



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

September-October 2013 • Volume 3, Issue 5

Calendar

Sep 4, 11, 18, 25	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Sep 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Sep 15	WalkRite for RiteCare (L)
Sep 18	Fall Outing (O)
Sep 22	WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
Sep 27	Feast of Tishri (L)
Sep 28	WalkRite for RiteCare (H)
Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Oct 12	Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
Oct 25	Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner (O)
Nov 8 & 9	Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)
Nov 8 & 9	Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
Nov 6, 13, 20	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Nov 7, 14, 21,	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Nov 21, 22, 23	Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
Dec 4, 11, 18	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Dec 5, 12, 19	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 20

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Sep 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

**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

The membership article is sometimes really hard to write. I observe Scottish Rite and Blue Lodge membership statistics, while reading other Masonic bodies' membership columns. Almost invariably, they are grim, detailing declining numbers and an aging membership.

But these numbers don't tell the entire story. In fact, I believe we are at the beginning of a membership renaissance. My evidence for this is that barely a week goes by when we don't get a call from someone asking about how to join Masonry or someone walking in off the street asking to learn about Masonry or see the building. From what I hear and see, Lodges are raising brothers monthly (sometimes weekly), and the new members are most often men in their 20s and 30s.

I'm not saying that this is a complete reversal of our declining members, and I qualify this by saying that what started on the east and west coast takes years to get to the Midwest, and more time to move west from Omaha. But having travelled around the Orient of Nebraska, we've raised great brothers over the past few years, and they are getting involved in Masonry in ways that we'd never have thought possible even ten years ago.

The bottom line to this is that there is a new thirst for men to get involved. Facebook, Twitter, and social media are fun diversions, but they aren't the hand-to-back and mouth-to-ear personal connections that people crave. Brothers want the social element you get from sitting around a table and having a laugh or two.

This is the strength of Masonry.

One of the local newspapers ran an editorial called "Service Clubs Still Offer Face Time" which corroborated the data that civic organizations' membership are declining. But the article made the point that the personal contact continues to be the key to the continued success and strength of these organizations. "Eyeball to eyeball is how business works," said Larry Gomez of the Greater Omaha



Stan Thayer, 32° KCCH and Mario Kolicic, 32° at the 2013 Spring Reunion for the Central Nebraska Valley in Hastings.

Continued on page 2

Valley of Alliance

The Scottish Rite has been dark in June, July, and August, but we resume our monthly meetings on the Fourth Friday this September. All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to the monthly Lodge meeting. The Fall Reunion will be on November 8th and 9th, so please reach out to potential Scottish Rite Masons and invite them to join.

The Valley of Alliance has upgraded internet service to 30mbps, to accommodate RiteCare patients in the satellite clinic. Please let families know about the telepractice clinic, so their children can benefit from RiteCare services.

Alliance Lodge #183, which meets in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, recently celebrated their 125th anniversary, and the Lodge has been certified for 68 years!

The Alliance Masonic Center experienced some flooding on the roof, which has been repaired. Please call the Valley if you'd like to make a donation in support of the repairs and on-going maintenance. We are also inviting the community to rent our beautiful building, so please let your friends, neighbors, and co-workers know the building is available for weddings, receptions, parties, or other events.

Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
gene123@mail.com



Your tax-deductible donation of \$101 to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska represents the cost of one session of therapy with a RiteCare clinician. All donations help ensure children in Nebraska, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay, can receive evaluation and treatment.

Membership, continued

Chamber of Commerce. "Trust is part of the Midwest ethic. You've got to look a person in the eye to get business done. . . ." he says. Sounds kind of like Masonry, doesn't it? Moreover, volunteering is alive and well, according to this editorial! Community service is oftentimes part of high school and college curriculum.

Fifty years ago, getting involved and volunteering in person was the only way to do it. If you wanted to get involved with a group or cause, you had to "take to the streets" and get your hands dirty.

Over the course of the years, getting involved became what *New York Times* editorialist and social observer David Brooks called arm-chair activism. You could save the whales, preserve the wetlands, and feed the hungry simply writing a check from the comfort of home. Other social observers called this *slacktivism*: joining a Facebook cause group, boycotting a product or company, signing an online petition. You make your voice heard without even getting up!

The thirst for getting involved is turning around from this trend. The Rotary and other groups are seeing a slow reversal as men and women want to get involved personally. This may be no more than gathering for lunch to hear a



Brother Bryan Dring, 32° (left) brought his band down to the Scottish Rite last year to play a benefit concert for Isaac Barchus, who has CANDLE syndrome.

speaker, but hopefully it is the beginning of a long term trend. So what does this mean for Masonry and membership? It means we need to be the first to welcome this new wave of people who thirst to do something in person rather than by the click of a mouse. Lodges need to be proactive at arranging dinners or fundraisers, giving new members an outlet for their leadership and interests, leading and orchestrating these events.

