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Features:

Alliance Reunion

Hastings annual Spaghetti Feed

Lincoln Teacher of the Year Award

Omaha Kentucky Derby party

RiteCare news

... and much more!



Alliance Welcomes New Brothers at Spring Reunion.
Above, Thirtieth Degree Team See page 2 for story.

Membership

A week ago, the Orient of Nebraska hosted the 3rd Biennial Gathering of the Knights of St. Andrew in Omaha, welcoming 75 Knights of St. Andrew from 16 Orients and 26 Valleys, as well as a dozen visiting Ladies. The Conference - which will be covered in the main section of the *Scottish Rite Journal* - was a project two years in the making, and toward the end, required more Saturday and Sunday work time than I care to do again. In the end it was a great success, with great break-out sessions, a first rate keynote speaker, and brotherhood with some of the finest men I have met from around the nation. I am proud to stand with the Brethren who made this a home run success.

This conference was the culmination of one of the busiest two month periods of my entire 13 year Masonic career. Begin-

ning with the Grand Lodge All-Committee meeting before Easter, and stretching through the Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop in Phoenix, the Scottish Rite Reunion in Alliance, the Reunion here in Omaha, Lodge meetings, committee meetings, Board meetings and events culminating in the Knights of St. Andrew conference and Celebrating the Craft. I feel like I have been gone so many evenings the last few months, my wife just assumed I won't be home for dinner. She is genuinely surprised when I am home in the evening!



Nebraska Knights of St. Andrew after the 2016 Biennial Gathering

After all these events, I was ready for the long Memorial Day weekend. On May 30th, I reluctantly went to the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha, which I do every year.

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Hastings Spaghetti Feed



The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings served approximately 2,650 people at the Spaghetti Feed on April 10, making a profit of \$1,650 for the Valley! Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked, served, set up, and cleaned up!



Phil Odom dropped by KLIQ-FM (94.5 FM) in April to record a radio advertisement for the 2016 Spaghetti Feed. It took 2 or 3 takes, but he nailed it! Besides serving as General Secretary for the Scottish Rite, Recorder for Te-hama Shrine, on the Hastings City Council, and on numerous civic committees, could this indicate a new career for Phil?

How Is Your Garden Growing?

It's gardening week here at Hastings RiteCare! The RiteCare students have been busy with many wonderful activities relating to gardening and growing things! We targeted our vocabulary "words of the week" throughout our many activities, like using a felt garden to "plant" and "harvest" garden vegetables and discuss which crops grow on "top" of the ground and "under" the ground. Our follow-up book was *Tops and Bottoms*, by Janet Stevens, but we used many other wonderful books as well, focusing on concepts, vocabulary, and perspective-taking.

Next, we assembled flower "bouquets" while practicing our sounds, following directions, and describing. We even plant-

ed some seeds for a garden bed we will be transforming on the south side of the Masonic Center here in Hastings! Looking at the seeds and their varying sizes and shapes allowed for great discussions, and sequencing through the many steps involved in planting and caring for a garden! Get those hands dirty and garden with kids... they love it!!



2016 Meeting Schedule

In an effort to involve brethren from around the Central Nebraska Valley, Scottish Rite meetings will continue to host meetings in different towns communities during the year.

Check with the Scottish Rite office for detailed information, but the remainder of the 2016 meetings will tentatively be:

July 5.....	Hastings
August 2.....	Burwell
September 6.....	Hastings
October 4.....	Hastings
October 8.....	Walk for RiteCare
October 28-29.....	Fall Reunion
November 1.....	Hastings (Feast of Tishri)
December 6.....	Hastings

Walk for RiteCare™

Saturday, October 8

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

by Kris Althouse, M.A., CCC-SLP
Hastings RiteCare Clinician
kris.althouse@unmc.edu



Spring 2016 Reunion: Ken Beebe, 33°, Personal Representative Emeritus; Don Gray, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection; Cody Carlow, 32°; Alex Olson, 32°; 2016 Candidate, Xiadong Yang, 32°; 2016 Candidate; Bruce Wood, 33°; General Secretary, Michael Gray, 33°, Personal Representative

The Valley of Lincoln is proud to welcome two new Masters of the Royal Secret at the 2016 Reunion on Friday and Saturday, April 1st and 2nd.

