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Features:

Alliance Recognizes True Brother Bob Philip, 33° at Spring Reunion

Hastings Celebrates Remembrance and Renewal

Lincoln Presents Teacher of the Year

Perfect Day for the Omaha Spring Outing at the Papillion Gun Club

RiteCare News of Nebraska

... and much more!



Omaha Scottish Rite Dedicates First Floor Lounge to Culinary Masters - see page 7 for story.

Randy Jones, 33° as Wise Master at the Hastings Valley Remembrance and Renewal

Membership

When *National Treasure* came out in movie theaters in 2004, Freemasons braced themselves for a landslide of Candidates to come streaming into the Lodge room with petitions flapping in their hands. When the lamentably forgettable sequel *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* was released in 2007, we thought this would be the solution to membership problems.

And when Dan Brown's novel *The Lost Symbol* came out in 2009, Freemasons thought our membership issues were over, and Lodges would require Degree teams to work around the clock in shifts to raise Candidates.

Anytime the Masons feature prominently in popular culture, we like to think that it portends the thin end of the wedge for



The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction released one of the best campaigns for membership, "Not Just a Man. A Mason." But even the best campaign still requires that one-on-one conversation.

membership woes. But guess what? Nothing happened. There wasn't even a blip on the radar of membership across the nation.

And in fairness, we should not have expected anything more than passing curiosity for that strange fraternity that Grandpa was in.

Yet Masons continue to watch the latest video or promotional campaign, and make the mistake of thinking "This is the video that will turn it all around."

I would argue that however good these videos are - and some are extremely good - and whatever attention we garner in movies, books, television, or popular culture, we will never generate more than a mild bit of interest and curiosity. Freemasonry doesn't work that way.

Nor should it.

You'd test drive a car and read the literature about it before you bought it. You didn't buy your house without an inspection and some research into the neighborhood, the taxes, and the school district.

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Orient Calendar

Jul 14.....	RiteCare Ice Cream Social (L)
Jul 11, 18, 25	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Jul 18.....	Century Club Donors Appreciation Dinner (O)
Jul 26.....	Summer Rum Tasting (O)
Aug 2-3	Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
Aug 7, 14, 21, 28.....	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Aug 17-20	Supreme Council Biennial Session (DC)
Aug 16.....	Scottish Rite Steak and Lobster Dinner (O)
Aug 18.....	Scottish Rite Family Picnic (O)
Sept 4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Sept 5, 12, 19, 26.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Sept 13.....	Cocktail Tasting (O)
Oct 5.....	Broadway Series: <i>Kansas</i> (O)
Oct 12.....	Walk for RiteCare and Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
Oct 18.....	Nebraska KCCH Investiture (Lincoln)
Oct 25.....	Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner & Auction (O)
Nov 5.....	Broadway Series: <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> (O)
Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Nov 8-9	Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
Nov 21, 22, 23.....	Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
Nov 6, 13, 20, 27	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Nov 7, 14, 21, 28	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

July 26, Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 27

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

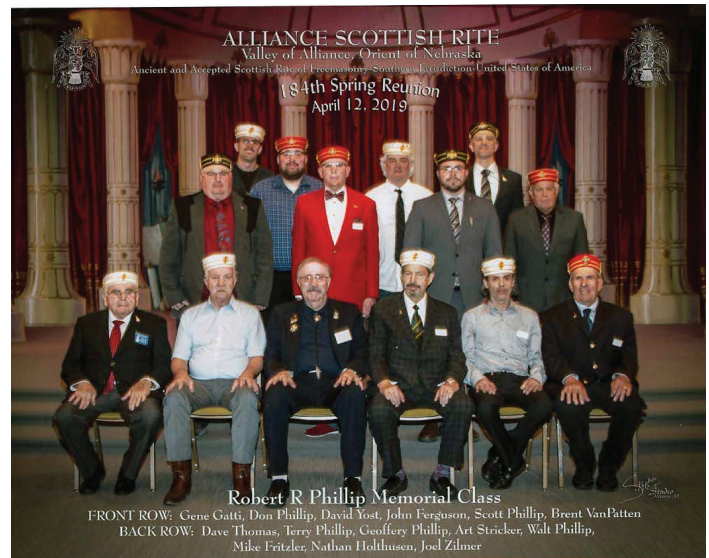
Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

July 15, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

For more information

contact the General Secretary in your Valley

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



We welcomed a new Brother at the Spring Reunion in May, honoring Bob Phillip, 33°, and we have a few petitions on deck for the Fall Reunion on November 8th and 9th. Please plan to be there to help with Degrees and welcome our new 32° Scottish Rite brethren.

