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Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the



Orient of Nebraska

November-December, 2021

Volume XI, Issue 6

Membership

The theme of Manhood and Masonry comes up quite often in the membership column. The two go hand-in-hand, and manhood is inextricable from Freemasonry. From the moment the Candidate knocks on the Lodge door "of his own free will and accord" to entering the Lodge trusting his guide as a friend, whom he later discovers to be a Brother, the Candidate is immediately exposed to the virtues of trust, perseverance, and responsibility inherent in Freemasonry.



M.W. James A. Carlton recognizing excellence in proficiency at Nebraska Lodge #1

But for this to work, we have to know that the Candidate meets the impeccable standards of Manhood from the moment he expresses an interest in turning in a petition. As an egalitarian organization, we know that the traits of Manhood are to be found in any profession, age group, or income bracket. But equally true, rascals and rogues are also found across the spectrum. Rather than ferret out the high standards for membership during the investigation process, or exact repercussions later for failing to meet these expected high standards, Masons happily accept the petition from any jovial fella with enough coin jingling in his pocket and a petition in his hand.

And therein lies the problem. Masonry requires a mutual respect among equals - we are, after all, on the level. Masonry requires a respect for those elected to lead. And those leaders must be distinguished from their peers by

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plan on it! giving the gift of voice

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

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

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Orient Calendar

- Nov 12-13 Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Nov 18-20 Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
- Nov 18 KSA Trivia Night (O)
- Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Nov 4, 11, 18 Lincoln Valley Lunch (L)
- Dec 13 Christmas Banquet and Awards (O)
- Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Lincoln Valley Lunch (L)
- Jan 22, 2022 Robert Burns Celebration (L)
- Jan 29, 2022 ... Scottish Society of Nebraska Burns Dinner (O)
- Feb 3-5 Grand Lodge Annual Communication (Kearney)

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

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Nov 26, Dec 24, Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Nov 15, Dec 20, Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 21

**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



Nathan Holthusen, Tommy Yung, and Steve Crosby visiting the Sand Hills this past June.

Summer may have been quiet in the Alliance Valley, but the Brethren were not idle. Brother Tommy Yung, 32° KCCH writes that the Widows Sons, the Masonic motorcycle riders' association, hit the road to Chimney



Nebraska Widows Sons visit the South Dakota Badlands in August, 2020

Rock this past June, living the Widows Sons' goal of boosting activity and fellowship in Freemasonry. In the past year, Nebraska Widows Sons members have visited Brethren in Wyoming, South Dakota, Louisiana, and had fellowship across the state. Last year, Nebraska Widows Sons members raised money and donated funds to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, after their building was vandalized.

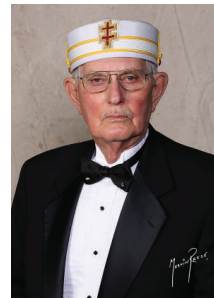
For Brethren interested in the Widows Sons, visit the Widows Son Nebraska Facebook page.

The Alliance Valley is looking forward to the Fall Reunion on November 12-13th. If you have candidates, please reach out to the Alliance Valley for the Fall Reunion or the Spring Reunion (dates TBD). The Scottish Rite is a great way to continue a Brother's Masonic journey. For our current Brethren, we would welcome your support as officers, members of Degree teams, or on the stage crew at Reunions. Please reach out and get involved!

*~Gene Gatti, 33°
General Secretary
gene123@mail.com
(308) 762-4324*

Spotlight on our Membership

Charles Wells Haskell was born on February 18, 1939 in Arnold, Nebraska. He and his wife, Peggy, have two daughters, one son, four grandchildren along with five



great-grandchildren. Charles and Peggy have been married for over 50 years, living and raising their children in Burwell, Nebraska. Both have been involved and active in their community. Charles drove trucks throughout the state for many years, they owned and operated a local motel for many years.

Charles was raised a Master Mason at Blazing Star Lodge #200 in 1981, and served as Master in 1986. Charles continued his Masonic journey as a member of the Hastings Scottish Rite in 1985. Charles has attended Spring and Fall Reunions each year, serving on several Degree teams. He also helped organized a summer meeting each August allowing members to meet and discuss issues. In 2009, Charles was invested a Knight Commander Court of Honor, and in 2019, he was coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary.

Charles is a member of Tehama Shriners, serving as Potentate in 2014. He is part of the "Tehama Caravan," driving patients to the Twin Cities Shriners Hospital for Children in Minneapolis.

In Burwell, Charles served as a trustee on the 1st Congregational Church and Secretary of the District 14 School Board. Additionally, Charles has been a member of the Burwell Rodeo Committee from 1979 to present, serving as Chairman in 1986. He is also a member of the Burwell Volunteer Fire Department from 1966-2017, and served as Fire Chief for many years.

