



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

November-December, 2016 • Volume VI, Issue 6

Features:

New Look in Alliance Lodge Room

Hastings Hits the Road to Burwell

Lincoln Centennial challenge coin

Valley of Omaha Family Picnic

RiteCare news

... and much more!

New look for Alliance Lodge Room as new carpet laid in Lodge room and theater. . . See page 2 for story.

Membership

A well-known Masonic blog recently published an article entitled "Don't Forget. . . We Need Petitions." The author writes "I could make this a long article by listing the reasons I joined the fraternity. Among those would not be, 'I joined so I could go out and get petitions.'"

Unfortunately, when I hear, "Go out and get more petitions," it translates in my mind to "Get more dues, more donations, more money and more dishwashers for the kitchen crew — if they breathe, drag 'em in and sign 'em up."

I've been chewing on this for a while. I take his point that none of us joined to be a modern version of a British press gang, grabbing any man off the street and making a Mason of him. We did not join to be down in the kitchen shucking corn for the corn feed, nor to wrangle men to toil

with us downstairs in the kitchen. We joined for the brotherhood, the education, and the higher purposes of being better men in the company of men on that same journey. Fact is, many of us are not skilled at talking membership; there's nothing wrong with that — it just isn't our strong suit.

But let's look at the concept of "Get More Petitions" with some detachment.

First off, our Lodges are, at a certain level, a business proposition. Unless we are blessed with a large endowment that pays to fix the roof in perpetuity, Lodges need the money. And money comes from dues. So let's either understand right now that our dues would leap to \$500 per member to pay the true cost of maintaining the buildings and paying those pesky bills, or we find new members to help share those costs. We simply need new Masons to both replenish our

ranks and to spread the cost of operating the Lodge. Masonry operates on the basis of membership, pure and simple. But why shouldn't we be finding brethren to share in the lights, rights, and benefits of Freemasonry?

More to the point, finding new members actually reflects as a credit to you, the Brother being asked to find the new member. Think about it. The Lodge has enough faith that YOU represent the kind of person who would bring in a good man as a potential Mason. What the Lodge is saying is that your reputation as one of the recommending Brothers ought to be about all the recommendation this candidate needs to join, since we have profound respect for your judgment and abilities. This is the key point: the Lodge believes in YOU and has faith

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Orient Calendar

Oct 28-29	Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Nov 3, 10, 17	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Nov 4-5	Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
Nov 17, 18, 19	Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
Nov 20	Broadway Series: <i>White Christmas</i> (O)
Dec 9	Christmas Party & Banquet (L)
Dec 7, 14, 21, 28	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Dec 8, 15, 22, 29	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 5, 12, 19, 26	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 27	Robert Burns Dinner (L)
Jan 27	Scotch Tasting (O)
Jan 29	Broadway Series: <i>The Sound of Music</i> (O)
Feb 2-4	Grand Lodge Annual Communication (Kearney)
Feb 1, 8, 15, 22	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 2, 9, 16, 23	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 9	Broadway Series: <i>Jersey Boys</i> (O)
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage (L)
Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 10	Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
Apr 28-29	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
May 16	Broadway Series: <i>Something Rotten</i> (O)
May 20	Celebrating the Craft (A, H, L, O)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Nov 25, Dec 23, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Nov 15, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 19

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17

For more information

contact the Secretary in your Valley

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



The Valley of Alliance finally has the new carpeting installed upstairs in the Lodge room, and it sure looks striking! The tessalated tile carpet harkens back to the Craft degrees, where Masonic tradition holds that the floor of the Temple of Solomon was decorated with a mosaic pavement of black and white stones. As the Lodge is the representation of King Solomon's temple, the floor is of the same pattern. The mosaic-patterned floor is classed among the ornaments of the Lodge in combination with the indented tassel and the blazing star. Its parti-colored stones of black and white have been readily and appropriately interpreted as symbols of the evil and good of human life.

The new carpeting makes a significant difference in the Lodge room, and we can not wait to show it off at the Fall Reunion on November 4th and 5th. On an interesting note, we uncovered a small trap door on the stage. I'm guessing this has to do with York Rite degrees. If you have a guess on its original use, I'd be interested in learning what it is! *Several before-and-after photos are on page 3.*

Please plan to attend the Fall Reunion on November 4th and 5th. We need help with Degree work, and of course, we need your help to reach out to new candidates in your Blue Lodge. Scottish Rite membership is important, continuing the symbolic and moral lessons of the Craft degrees. As important, being a Scottish Rite Mason expands your network of Brotherhood to 2,500 members across Nebraska and about 300,000 Scottish Rite Masons across the United States. There are plenty of opportunities for your leadership, including committees, degree teams, and line officers. Please give me a call if you are interested in getting involved or if you have candidates for the Fall Reunion.

