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Membership

For years, companies told employees that it simply was not feasible for employees to work remotely from home. COVID-19 turned that concept its end, and employees were forced to telecommute. Turns out, working remotely not only was feasible, but many companies found it to be a plus. Employees could still be productive, and were not hassled with the burdens of a commute, or frankly, wearing pants. Companies across the United States



are considering giving up expensive rents and building management, and permanently retaining this model, or at least retaining a mixed office/home model.

While this may or may not portend things to come in the workplace of the future, it certainly has its negative side: feelings of isolation, distractions of kids or pets, a lack of focus, technical problems, or even working too hard or too often. Em-

ployees report the loss of culture, the loss of relationships, a lack of career advancement, and an 'always-on' mentality which leads to job burnout.

I don't intend to defend or detract from the telecommuting model, but to point out that the lessons offer insights to us as Freemasons.

It is sometimes hard to express the value of the Masonic fraternity, but among the plusses we offer are the antidote to this work-at-home model. Working remotely is lonely and building relevant relationships is hard, even at the best of times. Working from home blurs the distinction between office hours and home hours.

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plan on it! giving the gift of voice

The Valley of Omaha recently received a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Brother James W. Eggers, 32° who passed away in April, 2019. He was a 69 year Master Mason, a member of Nebraska Lodge #1, and had joined the Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine in 1977.

Jim had been married to wife Marjorie for 71 years, and was founder and President of Eggers Consulting, a job recruitment firm. Jim was active in his church, the Downtown Omaha Rotary Club, Tangier Shrine, which he considered reflective of his strong faith and belief in the goodness of people.

Okley Gibbs, 33°, who was a member with Jim in Downtown Omaha Rotary Club, remembers Jim as a great guy and a wonderful person to talk to. Several Masons remember Jim as having a positive attitude toward life, and exerting a wonderful influence on the lives of his

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Orient Calendar

- May 6 Give Hastings Day (H)
- May 9 Mother's Day Brunch (O)
- May 12 Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- May 14-15..... Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
- May 25 Give to Lincoln Day (L)
- May 27 Masonic Day at the Ballpark (O)
- June 8 Cornerstone at UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute (O)
- June 12 Scottish Rite Picnic at Mahoney State Park (O)
- June 19 WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
- July 24 Walk for RiteCare (H)
- 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

May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 22

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct 5

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

May 19, June 23, July 21, Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18

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

Staying Busy in the Alliance Valley Scottish Rite



Cold weather. A pandemic. These certainly don't help the Alliance valley, but while we struggle to meet and conduct business, that certainly doesn't mean we are idle!

Many people assume that hunger and food insecurity affect people in the bigger cities. According to feedingamerica.org, hunger and food insecurity averages 12.38% in the 11 counties of the Nebraska Panhandle. I am proud that the Alliance Scottish Rite can continue to host Community Table, which has consistently served 70 or so lunches each day to families in need. Lunches can be chili, goulash, or anything that can go into a to-go box.

The Alliance Scottish Rite has also been selected as the site for COVID vaccine shots, and I am glad we are able to serve as a space to help Nebraskans get out of this awful pandemic.

We re-carpeted the hallways upstairs, which was long past due, and we continue to look at areas in the building that need work.



I will report on the Reunion in the next edition, but as of writing this, we are anticipating a great Reunion in April. Please reach out to prospective candidates and invite them to continue their Masonic journey as a Scottish Rite Mason. As always, this is YOUR Valley, so please get involved. Please let me know if you want to host the Scottish Rite Lodge meeting in your community, and I'll work with you to make that happen. Join us on the fourth Friday of each month here at the Alliance. In the meantime, stay warm and stay healthy!

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




Speech Therapy for Nebraska kids

Your tax-deductible donation on Give Hastings Day on May 6th serves kids across Central Nebraska through the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. Kids can receive as much speech therapy as they need, provided without regard to a family's ability to pay. Please help Scottish Rite Masons make a difference with your donations.

www.givehastings.org/RiteCare

Support RiteCare Speech Therapy Through Give Hastings Day on May 6th

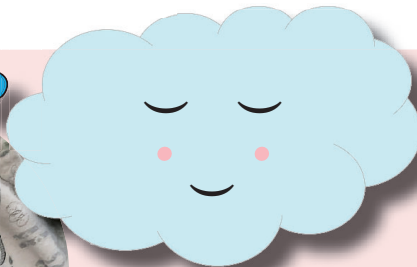
On May 6th, the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation is participating in the 8th annual Give Hastings Day. Over the past years, Give Hastings has raised \$3 million dollars for non-profits. The Valley has raised \$19,554 since 2017, averaging \$4,888 each year, all donated by Scottish Rite Brethren and our grateful RiteCare families.

