



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

March-April, 2015 • Volume V, Issue 2

## Calendar

Mar 14 ..... Grand Master's All-Committee Meeting (Fremont)  
 Mar 14 ..... Joint P.H.A. and A.F. & A.M. Banquet  
     Celebrating 25 Years Joint Recognition (O)  
 Mar 17 ..... Corned Beef and Cabbage (L)  
 Mar 20, Mar 27, Apr 3 ..... Fish Fry Fridays (O)  
 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Apr 12 ..... Spaghetti Feed (H)  
 April 17-18 ..... Alliance Spring Reunion (A)  
 April 17-18 ..... Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)  
 Apr 24-25 ..... Hastings Spring Reunion (H)  
 Apr 30, May 1, & May 2 ..... Omaha Spring Reunion (O)  
 May 6, 13, 20, 27 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 May 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 May 16 ..... Celebrating the Craft (A, H, L, O)  
 May 20 ..... Spring Outing (O)  
 June 3, 10, 17, 24 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 June 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 June 6 ..... NE Shrine Bowl (Kearney)  
 June 26 ..... RiteCare Classic Golf Outing (O)  
 July 3-9 ..... Shrine Imperial Session (Houston, TX)

### Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month  
 Mar 27, Apr 24, May 29

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month  
 Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2  
 (see page 3 for meeting locations)

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month  
 Mar 18, Apr 22, May 20

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month  
 Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, June 22

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

In 1982, social scientists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling introduced the Broken Window theory in an article in the Atlantic Monthly magazine. In this article, they stated:

*Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside.*



***Be honest. Which of these two Lodges would you rather visit?***

Conversely, if the windows are kept maintained, graffiti dealt with promptly, garbage picked up, the building is less likely to be vandalized. Investors and neighbors are not scared away, and the area is attractive to consumers.

Freemasonry also operates on this theory. Lodges who perform lazy ritual, whose degree work is unimpressive, whose members don't dress for the event, whose buildings have fifty years of deferred maintenance, or whose social events consist of a carry-out pizza and the ubiquitous canned green beans fail to attract and retain brethren, or inspire prospective members to join. If that is the experience members or potential members see, why would they come back?

I firmly believe the Lodge whose members treat Masonry as special by dressing appropriately, who offer a calendar of events for the membership, families, and the community, and whose buildings are cared for do bring back members and attract prospective members.

*... continued on page 2*

# Chirping FOR NEBRASKA

**SR CHIRP** is a smartphone app exclusively for S.R. Masons to help them stay connected. It has the potential to increase communications among Valley members.

SR ChirpXM®



The Scottish Rite has made a new tool available exclusively to Scottish Rite Masons, known as SR Chirp. SR Chirp is a free app for Apple and Android Smart phones.

SR Chirp enables Scottish Rite Masons to quickly and conveniently interact and communicate. Although SR Chirp is similar to text messaging in some ways, SR Chirp is usable only by Scottish Rite members, it becomes simple to separate communications with brothers from the sometimes

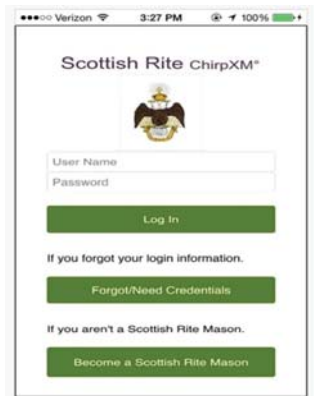
overwhelming number of messaging that are part of our personal and business lives.

SR Chirp users also customize the message that they desire to see. A user may elect only to view messages from his own Valley, or might decide to reach out to another Valley where he is traveling.

Because the application is location aware, users can elect to see messages and interact with other uses easily and conveniently wherever they are— and not see messages from locations or Valleys not of immediate interest.



Visit your app store and search for Scottish Rite or SR Chirp or visit [www.scottishrite.org/members/sr-chirp](http://www.scottishrite.org/members/sr-chirp) for more details about this exciting new smart phone app.



## Membership, continued

In this day and age, we all know how hard it is to attract good men to Freemasonry. We all have enough demands on our time, and there are plenty dues-paying members who simply can't make it due to these same family and work commitments.

So how can we expect men to make the commitment to be an active Mason if they find the Lodge isn't treated as something special by the officers and members? Joking Past Masters on the sideline are hardly conducive to creating a Masonic "experience" for the candidate!

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska offers plenty of resources for Lodges who want help with ritual work, as well as creating social opportunities to give members a reason to make Masonry part of their monthly routine.