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





Pictured: Ron Nielsen, 32°, Don Rasmussen, 33°, Rich Gallegos, 32°, Howard Fairbairn, 32°, and Charlie Haskell, 32° KCCH

The Central Nebraska Valley hit the road for the 3rd year, meeting at the Sandstone Grill in Burwell, Nebraska for the Scottish Rite meeting on August 2. Charlie Haskell, 32° KCCH arranged the meeting. We had a small group but a great discussion on increasing membership and other items.

Take a *MOUSE* to Speech Class

This month during Speech Therapy we have been reading the book *If You Take A Mouse To School*, written by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Felicia Bond.

Our activities included a mouse craft for our bulletin board, a board game with matching pictures from the book, and coloring pages to highlight pictures from the book. We even made a "mouse snack," a literacy activity reading the recipe for the snack, following directions to assemble the snack, and of course they ALL enjoyed tasting their mouse creations! The book has provided hilarious and lively discussions all week about what would happen if a mouse came to "visit" at Speech!

Over the course of the week, by using the same book and reading it over and over, we helped add to the students' understanding of the story. This made it easier for them to "read" the story back to us, using the pictures for clues. Some students named the pictures, others talked about the actions, and older students noticed the humor in the words and pictures.

Kris Althouse, M.S., CCC-SLP and Emily Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP
RiteCare Clinicians
kris.althouse@unmc.edu and emily.johnson@unmc.edu

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:

October 28-29Fall Reunion
November 1Hastings (Feast of Tishri)
December 6Hastings
March 11Spring 2017 Reunion
November 11 Fall 2017 Reunion

JOIN US FOR THE

Shrimp Feed

&

creamed can dinner

SATURDAY AFTER THE REUNION
OCTOBER 29, 2016 DEGREES - APPROX 5PM

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER
411 N HASTINGS AVENUE, HASTINGS, NEBRASKA



RSVP:
(402) 462-5813

PRICE
\$15/PERSON



Alliance Valley Lodge Room Carpeting, continued:

Left: Old carpeting, probably dating back to the 1950s; Middle: Installation in Progress; Right: Carpeted Lodge room with backdrop





Challenge Coin Celebrates Lincoln Scottish Rite Cornerstone Centennial

When the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite Cathedral was built, Woodrow Wilson was in the White House and the United States was close to entering World War I. The timing could not be worse for the new Scottish Rite Cathedral, then under construction - manpower shortages as men went off to war, and prices soared for steel, aluminum, and construction material as resources were mobilized for the war effort in Europe.

Nevertheless, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska laid the Scottish Rite cornerstone on August 8, 1916 and the building was dedicated the following February, followed by the first Reunion class. Since then,

thousands of men have found their Masonic home at the Scottish Rite. To celebrate the 100th anniversary, the Lincoln Valley has commissioned 100 Centennial challenge coins, commemorating the 1916 cornerstone dedication. The cost is \$20/coin, which are available in the Scottish Rite office. Candidates in the Fall 2016 Centennial Reunion will receive one of these historic coins, as will top-line signers who brings in two or more candidates.

There will be an article about the cornerstone rededication, Reunion and Banquet in the next Journal. Don't forget to reserve your challenge coin. . . before they're history!

Brotherly Counsel: Meet the 2017 Master



*Jerry Piglsley, 32°
2017 Venerable Master-elect*

Thank you brethren for electing me as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for the Lincoln Valley for the year 2017.

I want to thank Past Venerable Master Don Gray, 32° KCCH for inviting me to be a member of the Scottish Rite and his excellent leadership this past year.

I am a Past Master of Cotner Lodge No. 297, A. F. & A. M., and a member of the Divan of the Sesostris Shrine and Director of the Clown Unit. I am a partner in the law firm of Woods & Aitken LLP and for over 30 years have represented public and private sector employers in labor and employment law, including defending them in employment litigation in federal and state courts.

My vision for 2017 is to plan and promote a well rounded series of activities to engage and involve every member in the life and work of our Valley. I look forward to working with each and every one of you to make 2017 a success.

Special events planned for 2017: Robert Burns Dinner (January 27), Valentine's Day Dinner (February 10), St. Patrick's Day Celebration/Fundraiser (March 17), Spring Reunion (April 28-29), Feast of Tishri (October 13), Fall Reunion (October 27-28), and Christmas Party (December 20).

The Valley is working now on the 4th WalkRite for RiteCare to be held at the Lincoln Children's Zoo on May 20. This family-friendly event is designed to raise money to support the extraordinary work of the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics.

Gina and I wish you the best in the new year.

*Jerry Piglsley, 32°
2017 Venerable Master-elect
jpiglsley@woodsaitken.com*

Save the Date

For reservations, please call the office
at (402) 435-2144 or visit
www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org/events



SCOTTISH RITE SUMMER PICNIC

Monday, August 15th was a perfect evening for the annual Scottish Rite family picnic. Over 100 Scottish Rite Masons and their families – with many children and grandchildren – turned out at the Omaha Home for Boys Cooper Farm for burgers, hotdogs, brats, potato salad, chips, and of course, s'mores!

