



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

January-February, 2018 • Volume VIII, Issue 1

Features:

Alliance Fall Reunion

**Hastings Valley Tours Kearney
RiteCare Clinic**

Lincoln Annual Christmas Banquet

**Omaha Reunion Welcomes Six New
Scottish Rite Masons This Fall**

Meet Our New RiteCare Clinicians

... and much more!



Grandsons of Reunion Honoree Join Alliance Valley During Fall Reunion Class. See page 2 for story.

Membership

Nostalgia is a major facet of Freemasonry, whether we admit it or not. Masons think about that old building down the street that used to house the Lodge or how their current building looked before the ugly faux wood panelled walls were added in 1977. We look at the old photos on the wall of bewhiskered Past Masters in 1890 or 125 Brethren gathered together for the town Shrine club. We think about "the good old days," when 65 guys came to Lodge meetings and we were raising Brothers practically each week. Even non-Masons get on the nostalgia boat, remembering Dad heading to Lodge each month, or perhaps they recall parades or even sitting in the Tyler's room while Dad was in a meeting.

Nostalgia for "the good old days" of full membership rosters is something Masons of all generations can agree on!



The Lodge Over Simpkins Store was also a series of paintings by Robert Soule' in 1991, which hang in numerous Lodges, celebrating a saccharine view of Masonry.

In 1880, Lawrence Greenleaf penned the poem "The Lodge Over Simpkins Store," based on an actual place, about a Masonic Lodge, plain in appearance, but full of the true Masonic spirit:

... To hear the record of their acts was music to the ear/

*We sing of deeds unwritten which on
angel's scroll appear/
A widow's case for our helpless ones Lodge
funds were running low/
A dozen Brethren sprang to feet and of-
fers were not slow/Food, raiment things of
needful sort while one gave load of wood,/*
*Another shoes for little ones, for each gave
what he could. . .*

Masons love this kind of sentimentality, and we eagerly look back in the family tree for grandparents and great-grandparents who were Shriners, Past Masters, Scottish Rite, or Templars. We wear their rings or carry their swords with great pride.

But I often wonder if progression and innovation in Freemasonry aren't being choked by all this nostalgia for the past.

... continued on page 9

Orient Calendar

Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 12.....	KSA Membership Appreciation Dinner (O)
Jan 15.....	Installation of 2018 Officers (O)
Jan 19.....	KSA Members Dinner & Denny Samuelson Award (O)
Jan 20.....	Scottish Society Robert Burns Dinner (O)
Jan 26.....	Scotch Tasting (O)
Jan 27.....	Robert Burns Dinner (L)
Feb 2-4	Grand Lodge Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)
Feb 7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 1, 8, 15, 22.....	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Feb 19.....	Ladies Night at the 'Rite (O)
Apr 5, 6, 7 .	Scottish Rite Leadership Conference (Omaha, NE)
Mar 10.....	Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
Mar 7, 14, 21, 28.....	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Apr 4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Apr 27-28.....	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
May 17, 18, 19	Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
May 19.....	<i>Celebrating the Craft</i> (A, H, L, O)
Jun 13 (tentative)	RiteCare Classic at Pacific Springs (O)
Jun 23	WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
Oct 12-13 ...	<i>Nebraska Statewide Scottish Rite Reunion (at Hastings)</i>
October 19	Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction (O)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Jan 19, Feb 23, Mar 23, Apr 27

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16

For more information

contact the General 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

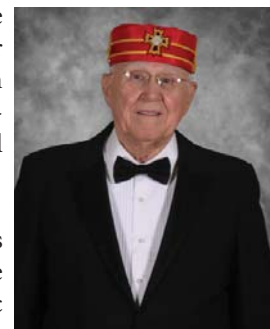


Benjamin A. Fischer 32° KCCH Memorial Class

Front row: Gene Gatti, 33°, Don Phillip, 33°, Bob Phillip, 33°, Tanner Johns, 32°, Jordan Mak, 32°, Micah Evans, 33°, Brent Van Patten 32°, KCCH

Back Row: Arnel Mac Donald, 32°, KCCH, Terry Phillip, 33°, Doug Thomas, 32°, Joel Zilmer, 32° KCCH, Geoffrey Phillip, 32° KCCH, Ed Morava, 32° KCCH, Art Stricker, 32° KCCH, Walt Phillip, 33°, John Ferguson, 33°

We've had a busy Autumn in the Valley of Alliance. On November 10-11, we welcomed two new Brethren into the Scottish Rite during the Benjamin A. Fischer, 32° KCCH Memorial Class.



