



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

November-December 2012 • Volume 2, Issue 6

Calendar

Nov 1, 8, 15, 29..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Nov 7, 14, 21, 28.... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Nov 2 and 3..... Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
 Nov 6 Feast of Tishri (H)
 Nov 15, 16, 17..... Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
 Nov 17..... Cornerstone Rededication (O)
 Dec 2 Lied Center Xmas Performance (L)
 Dec 6, 13, 20..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Dec 5, 12, 19, 26.... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Jan 26 (2013)..... One Day Blue Lodge degrees (O)
 Jan 26 Robert Burns Dinner (L)
 Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 ... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Jan 31 - Feb 2 Grand Lodge in Kearney, NE
 Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
 Nov 22, Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 22

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
 Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 1, Feb 5

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
 Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
 Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 21, Feb 18

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

Valley Secretaries recently received some statistics on Scottish Rite membership. While the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction shows a membership loss, Nebraska has among the lowest rate of loss. 8.71% of our total Orient membership still owe for 2012 dues.



August 26 Orient membership meeting in the Valley of Lincoln. House of the Temple membership staff are participating via Skype.

Having among the lowest number of Scottish Rite Masons behind on dues is a nice feather in the Orient's cap, but let's not pat ourselves on the back quite yet. The loss of one Brother

is one too many. **Each man we are in danger of losing is a Brother, not a number on a page.** Each Brother is a potential officer, committee or degree team member, and most importantly, friend. The value of every Brother is incalculable to Masonry.

Several Valleys are working to call every Brother and wish him happy birthday and ask how he is doing at least once per year. These personal calls are paying off, and 125 brothers came off the delinquent list between June and August. The work continues, and when we finish reaching out to the Brothers on the 2012 list, we'll start all over again with the 2013 list.

But there is much we can do to "save" Brethren before we have to call them about delinquent dues. Every Brother should be responsible for standing up in Blue Lodge, Eastern Star, or the Shrine, and giving a Scottish Rite report, offering petitions, and talking about upcoming events and Reunions. Each report should begin with asking all Scottish Rite brethren to raise their hands. The guys not raising their hands will want to, I promise you. Finally, we need to continually promote Masonry to sons, grandsons, sons-in-law, and other worthy men. We should be proud of Masonry in Nebraska, and with hard work, we will continue to be proud of our membership.

Valley of Alliance

Dr. Charles M. Slagle was born in Oregon on July 10, 1870. He received his DDS in 1896 from the Iowa Medical College from the University of Michigan. He taught dentistry at the Iowa Medical College in Keokuk, while working on his medical degree, which he received in 1903. After post graduate work in New York, London, Edinburgh, and Vienna, he received his second M.D. in 1906.

Dr. Slagle and his wife Myrtle came to Alliance in 1906, and practiced medicine with Dr. H. H. Bellwood. In 1920, he organized the Slagle Clinic, and served as the surgeon for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad as well as President of staff at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Dr. Slagle was a supporter of the city manager form of government, and served as a city commissioner. He was active in the community as a director of First National Bank, and served as President of Guardian State Bank.

Dr. Slagle was active in Masonry, serving as Past Master of Alliance Lodge #183. He was a member of the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, and the Shrine. He joined the Scottish Rite in Omaha in 1918, and demitted the following year when Alliance received a charter for the Lodge of Perfection in 1919. He received his KCCH in 1941, and was honored with the 33rd Degree in 1945.

Dr. Slagle passed away in October, 1956 after a brief illness. Dr. Slagle made his mark on the community by building the Slagle Clinic, which he donated to former associates and their families with the request that they continue to serve the people in Alliance and the community. His bequest to the Valley of Alliance continues to provide interest income, serving the members today.