The weather was a cool 84° - warm enough to still be summer, but with enough breeze to discourage mosquitoes. This year, Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, had a bouncy house delivered for the kids. In addition, Christine Muska, whose husband Andrew is also in the Lodge of Perfection, brought members of the Omaha Ukelele Club who played during the evening.

About a 100 Scottish Rite Masons attended, along with spouses, children, and grandchildren, and our guests ranged from 17 months old to 96 years young! - a great turnout for a Monday evening. It was,

however, down from prior years. Two of the four Masters were present, and of 33 installed line officers, only 10 were present. Since the picnic is hosted for the enjoyment of the membership, John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary for the Omaha Valley, invites members to brainstorm about ways to make the evening more inviting for the membership. One idea was bingo for the early arrivals. In the past, we have had horseshoe tossing and other games. Anyone with ideas is invited to reach out to John at maxelljt@scottishriteomaha.org.

Jeffrey drew raffles prizes for "kids under 17" and "kids over 17," and nearly everyone went home with a prize this year.

A more perfect evening of great food, great company, and great weather could not be asked for, and everyone enjoyed a relaxed evening at Cooper Farm. Mark your calendars now for next year's Scottish Rite Family Picnic on August 21, 2017 and join us for a great Scottish Rite tradition!

Sept Lodge Meeting Presents UNO Scholarships and 50-Year Pins

Over 125 Scottish Rite Masons and guests came to the Lodge dinner and meeting on September 19th. This is always one of the biggest meetings of the year.

The Culinary Masters outdid themselves with steaks grilled outside, served with a baked potato and fresh vegetables. After a dinner, Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection started the evening program, welcoming six of our UNO scholarship recipients, who came with their parents, as well as UNO Chancellor John Christensen and Mike Bird, Vice-President of the NU Foundation. The Scottish Rite has presented 13 \$2,000 merit and need-based scholarships for more than 20 years, giving more than \$600,000 in that time to tomorrow's leaders. In addition to the F. Jerome Given Scholarship for a graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology, the William Webster and Robert Falk Distinguished Scholar scholarships, we were honored to present Abi Heller, a sophomore studying Neuroscience, with the Curt and Carol Edic Scholarship.

This scholarship named after our General Secretary Emeritus formally kicks off a new fundraising opportunity through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha. Any Scottish Rite Mason who donates \$2,000 is entitled to have a scholarship named after him (or any one he designates) for a year. Curt presented a donation of \$2,000 and the Scottish Rite is honored to recognize him for a year with a Distinguished Scholarship named in his honor. For a \$50,000 donation, which realizes \$2,000 in interest without eroding the principal, a scholarship will be named in perpetuity by the donor.

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Terry and Bob Pelletier, 32°



Christina Muska (far right) and the Omaha Ukelele Club



Gary Unger, 32° KCCH demonstrates the proper way to eat a s'more



Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH and son Preston enjoy the bouncy house

For more photos from the Scottish Rite Family picnic, please visit <http://www.scottishriteomaha.org/news> and scroll down to the August 16th news article.



John Maxell, Jeffrey Coleman, Dr. John Christensen, UNO Scholarship recipients, and Mike Bird

PRESENTING 32° LETTERS OF PATENT

The Valley of Omaha hopes to begin a new tradition, personally presenting 32° Letters of Patent, issued by the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, to new members in their home Lodge. In the past, patents were simply mailed to members.

One recommendation of the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) is to make the receipt of the Patent by a new Scottish Rite Brother a ceremonial occasion. John Maxell had the honor of presenting a Patent to Justin Salada, 32° at the Solomon Lodge #10 Sesquicentennial celebration at Ft. Calhoun in July.

Prospective Brethren see the presentation, learn what a Patent represents, and hopefully are encouraged to petition themselves! More



Charlie Odorizzi, 32° presented a 32° Patent to Brandon Breiby, 32° in August at Florence Lodge #281 (above, right).

important, a special presentation reminds a new Brother of his value and importance in our fraternity, and helps keeps him better engaged.

Letters of patent are a type of legal instrument issued by a governing body, granting an office, title or status to a person. In the past, Scottish Rite Masons may have folded their patents up in carrying folders and took it with them in lieu of a dues card when visiting other Lodges. Many old patents were autographed by fellow member's of his Reunion class, the SGIG, Grand Master, or other VIPs.

September Scholarship Awards and 50-Year Presentations

... continued from page 5

Curt and Carol Edic Scholar Abi Heller, a Sophomore Neurosciences major, thanked the membership, saying the scholarship allowed her to pursue her dreams. Thanks to the Scottish Rite scholarship, she was able to conduct research on projects of which only 6 undergraduates in the nation received National Science Foundation funding.

Jeffrey also recognized our 2016 50-year members. Our most active member of the Class of 1966 is Bill Craig, 33°, volunteer, Past Wise Master of Rose Croix, original member of the Wrecking Crew, with a long and vast institutional knowledge of the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite. Coleman presented Bill with the light blue hat of a 50-year Scottish Rite Mason, altered to include the patriarchal cross of a 33° Mason.

