



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

September-October, 2018 • Volume VIII, Issue 5

## Features:

**Quiet Summer in Alliance Valley**

**Hastings Welcomes Summer Graduate Intern from UNK**

**Lincoln Table Lodge in July**

**Omaha Hosts Successful RiteCare Classic and WalkRite for RiteCare**

*... and much more!*



**RiteCare Classic raises \$21,000 for Nebraska RiteCare services.  
See page 5 for story. . .**

Gary Unger, 32° KCCH at the RiteCare Classic

## Membership

Masonic blogger and writer Chris Hodapp always presents an interesting perspective on Freemasonry on his blog at <http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/>.

He recently wrote that Freemasonry's ails stem from a lack of competition. To make his point, he recalls a time when "we had stacks of competing orders all chasing the returning veterans to fulfill the sense of fraternalism they shared in the military that was now lost." Millions of men in the Knights of Pythias, Hibernians, Sons of Italy, Odd Fellows, Elks, Eagles, Masons and dozens more needed a hall to meet in. Magnificent "cathedrals" were built to house these organizations. Nebraska towns had impressive Elks, Odd Fellows, Woodmen, and Masonic Lodges on Main Street, built by the most prominent architects, as did towns across the nation.



*Though heavily modified today, the Masons of McCook Lodge #135 still meet in this magnificent building, dedicated in November, 1908.*

To Chris Hodapp's point, the Masons were the gold standard, both in our reputation to the word and in the things we did, and "because we thought the best of ourselves, and in many ways attracted only the best men because of that."

In the ever-increasingly impersonal world of today, the other orders have quietly fold-

ed, sold their buildings for theaters, office blocks, apartments, or parking lots. The Masons remain the last order standing. Hodapp writes "we have no reason to be better or more impressive or more selective or more interesting than the other "dues-card-and-a-pin-I'm-in" orders, because there is no one else. He makes the point that all these fraternal orders reinforced the sense of community, and in each of these towns, the competition to build magnificent temples indicated that the citizens cared very deeply for their communities and making them a better place to live.

Today, we are selling these architectural treasures at a breath-taking place, replacing them with generic cinder-block storefronts, providing little to entice members back next month.

*... continued on page 11*

## Orient Calendar

Sept 5, 12, 19, 26 ..... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Sept 6, 13, 20, 27 ..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Sept 7 ..... Nebraska RiteCare Retreat in Lincoln  
 Sept 14 ..... Feast of Tishri (L)  
 Sept 19 ..... Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)  
 Sept 22 ..... Hastings Walk for RiteCare (H)  
 Sept 28 ..... Brandy Tasting (O)  
 Oct 2 ..... Feast of Tishri (H)  
 Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 ..... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Oct 13 ..... Feast of Tishri (L)  
 Oct 13 ..... *Nebraska Statewide Scottish Rite Reunion (at Hastings)*  
 Oct 19 ..... Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction (O)  
 Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Nov 8, 15, 22, 29 ..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Nov 1, 2, 3 ..... Omaha Fall Reunion (O)  
 Nov 9-10 ..... Alliance Fall Reunion (tentative date) (A)  
 Dec 5, 12, 19, 26 ..... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Dec 6, 13, 20, 27 ..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Dec 8 ..... Christmas Banquet (L)  
 Dec 14 ..... Ollie the Trolley Christmas Light Tour (O)  
 Dec 17 ..... Christmas Banquet & Awards Dinner (O)  
 Jan 26 ..... Robert Burns Dinner (L)  
 Jan 26...Scottish Society of Nebraska Robert Burns Dinner (O)  
 Feb 1-2 ..... GLNE Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)

### Lodge of Perfection meetings:

#### Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 28

#### Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

#### Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19

#### Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

### 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



*The Fall, 2018 Reunion is coming up! Plan to drop by, watch the Degrees, and welcome our new 32° Princes of the Royal Secret. There is time to turn in petitions; please reach out to Master Masons and explain the benefits of being a Scottish Rite Mason.*

As I write in early July, I am sad to report that Ill. Brother Bob Phillip has been moved to the VA Nursing Home in Hot Springs, South Dakota due to failing health. Please keep Bob in your thoughts and prayers. The Valley of Alliance is indebted to Bob and his family in more ways than I can properly express. I hope you saw the wonderful article about four generations of the Phillip family in the last Scottish Rite Journal. One or two generations - maybe even three - is not uncommon in the Scottish Rite, but four generations of active men is certainly a rarity in any organizations, and I am certainly proud that the Phillip family are active here in the Alliance Valley.