I am pleased to say that the Community Table has consistently served 50 to 60 people each week at the Scottish Rite, and we will continue to support this project to feed hungry citizens. There is a real need, and I am honored to help support this project. Please reach out to me if you want to donate to the Scottish Rite in support of Community Table. We will continue to serve during the summer months, and we anticipate the number will grow as kids are out of school. The USDA sent out an inspector, who certified the Scottish Rite kitchen for Community Table as well as for catering, and I anticipate that some catering opportunities will help add to the Valley revenue.

It is May as I write this now, and we are scheduled to do some highway clean-up later this month, and the Scottish Rite will serve lunch after the Alliance Heritage Days parade in July. John Ferguson, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG, and I want to move meetings around the Panhandle and bring the Scottish Rite to you, so please let me know if your Lodge would like to host a meeting and I'll work to schedule it for this Fall.

Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason!

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



Teacher of the Year



Left) Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° presents the 2019 Teacher of the Year Award to Mr. Rob Kerr. Right) Dan presents the certificate and \$1,000 award to Mr. Kerr, with his wife Michelle watching.

Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection presented the 2019 Scottish Rite Teacher of the Year award to Hastings Public Schools high school history teacher, Rob Kerr.

Mr. Kerr has been with the District for 33 years and the National Honor Society Advisor and History Club sponsor. He is also a member of the National Council of History Education. In his nomination for the award, one parent wrote:

He challenges all students to think for themselves and to become leaders in and out of the classroom. His teaching style prepares students for college and life by



writing essays and analyzing historically significant documents and writings. He allows students to freely express their opinions and they never feel pressured about giving the wrong answer.

Mr. Kerr received a \$1,000 scholarship award with the certificate. The financial award is funded by a gift from a local Adams County Brother who taught school in the Hastings Public School system and later served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska.

Rob Kerr's wife Michelle also received the Scottish Rite Teacher of the Year award in 2018.



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE**

Hastings Valley

Fall Reunion

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Call Phil Odom, 33° at
(402) 462-5813 or e-mail
podom@hastingsmasonic.org



At the Spaghetti Feed on Sunday, April 14th, the Scottish Rite raised about \$2,000 for the Hastings Valley while serving 200 guests. We were able to sell all of our leftover spaghetti sauce this year and we had a number of new faces join us. Thanks to all our cooks, servers, and volunteers!

Central Nebraska Scottish Rite Celebrates Feast of Remembrance and Renewal

The Central Nebraska Valley celebrated the Feast of Remembrance and Renewal on Tuesday, August 16th in Hastings. Randy Jones, 33° served as Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix.

The evening began with the Ceremonial Team extinguishing the lights, followed by an excellent dinner prepared by 'Chef' Monte Malouf, 33° and served by the young women of Bethel #8, Job's Daughters. Dinner was baked chicken and pork loin, vegetables, followed by poke cake.

Our speaker was the Reverend Dr. Robert Lewis, from St. Stephen's Church in Grand Island. Robert is also a member of Hastings Lodge #50. He spoke about "the Act of Remembrance," which comes at during the pivotal time of Easter. We face the

solemnity of death, remembering those we have lost, but Easter reminds of us of the final victory of His rising. Father Robert challenged us, asking us if we have considered our role as living stones, and reminded us that, as Masons, He is building His temple in our hearts.

Afterward, Randy read the names of the eighteen Brethren the Valley has lost this past year. The Ceremonial Team then re-lit the candles as we remember Jesus' message "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another." (John 13:34).

During dinner, we also heard from our RiteCare Clinicians who told us about upcoming activities and thanked members for generously supporting speech therapy for Nebraska kids.



Bob Williams, 32° KCCH relights the ceremonial lights.



Kris Althouse and Sydney Norton talk about the RiteCare Clinic.



The Scottish Rite is grateful to the members of Bethel #8 who served dinner and cleaned up.



Jacquie Rush addressed a full crowd in the Lincoln Southwest High School gym just after 7 p.m. Thursday as she introduced the opening of the Scott Middle School spring band concert.

Minutes later, she stood shocked as Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Associate Superintendent Eric Weber surprised Rush and the crowd, saying she is the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year award.

"I had no idea," Rush said. "I did not know what to think. I had no idea it was coming."

The surprise left Rush on the verge of joyful tears. In her brief speech following the award announcement, she praised the children that she teaches every day for keeping her going.

"I have the most amazing kids at Scott Middle School," Rush said following the brief ceremony. "I have had so many kids come through and be successful, and it's just awesome."

The Scottish Rite award is presented annually to a Lincoln Public Schools teacher. The award also comes with a cash prize of \$7,500, and her photo will be part of a permanent display in the Lincoln Public Schools administrative offices.

Rush has taught music for more than 40 years and has worked at LPS for the past 28. Working in the Scott Middle School music program, she teaches more than 300 students each year. In the last 21 years, more than 2,300 of her students have earned individual accolades in music.