Brethren honored as 50-Year Members this year are:

- William Craig
- Robert Jeffus
- Alan Pelly
- Stanley Garner
- Walter Price
- James Wickstrom
- John Estep
- Daniel MacKinnon
- Gail Pelley
- Lyman Burchard
- Norman Huber
- Donald McWhirter
- Bernard Taulborg
- Sherrill Dashner
- William Siburg
- Raymond Brommhall

Jeffrey also recognized the Lodges with the most membership growth in overall numbers and percentage. Springfield Lodge #118 was recognized for the largest increase in membership and Albert Pike Lodge #333 was recognized for the largest percentage in growth in membership.



2016 50-Year Members Recognized at the September Lodge of Perfection Dinner

MASONIC YARD SALE

KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW
MASONIC YARD SALE

Have Masonic stuff to get rid of?

- Challenge Coins
- Lapel Pins
- Masonic Clothing & Jewelry
- Masonic Watches
- Collectibles
- Books (sorry, no 'Morals & Dogma')
- All Masonic organizations

Donate your Masonic swag to the KSA. Purchase Masonic collectibles you want. The KSA donates proceeds back to the Scottish Rite in purchases that have not otherwise been budgeted for.

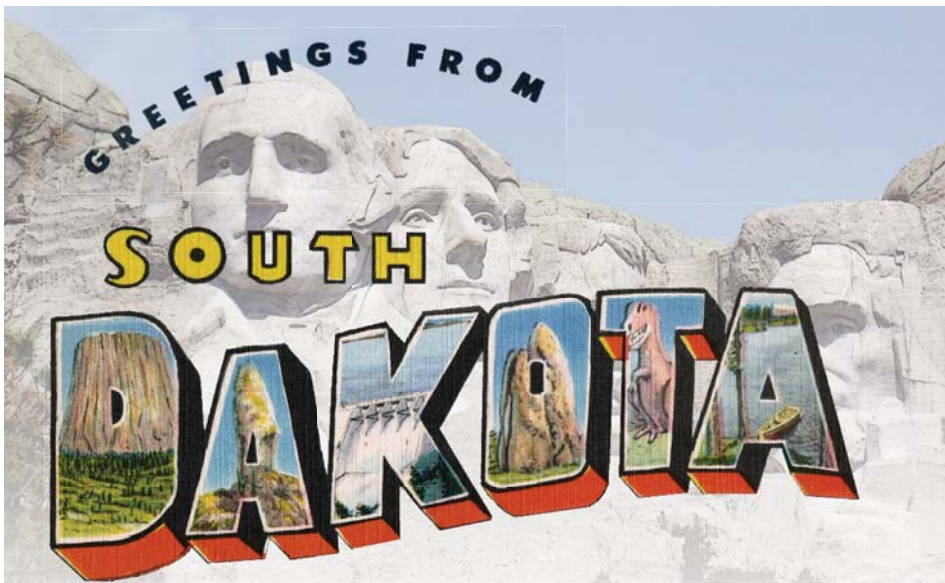
SATURDAY MAY 6
9 AM - 3 PM
www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org

The Valley of Omaha Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) are hosting the "Masonic Yard Sale" on Saturday, May 6, during the Spring 2017 Reunion.

You can donate Masonic swag you've acquired over the years - lapel pins, challenge coins, shirts, ties, jewelry, or books (no copies of *Morals and Dogma*, please. We have too many as it is!). Members can buy what they want for their own collections, and the Knights of St. Andrew will donate proceeds back to the Scottish Rite for purchases that arise during the course of the year.

The Omaha Valley KSA has donated back more than \$36,000 to the Valley since 2006, including defibrillators, annual CPR training, repairs to the historic grandfather

clock, a laptop and projector, supplies for the kitchen and theater, benches in the courtyard, brass lamps in the 33° Boardroom, and much more. To donate items, please drop them off at the Scottish Rite, or e-mail Don Leu, 32° at leudal2@hotmail.com for more information. (Donations are not tax-deductible.)



Masons Celebrate Mount Rushmore's 75th Anniversary

Masons from across the United States came together on Thursday, September 9 with the Grand Lodge of South Dakota to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Mt. Rushmore.

The ceremony highlighted how each of the Presidents on Mt. Rushmore had a unique tie to Freemasonry. George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt were well-known in Masonry, Thomas Jefferson was reputed to have been a member of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters during his time as the Continental Congress' ambassador to France, and Abraham Lincoln was to have expressed interest in joining the Craft after his Presidency.

The emcee was Scott Wolter, forensic geologist, and host of the History Channel's

"America Unearthed," and a Brother from Minnesota. Brother Ira Briggs, Jr., of Eagle Butte Lodge #172, gave a Lakota invocation, saying that Lakota values and tradition mesh well with those of Freemasonry. Brother Don "Nick" Clifford, last living worker on Mt. Rushmore, spoke about his time working on the Mt. Rushmore with creator Gutzon Borglum.

