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Features:

Alliance Scottish Rite Welcomes New Brethren at Spring Reunion

Hastings Honors Teacher of the Year

Lincoln Hosts a Table Lodge

Great evening for Omaha Spring Outing

RiteCare news

... and much more!

Lincoln Hosts a Table Lodge for a great evening of toasts and hilarity. See page 5 for story. . .

Membership

Those who know me know that I love Masonic “stuff.” I reach into my pocket for a \$10 or \$20 anytime a Lodge has a centennial challenge coin to sell. I love receiving a Masonic lapel pin from a Grand Master, Potentate, Lodge Master or visiting Brother.

The little home-office my wife built for me was originally supposed to house my Masonic “stuff,” but my Masonic collectibles quickly outgrew the 8’ by 8’ room, and it is something of a challenge to keep my office at work free from the clutter of Masonic stuff.

It’s not that it has a monetary value to me. Far from it. If someone gave me \$50 for the whole thing, it would be more than it was worth. Really, the collection represents a personal connection to Brethren. The coin, pin, tie tac, or cufflink all repre-



Masonic “bling.” We collect it not for the sake of collecting it, but for the connection to the Brethren, their accomplishments, and the legendary history of our Craft.

sent so many Brothers’ Masonic experiences, and is now part of a tradition that includes my own experiences. If I am lucky, I’ll hand these items off to another Brother before I lay down my working tools, and they will go on to be a treasured part of someone else’s Masonic journey.

Each of these items tells a story and reminds me of the strength and resilience of the Craft. Here is the Nebraska Masonic Foundation coin, which celebrates 160 years of Freemasonry in Nebraska. Here is a coin that says “Our Flags on the Moon,” symbolizing the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Rite flags Brother Buzz Aldrin brought on his historic moon landing in 1969. There is a coin for the Delaware Scottish Rite RiteCare golf outing, and here is one celebrating the Galveston Shriners Hospital for Children’s 50th anniversary. Yet another raised funds for Lincoln’s Acacia fraternity. Each item celebrates a different facet of our fraternity, our members, and our 300 years of history. Each item is a connection to a memory, a Brother, and a story. While they may not have much monetary value, the sum of the stories is priceless.

... continued on page 11

Orient Calendar

July 12, 19, 26 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
July Masonic Lunch in Lincoln cancelled due to construction
 July 14 Summer Cocktail Tasting (O)
 July 19 Family Picnic (L)
 Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Aug 18-19 Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
 Aug 20 Family Picnic at Cooper Farm (O)
 Aug 20-22 ... Scottish Rite Biennial Session (Washington, D.C.)
 Sept 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Sept 9 Shooting at Big Shots (L)
 Sept 22 Scotch Tasting (O)
 Sept 22 Statewide RiteCare meeting in Lincoln, NE
 Sept 30 Walk for RiteCare (H)
 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday Masonic Lunch (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 1 Scottish Rite Christmas banquet (L)
 Dec 3 RiteCare Christmas party (L)
 Dec 18 Scottish Rite Christmas Awards Banquet (O)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

July and August (Dark), Sept 22, Oct 27, Nov 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

July 19, Aug 23, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

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

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



Malvin Minshall Memorial Class

Front row. Gene Gatti, 33°, Don Phillip, 33°, Bob Phillip, 33°, Nathan Holthusen, 32°, Chris Goodell, 32°, Trey Lacy, 32°, Dwight Smith, 33°, John Ferguson, 33°

Middle row. Kurt Blazek, 32° KCCH, Dave Thomas, 32°, Art Stricker, 32° KCCH, Joel Zilmer, 32° KCCH, Frank Wooden, 32° KCCH, Brent Van Patten, 32° KCCH, Ed Morava, 32°

Back row. John Barrett, 32°, Terry Phillip, 32° KCCH, Scott Phillip, 33°, Kevin Spencer, 32°, Walt Phillip, 33°, James Ferguson, 32° KCCH

On April 6 and 7, 2017, the Valley of Alliance welcomed three new 32° Scottish Rite Masons during the Malvin Minshall Memorial Class. We were honored to remember Malvin Minshall, who passed away in January at age 89 in Sidney, Nebraska. I wish there was room to include his entire biography! Mal and his wife Shirley were inducted in the Nebraska Square and Round Dance Callers Association Hall of Fame for his contributions to Square Dancing. He called dances nationally for many years and wrote and recorded several Square Dances. Mal has been Worshipful Master for more than one term of the Sidney, Alliance, Oshkosh, Lodgepole and Chappell Masonic Lodges and was also a member of the Eastern Star. He was a 37 year member of the Scottish Rite and received his KCCH in 1985.



Malvin Minshall,
32° KCCH

Thank you to so many Brethren who travel a long way for Degree work, to work on the stage and sound crew, or simply to sit on the sidelines. We could not do it without you. And thank you to our new Brethren who made a wonderful commitment to seek further light in Masonry as Scottish Rite Masons. I invite you to join us when you can and get involved with your Valley.