We began the Reunion on Friday afternoon with the 4°, 14°, and 18°. On Saturday morning, we welcomed the candidates back with biscuits and gravy (and of course, donuts, the staple of a Scottish Rite Reunion diet), and resumed with the 29°, hosted by the Knights of St. Andrew, 30°, and 32°.

Afterward, the candidates received their Scottish Rite caps in an impressive capping ceremony, and were welcomed by the members at a reception. We are proud to call Alex Olson and Xiadong Yang our newest Scottish Rite brethren.

Our next Reunion is this Fall, and we welcome candidates who want to receive the degrees of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. In addition to receiving further light in Masonry through the impressive degrees, Scottish Rite Masons expand their social network of Masons and events in Nebraska, open doors to networking and leadership, and support the extraordinary work of the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics.

Welcome Joni Bennett to the Scottish Rite Office

The Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite welcomes a new face in the office. Joni Bennett came on-board in May, as Bruce Wood, 33° reduces his schedule to about 20 hours per week. Joni is not new to the Masonic family, having been a member of Dawson Chapter #33, Order of the Eastern Star since 1977. She served as Worthy Grand Matron for the Grand Chapter for Nebraska for 1998-1999. Joni is a member of Naamah Temple and Naphis Temple Daughters of the Nile.



She owned a custom window treatment business in Lexington for over 30 years. Joni and husband Ed (a 30+ year member of the Hastings Valley) own Market Interactive in Lincoln, a custom web development company. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, spectator sports, especially the Huskers and KC Royals. She also enjoys spending time with family.



Great Day to WalkRite for RiteCare

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, about forty-five RiteCare kids, parents, and Scottish Rite Masons participated in the 3rd WalkRite for RiteCare. The kid-friendly walk extended around the newly renovated Centennial Mall and the State Capitol. Kids were met by Safe-T the Clown, who made balloon animals for the children.

The kids enjoyed a bouncy house, cotton candy, and snow cones. After the short walk, everyone enjoyed hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, lemonade, cookies and tea. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and Miss Carrie, our Lincoln RiteCare Clinician, is already working on the 2017 Walk!



LINCOLN GIVES!

For the 5th annual Give to Lincoln Day, Lincoln contributed nearly \$3.1 million through 13,773 individual gifts to hundreds of local non-profit organizations on May 26, including the Lincoln Scottish Rite Foundation.

Lincoln Scottish Rite Masons continue to step up with their generosity, donating \$3,625 this year, supporting RiteCare therapy and services, the Teacher of the Year Award (see page 8 for story), and the Scottish Rite Capital Campaign. To all the donors who supported Scottish Rite philanthropies through Give to Lincoln Day, thank you from the Foundation Board and officers!



On April 1-2, members of the Omaha Valley went to sunny Phoenix, Arizona for the 2016 Scottish Rite Leadership Workshops: John Maxell, Jeffrey Coleman, J. Robert Corsaro (our 2016 Scottish Rite Fellow), Micah Evans, Paul Rutherford, Armel MacDonald, Sonny Ashford, Jonathan Paz, and Don Kavalec.

Ready for STEAK



Top Photo: Jonathan Paz, 32° KCCH and Chris Atteberry, 32°; Bottom Photo: Charlie Marchand, Jr., 33°, Michael Gardner, 32°, and Jim Hirl, 32°

Perfect upper-60s temperature, barely a cloud in the sky, a cool breeze, and not a mosquito to be seen - the perfect weather for the Spring Outing at the Papillion Gun Club. Over 200 Masons and prospective Masons turned out for an evening of trap shooting and a bacon-wrapped steak dinner, with baked potato, salad, corn, and roll on the side, prepared by the Culinary Masters.

John Maxell ran a 50-50 draw, awarding several hundred dollars at the end of the evening to one lucky recipient, while quite a few guests brought home raffle prizes drawn by Scott Oglesby and Paul Rutherford.

The evening has become the perfect venue for prospective Brethren as well, and several members brought along sons, coworkers, or friends to introduce them to Freemasonry in a relaxing environment. One guest, Jeff Calaway, has petitioned Miloma Lodge, and we look forward to raising him in the next few weeks as a Brother Master Mason.

With perfect weather, great Brotherhood, and a relaxing evening, the Spring Outing is an event not to be missed. But if you did, you have another opportunity to attend this Fall at the Outing on September 21, 2016.