**Benjamin A. Fischer, 32°
KCCH**

Ben was born in March, 1920 and was part of "the Greatest Generation." He World War II, he served in the Pacific Theatre where he received many service citations including the Bronze Service Star. After his military service he returned to Sterling, Colorado where he received his training as a watch maker. In 1946, Ben and his wife Margaret were transferred to Alliance where he began working as the jeweler at Thiele Jewelry Store. He later became the owner, retiring after 50 years in 1996. He continued to fix clocks at his home for his friends for many years after retiring. He was a master clock and watch maker, receiving and fixing grandfather clocks from all over the United States. One of his favorite hobbies was printing brochures, business cards, membership books, etc., using an antique Linotype printing press for his business and many other organizations in the community. He later donated all of his presses and equipment to Dobby Lee's Frontier Town in the Fischer Printing Building.

Ben became a Mason so his daughter Lisa could be a Job's Daughter. Ben joined the Scottish Rite in April, 1978, and was invested with the KCCH in December, 2005. The Valley lost Brother Ben on October 18, 2017. Ben's daughter is married to Jock Faris, 32° KCCH, Master of Alliance Lodge #183, and his grandsons Jordan Mak and Tanner Johns were our candidates in the Benjamin Fischer, 32° KCCH Memorial Class.

We are indebted to M.W. Rick Myers and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, who hosted the 8° on Friday evening, and the young ladies of the Alliance Aftershock softball team, who served and cleaned up for our Friday evening banquet. *(continued on p. 3)*



Top row, (left to right): Dr. Michelle McKelvey, Ph.D., Department Chair, 2nd year grad student Taylor Garten, Kris Althouse, M.A., CCC-SLP, Hastings RiteCare Clinician, 2nd year graduate student Caitlyn Wiehn. Bottom row, left to right: Denise Wolfe, M.S., CCC-SLP, Kearney RiteCare Coordinator, and Emily Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP, Hastings RiteCare Clinician

Central Nebraska Valley Meets at Kearney RiteCare Clinic For Dinner and Tours

The Valley of Central Nebraska met in Kearney on November 7 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney's RiteCare Clinic. Over 40 Scottish Rite Masons, ladies, and students, staff, and faculty of the UNK Speech and Communications Department met for dinner, presentations and a tour.

Our host was Denise Wolfe, the RiteCare Clinician at UNK, who welcomed members from Hastings and Kearney. The evening began with a presentation from the Kearney Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (KSSLHA) students, who presented a donation of \$250 for Nebraska RiteCare services. The KSSLHA students have supported RiteCare with a spaghetti feed at the Eagles Club last April and volunteered at the Walk for RiteCare in Hastings.

After an excellent barbecue dinner, Denise introduced students and faculty from the UNK Communication Department. She spoke about their telemedicine practice,

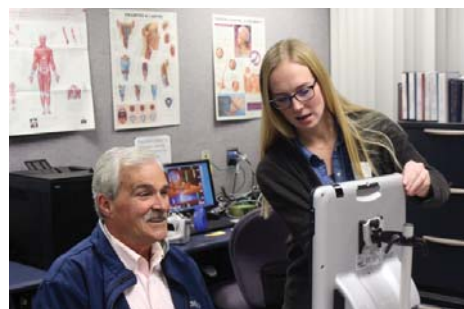
which has worked with children from Clay Center, Imperial, Minden, and Curtis, Nebraska. In two months, clinicians covered the equivalent of 25,672 miles of driving through telepractice therapy with children!

Denise showed several short videos by Caitlin Wiehn, a second-year graduate student clinician, and her work with children via telepractice. Since telemedicine is a new field, UNK is literally on the cutting edge of telemedicine therapy, with other clinics coming to learn how things are done. Caitlin and other graduate students are designing therapy sessions to engage the children from the ground up. One example used a Power Point presentation, and the child could "build" her own cupcakes, dragging different toppings to put her cupcake together based on the therapist's lessons.

Denise also introduced Les Seiler, 33°, who was one of the founding fathers of RiteCare in Nebraska, who along with the late Paul



KSSLHA student Elaina Eddy presents Charles Hastings, 33°, a donation for \$250 for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska



A UNK graduate student shows Ron Nielsen, 32° KCCH some of the technology the clinic uses in telepractice therapy with RiteCare children.

Pierce, 33° and Herbert Ronin, 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, founded the first RiteCare Clinic in 1975 in Hastings.

Les was the first to propose telepractice therapy to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Board, which contracted with UNK to fund a RiteCare clinician and support telepractice therapy, particularly for rural children who might otherwise not be able to get to a clinic for speech services.

After a tour of the UNK Clinic, Denise Wolfe presented the keys to the Clinic to Charles Hastings, 33° with thanks for Scottish Rite Masons' generous support for RiteCare services and goal of expanding services across the state.

Members hope to make this visit to the Kearney RiteCare Clinic an annual tradition, both to engage Scottish Rite Masons and recruit new members in Kearney, and show them how their donations help children in their own community.

Alliance Valley, continued . . .

