



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

March-April, 2016 • Volume VI, Issue 2

Features:

Hastings Installs 2016 Officers

Alliance prepares for April Reunion

Omaha KSA Presents 2015 Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award

RiteCare news and updates

... and much more!

Lincoln Valley Celebrates Annual Robert Burns Dinner.
See page 4 for story.

Membership

Masonic writer and blogger Chris Hodapp recently referenced an article written by Rev. Timothy Bonney, pastor of Grace Methodist Church in Sioux City, Iowa. In the article, Rev. Bonney points out that hand-wringing over declining membership numbers within his church are inevitably counterproductive.

His article could well be written about Freemasonry! It is easy to get discouraged when you look at the declining numbers. But basing assumptions off the head-count creates a negative impression that



Masonic membership: it should be more than just a number or tick-marks on a chalkboard

bership numbers THE litmus test for the work of the Church and it may indeed discourage persons looking at the [Methodist Church] from becoming a part of our family of faith." Nobody joins a Lodge to be the token Young Guy who has the burden of saving the organization or who has to turn

Masonry is a sinking ship.

Who wants to join an organization that leads a membership pitch with "Our membership is declining" and "Members are getting older?" As he writes, "It makes mem-

off lights when the organization disbands. Guys simply aren't going to become Masons if our sales pitch begins with, "Our membership is declining, but . . ." I'm no marketing expert, but that doesn't seem to be our strongest opening line.

As Rev. Bonney notes, **membership numbers turn the focus on to something that is not part of our mission.** We are in the business of creating Brotherhood for our members, not counting the number of dues cards on the rolls. Truly, quality is more important than quantity! Really, we need to be focusing on creating a memorable Masonic experience that keeps men engaged, coming back, and yes, hopefully bringing potential members with them.

The best way to grow membership is not

... continued on page 7

Orient Calendar

Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 11	Gaelic Beer Tasting (O)
Mar 11-12	Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
Mar 17	Corned Beef & Cabbage (L)
Mar 18	Wine Tasting (O)
Mar 11, 18, 25	Fish Fry Fry-days (O)
April 1-2	Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop (Phoenix, AZ)
April 1-2	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
April 8-9	Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
April 10	Spaghetti Feed (H)
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
May 5, 6, 7	Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
May 5, 12, 19, 26	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
May 18	Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
May 20-21	KSA International Gathering Omaha, Nebraska at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel
May 21	Celebrating the Craft (statewide)
May 21	Celebrating the Craft & RiteCare Walk (L)
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Oct 7-8	Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)
Oct 21	Feast of Tishri (L)
Dec 9	Christmas Party & Banquet (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, June 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, June 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Mar 16, Apr 20, June-August (Dark)

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, June 20

For more information
contact the Secretary in your Valley

Gene Gatti (Alliance)	(308) 762-4324
Phil Odom (Hastings)	(402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln)	(402) 435-2144
John Maxell (Omaha)	(402) 342-1300

The Alliance Valley is off to a busy start this year! I am taking bids to refinish the dining room floor, and we are working on having new carpet reinstalled in front of the building. Alliance Lodge #183 will present a 70-year pin to Bob Phillip, 33°. Please congratulate him on this extraordinary milestone! I believe he has missed one Reunion since 1946. That record is probably unparalleled in all of the Scottish Rite!

I am also happy to report that a family from north of Hemingford will receive RiteCare therapy from our clinician Laura Moody at the University of Nebraska at Kearney via telemedicine. They had been driving 150 miles per trip to and from Scottsbluff each week for therapy, and now they can help their child from home!



Top: Frank Wooden, 32° KCCH, Ed Morava, 32°, and Kevin Spencer, 32° Bottom: Frank Wooden, 32° KCCH and Bob Phillip, 33° with Miss Daisy May

Our January meeting was well attended in Kimball, and we will continue to have meetings around western Nebraska from time to time. This is YOUR Scottish Rite, so please let me know if you would like to host a meeting in your town and we will work to host it at your Lodge or a local restaurant.

The Spring Reunion will be on April 8th and 9th, with 7 candidates lined up. There is still time to encourage Brethren to petition the Scottish Rite. Besides leadership opportunities, Scottish Rite Masons support our Nebraska RiteCare Clinics and the House of the Temple, the preeminent museum of Freemasonry in the nation. Scottish Rite Masons share a strong brotherhood with 290,000 brethren in the United States. Let's make this a Reunion for the record books!