In other updates, we are discussing changing the Reunion format to have the Banquet on Friday which may make it easier for Brethren and their ladies to attend the dinner. We've hosted a few rentals, including a wedding and a high school graduation, which add a bit of nice revenue to the building. The Valley will go dark in June, July and August, but plan to join us this Fall with the business meeting on September 22nd.

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



Dana Odom, Cindy and Randy Jones, 32°, Bill Taylor, 32°, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, and Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey, 32° KCCH

REMEMBRANCE & RENEWAL

The Central Nebraska Valley Scottish Rite met in Hastings on May 2, 2017 to celebrate Remembrance and Renewal, with thirty members and their ladies in attendance. Remembrance and Renewal is a beautiful ceremony in which candles are extinguished in memory of the Brethren we've lost this past year, and re-lit in memory of the coming year.

Monte Malouf, 33° served as Master of Ceremonies. After an excellent dinner, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, Chair of the Hastings College Department of Philosophy and Theology spoke about the importance of names among the early Jewish community. One's name was so important, it wasn't simply given out as a means to distinguish one from another; it was given out to trusted individuals and one's name represented their character, worth, reputation, and authority as much as to identify oneself. This importance was revealed when God revealed his name to Moses, demonstrating His trust and faith in Moses to undertake freeing the Jewish people from slavery. Dan's expertise in Christian philosophy and knowledge of the symbols found in Freemasonry makes his presentations so fascinating to hear!



After Dr. Deffenbaugh's presentation, Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey, 32° KCCH (above) lit candles in memory of Brethren who have passed during the past year, as Monte Malouf, 33° read their names. The Ceremonial team then re-lit the Remembrance and Renewal lights in anticipation of the year to come.

Don Rasmussen gave the Almoner's Message, and members contributed to help those in need in Central Nebraska. The evening closed with the musical selection "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again," and a parting prayer by Bill Nottage-Tacey. Remembrance and Renewal is always a beautiful ceremony, and certainly an evening not to be missed.



HASTINGS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Mike Trindle talks with Governor Pete Ricketts while giving a tour of the technical sciences area at Hastings Middle School.

Hastings Middle School teacher Mike Trindle received the top honor among Hastings Public Schools staff during a special event in April.

Trindle, a skilled and technical sciences teacher, was named educator of the year at the Pathways IV banquet for the Hastings Public Schools Foundation at Lochland Country Club. As the winner, he will receive a \$1,000 stipend from the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation.

Trindle has taught for the district for 23 years and is currently head of the middle school STS program, which received a major boost through a Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative grant totaling \$125,000. Currently, Trindle is serving as the SkillsUSA sponsor at the middle school as well as the seventh-grade head football coach and middle school track coach. He sponsors intramural girls basketball and supervises weight training.

An administrator who nominated Trindle for the honor said he a well-organized teachers and coach. Here is one of the comments from an administrator who nominated Trindle for the honor.

"In the classroom, Mr. Trindle has the difficult job of organizing multiple tools and pieces of safety equipment. Mr. Trindle is consistently well prepared and is more than willing to put in extra time for the benefit of students," the administrator said.

Left Photo: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°
Right photo: George (33°) and Joy White with Les Seiler, 33°



Lincoln Valley Centennial Reunion

(Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Reunion in February, 1917, held in the newly dedicated Lincoln Scottish Rite building)

Front Row: Mike Gray, 33°, Ken Beebe, 33°, John Maxell, 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Merle Robinson, 32°, Greg Tyser, 32°, Jerry Pigsley, 32°, Bruce Wood, 33°, Ward Shires, 32°, Bill Hayes, 32°

Back Row: Wade Kendle, 32°, Eric Bachenberg, 32°, Michael Lagueux, 32° KCCH, Jim Brown, 33° Jeff Schumacher, 32°, Dennis Brydl, 33°, George McCabe, 33°, Dennis Mundt, 32°, Jerry Rauch, 33°, Nick Furchert, 32°, Andy Seachord, 32°, Myron Coleman, 32°, Edward Boone, 32°, Don Albrecht, 32°, Dennis Hecht, 32°

The Lincoln Valley welcomed two new members at the Spring Reunion on May 5th and May 6. Merle Robinson (Utica Lodge #96) and Greg Tyser (North Star #227) became the newest 32° Princes of the Royal Secret in the two-day Reunion.

Degree teams hosted the 4° and 14° on Friday evening, and the 18°, 29° (hosted by the Knights of St. Andrew), 30°, and 32° on Saturday, followed by a reception and capping ceremony. Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33° capped the two new members, with Rebecca Tyser placing the Scottish Rite cap on husband Greg.