Members of the Valley of Omaha 9th-10th degree team in Des Moines in April for the Multi-State Reunion

Omaha 9th-10th Degree Team Hits the Road to Des Moines Multi-State Reunion in April

For the second straight year, the Valley of Omaha was invited to take the 9th and 10th Degrees on the road and perform it at the multi-state Scottish Rite Reunion in Des Moines, Iowa on April 8th and 9th. Although all of the Brothers had some scheduling conflicts with work and family, they rose to the challenge and performed the degree in Des Moines. The Multi-State Reunion included Kansas City, Cedar Rapids and Omaha as well as Des Moines' own degree teams.

As every Scottish Rite Mason knows who has traveled to other Reunions, no two Valleys are the same in regards to stage, props and atmosphere. The Omaha Valley did a great job adapting to Des Moines and really trying to give the crowd what they were hoping to see: a very moving and well-done degree. The degree went very well, with two separate standing ovations for our performances! We were also presented with a plaque thanking the Valley of Omaha for making the trip and for a job very well-done.

We want to thank the Valley of Des Moines for their hospitality and making the trip a very worthwhile experience. The Valley of Omaha would like to continue this tradition, and if another Valley would like to see this degree, please contact Degree Director, Chris Niagro 32° KCCH at cnigro@yahoo.com.

Scottish Rite Welcomes New Brethren, Celebrates Kentucky Derby at Spring Reunion

The Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite welcomed three new candidates as 32° Scottish Rite Masons at the Spring 2016 Reunion on May 5, May 6, and May 7th. Brandon Breiby of Florence Lodge #281, Justin Salado of Solomon Lodge #10, and John Miyoshi of Wahoo Lodge #59 received the Scottish Rite degrees over the course of Thursday and Friday evening degree work and all-day Saturday work.

The Reunion began with new member orientation over sandwiches on Monday night, followed by the 4°, 8°, and 9-10° on Thursday evening. On Friday, the Reunion continued with the 14° and 15°. On Saturday, the day began with the Knights of St. Andrew breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by the 18°, 21°, 25°, 29°, 30°, 31°, and 32°.

The highlight of the Spring Reunion was the Kentucky Derby party, hosted by the Scottish Rite Ladies Group. 70 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies enjoyed crab cake sandwiches, turkey sandwiches, bacon-wrapped potato wedges, brie, and pecan pie and cupcakes, catered by Access 66.

Ladies brought their best Kentucky Derby hats, and guests voted on the best hat. Sherry Sederstrom won the best hat with Jessica Weaver bringing second place, and Preston Coleman coming in a close third with his dapper seersucker cap and suit.

Guests also received tickets and could place them in envelopes representing each horse. Once the winner was announced, tickets would be drawn for win, place, and show. Tami Sklenar won the first prize for the Kentucky Derby party. Members enjoyed the races on the big screen, which was outside on the Scottish Rite patio under a large tent rented for the occasion.

The Fall Reunion will be on November 17, 18, and 19th. Please plan to join us to welcome new Brethren, watch the degree work, and stay for members' banquet on Saturday evening. Please help us reach out to prospective Scottish Rite Masons and invite them to petition for the November Reunion.



Photos (top to bottom): Knights of St. Andrew breakfast, David Meinzer, 32°, Carl Simmons, 32°, Jim Flowers, 32°, Wade Ridout, 32°, Scottish Rite ladies in Kentucky Derby hats, Brenda Coleman, Deb Maxell, Jessica Weaver, Jennifer Carter, Joan Carter, Preston Coleman, Sherry Sederstrom; Kate and Brandon Breiby; Amy Schaap and Tami Sklenar; David Meinzer guarding the Green Room



Since 1979, Scottish Rite Century Club members support RiteCare

In mid-April, members of the Valley of Omaha received the Century Club letter, asking for your support of \$100 or more to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha. Since 1979, the Century Club has been the backbone of the Scottish Rite Foundation, raising between \$16,000 and \$18,000 per year for RiteCare services.

All who donate \$100 or more each year are invited to a catered banquet, which will be on Thursday, July 21st this year.

This year, we have raised \$9,875. If you haven't already done so, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha through the Century Club. New members receive a beautiful plaque, and a date tab will be sent every year to add to the plaque. Additionally, you are recognized on the Century Club donors wall, and you are invited to the Century Club banquet. I would particularly like to invite those who have given in the past but may have let their Century Club membership lapse. This is one of the biggest fundraisers we do each year, and on behalf of the RiteCare children we served, thank you for your support!

