

This past July, the Orient of Nebraska lost Ill. Brother Robert Phillip, 33°, at age 96. Having got to meet Bob when I first went to the Valley of Alliance in 2012 as Orient Development Director, I ask your indulgence on a point of privilege to write about Bob for the Membership article in the Scottish Rite Journal.

Bob is one of those rare Brethren whose son, grandson, and great-grandson are also his Brothers. Much has been written in the *Scottish Rite Journal* about his extraordinary family. I can't speak to the kind of father Bob was or the kind of businessman he was, but I can attest to the kind of Brother he was, and from that part, I would judge the whole.

He was an active Scottish Rite Mason. That is more than we can say for many Brethren who pay their dues every year.

Membership



Walt, Bob and Don Phillip with an award sent by the SGIG recognizing Bob's many contributions to the Scottish Rite Masonry

In fact, he drove two hours from Hermosa, South Dakota to attend Lodge functions and Reunions in Alliance. Long past an age where many Brethren can respectably bow out, he continued to show up. He had turned over the management of the Alliance stage crew to his son Don Phillip, 33° years back, but he was always there, and he wasn't

afraid to get his hands dirty with work when called upon. Bob was truly a Travelling Man, and I saw him at every KCCH conferral in Lincoln – mostly because he had grandsons getting their red cap – and at every 33° Coronation in Omaha. That's a long drive for men half his age (I know, because I *am* half his age), but Bob made the drive. Knowing how much I would have liked my grandfather to have seen me get my KCCH, I can only imagine what it meant to Walt, Scott, Terry, and Geoffrey to have had Bob there.

In Nebraska, we are fortunate that many men who have received Masonic honors as part of a long and distinguished career don't let that go to their head. One of the highest praises I can offer is that our SGIG's title is usually just Chuck. Our Past Grand Masters prefer to be called John,

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Alliance Valley

Orient Calendar

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month Nov 23, Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 2

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 1 (TBD), Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 26

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 17

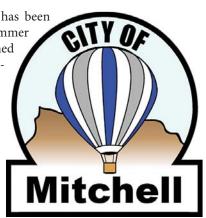
Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15

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



he Alliance Valley has been ▲ dark for the Summer months and we resumed monthly business meetings with our first Fall meeting on September 28th. We continue to hand out petitions for new members. Our scheduled Reunion for November has been cancelled due to lack of candidates, so please continue to reach out to Brethren and explain the value



Thanks to the Brethren in Mitchell, NE who hosted our September meeting.

of continuing their Masonic education and knowledge, as well as the leadership opportunities as a Scottish Rite Mason.

In order to kickstart attendance, we continue to move meetings around the Panhandle. Our first meeting was in Mitchell in September. In the past, we have held meetings in Kimball, Bridgeport, Scottsbluff, as well as Alliance. This plan seems to be working and is appreciated by the members due to the distances they have to travel to attend.

Approximately 22.5 % of children in Alliance live at or below the poverty level. Hunger is a very real problem in Alliance. A group of Alliance residence established a task force to come up with a solution to help with this problem and soon the Community Table was created. Community Table feeds any hungry child, their family, or any individual. The Alliance Valley will be partnering with Community Table to provide free meals to less fortunate families, Monday through Friday with a noon meal, served at the Masonic Center. United Way, the local Ministerial Association and local businesses are involved. Please see me if you would like to make a donation to support this excellent initiative.

Gene Gatti, 33° gene123@mail.com Valley of Alliance Scottish Rite

Valley of Central Nebraska at Hastings

Hastings Hosts Annual Walk for RiteCare

Saturday, September 22nd was the perfect Autumn morning in Hastings for the Walk for RiteCare. Around 50 RiteCare families and Scottish Rite Masons turned out to support the Walk, raising around \$4,000 for Scottish Rite philanthropies.

The Walk fell on the same day as the Hastings College Homecoming parade, which passed just in front of the Hastings Masonic Center. Afterward, families and Scottish Rite members walked back to the Masonic Center for the Walk around the building. The RiteCare children enjoyed stations set up around the grassy area, including getting a RiteCare rub-on tattoo, bean bag toss, decorating Eileen's sugar cookies with frosting, a corn table, bubble station, and pumpkin tossing.