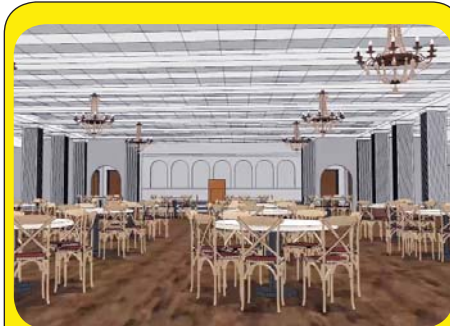
The next Reunion will be on August 18-19, 2017. If you haven't been to the Reunion in a while, mark your calendars to join us for great fellowship and degree work, and help welcome the new members this Summer!

Photos:

Top: Jerry Pigsley, 32°, Greg (32°) and Rebecca Tyser, Chuck Sederstrom, 33°

Middle: Knights of St. Andrew 29° Degree Team

Bottom: 32° degree team's ceremonial entrance processional



Architect's conception of the Great Hall



Construction work begins in the ballroom

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Scottish Rite Executive Board recently approved plans presented by Vermaas Construction to begin renovation of the Great Hall. The floor will be refinished, the head table removed, Neoclassical pediments will be built over door frames to reflect the historic architecture, and the stairwells will be built out to create an elegance entrance to the dining room from the Lodge rooms upstairs. As funds become available, the lounge will be renovated to create a welcoming reception area for guests.

The Foundation is working to raise \$20,000-\$25,000 to replace aging tables, the infamous orange chairs, and purchase banquet-quality silverware with the intent of renting out the building for community events and weddings. This will add a significant revenue stream to the Scottish Rite. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, please talk to Bruce Wood at (402) 435-2144 or e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net.

It is anticipated that the work will be finished by August, in time for the Summer Reunion on August 18th-19th.

SAVE *the* DATE



Summer Reunion

SEC AUG ROW 18-19 SEAT 2017



www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org

LINCOLN GIVES!

The Valley of Lincoln participated in the Lincoln Community Foundation's Give to Lincoln Day on May 18, 2017. 366 non-profits raised a record \$3.7 million dollars from about 17,000 individual donors in a day of giving, sharing a pool of \$350,000 matching dollars! The Lincoln Valley raised \$3,700 for our RiteCare, Teacher of the Year, and building renovation philanthropies.

"Once again, we see how generous our city is," said Barbara Bartle, president of Lincoln Community Foundation. "Give to Lincoln Day is about the heart of our city, and Lincoln clearly has a very big heart."

Since the first Give to Lincoln Day in 2012, the Valley of Lincoln has raised \$14,392 through online gifts from our members and RiteCare families. On behalf of our grateful families served by RiteCare, thank you for your generous support. To continue supporting Lincoln Scottish Rite philanthropies, visit www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org/membership.

2017 Lincoln Calendar

July 19..... Family Picnic
August 18 & 19..... Summer Reunion
September 9..... Shooting at Big Shots
October 13..... Feast of Tishri
October 27..... KCCH Investiture
December 1 Lincoln Scottish Rite Dinner
December 3 RiteCare Christmas Party

Meeting Dates:

July 19..... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting
August 16..... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting
September 20... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting
October 20..... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting
November 15... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting
December 20... Scottish Rite Lodge Meeting



Lincoln Valley Enjoys 'Knife and Fork' Degree with April Table Lodge

As part of Venerable Master Jerry Pig-sley's plan to create an active Valley, the Lincoln Scottish Rite celebrated a Table Lodge on Wednesday, April 19th. Thirty Brethren attended a raucous evenings, with traditional toasts, excellent food, and great fellowship!

The evening began with an Invocation and Pledge, and a welcome by Jerry Pig-sley, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection who served as emcee. A casual dinner of Cane's chicken, Cole slaw, rolls, cookies, tea and water was served buffet-style.

After dinner, Jerry ordered the "cannons" charged, or filled with guests' choice of red or white wine or grape juice. As toasts were proposed, the cannons were "fired," as members bang the glasses on the table in unison - though the volley of cannon fire seemed to become more disjointed as the toasts continued!

Table Lodge toasts include raising a glass to our country, to the Holy Saints John,

the memory of our departed Brethren, the Grand Master, the Lodge (or in this case, the Valley of Lincoln), visiting Brethren, and Freemasons, wheresoever dispersed.

Brethren enjoyed a lot of laughs and great fellowship. Jerry plans to keep the momentum up during the year with a beer tasting, family picnic, the Walk for RiteCare, shooting at Big Shots, the Feast of Tishri, the Christmas dinner, and a RiteCare family party.