For this Reunion, we had our banquet on Friday night, since so many members are unable to stay on Saturday night. We had a great steak dinner, with baked potato, beans, and cherry cobbler and ice cream. Our candidate Tanner Johns was also our banquet entertainment, playing the guitar after dinner. He owes his success to his


grandmother Margaret Fischer. Tanner hopes to continue in music through singing, songwriting, and playing. We had a great Reunion, and we hope to welcome everyone back for the Reunion again next Spring!

Right: Gene Gatti, 33° presents a patent to Ed Morava, who was invested a 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in October.



THE LINCOLN SCOTTISH RITE PRESENTS

Burns Night



Saturday, January 27, 2018

Celebrate the birthday of Scotland's favorite son and poet laureate, Robert Burns, with dinner, bagpipe music, poetry, and a silent auction benefitting the RiteCare Clinics.

Reservations Requested
Tickets are \$30./person

SAVE THE DATE



LINCOLN SPRING REUNION
APR 27-28, 2018



GAME 1 LOWER BOX www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org

St. Patrick's Day
Friday, March 16, 2018

Corned Beef & Cabbage - \$15/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

Great Evening at the Annual Scottish Rite Christmas Banquet



On December 1st, the Lincoln Valley celebrated the 4th annual Christmas banquet. Nearly 100 Scottish Rite Masons, their Ladies and guests attended dinner and entertainment at the Scottish Rite.

The Scottish Rite was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and the event was all the more special for being one of the first events in the newly renovated great hall. Almost \$500,000 worth of renovations, paid for by the generous donations from numerous members, had just been completed in October in time for the KCCH conferral. If you haven't visited the Scottish Rite recently, stop by and prepare to be amazed by the extraordinary renovations in the century old Scottish Rite Temple!

Bob and Jennifer Kruse, Doug and Sue Krogman, and Jason Nielsen prepared excellent lobster tail and butter, prime rib, with a fully-loaded baked potato, salad, rolls, followed by cheesecake. The Lincoln Southwest High School choir performed several holiday selections afterward. Even Saint Nicholas himself made a surprise appearance to greet members!

You don't want to miss the Christmas banquet, so keep an eye on the calendar for next year's banquet. This is definitely an evening of first-rate fellowship, food, and entertainment that can't be beat!



Santa knows Billy Pease, 33° has been good this year as he stops to visit.



David Watts, 32° KCCH and Ginger looking very festive



Ward Shires, 32° KCCH and Sandy with their granddaughter and her husband.



*William B. Webster, 33° Memorial Reunion
November 2, 3, and 4, 2017
Valley of Omaha, Nebraska*

Back Row (l. to r.) Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, *Matthew F. Poast*, 32°, *Gary L. Duncan*, 32°, *Thomas C. Ross*, 32°, *Anthony D. Canty, Sr.*, 32°, *Larry C. Crowell*, 32°, *Michael E. Tomasiewicz*, 32°, *Gary J. Hamtak*, 32°, Rick Gilmore, 33°

Front Row (l. to r.), John T. Maxell, 33°, Wade A. Ridout, 32° KCCH, Donald R. Kavalec, 32°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° (Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska), Frank W. Kroupa, 33°, Micah I. Evans, 33°, James O. Wolfe, 33°, Paul D. Rutherford, 33°

Omaha Valley Welcomes Six New Brethren at William B. Webster, 33° Memorial Fall 2017 Reunion

On November 2, 3, and 4, 2017, the Omaha Valley hosted the Fall Reunion, welcoming six new 32° Princes of the Royal Secret.

The Reunion began with social time and introductions on Thursday evening, followed by the 4°, 8°, hosted by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, and the 9°-10°, which continues the story of the 2nd Section Master's Degree. On Friday, the class received the 14°, 15°, and 16°, which was a degree revived for the first time in several years. On Saturday, the class convened for the 17° a new degree, 18°, 21°, 29°, 30°, 31°, and 32°.

Rather than a banquet on Saturday evening, the Scottish Rite hosted a luncheon, inviting ladies to join their husbands. Afterward, they women learned about the Scottish Rite with a tour of the building, saw a set change before the 29th Degree, and learned about Scottish Rite activities and programs during the year.

The Reunion was named in honor of William B. Webster, 33°. William Webster, who passed away in 1991, was an active Mason



*William B. Webster, 33°
(1924-1991)*

from a long line of Freemasons and whose family is an integral part of Omaha history. He served in the Army Air Corp during World War II, receiving numerous commendations for his service. He received his Bachelor's Degree in General Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1955. Afterward, he was in the real estate and investment business with his father. In 1976, he formed the Webster-Baker

Broadcasting Company with his son John Webster, receiving an FCC license to operate KOIL in 1983.

William Webster was an active Mason, raised at Capitol Lodge #3 in 1946, and joining the Scottish Rite in 1948. He served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection from April, 1965 until March, 1967 and was on the Scottish Rite Educational Welfare Association board (predecessor to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska). He was also very active in numerous community boards, including the Omaha Home for Boys, Brownell-Talbot, and the Omaha Club. The William Webster scholarship is presented each year in his honor.



