



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

March-April, 2017 • Volume VII, Issue 2

Features:

Alliance Spring Reunion

Hastings Speech Therapy

Lincoln Robert Burns Celebration

Omaha Introduces New Valley App

RiteCare news

... and much more!

Lincoln Celebrates Annual Robert Burns Dinner and Auction
see page 4 for story...

Membership

I've noted before in the Membership Column that it is too easy to become a Mason. Anyone with curiosity, a few free evenings, and about \$100 in their wallet, can wander into the Tyler's preparation room and become a Freemason.

I'll probably take some flack for that statement, but I'll stand by it with the clarification that it is too easy to get a Masonic dues card. What is hard is becoming a Mason. (Where were you first prepared to be a Mason? In your heart.) It takes reflection on the beautiful words, traditions, history, and lessons of the degree. It takes involvement in some way or another. It takes participation. Some men 'become Masons' in One Days, some become Masons the traditional way. Some Brothers find their Masonry 30 years after receiving the Degrees, when they retire and have the free time to dedicate to

Lodge. Some find their Masonry in their Shrine Club or Unit, in the Eastern Star, through the York Rite bodies, or mentoring youth groups. Some men find their Masonry learning the Middle Chamber or doing perfect Degree work while others find their Masonry downstairs in the kitchen cooking for the Lodge dinner. Others find their role in creating order from the chaos of Secretary's reports and records. Other men find their Masonry in the Shrine Band (as did my grandfather) or in one or more of the dozens of appendant organizations.

It is the majority of men who carry a stack



Every man must find his Masonry in his own way.

of dues cards in their wallets, but have yet to find their Masonry whom we have yet to reach. That's the challenge for all of us, and I offer no answers.

For myself, I can tell you when I found my Masonry. It was sometime in 2003. I was a relatively new Master Mason, having been raised in October, 2002. I was Senior Steward in

my Blue Lodge and a new Scottish Rite Mason. All I knew was that the Lodge Ritualist was browbeating me into learning all the ritual and making me feel bad that I hadn't become proficient after

... continued on page 7

Orient Calendar

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)
Mar 17	Corned Beef and Cabbage (L)
Apr 7-8	Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
Apr 9	Hastings Spaghetti Feed (H)
Apr 19	Table Lodge (L)
Apr 5, 12, 19, 26	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Apr 28-29	Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
May 5-6	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
May 20	WalkRite for RiteCare (L)
May 20	Celebrating the Craft (A, H, L, O)
June 4	WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
June 21	Beer Tasting (L)
June 21	RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)
July 19	Family Picnic (L)
Aug 18-19	Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
Sept 9	Shooting at Big Shots (L)
Oct 13	Feast of Tishri (L)
Oct 27	Nebraska KCCH Investiture in Lincoln
Nov 11	Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
Nov 2, 3, and 4	Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
Dec 3	RiteCare Christmas party (L)
Dec 1	Scottish Rite Christmas banquet (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26, June 23

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Mar 22, Apr 19, May 17, June 21

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

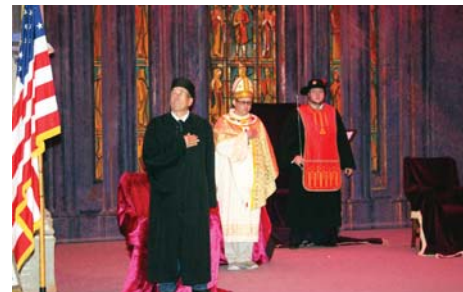
Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, June 19

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

As I write this column for the Alliance Valley our General Secretary Gene Gatti, 33°, is preparing for some surgery to keep him healthy and active. Please send him your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery, rest, and a quick return to his friends and Brethren in the Alliance Valley.



Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, Richard Reisig, Jr., 32° KCCH, and James Ferguson, 32° KCCH are active members of the 32° Degree team.

We have had a slow start to the year with the January meeting cancelled due to weather, but I anticipate being back to our normal schedule in February onward.