Dr. Slagle and Dr. Knight made a significant mark on Masonry in the Valley of Alliance, and left a legacy that will benefit Masons for years to come. Please call Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH, General Secretary, at (308) 762-4324 to discuss ways you can leave your own legacy for Masonry, including wills, bequests, gifts, or charitable gift annuities. Your donations not only support the Valley, but help support RiteCare services for Nebraska's children affected by speech and language disorders.



Dr. Charles E. Slagle



Dr. Frank M. Knight, March 1899
This photograph is courtesy of the Knight Museum, Alliance, NE

Dr. Frank M. Knight was born in Decorah, Iowa on February 2, 1856. He attended the National School of Oratory at Philadelphia, transferring to the University of Iowa where he graduated with a medical degree in 1882. He came west in 1886, settling in Nonpareil, the early county seat for Box Butte County, where he intended to practice medicine. Dr. Knight soon turned to banking, and launched his career by founding the Bank of Nonpareil. When the railroad shops and county seat were transferred to Alliance, Dr. Knight decided to move his banking affairs there in 1889. He consolidated the Bank of Nonpareil and the Bank of Alliance.

When town lots were sold in 1888, the bank built on the corner of Box Butte and Third, continuing business there until 1935, when the bank consolidated with the Nebraska National Bank under the name of the Alliance National Bank. Dr. Knight purchased all of the vacant city lots in 1918, and lived to see most of them converted into residential properties.

During the 1930s when banks were failing across the nation, Dr. Knight's bank was recognized for its financial strength in western Nebraska, and through his efforts, banking panic was avoided. He pledged his personal fortune to the payment of every deposit, and this personal assurance saved the bank from ruin.

Dr. Knight was prominent in Masonry, and active in all the bodies. He joined the Scottish Rite in Omaha in March, 1899, but demitted to Alliance, when the Lodge of Perfection was chartered in 1919. He received his KCCH in 1935, and was coroneted a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in 1937. In the early

1930s, the Alliance Masonic Temple was extended to the alley in the rear of the building to make room for more degree conferrals. The cost of the work was almost entirely through the generosity of Dr. Knight.

Dr. Knight was in Omaha in December, 1940 tending to business interests and to participate in the conferral of the 33rd Degree on new honorees when he was rushed to the hospital and died suddenly. In his estate, he left \$40,000 to the Alliance Scottish Rite, as well as \$15,000 to the City of Alliance for a museum. The Knight Museum in Alliance is named in his honor.

Valley of Hastings

After 50 years of robust growth, the Masons of Hastings began to think about a new building. Their existing home was constructed in 1886-1888 and remodeled in 1913. The 1920 were a period of optimism and prosperity. All of the head bodies contributed to the design of the new facility. Bids were opened on June 28th, 1928, and construction commenced.

This was a major undertaking for the Masons, and for the community. One of the largest buildings at this time in a community of about 10,000, the Masonic Temple's construction fascinated the public. Businessmen and customers lined downtown streets to watch the huge steel support beam as it was hauled from the rail yard, pulled by a team of mules. A 1928 headline in the Hastings Daily Tribune proclaimed "Masons Stipulate Use of Home Products," and reported that the proposed Temple "To be the most imposing structure in the City."

Perhaps a reflection of the times, the next article in the newspaper was from Omaha, reporting that 194 Nebraska bankers had agreed to pay a reward of \$5,000 for each dead bank bandit killed while robbing banks in Nebraska.

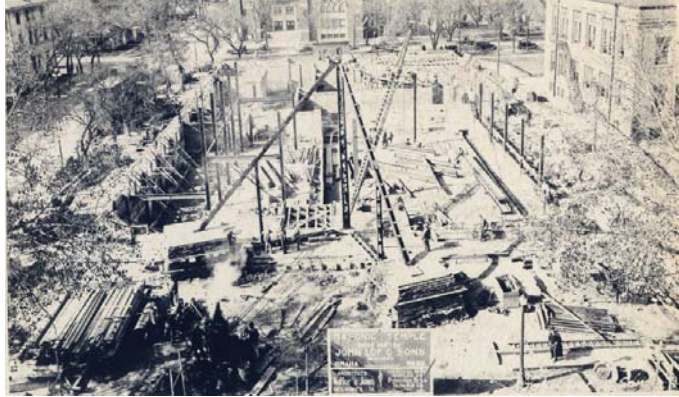
The new building was officially opened on April 15, 1930, when 1,186 brothers attended Lodge as Ralph H. Stewart was raised by Hastings Lodge #50. There were 117 Nebraska Lodges represented, and 52 Lodges from other states.