The keynote speaker was Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°, noting that Masons today are woven into the American community. "When you find [Masons], you find the fabric of America," he said. Mt. Rushmore itself was crafted through the work of many Freemasons, and



Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale, 33°



Brother Don "Nick" Clifford, last living worker on Mt. Rushmore

is a symbol of "the freedom to hope, and to dream, and the freedom to be, and the freedom to accomplish."

In the evening, guests enjoyed a chuck wagon dinner with cowboy music led by South Dakota legend "Stringbean" Svenson. The evening included very funny comedians Williams and Ree, billed as "the Indian and the White Guy," who rified on everything from the Presidential election, the Dakota pipeline, the "Fighting Sioux" mascot, and the day's events at Mt. Rushmore.

MT. RUSHMORE'S



Many people know that Gutzon Borglum was the artist and creator behind Mt. Rushmore, but not too many know that the Borglum family lived in Nebraska, where father Jens Borglum practiced medicine in Fremont and Omaha. Along with his brother and artist Solon, Gutzon was becoming a well-known artist in his own right. Upon selling a painting to Past Grand Master George Lininger, Omaha industrialist and art collector, he earned enough money to study at the Académie Julian and Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. While Solon and Gutzon were well-known as artists and Masons, half-brother Francis, was Nebraska's own Borglum Freemason. Francis was a police surgeon in Omaha. He relocated to Lincoln in 1902, was raised in Hickman Lodge #256 in 1905, demitted to Lancaster Lodge #54 in 1910, remaining a member until his death in 1936.



Curt Edic, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., Micah Evans, Ann and M.W. Tom Hauder, Ron and Tami Stites, M.W. Mike Rodman, Grand Master of South Dakota, M.W. John Maxell, Ralph Joos, Jr., and Tom Brummett

33° INSPECTORS GENERAL HONORARY BANQUET HELD AT LINCOLN'S NEBRASKA CLUB

Of the 2,500 Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska, 13.2% are Knights Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH), but only 5.7% have received the highest honor of the Supreme Council. Only 143 living Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska are 33° Inspector General Honorary. On average, they have been Scottish Rite Masons for more than 22 years before receiving this honor, and have been Scottish Rite Masons for an average of 37 years!

As a way to thank these men for their long membership and service to the Scottish Rite, the Orient hosted the first Nebraska 33° Banquet on August 19, 2016 at the Nebraska Club in Lincoln, with 74 Scottish Masons and their ladies enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a dinner of filet mignon. Members attended from all four Valleys.



Don Madsen, Barb Madsen, Jim Parks, Sr., Donnie Perry, Frank Kroupa, Ralph Joos, Jr., and MW Ivan Vrtiska

Mike Gray, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Lincoln served as emcee during the evening, speaking about the need to recognize and thank Thirty-Thirds with a banquet every other year, between Biennial Sessions of the Supreme Council. "We tell honor men that their KCCH or 33° is 'not for what you've done, but for what you will do.' This banquet is recognition of those things you have done and continue to do."

Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska spoke about the significance of the white hat and what it means to be a 33° Scottish Rite Mason. It is, he said, worn with pride because "someone felt we were entitled to wear the hat and be honored in the community."

The Thirty-Third Degree is given for the

significant work members have done in their community, state, or within Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite. Ill. Brother Sederstrom also spoke about the success of Nebraska's RiteCare programs, due in part to more than \$20 million donated over the last 40 years toward services by Scottish Rite Masons.



From the Central Nebraska Valley at Hastings: MW Don Rasmussen, Phil Odom, George and Joy White, Jo and MW Les Seiler



Top: Having fun with MW Les Seiler and MW Thomas Tye. Bottom: John and Liz Ferguson



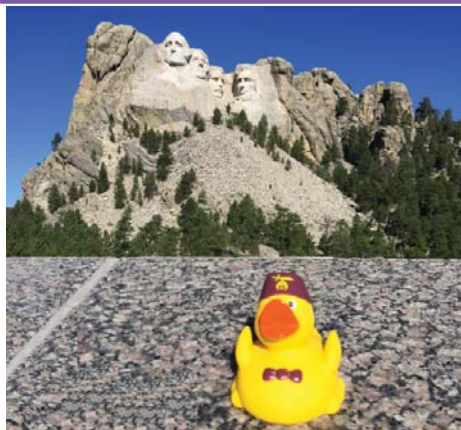
Meet Angus Scott Wright, the Orient of Nebraska's Travelling Mascot

What started as a gift during the KSA Gathering last May in Omaha

has become a new tradition in the Orient of Nebraska.

Brother Keith Stika, 32° KCCH from the Valley of Charleston, South Carolina brought the original rubber ducky, wearing a fez and named Omar T. Floatentate, after Omar Shrine in Charleston. Keith takes the duck on his travels and has a Facebook page of the duck's adventures in Masonry. He presented a rubber duck to Micah Evans at the KSA Gathering. With

the addition of a Scottish Rite cap, "Angus Scott Wright" is the travelling mascot and ambassador for the Orient Development Department. Watch for him around the state and around the country, representing our philanthropies and our Brethren!