Of course, the big push for the Alliance Valley Scottish Rite is both membership and participation. The Scottish Rite continues a Brother's Masonic education, and provides outlet for his leadership and service, particularly for Master Masons who have been officers with their Blue Lodge. The Scottish Rite always needs leadership as officers, and we welcome your participation.

Additionally, we need your service. I've been proud that we have Brethren who travel from across western Nebraska to welcome new Scottish Rite Masons and to participate in Degree work. We need your help filling degree roles as actors. We welcome Brethren who want to learn a part, and we will gratefully welcome your help if you want to participate and read a script. E-mail me at ferguson4563@embarqmail.com, and I'll send you a script with your part marked so you can digest it, prepare, and read it well (or better yet, memorize it!) Reunions are fun, and you are missing out on a wonderful experience if you have not been back in a while!

Afterward, we have a great banquet and fun entertainment. In November, Wally Seiler, 33° entertained us as Mark Twain Join us this April - you'll enjoy yourself and help your fraternity, too!

John Ferguson, 33°

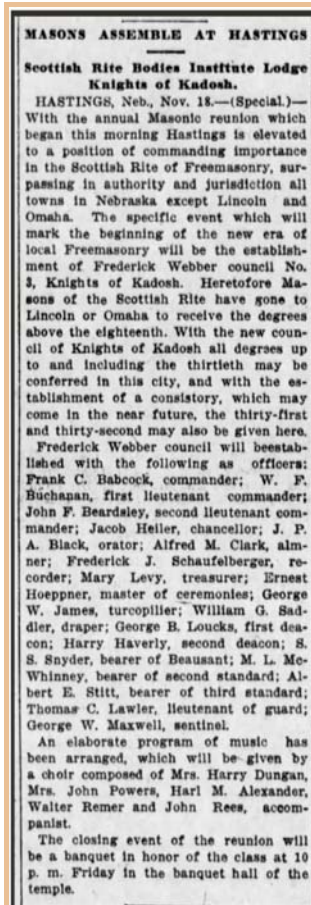
Personal Representative, Valley of Alliance



Leaders WANTED

REUNION APR 7TH & 8TH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

STATED MEETINGS ARE 4TH FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.
 CALL GENE GATTI, 33°, GENERAL SECRETARY AT (308) 762-4324
 OR E-MAIL GENE123@MAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Omaha Daily Bee, Nov. 19, 1908

From the Archives

Can you imagine excitement that cold November morning in 1908? Back then, the Masonic bodies met in the old Masonic building at West 2nd and North Hastings Avenue, built in 1887 (where Prairie Books & Gifts and Blue Moon Coffee are today). Fiducia Lodge of Perfection No. 3 had been chartered in 1883 and the Constans Chapter of Rose Croix No. 3 in 1893.

To progress in the Scottish Rite beyond the 18°, Brethren had to take a train to Omaha or Lincoln. It was a true commitment then, as now, to be an active Scottish Rite Mason! But in November, 1908, 29 Brethren became the charter members for Hastings' new Council

of Kadosh. The Charter would be made permanent at the Biennial Session of the Scottish Rite as the Frederick Webber Council of Kadosh No. 3 on October 20, 1909.

In October, 1911, Hastings Consistory No. 3 was established with 33 charter members. The 4° through the 32° could be conferred entirely at the Masonic Temple in Hastings!

For more than 100 years, Scottish Rite Freemasonry has been part of the fabric of central Nebraska. Help new Brethren join this 134 year old tradition at the March Reunion, and join them yourself to welcome them and participate in the degrees.



Help us recruit Candidates for the Spring Scottish Rite Reunion!