Leaders WANTED

REUNION APRIL 8 & 9 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

STATED MEETINGS ARE 4TH FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.
CALL GENE GATTI, 33°, GENERAL SECRETARY AT (308) 762-4324
OR E-MAIL GENE123@MAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2016 Scottish Rite Officers are Installed

On January 12, the 2016 officers were installed for the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings. Following a delicious dinner of hot beef stew, George White, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG, led the ceremony, installing the officers. York Rite officers from Mt. Nebo Commandery #11 joined the impressive ceremony, presenting the Colors.

The 2016 Officers are:

Lodge of Perfection (Administration)

Venerable Master.....Jim Horsham, 32°
Senior Warden.....Ryan Crouch, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden.....Bob Scott, 32° KCCH

Council of Kadosh (Feast of Tishri)

Commander.....Bill Nottage-Tacey, 32° KCCH
First Lieutenant.....Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°

Chapter of Rose Croix

(Remembrance and Renewal)

Wise Master.....Jeff Herber, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden.....Monte Malouf, 33°

Consistory (Membership)

Master of Kadosh.....George White, 33°

Additionally, M.W. Don Rasmussen, 33° was installed as the Valley Almoner and Jon Yocum, 33° was installed as Treasurer for the four bodies. Phil Odom, 33° continues to serve as General Secretary for Valley.

Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of each month, with informal Master Craftsman discussion beforehand. All Scottish Rite Masons are encouraged to attend and get involved!



Tom Genung, Mike Anderson, Hugh Nehls & Bob Williams from Mt. Nebo Commandery #11 present the Colors at installation



Monte Malouf, 33° and Jeff Herber, 32° KCCH installed as officers for the Chapter of Rose Croix



Bob Scott, 32° KCCH and Jim Horsham, 32° are sworn in for the Lodge of Perfection.

2016 Meeting Schedule

In an effort to involve brethren from around the Central Nebraska Valley, Scottish Rite meetings will continue to host meetings in different towns during the year. The March 1 meeting will be held in Grand Island, beginning with a catered dinner. Please check with the Scottish Rite office for other times/locations.



Help us recruit Candidates for the Spring Scottish Rite Reunion!

March 11-12, 2016

Petitions for membership \$175
(\$125 for Masons 31 and under)

Stated meetings are 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Call Phil Odom, 33°, General Secretary at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail podom@hastingsmasonic.org about forming a Scottish Rite Club or hosting a Scottish Rite meeting in your town.



In an upcoming edition: Bob Scott has researched how Buffalo Bill Cody, an active Mason and Episcopalian, influenced the installation of Masonic symbols in the stained glass windows of Episcopal churches around Nebraska.

Continued Strong Support to Move Scottish Rite Meetings Around Central Nebraska

My expectations regarding moving our meetings to outlying towns in central Nebraska for Scottish Rite meetings have been overwhelmingly exceeded by the positive responses. When our new Venerable Master, Jim Horsham 32° asked if members wanted to continue holding meetings throughout central Nebraska, the unanimous vote was quick and enthusiastic - YES!

Members want to hold the meetings in a local Lodge or restaurant, beginning with social time and a meal, followed by a formal meeting. George White, 33°, suggested offering the 4°, communicating 5°-14° to initiate new Scottish Rite Masons during our visit. These candidates would then come to a One-Day Scottish Rite Reunion in Hastings to follow through with the degrees later in the year. This creative thinking and enthusiasm shows the life and strength of what we share in the Scottish Rite in Central Nebraska.

Bob Scott, 32° KCCH
bobscottster@gmail.com



Valley of Lincoln



Robert Burns

Robert Burns, the National poet of Scotland, is the only poet or musician that has a worldwide celebration. The Valley of Lincoln celebrated the Ploughman Poet

and Freemason with the annual

Robert Burns Dinner on Saturday January 23rd with a great dinner, Celtic music, a silent auction, and of course, fresh haggis!

Robert Burns' poems and songs were noted for preserving the Gaelic language and the passion he had for the everyday beauty and life of the common folk. The Scottish Rite's own chef Julie Harper prepared a traditional Scottish meal, and 75 guests bid on silent auction items, including autographed

It was two weeks before Christmas and all through the 'Rite. . .

The Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite hosted the 3rd annual Christmas banquet on December 11, 2015. The Great Hall was beautifully decorated, with napkins folded by Sandy Shires as beautiful Christmas trees and chocolates as ornaments. Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH had the bar stocked with every wine and beverage a member might want. Bob Kruse, 32°, Jennifer Church Smejdir, and Doug (32°) and Sue Krogman catered, serving salad and rolls, perfectly prepared prime rib and lobster tails, loaded baked potatoes, followed by cheese cake. The young ladies of Job's Daughters Bethel #5 served throughout the evening.

Students from Lincoln Southwest High Varsity Show Choir entertained guests with several musical selections and holiday classics, closing with the state song *Beautiful Nebraska*.

Over seventy Masons and their ladies attended the Christmas banquet, including M.W. John Maxell, Grand Master of Masons, Bob Moninger, Grand Senior Deacon and his lady Pam, and Dennis Brydl, Grand Historian. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic evening of great food and fellowship!

As always, this is one of the finest events on the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite calendar and not one to miss. Mark your calendars today for December 9, 2016 and prepare for another great Christmas Banquet!

movie posters, cinnamon rolls, a wine tasting, and Masonic items, which raised about \$1,000 for RiteCare. The Knights of St. Andrew, led by Knight Master Greg Prososki, 32°, and bagpiper Dr. Stuart Westburg, escorted freshly made haggis in as David Caudy, 32° KCCH recited Burns' immortal "Ode to a Haggis." Our entertainment was Celtic music performed by Julia Baker Anderson and Anita Elliott, featuring the poetry of Robert Burns. Andy Seachord, 32°, presented an excellent Toast to the Lassies, with the Reply to the Laddies given by Brooke Welsh.

Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska presented a 50 year pin to and certificate to Jack Campbell, 32°. The evening concluded with everyone singing Auld Lange Syne. The Robert Burns is a great event each year, and this year's raised the bar for future Burns Dinners!



Lincoln Southwest High Show Choir



Bethel #5: Cora Redwine, Bethel Guardian, Bob and Phyllis Foreman, and Belle and Kartrina Kendle



Mallory Rogers and Edward Boone, 32°



The Knights of St. Andrew hosted the evening.

Section	Row	Seat
Apr	1-2	2016

SAVE THE DATE



LINCOLN FALL REUNION



www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org



**st. patrick's day
celebration**
thursday, march 17, 2016

Corned Beef & Cabbage - \$10/plate
Take Out Plates Available
11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

the best in town!

Scottish Rite Masonic Center Call (402) 435-2144 or e-mail
332 Centennial Mall South scottishrite@windstream.net
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 for more information
www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org

And the Oscar Goes to... Lodge of Perfection Presents 2015 Awards at Scottish Rite Christmas Party

What began as a way to engage members has become an institution at the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite. The Valley hosted the annual awards dinner on Monday, December 21st, presenting awards to those who have made a significant contribution to the Valley, as well as a few not-so-serious awards - the famous Rubber Chickens.

Hosted by the officers of the Lodge of Perfection, the evening began with cocktails followed by a fantastic roast beef dinner prepared by the Culinary Masters.

James "Hambone" Sklenar received the award for best actor as Preceptor in the 30th Degree. Chris Nigro was recognized as Director for the 9th/10th Degree, which was taken on the road and well-received in Guthrie, Oklahoma earlier this year. Curt Edic presented two awards, first recognizing both



Chris Carter and Paul Rutherford each bring home a coveted 2015 Rubber Chicken Award

Rob Corsaro and Marnie Corsaro being an engaged new Mason of less than 5 years. He also recognized James Beard and Bill Craig for all the work they do to keep the building in tip-top shape, "fixing things that probably didn't need fixing!"

Chris Carter brought home the "Neil Diamond - Forever in Blue Jeans" chicken for his "highly inappropriate" Lodge appearances in shirt and tie, with blue jeans and sneakers. Paul Rutherford won the "Saturday Night

Fever" chicken for his innovative dance moves.

As always, everyone enjoyed the highly improvised scripted evening. The Christmas awards have quickly become a favorite event of the year and a great evening to look back on what we have accomplished throughout 2015.