Power outages in the City of Alliance contributed to the air conditioning unit in the building going out. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new unit, as we keep cool with fans and maybe a scoop or two of ice cream. General maintenance work and roof repair are summer projects currently underway as we are dark during July and August.

We are fortunate to have two Reunions coming up! We will participate in the all-state Reunion in Hastings in October with the 4th Degree team. All members are invited to attend in Hastings. We will have a block of hotel rooms available on Friday, October 12th, with a great banquet at the Hastings Valley, followed by wonderful Degree work on Saturday, October 13th. And we will have our own Reunion on November 9th and 10th here in Alliance. Please continue to reach out to prospective candidates and explain how the Scottish Rite continues their Masonic journey with further light, leadership, and service.

As always, you are invited and encouraged to get involved in YOUR Valley. We always need help with Degree work, the stage and sound crew at Reunions, and as officers and leaders. You can reach me at [gene123@mail.com](mailto:gene123@mail.com), or at the Valley of Alliance Scottish Rite at (308) 762-4324.

See you at the September meeting!

Gene Gatti, 33°  
 General Secretary  
 (308) 762-4324  
[gene123@mail.com](mailto:gene123@mail.com)



## Hastings RiteCare Clinic Welcomes 3rd Graduate Extern Student to Get Practical Speech Therapy Experience

This summer, Sarah Jones is our Pre-Extern Graduate Student at Hastings RiteCare, where she has spent 5 weeks at the Clinic working with our students. Sarah is the third Pre-Extern Student to work in the Clinic, and we have greatly enjoyed having her with us this Summer! She is in her second year of graduate school at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, working towards her MS-ED, CCC-SLP degree. Articulation with children is an interest area.

Sarah lives in Aurora, Nebraska with her family and enjoys spending time with her family and dogs.



Walk for RiteCare™

**Saturday, September 22**

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

## NOTED EXPERT ON SCOTTISH RITE SCENIC BACKDROPS VISITS HASTINGS MASONIC THEATER

Material for this article came from Wendy Waszut-Barrett's blog for June, 2018 at <http://www.drypigment.net>.

The Valley of Hastings welcomed Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D. this past June. She was working her way from her home in Minnesota to the Scottish Rite in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she co-wrote a beautiful book on the history of the Santa Fe Valley Scottish Rite. Wendy has extensively studied theaters and the scenic backdrops, with her specialty in how the Scottish Rite has used the handpainted backdrops for the promotion of our Degree work on stage.

With the assistance of Jim Horsham, 32°, Jon Yocom, 33° and Phil Odom, 33°, Wendy spent a Saturday morning inspecting the Hastings Masonic theater.

The drops themselves had been produced by Toomey and Volland Scenic Company of St. Louis, Missouri, during 1929 and installed in 1930, just as the building was formally dedicated in April, 1930. Not all the drops were constructed for this particular stage, as some were too wide, and had been folded back to fit the pipes from which they were hung. Among Wendy's interesting finds were that the 70 drops were not in numerical order, suggesting that some of the drops had been moved over the decades. The original lighting panel, installed by the Frank Adam Electric Company is still in the theater, though no longer used.

Wendy noted a few safety issues which the Valley can easily address immediately, as

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*Toomey & Volland Scenic Co. ad from Scottish Rite New Age Magazine, January, 1913*

well as recommendations to keep the drops in good condition for generations to come.

Among the issues she called our attention to was the way pipe pockets were sewn, which hold the drops up. After decades of humidity, the fabric eventually fails, leading to the pipes falling to the stage.

In her travels across the nation, Wendy visited several Scottish Rite Valleys, including Omaha during her drive through Nebraska. While all our Scottish Rite theaters could use funds to support preservation and restoration of their historic drops, she was impressed with the level of upkeep and attention which has gone into maintaining our Masonic homes, particularly the theaters.

(Top) Painted details from King Solomon's apartments scene. (Bottom) Detail from the treasure room scene at the Hastings Masonic Center theater. (Photos by Wendy Waszut-Barrett)







Jack Lorenzen, 33° demonstrates the proper measurement for "two fingers" of wine poured to charge his cannon.

Masons have been meeting in Table Lodges since time immemorial. Masonic author Lawrence Dermott writes, "It was expedient to abolish the old custom of studying Geometry in the Lodge, and some younger Brethren made it appear that a good knife and fork, in the hands of a dexterous Brother, over proper Materials (food), would give great satisfaction and add more to the conviviality of the Lodge than the best Scale and Compasses in Europe."