"I have really high expectations for my kids," Rush said. "They work so hard for me and I work hard for them."



The Valley of Lincoln celebrated the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal on Wednesday, April 17th.

The Ceremonial Team included Mike Gray, 33°, Don Albrecht, 32°, Dennis Hecht, 32°, Cody Carlow, 32° KCCH, Edward Boone, 32°, Edward Bennett, 32°, and Micah Evans, 33°. Afterward, members and their ladies enjoyed a wonderful dinner, prepared by Joni Bennett.



Perfect day for Lincoln Walkrite for RiteCare

The annual Walkrite for RiteCare was held at the Lincoln Children's Zoo on a perfect Saturday morning on May 25th. Scottish Rite Masons, students from the Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Society (NSSLHA) at UNL, RiteCare parents and families, and the Clinicians turned out for the Walk, which raised around \$2,000 for speech therapy through the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation.

Clinicians Holly Schlautman and Teagan Dinslage

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DELBERT D. WEBER, 33° MEMORIAL CLASS

May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2019

Front Row (l to r): Thomas K. Brummett, 33°; MW John T. Maxell, 33°, General Secretary; Robert S. Maline, 33°; James B. Parks, Sr., 33°; Wade A. Ridout, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander; Curtis M. Edic, 33°, G.C.; Charles V. Sederstrom, 33°, SGIG in Nebraska; Frank W. Kroupa, 33°, President of Cathedral Board; Paul D. Rutherford, 33° Class Director; Anthony (A.J.) Johnson, 33° Asst. Degree Director; Micah I. Evans, 33°, Orient Development Director

Back Row (l to r): Mark D. Pilley, 32°; Jeffrey M. Coleman, 32° KCCH, Assistant Class Director; Micah Bret; Aaron Smallwood; Rex Waller, Class Orator; Blake Nelson, Class Vice President; Ralph Tomonelli; David Carrig, Class Secretary / Treasurer; William "Al" Smith; Kenneth Thompson, Class President; Sean Mullally; Richard E. Gilmore, 33° Assistant Class Director



Grand Lodge officers host the 8th Degree: (left to right) M.W. Bob Moninger, 32° KCCH, M.W. Rick Myers, 33°, John Ferguson, 33°, R.W. Jim Carlton, 32° KCCH, R.W. Ron Stites, 33°, and John Millington, 32°

9 Scottish Rite Brethren Join in Spring 'Del D. Weber, 33° Memorial Reunion'



John Maxell, 33° presents Best Actor Award for 2018 to Matt Vandergriff, 32° KCCH

The Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite welcomed 9 new 32° Scottish Rite Masons at the 270th Reunion on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th during the Del D. Weber, 33° Memorial Class. The Class honored our late Brother Ill. Del D. Weber, 33°, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer this past January. Del served as Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha

from 1977-1997, and was actively engaged in the Scottish Rite as well as numerous Boards and non-profits, including serving as King of Ak-Sar-Ben in 1983.

Among many memorable events during the Reunion, John Maxell, 33°, presented the 2018 Best Actor Award to Matt Vandergriff, 32° KCCH after the 14th Degree, in recognition of Matt's excellent work in many Degrees, including the 7°, 14°, 21°, and 30°. The Knights of St. Andrew assembled before the 29°, and marched in, proceeded by Steve Sexton, 32° playing the bagpipes and with Carl Simmons, 32° displaying the KSA's new banner. The Valley welcomed M.W. Bob Moninger, 32° KCCH, Grand Master of Masons, who

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Omaha Lodge #288 Brothers Nate Bradburn, Aaron Smallwood and John Walz, Jr.

SCOTTISH RITE SPRING ★ OUTING

The weather on May 15th was an absolutely perfect 80° without out a trace of humidity - just right for the Spring Outing. Nearly 200 people turned out for trap shooting, steaks, cocktails and beer at the Papillion Gun Club.

A couple of tall Brethren - Carl Simmons, 32° and Kyle Beckner, 32° - sold 50-50 tickets, offering tickets as long as their outstretched arms for \$20. The prize money was divided into two drawings, and one Brother immediately donated his winning to the RiteCare Clinics!

The Culinary Masters outdid themselves with perfectly grilled steaks, baked potatoes, corn, salad, and brownies and spice cake for dessert, and the Knights of St. Andrew tended bar.

A number of prospective Masons came to the Spring Outing, learning about Masonry at the relaxed event, and both Lodges and the Scottish Rite have picked up a few petitions from the Spring and Fall Outing. Several Brethren expressed an interest in joining the Scottish Rite, and we look forward to seeing them in the Fall Reunion.