The symbolic story of the Blue Lodge 3° continues in the 9°-10° Degrees. Mitch Inman, 32° and Chris Carter, 32° KCCH represent two Fellowcraft Masons



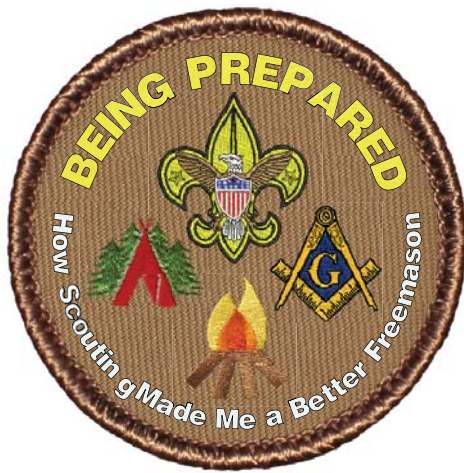
John Maxell, 33° and Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° present the Scottish Rite Heritage Award in honor of 4 generations of the Webster family.



Class Orator Larry Crowell, 32° speaks to members and guests during the luncheon about his experience during the Reunion as a candidate.

Additionally, William Webster's father John Potter Webster and grandfather John Robinson Webster were active Masons, and his son John Wallace Webster continue the Scottish Rite tradition today. John R. was a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, as is John W. today. In recognition of the Webster family's long involvement in the Scottish Rite, SGIG Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., presented a Scottish Rite Heritage Award to the Webster family during the luncheon.

The Spring Reunion will be on May 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2018. Reach out to prospective Scottish Rite Masons and explain the value of continuing their journey in the "University of Freemasonry." Several candidates are already committed, and we are anticipating another great class of Brethren to join us as members of the Scottish Rite.



Hal Daub, 33°

Albert Pike Lodge #333

The tenants for each organization are quite similar. Scouting is designed to give real life and character experience to the young man as he grows from boyhood to manhood – to develop his critical thinking skills, his love of country, and his high regard for the environment. Scouting in the early days of a young man's life creates a sense of obligation for doing what is right and for helping others. Once a young man is imbued with these skills of duty, honor, and country, whether that be in interests in servicing his country in military uniform, in furthering his personal success and education and/or in support for his family - - as time goes by, if exposed to the tenets of Freemasonry, will be quite naturally attracted to continue to engage in the learning process and in the personal development processes that are enhanced by affiliation with Freemasonry.

Simple assessment of wearing a uniform, pledging the allegiance to the American flag, doing a good turn daily, appreciating the value of teamwork, learning the importance of ethical conduct all relate to the tenets of Freemasonry. Daniel Carter Beard, a Mason in Mariner's Lodge No. 67 in New York City in the late 1800s, founded a male youth program called the "Society of the Sons of Daniel Boone", who, thereafter had the program renamed "The Boy Pioneers," created the first Boy Scouts.

BEING PREPARED, an on-going series about how Scouting has prepared members as leaders and Freemasons

When I joined the Cub Scouts at age 7 in a new program, now standard, called Tiger Cub, I had no idea the impact that Scouting would have. Moving regularly while growing up, the Scouts was always a constant. When the family moved to a new town we would find a new pack or troop and I would be able to pick up relatively easily where I left off in my scouting journey. I developed friendships that I have to this day through the program. I learned many skills that still serve me well. Most of all though I've developed a fraternal bond. Every Eagle Scout shares a bond, we've been through similar event, hurdles and obstacles. Joining the Order of the Arrow creates another fraternal bond. When interacting with someone and they find out you are an Eagle Scout there is an expectation about the type of person that man is, what his moral fiber is. This is similar to when one finds out I'm a Mason. There are certain expectations that the world has of Masons. In fact, the connections I made through Scouting lead to my finding my way into Freemasonry. I was first offered the opportunity while a young man at a section conclave from a mentor. At the time I wasn't ready. When I was, I was able to find another Scouting acquaintance who introduced me to my home lodge, Mizpah #302. I was able to quickly establish a bond with the men as I progressed and was accepted.



Zack Sinsheimer, 32°

Mizpah Lodge #302

When I moved to Oklahoma, I found housing through Scouting connections, but my social circle was quickly established through Masonic circles. Several friends in Omaha had sent notes to their Masonic circles in Oklahoma to introduce me. I experienced a similar effect as in my youth, where I was introduced to social circles through Scouting; now Masonry helped me establish social circles. I found a Lodge and men of character to associate with. This highlights one of the main draws I see in Masonry: creating a fraternal bond and providing men a method of association. Wherever you go, you can find a Lodge and plug in and find a social support structure and men who will help you settle into a new town. Like Scouts, Masons are an organization who will help you invest in and grow yourself.

Lord Baden-Powell was not a Mason, but learned of Daniel Beard's program and based on his own military experience developed what is known as the Boy Scouts today.