March 11, 2017

Petitions for membership \$175 (\$125 for Masons 31 and under)

Stated meetings are 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Call Phil Odom, 33°, General Secretary at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail podom@hastingsmasonic.org about forming a Scottish Rite Club or hosting a Scottish Rite meeting in your town.



by Kris Althouse, M.S., CCC-SLP
Emily Johnson, MS, CCC-SLP
Hastings RiteCare Clinicians

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

We've been having great fun this past month reading "Gingerbread Baby," by Jan Brett at the Hastings RiteCare Clinic, which coincided with her visit to Hastings in early December, hosted by Prairie Books and Gifts.

Jan's visit drew a large crowd of teachers, administrators, parents, children, and fans, and she did a drawing and illustration presentation for us. She even stayed around to autograph books for audience members and introduce us to her Silkie chickens that travel with her on the tour bus!

As we read the books with the RiteCare children, they design and decorate their own gingerbread houses. The fun story is packed with excellent therapy exercises. The kids can cut out pictures in the workbook to re-tell the story, working on key words. Our sessions targets story comprehension (identifying who, what, when, where, why, and how). The children develop print awareness, identifying the picture with the words, and the exercise targets oral and written language expression by having

the kids draw and describe their perfect gingerbread house.

The children can work on skills at different ability levels, such as moving their gingerbread man to different rooms based on spoken directions, and the kids can work on language goals or articulation goals. They also work on story vocabulary, matching words to their definitions. Additionally, kids develop their language expression when we prompt them with questions such as "When I cook with my ____, my favorite thing to cook is ____."

It may look like play time, but the kids develop important skills and develop their communication abilities and confidence!

Parents love to see and hear the story we have been reading with their kids in therapy, and they can see their child's progress as our sessions continue!

Top: Gingerbread houses the kids create for our sessions.

Bottom: Author Jan Brett and Hastings clinician Kris Althouse.



HAGGIS, SCOTCH, AND VERSE CELEBRATE POET ROBERT BURNS



Though Robert Burns died at the age of 37 - the victim of a rheumatic heart condition or, some say, his licentious lifestyle, Burns is heralded as Scotland's most famous son. His life is celebrated

each year on his birthday the world over with dinner, Scotch, his poems and music, and haggis, the national dish of Scotland. The Valley of Lincoln joined in the celebration of the Ploughman Poet on January 27th with a Burns Celebration!

Burns Dinner chairs Hersh and Betty Talley and the Knights of St. Andrew welcomed 100 guests for a great evening. The dinner began with cocktails in the lounge and harp music by Heidi Beran. Guests mingled in the refurbished museum. Silent auctions were available for bidding, with items including celebrity-autographed photos, an Italian dinner basket, English/Scottish tea and cookie basket, art, books, and more. After a welcome by Jerry Pigsley, emcee and Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection, Father Steve Lahey gave the Selkirk Grace

and invocation. The Knights of St. Andrew piped in the guest of honor - the haggis. Father Lahey read Burns immortal Ode to a Haggis, stabbing the "Great chieftain o' the pudding-race" with the assistance of Aislynn Bloomquist and Annaleis Talley.

After a wonderful dinner, Blair and Amanda Talley gave the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply. Chris Sayre closed the evening with several songs inspired by Robert Burns. The Robert Burns Celebration definitely sets a high water mark for great evenings and entertainment.



Blair and Amanda Talley give the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply. Check out more photos on the Lincoln website at <http://www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org/news/burns>.

2017 Lincoln Calendar

February 10 Valentine's Dinner & Dance
March 17 Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed
April 19 Table Lodge
May 5 & 6 Spring Reunion
May 20 Walk for RiteCare
May 20 Celebrating the Craft
June 21 Beer Tasting
July 19 Family Picnic
August 18 & 19 Summer Reunion
September 9 Shooting at Big Shots
October 13 Feast of Tishri
October 27 KCCCH Investiture
December 3 RiteCare Christmas Party
December 1 Lincoln Scottish Rite Dinner

St. Patrick's Day Friday, March 17, 2017

Corned Beef & Cabbage - \$10/plate
Take Out Plates Available
11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

the best in town!