The Scottish Rite extends its appreciation to all the Line Officers, Knights of St. Andrew, Culinary Masters and Brethren who volunteered during the evening.

Great weather, great fellowship, and of course, great food is never a thing to miss - so mark your calendars for the Fall Outing on Wednesday, September 18th. And invite a few prospective Masons!



Steve Sexton, 32° pipes in the Knights of St. Andrew before the 29th Degree

Reunion, *continued from page 5*

joined the Grand Lodge officers to put on the 8° on Thursday evening. Additionally, we had two sons join their fathers during this Reunion. Sean Mullaly joined his father Tom, and Blake Nelson joined his father Terry, who joined last year. Both Sean and Blake and their fathers are from North Bend Lodge #119.

We were joined during this Reunion by Curt Edic, 33°, G.C., Emeritus General Secretary for the Omaha Scottish Rite from his home in Missouri. It was great to catch up with Curt, who served as General Secretary from 2000 through 2015.

After the Reunion, the Valley celebrated the

Kentucky Derby on the patio. Knights of St. Andrew made mint juleps and Gary Unger, 32° KCCH made an excellent dinner of pulled pork and brisket, with baked beans and pasta salad. More than 60 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies stayed after the Reunion for a few hours to enjoy perfect Spring weather, watch the races, and enjoy cocktails. Many ladies came in Kentucky Derby attire!

Thanks to the Stage Crew, Culinary Masters, Knights of St. Andrew, Royal Order of the Duck, Degree team actors and directors, and dozens of Brethren who were here throughout the Reunion to make it a great experience for our new Brethren!



Sherry Sederstrom, Becky Rutherford, Truly Spracklin and Erin Simmons show off proper Kentucky Derby attire after the Scottish Rite Reunion on May 4th.



Working on the CHAIN GANG

The Omaha Knights of St. Andrew 'Chain Gang' assembled to pick up 18 bags of trash as part of the Highway 36 cleanup project on April 27. For their efforts, that stretch of Highway 36 is recognized as sponsored by the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite. Pictured above: Alan Boulter, 32°, Amanda Beckner, Kyle Beckner, 32°, Robert Pelletier, 32°, and T.J. Brumfield, 32°.



Left to Right: Tom Brummett, 33°, Curt Edic, 33° G.C., and Ron Stites, 33°

General Secretary Emeritus Curt Edic, 33° G.C. joined the members at the Spring Reunion. He sat through several Degrees, caught up with Brethren, and enjoyed the Kentucky Derby party.



Procession of Grand Lodge Officers from the Omaha Scottish Rite to Central High School. In front M.W. Reg Kuhn, Grand Secretary and W.B. John Ferguson, Grand Junior Deacon

Grand Lodge of Nebraska Dedicates Cornerstone at Central High School

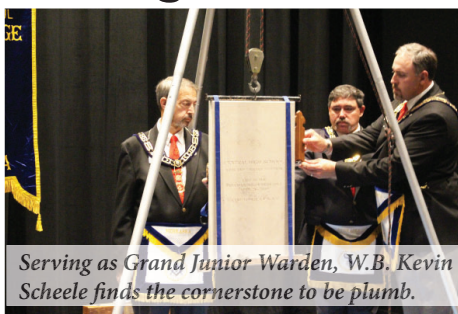


Representatives from Central High, the Architects, Project Managers, Masons and Construction

On April 26, 2019, M.W. Bob Moninger, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska had the honor of dedicating a cornerstone at the Omaha Central High School Arts and Library Addition. The Grand Lodge of Nebraska dedicated the original Central High School cornerstone in November, 1900.

The Grand Master was joined by Michelle Roberts, Executive Director of the Omaha Central High School Foundation, Dr. Ed Bennett, Principal of Central High School, Scott Carson, an operative stone Mason whose company Carson Stone and Supply engraved the limestone cornerstone (which came from the same quarry from which the original building was quarried), Chris Flott, project manager, Jim Torres, the architect from DLR Group, and a representative from Sampson Construction.

The \$19 million addition was paid for entirely through donations, and adds much-needed space and resources to the Central High School. The current Central High, designed by architect John Latenser, Sr., was



Serving as Grand Junior Warden, W.B. Kevin Scheele finds the cornerstone to be plumb.

built in stages around the earlier school beginning in 1900 and completed in 1912. The original 1871 school was razed in 1911 and the final west wing completed in 1912. Later updates added a new gym, theater, and enclosed the central courtyard which was the site of the earlier school.