Munroe-Meyer Guild Grant Supports RiteCare Programs for Children Using AAC Devices

The Munroe-Meyer Guild announced their 2016 grants, which totalled \$80,397 - the largest grant given in the guild's nearly 50 year history.

Among the awards given, the Munroe-Meyer Institute Speech Language Pathology Department received funding for "Expanding Functional Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)." This proposal will increase opportunities for children who use AAC to communicate in meaningful activities across all environments, increase training and provide opportunities for parents to communicate using AAC with their children, and provide coaching from MMI staff for parents, recreation therapy technicians, and speech-language pathology graduate students on creating communication opportunities and modeling during naturally occurring activities.

With this grant, RiteCare clinician Beth Hughes will complete the Hanen Certification training which addresses the effective coaching of parents. She will then be able to buy AAC equipment. Beth and the Recreation Therapy department will



Clinician Beth Hughes working with a child in the Munroe-Meyer Institute RiteCare Clinic

partner together to offer a new Parent Training group for families who use AAC to learn to communicate together in functional activities and in places in the community. It is like an extension of preschool - instead of speech therapists providing the service, Beth will be teaching the parents how to do it and it will be during function activities and small field trips in the community.

Thanks to the Munroe-Meyer Guild, our Scottish Rite RiteCare clinicians continue to find new ways to improve the lives of children with speech and language difficulties!

University of Nebraska at Kearney RiteCare Clinician Laura Moody sent us several postcards from Speech-Language Therapy graduate students who spent time learning about telepractice technology at the UNK Department of Communications.

Not only do they shadow Laura, but they develop skills working with children, participating in the telepractice sessions, and gain experience by building caseload sessions.

One future Speech-Language Pathologist writes:

Thank you so much for providing us the opportunity to experience telepractice! It has helped us prepare to use it in the field of speech pathology. This program has benefited me personally because I researched telepractice while in graduate school. It has been an amazing experience. I can't wait to utilize what I have learned.

-Jessica F.

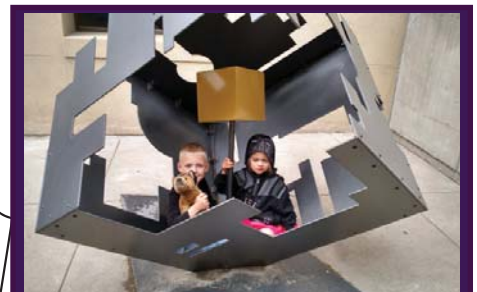
Thank you so much for supporting us through telepractice. It really helped us to get an edge in our careers. It really means a lot that you have done so much for this program!
Thank you,
Karlson Mizell

Thank you for the opportunity to allow the graduate students at UNK to be a part of telepractice. Telepractice is growing in our field, and not everyone receives the opportunity to gain experience with it at the university level.
Jillana Edwards

Laura Moody, from the Kearney Clinic sent us this letter from a RiteCare mom:

I would like to thank the RiteCare Center for the opportunities it has given to my four year old twins. We are ranchers who live in a very remote area and before RiteCare we were driving an hour and half each way, for my kids to attend speech therapy, two times a week. After we discovered RiteCare we are now able to do the twins' speech therapy from our home, over the computer teleconference. This has been absolutely amazing for us. The twins are progressing so much faster because they are getting longer sessions over the computer and are not having so much drive time. My daughter went from not hardly having any interaction with her peers, to confidently talking and wanting to play with her classmates in a very short period of time. She now speaks in complete sentences, and is able to communicate her feelings and what she wants to do. Thank you again for this wonderful program. It has been an absolute life saver for our family!

Jenilee Woltman
RiteCare Mom



On May 21, two dozen RiteCare kids and their families came down to the Scottish Rite as part of Celebrating the Craft. The kids enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers and watched *Finding Nemo* in the theater. The parents expressed gratitude for Scottish Rite Masons support for RiteCare services, and over \$500 was donated to RiteCare services through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha!



Police Presentation Discusses 'Active Killer' Situation

This past January, the Federal Bureau of Investigation thwarted a terrorist-style plot to attack a Scottish Rite Lodge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In light of that threat, John Maxell, 33rd, General Secretary for the Omaha Valley, arranged to have Sgt. Robert Wondra, a former Marine and 20-year veteran of the Omaha Police Department, give the 'Active Killer' presentation.