In the Scottish Rite, we must engage the members with programs and activities. This can involve giving new members the chairmanship of the Celebrating the Craft committee, arranging a wine tasting with a local distributor, or putting together a golf outing. The biggest threat to our organization is not recruitment, but membership retention! We need members involved, and when they feel there is an outlet for both giving back and the social interaction members need, they will remain committed Masons.

It is not as easy as it sounds. It is easy to fall back on "Ol' Brother Joe," who has done it so capably for many years. But if we take the harder step to get all the new brothers engaged, not only will they remain life-long members, they'll bring their friends who want to be part of it, too!

Valley of Hastings



Presenting the 2013 Hastings Public Schools Teacher of the Year to Ms. Julie Parker are (L-R) Hastings Public Schools Superintendent, Craig Kautz, Bob Parker, 32°, Julie Parker, and Kyle Martindale, 32°.

Julie Parker is a kindergarten teacher at Hawthorne Elementary School in Hastings.

WHILE WE WERE YET STRANGERS

Masons share a bond which has hitherto remained unexplained by man...let me try.

While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.
Half naked, hoodwinked, with a cable-toe about your neck.

While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.
Pointed pressure against your breast—for the first time in your life---your decision because...

While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.
Pressure once again against your breast, duties sworn to keep, yet...

While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.

One more time subjected to the craft, the prize at last in sight, shrinking not from weighty ties you gladly assumed because...
While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.

Nay, more my Brother, the prize denied you, one more time plunged into darkness, and yet still my Brother...
While we were yet strangers, You trusted me.

Once upon a time...I was once where you are...And that was when my Brother,
While we were yet strangers, I Trusted You.

Because you are now a Master in the Craft...
I trusted You, before You trusted Me.

Strangers no more.

James A. Craig, 32° KCCH
sec@albertpike303.org

WalkRite for RiteCare™

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

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

September 28, 2013
(rain or shine)

at the
Hastings Masonic Temple
411 N. Hastings Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901

**Help us recruit candidates for the
Central Nebraska Scottish Rite
Fall Reunion in Hasting!**

October 12, 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 Phil Odom, 33°, General Secretary at
(402) 462-5813 or e-mail masonicctemple@windstream.net for more information.**

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Valley of Lincoln

Brother to Brother

One of the goals of Scottish Rite is to increase membership. It is equally important to retain the members that we already have. We need to make them feel like they have value to the Rite. As one way to reach this goal Lincoln Valley decided to call all members on their birthdays to extend greetings from Scottish Rite.

I accepted this task as an assignment. As I began to call members I quickly realized the value of this effort. The men are surprised to hear from me, and are extremely appreciative of being remembered in this way. A couple of the guys have even choked up. They said, "I haven't heard from Scottish Rite for years. This is so nice." "What a surprise. This is wonderful!" Some of them just want to talk about what Scottish Rite has meant to them through the years. The older ones seem to appreciate it the most. They have shared some interesting stories, most of them focused on memories of their early days in the Rite. It is gratifying to hear them respond when they hear that I am interested in them as a brother and friend. I have come away with a greater appreciation of the brotherhood and the values espoused by Scottish Rite.

I no longer view this as a task, but as a mission. This is a simple means of extending brotherly love and friendship in a tangible way. What a powerful way to express the true meaning of Scottish Rite Masonry. Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald Seale calls it a "Brother to Brother program." I can testify that this is one program that is truly worth the effort required to sustain it.

Mervyn Moeller, 32°
mlmoe41@yahoo.com

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
FEAST OF TISHRI
Feast in the East
Save the Date
Friday, September 27, 2013
5:45 p.m. social time • 6:30 p.m. dinner

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
332 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508
Call (402) 435-2144 or
e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net
for reservations or more information.
www.scottishritelincn.org



That seems to be the question General Secretaries hear most often from our brethren who have not graced the doors of our Temples for years and years. Ask yourself what sparked your initial interest in the Scottish Rite? Why did you stop participating? In the past, when membership rolls were swelled with many Brethren, could it be there was nothing for you to do?

Do you remember the times when all the degrees were full of good actors and the property and wardrobe crew were overflowing with help? The kitchen crew always managed to produce a delectable meal and we still had quite a number of Brethren that just enjoyed the fellowship and watching degrees as they delved deeper into the great truths in Masonry. Those good old days are not so easy to enjoy today, but they are still available. Maybe not on the grand scale of years past but still just as fulfilling for those that are faithful.