The Scout oath, when recited, pledges a Scout or Scout supporter to do their duty to God and Country and to obey the Scout law. The Scout law is a recitation of twelve very fundamental principles of life that are sworn to on the Scout's honor and with an appreciation for Masonic history and culture, and its dedication to brotherhood, camaraderie and societal well-being, could not be a better match or builder of society.

Scouting and Masonic activity are linked not only historically, but in present day terms, as such a valuable element for the strengthening of our communities and our families throughout the world.

Both have enriched my life and I have seen firsthand the value of the encouragement that so many men and woman give to so many young men in Scouting, and now young women in Scouting through the Explorer and Venture Programs, and of course in the Masonic world that includes the Demolay and Job's Daughters.

There are no two more helpful, positive, and enjoyable organizations to which one can belong. The men and women that support these two organizations give leadership by example to the best of what we all need to be dedicated to preserving and propagating for a better future for our country.

If you would like to submit an article about how your Scouting experience has helped you be a better leader and Freemason, please e-mail Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org. Please include a photograph of yourself. Articles may be edited for clarity and for available space.

4 GENERATIONS OF THE PHILLIP FAMILY ACTIVE IN VALLEY OF ALLIANCE

In an age when it is rare that sons join fathers in Freemasonry, the Phillip family of the Alliance Valley is an even rarer exception. Under the leadership of Bob Phillip, one son, three grandsons and a great-grandson continue to be active at the Alliance Reunions.

In October, 2017 the Orient of Nebraska coronated Terry Phillip a 33° Inspector General Honorary from the Valley of Alliance. While any Scottish Rite Freemason receiving the highest honor of the Scottish Rite is always newsworthy, his coronation as a 33° Scottish Rite Mason is exceptionally newsworthy, since Terry represents four generations of active Scottish Rite Masons, with three generations honored as 33° Scottish Rite Masons and one a 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. Of course, the Phillip family isn't the first to have several generations of Honors men, but a long family tradition of Freemasonry is rare, and four generations of Honors men is even rarer.

At age 96, Bob Phillip, 33° presides over the family. Bob was raised a Master Mason at Alliance Lodge #183 on April 25, 1946. He began work as a carpenter while in high school. Bob served in the Navy during World War II. After he returned home, he was a construction supervisor until he retired in 1986. A co-worker paid for his Scottish Rite degrees on the condition that he get involved with the stage crew to pay it back. Bob must be still paying off that debt, because he's been on the stage crew ever since, missing only one Reunion since 1946. Bob ran the stage crew until his son Don took over in 1986. Bob still attends Scottish Rite meetings, Reunions and events, driving two hours from Hermosa, South Dakota – often in the company of Daisy May, his Shih Tzu, so well-trained, she could probably confer a few Masonic lectures if Bob set his mind to training the dog! Bob received his 33° in 1991.

Bob's son Don is also a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, receiving his 33° in 2007. Don served aboard a US Navy ship, and was part of the recovery of space vehicles during early missions. He worked construction from 1957 until he retired in 2007. Don has studied martial arts most of his adult life, and is now a Grand Master in the art of Kamashin Jiu Jitsu. Don and his son Scott travel all over the United States as martial arts instructors, certifying students in the degrees. Don has managed the stage crew since 1986.

Don's oldest son is Walt, who is a massage therapist. Walt is in charge of the sound system during Reunions, and helps with the set-up of the stage as well. He received his 33° in 2007.

Don's second son is Scott Phillip. Scott is a fencing contractor in Denver, but never misses a Reunion, working with Walt on the sound system and stage set-up. He also travels the nation with Don teaching martial arts. Scott received his 33° in 2013.

The third son is Terry Phillip, who is the curator of the reptile gardens in Rapid City, SD and is an expert on poisonous snakes. Terry received his 33° in 2017.



Bob Phillip and Daisy May. Can a dog earn a white hat?



The Phillip family at the 33° Conferral: Scott Phillip, Don Phillip, Walt Phillip, Bob Phillip, and Terry Phillip

Walt's son Geoffery Phillip – Bob's great-grandson – works for the state of Colorado as a psychologist. He does several parts in the Degree work in the Reunions, and received his 32° KCCH in 2015.

At the Fall, 2016 Reunion, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° recognized Bob Phillip for his remarkable 70 years membership in the Valley of Alliance. At the 33° coronation this past October, Charles Sederstrom, Jr., presented the Phillip family the Nebraska Scottish Rite Heritage Award, recognizing four generations of active Scottish Rite Masons in the family. He called attention Bob's active membership in the Scottish Rite. Many young men of 70 or 80 years old might be content to sit on the sidelines. Not Bob – at 96, he may be a wee bit slower than he was 20 or 30 years ago, but he continues to work the stage crew and keep the Phillip family in line!



