

Alliance looking forward to Fall Reunion

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Membership

On March 28th, the Wall Street Journal ran two interesting articles. The first article spoke about how people were re-discovering their land lines as a means of slowing down life. The land line represented a simpler time to these individuals, when the phone was merely a phone, not a device connecting them to the world through the internet, e-mail, social media, and apps. In fact, some of the people in this article had purchased an ancient device called a typewriter, so they could write without



the distractions of the laptop or PC. The second article described people who had become so used to the social distancing life of the last two years – working from home, not going out in the evenings or weekends, or not engaging in large crowd events – that they had a hard time re-connecting with society.

It seems that these two articles were at odds with one another; the first was about people wanting to unplug to slow down their lives, to put aside distractions and interruptions of the electronic life, and the second was about people who wanted to reconnect their lives to the outside world.

If you are like me, you might be inclined to roll your eyes at either of these issues. My life is wired and yes, I live with my cell phone night and day. But neither do I feel the need to check my social media ten times a day or know what my friends and acquaintances are doing, their kids' antics, or what they had for lunch.

plan on it!

a RiteCare vision for the future

Now is an exciting time to be a Scottish Rite Mason in Nebraska, particularly due to our philanthropies.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska has made significant progress toward our long-term goal of raising more than \$8 million dollars for the purposes of building our RiteCare Clinic's capacity for serving Nebraska children with speech and language therapy.

As you read in the May-June Scottish Rite Journal, the Orient of Nebraska is well on their way to building a \$2 million dollar addition to the RiteCare Clinic at the Lincoln Scottish Rite building. This will provide bright and welcoming space for speech therapy services for children.

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Orient Calendar

July 6, 13, 20, 27 Hastings Valley Lunch H)
July 17Lincoln Walk for RiteCare (Pioneer Park)
July 23Hastings Walk for RiteCare (Libs Park)
Aug 12RiteCare Classic (O)
Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31Hastings Valley Lunch H)
Aug 19 Wine and Whiskey Tasting (O)
Sept 16Aperitif and Digestif tasting (O)
Sept 21 Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 Hastings Valley Lunch H)
Oct 15Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26Hastings Valley Lunch H)
Oct 28Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
Nov 4Nebraska RiteCare Fall Retreat in Lincoln
Nov 4-5Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
Nov 17, 18, 19Omaha Fall Reunion (O)

Please check with your Valley for most current updates to Scottish Rite events

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month Jul 22, Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month Jul 5, Aug 2, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month Jul 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month Jul 18, Aug 15, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19

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



It seems like Winter gave way straight into Summer. The Alliance Valley continues to be active. We have moved our meeting around the Panhandle, meeting in Mitchell and Bridgeport. Please let me know if you want the Scottish Rite to meet in your community, and I'll arrange the meeting at your Lodge or a local restaurant.

Here at the Alliance Scottish Rite, we are looking forward to the roof being replaced when the weather is a bit nicer. Unfortunately, this does not meet the deductible so it is an out-of-pocket expense for the Valley. If you are willing to donate toward the project, please reach out and let me know. Community Table continues to address food insecurity in Box Butte County, serving approximately 40 people per day through the Scottish Rite's kitchen.

The Fall Reunion is scheduled to be on November 4-5, 2022, and will be named in honor of Todd Harris, 32°, who passed away at age 80 on September 28, 2021 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Todd graduated Alliance High School in 1959, and served as a sonarman in the U.S. Navy from 1959-1962. He was



a member of Alliance Lodge #183 and held many offices, and had been a member of the Alliance Scottish Rite since April, 1970. He was active in his church, a member of the Alliance Eagles Club, American Legion Post #7, and the Panhandle Golf Association.

We have several Candidates for the Reunion, and always looking for more Brethren to continue their Masonic journey as Scottish Rite Masons. Help reach out to prospective members and tell them about the advantages of being a Scottish Rite Mason, including the Master Craftsman education program, the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics, leadership opportunities as an officer or Degree team member, and continued light in Masonry.

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

Valley of Central Nebraska at Hastings

Teacher of the Year



Diane Biere, HPS Educator of the Year, Robin Koozer, 32° KCCH, and Kailey Raburn, Emerging Educator of the Year

Diane Biere, an English instructor at Hastings Middle School, was introduced Tuesday evening as Hastings Public Schools' Educator of the Year for 2022 this past March.