Yes, we manage to get by with fewer Brethren, but the degree work is still as meaningful, still full of all the many lessons of life and history. The Brethren still gather to break bread in social fellowship, but someone is missing. Is it you?

If you reflect on the times you knelt at the altar of your Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite or Shrine and obligated yourself to our fellowship; do you not think it worthy of your attendance? All of our Lodges need your help; yes each and every one of us can help. What does that require? Show up, take an active role, visit with those you have not seen in awhile and have some fun.

As Masons we are taught many lessons that mold our lives, we should always look for the positive no matter what life puts in our paths. We are a great fraternity and we need to fraternize with each other. We have missed YOU!

So, we invite you to our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, our reunions, and our social events. If you have not attended in some time, or if you are a regular, come and see WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU!

Bruce Wood, 33
General Secretary, Valley of Lincoln
scottishrite@windstream.net

Valley of Omaha

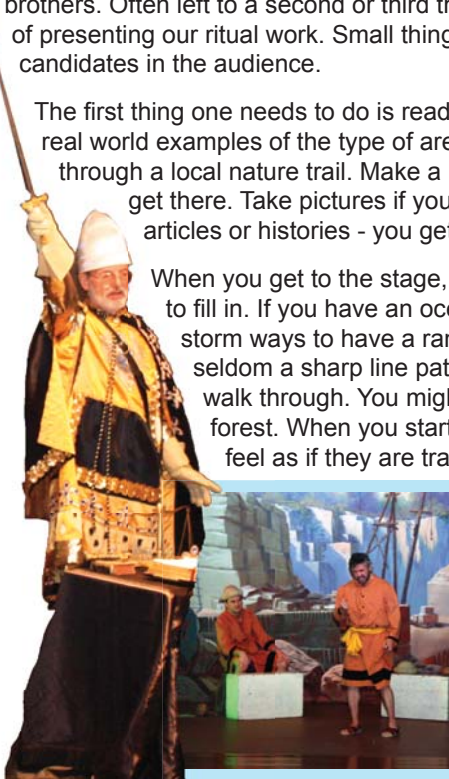
THE ART OF THEATER

BY ZACK SINSHEIMER, 32°
SINBAR@GMAIL.COM

When we talk about ritual work we often want to focus on the words and actions that are presented to our candidates and brothers. Often left to a second or third thought is the technical aspect of what we are presenting. That is the stagecraft of presenting our ritual work. Small things on stage can make your ritual look better and leave a big impression on the candidates in the audience.

The first thing one needs to do is read the script, and then consider the mood that needs to be set. Go see (if possible) real world examples of the type of area the scene is set in. If you are doing a scene or ritual in a forest, go take a hike through a local nature trail. Make a note of the sounds, sights, shadows, light; smells (yes, smells) and feeling you get there. Take pictures if you can. If you can't get to the real thing, look up reference material, read travel articles or histories - you get the picture.

When you get to the stage, set your scene and ask yourself, *What am I missing?* You'll have a starting point to fill in. If you have an ocean and you want that sparkle of the water on the scene, you will want to brainstorm ways to have a random shadow/highlight dance across that portion of your backdrop. Nature is seldom a sharp line pattern. For your forest scene, you may want the mix of light shadows for actors to walk through. You might look at shooting a light through something to give you that feel of being in the forest. When you start working the stage craft into your ritual presentation, you make your audience feel as if they are transported more to a place and time, not just sitting in a theater watching a show.



PODCASTING AT THE *'Rite*

A podcast is basically a radio program, aired on the internet. There are several Masonic podcasts online, including *The Life Masonic*, which is hosted by Jason Van Dyke, 32° of the Scottish Rite's House of the Temple available through scottishrite.org or iTunes.

The Valley of Omaha recently entered the podcasting scene with a new program called *To the East*. Chris Nigro, 32° and Micah Evans, 32° KCCH recorded the Scottish Rite's first podcast on May 18, discussing "What Brought Me to Masonry." On July 13, we recorded the second podcast, discussing "Technology and

Masonry." Our new Scottish Rite Brother Zack Sinsheimer, 32° has done a masterful job editing and producing the programs. These programs are available at <http://sromaha.libsyn.com>, and are between 15 and 20 minutes. Our goal is to regularly record programs of interest to Masons and potential Masons. We will soon be able to take the show on the road, talking to Masons anywhere in Nebraska, collecting oral histories, and putting together new stories. Each month, we'll have a new podcast, so tune in and join the conversation. If you have ideas for a future topic or want to participate, please e-mail Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org.



