



IN THIS ISSUE

Hastings installs Officers for 2021 year

Page 3

Lincoln Welcomes Officers for 2021

Page 4

Omaha recognizes KSA volunteer at banquet

Page 5

Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the



Orient of Nebraska

March-April, 2021
Volume XI, Issue 2

Membership

John Ferguson, 33°, Personal Representative to the Valley of Alliance, saw a Facebook post from M.W. Richard Lewis, Past Grand Master of Wyoming, who himself was told this story:

“My Dad, Roy R Moore, was riding the rails in 1924 along with a dozen other men looking for work. They got off the freight train at Parco (now Sinclair) today a sign says most modern oil refinery



at Parco (now Sinclair) today a sign says most modern oil refinery

in the West. They walked up to the office which had a big Sign “Not Hiring” they knocked on the door anyway, and an annoyed man answered the door and pointed to the sign and said “Can’t you bums read?” He then pointed at Dad and said “You, come in here.” When they got inside the man said “I have never seen a bum wearing a Masonic ring before. He asked what Dads experience was. Dad replied “Sheep herding, freighting with 6 horses,

and haying.” The man said, “I see by that ring, you are a man of integrity; I will find something you could do.” Dad worked there nearly two years and even got a job for his little brother at the refinery. Since Rawlins was the home of many big sheep outfits, owners touted it as the richest town per resident in the nation. It was also the second largest sheep state. One Sunday, Dad walked the 7 miles to Rawlins and stopped for coffee at the restaurant at the Ferris Hotel. This is where many of the major sheep men hung out. Dad got visiting with some of them and asked where they bought their bucks. Utah, Idaho, and Oregon, they said.

... continued on page 7

plan on it! giving the gift of voice

Early in 2020, the Directors of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska began to think strategically about how to provide long-term resources for the Scottish Rite’s RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic, our Masonic Centers, scholarships, Teacher of the Year awards, and other philanthropies.

The uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that we need to plan for the future so we can continue to meet the commitments as well as take care of our own buildings.

The Board decided to engage Hartsook, a Kansas City-based fundraising consulting firm with a national portfolio of clients and a successful track record of helping non-profits raise financial resources for endowments, programs, capital and operating funds.

... continued on page 7

Orient Calendar

- Mar 6..... Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
- Apr 9-10..... Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
- Apr 22-24..... Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
- May 12 Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- May 14-15..... Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
- June 19 (tentative date)..... WalkRite for RiteCare
- Aug 6-7 Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
- Sept 15 Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 24 RiteCare Classic (O)
- Sept 25 Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Oct 22..... Nebraska KCCH Investiture (Lincoln, NE)
- Oct 29..... Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)
- Nov 18-20..... Omaha Fall Reunion (O)

**Please check with your Valley
for current updates to events
and cancellations due to
COVID-19 virus**

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Mar 2, Apr 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug 27

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Mar 15, Apr 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, June 23, July 21, Aug 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Mar 26, Apr 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16

**For more information,
contact the General Secretary in your Valley**

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



With a new year, we plan to get things moving again! The Spring Reunion will be on April 9th and 10th. Plan to come to welcome new Brethren, help out with the stage crew, join



Alliance 30th Degree

in a Degree or two, or simply watch the Degrees. Please reach out to prospective Scottish Rite Masons, and invite them to continue their Masonic journey as a 32° Prince of the Royal Secret. Besides the leadership and mentoring opportunities, Scottish Rite Masons continue the philosophical lessons learned in Blue Lodge.

There has been some talk of contacting the Lodges in the panhandle to have each separate lodge take responsibility for a degree at the Reunion, which might encourage more member involvement and make our Reunions run more smoothly with specific roles for each Blue Lodge.

