



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

January-February, 2019 • Volume IX, Issue 1

Features:

**Alliance Valley Feeds the Hungry
with Community Table**

Hastings Hosts Orient-wide Reunion

Lincoln Celebrates Feast of Tishri

**Omaha Valley Holds 10th Annual
Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner &
Auction**

... and much more!

**Great evening supporting Scottish Rite philanthropies at the
2018 Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner! See page 5 for story...**

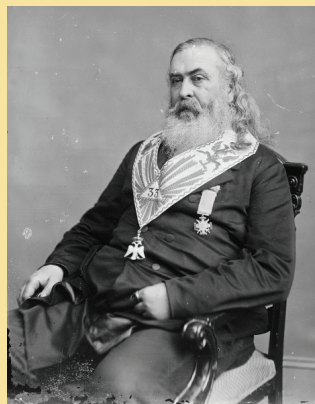
Auctioneer Tom Zoucha encourages Andrew Muska, 32° to bid at the 2018 Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction, as his wife Christina encourages him!

Masonry, meant to be exclusive, has become popular... Masons no longer feel nearer to each other because they ARE Masons... We have flung the doors of our temple too far back upon their hinges, and all the world have come in; and there is now the same necessity for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite that there was originally for Masonry itself. One after one, the other high degrees have been popularized, until the words 'Brother' and 'Companion' are merely formal, mere idle, empty phrases of conventional propriety; instead of having, as they once had, and still should have, a deep and earnest meaning.

-Albert Pike, March 29, 1860

Pike's quote, written 158 years ago, is as apt now as then. There is no question that

Membership



and only then after due examination and after proving he is in good standing. The wisdom in our Degrees is only taught to Freemasons. Our meetings themselves shut out the world, and the strife of politics and religion is strictly set aside. None of this is to indicate we are *secret*, but that we are *exclusive*.

Freemasonry is meant to be exclusive. We meet behind tyled doors, and only a man vouched for by Brethren can enter a Lodge meeting,

In fact, the very art of initiation into the principles of Freemasonry sets a Brother apart from the world and makes him a member of the body of Masons, the main characteristic of which is its distinct separation from worldly issues and discord.

So if exclusivity is our goal – not by limiting a man from obtaining the secrets based on his wealth or social position, but by the earnestness of his desire for further light in Masonry – is popularizing Masonry akin to destroying it? If the requirements for admission are lowered so that any man with \$50 and a few free evenings can wander into the Tyler's room and become a Master Mason, and anyone who desires admission can receive it, doesn't that destroy the concept of exclusivity?

... continued on page 7

Orient Calendar

Jan 11..... KSA Members Appreciation Dinner (O)
 Jan 19.....Scottish Rite Officers Installation (L)
 Jan 25.....Scotch Tasting (O)
 Jan 26.....Robert Burns Dinner (L)
 Jan 26...Scottish Society of Nebraska Robert Burns Dinner (O)
 Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Jan 27.....Scottish Rite Broadway Series: *Aladdin* (O)
 Feb 1-2 GLNE Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)
 Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Mar 3.....Scottish Rite Broadway Series: *On Your Feet!* (O)
 Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Mar 29.....Scottish Rite Broadway Series: *Jay Leno* (O)
 Mar 29, Apr 5, Apr 12 Fish Fry Fridays (O)
 Apr 3, 10, 17, 24 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Apr 4, 11, 18, 25 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Apr 28.....Scottish Rite Broadway Series: *School of Rock* (O)
 May 2, 3, 4.....Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
 May 8, 15, 22, 29 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 May 9, 16, 23, 30 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Jun 2 Scottish Rite Broadway Series: *Miss Saigon* (O)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Jan 25, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 2, May 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 1 (TBD), Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 26, May 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Jan 16, Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 17, May 22

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20

For more information

contact the General Secretary in your Valley

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



On November 13th, Alliance Lodge #183 hosted a blood drive welcoming a decent crowd between 8 and noon.

I hope all Brethren have enjoyed the Christmas and New Year's with friends and loved ones and are staying warm as the weather grows colder. The Valley may be a bit quiet during these chilly winter months, but we've stayed busy in Alliance the last few months. Alliance Lodge #183 hosted a blood drive on November 13th, with quite a few donors coming in to give blood.