Afterward, lunch was served with sandwiches and soup donated again by Big Dally's Deli. Please stop in Big Dally's Deli to thank Mike Bruns for generously donating lunch each year! The Hastings Valley is also indebted to Jon and Ricki Yocom, Jim Horsham, John and Gaylene O'Brien, Phil and Dana Odom, George and Joy White, Randy Jones, Monte Malouf, Bill Taylor, RiteCare clinician Kris Althouse and her kids Shannon and Austin, UNK clinician Denise Wolfe, and UNK Speech graduate student Jordan DeVries and her husband Chris.

Please share your thanks with our 2018 Walk for RiteCare Sponsors:

- UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
- Nelson Financial
- Diamond Truck Wash
- Dutton-Lainson Co.
- Big Dally's Deli
- Kershners Auto
- Highland Park
- Milt Kennedy
- Jon Yocom
- Kris Althouse
- City Iron & Metal
- Ricki Yocom
- Phil and Dana Odom
- Eileen's Cookies









Cooking in the Kitchen



The "Kids In The Kitchen" Cooking Club is a cooperative project between Hastings RiteCare, the Hastings YMCA, University of Nebraska Extension, and Mary Lanning Healthcare.

The Cooking Club was started during the Summer of 2017, when Hastings RiteCare Clinician Kris Althouse approached the YMCA asking about interest in starting a cooking club. Kris was frustrated that so few of the students at Hastings RiteCare know about healthy snack choices, the 4 food groups, hand washing and picky eating, and the lessons incorporated into the cooking club coincide very well with the approach to feeding therapy used at Hastings RiteCare, the S.O.S. Approach (Sequential Oral Sensory).

This approach, created by Dr. Kay Toomey, Ph.D., utilizes systematic desensitization, social modeling, and positive reinforcement to make the transition to eating easier and more rewarding for the child. It is also helpful for picky eaters to help prepare foods as a form of desensitization and expand their variety of foods.

During the school year, the "Kids In the Kitchen" group meets once per month for pre-K through 2nd grade students, and this summer, we trialed a 6-week, once-weekly cooking club for both pre-K through 2nd grade, and 3rd through 5th grade students! Students took home sponsor gifts including an apron, recipe box (to store each week's recipe cards), measuring cup, and ramekin with lid.

Valley of Lincoln



John D. VerMaas, 33° and M.W. Phil A. Lorenzen, 33° at the 33° Banquet in Lincoln

Nebraska 33° Scottish Rite Masons Enjoy Banquet at Nebraska Club

Fifty-five Inspectors General Honorary and their ladies attended Thirty-Third Degree Banquet at the prestigious Nebraska Club in Lincoln this past August. Only 133 Nebraskans hold the highest Degree the Scottish Rite can bestow.

The 33° Banquet was first begun in 2016 as a way for "Thirty-Thirds" to get together and enjoy fellowship in-between the 33° Coronation, which occurs after the Biennial Session of the House of the Temple in odd-numbered years. Members have received this distinction after many years of service and we had not done much to celebrate their long Masonic and civic service. The banquet sought to recognize them and provide a high-end evening with no other purpose than fellowship.

The Nebraska Club was the perfect venue for such an evening, with grand views of Lincoln from the 20th Floor of the US Bank building.



Judy and George Hunt, 33° from the Valley of Lincoln. Their daughter was Nebraska's first RiteCare patient in the mid-1970s!

Mike Gray, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG for the Valley of Lincoln served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. He welcomed Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° who thanked members for coming together, and spoke about the accomplishments of our RiteCare Clinics, including serving as national host for the RiteCare Conference in 2022, serving more children through telepractice, and endowing a Professorship in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Valley of Lincoln Named Beneficiary of Brother Joseph Meehan Estate

Brother Joseph Meehan passed away on February 21, 2018. He was not an active Scottish Rite Mason, but he had been 63 year member of Freemasonry. He served in the US Army from 1943 to 1946. After his service, he had several jobs, including owning a motorcycle shop and owning and managing 8 houses and 52

pieces of property. He worked for the Post Office from 1955 to 1975, when he retired. In 1978, he started the WWII Library and Museum, doing over 250 presentations and programs. He passed away in February, 2018, at age 92.