On May 10th, Sgt. Wondra provided definitions used in describing "active killer" situations, as well as discussing behaviors that may allow coworkers or managers to recognize a potential threat. He also discussed techniques and drills targeted to increase the chances of survival during an active killer incident.

Wondra shared lessons on safety, including the "seven outs," which are:

- Figure out what's going on
- Get out to safety, if possible
- Call out to 911 with specific information that is known
- Hide out if escape isn't feasible
- Keep out, think how to barricade space
- Help out if others do not know the protocol
- Take out the attacker as a last and final resort

"We need people to behave a certain way so they can survive the first few minutes until police can get there," said Wondra. Emotions can run high during these situations and the better people are prepared, the better likelihood everyone will be safe. "It's one more drill we need to add to fire drills, tornado drills," he said.

Meadow Lane Elementary Computer Science Teacher Susan Prabulos Named



Cheers, tears and a whole lot of school pride were on display Friday, May 13th, at a special teacher recognition event at Lincoln's Meadow Lane Elementary School.

Computer Science teacher Susan Prabulos (above, with Don Gray, 32nd KCCH and above right, with Don Gray and Mike Gray, 33rd) won the 2016 Scottish Rite Honor given annually to a teacher in Lincoln Public Schools. Scottish Rite is one of the most prestigious awards given to an LPS teacher and comes with a cash prize of \$3,000.

"I am so overwhelmed and so humbled," Prabulos said to a gym full of students and staff. Her parents were also surprise visitors.

Prabulos said her classroom continues to astound, "when my students learn, and take something that I've given them and turn it into something amazing that I didn't expect, and when they persevere, and keep trying until they reach a goal...It's so amazing to see how excited they get when they realize they have accomplished their goals."

Prabulos has taught at Sheridan, Brownell and Meadow Lane elementary schools for 20 years. She serves on various school improvement committees, helps with teachers and curriculum across the LPS district, and is recognized as a state and national leader in sharing professional development strategies and classroom instruction.

"She is a servant leader," said Daniele Schul-

zkamp, Meadow Lane principal. "She is there to serve kids and their passion in technology, and problem solving. She sees how everything she does in the classroom connects to things outside the classroom."

Students and staff were told they were going to celebrate their morning routine with special guests. Prabulos wondered if that was the case, and eventually figured out the routine would be extra special, as well.

"This teacher is passionate about technology, but more importantly, she is passionate about providing learning experiences for her students," said Eric Weber, associate superintendent for Human Resources at LPS, during the surprise announcement.

Prabulos said she was honored to be chosen out of a group of highly qualified teachers throughout LPS. She said she is driven by the work she sees from students in her classroom.

Schulzkamp said students are not the only ones to benefit from the teacher's conviction for educating everyone.

"She's on-call all the time, she is willing to drop what she is doing, she gives up plan times, she's in before school and after school," Schulzkamp said. "She's always there to help staff be able to use technology to enhance their instruction. But not just that, she helps with Community Connections after school, so it's not just technology, but the big picture of all of that."

Orient of Nebraska Scottish Rite Hosts Statewide RiteCare Meeting in Lincoln

Several years ago, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska, began working to improve the unity between Nebraska's RiteCare clinics. He noticed that the clinics in Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, and the newest clinic in Kearney were operating semi-independently of one another. The clinicians bring significant education and experience as Speech-Language Pathologists and could collaborate with one another to better benefit the children they serve.

In 2015, Nebraska hosted the first statewide meeting of the RiteCare Clinicians, giving them an opportunity to meet one another, meet the Scottish Rite Masons who fund nearly \$650,000 in services each year, and talk about what is happening at each location of the RiteCare Clinic. Afterward, Dr. Amy Nordness, Director of Nebraska's RiteCare program, arranged for continuing education for the clinicians.