Jim Torres and Michelle Roberts joined the Grand Master as they ceremoniously spread mortar on the cornerstone. Then, Deputy Grand Master R.W. Ron Stites, Grand Senior Warden R.W. Jim Carlton, and W. B. Kevin Scheele tested the cornerstone and declared it to be square, level and plumb. The Grand Master then declared the cornerstone to be "well formed, true and trusty, correctly proved and truly laid," dedicated the building with the blessings of plenty, health, and peace with offerings of corn, wine, and oil. Grand Orator W.B. Mike Stuhr gave an oration which included the history of Central High School.

The Arts and Library Addition represents the first cornerstone laid this year by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, with another later this year in Columbus, Nebraska.



Cathedral Board Dedicates New 1st Floor Lounge in Honor of Culinary Masters

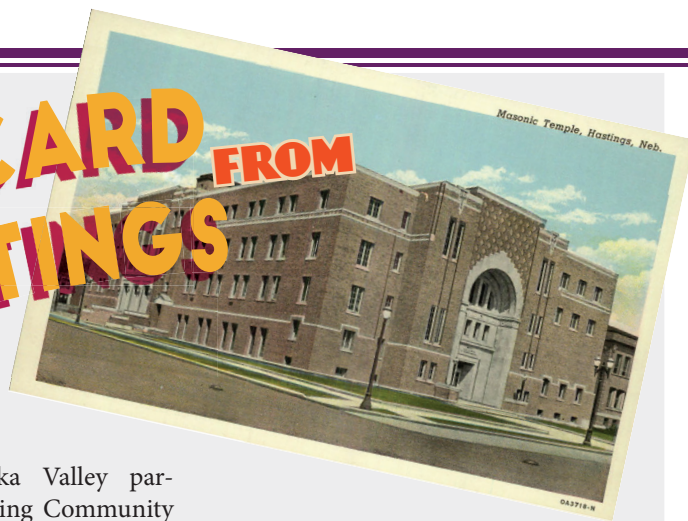
Monday, May 20th was a busy evening at the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite. The evening began with a debate on Nebraska's proposed Red Flag law, allowing a relative to petition the court to have someone's firearms taken away, based on a potential physical or mental health threat. Supporting the bill was Sarpy County Sheriff's Captain Kevin Grieger and opposing the bill was Rod Moeller, with the Nebraska Firearm Owners Association. Both sides presented interesting arguments for and against the bill, though most attending the debate opposed the bill in a hand vote.

Afterward an excellent featherbone rib dinner, Venerable Master Patrick Watson, 32° asked our newest Scottish Rite Masons who joined in Spring Reunion to come forward, and their lady or top-line signer presented them with their 32° Scottish Rite cap.

At the end of the evening, Frank Kroupa, 33°, Chairman of the Cathedral Board invited members and guests downstairs to the first floor lounge, where he and Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska dedicated the newly built bar. The bar recognizes nearly 20 years of service by the Culinary Masters, many of

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POSTCARD FROM HASTINGS



The Central Nebraska Valley participated in the Hasting Community Foundation's 7th annual Give Hastings on May 9, 2019. Collectively, donors raised \$483,796 for 84 non-profits serving the Hastings community.

Thanks to the efforts of Clinicians Kris Althouse, M.A., CCC-SLP and Sydney Norton, M.S., CF-SLP the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation raised around \$6,000 from 36 donors, an average of \$140/donor! Donations ranged from as small as \$10 to as much as \$1,500, and were largely from RiteCare families, reflecting how grateful families are to these services for their children!

On May 8th, the Clinic hosted an open house, welcoming 20 parents, teachers, Scottish Rite members and local citizens over three hours. Our two clinicians, Kris and Sydney had an opportunity to meet with several parents who were concerned about their child's current speech, language and swallowing abilities. From those discussions, three referrals for future evaluations were scheduled. Parents and children who are currently enrolled in the Hastings Clinic also attended.

Cookies, punch and coffee were served for refreshments to all who attended. Several guest toured the clinic and then requested a tour of the Masonic Center. As always, they were impressed with the building and clinic.

Invitations were sent to local leaders in education, medical and physical therapy professionals. Social media was used extensively to reach the general public. Kris and Sydney sat as guests on our local radio station's morning program.

Several teachers inquired about summer sessions which might be offered through RiteCare. Their desire was to have school students benefit from additional help over the summer months through RiteCare.

Now that we have two full time clinicians, we have the opportunity to offer summer group sessions. Scottish Rite brethren, Jim Horsham, 32° and Jon Yocom, 33° are working with staff and the Temple board to accommodate building space and clinical needs for a summer group program.

Grand Lodge Book Store

by Tom Hauder, 32° KCCH
Past Grand Master of Masons
tom@nebraskagrandmaster.com

Good News for Masonic Bookworms! The Grand Lodge Education Committee is excited to announce the opening of the Grand Lodge Masonic Book store!