The physical appearance of a Lodge certainly matters, too. I certainly don't imply that every Lodge ought to be an



*Thomas Jefferson statue in St. Louis, Missouri Masonic Lodge. "It's a pleasure to come here," says a Brother.*

elaborate structure with stained glass and a pipe organ. After all, a Lodge is the members, not the building. In fact, some of the best Lodges with the most active members and finest degree work are in a former grocery store or a Quonset hut. But how do you attract members when the Lodge has peeling paint or a boarded-up window? It doesn't take much to take stock of the inventory, and put some sweat equity into the upkeep of our Masonic homes.

Men are thirsting to get involved and get active. We simply need to make a case through our actions that we are worth being part of.

I certainly think so.



## 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.

March 3 ..... Hastings Masonic Center  
 April 7 ..... Kearney  
 May 5 ..... North Platte  
 June 2 ..... Hastings Masonic Center  
 July 7 ..... Burwell



Help us recruit candidates for the Spring Scottish Rite Reunion!

**April 24-25, 2015**

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

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

Call Phil Odom, 33°, General Secretary at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail [podom@hastingsmasonic.org](mailto:podom@hastingsmasonic.org) about forming a Scottish Rite Club in your town.

## THE MASTER ✚ CRAFTSMEN

Beginning at 6:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month, Scottish Rite brethren get together to discuss the Master Craftsman questions, based on Arturo de Hoyos' *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* and Rex Hutchens' *A Bridge to Light*. Subjects cover the history of the Scottish Rite, the degrees, symbolism, philosophy, and background, but conversation might cover biblical sources, Zoroastrian texts, or mythic legends. Join the conversation each month - no reservations required - just show up!

The Master Craftsman books and quizzes are \$35 and can be purchased from [www.scottishrite.org](http://www.scottishrite.org) online store or through the Valley. They are graded by the House of the Temple, and participants who complete the program are presented with a lapel pin and certificate. . . and can move on to Master Craftsman II and III!

Maddison CAN!! ♥

A RiteCare success story

Maddison came to the Nebraska RiteCare Clinic in Hastings when she was 3 years old and difficult to understand.

For example, she would say, "tan," for "can" and, "tea," for "key". Maddison loved to use markers and color during her speech sessions. Maddison is shown here on her graduation day with her diploma; the diploma says, "I think I can!" Maddison CAN now say ALL of her speech sounds. She wants to say, "Thank you!" to Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons for supporting her speech therapy at the Hastings RiteCare Clinic.



Scottish Rite

Spaghetti Feed

\$8/person

Children 4 & under - free

Sunday, April 12



Don't forget to "Like" the Central Nebraska Valley Scottish Rite in Hastings at [www.facebook.com/HastingsScottishRite](http://www.facebook.com/HastingsScottishRite)

## 2nd Annual Christmas Banquet

The Valley of Lincoln's 2nd annual Christmas Banquet once again proves to be one of the best events in Valley! The halls were decked for a great banquet on December 12, 2014, and nearly 90 Scottish Rite Masons and their guests joined for a phenomenal dinner, prepared by Bob and Jennifer Kruse, Doug and Sue Krogman, and Mark

Kinzie. Mike Gray decorated the Grand Ballroom and Linda Wood provided beautiful centerpieces. Guests enjoyed freshly-prepared lobster tail, prime rib, a loaded baked potato, salad, and cheese cake, served by Job's Daughters, Bethel #5. Sharon Moeller gracefully stepped in to provide beautiful entertainment on the piano throughout the evening.

Last year, Venerable Master Tom Greenlee 32° KCCCH hoped this would become a Lincoln Valley tradition, and his Christmas wish has certainly come true. Save the date now for December, 2015 for a truly great dinner and a great evening!



**Photos:** (Top) Drew (32°) and Laura Borske (Middle) Jimmie (32° KCCCH) and Marjorie Delp (Bottom) Doug Dessel (32°)

**CORNEBEEF & CABBAGE**

**March 17, 2015**  
Take-Out Plates Available - \$10/plate  
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**the best in town!**

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

## Valley VMAP program

Following the outcome of the Grand Commander's Leadership Conference this past summer, the Lincoln Valley's Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) is well underway, and we are all actively working to make your Scottish Rite experience the best it can be! Throughout the coming year, there will be many projects running simultaneously, varying from building maintenance, to recruiting new members, to educating our existing members. There are ten general areas that VMAP targets, and while our Lincoln Valley is already doing very well in all ten, there is always some room for improvement!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

VMAP is a very ambitious project, and it is impossible for the Valley leadership to accomplish it alone. If there is an area you have expertise in, or are just interested in helping out, please let us know right away! You can contact me directly at [adam.thayer@gmail.com](mailto:adam.thayer@gmail.com) or call the Scottish Rite office at 402-435-2144. For more information about the VMAP program, visit <http://scottishrite.org/vmap/>.