The total cost of the Masonic Temple was \$380,000, paid by funds from local Masonic bodies and loans totaling \$250,000. The Masonic Cathedral Association anticipated it would receive sufficient revenues from rentals paid for the use of the Temple to repay these loans. This proved wrong.

The Great Depression was beginning. The number of men petitioning for membership declined, and many members could not even pay their dues. This meant that the mortgage payments fell into arrears. Several attempts were made to raise money without success.

Officers of the Cathedral Association met with a lenders' committee in an effort to reach a compromise on the debt. After a mass meeting, local Masonic bodies concluded that \$50,000 was the most that could be raised.

A history of the Hastings Masonic Center



October 24, 1928 - construction at the site



The Hastings Masonic Temple in the early 1940s

The lenders declined this offer, and on February 28, 1940, foreclosure proceedings were started. Eventually the lender bought the building at the Sheriff's sale. After exhausting every option to sell the Temple, the lender reached the conclusion that no other buyer could be found for this building, which had been designed specifically for Masonry.

Early in 1941, the Bondholder's Committee for the lender notified the Masons that it would accept \$50,000 as full payment. The Hastings Masonic Bodies were sincere in taking the position that \$50,000 was all they could possibly support. The Depression was still on, and Masonry was still losing members. From December 31, 1931 to the end of 1942, the number of Masons on the Grand Lodge rolls showed a loss of 11,298 members.

To save the Temple, two actions were necessary. \$50,000 had to be raised. Frank Cargill Patton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Nebraska agreed to lend the Masons of Hastings \$25,000 from a fund within his control. Local leaders dug deep to raise the other \$25,000. Dr. A. A. Smith, a long-time member, took a mortgage on his home to help. It was also necessary to create a new Corporation to receive title to the building. The Hastings Masonic Temple Association was created.

Ralph Canady, 33°, writes "The Masons repaid. . . the Scottish Rite Welfare Association. The Depression and drouth ended about the time the Masons got their Temple back," World War II began, and once again membership increased as returning soldiers sought the fraternity and brotherhood they found in the service, and the fraternity prospered. The lessons of this difficult time provide lessons and hope for all Masons today.

Stephen D. Pitman, 33°

Valley of Lincoln

50 Year Masons Honored at Feast of Tishri

Sixty guests attended the Feast of Tishri in Lincoln on Friday, September 28th, marking the traditional feast of Thanksgiving. David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH led the blessing over the bread, as guests enjoyed freshly-baked challah and honey butter, representing their commitment to brotherhood and the fraternity. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous feast prepared by Jennifer Beebe, including a carrot bisque, spinach salad, tangy cherry chicken and fresh vegetables, and a dessert of apple cake with caramel sauce. Richard Lassek, 32° presented a history of the Feast of Tishri. After dinner, Mark Kinzie, 32° KCCH led toasts. Dinner was served by the young women of Job's Daughters, Bethel #5, and music was provided by Deirdre Hoffman and Natasha Pavlovikj.

Bruce Wood, 33° and Ken Beebe, 33° introduced Brothers **Stevenson P. Brown, Tommie R. Gonnerman, Stuart D. Howerter, Luther P. Johnson, Calvin C. Lepp, Mark A. Romohr, Francis E. Tische, John D. VerMaas**, who were recognized for their 50 year service to Scottish Rite Masonry. The evening closed with remarks from Mike Lagueux, 32° KCCH and a benediction by Brother Wade Kendle, 32°.