Brother Joe remembered Freemasonry in

2018 Lincoln Calendar

November 21Lodge Meeting
December 1RiteCare Children's Christmas party
December 8Christmas Banquet
December 19Lodge Meeting
January 26, 2019Robert Burns Dinner

Last Wednesday of each month \$3 Burger Night (5:30 to 7 p.m.) Thursday Lunches at 11:45 (\$6)





Bruce Wood, 33° and George McCabe, 33° accept the check from Randy Fleming, 32° and M.W. Reg Kuhn, 33°

his estate, leaving \$891,811.55 to Lincoln-area non-profit organizations, including significant bequests to North Star Lodge #227, Sesostris Shrine's Transportation Fund, the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, and \$127,401.65 to the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation.

Joe's attorney, M.W. Reg Kuhn, 33° of Mattson-Ricketts Law Firm presented the checks to Masonic beneficiaries, three Veterans associations, Lincoln Northeast High School, and the Fleming Family Foundation, managed by Randy Fleming, 32°.

His donation will support the philanthropies of the Scottish Rite as well as the on-going renovations of the historic Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Valley of Omaha

Scottish Rite Masons Welcome UNO Scholarship Recipients at September Lodge Dinner

One of the best attended evenings of the Scottish Rite year is the September Lodge dinner, where we meet our UNO scholarship recipients and make several presentations to Brethren for achievements during the year.

After an excellent dinner of chicken cacciatore, served by the Culinary Masters, we welcomed seven of our 13 scholarship recipients as well as Dr. BJ Reed, Senior Vice Chancellor for the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Tessa Barney and Nicole Massara from the NU Foundation, and Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of the Nebraska RiteCare Clinics.

Our speaker was Anna Finger, a senior majoring in Elementary Education. "Being a teacher has always been a dream of mine," said Anna. "I love working with children and watching them learn new things. After graduating, she looks forward to teaching special education students or first or second grade students. "Receiving this scholarship has been such a blessing to me. Because of the Scottish Rite scholarship, I have been able to work in a place that I really love." With less stress over paying her tuition, Anna will be making a mission trip to Haiti to work with people with cerebral palsy and mental illnesses. "I am truly excited to further my education and I am one step closer to becoming a teacher thanks to your continued generosity," Anna told us.

Dr. Reed spoke telling us that each of the students can tell the same kind of story about how they are impacting the community and others not as fortunate as they are. Thanks to the Scottish Rite, these students are able to graduate with limited debt.

Afterward, Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33° presented Dr. Nordness with the UNMC Circle of Distinction award, recognizing her as the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Endowed Professor of Speech Language Pathology. An endowed professorship is a major milestone for any professor and a testament to the Scottish Rite's faith in her mission of providing speech therapy to Nebraska children. Scottish Rite Masons donated \$500,000 to create the endowed professorship.

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UNO Senior Anna Finger tells us about her plans to become a teacher



Our 2018-2019 Scottish Rite scholarship recipients with Tessa Barney (left), Dr. BJ Reed (Senior Vice Chancellor, 3rd from right), Dr. Amy Nordness (2nd from right) and Nicole Massara at the September Scottish Rite Lodge Dinner.



The Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite enjoyed the annual tradition of the family picnic this past August 12th.

Sixty Scottish Rite families came out on a perfect Sunday afternoon as the Culinary Masters grilled burgers, brats, and sausages with baked beans, chips, watermelon and s'mores.

In past years, the picnic has been held at Omaha Home for Boys Cooper Farm, but this year it was hosted at Vennelyst Danish Park off North 30th Street in Florence. The location offered plenty of parking, outdoor picnic tables, and a large airconditioned hall. John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary for the Valley of Omaha, is considering options for the 2019 Summer picnic, based on the amenities we enjoyed at Vennelyst Danish Park.

Greg Swinarski, 32° KCCH drew raffle prizes, and every kid and nearly every guest went home with something.

Photos: (Top) Bill German, 32° Middle: Dick Corwine, 33° Bottom: Julian and Lena Muska, son and daughter of Andrew (32°) and Christina Muska, enjoy s'mores over the grill







Scottish Rite Dinner Recognizes Master Craftsmen, Lodges ...continued from page 5

After meeting our scholarship recipients, Venerable Master Chris Nigro, 32° KCCH congratulated our 50-year members, all of whom joined during the Reunions in 1968.

- William V. Graskowiak, 32°
- Leo F. Hathaway, 32°
- William B. Jorgensen, 32°
- Kenneth A. Lundgren, 33°
- Franklin J. Pepper, 32° KCCH
- Gordon L. Thompson, 32°
- Henry S. Whitehead Jr., 32°

Chris then called on Don Kavalec, 32° KCCH, who presented Chuck Davis, 32° a certificate for completing the first Master Craftsman program.