This year, the meeting was held on April 29th at the Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Dr. Nordness welcomed:

- Carrie Kenny, M.S. (Lincoln)
- Kris Althouse, M.S. (Hastings)
- Emily Johnson, M.S. (Hastings)
- Paul Laikko, M.A. (Omaha)
- Korey Stading, M.S. (Omaha)
- Beth Hughes, M.S. (Omaha)
- Leslie Van Winkle, M.A. (Omaha)
- Laura Moody, M.S. (Kearney)

At the statewide meeting, the clinicians and Scottish Rite Masons also hear from Micah Evans, Orient Development Director, who spoke about his activities for the past year and plans for the coming year, including upcoming Walks for RiteCare, RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit, and Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction, as well as plans to meet with members about charitable gift annuities and planned gifts.

Curt Edic, 33° presented new signs for each Clinic with the Scottish Rite RiteCare logo,



Amy Nordness, Ph.D., statewide director of the RiteCare Speech-Language Clinics addresses the 8 clinicians from Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha and Scottish Rite Masons.

which will remind families who underwrites the services for their children. Each clinic will be provided a new RiteCare brochure and envelopes with information on how families can support RiteCare through the Scottish Rite Foundations of Nebraska.

After an excellent lunch, the clinicians continued meeting for continuing education while the Nebraska Foundation advisory council met to review goals for the coming year. Learn more about RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic services by e-mailing Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or calling him at (402) 342-1300.

Membership, continued

I admittedly thought about skipping it and just staying at home, but I go every year so I made myself go. And you know what? I am glad I did. I ran into enough Masons to start a new Lodge, friends, and acquaintances, and thoroughly enjoyed myself!

I don't mean to talk about busy schedules. I am sure that our Grand Master could instruct me what a busy schedule truly looks like. It did, however, get me thinking about the nature of Masonic commitments. Why do we look at them as a commitment or obligations?

The excuse of "I'm too busy" and "I'm too tired," and considering Lodge an obligation becomes an excuse to not enjoy the company of Brethren. Creating these excuses becomes easy after a while, and then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy regarding attending a Masonic meeting.



Above: The Brethren of Lancaster Lodge #54 and Below: (From 2013) the Brethren of Long Pine Lodge #136 with M.W. Joe McBride. These men make no excuses, and conduct superlative degree work and enjoy first rate fellowship.

I think of the members of Long Pine Lodge #136. I hear many of these Brethren are farmers, and despite working a long day outside, clean up and present themselves for some first-rate degree work. The Brethren of Lancaster #54 in Lincoln don't use the excuse of going out on a Friday night as a reason not to meet for top-notch degree work and fellowship. The members of Solomon Lodge #10 in Ft. Calhoun, Springfield #118, and many more than I can think of enjoy great fellowship (sometimes enjoying fellowship past midnight) and degree work!

I challenge Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons to stop thinking of Lodge as a burden and making excuses to opt out of the Masonic fellowship. I promise you will surprise yourself and find an enjoyable evening with friends. Make it a habit, and coming out to a Lodge meeting won't be an obligation, but something you look forward to!

Business Ethics Alliance and the Scottish Rite Partner for 4th Annual Ethics on Trial

On Thursday, April 21st, the Business Ethics Alliance (BEA) and Omaha's Scottish Rite produced their 4th annual "Ethics on Trial" at the Scottish Rite theater. This innovative, multi-media production uses a mock-trial format and audience participation to explore ethical issues such as: a wrong-vs-wrong ethical choice, stem cell donation, media ethics, and a corporate code of ethics policy on employee political activity.

This year, Ethics on Trial explored the legality and ethics of the fictitious "Halo Company" and the termination of one of their employees. The employee, "Dr. Ezra James Hayes," portrayed by Chris Carter, 32° KCCH, who claimed his termination was wrongful. Halo Company's countered by asserting that Nebraska is an "at will" employment state and made a motion to dismiss the case. The Judge, portrayed by Laurie Smith-Camp, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for Nebraska, agreed but declared that the jury must still deliberate and cast their verdict on whether Halo Company acted ethically in the manner in which they performed their termination. Paul McGreal, Dean of Creighton University's School of Law, addressed the audience, who served as jury in the case, and explored what they thought about ethics.

"Halo Company" is a think-tank that performs research in support of the development of GMO's (genetically modified organisms); they influence policy around the world with their research. In this year's Ethics case, Dr. Hayes spoke at a rally for, and contributed to the campaign of, a close friend who was running for office, and is supported by an anti-GMO special interest group. Halo Company terminated Dr. Hayes because he did not ask their approval before the rally and before donating to the campaign.