Robin Koozer, 32° KCCH, presented Biere with a \$1,000 stipend on behalf of the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation.

Middle school Principal Shelli Pfeifer said Biere's heart for students is what makes her an effective educator. "She gets kids, no matter what their backgrounds are or where they come from," Pfeifer said. "She can reach kids, and they trust her and they open up to her. Also, she's just a tremendous English teacher. The rigor she gets kids to do at the level she gets them to learn is also incredible. She just has a way with kids that struggle; they trust her."

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A Masonic Story

Two Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Brethren, went fishing in April to the refuge lakes between Thedford and Valentine, Nebraska in God's country. (Wildlife abounds, even pheasants!)

Neither 30°, 40° or low 50° degree temperatures with 20 to 50 mile per winds and rain and drizzle could prevent Kirk McNeal, 32° from Kearney, and Richard Johnson, 32° KCCH from Hastings, from casting a lure and line in the water. They claim it was "Cold enough that game warden wouldn't get out of his vehicle to visit, just waved". (Remember this is a fish story!) Both Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass were caught

After fishing, we would retire to Food Fit for a King. Evenings were spent discussing Masonry. A great time was had and 2 brothers were blessed. (In future if anyone wants to join Kirk and Richard they are welcome to do so).

CENTRAL NEBRASKA SCOTTISH RITE RECOGNIZES JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR



Brother Dan Puckett, 32°, and his wife, Brenda attended the Grand Island Senior High AFROTC NE-20061 Military Ball and Award Ceremony on April 30, 2022 to present the Scottish Rite JROTC Cadet of the Year Certificate and Medal. Dan presented the award to Cadet Emma Christensen.

Lt. Colonel Hein Nguyen, when announcing the Scottish Rite Cadet of the Year, stated, "For this year, Emma continues to lead from the front by taking part in 18 community service events totaling over 50 volunteer hours. She has selflessly participated in



feeding those in need at the Salvation Army, distributing food at Loaves to Fishes, bringing morale to the community at Stuhr Museum's All Hallows Eve, and many other events."

This is the third year that the Hastings Valley has recognized a Cadet within the AFJROTC Cadet Corp at Grand Island High Senior School. Cadet Christensen is a junior at Grand Island Senior High and has played an instrumental part in the AFJROTC program this year as the Cadet Corps Recruiting Officer. She has been very enthusiastic about leading the AFROTC recruiting efforts and so far, has managed 8 recruiting events at the three local middle schools. With COVID, our cadet corps number drastically went down the last two years. Cadet Christensen efforts are anticipated to bring the Corp back to a viable number of at least 100 cadets.

Valley of Lincoln



LINCOLN PRESENTS 2022 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

When the Fredstrom Elementary School students gathered in the gym on Friday afternoon, they were met by special guests from the Lincoln Public Schools District Office and members of the Lincoln Scottish Rite.

"We have a really special announcement today that we want to share with you," explained Eric Weber, LPS association superintendent of Human Resources. "Every year we surprise and award one teacher in Lincoln Public School that really stands out with the Scottish Rite Award, and the one teacher we are going to recognize is here today."

As Weber started reading the winning nomination letter, Fredstrom science teacher Rochelle Settles realized it was describing her.

"When they mentioned an award I previously won, I knew it was me as I was the only one to win that award in our building," said Settles. "I am very grateful. There are a lot of great teachers at Lincoln Public Schools that work just as hard or harder than I do."

Settles has taught in Lincoln Public Schools since 1995, all at Fredstrom Elementary. She was a resource teacher, then a classroom teacher, followed by being a Science specialist. Settles has also been instrumental in organizing the annual city-wide science fair for many years. Settles received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2019.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, even when I was in elementary school because I liked my teachers," added Settles. "I've seen a lot of changes in education throughout the years, and in particular in science. We need students in the field of science. We have a lot of issues we need solving. It's my job to promote science and do the best I can."

Fredstrom principal Cheryl Richter wrote "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award. She is an amazingly dedicated educator, not only for Fredstrom students but students all over Lincoln."

"This is the greatest day of the year when we get a chance to honor someone who has devoted their life, 26 years in Lincoln Public Schools," said Mike Gray, 33° with the award. "We feel we have one of the greatest school systems in the country here and to honor one single teacher its just an amazing experience."