Photos: Above, left: Cody Carlow, 32° fills the cannons; Top right: Home Puderbaugh, 32°, Bill Hayes, 32°, Don Gray, 32° KCCH, and Ward Shires, 32° KCCH; Middle right: Bill Short, 32°, Don Albrecht, 32° and Dale Leuders, 33°; Bottom right: Bill Short, 32° fills the cannons for Ed Bennett, 32° and Todd Tinnean, 32° KCCH



*"F. Jerome Given, 33° Memorial Class"
April 27, 28, and 29, 2017*

Top Row: Zack Sinsheimer, 32°, Don Leu, 32°, A.J. Johnson, 33°, Alan Gardner, 32°, Carroll Tibbles, 32°, Stephen Milton, 32°, Quincy Miles, 32°, Ethan Meirovitz, 32°, Wayne Stuber, 32°, Donald Shiu, Jr., 32°, Chuck Sohm, 32° KCCH

Middle Row: Chuck Wood, 32° KCCH, Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Wade Ridout, 32°, Burton Knudsen, 32°, Ed Birmingham, 32°, L. James E. Viernes, 32°, Nizar Serhan, 32°, Alaric Dailey, 32°, Patrick Rowland, 32°, Laurence Swanson, 32°, Nathaniel T. Bradburn, 32°, Rick Gilmore, 33°, John Maxell, 33°

Bottom Row: Micah Evans, 33°, Dick Corwine, 33°, Lee Terry, 33°, Donald Kavalec, 32° KCCH, Dean Skokan, 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Frank Kroupa, 33°, Sonny Ashford, 32°, Steve Zimmerman, 32°, Walt Keast, 32° KCCH, Charles V. Sederstrom III, 32° KCCH, Paul Rutherford, 33°

The Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite completed the Spring Reunion in April, named in honor of Jerome Given, 33°, whom we lost in 2015. 15 Candidates became 32° Prince of the Royal Secret in a 3-day Reunion on April 27, 28, and 29th.

The Reunion began on Thursday with pizza and orientation, followed by the 4°, 7° and 8°. On Friday, candidates and degree team members had a great dinner followed by the highly improvisational 9°-10° - was King Solomon Scottish? - and the 14°.

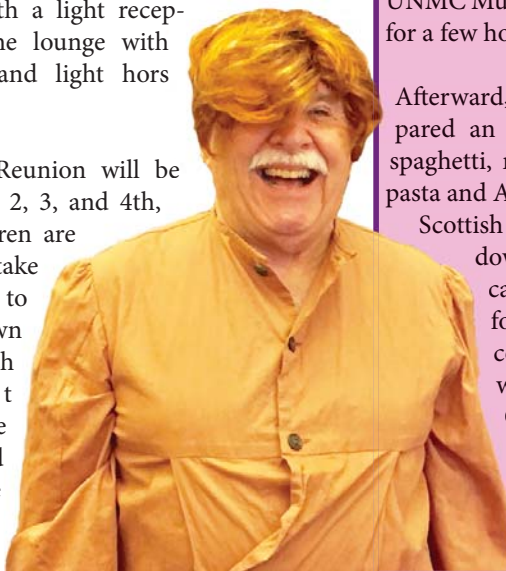
On Saturday, the day began with a hearty breakfast made by the Knights of St. Andrew. Degrees continued with the 15°, 18°, 21°, 29°, 30°, 31°, and 32°. The KSA also hosted the Masonic Yard Sale - see page 7 for story. At lunch, the Culinary Masters prepared an excellent tenderloin and shrimp lunch to welcome our candidates and their ladies. Cathedral Board President Frank Kroupa, 33° spoke about Jerome Given, 33°, who lead a life that almost had to be seen to be believed. Jerome lived his Christian faith, and willingly shared his blessings

with others. The title "a True Gentleman" is conferred on too few men; for Jerome, the title is a more than apt description and only begins to touch on his full, well-lived life. Frank proudly revealed a beautiful stained glass window made by Scott Oglesby, 33° in honor of Jerome, honoring his lengthy career as a Scottish Rite and Shrine Mason.

Afterward, the ladies remained and met RiteCare Director Amy Nordness and clinicians Korey Stading and Leslie Van Winkle, who spoke about their work with the kids. John Maxell, 33° led the ladies on a tour of the building, including the costume room and theater, where they saw a set change and drops of the 31° Inspector Inquisitor Degree.

The 32° finished around 5:30. The Candidates had an opportunity to buy Scottish Rite caps and rings and the evening concluded with a light reception in the lounge with cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres.

The Fall Reunion will be November 2, 3, and 4th, and Brethren are invited to take some time to come down to watch excellent degree work and welcome our new Brethren!



Left: Beautifully made stained glass in honor of Jerome Given, 33°

Right: Is that fantastically coiffed Brother Davy Jones from the Monkees, or our own Okley Gibbs, 33°



The Valley of Omaha Celebrates the Craft



T.J. Brumfield, 32° as the Cat in the Hat

The Valley of Omaha joined Scottish Rite Masons around the nation for the 6th annual Celebrating the Craft fundraiser. Celebrating the Craft is a telethon-style fundraiser, produced and aired from the House of the Temple, which supports Valley RiteCare speech therapy services as well as the House of the Temple's plans for a world-class Masonic museum and meeting space in our nation's capital.