Chris Nigro, 32° records "To the East"

Chris Nigro, 32°
cnigro@yahoo.com

Micah Evans, 32° KCCH
micah@SRNE.org

Omaha Golf Outing and Tournament Supports RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic



A fivesome at the annual Golf Outing and Benefit:
(l to r) Barry and Mindy Major, Mike and Sonia Spanheimer,
and Okley Gibbs

77 players came out on a perfect June day at Shoreline Golf Course in Carter Lake, Iowa for the 16th annual Scottish Rite Golf Outing and Benefit, supporting the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha and the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. Golfers enjoyed 18 holes of golf, followed by a great prime rib dinner at the Scottish Rite.

Title sponsors for the Golf Outing were **RBC Wealth Management, the Garlock Foundation, and the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute**. Numerous companies and individuals supported the Golf Outing as hole sponsors. Thanks to their generosity, as well as the players, the Golf Outing raised approximately \$6,000 for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha.

Golf committee chair John "Buzz" Garlock awarded prizes for putting contests, hole contests, as well as raffle prizes. The first flight winners were Lauren Faist, Brian Zahm, Rich Toftness and Josh Toftness. Second place winners were Jim Baxter, Joe Giyona, Brian Dervin, and Phil Lorenzen. For the second flight, 1st place winners were Greg Swinarski, Keith Halsey, Jim Miller, and Phil Harmon. 2nd place winners were Jerry Murtaugh, Don Peterson, Don Kavalec, and John O'Leary.

This year, Nebraska Husker All-American (1970) Jerry Murtaugh joined Buzz in auctioning several donations, including a football signed by him and Husker John O'Leary. Jerry and Buzz also auctioned a golf outing at Woodland Hills, which was purchased by RiteCare clinician Carol Gaebler.

This was a special year, as we wished a happy retirement to Marsha Sullivan, longtime director of the state's RiteCare Clinics at the Munroe-Meyer Institute. In retirement, Marsha will move to Minnesota to be closer to family. On behalf of Omaha's Scottish Rite Masons, Buzz presented her a \$300 gift card to Lowe's, to help her get started on gardening



A foursome at the annual Golf Outing and Benefit:
(l to r) Marcus Micheli, Bryan Dring, Lee Terry, and Josh Yates

and projects in her new home.

Interim RiteCare director Carol Gaebler gave a moving tribute to Marsha's long years of service and extraordinary care for her staff and RiteCare kids. Marsha Sullivan has been a compassionate advocate for children affected by speech and language disorders, and she will be very much missed by RiteCare families and her staff at the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

The Culinary Masters outdid themselves, preparing a great dinner of prime rib, baked potato, corn, and salad. Hiland Dairies donated ice cream which was served afterward.

For information on how to plan a golf outing to benefit your Valley's Foundation or the RiteCare Clinics, e-mail Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call Micah at (402) 342-1300.



RiteCare Clinic director Marsha Sullivan thanks the members
as we wish her a happy retirement.

RiteCare

We started our Journey with RiteCare on Jacob's 2nd Birthday. He was an energetic two year old eager to learn and keep up with his three older brothers. The

As Jacob got older, intelligibility and apraxia of speech became an issue he needed to overcome. He had SO many things to say and desperately wanted to be

School Bowling team. He has a love for science and history and enrolls in typical classes such as Biology, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Government, American History and Child Development to name a few.

Thanks to therapy, Jacob has skills that have increased his ability to be independent, given him the confidence to problem solve and advocate for himself, fully participate in his community and has opened the door to endless possibilities. Jacob can now be a contributing member of society and is equipped to pursue his unalienable right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

*Denise Gehringer
RiteCare mom
jeg3@cox.net*

Jacob's Journey

RiteCare augmentative pre-school taught Jacob that he could communicate

using many means of communication. There he learned to use sign language, augmentative speech equipment and his sounds and expressive language were cultivated.

Pre-reading skills we also learned as the lessons were centered on story books. The friendly and cheery Speech and Language Pathologists made learning happy and fun. Korey Stading was one of the very first clinicians he worked with. He is still gaining skills from her creativity and expertise today, 16 years later. Shortly after starting RiteCare Pre-school Jacob had less frustrated behavior because he quickly learned that he could communicate his needs in many ways. Because of this ability to communicate, he was able to assimilate into an inclusive classroom in Kindergarten and be a part of his community right from the start of his school experience.



understood. Jacob began working with Paul Laikko to improve the clarity of Jake's speech. Soon after, Paul included Jacob in a social group where Jacob was able to practice the skills he was learning with others struggling with speech issues. Because of this therapy, Jacob's classmates were able to understand what he had to say.