Above, "Angus Scott Wright" visits Mt. Rushmore in September. Left: His first visit with the Culinary Masters last May during Celebrating the Craft. Other visits: Hastings, NE for the Walk for RiteCare; Denver, CO for the RiteCare Conference; and Carhenge in Alliance, NE during the Reunion.



Knights of St. Andrew head to Topeka to host the

29°



*Top Row: Bill Kimme, Rupert Lyon, Kyle Beckner, Andrew Muska, Micah Evans
Bottom Row: Jim Wolfe, David Meinzer, Armel MacDonald, Zack Sinsheimer, and Jim Flowers*

Riding the success of the KSA Gathering hosted in Omaha this past May, the Knights of St. Andrew were invited to the Valley of Topeka, Kansas to put on the 29th Degree and conduct a Knighting ceremony. Our hosts were L.D. Nicolay, 32°, who had been in Omaha for the KSA Gathering in May, and Josephe Stiles, 32° KCCH, General Secretary for the Valley of Topeka.

On September 10th, ten Knights made the 162 mile drive, including Zack Sinsheimer, 32° who came up from Oklahoma City after working a long night shift.

Degree team members included David Meinzer, Jim Flowers, Rupert Lyon, Kyle Beckner, Jim Wolfe, Bill Kimme, Andrew Muska, Zack Sinsheimer, Micah Evans, and Armel MacDonald, who coordinated the degree work and knighting.

After a walk-through and practice, the Knights hosted the 29th degree in the Valley of Topeka's beautiful theater, with about 25 Scottish Rite Masons in attendance, representing the Valleys of Topeka, Kansas City, Salina, and St. Joseph, Missouri. In addition, Ill. Br. Hugh Gill, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Kansas was in attendance from Wichita.

Armel noted that most of the regular Twenty-Ninth Degree team members had other commitments and could not be in Topeka this day, and that the Omaha Knights present were mostly new to this degree. But this

was actually a positive situation, as it served to do what the KSA is all about - engage members, get them active in the Scottish Rite, and foster a sense of community and brotherhood. In the end, this brother-to-brother engagement is what keeps members returning as dues-paying Scottish Rite Masons.

After the degree, Armel knighted 14 new Knights of St. Andrew, explaining the significance of the ceremony and the degree. Armel called on the fathers of several new Knights, asking them to escort their newly Knighted sons back to their seats, adding a special touch to the ceremony.



Above: Zack Sinsheimer, Bill Kimme, Jim Wolfe, and Andrew Muska work on their parts for the Degree.



1



2



3



4

First Photo: Practice with Armel MacDonald, Bill Kimme, and David Meinzer

Second Photo: Kyle Beckner relaxing between practice sessions

Third Photo: dress rehearsal with Andrew Muska, David Meinzer, Armel MacDonald, Bill Kimme, and Zack Sinsheimer

Fourth Photo: Hugh W. Gill, 33°, SGIG in Kansas, speaks to the class and guests

Dear Scottish Rite Masons

We frequently receive letters of thanks from RiteCare families, expressing their appreciation for the speech and language therapy provided.

The Saldivar Family recently wrote:

Thank you for providing our daughter Camile with a RiteCare telepractice grant for speech services at UNK this summer. We are so grateful for this special gift.

From the RiteCare Facebook page:

My son is a three year old who doesn't speak like he should. When we were sent here I honestly had zero hope that they would tell me any thing different then what so many others had told us! Paul [Laikko] is fabulous! He has gotten my son to say more words in the last two months then I have ever heard from him! I honestly have so much hope now that one day he will be able to communicate with us! Honestly I don't know where we would be with out Paul!

RiteCare services would not be possible without your generous support and donations. **THANK YOU**, Scottish Rite Masons, for your donations which support these valuable RiteCare programs!

Lincoln RiteCare Clinic Welcomes New Clinician

My name is Holly Schlautman, and I am excited to join the team at the RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln.

I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree and my Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and am proud to return to the University as a Husker alum. At the Barkley Memorial Center where our Lincoln RiteCare Clinic is located, I hope to provide early intervention therapy opportunities for speech pathology undergraduates in the clinic setting.

I live in Lincoln with my husband Isaac. We just bought a house and spend a lot of our weekends with remodeling projects. I also love to travel. This summer we took a trip to Canada where we had fun hiking mountains and went paragliding!

I began working for Lincoln Public Schools in 2013 within the Early Childhood Pre-school Program. There my clinical experiences included providing speech-language therapy for 3 to 5-year olds, being a member of the screening and evaluation teams,



Holly Schlautman enjoys remodeling projects and travel with her husband Isaac.

and coaching classroom teachers and families at several schools across the district. I have provided therapy for children with a broad range of communication disorders, but my greatest interests are in childhood apraxia of speech, phonological disorders, and stuttering in early childhood. I look forward to developing new ways to help our clinic's young children and families become more successful with their communication!