Receiving their 33° patents: Terry Phillip (Alliance), Rick Myers (Omaha), Lauren Faist (Omaha), Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, Homer Puderbaugh (Lincoln) and Randall Jones (Hastings)

RECOGNIZING OUR 2017 HONORS BRETHREN

Every two years, the Supreme Council for the Scottish Rite of the United States for the Southern Jurisdiction confers the highest honors on Brethren, the Thirty-Third Degree and the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH).

Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons were proud to recognize ten men who were invested with the KCCH on Friday, October 27th, 2017 in a beautiful ceremony hosted by the Valley of Lincoln. James Brown, 33° served as Sovereign Grand Commander, conferring the degree. Afterward, Lincoln hosted a fantastic banquet to recognize the new 32° KCCH honorees and present them with their patents from the House of the Temple.



Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33° with Lincoln KCCH honorees: Eric Bachenberg, Tom Hauder, and Cody Carlow, with Bruce Wood, 33° and Mike Gray, 33°

After presenting Brethren their patents, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, and Mike Gray, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Lincoln, called up Jerry Pigsley, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection and presented him with the SGIG's 2017 Distinguished Scottish Rite Mason award. Jerry has been instrumental in creating a positive spirit in the Scottish Rite, arranging wonderful events through the year. This past year, the Lincoln Scottish Rite hosted a family picnic, a day at Big Shot's Shooting Range, WalkRite for RiteCare, and a table lodge, among many other events.

On Saturday, October 28th, six Brethren received the Scottish Rite's highest honor, the Thirty-Third Degree, conferred at the Omaha Scottish Rite. Ed Nolte, 33° conferred the degree as Sovereign Grand Commander.

The degree was done jointly with South Dakota, who had five candidates in Omaha for the conferral.



Ron Nielsen from Kearney is invested with the KCCH in Lincoln on October 27th



KCCH-elects take the obligation

Afterward, guests enjoyed a reception and catered banquet with remarks from Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° and Jeff Larson, 33°, SGIG for South Dakota.

The SGIG also took time to recognize a Brother from each Valley who has made significant contributions to Scottish Rite Masons. In Alliance, Gene Gatti, 33°, General Secretary, recognized John Ferguson, 33°, for his wisdom, advice, degree work, time and expertise, even as he serves as Grand Marshal and travels around Nebraska with the Grand Lodge.

George White, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG for the Hastings Valley, recognized Don Rasmussen, 33° for his exceptional service as Almoner, attending all meetings of the Valley, and volunteering his time along with wife Marie.

John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary for the Omaha Valley, recognized Frank Kroupa, 33° for his nearly 50-year service to the Scottish Rite, managing the stage crew, serving as President and providing his leadership on the Cathedral Board, fundraising for the Valley, undertaking electrical work and overseeing numerous projects around the building and his service as Potentate for Tangier Shrine. If ever it was possible to leave Frank speechless, the presentation of the award did that. . . if only momentarily!

. . . continued on page 9



John and Liz Ferguson with Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°



Jerry Pigsley, 32° with wife Gina, Charles Sederstrom, Bruce Wood and Mike Gray, receiving the Distinguished Scottish Rite Mason award



Don Rasmussen, 33° (center) with Charles Sederstrom, George White, and Phil Odom

Charles Sederstrom recognized the Phillip family from the Alliance Valley for their extraordinary service, presenting them with the Scottish Rite Heritage Award. Three generations of active Scottish Rite Masons have been vested with the 33°, starting with grandfather Robert Phillip, who rarely misses a meeting, travelling from Hermosa, South Dakota to the Alliance Scottish Rite. In fact, he has missed one Reunion since 1946! Son Don Phillip and grandsons Walt, Scott, and Terry, and Walt's son Geoffrey (32° KCCH) all come in from Colorado to be active during Reunions, as well, with an impressive track record for rarely missing Reunions!

Finally, Charles Sederstrom recognized Curt Edic, 33°, G.C., General Secretary Emeritus for the Omaha Valley. Curt was elected a Grand Cross at the Biennial Session in August, and presented with his cap and pin at the conferral. The SGIG praised Curt's ability to create consensus among Scottish Rite Masons, his service as Deputy to the Order of DeMolay Supreme Council, overseeing numerous building projects and renovations, while creating a climate of activities and events at the Scottish Rite that



Bob Phillip looks at the Scottish Rite Heritage Award with son Don, as Terry (left), Walt (right), and Charles Sederstrom (second to left) look on.



Curt Edic, 33° G.C. was recognized for more than fifteen years of leadership in the Orient.

keep Brethren engaged in the Valley.

Sixteen truly deserving Brethren received their KCCH or 33° in October. Please congratulate them for their extraordinary service to Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Membership, continued

Our Lodges went from gas lights and coal-burning furnaces to energy-efficient light bulbs and modern HVAC systems. The Secretary went from handwritten minutes to typing them on a laptop. The glass lecture slides are a thing of the past, and we project them from a computer screen.