Lincoln Scottish Rite Celebrates Remembrance and Renewal

The officers for the Valley of Lincoln lead the annual celebration of Remembrance and Renewal on Wednesday, May 18th. Led by David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix, officers extinguished the lights in remembrance of Brethren who passed in the last year, and re-lit the lights in celebration of the year to come.

The celebrants for Remembrance and Renewal included Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH, Andy Seachord, 32°, Dennis Hecht, 32°, David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Ed Bennett, 32° KCCH, Edward Boone, 32°, and Nick Furchert, 32°.

A nice turnout of Brethren and ladies came for the ceremony, followed by a catered roast beef croissant dinner served afterward.

Valley of Omaha



The Valley of Omaha welcomed eight new 32° Scottish Rite Masons to the Scottish Rite on May 5, 6, and 7th at the Spring 2022 Reunion.

The Reunion began with a welcome by Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council, who joined Scott Justvig from the Hartsook Company, our fundraising consultants. Deputy Dan and Scott presented Rose Croix Society pins to several members



Dan Alati, 32° receives an SGIG Circle challenge coin and Rose Croix Society pin from Deputy Dan

who made a \$1,000 annual pledge to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. Revenue raised supports RiteCare speech therapy, reduces the draw on the Foundation's endowment, and helps bridge the 3-5 year gap until several major grants and gifts are realized by the Foundation.



Class Orator Kenneth Cox, 32° at the Spring 2022 Reunion Banquet

On Saturday morning, Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of the Nebraska Rite-Care Clinics hosted a private tour of the \$90 million dollar UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute for members' ladies. At the Scottish Rite, the

KSA served breakfast, and members staged the 4° and 7° on Thursday night, the 14° and 15° on Friday, and the 18°, 21°, 25°, 29°, 30°, 31°, and 32° on Saturday, culminating with a catered banquet on Saturday evening. The Class Orator was Kenneth Cox, who spoke about his journey in Freemasonry and what being a Scottish Rite Mason meant to him.

The Fall Reunion will be November 17, 18, and 19, 2022. Plan to join us for excellent Scottish Rite Degrees and to help welcome our Fall Candidates to the Scottish Rite.

SPRING STEAK FRY



North Bend Lodge #119 Brethren: Pete Peterson, 32° KCCH, Blake Nelson, 32°, John Crouch, 32°, Tom Mullally, 32°, Scott Eveland, 32°, and Terry Nelson, 32°

SCOTTISH RITE SPRING OUTING

The weather on May 18th was an absolutely perfect 80° without out a trace of humidity - just right for the Spring Outing. Nearly 250 people turned out for trap shooting, steaks, cocktails and beer at the Papillion Gun Club.

A couple of tall Brethren - Alan Boulter, 32° and Kyle Beckner, 32° KCCH - sold 50-50 tickets, offering tickets as long as their outstretched arms for \$20. The prize money was divided into three drawings, and one Brother immediately donated his winning to the Scottish Rite building fund!

The Culinary Masters outdid themselves with perfectly grilled steaks, baked potatoes, corn, salad, and brownies and cake for dessert, and the Knights of St. Andrew tended bar.

A number of prospective Masons came to the Spring Outing, learning about Masonry at the relaxed event, and both Lodges and the Scottish Rite have picked up a few petitions from the Spring and Fall Outing. Several Brethren expressed an interest in joining the Scottish Rite, and we look forward to seeing them in the Fall Reunion.

The Scottish Rite extends its appreciation to all the Line Officers, Knights of St. Andrew, Culinary Masters and Brethren who volunteered during the evening.

Great weather, great fellowship, and of course, great food is never a thing to miss - so mark your calendars for the Fall Outing on Wednesday, September 21st. And invite a few prospective Masons!



Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite 275th Spring Reunion - May 5, 6, and 7, 2022

Back Row (L to R) Don A. Leu, Sr., 32° KCCH; Paul D. Rutherford 33°, Class Director; Wade Wilson, 32°; Kenneth Cox, 32° Class Orator; Chris Ferrero, 32°; Scot Albertson, 32°; Komla Addah, 32°; John House, 32°, Class Secretary; Jake Lozano, 32°; Kelly Knutson, 32°, Class President; Richard E. Gilmore 33°, Assistant Class Director; and Jeffrey M. Coleman, 32° KCCH, Assistant Class Director

Front Row (L to R) Micah I. Evans 33°, Orient Development Director; Gary S. Unger, 33°, House of the Temple Development Director: Christopher V. Edwards, 32° Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix; Bennie D. Kugler, 32°; Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection; Daniel J. Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council; Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° SGIG Emeritus; Michael J. Precella, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh, Omaha Consistory; Kyle A.A. Beckner, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander, Council of Kadosh; MW Robert W. Moninger, 33°, Orient Personal Representative; MW John T. Maxell, 33°, General Secretary

Passing the Box

The Lincoln Scottish Rite recently finished and dedicated the new bar in the first floor small dining room. Mike Gray, 33° found an antique bar, which serves as the centerpiece framing a large mirror on the back wall. VerMaas Construction custom-built the bar, brass railing, uplighting, which complements the newly refurbished room.



Besides serving to make the Lincoln

Scottish Rite an even more attractive place for lucrative rentals, the new bar will be a fun place for Brethren to gather before or after Scottish Rite meetings!

Central Nebraska Scottish Rite Presents Teacher of the Year ... continued from page 3

Biere is a mentor for new or incoming teachers at the building. "She teaches them how to think through things," Pfeifer said. "People lean on her for all kinds of things. Her whole team is so bonded. They are like a family — their team of teachers. A lot of that is due to her leadership, too."

Koozer said the Scottish Rite has sponsored the award since 1992, when an anonymous member of the organization who had been a teacher provided money to endow it.

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Thanks, Beth!



RiteCare Clinician Beth Hughes, M.S., CCC-SLP received this note from a grateful RiteCare family, and shared it with the Scottish Rite.

Dear Beth,

I wanted to send a quick note of thanks for your help with my son's speech therapy this past fall. It was invaluable for me to learn all the techniques that you taught us. It was so empowering to learn these skills and feel so involved with Ryan's treatment and growth.

Using your skills, I was able to interact and connect with Ryan in a way I have never been able to before. That means to world to us! We know we have a long road ahead, but your support through this program creates such a sense of hope as we move along.

Thank you again, and thanks to the Scottish Rite Foundation for their generous support and gift to our family.

Best,

Diana and Ryan Farrell (RiteCare parents)

GIANNA'S STORY

~ Ann and Kaylon Price RiteCare parents

We would like to thank the Scottish Rite Foundation for providing funding for the UNMC Monroe-Meyer Institute's RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. We are the parents of Gianna Price, a four and one-half year old girl who currently resides at Ambassador Health in Omaha, Nebraska. Gianna was diagnosed with CMV prior to her birth, resulting in severe physical, mental and devel-

RiteCare Clinician Korey Stading, M.S., CCC-SLP

opmental delays and health conditions.

Because of insurance and regulatory requirements, Gianna does not currently qualify for speech, physical or occupational therapies. However, she does respond to family members and staff, smiling and conveying her feelings by facial expressions. Her movement is very limited, but she is able to turn her head from side to side and has recently begun making sounds with the assistance of a speaking valve.

During an appointment with Dr. Howard Needleman M.D. at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, he suggested that we contact Korey Stading, M.S., CCC-SLP, a speech language pathologist at the Monroe-Meyer Institute, regarding a Program she is conducting to allow patients to communicate by activating a switch and other communication devices. This is the Program

funded by your organization. At the first visit, Ms. Stading had Gianna activating the switch by turning her head. Gianna has progressed to making choices and answering questions by using her head movement to activate the switch. We cannot thank Ms. Stading enough for her expertise, enthusiasm and genuine care she brings to each therapy session.

Because of the funding of the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic by the Scottish Rite Foundation and the expertise of Ms. Stading, Gianna is now starting to communicate – something we weren't sure she would ever be able to do! Gianna continues to improve her use of the switch, and her preschool classroom at West Dodge Elementary has incorporated the use of the switch while at school. We cannot thank the Scottish Rite for this Program and the difference it has made in Gianna's life. Also, offering this Program at no charge to participants is extremely generous. Finally, thank you for your continued commitment to providing services to children with disabilities!

Adaptive switches allow the physically challenged or special needs users to activate



assistive technology devices in their environment. What appears as simple as a button, the proper switch will open up worlds of access to communication devices, computer software and mobile devices.