The Story of the Feast of Tishri

The origin of the Feast of Tishri is described in the book of Leviticus where it is said that the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying that on the 15th day of the month of Tishri, "**ye shall have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord.**" The Feast of Tishri is the Hebrew equivalent of Thanksgiving or Harvest festival.

The origins and significance of the Feast of Tishri make it the most Scottish Rite of festivals. No other occasion epitomizes the character and purpose of the Feast of Tishri more wholly than the dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The rich legend of the Temple's dedication, celebrated during the Feast of Tishri, is an essential part of the Fourteenth Degree.

By observing the Feast of Tishri, we share the fraternal spirit and reaffirm our dedication to human concord and the brotherhood of all men. As Brothers, we resolve to build, as King Solomon did, peace for all mankind.

The Feast of Tishri is a true time of fraternity, truly representative of the spirit of Masonry. Here, Brethren sit with other Brothers from all area Lodges. We may sit with a Brother we've never met and find common ground and friendship with someone new. As we symbolically re-dedicate King Solomon's Temple, we re-dedicate ourselves to the purpose of the Scottish Rite, our fraternity, and our charities. This re-affirmation is why the Feast of Tishri is the most important of the Scottish Rite observances.

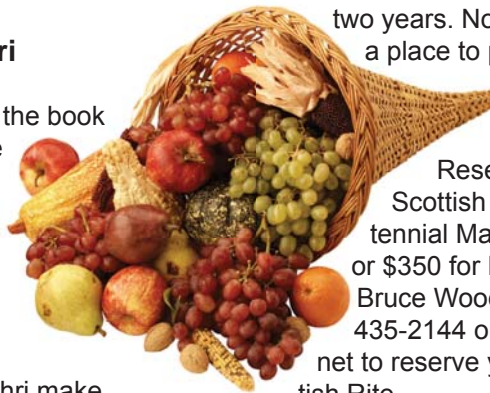


50 Year Members Recognized at the Feast of Tishri
For more pictures, visit www.scottishritelincoln.org

Reserved Parking

This could be your sign for the 2013-2014 NEBRASKA football season, the Pershing Auditorium, or Lied Center events! The Valley of Lincoln is taking reservations for your parking place for 10 activities at the Pershing Auditorium or Lied Center or all of the Nebraska home games for the next two years. No more driving around looking for a place to park. No more last minute decisions on where to park, no risk of not finding a place!

Reserve your parking spot at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center (332 Centennial Mall South) for \$200 for the season, or \$350 for BOTH 2013 and 2014. Contact Bruce Wood, General Secretary, at (402) 435-2144 or e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net to reserve your parking space at the Scottish Rite.



The Lincoln Scottish Rite presents a traditional

Burns Dinner

Celebrating the life of Scotland's favorite Son, the Ploughman Poet and Freemason

Robert Burns
Saturday, January 26, 2013
Cocktails beginning at 5:45 p.m.
Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Call (402) 435-2144 for more information.

A circular portrait of Robert Burns, a Scottish poet and writer, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat.

Valley of Omaha

Over 120 walkers and families turned out on September 8, 2012 for the 4th annual WalkRite for RiteCare, a family-friendly fun walk raising money for the RiteCare speech and language clinics through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha. Walkers enjoyed perfect weather, and enjoyed lunch provided by the Culinary Masters of the Scottish Rite, hamburgers and hotdogs from Omaha Steaks and buns provided by Sara Lee bakeries. The Walk was sponsored by Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc. and C&A Industries. Strypes and Squiggles from the Tangier Shrine clown unit were on-hand, giving balloons for the kids and showing them the Clown's fire truck.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha raised \$14,300, which underwrites the cost of RiteCare services in Nebraska. WalkRite for RiteCare has grown in each of its four