This year, the Scottish Rite continued the tradition of hosting a Celebrating the Craft event for our RiteCare families. Last year's *Finding Nemo* movie and ice cream social was so successful, the Valley again worked to engage the RiteCare families. This year, T.J. Brumfield, 32° - himself a RiteCare father - came in full costume as the Cat in the Hat, reading stories to the kids, while Cat in the Hat videos played in the lounge. Kids enjoyed ice cream and played bean bag toss, 'Thing One' and 'Thing Two' sack races, and other games, winning prizes. About 40 RiteCare families, including several Clinicians from the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute came by for a few hours for fun and games.

Afterward, the Culinary Masters prepared an excellent pasta dinner with spaghetti, marinara, and meatballs and pasta and Alfredo sauce with garlic toast.

Scottish Rite Masons who didn't come down for the Cat in the Hat event came down for a great dinner, followed by conversation and cocktails in the lounge while watching the Celebrating the Craft show online.

The evening was open for goodwill donations, and money raised supports our

SPRING STEAK FRY



Photos: Chris Nigro, 32° KCCH & Jeff Jackson, 32°; C.T. Perry, 32°, Bob Pelletier, 32° and Mark Pilley, 32°; A red hat for Patrick Watson, 32°; Ian Barchus, Steve Barchus, 33° and Kyle Barchus.

Weather advisory warnings were no deterrent for the annual Spring Outing at the Papillion Gun Club on May 17th. As Cathedral Board President Frank Kroupa said, "the Great Architect watches over Masons at the Spring Outing." Not only did we not have rain, the skies were fairly clear during the entire evening - at least in Papillion! Over 200 Masons and prospective Masons turned out for an evening of trap shooting and a steak dinner, with baked potato, salad, corn, and rolls on the side, prepared by the Culinary Masters.

The Line Officers ran a 50-50 draw, awarding several hundred dollars at the end to Jim Hirl, 32° - Potentate of Tangier Shrine - while quite a few guests brought home raffle prizes drawn by Scott Oglesby, 33° and Brandon Van Sky, 32°. There are too many volunteers to acknowledge, but special thanks to our new Brother Ethan Meirovitz, 32°, Carl Simmons, 32° and T.J. Brumfield, 32° who picked up bartending on behalf of the Knights of St. Andrew.

A number of prospective Brethren were on hand, learning about Freemasons in a relaxed environment, and Lodges have picked up a few petitions from the Spring and Fall outing. Anthony Canty, who petitioned Pike Lodge that very afternoon, was here with his son - and who knows? - Anthony may be welcoming his son as a Brother in a few years!

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, 2017.

Euclid's XLVIIth KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW MASONIC YARD SALE

The Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) have been an integral part of the Omaha Scottish Rite for more than 15 years. 32° black hat members get involved as officers, leaders and volunteers. They meet the general membership and in turn, get known by the membership. When the Valley considers line officers, they look to active KSA members.

One of the missions of the KSA is to provide financial support for the Valley of Omaha. Over the years, the Knights have donated over \$40,000 back to the Scottish Rite. As one of the fundraisers, Don Leu, 32° suggested a "Masonic Yard Sale." Members have donated lapel pins, books, shirts, watches, lapel pins, jewelry, coats, York Rite chapeaus, swords, mugs, and much more. This year, the Masonic Yard Sale raised nearly \$900! All this goes right back to the Valley for donations to the Valley, which have included new quartz countertops, defibrillators and CPR training, granite benches in the courtyard, and so much more!



Celebrating the Craft continued . . .

RiteCare services and the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation. Thanks to the Jeffrey and Brenda Coleman, TJ and Sarah Brumfield, Andrew and Christine Muska, the Culinary Masters, the Knights of St. Andrew and so many other volunteers for all the planning and work, making Celebrating the Craft such a great evening!



T.J. Ross from COBIA Lodge with his daughter at Celebrating the Craft

LINCOLN PRESENTS 2017 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jan McKeown, an instructional and technology coach at Lefler Middle School – who says the secret of good teaching is caring enough to bring your A-game every day – will now forever be known as the Scottish Rite’s 2017 Distinguished Teacher of the Year.

“I can’t believe it, [the Scottish Rite Teacher of the Year award] has always been on my bucket list, this is just such a big deal,” she said through her tears. “Today I’m trying to consider all the students I have taught over the years, and I was guessing 2,000, but as I look out over this auditorium today, I’m sure it’s even more than that.”



Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Honored by UNK for Commitment to Speech-Language Therapy

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska was recently honored by the University of Nebraska at Kearney for the College of Education’s 2017 “Outstanding Community Service Award.”

This award was given in recognition of the Scottish Rite’s support for the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic and our partnership with the Communication Disorders Department at UNK. Opened in 2012, Scottish Rite Masons have budgeted more than \$381,000 over the past five years toward speech and language therapy and services to the UNK Clinic. This includes their innovative telepractice services, which allow Nebraska children anywhere in the state to work with speech clinicians.