Since 2000 when MWB James F. Brown challenged the Education Committee to come up with a list of books to recommend for Masonic Education, the Committee has sought out the best books for Masonic Education and released the list to the Craft each year.

Now, you can buy any of these books through our new web page and the Grand Lodge will receive a small commission on each sale from Amazon!

And it's not just books! You can buy just about anything from Amazon by using the "Go to Amazon" link on the bookstore page and the Grand Lodge will receive a small commission! All proceeds from book and other Amazon sales will be directed to the general Grand Lodge budget.

Use the Book Store link on the Grand Lodge of Nebraska home page (www.glne.org) to see the new store!



Don Perry, 33° and Jim Parks, Sr., 33° at the dedication of the Culinary Masters' lounge in the first floor dining room. Don and Jim are two of the original Culinary Masters, and have been cooking for nearly 20 years!

Culinary Masters Lounge Dedicated, *continued from p. 7*

whom are Past Potentates of Tangier Shrine. Around 2001, Jim Parks, Sr., 33° noticed that the catered dinners for Lodge meetings did not attract much attendance. He decided to engage the Tangier Shrine Divan members, who would cook dinners. Over the last 18 years, they have cooked hundreds of excellent dinners for Lodge meetings. Charles Sederstrom, Jr. wanted to find a way to honor them for their work over the years, and proposed a lounge where they could enjoy a cocktail while cooking dinners. Additionally, the bar would add amenities to help rent the building. An anonymous donor supported the project with a significant donation, and Frank Kroupa asked Rod Larson to begin working on the project.

As Chuck Sederstrom cut the ribbon, Frank Kroupa presented a plaque which formally dedicated the bar to the Scottish Rite Culinary Masters and Tangier Shrine. This project is another great example of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Board's mission to adapt the historic building for the benefit of members, add features for our enjoyment and comfort, even as they respect the history of the 105 year old building.

SHOW & SHINE for RiteCare



Bruce and Cindy Howe

On Saturday, May 18, 2019 the Island Area Cruisers held their 24th annual Charity Event in Grand Island, Nebraska. The event saw 49 car registrations ranging in age from a 1926 Ford Model T Coupe, to 1950's, 60's & 70's cars to several more recent models. Hastings RiteCare Clinician, Sydney Norton and her husband presented the RiteCare award to entry #5. The car, a 1947 Lincoln Club Coupe, is owned by Joan and Donald Christensen. It is estimated the club raised \$1,400.00.

The Car Show and Shine was held at the Main Street Station on Webb Road. All monies raised will be donated to the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Foundation on behalf of our RiteCare Clinic in Hastings. "Every year our car club chooses a local charity to raise funds for. We choose a charity that is close to us, so that we can see where the money goes to make sure that 100 percent of the money we raise, stays here with that charity," stated Cindy Howe, President of the Island Area Cruisers. The Cruisers are a car club based in Grand Island with members from other surrounding communities in Hall County.

Bruce Howe is a member of Ashlar Lodge #33 in Grand Island. Though legally blind, Bruce continues to work on their 1959 Ford Fairlane 500 hard top. Bruce and Cindy learned of our RiteCare Clinic by attending our Wednesday lunches each week.

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Lincoln WalkRite for RiteCare, continued from page 4

checked in families and presented them with WalkRite shirts. After a brief welcome by Teagan, a RiteCare parent shared her story of what speech therapy meant to her family. The walkers set off down the trail for a short walk around the Zoo, and enjoyed day passes to the Zoo afterward.

The Lincoln WalkRite for RiteCare is designed to be a family-friendly event that raises money, but also provides our RiteCare families with an easy, fun event for their families. If you would still like to donate, please visit <https://www.ritecarene.org/lincoln> to make a tax-deductible donation.

Photos: (page 4) RiteCare family at the Lincoln Wal; (top left) Mike Gray, 33° with RiteCare kids; (top right) Don Albrecht, 32° with RiteCare boy; (right top) RiteCare Clinicians Holly Schlautman, M.S., CCC-SLP and Teagan Dinslage, M.S., CCC-SLP; (right bottom) RiteCare Dad Tregg Lunn, 32° with daughter Maggie



Phil Odom, 33° Joins Orient as Development Officer to Raise Funds for Scottish Rite Philanthropies in Central Nebraska



Charles V. Sed-Cerstrom, Jr., 33° announced that Ill. Brother Phil Odom, 33° would take on the role as a Development Director for the Orient of Nebraska, in addition to his role as General Secretary for

the Hastings Valley. Phil will work with Micah Evans, Orient Development Director, to reach out to with members in central Nebraska to meet about planned gifts, charitable gift annuities, and major gifts as well as explore grant opportunities to benefit the RiteCare Clinics in Nebraska. Phil began this role effective on May 1st.