This kept him in the thick of things on the playground and in the classroom. He could participate in class discussions, ask questions and express his ideas. Eliminating this intelligibility barrier has allowed him to be



an active learner in inclusive classes, learning alongside of his typically developing peers. Currently as a high school student, Jacob fully participates in Marching Band and is on the High

Most recently Jacob has benefited from the Literacy piece of RiteCare's mission to help overcome Speech, Language and Literacy difficulties. Through the creativity, innovation and forward thinking of clinician Kory Stading, Jacob has advanced his reading ability and is making progress that was not able to be achieved in the school system. Kory has created a program that takes into consideration the struggles students with expressive speech issues have when making sounds and has shaped a reading program to enable them to learn the sounds phonetically. Jacob is now able to read a menu at a restaurant, follow signs to navigate his way around, read his lines while rehearsing his performance in plays, read books or magazines for pleasure and has become a proficient iPad and computer user. He continues to work and further his reading skills today at RiteCare.

Jacob is now exploring post-secondary options and his interest to be a Pre-school teacher or teacher's aide. He will be assisting in the RiteCare Pre-school this summer to further research his career interests for the future.



Recognizing Jacob's participation at WalkRite for RiteCare the past several years, including joining WalkRite on his 17th birthday last year, Jacob served as Honorary Team Captain this year at the Omaha WalkRite for RiteCare on September 22nd at Lake Zorinsky.

As Team Captain, Jacob serves to get other RiteCare families involved, inspire their participation and support, and help raise recognition for the RiteCare services in Nebraska.

On behalf of Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons, thank you for serving as Honorary Team Captain, Jacob!

Development

THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY

A REPORT BY
THE SOCIAL
ISSUES RESEARCH
CENTRE
2012

As part of the United Grand Lodge of England's upcoming 300th anniversary in 2017, an independent, third-party study was commissioned in 2012 about what it means to be a Freemason in contemporary society.

Much of what was revealed in the study confirms what Masons have long known: Freemasonry supports our innate need to belong, to

bond through shared experiences, and to share ritual and friendship. Interestingly enough, many Masons, when asked, spoke about the charitable role Masonry plays, with "relief" being a central tenet. When interviewed, Masons had a nuanced approach to charity, some joining specifically because of charity. Others knew nothing about it until after they joined. Others didn't join to be givers, but arrived at that conclusion through a natural process of thinking about others, and then thinking about supporting others through time and through financial support.

Through interviews with Masons, it becomes evident that we see charity as a key element of who we are. Relief for the widow and orphan, support for Masonic causes, the quiet, anonymous charity from the Almoner, and philanthropy for community causes are inseparable from what it means to be a Mason.

The report revealed several thoughts on Masonic philanthropy:

[Masons] didn't join to give to charity. . . they are gentleman who consider the needs of others. And therefore, when you join you have a natural progress of thinking of the needs of others, and then thinking of charitable things.

Another responded: *Charity is the thing that attracted me to Freemasonry. It is easy to give in Freemasonry because we enjoy ourselves at the same time.*

Yet another recognized *"the nice thing about giving to charity through Freemasonry is that it's very well run, it's very well organized, and you know that any money you give. . . is more likely to have a greater impact."*

Some Masons felt their charitable activities were largely unrecognized by the public, while the general consensus was that "boasting" about charitable work was not the Freemasons' way.

So what does this mean for us? The take-away is that charity is part of who we are as Masons, regardless of the recognition we may receive. We give because, as Albert Pike said, it is "that which it is right to do."

We ask a lot of you as Masons, supporting your Lodge, York Rite bodies, Scottish Rite, Eastern Star, Shrine, the Masonic Home, the Eastern Star-Masonic Home for Children, Grand Lodge charitable programs, and a host of other Masonic opportunities.

I simply ask you to be mindful of our charities, and to help out when you can. Whether you support Shriners Hospitals for Children, the York Rite Eye Foundation, Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska and our RiteCare Clinics, your local Valley, or others, please remember that we can only do what we do because of you. Please remember your favorite Masonic charity in your estate planning or annual giving.

Not only does it feel good, you get the double benefit of knowing you are helping others while adding one more brick to Masons' centuries-old legacy of giving.



Micah Evans, 32° KCCH
Development Director
Orient of Nebraska

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

***"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 November-December's Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-September for consideration.)