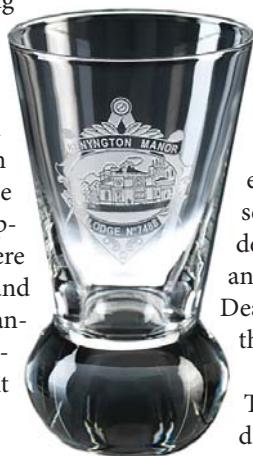
A feast promotes fellowship and kinship in Freemasonry. Traditionally, the Table Lodge promoted inspiration for and celebration of Freemasonry. During Colonial times, the Table Lodge buoyed up the spirit of Colonists during troubling times. Even if the banquet was meager, the zeal was there. Objects in the room took on a military aspect. Thus, the table became the trestleboard. Napkins were called flags. Spoons were trowels. Glasses were cannons, and to fill them was to "charge the cannon." Red wine became dark powder and white wine became light powder.

After toasts, the Venerable Master would call members to "Ready, Aim, and Fire," and members would raise their glasses, drink, and slam the glasses on the table - hence the roar of the "cannons!" Those traditions remain with the Table Lodge, as well as tra-



A table full of rascals, with Homer Puderbaugh, 33° at the front

ditional toasts to the Brethren, departed Brethren, the Valley, the Orient, and many others proposed throughout the evening.



A Masonic "cannon" was traditionally a glass with a thick base, so it could be slammed on the table for the cannon's roar.

About 40 Scottish Rite Masons enjoyed a wonderful dinner of Cane's chicken with sides. Mike Gray, 33° served as Venerable Master, and Dale Lueders, 33° and Don Albrecht, 32° served as Senior and Junior Wardens. Cody Carlow, 32° KCCH and Bill Short, 32° as the other Deacon, "charging the cannons" throughout the evening.

The Valley owes Cody Carlow a debt for recommending the idea and coordinating the evening. Mike Gray suggested that a Table Lodge be hosted in January, as well as in the Summer. Plan to join us again for another great evening of fellowship at the Table Lodge. Stay tuned for dates for another great evening!

## 2018 Lincoln Calendar

September 14..... Feast of Tishri  
September 19..... Lodge Meeting  
October 17..... Lodge Meeting  
November 21..... Lodge Meeting  
December 1 ..... RiteCare Children's Christmas party  
December 8..... Christmas Banquet  
December 19..... Lodge Meeting  
January 26, 2019 ..... Robert Burns Dinner

Last Wednesday of each month

\$3 Burger Night (5:30 to 7 pm)

Thursday Lunches at 11:45 (\$6)

## Scottish Rite Masonic Center FEAST OF TISHRI

*Feast in the East*

**Friday, September 14, 2018**

5:45 p.m. social time • 6:30 p.m. dinner

Reservations: \$25/person

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Twenty years ago, the Scottish Rite golf outing began as a fun event for members, with extra money going to RiteCare. Over the years, the annual golf benefit has become one of the Scottish Rite signature events supporting the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. This year, the RiteCare Classic, held on June 13th at Pacific Springs Golf Club, grossed over \$21,000 for speech and language services!

RiteCare Classic committee chair Buzz Garlock, 32° KCCH welcomed guests to the 21st annual RiteCare Classic and introduced Munroe-Meyer Director of Community Engagement Melonie Welsh, who spoke about the services and mission of MMI. Buzz also introduced Scottish Rite Brother, RiteCare Dad, and RiteCare Classic committee member T.J. Brumfield, 32°. T.J. spoke with passion about how he and wife Sarah have marveled at the progress daughter

Eva has made in her treatment for Apraxia. Her ability to communicate, to make herself understood, and to have conversations continue to amaze TJ and Sarah.

"As parents, we want to provide the best services for children so they can succeed in life," said Buzz. "Thanks to our golfers today, we are able to help make a difference in the lives of children with speaking disorders." With the generous support of golfers and sponsors, the annual RiteCare Classic has been able to raise well over \$200,000 over the past 20 years!

Flight winners were Darrel Jackson, Dave Zuerlein, Jim Bennett and Chip McAuliffe, coming in 14 under par. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams at 12 under par were Brian Zahm, Brian Finn, Rich Toftness and Josh Toftness. Steve Barchus won the putting challenge.