Phil joined the Valley of Hastings in 1994, and was coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in 2009. He has served as General Secretary since 2014.

Phil has been very active in Hastings, serving as Mayor from 1991 to 2000, serving on the City Council from 1986 to 1990 and again from 2006 to 2019. He has been active on numerous civic committees, as well as having served as President of the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation and been a member of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. His knowledge of both central Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons and the Hastings community will be a strong asset to raising awareness about Scottish Rite philanthropies.

Hastings RiteCare Clinic Welcomes Sydney Norton



Specialty Certifications

- Nebraska licensed speech-language pathologist

Special Interests & Projects

- Pediatric feeding and swallowing
- Expressive and receptive language
- Articulation
- Phonology
- Augmentative and alternative communication

Sydney Norton joined the Speech-Language Pathology Department in April of 2019 after previous clinical experiences in acute and subacute rehab, long-term care, and both adult and pediatric outpatient services.

She works in the Scottish Rite Clinic in Hastings, NE. Sydney holds her Master of Science from Fort Hays State University and her Bachelor of Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently finishing her clinical fellowship.

Sydney is a Hastings native, and is excited to return home to the community that she knows and loves.

Outside of the clinic, Sydney lives in Hastings with her husband Zane, and their new puppy Stanley.

Walk for RiteCare™



Saturday, October 12, 2019

Hastings Masonic Temple
Registration begins at 10:00
Walk beginning at 10:30
Lunch follows

Registration:
\$20/Adults | \$10/Children
All proceeds benefit
Hastings RiteCare Clinic

THE MASTER CRAFTSMEN



Left to Right: Mike Small, 33°, Phil Odom, 33°
Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, Ethan Maydwell, 32°

Each week, Scottish Rite Masons get together in Hastings to discuss the symbolism and philosophy of the Scottish Rite Degrees. Before the May 6th business meeting, a

dozen members got together to talk about the 7th Degree, Provost and Judge. We learn that impartial justice, untainted by partisanship, protects persons, property, and happiness. In this Degree, craftsmen Uriah and Naboth appeal to the Provost, Zabud, that the Phoenician craftsmen are undercutting wages of the Hebrew craftsmen. Zabud reminds them "As a fellow of the Craft, I have called you "Brother," but as a Provost and Judge, you are a stranger." The laws of man apply equally to the Hebrew and the Phoenician, and favor neither. Masonry, by its teachings, endeavors to restrain men from the commission of injustice and acts of wrong and outrage. The rule of law must apply to all men equally.

Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° moderated the discussion, weaving his deep knowledge philosophy, history, and religion into the conversation. Dan reminded us that although the Degree was allegorical rather than historical, the lessons of impartiality must apply to all. The claim of "Brother" from one Mason to another must not sway decisions. As the Orator of the 7th Degree tells us, "let the true Mason never forget the solemn injunction necessary to be obeyed at almost every moment of a busy life: 'Judge not, lest you yourselves be judged; for whatsoever judgment you give to others, the same shall in turn be given to you.' Such is the lesson taught to the Provost and Judge."

Jameson's Progress

by Cassie Hultgren
RiteCare Mom



It is very difficult to put into words the overwhelming feeling associated with Jameson and my experience with the RiteCare parent-training program with the Masons. I entered this program with a 4 year old son who was unable to communicate his basic needs to be me. We would spend hours a day in tears, having tantrums and eventually just giving up because I did not understand his needs. After this program the transformation has been amazing. Jameson can now not only communicate his basic needs but also communicate his wants, his love, and his charming personality. He no longer grunts his needs, he now asks with verbal communication and usually a smile. It has opened up a new world for him. He can now speak with family and friends. This training program would never have been something we could afford with our current insurance copays and needs. It was offered to us free of charge and RiteCare quite literally has given me the ability to communicate with my son, and therefore given a Mother her most wanted wish, to meet her son's needs. I will forever be in your debt.

Flynn's Journey

by Beth and Jon-Erik Divis
RiteCare parents

After receiving speech services through the school system for the last year, we decided it was time for our son, Flynn, to be evaluated for a second opinion. We came to see Beth at the RiteCare Clinic for a speech referral, hoping just for a recommendation or some insight into his speech problems. Beth became "our person." She made the initial referral for Flynn to be evaluated for Autism Spectrum Disorder, which frankly rocked our world. She was so available and so patient with us as she guided us through the process to get Flynn the help he needed. She started us in a Parent Training Program through the RiteCare Clinic right away and has helped guide us through every step of our journey.

We looked forward getting to come see Beth each week, as she unlocked something in Flynn that really opened him up. She



taught us how to get on the floor, to play and communicate with him in ways we hadn't even realized were possible. Watching Beth communicate with Flynn each week taught US how to mirror those techniques at home and increase his spontaneous words and overall ability to communicate. She helped us with the referrals that ultimately led to his diagnosis of ASD. She was even willing to come out to

Wahoo to help transition Flynn to Head Start and work with the staff at his school.