Adam Thayer, 32°  
Valley VMAP Coordinator

Row	Seat	Section
Apr	17-18	2015

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SPRING REUNION**

[www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org](http://www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org)

As an incentive for signing new candidates, your 2015 dues will be waived if you sign at least two petitions. Please help sign petitions by promoting the Scottish Rite Reunion in your Blue Lodge, York Rite bodies, and Shrine clubs or units.



## Christmas Banquet and Awards Ceremony

On December 15th, the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite held it's 2nd annual Christmas Awards Banquet, emceed by the officers of the Lodge of Perfection. Once again, a great time was had by all as "thank-you's" were given to new and veteran Scottish Rite Masons along with their ladies. The "entirely scripted" un-scripted event was a joke-filled extravaganza that also featured jazz pianist Dave Sullivan (owner of the Omaha Lounge) playing background music prior to the banquet and during the show. In addition to the official awards, the evening included the infamous Rubber Chicken award. This year Donovan "Where's Waldo" Brand, Lee "How Come I Never Win Anything?" Terry Sr, and Chris "It's Not Grandma's Couch, It's My Vest" Atteberry, were the proud recipients of the rubber chicken awards.

Perhaps the most touching moment came at the end when pianist Dave Sullivan (a non-Mason) was overcome by emotion, asked to speak to the crowd, and said "I've never seen this kind of love and support and camaraderie. The love you have for each other and the genuine, sincere appreciation you feel for each other is unlike anything I've ever seen. I'd like to donate back the check you've given me to play for you tonight. I just don't feel right about accepting payment. You are all amazing ... I feel very moved ... thank-you for the chance to play for you tonight."

Once again, the act of giving a simple thank-you (not for the winning a popularity contest but just because a man or woman's efforts are noticed and appreciated) can make all of the difference in the world in a volunteer-staffed organization ... or should I say ... in a family.

### Another Success!



1



2



3



4



5

**Pictures:** 1) Don Kavalec and David Meinzer 2) Cheryl Wonder and Brenda Coleman, honored for their service 3) The Three Colonels: John Williamson and Ron Stites flanking "Colonel" Chris Carter. 4) Nathan Rolofson presented with certificate for Master Craftsman 5) Tom Begley literally brings home the bacon for most improved performance in the 9th/10th degree.

(Photos by Rob Corsaro)

*"The love you have for each other and the genuine, sincere appreciation you feel for each other is unlike anything I've ever seen."*

*-Dave Sullivan, pianist at Scottish Rite Christmas Banquet*

Chris ("they don't call me Majek for nothing") Carter, 32° KCCH  
majekcarter@mac.com  
2015 Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection



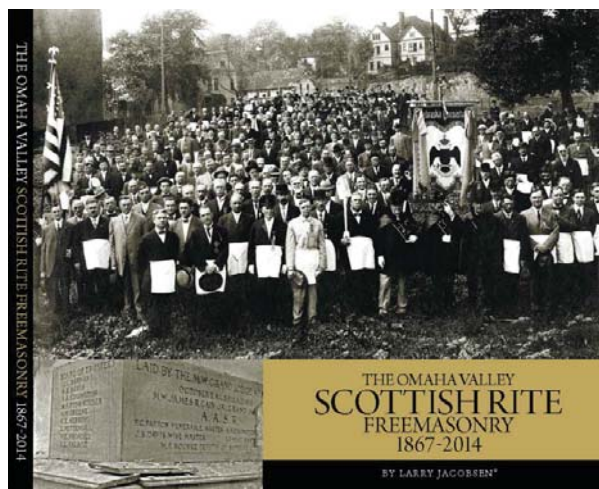
**Congratulations to David Thompson, Sr., a true representative of the spirit of volunteerism, and recipient of the 2014 Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award.**

You'll frequently find **Dave Thompson, Sr.**, 32° tending bar at Scottish Rite events. He's one of the first to volunteer for KSA gigs. For his service to the Scottish Rite, Venerable Master Chris Nigro, 32° presented Dave the **2014 Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award** at the KSA Membership Appreciation Dinner on January 16. This award is named in honor of Past Venerable Master Denny Samuelson, 32° KCCH, and is presented annually to a 32° KSA Mason for his service and dedication to the Scottish Rite.