*The 2018 RiteCare Classic was generously sponsored by:*

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*Top Left:* John Hardy, Pete Peterson, Carl Lewis and Rick Myers. *Top Right:* Ward Reesman, Virgil Johnson, Matt Johnson and Steve Reesman  
*Bottom Left: (Omaha Home for Boys team)* Ross Wendel, Nicole Wagner, Justin Loehr, Keenan Page *Bottom right: (UNMC team)* Bill Warzak, Joe Evans, Holly Roberts, Billy Higgins



# WALK to TALK

## 10th annual WalkRite for RiteCare Raises \$6,500 for Speech Therapy Services

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual WalkRite for RiteCare was a wonderful success on June 23rd at Lake Zorinsky's Picnic Pavilion. The weather was a perfect 79°, as we welcomed 150 RiteCare families, the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute staff and faculty, and Scottish Rite Masons and their families to Lake Zorinsky's picnic pavilion for the Walk.

While WalkRite for RiteCare has a goal of fundraising for the Clinic, the Walk has also become an effort to celebrate our RiteCare families and give them a fun event, where they can simply enjoy the morning and fun activities with their kids.

*"We never thought Joseph would be able to say, 'I love you,' said RiteCare dad Tin Tran.*

Once again, the women of the UNO Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA) hosted a table with activities for the kids, including face painting and games, and Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA) brought therapy ponies for the children to pet. The Culinary Masters grilled hamburgers and hotdogs.

T.J. Brumfield, 32° and Sarah Brumfield came with their kids - daughter Eva has worked with Paul Laikko at the Clinic, as she receives therapy for Apraxia of speech. They were joined by members of the Rebel Legion, who came in costume as several characters from the Star Wars movies, which the kids love meeting!

RiteCare families donated several beautiful raffle baskets, which raised an additional \$400, and many families made generous donations throughout the day.

Kicking off the Walk, RiteCare dad Tin Tran spoke about how his son Joseph got on the waiting list shortly after birth for speech therapy, and has worked with RiteCare clinician Miss Korey on his speech. Today, he uses an augmentative alternative communication (AAC) device to help with his speech. Tin said that he never thought he'd see a day when his son could say "I love you Dad," but not only has Joseph been able to

express what he wants, he can communicate through his device to make himself understood. He continues to receive therapy and continues to expand his communication skills thanks to RiteCare speech therapy.

With that, walkers were off, with most walking to the playground across the park, and a few walking some or all of the entire trail around Lake Zorinsky.

This year, WalkRite for RiteCare has raised \$6,500 toward the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha's commitment to speech therapy at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

*Photos: (top-to-bottom) Tin Tran and son Joseph; Osama Hamad and his family; Eva at the face-painting station, hosted by NSSHLA students; Faculty and Staff from the MMI Genetic Counseling Lab team at WalkRite for RiteCare*





Scottish Rite Masons enjoyed a great evening at the June Scottish Rite Lodge Dinner in Omaha! We began with a College World Series tailgate party, with freshly grilled burgers, brats, and hotdogs, with potato salad, baked beans, and ice cream, served by the Culinary Masters. The games were aired on the TV in the lounge for those who wanted to watch.

After dinner, the Venerable Master called up Joyce Kavalec, who surprised husband Don Kavalec, 32° KCCH with an engraved brick for the Scottish Rite's Mural Garden. She presented it to Don in honor of Father's Day/Don's birthday/52nd anniversary, all of which happened in June. We also presented a Mural Garden brick, donated by T.J. and Sarah Brumfield. The bricks will be installed along the path in the garden, west of the building in front of the mural painted in 2015. Nearly 50 bricks have been installed so far, honoring Scottish Rite Masons or family members, which are tax-deductible donations to the Valley's Foundation.

Afterward, the Knights of St. Andrew knighted four new Knights: Mark Bush, 32°, Dennis Newman, 32°, Matt Poast, 32°, and Steven Zimmerman, 32°. The Knighting began with a brief history of the Battle of Bannockburn, given by Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH, who spoke about the relationship between the Knights Templar and Scotland, which form the basis of the Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew Degree. His presentation was accompanied by pictures by Kyle (32°) and Amanda Beckner, who recently returned from Scotland with photos of many of the key locations included in Armel's presentation (see p. 9).