WalkRite for RiteCare



4th Annual WalkRite for RiteCare raises funds and awareness

years, and several families attend whose children are past graduates of the RiteCare programs in addition to families whose children currently receive therapy for speech and language disorders. The common theme expressed by parents was extraordinary gratitude for RiteCare services, which many would not have been able to afford otherwise. Many services are not covered by insurance, and some therapy is beyond the scope provided by schools. "My daughter has absolutely thrived thanks to her sessions with the RiteCare clinicians," said Patty Kircher, a RiteCare parent. "It has been overwhelming watching my daughter progress from pointing or grunting for things she wanted to being able to express her needs with full sentences."

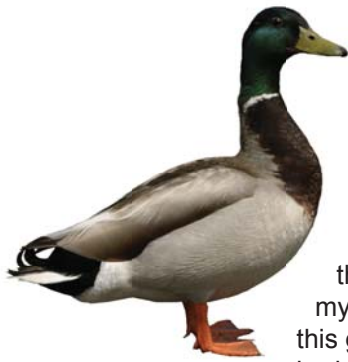
In addition to WalkRite for RiteCare in Omaha, Scottish Rite Masons are working on hosting a walk in Lincoln in 2013. If you are interested in serving on a committee to bring WalkRite for RiteCare to your Valley, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org



Strypes the Clown (Scott Robertson, 32°) entertains one of our RiteCare kids



Korey Stading, M.S., RiteCare clinician from the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute and some of the RiteCare children.



As a history admirer, my life gravitated to becoming a Free Mason as well as a Scottish Rite Freemason. For the past three years, I've been trying to listen to as many stories as I can about the glory days of Masonry, and thought to myself I wish

this generation had the desire to get back to those days of years past. One of the best experiences highlighting Masonry and the history behind it was this past Spring, when I attended a Scottish Rite Reunion in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The building, the relics and the participation there was

rendering me speechless and made me want to experience some of this aura in my own Valley. As I looked around the building there, I came about to the back of the stage and saw a bunch of pictures under a heading called The Royal Order of the Duck. Being intrigued, I asked a gentleman working in the wardrobe room what this group was all about. He told me that it was an independent group within the Scottish Rite, run by the stage crew with the purpose of involving new Scottish Rite Masons in their Valley. Jim Wolfe, 33° is a member of the Ducks in Guthrie, as was his father. With Jim's help, and approval from Curt Edic, 33°, we have formed a chapter, called a Flight, in the Omaha Valley.

With the purpose of the Royal Order of the Duck in mind, as well as what I learned from the Scottish Rite Leadership Conference in St. Louis just 2 weeks earlier, I thought this would be a great addition to my Valley.

I want the Royal Order of the Ducks to preserve our historic theater and improve the stagecraft of our degrees. Our Brethren have put so much time, energy and funds to make

SO THIS DUCK WALKS INTO THE 'RITE...

this theatre stand out in town, I want to see this group continue these efforts and encourage others to get involve and do the same. The Ducks will help with painting and making new props, buying and restoring older costumes, and improving lighting and sound for the theatre. I also see the Ducks incorporating new elements to our degrees, such as professional make-up, and helping with acting in the more challenging roles within our degree work.

The best thing about The Royal Order of the Duck is that the group is open to any Scottish Rite Mason, black, red, or white hat. I really believe this group can improve our already-fantastic theatre, and also give our members something new to be proud of. The initiation or "hatching" is \$50, and annual dues are \$25. Please e-mail me if you are interested in getting involved

with the Royal Order of the Duck!