The Scottish Rite building has also played host to Community Table. On the first day, we served six people, and it has increased every day. On non-school days, we serve sixty people, with at least 40 on other days. We have volunteers from all around Box Butte County, and food and donors from local businesses. This really shows both the need



Some of the Community Table volunteers at the Alliance Scottish Rite

for services in the Panhandle Counties, as well as the generosity of the communities who give generously to help people in need. If you would like to donate time, resources, or money, please let me know.

I want to acknowledge the members of the Alliance Scottish Rite 4th Degree - Dwight Smith, 33°, Dave Thomas, 32°, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH - who did a first-rate job at the All-State Reunion in Hastings in October. Thank you for representing the Alliance Valley! We are anticipating our Spring Reunion, though as of now, a date has not yet been set. Please reach out to Brethren and explain how being a Scottish Rite Mason continues their Masonic journey and education. Let's have a big class in the Spring!

*Gene Gatti, 33°
 General Secretary
 gene123@mail.com*



Bill Lichtenberger, 33° Memorial Class

Top Row (left to right): Mike Gray, 33°, Warder Shires, 32° KCCH, George White, 33°, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, David Thomas, 32°, R.W. Ron Stites, 33°, R.W. Bob Moninger, 32° KCCH, Dennis Brydl, 33°, Ray Dimmick, 32° KCCH

Second Row (left to right): M.W. John Maxell, 33°, Bruce Wood, 33°, M.W. Dwight Smith, 33°, M.W. Don Rasmussen, 33°, Randy Jones, 33°, Mike Small, 33°, Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, Jim Horsham, 32°, Arnel MacDonald, 32° KCCH

Front Row (left to right): Stewart Clow, 32°, Jordan Wellendorf, 32°, Joshua Karr, 32°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Ethan Maydwell, 32°, Tyson McPhillips, 32°



Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Ron Nielsen, 32° KCCH and M.W. John Maxell, 33° with Kim Panowicz at the UNK RiteCare Clinic



How do you get Masons to stand still for a picture? Put on the Nebraska football game!

Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons Welcome New Brethren at the All-State Reunion Hosted By the Valley of Hastings

The Valley of Hastings hosted the 2018 All-State Reunion on Saturday, October 13th. The Reunion was named the Bill Lichtenberger, 33° Memorial Reunion after Illustrious Sir Bill Lichtenberger, Past Potentate of Tehama Shrine (2011) and 33° Scottish Rite Mason.

Five candidates were initiated, and the Orient welcomed Stewart Clow from North Platte, Tyson McPhillips from Lincoln, Jordan Wellendorf from Omaha, Joshua Karr from Grand Island and Ethan Maydwell from Hastings.

Alliance hosted the 4°, Grand Lodge of Nebraska Officers hosted the 8°, Hastings hosted the 14°, 18° and 30°, and Lincoln hosted the 32° team. Each Valley stages the Degrees a little differently, based on Valley traditions. For example, M.W. Scott Krieger does the lecture and obligation from the 30° which he learned before the ritual was changed about 12 years ago. His lecture expertly connects the sovereignty inherent in citizens against unchecked tyranny concentrated in the hands of rulers, as evidenced by the death of Knights Templar Grand Master Jacques deMolay at the hands of Phillip IV of France.



Roger Deininger, 32° KCCH, MW Scott Krieger, 33°, and Danny Nonneman, 32° in the 30th Degree, hosted by the Hastings Valley

The 32° is conducted on the Lodge room floor by the Valley of Lincoln. Rather than a theater backdrop showing the Grand Encampment, the Candidate is conducted from one tent to the next on the Lodge floor to receive the 32° Prince of the Royal Secret degree. Members of the Orient were able to see this unique Degree team, which is only done at the Lincoln Reunion.

The Valley of Hastings hosted an excellent breakfast on Saturday morning, and Mike Bruns from Big Dally's Deli provided an excellent lunch of sandwiches and his famous chicken noodle soup. RiteCare Clinician Kris Althouse shared a video about one family whose four children had re-

ceived services in Hastings for Apraxia and shared her appreciation for Scottish Rite Masons who were able to underwrite services for the four children. Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska, reminded members of the incredible power of the RiteCare services Scottish Rite Masons provide and asked members to continue generously supporting fundraising initiatives.