Each new Knight was presented a with framed Letter of Patent, proclaiming them a Knight in good standing. After the Knighting ceremony, conducted by Bob Pelletier, 32°, Carl Simmons, 32°, and Andrew Muska, 32°, the KSA presented Brother Matt Poast with his glengarry in appreciation for volunteering and being active with the KSA.



1) Don and Joyce Kavalec with the brick for the Mural Garden; 2) Don presents T.J. Brumfield with a certificate for completing the Master Craftsman program; 3) Bob Pelletier knights Steven Zimmerman; 4) Carl Simmons presents a Letter of Patent to Mark Bush as a member in good standing of the Omaha Knights of St. Andrew

## Brethren Visit Des Moines for Royal Order of Scotland Dinner

Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH and Micah Evans, 33° were invited to the Robert the Bruce Society dinner for the Royal Order of Scotland (ROOS) in Des Moines, Iowa on Friday, July 13th.

According to tradition, the Royal Order of Scotland dates to 1314, when 63 Knights came to the aid of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland, helping him defeat the English at the Battle of Bannockburn. The King of the Scots constituted them Knights of the Rosy Cross and created the Order of Heredom for their services.

In 1878, the Provincial Grand Lodge was formed in the United States under Sir Albert Pike, the first Provincial Grand Master. The Scottish Rite and ROOS have always enjoyed a close relationship ever since.

Armel was called upon to make an impromptu presentation, and he spoke about Angus Og MacDonald, a Scottish lord, who came to the aid of King Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn with foreign Knights, wearing curious French garb with the insignia of the Templars, aiding his forces in the defeat of Edward II of England.



Dan Hobson, 33° and Shane Harshberger, 33° G.C. of Des Moines with Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH and Micah Evans, 33°

Armel and Micah enjoyed a great dinner at the Des Moines Embassy Club, but were also on a clandestine mission, with the intent of learning what made the Iowa dinner successful to implement a similar dinner for Nebraska ROOS members.



## BEING PREPARED: an on-going series about how Scouting has prepared men as Masons and leaders

My father had been waiting for years when the day arrived - I became of age to join the Cub Scouts. Dad was a Scoutmaster, earning his Eagle badge before World War II, and was to set my little feet in that direction as well. The very first month in, my first leadership job was to serve as the Assistant Dinner for the Den. This task was to follow directions by the Dinner (an older Cub) and learn what a Dinner does, such as putting out candy, cookies or ice cream for a snack. Knowing how to do that, I was all in.

After Cubs came the real adventures - camping and hands on outdoor activities. Along this path included leadership building, such as patrol leader, senior patrol leader and all the other positions to make the troop run. There were many badges to earn and things to learn on the trail to Eagle Scout.

Something happened after I became an Eagle Scout. All the older boys and Eagles with whom I had become friends were gone. My father thought it would be a good idea to look at another group of young men called the Order of DeMolay. When the door of the Chapter room was opened, there they were many of my former Scout friends, many Eagle Scouts! Again, my father had set my feet in the direction to follow in the footsteps of my relatives and Freemasons. The different offices and positions taught leadership.

Then came the college days away from home. I still kept a hand in both groups. In Scouting, the Explorer program led me to become the Secretary and then the President. In DeMolay, there was the Order of DeMolay Knights and my position as Chaplain.

VietNam took many of us into service including many leaders of both groups. I was able to serve as Assistant Scoutmaster on one of my duty stations. After my service,



I was able to reconnect with old friends and Scouts. During my first teaching position in a small coal mining town in Wyoming, I was able to organize an Explorer post and a cub pack. Then I was able to start an adult path of Scout leadership know as Wood Badge. I again served as Director of a Wood Badge course when I moved to Omaha in the 1970s. Each course will have about 30 adults which over the years will serve about 3,000 Boy Scouts.

Because of the connection between Scouting and Freemasonry, there is a Daniel Carter Beard award given to Masons that have notable service to both. It was my true honor to have the Grand Master present this award to me, with Masons attending from around the country. This award, with my Eagle badge, have been highlights on the path my father set many years ago.

Now that I am serving in a position for the US Coast Guard as an Academy Admissions Partner, I find one of their posters that uses Robert Frost's poems about "The road less traveled" with Emerson adding "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Overall, I would add that for me, I would ask that you not walk behind me for I may not lead, nor walk ahead of me because I may not follow you, but rather walk beside me and call me "Brother".