Membership, continued

And because I was never the life and soul of the social scene before the pandemic, I never had any issue resuming my place in the social scene now that things are opening up!

Which brings me to Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is the antidote to both of these opposing issues. It is the place where we disconnect from the electronic life for an hour or two each week. Yes, when the Master of the Lodge is droning on about something, I've been known to sneak a peek at my phone and check e-mail, but I also use the meeting time to slow down the pace of life, enjoy some conversation and fellowship over dinner, visit with friends I see once a month, connect with old friends or new Brethren, and engage in some old-fashioned, face-to-face sociability.



Brother Jim Schmidt and wife Elizabeth enjoying food, fellowship, and bowling with members of Mizpah Lodge #302.

And to the point of the second article, the Masonic meeting encourages the connection to the outside world. We get out of the house to see Brethren, catch up on the news, and share a laugh.

For the average member, all of this is old hat. We know this, whether we think about it or not. But it can be a selling point to the prospective member.

Masonry is a chance to disconnect from the hustle of the daily life. In the Lodge meeting, we are (in theory at least) not getting pinged by work phone calls, e-mails, and texts. Whatever you might get out of Masonry, it offers a time to simply enjoy time off the grid with Brethren who ask nothing of you nor expect anything other than your friendship. It is also a time we reconnect with actual people in the flesh, rather than people represented by the bits and bytes of technology.

So maybe these two articles aren't entirely contradictory. Regardless of what we get from our Masonic membership and connections – and we all attain something different from Masonry – perhaps a little-seen benefit and selling point is the disconnect from the electronic world and the reconnection to the in-person world.

Giving the Gift of

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Upcoming goals include expanding and renovating speech therapy space at the Clinic in Hastings and adding speech clinicians as necessary to meet unmet needs for Nebraska families.

Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, has spoken about his vision of adding Speech Pathologist positions in the state to better serve children in central and western Nebraska. The long-term goal for *RiteCare*, *Rite Now* is to build the Foundation's endowment, to create a self-sufficiency for RiteCare enabling Valleys to build their capacity for other philanthropy, including the Teacher of the Year awards in Hastings and Lincoln and scholarships in Omaha.

That is a bold vision, and I hope you are as proud to be a part of it as I am!

Many very generous Scottish Rite Masons have already approached Deputy Dan about naming rights to speech therapy rooms or endowed Clinician positions. But we also know that not everyone can do that. That's where other options come in that may be smaller, but are no less meaningful toward achieving the vision for our Scottish Rite philanthropies.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska set a goal of 150 members of the Rose Croix Society, whose members pledge \$1,000/year for 5 years. The Rose Croix Society would provide bridge funding until several Foundations' major gifts are received for the RiteCare, Right Now campaign. Rose Croix members can donate \$83.33/month, \$250/quarter, or \$1,000/year, or even through annual distributions through their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).

The 101-Club/SGIG Circle campaign also makes a significant impact on the ability to support RiteCare speech therapy. SGIG Circle donors, whose names appear to the right, donate \$300/year, and 101-Club donors make a gift of \$101/year representing a session of therapy for a child.

Members can visit the website <u>www.</u> <u>freewill.com</u>, to learn about how they can make a free will, establish a durable financial or medical power of attorney, and establish beneficiaries.

If you are interested in making a donation or have questions, please reach out to me. And thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason, and thank you for supporting our philanthropies.

Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director (402) 342-1300 micah@SRNE.org

SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

<u>Name</u>	<u>Valley</u>
Dan AlatiC)maha
Kenneth BeebeL	incoln
Charles BukinL	incoln
John Cooke	maha
William Cook, JrL	incoln
Sam GrassmickA	lliance
Schadd Gray	maha
Schadd Gray	incoln
Charles HastingsHa	
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Virgil Johnson	maha
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Mel Morton	maha
Mel Morton C Terry Nelson C Charlie Odorizzi C	maha
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Gary Unger	maha
Douglas WassonHa	astings
George WhiteHa	astings
Thanks to the generosity of Sci	ottish

Thanks to the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons, RiteCare children receive all the speech therapy they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. SGIG Circle donors have pledged \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year. Please consider a donation or pledge and make a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional speech therapy for Nebraska children.

SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY & SOUTHERN JURISDICTION & USA

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