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

www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET A GREAT SUCCESS, HONORING TWO OF OUR BEST VOLUNTEERS

On December 9th, the Lincoln Valley celebrated an annual tradition with a Christmas banquet. 80 Scottish Rite Masons, their Ladies and guests attended dinner and entertainment at the Scottish Rite.

The Scottish Rite was beautifully decorated for Christmas and Sandy Shires added the special touch of linen napkins, perfectly folded as Christmas trees at each seat. Bob and Jennifer Kruse, Doug and Sue Krogman, and Jason Nielsen prepared excellent lobster tail and steak, with baked potato, salad, rolls, followed by cake. The Lincoln Southwest High School choir performed several holiday selections afterward.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation to Ward and Sandy Shires for their exceptional service to the Valley. At

every event or meeting, you can be sure to find Ward and Sandy in the kitchen helping cook, clean, set tables, or undertake any project that needs doing. They never ask for reward or recognition, but quietly and efficiently serve the Valley as volunteers. Their work was recognized with a beautifully engraved award, presented by Hersh Talley.

Mark your calendar now for December 1, 2017 for one of the best banquets of the year!



Left: Hersh Talley presents the award to Ward and Sandy Shires.

Top: St. Nick himself made a quick appearance.

Bottom: Lincoln Southwest High perform after dinner.

Try the new Scottish Rite mobile app



The House of the Temple has developed a new app for your Android or Apple smartphone to help Scottish Rite Masons connect with Brethren in the Valley.

Think Facebook. . . except without annoying posts of what your co-worker is having for lunch or photos of your neighbor's cat. This is strictly for Omaha Valley Scottish Rite Masons and lets you connect with Brethren, see upcoming events drawn from the Valley web site calendar, and message and connect with Brethren.

A payment feature is being developed and will be released soon. Currently 29 Brethren are actively using the Valley of Omaha app.

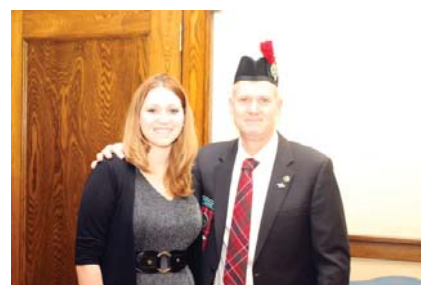
To access these great features, simply go to your Android or Apple store, search for "Scottish Rite Omaha," and download the free app for your phone. Happy connecting!

Left, top: Screen shot of the app welcome screen. Left, Bottom: Screen shot of the app itself.

A TASTE OF SCOTLAND

The Scottish Society of Nebraska hosted their annual Robert Burns Dinner on Saturday, January 21st. 87 guests enjoyed a great dinner of Cornish game hen and roasted winter vegetables, catered by the Culinary Masters, with Scottish piping and music and dance.

Numerous Masons were in attendance as well, including Scott Oglesby, Dr. Ken Bunnell, John Parsons, Armel MacDonald, Rupert Lyons, Alan Boulter, Kyle Beckner, and Hersh Talley, and several Brethren from Sioux City. Read more about the Scottish Society Burns Dinner and see pictures on the website at: <https://scottishriteomaha.org/news/burns>.



Top: Amanda Beckner with father Alan Boulter, 32°; Bottom: Dennis Neff stabs the haggis after a spirited recitation of Burns' "Ode to a Haggis"

Knights of St. Andrew Host Annual Membership Dinner and Present Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award



Above: Carl Simmons is congratulated by David Meinzer and presented the 2017 Samuelson award.

Bottom: Armel and Maxine MacDonald with Betty and Hersh Talley

One of the Valley of Omaha Knights of St. Andrew's oldest traditions is the annual membership dinner, held each January. This year, the dinner was held on January 14th, presided over by David Meinzer, 32°, 2016 Venerable Master for the KSA.

Sam & Louie's catered the evening for 30 Knights and their ladies, serving salad, pasta in a fresh pesto sauce, chicken and capers, lasagna, and green beans, followed by cheese cake and coffee.