When we started ABA Therapy and were feeling anxious and unsure, Beth was there to calm our fears and listen to our concerns. I remember reaching out to Beth, in tears, the morning Flynn started ABA. Her reassurance and support helped us through that transition. We value her opinion so much and she was able to help us understand in ways his other therapists couldn't.

The expenses of therapy and doctor visits can be overwhelming and the fact that we were able to work with Beth through the RiteCare Clinic at no cost to our family was a tremendous relief of stress. The knowledge we gained through our time with Beth has helped to arm us in order to be able to better advocate for our son. He is thriving in school and therapy and we feel it is all thanks to "our person" Beth and the RiteCare Clinic.

Show & Shine, cont'd from p. 9

began attending the lunches with Brothers Don Miller, Paul Quisenberry and Dale Whitefoot several years ago. After hearing about the lunches from Bruce, Cindy began attending and bringing their young grandson, Johnathan.

Bruce and Cindy are very active in the Island Area Cruisers car club. Cindy is the 2019 President with Bruce being the immediate Past President. At car shows Cindy dresses in 1950's attire. A Poodle Skirt was the dress of the day for Saturday. She occasionally is seen as Marilyn Monroe

Membership, continued

And you certainly spent time getting to know your wife, learning what you had in common, finding whether you were compatible before you proposed.

So why would you make the momentous step of joining Freemasonry because Tom Hanks or Nicholas Cage made it look cool in some movie?

I've made the case before, and I will continue to make the case that Freemasonry works "hand to back, and mouth to ear." It cannot be sold wholesale. The value of joining is best conveyed by one individual to another.

We "sell" the message by how we act, by the quality of our behavior, by the rectitude of our conduct. When we represent the kind of man a Mason ought to be, other men will see our example and want to learn more about it. Whether a Can-



The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite's "Not Just a Man. A Mason" campaign is beautifully done, and sells a powerful message. But while it facilitates conversation, the true "sale" of Freemasonry can only be done Brother to Brother.

didate petitions because a relative or a trusted friend was a Mason, he joined because those men represent the best type of person, and the Candidate wanted to associate with those sort of men. I would argue that no one became a Mason (or at least remained a Mason) simply because a book or movie or even the slickest advertisement make it look "cool."

Perhaps Masons should have sought to capitalize on the movies and books. Perhaps we need to be proactive at using these to start conversations. But if we genuinely want to promote membership, it has to be done one man at a time, with each of us representing the best of what Freemason offers. This approach is slower, and our membership rolls won't swell through this approach, but it will lead to members joining who truly want to be engaged, rather than joining simply because they are following popular culture.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

A few summers ago, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, which has the ultimate responsibility for the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics in Nebraska kicked off the annual 101-Club appeal. We had a stellar year, raising \$13,843 to date for RiteCare services. 21 Brethren stepped up as members of the SGIG's circle, donating or pledging \$300 or more for the year, or at least three sessions of therapy. 56 Brethren donated as full 101-Club members, donating \$101 or more, which represents at least one session of therapy for a child.

In all, Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons supported 3,186 sessions of therapy for 342 children (this represents individual children, rather than the total number of children since many children receive more than one session of therapy). Scottish Rite Masons donated nearly \$700,000 to provide these services at RiteCare Clinics at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the Hastings Masonic Center, the UNL Barkley Memorial Center and the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

That is truly impressive, and every Scottish Rite Mason should be proud that we are able to contribute these sums. The families are profoundly grateful for speech therapy, and I hope you read their stories in each



edition of the *Scottish Rite Journal* and share them with family, friends and Brethren. We have given over \$25 million to RiteCare since 1975 - no small testament to the faith we have in these services and the value they provide to tomorrow's leaders.

This July, the 2019-2020 101-Club letter will go to members, and I would again ask you to consider supporting our RiteCare services.

Donors of \$101 will receive the new 101-Club lapel pin, and donors who give or pledge \$300 or more will receive the beautiful new challenge coin (left), authorized by Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska. 101 Club and SGIG Circle donors will be recognized at the Annual Communication on a large sign, and SGIG Circles are recognized throughout the year in the *Scottish Rite Journal* (right).

Please consider a donation or pledge when you receive the appeal letter in a few weeks, or simply send a donation to the *Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska* at 202 S. 20th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

Nebraska rightfully calls itself the Good Life State. **Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason, and thank you for your extraordinary generosity providing that good life to our RiteCare families across the state!**

Micah I. Evans, 33°,
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2018-2019 SGIG's CIRCLE Donors

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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.”

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