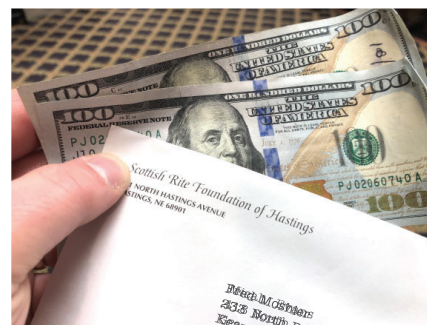
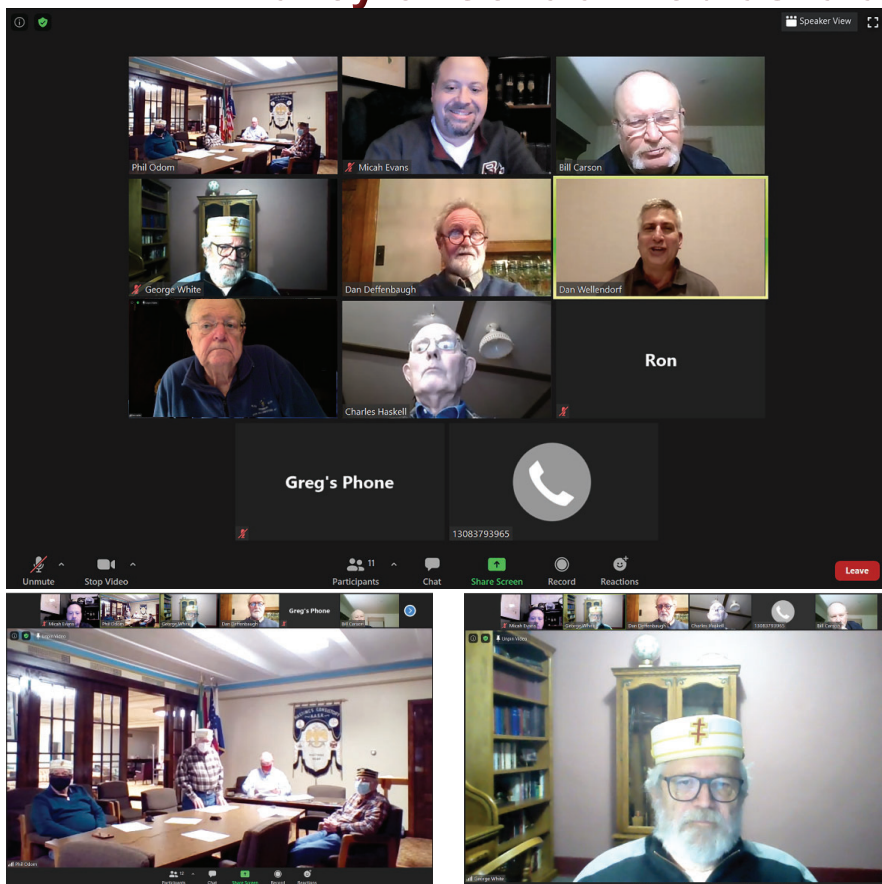
We had the help of the local DeMolay chapter to do some painting for us, and the we were able to have new carpet installed in an upstairs hallway. The Alliance Community Table is still going strong and handing out around 70 lunches a day Monday through Friday. We have not opened our dining room to the public yet due to COVID-19, but we hope to be able to open by the time school lets out in the Spring.

We have hired a new custodian for our building and she has completely repainted the cabinets in the kitchen and is doing a great job in the building! Our facility is the only large public venue in Alliance to have been inspected and approved by the USDA for food service. Since the pandemic hit us, our top priority is cleaning and sanitizing, and the Community Table volunteers are helping with that.

I hope you'll stop by a meeting on the 4th Friday of each month, host a Scottish Rite meeting in your community, and join us for the Spring Reunion.

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

Valley of Central Nebraska at Hastings



Brethren Generously Support Hastings Year-End Appeal

This past December, the Central Nebraska Valley members received an appeal to support the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation. Brethren generously responded, raising \$4,085 in December in tax-deductible donations.

Money raised supports the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic and the Hastings Teacher of the Year program.

If you want to make a tax-deductible donation to the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation, please send your donation to 411 N. Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE 68901, or reach out to Phil Odom, 33° at podom@hastingsmasonic.org, or (402) 462-5813 for more information on how you can support the Hastings Scottish Rite philanthropies.

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

ZOOMING THROUGH INSTALLATION

In a sign of the times, the Central Nebraska Valley at Hastings met via Zoom on Tuesday, January 6th to install officers for 2021. In December, the 2020 officers were retained in office for the coming year.

Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH opened the Lodge as Venerable Master, and turned it over to George White, 33° as Installing Master. George installed Dan Deffenbaugh as Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection, MW Don Rasmussen, 33° as Almoner, Phil Odom, 33° and MW Les Seiler, 33° as Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the four bodies.

Randall Jones, 33° and Monte Malouf, 33° were not able to be present. George

White declared that having been installed in 2020, they simply retain their office until a successor is installed.

Mike Small, 33° then stepped in as Installing Master to obligate George White as Master of Kadosh for the Hastings Consistory.

George then handed the meeting back over to Dan Deffenbaugh, who completed the monthly business meeting.

Brethren joined us via Zoom from Burwell (Charlie Haskell, 33°), Kearney (Ron Nielsen, 32° KCCH), Minden (Greg Seiler, 32°), and Grand Island (Bill Carson, 32° KCCH) as well as Hastings and Omaha (Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° and Dan Wellendorf, 33°).

Longtime Masonic Secretary Gertrude Kuehn Passes Away

With a sad heart, we announce that long-time bookkeeper for the Hastings Scottish Rite and Tehama Shrine Gertrude Kuehn passed away on November 20, 2020 at the age of 90.

Born in 1930 in Hayland, Nebraska, Gertrude worked for 49 years as bookkeeper and secretary at the Hastings Masonic Center, actually coming in with her mother before she was



Gertrude Kuehn before her retirement

employed by the Scottish Rite and Shrine bodies. Gertrude earned a reputation as a conscientious and accurate bookkeeper and reliable employee and friend. Gertrude retired in 2017.

Gertrude is survived by her children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Valley of Lincoln



2021 Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite Officers

Front Row (left to right): Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council; Bruce D. Wood, 33°, General Secretary; Edward Boone, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection; Andrew Seachord, 32°, Master of Kadosh for the Lincoln Consistory; Dennis Hecht, 32°; Eminent Commander for the Council of Kadosh; David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix; Michael D. Gray, 33°, Personal Representative to the Deputy

Middle Row (left to right): Dale G. Lueders, 33° Almoner; Cody Carlow, 32° KCCH; Eric Bachenberg, 32° KCCH; Wahadi Allen, 32°; Edward Bennett, 32°; Bryan Grove, 32°; Nick Furchert, 32° - Knight Master of the Knights of St. Andrew; Greg Prosofski, 32°

On January 20th, Mike Gray, 33° installed the 2021 officers for the Lincoln Scottish Rite. Edward Boone, 32° stayed as Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection, with David Bloomquist, 32°, Dennis Hecht, 32°, and Andy Seachord, 32° serving as Masters for the Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory. M.W. Ron Stites, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, offered the resources of the Grand Lodge to the members of the Valley of Lincoln, and Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, congratulated the officers and looked forward to working with the officers for a successful year.



Top: Dan Wellendorf, 33° and Edward Boone, 32°

Bottom: David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Dennis Hecht, 32° and Andy Seachord, 32°

Edward Boone spoke about his goals of membership and events, with candidates for the May 14-15 Reunion, and if the state of the COVID-19 pandemic allows, resuming planning for the year's events. Events will include the Valentine's Dinner with Sesostri Shrine, Remembrance and Renewal, the Walk for RiteCare, Feast of Tishri, the Christmas Banquet, the ice cream social, a Halloween event for the RiteCare families, and other events to engage members in the Valley.

LINCOLN SPRING REUNION



SAVE THE DATE

SEC
05
ROW
14
SEAT
21



SEC
05
ROW
15
SEAT
21

MAY 14-15, 2021
LINCOLN SCOTTISH RITE



Knight Master Nick Furchert, 32° came to Omaha on January 9th for the Knights of St. Andrew Members Appreciation Dinner (see page 5 for article).

Members wanted to see the old vault (which holds nothing more exciting than old records). Members had fun trying to lock Nick in the vault, and the Omaha KSA held him for ransom for \$25. The Lincoln Valley counter-offered that Omaha pay \$50, and they'd take him back!