*Submitted by James O. Wolfe, 33°  
jjowolfe@gmail.com*

*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.*

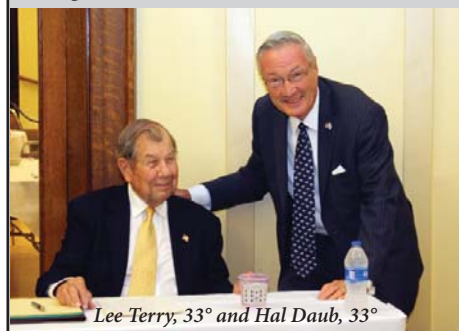
**MONDAY 5:15 PM SCOTTISH RITE ETHICS SERIES**  
**07.16.18 DIRECT FROM GENERAL RINGSIDE SEATING ONLY**

*A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.*

With the recitation of the Scout Law, Hal Daub, 33° and Lee Terry, 33° kicked off the July Ethics debate before the Lodge dinner, discussing whether modern Scouting has a role for girls. Hal Daub, an Eagle Scout, took the view that the core ethics, character and leadership fostered by the Scouts apply as much to developing boys into men as they do for girls.

Lee viewed the move as akin to a cheap ploy for declining Scout membership, which neglected outreach to traditionally underrepresented or underserved demographics, such as African-American or Latino boys, or low income families.

Lee carried the debate by a vote from the nearly 50 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies attending, but both Lee Terry and Hal Daub presented interesting ideas for thought.







## TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

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**T**oastmasters International was formed in 1924 at a California YMCA by Ralph C. Smedley, as a set of classes to improve the communication skills of young men under his charge. Nearly a century later, Toastmasters has helped over four million people improve their speaking and leadership skills.

General Secretary John Maxell, 33° envisioned a Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite Toastmasters club with the idea of engaging Scottish Rite Masons and improving leadership skills through effective communication. While we work to reach twenty members (and their ladies, co-workers, friends, neighbors, and guests) to charter our own club, the Scottish Rite hosts the Toastmaster's Speechcraft program, a preliminary series of meetings that gives members experience speaking before an audience. Each member is assigned an evaluator, who helps hone his or her skills, such as refining gestures, maintaining eye contact with the audience, and developing strong introductions and openings.

Meetings begin with Table Topics, impromptu speeches which may be given on any random subject. Table Topic's goal is for the speaker to think on one's feet with minimal preparation. The meeting is based off a set of organized speeches which emphasize particular skills while refining skills covered in past meetings. Evaluators for each speaker help inspire confidence, comfort level, and a commanding presence. Recent speakers have covered Masonic travels, the Marquis de Lafayette, and why NOT to join Freemasonry!

Toastmaster courses last one hour and meet at the Scottish Rite on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts are provided. Toastmasters is open to all members, their families, guests and friends. An official club will be formed when there are twenty members willing to charter a new Toastmaster's Club.

In the meantime, even experienced speakers can improve their speaking skills with the Speechcraft program. If you are interested, please join the Toastmasters for a meeting or contact John Maxell at (402) 342-1300 or maxelljt@scottishriteomaha.org.



## Angus Visits Auld Reekie

**T**he Scottish Rite's roving ambassador, Angus Scott Wright visited Edinburgh, affectionately nicknamed Auld Reekie, Scots for Old Smoky, for the views from the country of the smoke-covered Old Town. Angus traveled with Kyle (32°) and Amanda Beckner, who visited last May.

While there, the Beckners and Angus visited Stirling Castle, the National Wallace Monument, the Bannockburn battle site (where the Knights Templar are said to have aided King Robert the Bruce in his defeat of the English in 1314), Rosslyn Chapel, Edinburgh Castle (where Angus is pictured above), the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, Glenfinnan Viaduct (location for several scenes in the Harry Potter movies), Urquhart Castle, Nessie hunting at Loch Ness, Eilean Donan Castle, the Isle of Skye, Balvenie Castle, a stop at Farquharson's Castle (representing Amanda's family clan), a few distilleries, among many, many other stops.



*Kyle and Amanda Beckner  
at Loch Ness. Did they find Nessie?*

Based on the incredible and beautiful photos on Kyle's social media, we are glad they chose to come back to Nebraska!



*Several scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed at Glenfinnan Viaduct. Angus is waiting for the Hogwarts Express to come by.*

# CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Holly Schlautman, our Lincoln RiteCare Clinician, and her husband Isaac! They welcomed their newest family member, Kenzie Mae Schlautman (left), who was born on May 31 at 5:22pm, weighing 8lbs 9oz. Mom is doing great.