Your support for Give Hastings day - which opens for early donations on April 21st - supports RiteCare Speech and Language Therapy in Hastings and Kearney, and with telemedicine therapy reaching any child in Nebraska who needs qualifying speech therapy services. Services are provided to Nebraska families without regard to a family's ability to pay. Beginning April 21st, you can donate securely online through <https://www.givehastings.org/RiteCare>.

Our goal is to raise \$6,000 for speech therapy, and your tax-deductible donation goes a long way to helping reach that goal!



Welcome



Welcome Carson Robert Norton

We are thrilled to bring the joyful news that Hastings Speech-Language Pathologist Sydney Norton and her husband Zane welcomed Carson Robert Norton on November 28, 2020 at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs, 12 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Both baby Carson and Mom are doing great, and Sydney is back at the Hastings Clinic working with RiteCare kids.



To The World



Spotlight on the Scottish Rite

Geoff's dad purchased the local pharmacy in Elwood, necessitating the family relocation to Elwood, Nebraska. The elder Mr. Bogle began purchasing farmland in 1939, allowing Geoff to get a taste of his future full-time profession in our nation's food production.

Following graduating from Elwood High School and attending the University of Nebraska, Geoff returned to his first love of farming. He and his father farmed together for 18 months before Geoff entered the US Navy in April, 1958 serving as a Sonar man 3rd Class on the USS Illusive #448, an ocean-going Minesweeper, and on the USS Albatross #289, a Coastal Minesweeper. During his tour of duty, Geoff made several West PAC Cruises to Guam, Philippines, Bangkok, Saigon and other Pacific Ocean islands conducting war games and maneuvers with allies.



While stationed in Long Beach, Geoff met Evelyn E. Hoffman. They were married on November 4, 1961 and resided in Elwood after his separation from the Navy in April, 1962. Geoff and Evelyn were married for 57 years, raising two children. Evelyn passed away in 2019. He and his son, Jeff, currently operate a

corn, soybean and wheat farming operation plus a 400- head cow calf operation.

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Lincoln Scottish Rite Honored As DeMolay Sponsoring Organization of the Year



At the 2021 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in February, the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite received the DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year Award from Nebraska DeMolay. The Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite has sponsored the Lincoln Chapter Order of DeMolay for over 100 years. Lincoln Chapter is the only Chapter in Nebraska that is still sponsored by its original sponsoring body.



Dr. Zoro D. Clark

Dr. Zoro D. Clark brought DeMolay to Nebraska. Dr. Clark, a good friend of Frank Land, the founder of DeMolay, was visiting Kansas City in late 1919 when Frank Land told him of the new youth organization called "DeMolay" he had started. Land asked Dr. Clark to visit before his return to Omaha. Clark stayed another day and witnessed the Degree work. He was most impressed and wished his two sons could join. He returned to Omaha and talked the to the Scottish Rite about sponsoring a DeMolay chapter. He must have been a persuasive speaker because the members agreed, and on May 8, 1920, the Mother Chapter came to Omaha and initiated 66 boys into DeMolay. Omaha thus became the second Chapter of DeMolay in the World.

Lincoln Chapter, the second Chapter in Nebraska and the world's tenth chapter, received the Letters Temporary in Mid-1920. The initial class of 127 members received their degrees in September 1920. The records show that the year 1921 was the most productive with the number of initiates being 487. The Charter was received in 1922. By 1923, the newspaper reported that there were an impressive 36 Chapters with 4,000 DeMolay members across Nebraska!

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Lodge of the Double Eagle Award

by Edward Boone, 32° boone.ed@gmail.com

At the March business meeting, Venerable Master Edward Boone announced that the Lincoln Valley would begin participating in the Double Eagle Award program of the Scottish Rite. The announcement was followed by good discussion by the members in attendance.

