so encouraging. You see, being around other children Caleb's age could be hard. Hearing them string two, three words together made Caleb's silence all the more deafening.

But at RiteCare we found a place where they would clap, cheer and dance for joy with every accomplishment. No one talked about what Caleb wasn't doing... but instead focus on what he was doing. Caleb making eye contact! Pointing at his hair! Putting a puzzle together! My heart would burst with pride. The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders could learn a few things from the eternally energetic ladies at Hastings RiteCare!

Thank you thank you for making this wonderful program available. We are forever grateful!

P.S. - Today Caleb said "MOMMY! EAT!" Somewhere the ladies at RiteCare are doing cartwheels.

e.

Jenny Conklin sent the Scottish Rite a note about her son, who is affected by Apraxia

When our son began speech therapy through the school district after turning two, we were optimistic that with the right teaching and therapy, he'd be caught up with his peers in no time. After two months of therapy, however, it was clear that this was not the case. Our son's speech therapist had concerns and recommended that he be evaluated by Paul Laikko at the RiteCare clinic at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. After we were able to quickly get Levi in for an evaluation, it was confirmed that our son was suspected to have something called Apraxia, a motor speech disorder.

In children with Apraxia, the brain has a barrier keeping it from communicating with the mouth to form the speech. It's not that these children don't have anything to say, it's that they can't form the words to get it out. Without frequent and intense therapy, these children will not be able to speak. While this discovery was overwhelming, we are blessed to be able to entrust Levi to Paul and the clinicians at RiteCare. Through their years of experience and training they are especially equipped to treat Levi's challenging disorder. After three months of therapy, we have already seen improve-

ments in Levi that seemed impossible not long ago. We are encouraged at what lies ahead with hard work, determination, and the special people at RiteCare. Thank you RiteCare for providing the much needed therapy for our child that we would not have otherwise been able to afford.



Emily Johnson, RiteCare Clinician in the Hastings, Nebraska clinic shows off some of the toys the children use as part of their therapy. For example, a child might be asked to pick out a toy that begins with the "T" sound. Or a child might group toys that are animals versus toys that are cars as part of therapy. The RiteCare kids particularly enjoy Hot Wheel cars (*really, who doesn't?*). This particular tractor was being held together with a brass paper fastener, and had definitely seen better days!

The RiteCare Clinics at Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, and the satellite clinic in Alliance often need donations of items. Please consider dropping off a gift card to Target or Wal-Mart at your local RiteCare clinic. If you have a gift card to restaurants you don't want, perhaps your Valley might consider raffling it off to raise a few dollars for RiteCare purchases. E-mail Micah Evans, Development Director for the Orient of Nebraska, at micah@SRNE.org if you have items you think RiteCare might be interested in or want to make a donation to RiteCare.

# **Development**

Chances are, you don't know who the Almoner is in your

Valley. I'd bet the General Secretary announces his name during the elections, but he probably doesn't make a big deal about the Almoner.

## The Almoner's Fund

And the Almoner likes it that way.

In case you aren't familiar with the Almoner, he is appointed by the General Secretary and he manages the funds donated by Brothers, usually collected after the Lodge of Perfection meeting. When he hears about a Brother in distress or someone facing a hardship or an emergency, he quietly helps out the person in need. These donations are small, usually less than \$250. These gifts are made anonymously, without the expectation of repayment or the need for recognition.

From around the Orient, the Almoner's cases may include:

- An elderly neighbor on a fixed income who needs help with the heating bill in the winter. A check was anonymously sent to cover the cost of utilities.
- A woman whose car broke down during December, and would have had to do without presents for her children. The Almoner quietly paid the mechanic.
- Someone whose brother was dying and wouldn't have been able to see him before he passed. The Almoner stepped in to provide an airplane ticket.

This is charity in the truest sense - no need for thanks, no need for repayment.

Please think about the quiet good we do the next time the Almoner's plate is passed around. We are reminded to donate that which we would spend unnecessarily. If you don't attend Lodge often but want to support the Almoner's fund, simply send your donation to the Valley and write Almoner in the memo line. If you know of someone in distress, reach out to the Valley and let them know. If it is within the Almoner's ability, he'll help those in need on behalf of the Scottish Rite Masons of your Valley.

# SCOTTISH RITE

## RiteCare: Making a Difference in 2012

Throughout the year, I've come before you and asked you to support the Scottish Rite's principal philanthropy, the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics. Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska have stepped up, and we've raised about \$30,000 over the last three years through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska's 101 Club (\$101 represents 1 session of therapy), and you've supported RiteCare through your local Valley in a hundred different ways.

I hope I've remembered to thank each donor, no matter how you've supported RiteCare. Your support is the only way our clinics continue to serve Nebraska's kids, and on behalf of the hundreds of children we've served, thank you.

In the past year, we've seen 636 children through nearly 5,000 sessions of therapy. Clinicians saw 566 children in 2011, and 582 children in 2010.

	2012		
	Children	Sessions	
Hastings	86	1,267	
Kearney	13	164	
Lincoln	27	458	
Omaha	<u>510</u>	3,109	
	636	4.998	

We served four children through the telepractice clinic in



Alliance, and the new clinic in Kearney served 13 children in therapy while performing 142 screenings. These are truly impressive numbers, and all Scottish Rite Masons should be proud of what our clinicians are doing.

If you read the letters in this Journal and previous ones, you'll notice that the theme is that RiteCare provides services that families might not be able to afford otherwise. Thank you for supporting our philanthropy through the 101 Club and through your Valley. You are making a big difference for Nebraska's children.

Micah Evans, 32° KCCH Development Director micah @SRNE.org

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

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