The SGIG and several Brethren also had the opportunity the night before to visit the RiteCare Clinic in Kearney, tour the Communications department at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and learn about the services offered through UNK and telepractice services provided. Other states RiteCare program often come to Kearney to learn about telepractice services, which can provide first-rate speech therapy to a child anywhere using nothing more sophisticated than an iPad or smart tablet.

John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary for Omaha, envisions an all-state Reunion being held every several years, as an opportunity to see Degrees presented in new ways and promote fellowship across the state.



Photos: Rabbi Teri Appleby (left); Members make the Toasts of Obligation (top right); Star City Kochavim entertain after dinner (bottom right)

Valley of Lincoln Celebrates the Feast of Tishri in October

The Feast of Tishri is considered the most “Scottish Rite” of observances, and is the only remaining mandatory festival on the Scottish Rite calendar. The Feast of Tishri derives its origins from God’s decree to the children of Israel who were commanded that this Feast would be celebrated annually to forever remind the children of Israel that He had rescued them from Egypt. This “Feast of Tishri” is thus, in one measure, a symbol of freedom.

Some 450 years after its origin, the Feast of Tishri was utilized in dedicating the newly completed King Solomon’s Temple. This association led to its adoption by Scottish Rite Masonry as we symbolically rededicate King Solomon’s Temple through our rededication to brotherly love and our fraternity in a peaceful world.

Last year, the Valley of Lincoln was unable to celebrate the Feast of Tishri as the ballroom was being remodeled. This year, with the work complete, 62 guests gathered for a wonderful dinner of raspberry marshmallow fluff salad, followed by roasted chicken, creamed green beans, roasted baby potatoes, fresh rolls, followed by spiced cake.

Members gave the obligatory toasts, including to our Grand Lodge, our SGIG Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, our Supreme Council, to all Masons and their ladies.

Our speakers were Rabbi Teri Appleby of the South Street Temple, who spoke about the meaning of the Jewish High Holidays. Among the things observant Jews are called upon during the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are atonement and repentance. The shofar, or ram’s horn, is sounded, calling members to a serious, introspective accounting of oneself. Members are required to examine their motivations and deeds and make a real, significant change rather than a superficial change in behaviors. This introspection and soul-searching never finishes, much as Masons continue to build their own spiritual temple and progress forward from the Rough to the Perfect Ashlar.

Don Albrecht, 32° followed Rabbi Appleby, speaking on the Mystic Bonds of Brethren, calling upon all Masons to enjoy a time of joy, peace and fellowship.

Afterward, guests enjoyed music from the Star City Kochavim, who played several klezmer pieces, music from the Jewish tradition of eastern Europe.

This year’s Feast of Tishri was one of the best Tishri dinners held, and a credit to many Brethren in the Valley of Lincoln who organized the evening. Special thanks to Don Albrecht, 32°, George McCabe, 33°, Nick Furchert, 32°, and Jeff Schumacher, 32° who helped support the evening.

ROBERT BURNS DINNER & CELEBRATION



Saturday, January 26, 2019

5:30 PM Social Time | 6:30 Program and Dinner

Celebrate the birthday of Scotland’s favorite son and poet laureate, Robert Burns, with dinner, bagpipe music, poetry, and a silent auction benefiting the RiteCare Speech Clinics.

Reservations Required by January 18th
\$35/person

visit ScottishRiteLincoln.org/events



Meet the Master: Don Albrecht, 32°

Don Albrecht, 32° will be installed in January as the Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection for 2019. Don was raised at Cotner Lodge #297 in 2005, serving as Worshipful Master in 2010. Don joined the Scottish Rite and Sesostri Shrine in 2006. He is also a dual member of Magnolia Lodge #220 in Emerson, Nebraska. He has spearheaded Masonic education at the Scottish Rite for the past few years.

Don and his wife Jean own AlbrechtGFX, a company that creates illustrations and animations for biotech and advertising companies. AlbrechtGFX translates scientific, technical content into visuals that make technical information understood and messages memorable.