Les Seiler, 33° received the award on behalf of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, recognizing his considerable work to start the Clinic services at UNK in 2011 and 2012. The award was presented to Les Seiler by Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, Ed.D., Dean of the College of Education (above photo, with George White, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG for the Central Nebraska Valley).

“You have to be able to communicate well to be effective and successful in life. We are proud to help children develop those skills.”

The beautifully framed certificate will be on tour across the state for the Brethren to see, and will be displayed at the Hastings Scottish Rite Masonic Center.



determined middle school was her true love. “I joke that my development got arrested at age 12,” she said, laughing. “I love this age of students, I love their sense of humor.”

She considers instructional coach “the best job in the district because I get to work with everyone in the school...Our teachers go above and beyond, they step up to the plate every single day and do what’s best for kids.”

... continued on page 9



The Central Nebraska Valley participated in the Hasting Community Foundation’s 4th annual Give Hastings on May 11, 2017. Collectively, donors raised \$423,336 for 75 non-profits serving the Hastings community.

Thanks to the efforts of RiteCare Clinicians Emily Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP and Kris Althouse, M.A., CCC-SLP, the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation raised \$6,181 from 44 donors, an average of \$140/donor! Donations ranged from as small as \$10 to as much as \$250, and were largely from RiteCare families, reflecting how grateful families are to these services for their children!



Making Sounds

We really appreciate the RiteCare program in Lincoln. My aunt told me about what the RiteCare Clinic did for my cousin, and she referred me to RiteCare services at the Barkley Memorial Center on the UNL East Campus.

At the time, I was curious if Kyle had the same symptoms as my cousin. They both had different speech needs but have each received the help they needed through RiteCare. Our son Kyle really enjoys doing all the activities that Holly plans and doesn't seem to even notice he is learning while playing! I love watching how much he enjoys it! He is praised as he learns new sounds and makes new accomplishments - which also makes learning FUN! Attending this program has helped our family to learn how to practice these skills at home as well. His favorite activities to do with Miss Holly are playing with cars and blocks!

--Barb
Lincoln RiteCare parent

Kyle is a 5-year old preschool student who came to the RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln last year, and has been receiving services for his speech delay since that time. Kyle has made great progress adding new sounds to his repertoire and is already self-correcting these targeted sounds on his own at the clinic and at home. Kyle's speech intelligibility has increased and he is less frustrated when I correct his sounds.

He takes turns saying his target words with me, his mother and his older sister, and shows enjoyment in each session, especially with games involving cats and racing games.

-Holly Schlautman, CCC-SLP
RiteCare Speech-Language Pathologist



Alex Straatmann and the 4° Degree team in Kearney on May 15, 2017.

The Valley is planning another 4° conferral later this summer to help Brethren get involved sooner than the regularly scheduled Fall Reunion. If you know someone interested in joining, please have them call Phil Odom, 33° at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail podom@hastingsmasonic.org.



Jerry Pigsley, 32° (right) presents Lefler Middle School teacher Jan McKeown the 2017 Distinguished Teacher of the Year award.

Teacher of the Year Award, continued

Jessie Fries, principal at Lefler, said of McKeown: "Jan is a phenomenal teacher, educator, mentor and coach. She has had a profound impact on our five-year vision, as well as our culture of learning and collaboration... Jan is a teacher of teachers, and who I believe lays the foundation for the solid research-based instruction that occurs at Lefler."

Other teachers who have worked with McKeown said:

"Jan is an exceptional educator who is wise, caring and goes out of her way to make staff feel welcome and supported."

"Jan has been an invaluable asset in making my teaching more effective."

"Jan has a contagious passion for teaching that rubs off on everyone she comes in contact with."

Eric Weber, associate superintendent for Human Resources at Lincoln Public Schools, presented the award, noting that this award "recognizes excellence in teaching and the vital role our teachers play."

Created in 1965, the prestigious Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually, and comes with a cash prize of \$5,000 from the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation. The teacher's photograph is also permanently hung in the Lincoln Public Schools administrative office.



In an effort to make the Scottish Rite more responsive to the needs of members, particularly those who live so far away from the Valley, members of the Central Nebraska 4° Degree team hit the road to confer the degree on Alex Straatmann, Grand Senior Deacon for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, communicating the 5°-13°. The SGIG will communicate the 14° at a later time, with Alex attending a future Reunion.

Alex's Vocal Success

During Alex's 18 month checkup, our pediatrician was worried that Alex wasn't forming one syllable words. *Mom, Dad, Up, No*, were not in his vocabulary. He babbled, but he didn't point. He made little eye contact and didn't answer when his name was called. We felt disconnected from our son, at times. We had Millard Public Schools come out to assist us. On the outside, we smiled and nodded and wanted to do the very best thing for Alex. On the inside, we were angry and resentful that we were being told how to play with our child.