MASTERS OF THE ROYAL SECRET 32° A.A.S.R.
272nd FALL REUNION NOVEMBER 20-21 2020

Back Row (left to right): Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director; Kevin Peatrowsky, 32°; Mark Huss, 32° – Class President; Chris Armbrust, 32°; Roger Moore, 32° – Class Orator; Jason Krohn, 32°; Mario Buda, 32°; Alex Wigger, 32°; Ted Pool, 32° – Class Secretary; John Crouch, 32°

Middle Row (left to right): Chris S. Nigro, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director; Jeffrey Weller, 32°; Daniel Rogert, 32° - Class Treasurer; Scott Eveland, 32°; Mohan Krishna, 32° – Class Vice President, 32°; Christopher Greenawalt, 32°; Dalton Kock, 32°; Raymond Schultz, 32°; Paul Gonzales, 32°; Kendall Eveland, 32°; Richard Gilmore, 33°, Asst. Class Director

Front Row (left to right): MW John T. Maxell, 33° General Secretary; Andrew J. Muska, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master; MW Ron Stites, 33° Grand Master; Paul D. Rutherford, 33° Class Director; Robert Maline, 33° Tyler; MW Joe R. Manning, Jr. 33°, SGIG for Oklahoma; WM James D. Cole, 33°. Sovereign Grand Commander; Charles V. Sederstrom Jr., 33°. SGIG for Nebraska; Frank Kroupa, 33°, President of the Cathedral Board; Dr. Mark D. Pilley, 32°, Wise Master; James E. Carter, 32°, Eminent Commander; Micah I. Evans, 33°, 5-time winner of Witch Weekly's Most Charming Smile Award



In the News. . .

General Secretary John Maxell, 33° presented a “leg lamp” prize to Tom Mullally, 32° for top-line signing the most petitions for new members in 2020. Three new Brethren were welcomed at the Fall Reunion thanks to Tom! The leg lamp was one of the “major prizes,” in keeping with the theme of the 1983 movie *A Christmas Story* at December’s Scottish Rite banquet. For signing the most petitions, Tom’s Scottish Rite dues and Lodge dinners will be covered for 2021.



Knights of St. Andrew

Annual Membership Dinner and Dennis P. Samuelson Award

Venerable Master Kyle Beckner, 32° welcomed Knights of St. Andrew and their ladies to the annual Membership Appreciation Dinner on Friday, January 9, 2021.

After an excellent dinner of beef tenderloin and baked potatoes, served by the Culinary Masters, Kyle Beckner served as master of ceremonies for the evening. He acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had been a difficult year, but acknowledged several members who had volunteered for numerous gigs, including bartending, greeting, serving ice cream, and helping at events.

In presenting the Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award, Kyle recognized Daniel Alati, 32°, who joined in November, 2019. Not content to just sit on the sidelines, Dan jumped in wholeheartedly. He received his ritual proficiency coins from Bellevue Lodge #325, he is active in the National Sojourners, and he has been actively engaged in the Knights of St. Andrew as a volunteer at gigs and events. Dan joins the KSA as Sentinel for the 2021 officer line.

Venerable Master-elect Carl F. Simmons, 32° presented Kyle with a silver quach, the traditional drinking cup of Scotland, engraved with his name and year as Venerable Master.

. . . continued on page 6



2021 Scottish Rite Officers Installed

Tom Brummett, 33°, served as Installing Master on January 18, 2021 and installed the officers of the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, Consistory, as well as the Cathedral Board, Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, and the Knights of St. Andrew.

The incoming Masters for the four Lodge bodies are Michael Stuhr, 32° KCCH, David Norton, 32°, Gary “Grip” Williams, 32°, and Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH, with Carl Simmons, 32° serving as Venerable Master for the Knights of St. Andrew.

The Brethren welcomed Dan Wellendorf, 33° as Nebraska’s new Deputy to the Supreme Council. Dan spoke about how humbled he was to follow in the footsteps of Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° and so many other great men before him, and if he does his job well, he will follow their lead as a mentor and example to future generations of Scottish Rite Masons.