As Don has as Chairman of the Scottish Rite VMAP initiative, Don’s vision as Venerable Master is membership recruitment, engagement, and retention.

Friends of Scottish Rite DINNER AND AUCTION

More than \$60,000 Raised for RiteCare at 10th Annual Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner & Auction

The Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction continues to grow, serving as one of the Valley of Omaha's major fundraisers of the year. This year, the Friends Dinner was held on Friday, October 19th, welcoming 222 guests. Dinner guests enjoyed a hosted wine tasting and fine Scotch tasting, bid on extraordinary silent and live auction items, including tickets to the award-winning musical *Hamilton* in Chicago, a Tennessee whiskey tour, jewelry, quilts, a custom-made Nebraska Cornhuskers firepit and Huskers soda machine, and numerous items and baskets.

The evening was a benefit for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha's principal philanthropy, the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Our emcee for the evening was Rob McCartney, anchor from KETV-7. Rob called up our 2018 Friend of Scottish Rite award recipient, Rene' Ferdinand to recognize him for more than 40 years of advocacy for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities. Until retiring recently, Rene had served as Executive Director of the Autism Center of Nebraska, and has served in numerous state and private roles where he was a public voice to improve the lives of those with disabilities. In his remarks, Rene thanked Scottish Rite Masons for members long-standing philanthropic support for speech therapy services for Nebraska children.



Rob welcomed RiteCare parents Tin and Christine Tran, who thanked donors for providing services for their son Joseph. Thanks to therapy at the Munroe-Meyer Institute's RiteCare Clinic, their son Joseph, born with Down Syndrome, continues to make strides in his ability to communicate and learn.

The Scottish Rite is indebted to the Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who volunteered for the evening, setting up, serving hors d'oeuvres and dinner, and cleaning up afterward. NSSLHA students have been involved for many years as volunteers, and by way of thanks, they will be considered sponsors of the evening with the NSSLHA logo being included on the invitation, program and website.

The evening raised more than \$60,000 for speech therapy, including approximately \$10,000 for a special appeal directly for RiteCare speech therapy and 3 \$2,000 scholarships for undergraduate students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The donors will be recognized by having the scholarships given in their name for the 2019-2020 year. Additionally, anonymous donors matched many of the special appeal donations for additional impact!

Next year's dinner will be on Friday, November 1, 2019 at the Scottish Rite. Plan to join us for another great Dinner and Auction!



Rene Ferdinand receiving the 2018 Friend of Scottish Rite Award



RiteCare parents Tin and Christine Tran speak about how speech therapy has helped their son.



Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) volunteered throughout the evening



Rob McCartney anchor from KETV-7 served as emcee for the evening.



Janet and Chuck (32° KCCH) Wood



Sara Walker and Nate Bradburn (32°)



Bob Gilmore and Lauren Anderson

What is in a TITLE?

The very first title we received in life is our name given to us by our parents at birth and is that which we are known for all of our life's journey.



I recently was asked if my e-mail address was a title and it's meaning. The e-mail address in question is: RevdTJPeters.OHS@gmail.com; and yes, the address has particular meaning for me. The title of Reverend I came to understand was that of a Deacon, one of teacher, listener and servant.

In July 1999, I was asked to join a Religious Order known as the Order of The Holy Spirit, which is an order of Hospitallers or those in service to those in need. For me that came to mean being of service and aide to the blind; providing transportation to and from work, rides to grocery stores, banks, restaurants and music lessons. I availed myself to 23 blind people for rides to whatever or wherever helped in their life's expression.

I also found myself helping Veterans and ex-cons with similar needs, as well as offering a listening ear for concerns of the day. I would find myself driving them to Doctor Appointments, medical treatments and served as their sounding board when they seemed unclear in their treatments. I always strongly encouraged reading the Bible and when seeking confessions, direct them to clergy more schooled and learned than myself.

Having served now 19 years it strongly help's me keep my promise to my father to continue my journey in Freemasonry by being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and so much more. Today I see my roll in the Order of the Holy Spirit as Tyler. Always ensuring those who truly wish help in their spiritual journey find it, whether it is daily reading of Scripture, prayer, counsel and always willing to reach out to more learned colleagues for assistance, always keeping their well-being paramount in concern and actions.