The Double Eagle Award, sometimes called the Knight of the Double Eagle, is a program allowed by the Southern Jurisdiction, with broad latitude given to Valleys in terms of how and to whom the award is given. What most Valleys choose to do is to award points for various accomplishments, actions, or achievements, and then to award different levels of the award for accumulating certain numbers of points. Valleys are able to tailor the award to the needs and to the culture of their respective Lodges by how the points are awarded. For example, a Valley

in need of Reunion cast members might make participating on a Degree team worth more points than being the first-line signer on a new member.

At the meeting, members in attendance were broadly in agreement on several points. The highest points possible come from building our Valley: bringing in a new member, bringing a delinquent member back into the fold, serving as a Reunion Degree Director, and serving as Reunion stage crew all top the list. Additionally, points can be earned by visiting another Valley, visiting a Blue Lodge outside your home Lodge as an ambassador for the Valley, or presenting 32° patents to a new Brother at his Lodge. Points will be tracked by individual members, and the Valley is working on getting a website available to members to track their own points. The first award will be awarded at 500 points, with red, white, blue, and gold bars to

hang below the jewel, awarded at subsequent 500 point markers. At 5,000 points, the member receives a red ribbon for wearing around the neck, followed by white, blue, and a red-white-and-blue ribbon for subsequent accumulation of 2,500 points. To see the whole list of actions for points and award tiers, to give your feedback, or ask questions, please contact Venerable Master Edward Boone, 32° at boone.ed@gmail.com.



Cold Weather Can't Stop Scottish Rite Masons from Celebrating KSA Knighting and Capping Ceremony



KSA Venerable Master Carl Simmons, 32° knights Zachary Flott, 32° as his lady Christina looks on.

Winter weathers and a low of 20° below zero was no hindrance to the February Scottish Rite Lodge dinner. About 90 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies attended the Lodge dinner.

After the Culinary Masters served an excellent dinner of chicken parmesan with fettuccine, garlic breadsticks, and salad, Venerable Master Mike Stuhr, 32° welcomed Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council, and MW Jim Carlton, 32° KCCH, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, who spoke about the coming year.

Carl Simmons, 32° led the Knights of St. Andrew knighting ceremony with assistance from T.J. Brumfield, 32° and Rex Waller, 32°. Carl knighted Brothers Mo Krishna, 32°, John Crouch, 32°, Christopher Armbrust, 32°, and Zachary Flott, 32°, and Brett Drake, 32°.

Roger Moore, 32° rose to thank the Scottish Rite for an excellent Reunion this past November. Roger served as Grand Orator in 2021 for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska and was the Class Orator for the November Reunion. He spoke about the universality of Freemasonry which unites Brethren through the universal



Dan Wellendorf, 33° places a cap on Kendall Eveland, 32°

truths found across all religions. "Although we have different titles, backgrounds, life experiences, these universal truths unite us, rather than serve as an excuse to disagree as it so often seems throughout our history." Roger called upon Masons to find common ground when so much seeks to divide us.

Members from the November, 2020 Reunion received their Scottish Rite 32° hats in a Capping Ceremony, with their ladies or top-line signers providing the honor of placing their cap on them. Mike Stuhr explained the significance of the caps, and the different colors.

Officers from the Lodge of Perfection presented ladies attending with boxes of brownies by Brownie Bar Omaha.

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Remembrance and Renewal

The Omaha Scottish Rite celebrated the annual Remembrance and Renewal ceremony, hosted by the Chapter of Rose Croix.

After the ceremonial extinguishing of the lights, Dick Corwine, 33°, portrayed Pontius Pilate. He gives a deeply moving soliloquy as he explains his reasons for putting Jesus Christ to death, expressing dire remorse for his decision. He admits that he made a grave error and goes on to tell how it happened. He has been eternally sorry for his mistake and he would like to do what he can to assure that no one else makes the same error. At the end, he admonishes his audience to not make the same errors that he did.

Following the relighting the lights, the members and guests enjoyed a fantastic roast beef dinner prepared by the Culinary Masters. Gary Unger, 32° KCCH called Tom Brummett, 33° to be recognized as one of the House of the Temple's newest Acacia Guild members. Tom joins about 7 Scottish Rite Masons from Nebraska who have made a \$1,000 donation or \$83.33/ monthly pledge to the House of the Temple. Donations support both the renovation of the historic Scottish Rite headquarters and RiteCare speech therapy across the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction. Acacia Guild members have raised \$430,000 for the House of the Temple philanthropies. For more information about the Acacia Guild, please e-mail Gary Unger at gunger@scottishriteomaha.org or call (402) 651-9710.