*Chris S. Nigro, 32°
cnigro@yahoo.com*



Reunion stage crew (April 2011) - Jim Sklnar, Greg Hadcock, Don Ellenberger, Mike O'Donnell, Charlie Marchand, & Schadd Gray



with Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr. 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska and Frank Kroupa, 33°, President of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Board (right). **All Masons, their families, and friends are invited to the Scottish Rite cornerstone re-dedication on November 17, 2012 in Omaha, following the degrees of the Fall Reunion. Call (402) 342-1300 for more information. Tickets for the Reunion banquet are \$25 (2012 candidates are free).**

Grand Master Henry Gibbons presides at the Scottish Rite Groundbreaking in Omaha, June 6, 1912 (left). M.W. Rex Moats, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska presides at the groundbreaking re-enactment on July 28, 1912

RiteCare

Award-winning country musician Brad Paisley - or rather *Brother Brad Paisley*, 32° of Hiram Lodge #4 in Franklin, TN - visited Omaha in July for the Red Sky concert series at T.D. Ameritrade stadium. Thanks to some fancy coordination with Curt Edic, 33°, General Secretary in Omaha, and Stan Dodd, 33°, Assistant Membership Director at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., Brad Paisley took time after the concert to visit George and Janae Svegera, and their son Joey, a RiteCare patient.

Janae recently wrote to tell us what RiteCare services meant to her family:

I knew something was wrong with our Joey when he was about 2 years old and only said a couple words, his vocabulary just never expanded and he had trouble with other communication techniques such as eye contact. We started having him evaluated by the local school system, and he was diagnosed with autism right around his third birthday.

We were not sure what to do, but months later we took him to the wonderful people at Munroe-Meyer per a request by his Doctor, and the autism was verified by a medical team.

This was a very sad that day as I could no longer live in denial, but then shortly afterward, an amazing thing happened....by the grace of God he was accepted to be part of the Scottish Rite RiteCare program. It has truly been the best thing that has happened to our family since he was diagnosed!

The speech therapy was extremely needed, but something we could not have afforded without RiteCare services. He now works with The wonderful Miss Jenn [Jennifer Brock, RiteCare speech pathologist] every week. Although he is fairly new to the program I am amazed at what Miss Jenn has done for him. She actually gets him to have a conversation! He is much more verbal after his visits with her and is even in a better mood! Somehow she is able to get things out of him that nobody else can and always stays positive. Our goal is for Joey to go to kindergarten in a year with as little support as possible, and Miss Jenn makes me feel like that is possible.

Miss Jenn always gives me hope instead of focusing on the negative, which is what other people had done before her. I am so grateful to Miss Jenn and the

Scottish Rite, they give our family the best gift we could ever ask for, and that is HOPE for our sons future and there is nothing better than that!

No matter how active a Scottish Rite Mason you are, it is easy to forget what our philanthropy does. We support RiteCare costs, with a budget of approximately \$600,000 each year through our fundraisers, our events, our appeal letters, and our Foundation. On behalf of the hundreds of families

we have served over the past year, thank you for your generous support for our philanthropies. We could not continue to help Joey without our members.



George Svegera, Brad Paisley, 32°, Janae and Joey Svegera



Congratulations to Ben Kendle, son of Wade (32°) and Deb Kendle of Lincoln, Nebraska. Picture above with Amber Jara, RiteCare clinician at the Barkley Memorial Center, Ben graduates RiteCare after 2 years of therapy.

Deb Kendle writes:

This is Ben on his last class at the RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln. I guess you can call it his graduation day. He truly loved every session we went to. When I would tell him we were going there, his shoes would be on, reminding me it was time to go. Thank you to all the Scottish Rite Masons who have helped Ben! We are truly grateful and Ben would not be talking right now if it wasn't for the generosity of the Scottish Rite Masons. Thank You So Much!

Development

In the past year, Scottish Rite Masons have hosted a golf tournament, the Friends of Scottish Rite dinner, Century Club appeals, presented an award to distinguished teachers, provided scholarships to tomorrow's leaders, and hosted numerous Masonic events designed to support our local philanthropies. Masons are, of course, generous, but a significant trend has become apparent.