We are also pleased to report that Lincoln RiteCare clinician Carrie Kenny and husband Chris welcomed Colette Lois Kenny (bottom left) into their family on January 17, 2018. She has been a joyful addition to the family, and brother Connor has enjoyed helping her "get bigger" every day!



## Telepractice ROAD TRIP Across Nebraska!

Telepractice speech therapy remains one of the most cutting-edge services our RiteCare Clinic at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Communications Department offers. Telepractice allows our clinicians to serve children anywhere in the state, whether they live on a ranch in the Sandhills or in a town without easy access to speech-language pathologists.

With nothing more than their own personal computer or iPad, a family can work with a clinician and help a child receive speech therapy. Some activities may include a child viewing a PowerPoint slide with manipulatives for articulation therapy, to actual photographs of the client to help identify emotions, to providing them "listening breaks" with their favorite YouTube videos. Though telepractice does not allow a clinician the literal hands-on approaching being in a clinic allows, the clinicians can provide the same quality of services and build the same rapport as they can in person. (Speech-Language Pathology code of ethics require that telepractice services have the same quality as face-to-face therapy.)

Our UNK clinician Denise Wolfe and her students have worked with Nebraska children in Minden, Hemingford, Alliance, Wood Lake, Curtis, Imperial, Clay Center and Ravenna this past Summer. If they had to drive to see these children, they would have logged an impressive 2,966 miles in one week crisscrossing the state! Through telepractice, both clinician and the child can meet from the comfort of their own computer! Thanks to all Scottish Rite Masons whose financial support makes telepractice available to Nebraska families.



# SCOTTISH RITE POST

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LATE CITY FINAL

## FREE DONUTS!

At the Orient of Nebraska One-Day Reunion in Hastings on 10/13/2018

Plan to welcome our new Scottish Rite Brethren  
Call your Valley Secretary for details

## CLINICIANS on PARADE



The University of Nebraska-Kearney RiteCare faculty and graduate clinicians enjoyed being part of the 60th Annual Shrine Bowl Parade on June 6th, 2018 in Kearney, Nebraska. The UNK Hearing Van, adorned with our new RiteCare magnets, headed to the Downtown Bricks to pass out candy, smiles, and represent our RiteCare clinic.

Faculty attending that day were: Dr. Michelle McKelvey, Dr. Jan Moore and her son, Ian; Dr. Philip Lai, Jill Wilson and her son, Tyler; Laura Moody and her daughters, Adalyn and Jael; and our RiteCare Clinician Denise Wolfe. They were also thrilled to have the following graduate clinicians join us: Breana Johnson, Morgan Prochnow, Nicole Broich, and Sarah Jones. Everyone loves a good parade and we are already looking forward to next year!



## RiteCare Clinic to Get Updated Facilities with New Munroe-Meyer Institute Building

The Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) has worked out of an old building on the UNMC campus, dating back to the 1950s. The building cobbles the C. Louis Meyer Therapy Center, built in 1958, the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion, built in the 1990s, and the J.P. Lord School. Our RiteCare Clinic services are based in the old section, with small therapy rooms and offices for the Speech-Language Pathologists. The University of Nebraska Medical Center recently voted to give MMI a new home.

The UNMC Board of Regents voted to move MMI to the former First Data building at 6902 Pine Street on the Omaha AkSarBen campus. Dr. Karoly Mirnics, Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute, said the transition is less about the building and more about having the space and chance to establish new programs, expand existing ones and fulfill the institute's mission. "It's about who we are and what we want to achieve" at the Institute, Mirnics said.

UNMC will renovate the First Data building in AkSarBen at a cost of \$85.1 million, including about \$68 million in private money and \$10 million in state money. Clinical revenue and cash from a UNMC parking fund are expected to cover the rest. Dr. Mirnics anticipates the Institute can move into the space within two years.



Photo courtesy of Google Earth

Dr. Mirnics said the new MMI building institute will maximize new techniques in communication, mobility and transportation, while promoting achievement, strengths and the importance of family, fitness, fun, friendships, and functionality. MMI will accommodate program needs, education, research collaboration and office space, with plentiful parking, which has been a major con-

**"Speech services will greatly benefit from the new MMI facility," said Dr. Mirnics. "Our expansion will allow us to establish new, interdisciplinary speech-language modalities of treatment. The new space will also enable expanding our speech-language diagnostic and treatment capacity, and we hope that we will be able to increase our patient services by approximately 50%."**

cern. Design is expected to start in August, with construction to begin in late spring or early summer of 2019.