Spotlight on the Scottish Rite: Geoff Bogle

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Geoff Bogle became a Master Mason on April 26, 1969 at Elwood Lodge #167 in Elwood, Nebraska, which later merged with Thistle Lodge #61 in Lexington. Geoff served as Master of Elwood Lodge and Secretary. In March of 1979, he joined the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite in Hastings. For many years Geoff attended and supported Reunions. On April 20, 1970, Geoff joined the Tehama Shriners, serving on the Divan until 2008, when Geoff and Evelyn lead Tehama as Potentate and First Lady. Completing his tenure as Potentate, Geoff served on the Board of Shriners Children's Hospital, Twin Cities in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a Director. He also served as a Director on the Shrine Bowl of Nebraska.



Geoff has been active in his community, serving on the Elwood Fire Department Board. He was elected in 1985 as a director to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation Board (CNPPI), serving 35 years thus far. As a member of the CNPPI board, Geoff has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and currently serves as Treasurer.



Lincoln Chapter DeMolay

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The Chapter has had an impressive record as five of its members would later become the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska. Nine of the Active DeMolays served as State Master Councilor.

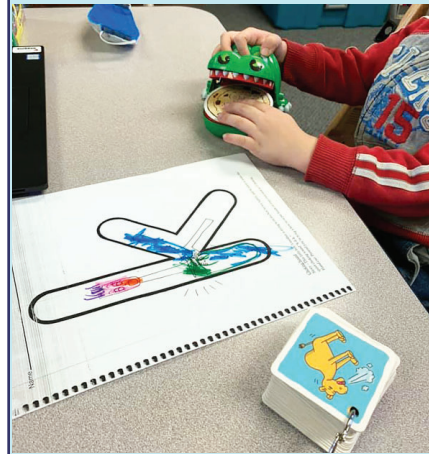
Charles Adams, a member of the initial class became Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1954. Victor Anderson, also a member of the initial class became the Mayor of Lincoln and Governor of Nebraska.

Merle Hale, initiated in 1920 served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1956. Lewis R. Ricketts, initiated in 1926, was Grand Master of Mason in Nebraska in 1966. Elmer McGee, initiated in 1921, was Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1948. Howard Hunter, initiated in 1921, was Grand Master of Mason in Nebraska in 1972.

Lincoln Chapter even had its own band established in the 1930's by 'Pop' Britten. Pop Britten was the Chapter Dad at that time. Pictures of the band indicate there about 35 members. In the pictures they were all dressed in appropriate band uniforms.

Over the years there have been many Master Masons who have served on the Advisory Council. These men haven given freely of their time and talent so that the Chapter might grow in the proper manner. They were readily available to provide guidance when needed, provide council when required, but above all they were willing to provide transportation to various activities as well as assistance at Nebraska DeMolay events. Lincoln Scottish Rite can never repay these Master Masons for the work they have done for DeMolay.

THE COUGHING CAMEL AND THE HUNGRY CROCODILE



Play-based therapy is part of the toolkit our RiteCare Speech Pathologists use to help children vocalize certain sounds and say words. In this exercise at the Hastings Clinic, children feed the Cookies to the Crocodile and practice their "Coughing Camel" sounds to work on their "K" sounds. Bjorem Speech Sound Cards are a tool which introduces a sound cue in the child's daily routine and during play, helping children master the sound and incorporate it into their daily speech.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha

RITECARE CLASSIC

GOLF BENEFIT

Presented By:

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
MUNROE-MEYER INSTITUTE

PACIFIC SPRINGS GOLF COURSE 16810 Harney St Omaha, Nebraska	\$100	\$400
	PER PERSON	FOUR- SOME

For more information, call at
(402) 342-1300

Friday, September 24, 2021

Shotgun Start: 12PM

4-Person Scramble

www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org/golf



(Top) Emily Pool places a 32° cap on Ted Pool; (Bottom left) Susanne Krishna caps husband Mo; (Bottom right) Kyle Beckner knights his son Andrew as our youngest KSA squire, with mom Amanda and proud grandparents Alan and Kate Boulter.