THE POWER OF



There is a revolution in how we receive donations for our Masonic philanthropies. Fifty years ago or a hundred years ago, there might have been a few wealthy patrons of a Masonic Lodge or the Scottish Rite or the Shrine who left a fund, whose interest income continues to support us today. Earlier in this edition, you read about Brothers Charles Slagle and Frank Knight, both of whom left funds which supported Masonic initiatives in Alliance for years. As our membership declined over the years, there are fewer of those Masons who leave endowments. Of course, all the Valleys do receive generous planned gifts, such as the farm William Seybolt bequeathed to the Lincoln Valley, but recently we have seen an increase in smaller gifts from a much wider base of Scottish Rite Masons.

You see, Scottish Rite Masonry and our philanthropies are still important to him, and he dug deep to make a small gift which, when added to other gifts, makes a large impact on our ability to serve. His gift illustrates that Scottish Rite Masonry is alive and well! I keep his note on my desk to remind me of that.

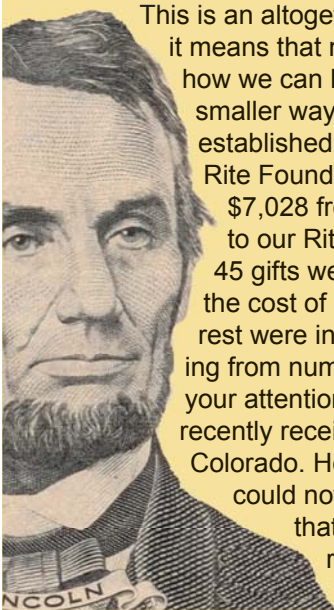
Often, we hear a Brother say "My contribution is too small to make a difference." If everyone who thought this had donated whatever "small contribution" they were thinking of, it would probably add up to more than every cent we've received so far! If you're wondering whether to make a small donation, consider that other people may be asking themselves that very question at the same time as you. Those "small contributions" have amounted to nearly 70 sessions of therapy for children with speech disorders!

For too long, Masons have quietly relied on our funds, but the truth is that the cost of providing quality RiteCare programs increases (but is still provided far more cost-effectively than comparable services provided anywhere else) and we need to remain a competitive force in the philanthropic world. We can't do this alone, and we can't rely on "someone else" to do it. Please be that "someone else," and make a donation to your local Valley's Foundation or the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. No matter how small it is, it makes a big difference. Just like the \$5.

*Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH
micah@SRNE.org*

Are you 70 1/2 and already receiving your required minimum distributions (RMDs)?

Any IRA holder who has reached the age of 70 1/2 is eligible to make the tax-free transfer of funds from his or her IRA to a charitable organization. Also at 70 1/2, the IRA holder starts to receive the taxable required minimum distributions (RMDs) from his or her IRA. Accordingly, at year-end, many charitable-minded IRA holders with excess RMD amounts would prefer to use these funds for charitable contributions. The 2006 Pension Act permits an IRA holder to distribute either a portion or all of his or her RMD tax-free directly from his or her IRA by transferring any amount up to a total of \$100,000 to a favorite qualified public charity. The IRA holder reduces his or her taxable income by the amount distributed and the charity receives a contribution. Please consider the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska or the Scottish Rite Foundation in your Valley in your year-end or holiday giving.



This is an altogether heartening trend, because it means that more of us are thinking about how we can help Masonry, even if it is in a smaller way than those trusts our forbears established. For example, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska has raised \$7,028 from Brethren, all of which goes to our RiteCare Clinics. Of this amount, 45 gifts were \$101 or more, representing the cost of one session of therapy. The rest were in amounts of \$50 or less, coming from numerous Brethren. I want to call your attention to a gift of \$5 for RiteCare, recently received from a brother, retired in Colorado. He wrote a note saying "Sorry I could not send more." I thought about that \$5 he sent, and the more I reflect on this gift, the more meaningful that donation is.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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 January-February's Journal must be received no later than mid-November for consideration.)