David Meinzer began the evening recounting the Omaha KSA's history, which began in 2001 as a way to engage 32° 'Black Hat' Scottish Rite Masons. David reflected on a successful year, including hosting the 3rd Biennial KSA Gathering in May and traveling to Topeka, Kansas to confer the 29th Degree and knight new members. Kyle Beckner, 32°, presented statistics on the members who greeted or worked Scottish Rite rentals and events during the year.

The Scottish Rite pays the KSA \$100 for each rental worked, which has amounted to significant financial resources for the KSA -

all of which is donated back to the Scottish Rite. Most recently, the KSA donated new quartz counters in the 2nd floor restrooms. In total, the KSA has donated more than \$40,000 back to the Valley since 2006 through gigs and fundraisers.

Afterward, David Meinzer presented the Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award, the KSA's most prestigious honor, to Robert Pelletier, 32° and Carl Simmons, 32° who led the Valley in gigs worked and service on degree teams, as volunteers, and line officers. Their service and leadership exemplifies the best tradition of the Omaha Knights of St. Andrew.

Last, David recognized Wade Ridout, 32° who was elected Venerable Master for 2017. Wade outlined his plan to involve more Brethren in the KSA and add an additional fundraisers.

There are 93 Knights of St. Andrew in the Valley of Omaha, representing a cross section of 32° Active Knights and 32° KCCH and 33° Emeritus members.

and the RUBBER CHICKEN award goes to. . .

As part of the Scottish Rite line officers' mission to engage members, the annual Christmas banquet and awards ceremony has become part of the annual calendar in the Omaha Valley. The Valley hosted the 4th annual banquet on December 19th, with Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, and the officers of the Lodge of Perfection serving as Master of Ceremonies.

A record-setting attendance of 160 Scottish Rite Masons and guests began the evening with a debate between Lee "Santa's Helper" Terry, 33° and Hal "the Grinch" Daub, 33°, who argued whether children should be told whether Santa Claus exists. Lee argued that children should not be told and overwhelmingly carried the argument, based on votes. Rob Corsaro, 32° generously donated his time and expertise to video the debate, which can be viewed on YouTube online at: <http://goo.gl/DCYsO5>.

After a great dinner prepared by the Culinary Masters, the officers presented awards to members who have made a significant difference in the Valley throughout the year.

In recognition of many years work coordinating Lodge visitations, doing Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite degree work anywhere he is needed, A.J. Johnson, 33° received the prestigious Ambassador award. Scott Reuman, 32° KCCH was presented with the Mentor award for taking so many hours to help Brethren perfect their skills in the theater, particularly with the stage lights

and for his time and dedication to the Royal Order of the Duck. Special leadership awards were presented to Charlie Marchand, 33° and Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH for countless hours dedicated to improving the administration of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Lee Terry, 33° and Dick Corwine, 33° both received the SGIG's recognition for their work on Degree teams, as officers, volunteers, and Brothers. Lee Terry is incoming Wise Master of Rose Croix, rarely missing meetings, and Dick Corwine has been Almoner for about 15 years.

Zack Powell, 32° was recognized for his work on the stage and sound crew. Robert Pelletier, 32° was recognized with the General Secretary's award for a new member who has become involved and made a difference through service and leadership.

Jennifer Carter was recognized by Brenda Coleman for the Ladies Award for her time and contributions to the Scottish Rite.