Chris also recognized Bob Pelletier, 32° who has led the Valley's efforts to call Brethren who are in arrears on their dues. Once again, Lee Terry, 33° led the challenge among line officers, making 51 calls on behalf of the Chapter of Rose Croix, reaching 22 members, and recovering dues from 18 Brethren. David Meinzer, 32° KCCH, Joel Wahling, 32°, Carl Simmons, 32° and Schadd Gray, 32° made 49 calls, reaching 25 Brethren and recovering dues from 17 Brethren. The Council of Kadosh and Lodge of Perfection recovered dues from 8 Brethren and 5 Brethren respectively. Chris presented the leading callers with "Maxell Bucks," which members can spend anyway they want in the Valley - on Lodge dinners, dues, events, etc. One Brother immediately donated his winnings back to the Foundation!









Top Photo: Dr. Amy Nordness was presented with the UNMC Circle of Distinction award as Scottish Rite endowed Professor of Speech-Language Pathology.

Middle Photo: Don Kavalec presents Chuck Davis with a Master Craftsman certificate.

Bottom: Bob Pelletier (center), recognizes David Meinzer (left) and Chuck Sohm (right) for Lodge Retention Calling Committees.

RiteCare Clinicians Attend National RiteCare Conference in Los Angeles

RiteCare Clinicians Beth Hughes, M.S., Leslie VanWinkle, M.A., and Amy Nordness, Ph.D joined Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° and John Maxell, 33° for the national RiteCare Conference hosted in Los Angeles, California this past August.

With approximately 50 speech clinicians attending their session, Leslie and Beth presented an educational session entitled

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Caleb (center) with Mom Amber and RiteCare Clinician Paul Laikko at the June, 2018 WalkRite for RiteCare

Meet Caleb

Caleb was officially diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech in January 2017. He turned three in December 2016 and we were already receiving therapy through Early Intervention, but we wanted to provide additional therapy for Caleb. Our insurance does not cover therapy for Apraxia and paying for private therapy wasn't an option for us. We also didn't like the idea of paying a reduced rate for therapy with inexperienced college students. We heard about RiteCare and decided to give it a try.

In April 2017 we called and were given an evaluation appointment with Paul Laikko. Paul did an evaluation with Caleb and confirmed the diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Paul gave us prognosis of "very good," and at the time I thought he must be crazy. We started therapy the next week. At Caleb's first therapy session, it was obvious Paul was experienced with young children; he wasn't put-off by my active and curious toddler.

During Caleb's first therapy session, Paul taught him to say his name. It was the first time he had ever said his name, and this mom was in tears! Even Caleb's older brother in the observation room was excited!

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RiteCare ... making a difference



Caleb's Story, continued. . .

We have been receiving therapy with Paul twice a week, and the growth in Caleb's speech abilities is extraordinary. We are often taken aback by what Caleb says, because we became so used to Caleb not speaking. The first time Caleb yelled at us, "I'm mad at you!" we couldn't help but smile.

RiteCare has made a life-changing difference in Caleb's life. Our family is forever grateful for the generosity of Omaha Scottish Rite and Paul's expert care.

Sincerely,

Amber & Andrew Francis Parents of Caleb Francis

Clinicians Attend National RiteCare Conference, continued...

"Parent Training for Young Children Who are Minimally Verbal," which covered the importance and challenges of parent training for young children who do not yet use speech to communicate. Based on an audience poll, very few clinicians are formally training parents at this time, but many clinicians indicated they would now, as a result of Beth and Leslie's presentation.

Other topics gave clinicians continuing education and offered an opportunity to both share and learn new practices to bring back to their clinics across the nation. Matt Szramoski, 33°, Development Director for the House of the Temple presented about how the RiteCare Clinics and clinicians can get engaged with their local Scottish Rite Valleys for a long-term relationship which both raises funds for speech therapy and involves members in the mission.

Beth and Leslie share their appreciation to Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons for supporting their continuing education, allowing them to both share and learn about subjects they are passionate about.