If the mechanics of Masonry can change, why don't we also change, developing quality programs? Lodge education hearkens back to what Albert Mackey wrote in 1850, but we don't discuss modern philosophic thought and how they relate to Freemasonry today. We have the long-winded discussions over the \$32 phone bill and we read minutes because it has always done that way. But many Lodges don't have meals together or fellowship. When the gavel



Bellevue Lodge #325 and Cub Scout Troop 464 participated in the Old Towne Bellevue Trick or Treat Bash on October 29th. What is your Lodge doing to engage members and get out in the community?

comes down, members go home. Naturally, the newly raised members view Masonry with a sense of *blah*. Just as we renovate our buildings using the old bricks and re-hang

the old pictures, we should renovate our Craft. Let us honor those Past Masters wearing high collars, but let us also get rid of things which fail to honor those men. We can renovate our physical and spiritual Temples with new ideas and new events which better engage the membership.

Just as you can't drive forward looking through the rear-view mirror, Masons should not be afraid to stop looking backward. I would challenge any Mason and every Masonic organization to continually review what traditions need to be jettisoned (i.e., lack of social time, reading the minutes rather than e-mailing them), and what new traditions can be created that will better engage the membership. What better way to honor our past?

ANDEN'S STORY

by Crystal Perkins

RiteCare Mom

crystalperkins2007@gmail.com

When our first son was 16 months old, we welcomed our second son, Anden. Having worked with children for several years I knew all children develop and hit milestones at different rates and ages. However, as a parent, I couldn't help but compare Anden's development to his older brother's. In many areas Anden developed ahead of his brother; he sat up by 5 months old, crawled by 7 months and walked by 9.5 months. The one area where Anden seemed to not develop as his brother did was talking. While Anden's brother was saying short phrases by the time he 18 months old, Anden was only occasionally saying "mama" and "dada" at the same age and was relatively a much quieter toddler than his older brother.



Anden graduated from preschool but continues to see Miss Emily at his kindergarten program in Hastings.

he greatly looked forward to working with her on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

After Ms Deb left for a position closer to home, Anden began working with Ms Emily. Anden was familiar with Ms. Emily as he had seen her in the office when he would see Ms. Deb, so this was a huge relief to us. For the next year Anden was able to continue to see Ms. Emily twice a week and she was able to work with his preschool schedule. She furthermore understood Anden also

struggled with some sensory processing issues and was very open to trying reinforcements and strategies to assist him with the transition from school to speech therapy, therefore, making each session a successful one.

Anden has been seeing Ms. Emily for about 2 years now and his progress has been phenomenal. His overall speech is much more understandable. Sounds he used to struggle with he is able to say while others sounds that he may still struggle with he is more willing to work on. His vocabulary has also increased far beyond our expectations.

The best part is not only us as his parents having noticed the vast improvement in Anden's speech but others who are not around him daily have also commented on his improvement. One friend even has stated "There's certainly a noticeable difference" when commenting on Anden's progress.

The progress Anden has made has not only improved his ability for others to be able to understand him but also has greatly helped him in school. During his second parent-

teacher conference, which took place towards the end of the school year, his teacher commented how she has seen improvement in his speech, making it easier for her to work with him in the classroom. This was also evident when comparing his school Christmas program participation to his preschool graduation, which took place 5 months later. During the Christmas program, Anden was very shy, withdrawn, and would not participate in much of the singing or his lines.

During preschool graduation, he was much more engaged, sang every song, and spoke his lines very loud and clear. It was a BIG deal to get Anden to be on stage with his peers for his preschool graduation. He used to be scared of recorded music and they use that in preschool programs. The vast difference in just the 5 short months honestly brought tears to my eyes. As a parent there is nothing that compares to the overwhelming feeling of seeing your child progress and overcome their struggles.

Each day we are extremely thankful for Ms. Emily and the Hastings Scottish Rite's RiteCare for the progress our son, Anden, has made over the last 2.5 years. I truly believe without this amazing service he would not be where he is today.

SCOTTISH RITE THINGS



The Scottish Rite gratefully acknowledges the **Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NS-SLHA)** students at UNK and UNO, who have volunteered at the Walks for RiteCare, the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner, and have consistently worked to make themselves true partners in the Scottish Rite's mission of helping children speak.

After the initial evaluation, it was determined Anden would benefit from speech therapy twice a week and he would see Ms. Deb [Wilhelm. Ms. Deb made each speech therapy session fun for Anden and

Meet RiteCare's Newest Clinicians



Jeena Kouris, M.S., CCC-SLP

I'm ecstatic to have been offered my dream job here at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) as an outpatient, pediatric speech-language pathologist and newest member of the RiteCare team in Omaha! MMI and RiteCare have been, and continue to be, a profound influence on my professional development. Thus, I am honored to be included in a team dedicated to promoting research, expanding patient care, and enhancing education.

Prior to obtaining my Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, I was employed as a registered behavior technician at the Munroe-Meyer Institute's Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. There, I worked in the early intervention unit, and discovered my passion for teaching children with autism how to communicate.