Brother Mike Tripp of Coral Lodge #430 in Carson, IA, M.W. John T. Maxell, presenting Perpetual Life Member certificates to Brother Roger Elliot, 32°, and his son Robbie.

On January 21st, M.W. John Maxell, 33° paid a visit on Brother Roger Elliot, 32°, in double duty as Grand Master and General Secretary. Roger recently purchased a life membership in Covert Lodge #11 and the Scottish Rite, and John presented him with his life membership certificates, pins, and cards.

Roger visited and toured the Scottish Rite a week earlier, his first visit since he joined in November, 1973! Roger generously donated an autographed duck print by noted wildlife artist Neal Anderson, featured on a 1989 U.S. stamp. The framed print will support the RiteCare Clinics at the October 7th Friends of Scottish Rite Auction.

Perpetual membership exempts you from annual dues, and the interest income benefits the Scottish Rite in perpetuity. For information on life Membership, please call the office at (402) 342-1300.



Above: Rob Corsaro, 32° and KSA Venerable Master Don Kavalec, 32° KCCH.
Bottom: Rob and Marnie Corsaro.

On January 8 at the Knights of St. Andrew membership dinner, Venerable Master Don Kavalec, 32° KCCH presented the prestigious Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award to Rob Corsaro, 32°. The award recognizes a brother of less than 5 years' membership who has distinguished himself through service and leadership. Rob has taken over management of the KSA 'gig list,' volunteered as a greeter at 18 gigs in 2015, serves as an officer in the KSA and in the Lodge of Perfection, is a member of the KSA International Gathering committee and the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction committee. In December, Rob and wife Marnie were recognized by Curt Edic with the General Secretary's award for their involvement.

The award is named for Dennis Samuelson, who served as Venerable Master in 2005 and loved the Knights of St. Andrew. Sadly, we lost Denny to cancer in 2013, but honor his memory and his passion for the Scottish Rite through this award, which was established in 2012.

RITECARE CLASSIC

2016 Golf Outing

Save the Date

FRIDAY
JUNE 24, 2016

Shoreline Golf Course

Shotgun Start 12:30 | Dinner 6:00

Call the Scottish Rite for more information or to register



Cathedral Board members present Curt with an Alaskan cruise Back row: John Parsons, 33°, Arnel MacDonald, 32° KCCH, Larry Jacobsen, 33°, Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Walt Keast, 32° KCCH, Paul Ruth-erford, 33°, M.W. Dean Skokan, 33°, Tom Brummett, 33°, Greg Hadcock, 32° KCCH, Jim Parks, Sr., 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°. Front Row: Curt Edic, 33° and Board Chairman Frank Kroupa, 33°

End of an Era: After 20 year Career at Scottish Rite, Curt Edic, 33°, Retires as General Secretary

The Valley of Omaha celebrated the end of an era with the retirement of Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary after 16 years. Curt joined the Scottish Rite in 1975, intending to use the Scottish Rite as a springboard to get active in the Shrine. Along the way, he got involved in the Scottish Rite and has participated in one way or another ever since. He joined the staff as Assistant General Secretary to Jim Erixon, 33° in 1996, and then took over as General Secretary in 1999.

While his list of achievements is vast, perhaps the biggest legacies are left in a service-oriented leadership. The Line Officers are engaged in the leadership of the Valley, rather than a passive rubber-stamp to the Board. Curt has fostered an environment that welcomes the newest 32° Scottish Rite Mason, and helps him get involved. Curt fostered a strong unity among the Masonic bodies, and unity meetings work to avoid conflicting with one another's major events.

Curt also oversaw the renovation of the Scottish Rite, beginning in about 2000. Renovations included the first floor kitchen and dining room, second floor ball room, "middle chamber," lounge, and in 2014, the Grand Cross Room. On the third floor,

Curt oversaw the renovation of the theater as a first-class venue that has hosted the Youth Ballet, Opera Omaha, concerts, and weddings. In fact, rental revenue has blossomed to around \$100,000 each year, a significant source of the Valley's revenue.

His legacy includes involving the Scottish Rite in the downtown community. No longer the "secret clubhouse" of the Masons, the building has been used for Downtown Omaha, Inc. meetings, where Curt has served as Treasurer and Board member. Curt has represented the Scottish Rite at Downtown Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. Many civic organizations view the Scottish Rite as a welcoming meeting place for their own events.