A few months shy of Alex's 3rd birthday, we found ourselves at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute for an evaluation of Alex's abilities. It was a very difficult day. But there was a bright spot in all the testing, tantrums and meltdowns. Leslie Van Winkle was the speech therapist who tested Alex that day. She was funny, upbeat and was so kind. Alex was in full-on meltdown mode at this point and we were embarrassed of his actions. She remained professional and smiled through his chaos. She told us about the RiteCare program and the wait list. She also recommended other SLP's to contact while we waited.

We started the Early Childhood Preschool with Millard in the Fall and things were going well at school. Alex took to the routine of daily school and a few behaviors improved. He was not talking but was pointing and leading us to his requests. However, we were still having meltdowns at speech therapy. We wanted to change therapists but we felt very confused on our next step. One day in December, I received a phone call from Leslie that a spot had opened up in the program for January. We had not been back to MMI since the diagnosis. Our first steps through the door were scary but we are so glad we took them. Based on a suggestion from Leslie, Alex had started using an iPad talker to help reduce our communication difficulties.



Alex is on the road to a normal childhood as a lifelong learner

We worked with Leslie during the 12-week program during the Spring and a few follow-ups during the Summer and Alex was able to tolerate a few more minutes at each session.

It wasn't until October that we saw our first breakthrough. Alex said *ball!!* It was the first real word outside of *Da* or *Ma*. We all cried and smiled and

cried some more. Between October and December, Alex's language exploded. Leslie challenge Alex to use his vocabulary to communicate with us. After he started to master one word, we moved to two words. Alex is now up to three word sentences. Alex also utilizes the entire hour of therapy, participates in pretend play and is learning to write his name and the alphabet.

Alex's vocal success is the result of Leslie's expertise, her plans and patience, and the trust she built with Alex and us. This amazing relationship helps Alex stay focused on progress, reduces meltdowns, and builds on his strengths. Above all, Leslie truly believed Alex would succeed. When we wavered, she was strong. When he would lose his way, she would guide him back. Leslie saw potential and growth in the smallest of vocalizations. We are starting Kindergarten in the Fall and will only be using his iPad talker as a back-up when Alex can't find the words to express his needs. We are so grateful to the Rite Care program, MMI and Leslie. We can't thank you all enough for everything you have given us!

*-Mindi Wendel
RiteCare Mom*



Alex with RiteCare Clinician Leslie Van Winkle

I have known Alex since June 2015. I met him the day that he came through the Autism Diagnostic Clinic, the day our team diagnosed him with autism spectrum disorder. I knew I would never forget Alex or his parents; their care for Alex just radiated from them.

Approximately 6 months later, I was able to enroll Alex and his parents in a parent training program through the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. During that time, I watched Alex's parents, Brad and Mindi, work tirelessly to learn how to provide Alex with communication opportunities expanding his social engagement, speech, language, and play skills.

Alex primarily used a combination of signs and his communication device to communicate until approximately October of 2016. One day, Alex said "bah" after I held up a ball and said "ball" to him. I will never forget the look that Brad, Mindi, and I exchanged in that moment. We have exchanged several of those looks now, after hearing Alex imitate for the first time, watching Alex engage in pretend play for the first time, and a host of other "firsts." Brad, Mindi, and Alex have since worked daily on helping Alex gain new words, practicing 5 words, 5 times every day at the kitchen table. Speech is not easy for Alex, but he is such a hard worker that he even practices in that same spot when no one is around. I am so thankful to know Alex and his parents because every week they remind me just how valuable communication really is.

*Leslie Van Winkle, MA, CCC-SLP
MMI RiteCare Clinician*

Carly's Progress

Thanks to Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons

Have you ever heard of the place called Scottish Rite's RiteCare Clinic? This place helps kids with therapy without any cost to families. It specializes in speech therapy. Now, this place is not just like any therapy place; this place does incredible therapy!

Our daughter Carly goes to this place. When she was young, she could not talk. Everybody grows at different paces but when she was two years old, she still could not talk. Another problem was that she has low muscle tone. We were very worried and were scared that she would never be able to talk properly. When she was three years old, she could say very few words. Those included "mom" and "no." Because the preschool teachers were also afraid she couldn't talk, they taught her sign languages. She learned a lot but it was very hard for her to use it. Whenever Carly was able to speak a new word, all the children at the preschool would spread the news because it was very big progress.

A couple years ago, we signed Carly up for speech therapy at Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinic. The RiteCare Clinic therapy lessons have helped Carly a lot. Carly showed progress just after a few weeks. We were very



Carly works with RiteCare Clinician Carrie Kenney at the Lincoln Clinic at the Barkley Memorial Center on UNL's East Campus

proud of her and the therapy lessons.

Now, Carly is five and half years old. She is able to speak many sentences at once without hesitation. She has gone from being able to speak one word to being able to speak many sentences. She can also follow two directions. We are very proud of her and the therapy teachers. Carly also loves going to the therapy sessions and has had very fun memories there. There must be many people out there who are having the struggle of having a kid who can't talk, so if you need help, the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinic is the right place for you!