In addition to my employment as a registered behavior technician, I completed externships through RiteCare's pre-school program and MMI's Autism Diagnostic Clinic. It was during these externships that the RiteCare team's expertise and commitment to serving individuals and families within the community became largely evident.

With the positive influence and ample opportunity provided through MMI and RiteCare, I look forward to developing my expertise in the areas of autism spectrum disorder and collaboration across disciplines. I am grateful to be a part of RiteCare, and excited to see what the future holds for our team!



Denise Wolfe, M.S., CCC-SLP

In August, 2017, I started my new job as the RiteCare Clinical Supervisor at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. I'm so excited to be part of the Nebraska RiteCare family. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree from Kearney State College, and my Master's Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. It feels good to be "home" and continuing my career as a supervisor and mentor to graduate students.

My areas of interest include deaf education, early intervention, and technology integration. I previously worked in the public schools and was a member of the Early Development Team, Assistive Technology Team, served as a consultant for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, and I'm a Hanen-certified It "Takes Two to Talk" instructor. I have enjoyed the opportunities to present at an Apple Accessibility Conference, the Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Educators, Nebraska Education Technology Conference, and the National Autism Conference. I'm also a proud member of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association and the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

My husband, Brad, is a middle school principal in Grand Island and we have two children. Lexi is a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in speech/language pathology and Carson is a 7th grader at Westridge Middle School.

Oh, I also can't forget our furbaby dog, Bentley.



UNK RiteCare Clinic volunteers at the Walk for RiteCare in Hastings in September, 2017

The RiteCare Clinic and Volunteers were awarded the UNK Teamwork Excellence Award for October 2017. The following was our nomination:

Mrs. [Denise] Wolfe [UNK RiteCare Clinician] and her volunteers are doing any amazing job reaching out to the Kearney community and surrounding areas. First, during the Destination Downtown event (August 24, 2017) she and volunteers with RiteCare experience were letting people know about RiteCare. (RiteCare Clinics of Nebraska provide speech therapy for children who exhibit communication delays. Our child-centered, family-friendly process involves parents as partners in each child's individual treatment for long-term success at home, in the school, and beyond. We work with kids who are not meeting specific speech and language developmental milestones.)

Next, Mrs. Wolfe is supporting the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic in Hastings on September 30th with a Walk. She is currently registering people (undergrads and graduate students) and will create a UNK team for the walk.

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite Valley met at the UNK RiteCare Clinic for the November business meeting. Read more about our Kearney meeting on page 3.

EXCELLENT FUNDRAISING

goes beyond the money raised, creating awareness and engagement in the mission

At the risk of tooting my own horn, the Scottish Rite Foundations are very good at fundraising. We've had successful events, thanks to a lot of very hard-working volunteers. Our members are increasingly aware that our fundraisers do more



Celebrating the Craft this past May

than just support our RiteCare mission, our Teachers of the Year awards, and our scholarships; they engage and empower the community around our cause. Our fundraisers give people a way to do something meaningful, as well as bring in donations.

We're good at fundraising, but are we excellent fundraisers?

This is not a rhetorical question. This is a far bigger than the vital issue of dollars raised. Excellence encompasses **engagement, education, and inspiration**. Excellence involves creating an **awareness** how people can do something about childhood speech difficulties.

That ability for a donor to serve by way of making a donation is an important element in excellent fundraising. This leads to the pleasure of giving, which comes when a donor knows he can make a difference to a cause that matters to him.

So what exactly does excellent fundraising look like? An excellent fundraiser looks

like the Walk for RiteCare this past September in Hastings, where the public, RiteCare families and a large representation of our own members participated. Having our RiteCare families share their stories didn't just highlight a vital service, it grew the Walk and made a

significant impact on Hastings' ability to support speech therapy. An excellent fundraiser looks like Celebrating the Craft last May, where we invited RiteCare families for a fun afternoon of games for the kids, *Cat in the Hat* stories, and ice cream. A Scottish Rite Mason and RiteCare Dad shared how he got to really know his daughter after therapy for Apraxia of speech. We raised more than \$1,000, with many of the families coming back to generously support WalkRite for RiteCare a few weeks later (also one of our best ever)!

Excellent fundraising doesn't just benefit the Scottish Rite. It has a wider societal impact, as well. Charity leaders - which means you, as a stakeholder in our philanthropies - build public awareness and understanding about the causes that matter and giving people a chance to make a difference. As we look to the coming year, I want you to be proud of the wider impacts our Scottish Rite philanthropies are having. I hope you'll continue to help highlight the amazing examples of fundraising activities and encourage continued excellence in fundraising.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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

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Thanks to the generosity of numerous Scottish Rite Masons, Nebraska RiteCare children receive all the services they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. Please consider a donation or pledge and join these Brethren in making a significant impact on our ability to provide first-rate Speech and Language Therapy for Nebraska children.

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