# THE STORY of: the Valley of Omaha SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY 1867-2014

By Wednesday morning, February 2, 1870, Omaha businessman Charles F. Catlin had cleared his calendar for the rest of the business week. He had cancelled a few appointments and social engagements in downtown Omaha, and then informed his wife he would not be home for dinner the next three nights. Catlin knew little of the agenda for which he'd be giving up three valuable days of his time, other than it came at the urging of his good friend Robert Carrel Jordan to join with him and several other active Masons to be the charter class of a Scottish Rite body in Nebraska.

Catlin's appointment with Jordan was to be at 9:00 a.m., so he hurriedly bundled up for the brisk carriage drive through the rutted streets of downtown, made all the more treacherous by a combination of mud and ice due to a recent snow and a slow thaw. He stabled his horse and carriage just north of 15th and Farnam Street and made his way along the rickety wooden boardwalks. Turning east on to Farnam Street he dodged the overabundance of crates, barrels, and other items of sale from the one and two-story shops and businesses that lined the street - until he comes to his destination. Charles Catlin was not impressed.



Front and back covers of the Scottish Rite history, written by Larry Jacobsen, 33°.

So begins the history of the Scottish Rite in Omaha. After several fits and starts and a few visits from A.T.C. Pierson and Frederick Webber from the Supreme Council, the Scottish Rite finally got off to a slow start in the 1880s, greatly eclipsed by the strength, prestige, and pomp of York Rite Masonry.

More than 4 years ago, the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite began thinking about how to celebrate the 100th anniversary

of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, began in 1912 and finished in 1914. Between the ground breaking re-enactment in 2012 and the Centennial Reunion in November, 2014, Larry Jacobsen decided to write and publish a history of the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite.

Drawing on original letters, minutes, reports from the founding fathers of Nebraska Scottish Rite Freemasonry to the Supreme Council, newspaper articles, Larry has written a comprehensive history of the Scottish Rite from its humble beginnings above Martin Dunham's Saddlery to the Fall 2014 Reunion, which welcomed 63 new brethren. Photographs from different time periods illustrate the history, including photos of the most prominent men who made the Scottish Rite so successful.

Christine Zueck-Watkins and Dan Sullivan of *The Omaha World-Herald* served as the graphic artists and editors, and *the Omaha World-Herald* contributed numerous historical photos from their archives for the Scottish Rite history.

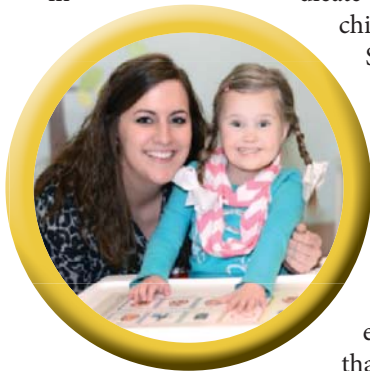
Order your copy by calling the Scottish Rite, Valley of Omaha at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org. The cost for the book is \$40 (tax included), and an additional \$8 if you would like it mailed to you.

The Omaha Valley Scottish Rite history is a fascinating telling of our story, our members, and a celebration of nearly 150 years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Nebraska. Get your copy today. . . before they're history!



# Nebraska RiteCare . . . *making a difference*

Shortly after our second daughter was born, we received a diagnosis we were not quite prepared for. "Early observations indicate that your child has Down Syndrome."



**Macy and her RiteCare clinician Leslie VanWinkle**

As you can imagine, we experienced a wide range of emotions that are common to anyone placed in this situation.

Once the initial sadness, worry, confusion, and intimidation passed, we simply found ourselves overwhelmed.

We knew that this life we had planned for our family was going to look a little different. And that we were probably going to have to adjust to a new "normal."

Now that we are five years into this journey, we are pleased to report that our "new" normal is actually not that much different than our "previous" normal. Not much has changed. We feel our life is simply enhanced. We have been blessed with a little something extra, and our day to day routines include, just that, a little something extra. Extra THERAPIES!

## TALKING!

Developing Macy's communication skills started early. Each person's primary source of communication could look different. Early on it was still unclear as to which means Macy would embrace. This is where UNMC's Munroe-Meyer institute came in. At just two years old, Macy got the call. Her name, which we were encouraged to put on the waiting list back when she was only a few days old, had been called up! There was an availability for her to participate in Munroe-Meyer's renowned "Speech and Language Disorder" Ritecare clinic. This program has been such a blessing to our family. Thanks to the Scottish Rite, this amazing clinic is offered to us at

## ★ macy's story

no charge. Macy's speech has improved leaps and bounds since beginning. Each therapist who has worked with her has worked with her has truly invested themselves into her success.