-Xu Family

Walk for RiteCare™

Saturday, September 30

Hastings Masonic Temple

Registration begins at 10:00

Walk beginning at 10:30

Lunch follows

Please consider a \$25/month pledge for



12 months to RiteCare through the **Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska**. Your SGIG Circle donation provides 3 sessions of therapy for a child who might otherwise not be able to afford it. Call Orient Development Director Micah Evans, 33° at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org for information about how you can support our RiteCare kids.

Membership, continued

Our members are much like these items. One Brother, by himself, is worth . . . one Brother. In total, the collection of Brethren is priceless.

By itself, the Masonic flag Buzz Aldrin took to the moon is simply a curiosity, an interesting fact for Trivial Pursuit. Combined with Brother Gutzon Borglum creating Mt. Rushmore, Brother Joe cooking for dinner after the Lodge meeting each month, a Lodge celebrating its Centennial anniversary, and Brother Fred, who has given the Middle Chamber lecture for 25 years, these stories represent a priceless connection to the Craft and the long chain of history of which we are all part.

The question to consider is: what part of this Masonic collection are you? Are you the lapel pin in the bottom of the sock drawer, unvalued and sitting by itself, without any context or story? Or are you



By themselves, each of these Masonic ribbons is merely an interesting item, gathering dust in a display case. But together, they tell the story of our Brotherhood. At the very least, we know that Charles Henderson - a 70 year member of the Scottish Rite! - and John Cutter, a real estate broker from Tri-Centum Lodge #300 in Shendoah, Iowa and 43 year member of the Scottish Rite, thought these medals important enough to keep. These items' value isn't measured in dollars and cents; it is measured in the 100 year old connection to these long-gone Brethren. If I am lucky, perhaps a Brother 50 years from now will know they connect him to me, as well as to them.

the challenge coin, sitting proudly on the desk, proclaiming your story?

If you look at any of these Masonic knick-knacks as representing yourself as part of a collection of Brothers' stories, or if you see this as simply a pile of "stuff," you can't help but reflect on the history, events, Lodges and Brethren these these treasures commemorate. Either way, you are part of those stories yourself.

The challenge to each member is to think about how he will represent himself in Freemasonry. Few of us will ever be celebrated on a lapel pin or challenge coin, but when we add our Masonic participation and involvement to the rich tradition of so many other Brethren, we become part of a collection that will truly be priceless.

How will you be remembered in this collection?

Giving the Gift of VOICE

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

In numerous scholarly articles on “What Donors Want” in the philanthropy journals, there are vast troves of research on how generations see philanthropy and giving, how they give, why they give, etc. It is all excellent research and of great value to the fundraisers when approaching different donors.

It is well-documented that the Baby Boomer generation is very much oriented to the organization - be it his fraternity, his church, college or school. He gives because of his long-standing attachment to the organization.

The younger donor - Generation X or Millennials - may not yet have developed a long-standing attachment to the organizations. But the younger donors do look at philanthropies for the cause's impact, as opposed to a gift based on an affinity for an organization. This is a vast difference in outlooks on giving!

The donor-as-investor sees his gift as an investment in a solution. Rather than posing the fundraiser to buy books for the Clinic, the impact-focus changes the perspective toward raising money to set children on a path to a bright future through improved communication skills.

For RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics, the impact of therapy is dramatic. Young children with speech and language impairments are at risk for continued communication problems, as well as for associated cognitive, academic, behavioral, social and psychiatric difficulties.

The benefits to speech and language therapy are numerous, and include:

- Supports learning and education
- Improves literacy
- Increases confidence and independence
- Improves socialization
- Eliminates self-consciousness
- Reduces shyness

We estimate that for each \$1 spent on speech therapy, as much as \$7 to \$10 is saved in social services later for children. That's quite an impact!

Think about your own children and how their personalities are reflected through their ability to communicate - whether it is through having your read a story or as simple as giving you a hug.

In July, you will receive the annual 101-Club appeal, reflecting the \$101 cost of a single session of therapy for a child in Nebraska. We ask of Brethren quite a bit, but I want you to think of the impact you are having on a child who cannot speak or make himself understood. Think of the world that is now open to a child who can do things as simple as ask for a drink of milk to giving Grandma a hug.



This year, the 101-Club appeal is trying a few changes to engage Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons in the cause.

In addition to a donation of \$101, \$202, etc. which so many members generously make, we are creating the **SGIG's Circle** for \$300 donations, which can be made as easily as a \$25/month pledge. Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, has authorized a beautiful challenge coin and lapel pin to be given to all Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons who join the SGIG's

Circle through a donation or pledge of \$300 toward RiteCare through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. A new 101-Club lapel pin will be sent to all pledges or donations of \$101, which can be done as easily as a monthly donation of \$8.50 on a credit card for a year.

Hopefully the Scottish Rite's principal philanthropy is a cause you love as much as you do your school, college, church or favorite charity.

But just as important, your donation creates a long-lasting and profound impact for tomorrow's leaders!

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL[®]
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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

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