Lux est mea Deus.

Timothy Peters, 32°

New Benefit for Scottish Rite Masons Scottish Rite Partners with Health Endeavors to Provide Medicare Medical Records Benefits

The Orient of Nebraska Scottish Rite has partnered with Health Endeavors to provide a benefit to all Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons who have Medicare insurance coverage, including Part D.

Simply go to your iTunes or your Android app store and download the Health Endeavors "Get Your Health Record" app or go to their website www.getyourhealthrecord.com.

Click on Medicare Sign-Up and complete the requested information to sync 4 years of your health information to the app, including doctor's visits, prescription drug information, inpatient encounters and other claims history. Make sure you enter SRNE in the sponsorship field.

With this app, your medical records are always with you, when you travel, when you move, or in an emergency. You can check your health claims to protect yourself against identity theft. You can verify your data is accurate to protect yourself against incorrect medical information or medical errors.

Medical text alerts remind you about labs, exams, unfilled prescriptions prescribed, and wellness visits either scheduled or to be scheduled.

The app also provides a Health Risk Score and Medicare Spend as compared against national benchmarks.

Health Summary

Screen shot of the "Get Your Health" app's Health Summary page

Enrollment is completely free, though there are in-app purchases that allow you to send or share medical records, or receive non-Medicare health records.

Whether you opt to purchase the in-app upgrades, the Health Endeavors "Get Your Health Record" app is available and free to all Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons who are eligible for Medicare.

Download the app and take advantage of this great benefit of being a Nebraska Scottish Rite Mason!

Hastings Valley Celebrates the Feast of Tishri



Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° lights a candle as a traditional toast during the Feast of Tishri.

The Valley of Central Nebraska celebrated the Feast of Tishri on November 14th with an excellent dinner - prime rib à la Monte, made by the Valley's own Chef Monte Malouf, 33°, vegetables, cheesy potatoes, and cheese cake for dessert. Bethel #8 served the dinner. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° served as Master of Ceremonies, giving the prayers and discussing the significance of the Feast of Tishri.

After the traditional toasts, a member gave a presentation on his recent trip to Scotland, with photos of sights like the castles in Edinburgh, St. Andrew, and Stirling.

ELLIOT'S STORY

Our son Elliot was assessed by Beth Hughes for a speech delay at age 3 1/2 and was referred for testing for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Beth suggested we begin therapy at the RiteCare Clinic in the meantime, which allowed us to start services for Elliot right away.

The RiteCare program taught us how to communicate with Elliot in ways that would encourage his own language development. When we started the program, Elliot was only using 2-3 word phrases. By the end of the program, he was speaking in full sentences consistently!

He began Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services around the time we completed the RiteCare Clinic, and his speech was re-assessed. His language has almost caught up to that of his peers and he has full conversations now.

Elliot is so much happier now that he can communicate, and he interacts more comfortably with his peers. His play is more imaginative and complex. He is thriving in his preschool and in Autism therapy.



Everyone who knows Elliot is amazed at his development over the past few months. Beth also helped us navigate the testing and referral process for Autism services, which was invaluable! We are beyond grateful for the RiteCare program and for Beth. I love to think about all the families that the program is helping. Thank you Scottish Rite Masons for providing this service!

*Carrie Gobel
RiteCare parent*

ODDS & ENDS



Speech Pathologists Laura Holst, Leslie Van Winkle, Beth Hughes and son Levi at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute's Trunk or Treat on October 27th.



Enough Masons at the Scottish Society's Highland Ball in October to form a new Lodge! Rabbie Burns Lodge #336, anyone? Scott Oglesby, Robert Boulter, Alan Boulter, Micah Evans, Arnel MacDonald, Kyle Beckner, Ken Bunnell, and Hersh Talley.

Membership, *continued*

The true danger to the concept of exclusivity is that investiture as a Freemason is such a commonplace thing that being a Mason no longer guarantees honor or respectability in the community. Few Masons look upon their relationship between one another as enough to confer a right to demand assistance and the assurance that we'd receive it.

The "popularity" of the institution has depreciated the value of membership in the eyes and esteem of its own members!