More than 250 Masons and friends joined Curt on January 9 for a relaxed evening to wish Curt good luck in retirement. Cathy Segrell, Marcia Rulla, and Greg Swinarski presented Curt with his office chair, signed by dozens of Scottish Rite Masons. The Lodge of Perfection presented Curt with a bronze eagle, and the Line Officers guild presented a carved wood Scottish Rite Eagle with the dates Curt served as General Secretary. M.W. John Maxell, succeeding Curt as General Secretary, presented Curt

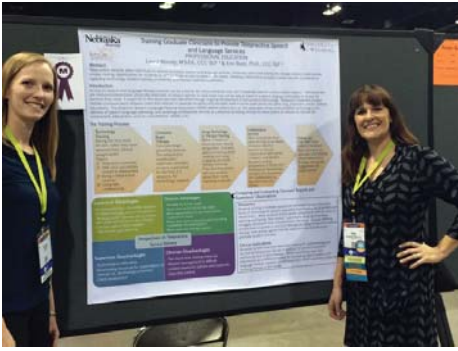


Top: Curt Edic presented with "small shoes to fill" by John Maxell. Middle: Office staff presenting Curt his office chair, autographed by dozens of Scottish Rite Masons. Bottom: 3 General Secretaries: John Maxell, Curt Edic, and Jim Erixon.

with a small pair of boots, joking that Curt's were small shoes to fill! Scott Oglesby, 33°, presented a hand-made stained glass window. And last, the Cathedral Board surprised Curt and Carol with a cruise to Alaska as appreciation for his service and leadership!

Members enjoyed a great evening, and had a chance to wish a great Mason, friend, mentor, and a True Gentleman a wonderful retirement! . . . Of course, we will still see Curt in 2016. He's still Secretary of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha and the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, so he'll be around throughout the year continuing to provide leadership.

And who knows? Maybe Curt will need something to do in retirement and will want a little degree work to stay active in the Scottish Rite!



UNK RiteCare Clinician Laura Moody and Dr. Erin Bush from UNK present a poster at ASHA

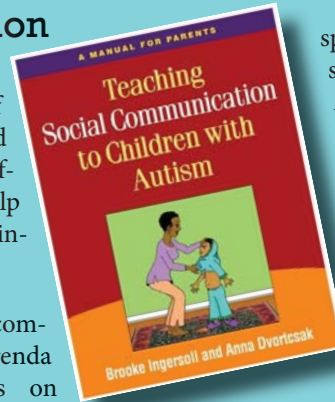
Dr. Erin Bush and RiteCare clinician Laura Moody from the University of Nebraska at Kearney RiteCare Clinic presented a poster at the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), titled "Training Graduate Clinicians to Provide Telepractice Speech and Language Services." The poster outlined the procedures used at UNK to prepare graduate clinicians for providing telepractice services through the RiteCare Clinic.

Additionally, this poster was awarded as a Meritorious Poster, which signifies "extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work" deemed by the Convention Program Committee. We were honored to be selected as one of the 54 Meritorious Posters

Scottish Rite Masons donate \$895 for special RiteCare auction

At the Valley of Omaha Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction, guests were offered a new way to help support the RiteCare Clinics.

At the suggestion of committee member Brenda Coleman, who serves on the Friends Dinner committee with husband Jeffrey (32° KCCH), we included with silent auction items a large poster board with pictures of RiteCare Clinic "wish list" items, including



specific toys for therapy sessions, software packages for AAC devices, and books for families to use with their children. Members donated \$895 to purchase these items. The RiteCare Clinics recently acquired these items, and the Scottish Rite reimbursed the cost to the Clinics.

Additionally, a special appeal raised \$6,000 at the Friends Dinner, which helps Scottish Rite Masons underwrite the cost of speech-language therapy and services around the state.

selected from 1,573 poster submissions. We would like to extend a huge thanks to Scottish Rite for providing the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge services that benefit RiteCare clients and UNK graduate clinicians alike!

Amy S. Nordness, Ph.D.
Director, Nebraska RiteCare Clinics
UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
asnordness@unmc.edu



Hastings RiteCare Clinician Emily Johnson, M.S. shared this picture of one of her students. This kinder-

gartner is building sight words with Duplo blocks and dry erase markers. In addition to learning to say his words, the young boy is enjoying spelling and writing tasks.