After two years in a group learning environment, we customized a one-on-one approach specific to Macy's targeted goal of articulation, while focusing on early literacy skill development. These intense "work/play" speech sessions are invaluable, and well worth the 45 minute (each way) drive downtown.

It's such a joy witnessing our little girl be set up for success. Macy has a lot to say to the world and wants so badly to be heard and most importantly, UNDERSTOOD.

The inability to communicate clearly and effectively would most certainly serve as a significant barrier to leading an inclusive and fulfilling life - being social and actively engaged in her community is a major life goal we have for her.

The UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute is, in so many ways, helping to lay the foundation for the rest of her life. Our family, and others just like us around the world are grateful for the Scottish Rite Masons extreme generosity and giving hearts!

*Sherri Harnisch  
RiteCare Mom*

## RiteCare welcomes new Director



The UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute is pleased to announce **Amy Nordness, Ph.D., CCC-SLP** has joined the RiteCare Clinic as Director. Dr. Nordness earned a Bachelor of Science

in 2011. Before joining the Munroe-Meyer Institute, Dr. Nordness served as Director of Speech and Pediatric Program Manager at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, where she was responsible for the overall management of the Speech Department and the Adolescent & Children's Rehabilitation Program.

Her specialties include motor speech disorders and augmentative and alternative communication. Nordness has published numerous papers, posters and journal articles regarding speech-language pathology and

**"My passion is working with kids and I am excited to get back to a pediatric focus," says Nordness.**

degree in speech-language pathology from Marquette University, a Master of Science in speech-language pathology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in 2001, and a Ph.D. in communication disorders at UNL

has provided presentations across the country and internationally. She is devoted to ongoing research activities at Munroe-Meyer Institute and has secured funding for various grants to support her projects.

## Giving the Gift of VOICE

In 2014, the Nebraska RiteCare clinicians provided 5,568 sessions of therapy to 1,097 children. Based on a 2014 RiteCare budget of \$581,796 in 2014, that comes to \$104.49 for each session of therapy.

That is extraordinary, particularly when you consider that private practice speech and language therapy may cost families as much as \$250 per session - sometimes even more! Take into consideration the added factor that RiteCare charges our families precisely \$0.00 for these services since we committed the first \$2,000 in 1976 toward speech and language therapy at Lincoln's Barkley Memorial Center.

Since 1976, Scottish Rite Masons have donated over \$20 million toward our Nebraska RiteCare clinicians. In 2015, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Board is contemplating a \$658,518 budget for the clinics.



*RiteCare clinician Paul Laikko*

The 2015 budget includes expanded summer program for children in Kearney and increased clinician schedules for the 9 clinicians (7.2 FTE's for those in the Human Resources field) in the four clinics.

This is a staggering increase this year, but Charles V. Sed-erstrom, Jr., 33° and the Nebraska Foundation Board of Directors are firmly committed to main-

taining the extraordinary care at our Nebraska clinics throughout the state. Our financial commitment to RiteCare is the largest Masonic philanthropy in the state, which represents over a million dollars when you add in our support for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Masonic Youth Foundation, the Omaha Home for Boys, Eastern Star-Masonic Home for Children, the Plattsmouth Masonic Home, Teacher of the Year awards, scholarships, and so much more!

We are fortunate that brethren thought of our philanthropies in the

past, and we are blessed with endowments which make a significant impact toward the annual funding of the RiteCare Clinics. But it fundamentally comes down to brethren like you who made a commitment through their gifts.

Each donation - large or small - is genuinely appreciated and makes a difference in the ability to serve children with speech and language difficulties. Many families might otherwise not be able to afford therapy, and our RiteCare kids depend on every Scottish Rite Mason. Families are truly grateful and they are aware that they have Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons to thank for their child's ability to say "I love you."

You are making a difference in children's lives just by being a Scottish Rite Mason. Please continue to help us with your planned gift recognizing the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska or your local Scottish Rite Foundation, your donation through WalkRite for RiteCare, the Century Club, or Valley events.

On behalf of the 1,097 children served last year, *thank you for giving the gift of Voice.*

**SCOTTISH RITE** JOURNAL  
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

*"Your dues change the light bulbs.  
Your donations 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 the May-June, 2015 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-March for consideration.)

**Micah I. Evans, 33°**

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