Exclusive is a loaded term, and by talking about making Masonry "exclusive," many well-meaning Brethren think you automatically mean you close the doors to the truck driver and the brick layer, and only let in the banker and the lawyer. The exclusivity really indicates that the Investigation Committee does a better job screening Candidates (which itself is

a loaded concept for another article). Are we letting in a man because he wants the title "Prince of the Royal Secret" to puff up his Masonic resume? Is it idle curiosity that prompts a Mason to become a Knight Templar, a Shriner, a Scottish Rite Mason and be able to wear a brace of medals on his chest, or is he joining truly for further light in Masonry?

But would the concept of exclusivity prompt the Investigation Committee to reject a young man who patently has no interest in joining, simply because Dad is paying for his initiation? Are we not doing ourselves more damage by keeping him out? This proverbial stone the builder refused today might become the cornerstone as he finds leadership and fellowship in Masonry during his retirement years 40 years later on.

Albert Pike was writing as an advocate of the Scottish Rite, but his remarks apply to

all of Masonry. One man may be the Supreme Mugwump in this Masonic order and another man is the Illustrious Kingfish in that order, but be virtually unknown in another Masonic order. Any random fifty men may all call themselves Companion, Brother, Noble or Frater, but have no particular fraternal tie to most of those organizations, to say nothing of his own Blue Lodge! The titles are formal phrases of propriety but convey no deeper meaning to many Brethren.

We continue to wrestle with this question of exclusivity. Perhaps the solution, if there is one, is to select whom we invite to join us with extreme care. We need to invite to join us today the kind of men whom we like to point to as having joined "way back when," rather than men whose best quality is that they are "fun-loving," looking for the fancy titles, cheap dinners and a busy calendar of social events.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

This past October, Matt Szramoski, 33°, Development Director from the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. came to Omaha and spoke with several Brethren. He came to talk about giving options ranging from as simple as donating a fixed dollar amount or percentage in your will to complex arrangements like charitable remainder trusts.

One topic he covered, which came as an eye-opener to many, was the cost of giving. If you wrote a check for \$500, that donation actually cost around \$640. Think about it. You had to earn \$640, pay an estimated 22% tax (or \$140) for a net donation of \$500.00.

But what if there were a way to give, not only giving the true amount of your desired gift but also saving on your taxes?

That is where the Qualified Charitable Distribution becomes an attractive option. Even with the increase in the standard deduction, the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision will help you save on your taxes.

You need to be at least 70 1/2 and have money in an individual retirement account (IRA). Anyone who has received a statement saying you need to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by year's end is a candidate for this strategy. All you need to do is direct your account custodian to make a direct donation to the Scottish Rite (or your favorite Masonic philanthropies).



The amount you donate reduces the amount you need to take to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution. The amount donated will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), and therefore you are not taxed on this amount.

In addition to not paying income taxes on your distribution, your donation reduces your AGI, which is used to determine how much of your Social Security is taxed. It can even affect how much your Medicare premiums will be in the following year.

There are some limits to how good of a deal this can be. For example, you cannot give more than \$100,000 in any one year. You can, however, split your donation among several charities. Contact your attorney, CPA, or financial planner to see how this donation will affect your financial situation.

When you think about the value of helping our RiteCare children, providing scholarships, and caring for our historic buildings, think about the Required Minimum Distribution as a means to both maximize the value of your donation while maximizing your tax deductions.

Micah I. Evans, 33°,
Orient Development Director
(402) 342-1300
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2018-2019 SGIG's CIRCLE Donors

| Name | Valley |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Charles Bukin | Lincoln |
| * Gary Bunnell | Omaha |
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| * Homer Puderbaugh | Lincoln |
| Warren Reesman | Lincoln |
| * Charles Sederstrom, Jr. | SGIG in NE |
| Jack Sheffield | Omaha |
| Dale Whitefoot | Hastings |
| * Dan Wellendorf | Omaha |
| John Williamson | Omaha |

* Charter Member SGIG Circle Donor

Thanks to the generosity of numerous Scottish Rite Masons, Nebraska RiteCare children receive all the services they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. SGIG Circle donors have pledged or donated \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year.

Please consider a donation or pledge and join these Brethren in making a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional Speech Therapy for Nebraska children.

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 March-April 2019 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-January for consideration.)