After a beautiful installation ceremony, officers, their ladies, guests and Brethren enjoyed dinner in the ballroom, catered by the Culinary Masters. Mike Stuhr served as Master of Ceremonies for the dinner, and recognized officers, out-going officers, Past Masters, and Grand Lodge officers.

Chuck Sederstrom presented Dan Wellendorf with a framed letter from Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole,



Top: Mike Stuhr, 32° KCCH and the 2021 Officers of the Lodge of Perfection

Bottom: Dan Wellendorf with the letter appointing him Deputy to the Supreme Council

33°, formally appointing him as Deputy. Dan both expressed his appreciation to Chuck, and welcomed Curt Edic, 33° G.C., who received a standing ovation as General Secretary Emeritus.

M.W. Ron Stites, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska brought greetings from the Grand Lodge, and recognized with Grand Honors Past Grand Masters John Parsons, 33° (2011), Craig Hummel, 33° (2010; Grand Lodge of Iowa), and John Maxell, 33° (2015), as well as R.W. James A. Carlton, 32° KCCH and his 2020 Grand Lodge officers.



Carl Simmons, 32° (right), Venerable Master-elect, presents an engraved quail to Kyle Beckner, 32°



Kyle Beckner, 32° (center) presents Rex Waller, 32° to the station of Senior Deacon, before presenting Steve Zimmerman, 32° to the station of Junior Warden.

KSA Dinner

... continued from page 5

That morning at the KSA meeting, Kyle introduced a new tradition, presenting Carl Simmons with the white hackle of the Venerable Master for his glengarry. Kyle presented an officers’ hackle to Dan Alati, bringing him to the Sentinel’s chair.

He personally escorted each officer to their new chair of office for 2021. At the Master’s station, Carl then presented Kyle with the blue and white hackle of a Past Venerable Master.



From left to right, past award recipients above are Alan Boulter (2017), Bob Pelletier (2016), T.J. Brumfield (2018), Carl Simmons (2016), Dan Alati (2020), Kyle Beckner (2019), Gary Williams (2019), and Jim Flowers (2018). The prestigious award honors the memory of Brother Dennis Samuelson, 32° KCCH who served as Venerable Master in 2005.

RITECARE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

... continued from page 1

Hartsook developed a case statement describing the life-changing impact of Speech-Language Therapy and how Scottish Rite Masons have helped thousands of children. The case statement explains how donations directly support technology, physical space, and furnishing updates to create a better environment to foster speech therapy services.



Jason Wood, 32° - a member of the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite and Lancaster Lodge #54 - is on the team. Jason brings a background in fundraising with a knowledge of Scottish Rite philanthropies and Nebraska Freemasonry to Hartsook and the campaign.

With the case statement, Hartsook has been meeting with Scottish Rite Masons, listening and learning, asking for advice, and seeking feedback that will help chart the course for success.

The long-term results will be significant. Between planned gifts and major gifts, the Scottish Rite anticipates being able to support speech therapy well into the future. If a representative of Hartsook calls on you, please make time to visit with them to discuss your legacy, providing for our philanthropies for generations to come.

SAVE THE DATE!

Valley of Hastings
REUNION
WEEKEND

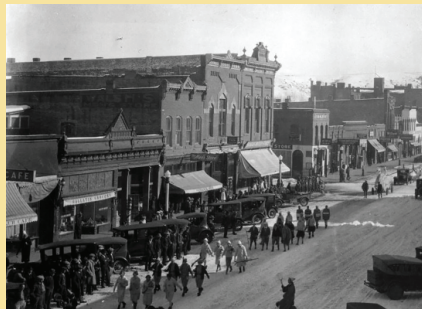
MARCH 6th
2021

facebook.com/HastingsScottishRite

Membership, continued

Since US-30 was still a dirt road then, it became quite a trip to for a breeder in those states. Dad asked if they would like it if the best Rambouliet bucks could be purchased near Rawlins. Of course, they all said yes! Dad contacted the Cunningham Sheep Company at Pendleton and asked if they would send him a carload of bucks. One of the owners, a Mr. Falkner, came out on the railroad and interviewed Dad, who introduced Mr Falkner to a dozen or so sheepmen (most of these sheepmen were running 15,000 to 30,000 ewes at that time). When Mr. Falkner got back on the train to go home to Pendleton, Dad asked if Mr. Falkner thought he could sell a carload of bucks? Mr Falkner answered "No, I am going to send you a thousand head (about 8 carloads)!"