Top: Judge Laurie Smith-Camp presides over Ethics on Trial as actual attorneys prosecute and defend actors who portray an ethical situation, with the audience serving as jury. Bottom: Chris Carter, 32° KCCH as Dr. Ezra Hayes.

Mr. McGreal asked the audience "was it ethical for Dr. Hayes, a respected pro-GMO influencer, to support his friend when he knew his friend was supported by an anti-GMO special interest group?" "Was it ethical for Halo Company to immediately fire Dr. Hayes for not asking permission ... there was no discussion with Dr. Hayes and no warnings?"

The jury was told that the prosecution must have proven by the greater weight of the evidence that Halo Company acted unethically. The Halo Company made a "morally indefensible" choice while acting under their legally protected right to terminate an employee."

The audience - with about 200 in attendance - served as jury, casting their verdict with 80% in agreement, decided that Halo Company acted unethically.

The all-volunteer cast included Judge Laurie Smith-Camp, J.D.; prosecuting attorney Hal Daub (33°), J.D.; Defense Attorney Susan Ann Koenig, J.D.; Chris Carter, 32° KCCH as "Dr. Ezra James Hayes, terminated Halo employee"; Pegi Georgeson as "Cynthia Coventry, VP Halo Company", and Rebel Interactive's MJ McBride as an "Executive Recruiter". Chuck Sohm, 32° KCCH served as Baliff. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska underwrote the event as a sponsor.

The Ethics on Trial program grew out of the Scottish Rite's mission of being seen as an organization that promotes ethical thinking and ideas. The partnership with the Business Ethics Alliance has been fostered by Chris Carter, 32° KCCH, Larry Jacobsen, 33°, and Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH.

As part of the Scottish Rite's Ethics mission, Lee Terry, 33° has brought us fascinating debates, including the death penalty, immigration, increasing the minimum wage, and medical marijuana. The topics generate interesting questions and perspectives!



Just in time for Christmas, Lee will debate Hal Daub, 33° at the Scottish Rite Lodge meeting on December 19th, arguing whether children should be told about Santa Claus. As always Hal and Lee will bring us plenty of fireworks!

Afterwards, join us for the Christmas banquet and awards dinner, where we recognize members who have made a difference throughout the year with serious - and not so serious - awards.

A Day in the Life: Miss Korey

A three-part series by John Keenan, UNMC Public Relations Office (john.keenan@unmc.edu)



Korey has been at MMI for close to 19 years, and her days are varied. Part of her job during the school year is doing outpatient therapy at MMI for children and adults with speech and language problems. She's also under contract with Omaha Public Schools to do assistive technology evaluations and to serve as the speech therapist at J.P. Lord School, where OPS students with several intellectual or developmental disabilities attend classes.

The positive results of this work, Evans says, are proven every time a parent relates how a child's personality and confidence blossoms when he or she can express thoughts clearly.

Miss Korey will have three one-hour sessions today, each with a different group of students. And today's first batch of "friends" is happy to see her.

"Hi, Ezra! Hi, Chase!" Korey greets the boys, who are standing with their mothers. Chase is a red-headed boy wearing a bright red Chicago Cubs hat. He smiles back at Korey. Ezra, a brown-haired little boy in a blue, button-down shirt, is already seated. The carpeted classroom features plastic seats, with white desktops that can be lifted into place or quickly removed. Ezra is behind his white desk, ready to begin the lesson.

For a while – perhaps 15 minutes – Korey Stading seems like any other office-based professional. She has one foot tucked under her as she sits at her desk, going through the day's schedule on her computer. Then Korey hears a noise in the hallway outside her office. A grin splits her face; her shoulder-length brown hair flounces as she spins from her chair.

"It sounds like my friends are here!" she says, bouncing up from behind the desk. She's right; as she exits her office into the hallway, she finds two of the morning's "friends," 4-year-old Chase and 3-year-old Ezra, entering the preschool room across the hall.

The preschool room and Korey's office are located at the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation. Korey and her colleagues work in the speech and language pathology department at MMI, helping children with varied developmental disabilities to learn to speak. Korey's preschool is an early intervention program, serving children aged two to five. She is one of three professionals in this morning class, but she is the lead therapist.

And then there's her pre-school. The class – like everything Miss Korey does at MMI – is paid for by donations from the Scottish Rite of Omaha, which has been funding speech work at MMI for more than three decades.