Membership, continued

to focus on head count, but focus on the mission. Nobody in the history of Masonry has ever joined because they want to read the bills, argue over the cost of paint or the phone bill, and have fried chicken and Masonic green beans in the Lodge basement afterward.

In fact, M.W. John Maxell, Grand Master, recently wrote about creating enthusiasm within the Lodge, holding a business meeting that is "a celebration and festival for Masonry." Masonry serves to fill a social, educational, and fraternal need for men. If our Lodges can fill that need, Brethren come back and are engaged!

Bonney notes that what is wrong with the membership discussion is that it supposes we would ever be content with just getting members. That's not why we joined Freemasonry. We took the oaths of Masonry "for a much higher and more holy goal to transform this world. . ."

The reality of Masonry is that we think of membership like that old American Express ad, "membership has its privileges," as if we were merely members of a club. But "membership" is much more complex. "Member," from the Latin word *membrum*, means "limb," or "part of the body." If you lost an arm or a leg, you have been quite literally "dismembered."

As members of a Lodge, this means far more than simply walking around with a dues card in your pocket. Yet, too many of our members are "dismembered" in this technical sense. They are separated from the Lodge, content with paying their dues and not really paying attention to the teachings of Masonry or striving to be better men in their interactions with others.

Being a Mason is much more than just "going to Lodge," since as Masons, we *are* the Lodge. (The building is merely the

physical structure where we keep top hats, aprons, and antique coffee makers.) If our Masonic membership is not merely an expression of numbers and is more than a matter of attendance, we should think of it as a connection to the community of Masons. *As part of the body.*

Being part of the body of Masons is what truly makes us Brothers. Having that connection is why we can visit another city and see someone wearing a Square and Compass and be able to call him Brother.

So when we talk about membership, don't think of it as a numbers game. Think of it as part of a broader question about how we share the mystic bond between ourselves and other men "traveling to the East" in a great community of Masons. And once we think of ourselves this way, the "numbers" question will resolve itself!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

Micah I. Evans, 33°
Orient Development Director
402.342.1300
micah@SRNE.org

In 2016, Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons will donate \$638,091 toward therapy, education, and programs at the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics in Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha.

If you divide that by the 2,588 Scottish Rite Masons in Nebraska, that comes to a whopping \$247 per member for the year. (To put that in perspective, if the Omaha Valley held every event, activity, function, and expense with no other revenue source other than members' dues to pay for them, each member would pay \$790 to be a Scottish Rite Mason!) Now, if I told you I was going to send you an invoice for your share, you'd be rightfully indignant!

Fortunately, we do not assess members a cost for our Valleys or our philanthropies. We are fortunate to be able to draw on an



Just a few events around Nebraska that support RiteCare. Top: Andy Seachord, 32° at the Lincoln Robert Burns Dinner. Middle: WalkRite for RiteCare teams. Bottom: RiteCare Classic golf benefit.

important, Scottish Rite Masons make a significant and positive difference in the lives of children with speech disorders.

endowment built up by our forefathers and actively managed by the Orient leadership. The fundraisers we hold in each Valley offset that \$247 "bill" for each Nebraska Scottish Rite Mason. The Walk for RiteCare, Robert Burns Dinner, Century Club, 101-Club, the RiteCare Classic Golf Outing, and all the other events make a significant difference in meeting the cost for therapy and services for children affected by speech and language disorders.

That's why your support is so important each year: we continue to meet our obligation to the children without cutting services, while reducing our dependency on the endowment. Most

As in the past, I ask you to include your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation or the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska in your Masonic philanthropy for 2016 and to consider your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation as you discuss your estate plan with your family. These donations help children right here in Nebraska and the appreciation from grateful parents is incalculable!

★ ★ ★ ★



This year, the Valleys will again be participating in *Celebrating the Craft* on May 21st. The difference this year is that Celebrating the Craft will entirely benefit our RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics. As with past years, you can watch on May 21 by logging on to scottishrite.org. Each Valley will have an event to encourage fellowship and money raised will be shared with the Valley and RiteCare through the House of the Temple.

Please watch for further announcements from your Valley and the House of the Temple as we look forward to Celebrating the Craft!

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

*"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 May-June, 2016 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-March for consideration.)