And of course, there were a few Rubber Chickens presented during the evening:

- Jonathan Paz, 32° KCCH received a Rubber Chicken for his purchase of "a giant rock" during the Scottish Rite Leadership Conference in Phoenix.
- Greg Swinarski, 32° KCCH was recognized for his constant use of duct tape for almost every project in the Scottish Rite

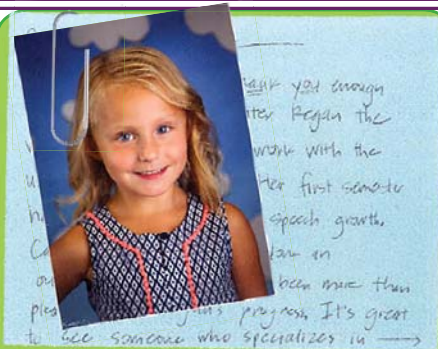


Steven Barchus, 33° showed up as Santa Claus and sat for photos with members and guests, for freewill donations which raised nearly \$300 for the Almoner's Fund.

The evening gave members plenty of laughs, a great evening, and boasted a record attendance. The Christmas banquet has become a beloved tradition in the Scottish Rite Valley, so mark your calendar for December 18th for this year's banquet.



Photos: 1) Sherry Sederstrom and Santa Claus 2) Jonathan Paz receives his rubber chicken award from Rob Corsaro, 3) Charles Sederstrom presents the SGIG award to Dick Corwine for his services as Almoner, Glenn Lewis' kids visit Santa, 5) C.T. Perry (center, with John Maxell and Anthony Connor) spearheaded the collection of 150 winter coats, scarves, gloves and hats for children at Youth Emergency Services and the Child Savings Institute. His partners included the Scottish Rite, Fit4Lyfe, Omaha Police Officers Association, and Finance1.



RiteCare Mom Kristin Ohri writes us from Kearney:

My husband Ryan and I cannot thank you for providing our daughter Regan the wonderful opportunity to work with the UNK Speech Department. Her first semester has been amazing for her speech growth. Caitlin, her therapist, has done an outstanding job. We have been more than pleased with Regan's progress. It's great to see someone who specializes in speech work miracles with your child! The UNK Speech Department is such an asset to the community, and you all are a huge part of that. We are so thankful for the opportunity Scottish Rite Masons provided and feel blessed to have Regan in the program.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

Kristin and Ryan Ohri

RiteCare Mom Writes, "Thank you for giving us hope."

RiteCare Mom Amy Sherman writes about her son Henry's experience. During a family trip in 2013, two year old Henry slipped on wet tile at the hotel pool, bumping his head on the floor.

He was a little grumpy after a nap, but seemed to be doing okay. Thirty minutes later, he continued to be grumpy and just wanted to lay down and nap again. When father Bruce could not wake him up, they rushed him to the hospital, where he was unresponsive but still breathing.

Fortunately, a pediatric neurosurgeon was at the hospital when they arrived, and Henry was rushed right into surgery. After a month of therapy, Henry could walk again with assistance but his speech and language continued to be his most significant continuing issue.

That's when Amy found RiteCare. "It is a totally different caliber of care," she wrote. "The evaluation and teaching methods are so much more impressive than what we have experienced at other facilities." Amy became part of Henry's team, receiving education on how to continue his therapy at home to develop his lost communication skills.



Amy Sherman, Bruce, and Henry Friedman

"A year ago, I was frustrated with the lack of progress and my inability to find the right people to help Henry. Today, three years after his fall, I feel hopeful that there is a way for him to get his voice back...You have an amazing staff at Munroe-Meyer [RiteCare Clinic] who are using your donations in the best possible way. Please accept my sincere appreciation!"

Amy Sherman and Bruce Friedman
RiteCare parents

Membership, continued

being a Mason for three months. That's about the time M.W. Les Seiler wrote an article in the *Nebraska Freemason* magazine asking how we were being Relevant?

Masonry was supposed to be relevant? The concept hit me like a lightning bolt! Being relevant meant that Masonry had a meaningful role in our community rather than just monthly meetings poring over \$27 in postage bills. Being relevant meant that I was being engaged somewhere, meant that I had a role in my Lodge, and a reason to come back each week. (I carried Les' article with me until it disintegrated in my wallet.) Being expected to become a ritual machine – insert green beans and fried chicken and regurgitate the Middle Chamber lecture – was not what I wanted to do. Fortunately, I found my Masonry shortly afterward when I became active in the Scottish Rite on the 30th degree team, the KSA,



became a Scottish Rite line officer, got involved with Blue Lodge committee work. Great Brethren along the way helped me be more than just another disengaged guy with a dues card in my wallet. I found my place and found I my Masonry.