Dad sold from 1,000 to 2,000 head a year for 33 straight years. In 1927, Dad met my Mom at the national ram sale



in Ogden. Mom's father was the first to import Suffolk sheep to the United States. My grandfather's brother started the Suffolk registry and it is now the largest sheep breed registry. Dad and his youngest brother Monte both homesteaded 640 acres each in Unita County near Blacksfork in 1932. They formed Moore Bros. Partnership and became one of the top wool and lamb buyers in the country. I still operate on part of Dad's place on Blacksfork."

~as told by Roy R Moore Jr. (now 85 in a few weeks)

Perhaps we can chalk this off as the reminiscences of an Old Timer. Perhaps we can even chalk it up as a Mason helping out another Brother, who parlayed a job to greater successes later. Yet these stories are far from rare!

Roy Moore, Sr. was clearly a hard worker and a man of integrity, with or without the Masonic ring. But the true nugget of wisdom is that his integrity and work ethic were noticed *by virtue* of his Masonic ring, which got him his initial start at the refinery. His work ethic proved the foreman's judgment was correct.

That's a powerful thing, but have we lost that kind of connection today? Does seeing someone wearing the Square and Compass today immediately indicate they are trustworthy, hard-working, men of integrity?

It should.

Giving the Gift of VOICE Through the Acacia Guild

What is the Acacia Guild?

The Acacia Guild was instituted a few years ago through the Scottish Rite House of the Temple, and is a program recognizes all Scottish Rite members who join by making a \$1,000 cash contribution to the House of the Temple Foundation.

Acacia Guild donors can become members through a single payment or can be made by contributing \$83.33/month for twelve months by credit card or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account. The \$1,000 gift will be split: one half will go to the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc. to help with our Rebuilding the Temple Campaign and to support Temple maintenance; and the other will go to the Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, USA, Inc. to assist with the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, scholarship programs, and other worthy activities.

Guild Benefits

Scottish Rite brethren who make a donation will receive an impressive award made of sterling silver hanging from a purple ribbon featuring the words "Acacia Guild" with an acacia branch prominently displayed. Each award



also will be serially numbered on the back. Members of the Acacia Guild also will be able to participate in private, live discussions via the internet with the Grand Commander, attend a special reception at the Biennial Session, and enjoy other special limited benefits.

To date, six Nebraskans have joined the Acacia Guild, raising about \$8,000 for these efforts. Nationally, the effort has supported the preservation on the historic House of the Temple, but more important, it has supported our national efforts to promote speech therapy services for kids through more than 180 clinics across the nation.

There are many ways to support our Scottish Rite philanthropies, and I ask you to talk to your family about how you can leave your legacy for Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

SCOTTISH RITE[®] JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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, 2021 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-March for consideration.)

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, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Name	Valley
John Adam.....	Alliance
Kenneth Beebe.....	Lincoln
T.J. Brumfield.....	Omaha
Micheal Buchardt.....	Lincoln
Gary Bunnell.....	Omaha
William Cook.....	Lincoln
William Craig.....	Omaha
John Ferguson.....	Alliance
Michael Gray.....	Lincoln
Schadd Gray.....	Omaha
Charles Hastings.....	Hastings
James Heinke.....	Lincoln
William Kimme.....	Omaha
Reginald Kuhn.....	Lincoln
Terry Nelson.....	Omaha
Charlie Odorizzi.....	Omaha
Jeffrey Passer.....	Omaha
Robert Pelletier.....	Omaha
Ernest Reese.....	Omaha
Michael Roe.....	Lincoln
Robert Schapp.....	Omaha
Charles Sederstrom, Jr.....	SGIG in Nebraska
Donald Shiu, Jr.....	Omaha
Charles Sohm.....	Omaha
Michael Stuhr.....	Omaha
Gary Unger.....	Omaha
Dan Wellendorf.....	Omaha

Thanks to the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons, Nebraska 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.

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