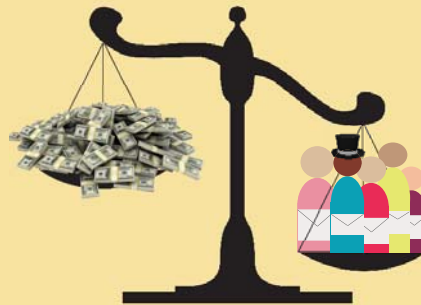
Membership, continued

in YOU. Our future is in YOUR hands to bring in the kind of man who will represent the best of the Craft.

Last, the author writes:

I'm also not excited about advertising the fraternity or its related bodies. To me, the best way to get members is to demonstrate the worth of the Craft by our actions. We have to be active and visible in the community and attract existing members to other bodies by showing them that the meetings are interesting, exciting, educational, and more than a droning of the minutes and routine business transactions.

I whole-heartedly agree that we attract and retain men by being active in the community. Our very behavior and conduct is the best sales tool we have, and when men see Masons as the very pillars of rectitude and ethical behavior, they



Reaching out to new Brothers is part of our job as Masons - both to perpetuate our membership and to defray the costs.

will want to associate with us as members.

That is very true, but consider the best car ever built – let's say it gets 200 miles to the gallon, goes from 0 to 150 in 3 seconds and is a masterpiece of engineering and design. No matter how great that car is, it doesn't sell itself. It requires a capable salesman to talk about its merits. So, too, with Masonry. We have all the reasons in the world to join, but you have to talk about it to a potential

Brother to "sell" it. No salesman strictly relies on customers to walk through the door; they spend a great deal of resources finding the customers. It would be nice if "2B1Ask1" brought us candidates trooping into the Tyler's preparation room, flapping petitions by the dozens. The honest reality is that we have to do outreach to find the prospective members and explain to them why they should be here.

Masonry has always asked of us to "get more petitions." This should not be seen as drudgery. This is a reflection of our need for members. More importantly, it is a reflection of our conviction in your character and your commitment to the Craft that you can reach out to prospective members and talk about the value of Freemasonry. I hope you'll see the call to "get more petitions" as a positive reflection of your leadership and the extraordinary trust the Craft puts in you.

A Day in the Life: Miss Korey

Part 3: by John Keenan, UNMC Public Relations Office (john.keenan@unmc.edu)

Miss Korey's use of sign language when talking to Trevyn – touching her chest for “I,” for example – is not accidental. Sign language is another avenue of communication, and the teachers use basic signs throughout the class.

“All of our kids have expressive language delays of one form or another, so it's another mode to allow them to express themselves, and obviously they can't learn it if we don't show it to them,” Miss Korey says. “So we model it all the time.”

The movements also can serve as a cue for the children who do use their speech. “Sometimes that sign will cue the word, so we're not having to say it for them to imitate. It also is another visual, so it helps with kind of receptive understanding or directions or other things, too.”

One everyone has a pointer, Trevyn speaks again. He's been in the class slightly longer than his four friends, and he's more outgoing.

“Up!” he demands.

Miss Korey is at his side immediately, lifting the white portion of his desk up so he can leave his seat and toddle to the schedule on the wall. (Miss Ellyn and Miss Beth help the other children to the wall, as well.) With the teachers' help, the children use their pointers to pick out the next activity on the schedule – they've finished with “circle,” and now it's time for “surprise box,” where each student is shown a box that, when opened, has something inside – a ball, a pinwheel – that can be used for more language prompts.

After surprise box, the class goes on to “music,” signified by a line drawing of a man holding his hand to his ear with a note hanging in space alongside him.

Brightly colored maracas are passed out to the class, and the teachers and students swing into another song. (“We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo....”) From her space in the center of the circle, Miss Korey waves

her arm like an elephant's trunk, or snaps them together like a crocodiles jaws.

Suddenly the music stops.

“Oh, no!” Miss Korey says with disappointment. “I really want more!”

This time, Ezra responds to the prompt – “More!” – And the music begins again, the teachers doing most of the audible singing (“... how about you, you, you?”), but the students waving maracas and smiling and singing along as best they can.

As the song nears its end, Miss Korey places her cheek on her folded hands – we're home from the zoo and going to sleep. Trevyn puts his hand to the side of his face, imitating her for a moment – but then the song explodes again into one more upbeat verse (apparently, we're going back to the zoo tomorrow), and the children wave their arms and bob their heads with excitement.