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The February “Ladies Night at the ‘Rite,” is always one of the most popular Lodge dinners of the year, and this year is no exception. All Scottish Rite Masons eagerly await the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and while guests remained masked and maintain social distancing, we hope this foretells a good year to come of events at the Scottish Rite!



Thank you Suzie!
Lincoln RiteCare Clinician Suzie Budzinski received this letter from a grateful parent.

“We are very grateful for the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinic and for our wonderful speech-language pathologist Suzie Budzinski! With her help and intervention techniques, we have seen great improvements in our son Luke’s communication and social skills! Luke has learned to initiate conversations, increasingly engage in pretend play, better navigate new situations, and interact more with the world around him. Because of these services we feel confident in our ability to play with him in ways that he enjoys and which also build his skills. We are thrilled to have found techniques to reach our little guy and share in the joy of playing together!”

Membership, continued

People who work from home often report that distractions keep them from being productive (leading to working later evenings to catch up, blurring that off-time). My cupboards and basement shelves were never so well-organized during the time I was supposed to be working from home when we quarantined at home this time last year.

Those who work from home often speak of the social isolation throughout the day. People are social. We crave the jokes, stories, and news we share over the water cooler, which develops rapport with colleagues. Zoom teleconferences help, but are a poor substitute for face-to-face interactions.

The list goes on, but you get the idea.



And that’s where the power of Freemasonry comes into play.

That hour or two at Lodge gives us the break from being always on-call and often alone, and the beautiful tenets of the Degrees remind us to divide our day, giving us “eight hours for our usual vocations and eight hours for refreshment and sleep.” The social opportunities of

visiting Brethren, joking, sharing the community of Brethren and the ritual of the Lodge is a well-earned break, regardless of whether one works from home or at the office. Studies have shown that developing social capital keeps people sharp and productive. The value of networking is a definite plus for those finding themselves isolated in the home office.

Time will tell whether telecommuting is the future of the workplace. For all the benefits, each comes with challenges. Freemasonry allows members structure and routine, providing an antidote for the negatives. It is worth sharing that with potential Masons who deal with both plusses and minuses of working from home.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

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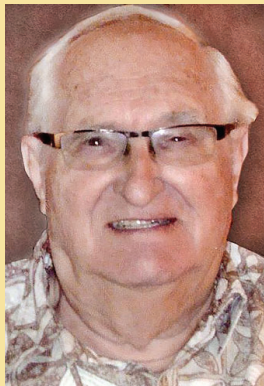
family, his employees, and his friends.

Before he passed, Jim often spoke about leaving his legacy to Freemasonry. After providing for his wife and family, Jim left provisions in his estate gifting \$10,000 each toward the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha for the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic, to Tangier Shrine, and the Omaha Home for Boys, along with other philanthropies.

Lori Bechtold, with the Omaha Home for Boys, spoke about the huge impact his gift makes, providing education and skills-training for young men and women to become self-sufficient through OHB's programs.

Jim's optimism is reflected in how he chose to give back to the Masonic philanthropies he supported and loved during his 40+ year Masonic career. Jim leaves a legacy that lives on through therapy and programs for our RiteCare kids, for services for our children at the Shriners Hospitals for Children, and the young adults served at the Omaha Home for Boys.

The idea of a Masonic legacy was central to Jim's philosophy, and his estate



James W. Eggers, 32°

shows that passion through bequests to numerous philanthropies. I would urge all Brethren to think about how they can help provide for nationally-recognized speech therapy for Nebraska children, our Teacher of the Year programs in Hastings and Lincoln, scholarships for tomorrow's leaders, or whichever Masonic philanthropies most move you.

After you provide for your spouse, your children and grandchildren, think about a percentage or set amount to benefit your Valley's Scottish Rite and the non-profit organizations that mean the most to you. Talk to your attorney or financial advisor about how options can best benefit you and your favorite philanthropies.

I will certainly miss visiting with Jim Eggers at the Century Club dinner each year at the Omaha Scottish Rite, but I know that his presence continues to be felt through our long-standing commitment to speech therapy for Nebraska kids. That's a heck of a legacy to leave!

As always, thank you for considering your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation in your annual giving, and *thank you for being a Brother and a Scottish Rite Mason.*

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
George White.....	Hastings

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.*

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

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