## Membership, *continued*

*"Is all then lost and our labors but mere vanity?"*

If we are judging by the buildings we've left behind, then perhaps they are the tombstones for America's golden era of fraternal life. But as our Grand Lodge officers remind us every year at Annual Communication - quite correctly - the Lodge is not the building. It is the members.

- Lebanon Lodge #323 in Columbus, Nebraska was certified as proficient in opening and closing.
- Bellevue Lodge #325 presented the Masonic Academic Scholarship Award to a college-bound young man.
- The Grand Lodge of Nebraska is joining various Chambers of Commerce across the state to increase community awareness of Masonry.
- Long Pine Lodge #136 sponsored a cornerstone for the Newport Fire Hall building.



The Masonic Lodge met in this building on 13th Street in Columbus, built in about 1915.

The list could go on and on of the scholarships the Lodges have given, veterans' appreciation dinners held, or the blood drives hosted. That is hardly the sign of the death knell for Freemasonry!

I would never shy away from the fact that our meetings - and I'll get myself into trouble by including the Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine in this - need to get back to fantastic ritual work with proficient members to attract the best men to Masonry. We need

to make our meetings more than a recitation of the bills, followed by fried chicken or stale cookies in the Lodge basement.

Even if our buildings are a storefront or an old building in desperate need of tuck-point work and paint, we need to treat the buildings with the pride they rightfully deserve. However, we must always remember we are not anchored to past glories. We are not competing with the ghosts of the past, when 150 men joined in a single year. We need to take Masonry as it is today and celebrate the significant accomplishments our Lodges make in 2018, even as we remember those achievements they made in 1918. We need to be okay with where Masonry is today and chart a new path that celebrates the best in men. When we take pride in what we are doing rather than bemoan what we used to do, we will see those tombstones are merely mile-markers pointing the way forward.

# Giving the Gift of VOICE

In July, you received the 101-Club appeal from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, which has the ultimate fiscal responsibility for supporting our RiteCare Clinics in Nebraska. I ask you to consider a donation to support RiteCare through our state foundation.

Last year, the 101-Club raised an extraordinary \$14,262 for RiteCare. 54 Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons donated \$101 (with several donating \$150, \$200, or \$250), which represents the cost of one session of therapy for a Nebraska child. Donors received the new 101-Club lapel pin for their donation.

Additionally, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, created the SGIG's Circle for donations of \$300 or more, and those charter members have been recognized in the Scottish Rite Journal each month, and SGIG Circle donors received the lapel pin and a challenge coin, created specially for these donors. 22 Brethren have been recognized as SGIG Circle donors this past year.

I ask you to again support the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, either as a 101-Club member or a SGIG Circle donor. SGIG Circle donors who give \$300 or make a pledge will continue to be recognized in the Nebraska Scottish Rite



Journal. Current SGIG Circle donors who maintain their donation will be recognized as Charter members.

More important, your donations underwrite valuable speech therapy to children, many of whom might not be able to receive services. 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!

The benefits to speech and language therapy include:

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

Think about your own children and how their personalities are reflected through their ability to communicate - whether it is through having you read a story or as simple as giving you a hug. We ask of Brethren quite a bit, but I want you to think of the impact you are having on a child who cannot 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.

Micah I. Evans, 33°,  
Orient Development Director  
(402) 342-1300  
micah@SRNE.org

## Charter SGIG's CIRCLE Donors

Name	Valley
Charles Bukin	Lincoln
Gary Bunnell	Omaha
Thomas Clark	Omaha
Micah Evans	Omaha
Tom Eyman	Omaha
David Fisher	Hastings
Michael Gray	Lincoln
Charles Hastings	Hastings
Karel Kapek	Omaha
William Kimme	Omaha
Frank Kroupa	Omaha
Hughes Morris, Jr.	Omaha
Charlie Odorizzi	Omaha
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Homer Puderbaugh	Lincoln
Kenneth Rodabaugh	Omaha
Michael Roe	Lincoln
Charles Sederstrom, Jr.	SGIG in NE
Charles Sohm	Omaha
Ronald Stites	Omaha
James Turpen	Omaha
Dan Wellendorf	Omaha

*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.***

**SCOTTISH RITE** JOURNAL  
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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