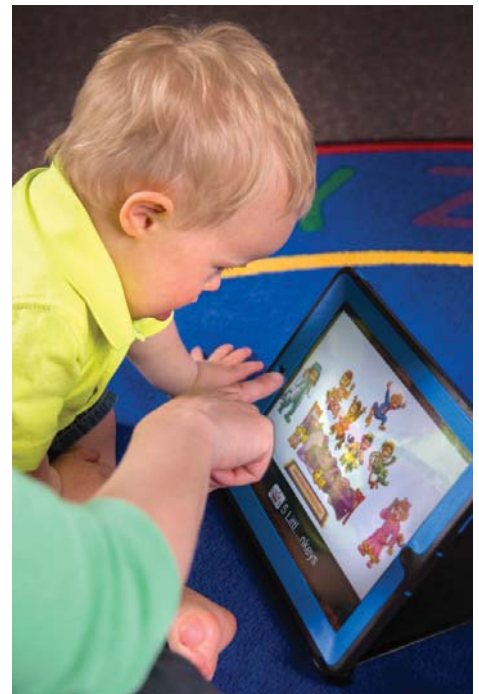
“Yay!” Miss Korey yells as the song ends. “Nice job, friends!”

The exaggerated facial and mouth expressions, the loud, sing-songy voice, the “turned up to 11” intensity is a style of teaching, not a personality quirk. It's a style Miss Korey learned as she took her master's in speech-language pathology at Texas Christian University after getting a bachelor's at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

“We're working with little kids,” she says. “To gain and keep their attention, to keep them focused, we use those strategies. We have to be energetic and enthusiastic. It's not a natural skill for everybody.

“Beth and I always hate it when we see videos of ourselves,” she admits.

For snacks, the class moves to a small, semicircular table. Miss Ellyn takes center stage now, sitting on the other side of the table. Before handing out treats, she squirts some hand-sanitizer onto her own hands and washes the hand of each friend.



Chase first uses his assistive device to ask for fruit snacks, then yogurt, but he settles for pretzels. Ezra indicates with his finger on a photo that he wants a cookie, while Trevyn, who has been working hard today, elects to start out snacks with a glass of water.

“Aaah,” he says, exaggerating the sigh to the delight of Miss Korey as he puts his green cup down.

After snacks, the group moves to a blue circle on the carpet, some of the children sitting on the floor, some nudging their way onto teacher's laps. It's time for goodbye.

Again, the three teachers speak in unison.

“Now we're finished with snacks and it's time for ...”

“Goodbye,” some children join in, waving their hands. Each child is given their own goodbye, the teachers singing their names, and then they are told it's time to go out and look for mothers and fathers – Miss Korey making the sign for each parent as she talks, Trevyn and some of the other students imitating her.

Class is over.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

A doctor, a lawyer and a fundraiser arrive at the pearly gates of heaven. St. Peter tells the doctor that he will grant him one wish before he enters heaven, so the doctor asks for a million dollars. St. Peter grants the wish and the doctor enters into heaven. This generosity did not go unnoticed by the lawyer, so when St. Peter asks him for his wish, the lawyer asks for a billion dollars. St. Peter grants the wish and the lawyer enters into heaven. When St. Peter asked the fundraiser what he would like, he says, "If it is not too much trouble, could I please get the business cards of the two people who entered heaven just ahead of me?"



I won't quit my day job for the life of a Las Vegas comedian, but trust me, in the fundraising world, that's hilarious!

But it also masks a great truth in fundraising. It's not just who you know, but who do those people know. As we look to the long-term stability of Scottish Rite philanthropies, my question to you is who do you know whom we should visit, and can you help knock on that door.

Whether it is a Brother, or someone in your community, Lodge, work, or neighborhood who would be interested in supporting our RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics or our Scottish Rite philanthropies, please reach out and help connect them with the Development office or the General Secretary in your Valley. We would be happy to arrange a coffee, a lunch, or a meeting and talk about our philanthropies.

My goal is to meet with Scottish Rite Brethren, Masons, RiteCare families and members of the public and turn conversations into relationships. I can help Brethren create a philanthropic legacy through a gift in their will or estate plan, a charitable gift annuity, a gift of stock or real estate, insurance, or a donation which will provide for our philanthropies for the long-term. But more important, my job is to listen and learn what they really want to do and connect them with resources that help them turn their philanthropic vision into a reality. If this helps their Blue Lodge, the Shrine or York Rite, or our Masonic Youth philanthropies, it still raises all ships.

My phone number is (402) 342-1300 and my e-mail is micah@SRNE.org. The question to answer is not who I know, but who do WE know?

Micah I. Evans, 33°,
Orient Development Director
micah@SRNE.org

RiteCare at the Holidays

With the holidays nearly upon us, please think about a year-end gift to help our RiteCare children throughout Nebraska. Call Micah Evans, Orient Development Director, for ways your year-end gift can support Scottish Rite philanthropies in Nebraska or your Valley.

Ways you can support RiteCare:

- Simply shop! When you buy through Amazon.com, simply start through smile.amazon.com, and select the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. .5% of your purchase is donated back to the Foundation and helps our RiteCare kids!
- A Charitable Gift Annuity provides you income for life with interested fixed for life based on your age, tax advantages, and the principal supports your philanthropy.
- A tax-deductible year-end distribution or 401(k) has certain tax advantages, while helping our RiteCare 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 January-February Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-November for consideration.)