"Beginning in the 1950s, Scottish Rite Freemasons recognized the extraordinary value of supporting speech-language therapy for children," says Micah Evans, a spokesman for Scottish Rite. "Most children who receive services and overcome speech difficulties go on to enjoy a healthy childhood and become lifelong learners."

Speech therapy has been the national philanthropy of the Scottish Rite fraternity — Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons have been supporting RiteCare Clinics provide speech and language services for more than 40 years.

"Miss Korey has a genuine concern and care for each child's success," Evans says. "She truly wants each child to achieve their potential, and whether it takes four sessions or 40, she works with patience and care to help children."

As more students arrive – the morning class will top out at five children – Korey sits cross-legged at the center of a loose semicircle of desks. Her light green pants could at first be mistaken for nurse's scrubs, and she wears running shoes and a hoodie. Behind her are two large, two-way mirrors through which the parents and grandparents can watch the day's lesson. Between the mirrors, hanging on the wall, is a laminated schedule for the lesson: Circle, surprise box, music, book, snacks and goodbye. And even before the lesson officially gets under way, Korey has shifted personalities.

"Chase!" she exclaims, her voice high and excited. "I want to see your cool glasses! You have glasses just like me!"

Chase's new glasses do actually resemble Miss Korey's – she wears black-rimmed, Nike frames and her hair falls forward as she leans in to take a closer look at Chase. He smiles back at her, reaching out to touch her glasses.

... to be continued in the September-October Scottish Rite Journal

UNPREPARED

I have often written about my admiration for our Masonic forebears who built the magnificent buildings we meet in around the state. Through their wisdom and foresight, most of these buildings were built without lingering debt, and may of those with some debt were paid off within a few years. Even the Hastings Masonic Building, which was lost to the banks during the Depression, was repurchased through the efforts of Dr. A. A. Smith. He so believed in Freemasonry that he took a second mortgage out on his house to buy the Hastings Masonic Center back from the bank in 1940. That is dedication to the Craft!

These men - representing every facet of the Masonic spectrum from the wealthiest men to working men - believed in the Craft, and our records show Brethren of all stripes purchasing bonds toward the construction of Lodges or even taking out loans so they could join the Scottish Rite as a 32° Prince of the Royal Secret.

Look at those large classes of Brethren joining the Scottish Rite. Alliance, with the smallest membership in the Orient, had classes of 20 or 30 men joining. Until the Council of Kadosh and Consistory were chartered there in the early 1930s, men would travel across the state to complete the degrees in Omaha! They did not have to do this. What did they get out of being Scottish Rite Masons that they were not already getting out of being active in their Blue Lodge or York Rite bodies, particularly in western Nebraska where you couldn't just hop in the car and drive to the next town? Masonic life was pretty full as it was. But it was important to them so they found a way.



This photo of the August, 1933 Reunion in Alliance is one of my favorite photos in Nebraska Scottish Rite Masonry. Despite the hardships of the Depression, these men joined in the first class in Alliance with all four Scottish Rite bodes chartered in western Nebraska.

I realize times were different and the pressures on men back then were entirely different than we face today. But our passion for being Masons hasn't changed, has it? Regardless of whether your passion is in your York Rite bodies, Blue Lodge, or Shrine, you are clearly still a Scottish Rite Mason or you wouldn't be receiving the *Journal*!

Whatever reason brought you to Scottish Rite Masonry, I ask you to think about joining the men in these pictures - and those from your own Class photo - and take action to support the fraternity. Think about adding the Scottish Rite Foundation in your Valley to your estate plan - just a percentage, a set dollar amount, or a bequest from an insurance policy.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

*“Your dues change the light bulbs.
Your donations change the world.”*

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Call me - I can help you get an inexpensive policy that lists your favorite Masonic philanthropy as the beneficiary or help establish a charitable gift annuity that provides interest or tax benefits for you now and leaves your legacy later for those Brothers who will follow us. Hopefully they will look at our photos on the wall and remember that the fraternity stands proud because we were there for them.

Whether it is supporting our RiteCare children or simply building an endowment whose interest will support the Lodge in perpetuity, please remember the Scottish Rite - or your favorite Masonic philanthropies - in your estate plan.



My class photo in April, 2003. . . Since 2008, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska has been part of my estate plan. It makes me proud to think that a portion of my estate will provide for Nebraska Scottish Rite philanthropies and our RiteCare children for decades to come.