Sacrifices made for the Brethren in sunny Los Angeles: John Maxell, Beth Hughes, Leslie Van Winkle, Amy Nordness, and Charles Sederstrom, Jr., at the RiteCare Conference

Membership, continued

and Dean and Scott and Joe and Tom, rather than "Most Worshipful." So, too, with Bob. There was no "Mister Phillip" about him. It was just Bob. I've always tried to be respectful of my seniors, but there were never airs about him, and I was comfortable addressing Bob as Bob. When I see the Grand Executive Secretary at the House of the Temple, he gets called Admiral. I simply wouldn't be comfortable calling him anything less, though he hasn't been an active Admiral in several years. The Grand Commander gets called Sir or Mr. Seale. But Bob was just Bob.

If we should all be so blessed to live as many years as Bob Phillip, I would hope we could be the type of Mason he was. When I joined the Scottish Rite, the Class Director – a Past Grand Master – once told me he had travelled about "this far" – he held his fingers about two inches apart – from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect



Bob with Daisy May at the March, 2013 Reunion in Alliance.

Ashlar in his 50 years as Mason. Now, I doubt this Brother had really travelled *only* "this far" in that time. Bob might have said he hadn't even gone that much in his years.

Among many men in Masonry, I look at Bob as someone who could teach us about travelling toward the Perfect Ashlar, who had learned a few things along the way about being a better father, a better grandfather, a better employer, and a better man. He showed us the rewards of a life well-lived.

One of my Masonic mentors used the phrase "True Gentleman" to describe some Brethren. I've used the phrase, but it is a hard-earned phrase for someone who doesn't just set an example, but simply is an example. Bob Phillip was that example. He was the embodiment of the True Gentleman. I don't know what the Great Architect has in store for me, but if I am so fortunate to have another fifty years, my goal is to be the kind of Mason Bob represented. Bob is at the Celestial Lodge, and knowing him, he's probably in the back room somewhere, repairing something.

Giving the Gift of

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

As the holiday season grows near, we look forward to time with family, sitting down to a Thanksgiving feast, and the joy of the Christmas and Hanukkah season. We have much to be grateful for, including our families, children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren, and I wish all Brethren and their families a wonderful holiday season.

As the year approaches an end, I ask our members to consider a charitable contribution. One powerful way to do this is from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). By directing your IRA provider make a donation directly to your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation or the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, you make a significant impact on our philanthropies and avoid taxes on the distribution.

To do this,

- you must be 70 1/2 to make a tax-free distribution from your IRA,
- you can make up to \$100,000 to an eligible non-profit organization without paying income tax on the transaction.
- if you file jointly, your spouse can make a charitable contribution of up to \$100,000 as well, meaning couples can exclude up to \$200,000 of retirement savings from income tax if they donate to charity,
- charitable donations must be made from an IRA rather than a 401(k),



"Supercharge" your year-end philanthropy with a charitable distribution from your IRA

- so you might need to roll funds from a 401(k) to an IRA to make a distribution,
- and you don't need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution.

Please talk this over with your family, your financial planner or attorney about how a donation can affect your tax situation, as well as how a charitable contribution from your IRA can cement your legacy to the Scottish Rite.

Another powerful tool that can make a substantial impact on our Scottish Rite philanthropies is by purchasing an insurance policy, naming the Scottish Rite as a beneficiary. The donation of the premium is tax-deductible, and you can super charge your donation with a significant bequest from the policy.

You can always call me at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail me at micah@SRNE.org to discuss these options and how they can benefit our RiteCare Clinics and your Scottish Rite Valley's philanthropies.

2018-2019 SGIG's CIRCLE Donors

Name	Valley
Charles Bukin	Lincoln
* Gary Bunnell	Omaha
Warren Cooke	Omaha
* Micah Evans	Omaha
John Ferguson	Alliance
David Fisher	Hastings
Edgar Flores	Omaha
Donald C. J. Gray	Lincoln
Robert Hamilton	Omaha
* Charles Hastings	Hastings
Reginald Kuhn	Lincoln
Douglas Lottman	Lincoln
* Charlie Odorizzi	Omaha
Jeffrey Passer	Omaha
* Homer Puderbaugh	Lincoln
Warren Reesman	Lincoln
* Charles Sederstrom, Jr.	SGIG in NE
Jack Sheffield	Omaha
Dale Whitefoot	Hastings
John Williamson	Omaha

* Charter Member SGIG Circle Donor

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. SGIG Circle donors have pledged or donated \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year. Please consider a donation or pledge and join these Brethren in making a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional Speech Therapy for Nebraska children.



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

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska's Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the January-February 2019 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-November for consideration.)