There is no single solution. Each Mason finds his Masonry in his own way. We need to make sure that each new Brother is engaged, offered every opportunity to find where he may become relevant somewhere in the Craft.

We won't reach everyone. There are still some guys who join because Masonry looks good on a resume. Maybe they imagine that the boss will give them a knowing wink, a secret handshake, and a promotion. Maybe they imagine great secrets will be imparted to them like in the movie *National Treasure*. They don't see themselves learning degree work or shucking corn for the Lodge dinner.

And that's okay. Men who are open to finding their relevancy in the Craft will discover their own Masonry. It may take a year or it may take 30 years. It may take introducing them to the York Rite or Shrine. Our job is to help each Brother discover his own relevance and his own purpose within the Craft and then 'wait with patience.' The reward for our patience and diligence will reap huge dividends as our engaged Brothers help new Brothers discover their own Masonry.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

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

When reading about trends in the coming year for fundraising, the same themes seem to pop up again and again:

- The value of social media
- The importance of crowdfunding in a campaign
- Fundraising software will become more integrated
- Donors will increasingly use mobile giving channels
- Organizations will adopt text-to-give methods for campaigns

I honestly don't know what some of that means. Masonry is about as Old School as it gets, and our fundraising methods - while trying and adopting new methods remains critical to reach new donors - also relies on the tried-and-true method. **We ask Brethren face to face.**

"Hand to back and mouth to ear" worked well when George Washington was a Mason, and that's still how we do it today. We could just as easily put our degrees on a DVD or bring candidates to degree work twice a year en masse in a hotel ballroom somewhere.

But the personal message delivered from one Brother to another is how we have always communicated the lessons and symbolism of our Craft, and that's how we reach out to Brethren about our RiteCare philanthropies. . . even as we also use social media and the internet and new methods to reach members.



The one-on-one communication of our ritual and symbolism has been part of our tradition since the beginning. Our philanthropies are also part of this tradition of one brother talking to another.

The General Secretaries have been working with me to set up personal meetings with Brethren across the state, and my mission is to talk about supporting our philanthropies with members in just that way: one on one.

It is an occasion for you to meet me, ask questions, learn about RiteCare and our Scottish Rite philanthropies, and talk about ways to support those philanthropies. These include Charitable Gift Annuities, a planned gift in your will, a life insurance policy, a gift of stocks, real estate, or investments, or a direct gift. Members are responding across the state, and it gives me hope that we will be providing services for RiteCare kids like Henry Friedman (see page 7 for his story) for years to come.

As you read the stories about Regan Ohri and Henry Friedman, think about the extraordinary good our Nebraska RiteCare services are doing around the state. These children are leading healthy childhoods, who might otherwise need tax-funded resources thanks to you! There are so many stories that do not make it to the Scottish Rite Journal, and we should all be as proud to know that we are helping children in Scotsbluff, Cozad, Superior, and O'Neill, as well as Hastings, Lincoln, Kearney, and Omaha.

As I make my way to as many Scottish Rite Masons across the state, I ask you to think about setting aside a portion of your estate to support the Scottish Rite Foundation in your Valley or the Masonic philanthropy of your choice.

But as important, please share these stories with Brethren. The "hand to back, mouth to ear" tradition is what makes our fraternity great, and nothing is more effective than one Brother speaking to another about the positive things we are doing. Person-to-person and brother-to-brother will always be more effective than any social media or online campaign.

You can always reach me at micah@SRNE.org or at (402) 342-1300. I'm always available to talk about our Scottish Rite philanthropies and ways to support our RiteCare children for the long term.

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 May-June, 2017 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-March for consideration.)