Charles practices our Masonic teachings each day. His reputation as a fair and honest person makes him a leader in his community and our fraternity.



*Top Row: Charles Hastings, 33°, Bill Erickson, 33°, MW Bob Moninger, 33°, Michael Small, 33°, Ron Nielsen, 32° KCCH, Jeff Haverkamp, 32°. Wayne Vian, 33°, Bob Parker, 32° KCCH
Middle Row: Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH, Monte Malouf, 33°, George White, 33°, Steve O'Brien, 32°, Greg Seiler, 32° KCCH
Bottom Row: MW Don Rasmussen, 33°, Dan Puckett, 32°, Kirk McNeal, 32°, Liam Killion, 32°, Frank Sedem, 32°, MW Les Seiler, 33°, Gary Martin, 33°*

Valley of Hastings Welcomes Four New 32° Princes of the Royal Secret in Fall Reunion

Four new Brethren joined the Scottish Rite in the Fall Reunion in the Central Nebraska Valley at Hastings on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

The Valley exemplified the 4°, 14°, 18°, 30°, and 32°, with Bill Erickson, 33° and Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH communicating the intervening Degrees, adding additional depth to the Degrees with a knowledge of the philosophy and history of the times the Degrees represent.

Lunch of sandwiches, soup, and chips was provided by Big Dally's Deli of Hastings, and the Valley is grateful to Bill Taylor, 32° for all he does behind the scenes, including setting up lunch and cleaning up afterward.

Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, and Bob Moninger, 33°, Dan's Personal Representative to the Orient, joined the Valley in the afternoon and welcomed them as the new Brethren received their 32° Scottish Rite caps after the thirty-second Degree. Dan invited Brethren to get involved, whether in Degree work or on the Stage Crew.



MW Scott Krieger, 33° gives the lecture of the 30°



Dan Wellendorf, 33° congratulates our new Scottish Rite Brethren



The Hastings Reunion class after the 32° with Deputy Dan Wellendorf, 33°



Lincoln Valley Hosts Tailgate at the 'Rite Membership Evening

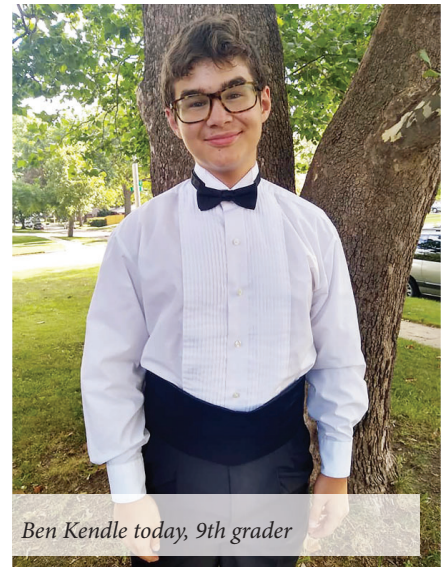
The officers of the Lincoln Valley hosted a Tailgate at the 'Rite party on September 10th, welcoming nearly 30 Scottish Rite Masons, guests and prospective members. Members enjoyed cocktails in "Chuck's Place," with great pulled pork barbecue, served by Soulfull Cocina food truck.

Cody Carlow, 32° KCCH hosted a cornhole tournament, with six teams competing for a 50-50 prize. RJ Lipert and Cody Carlow won the tournament after spirited competition, and the evening raised \$160 for the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic!

Several members brought prospective members to introduce them to Masonry during a relaxed evening, and it is anticipated that Lodges will receive a few petitions from the tailgate.



Cody Carlow and Bruce Wood showing their Husker pride



Ben Kendle today, 9th grader

The Value of RiteCare

My husband Wade (32°) was going through some past issues of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, and came across this one from 2012. My son Ben happened to be in one of the articles celebrating him graduating from services he received from the RiteCare Clinic.

Ben was diagnosed with Apraxia of Speech (a motor speech disorder where messages from the brain fail to communicate with muscles in the mouth, making it hard to speak) when he was a little over 2 years old. He did not speak for those 2 1/2 years, and only grunted when he wanted something or "grunt talked." My mom read an article about the RiteCare Clinic and their services (both Wade and my dad are Scottish Rite Masons). We were concerned for Ben and did not know where to begin getting him help. I was scared, worried and afraid.

I was afraid to just make a simple phone call that I knew deep down would change our lives for the better. But mostly I was scared they were going to tell me that there's no hope for Ben. I took a deep breathe, put all those worries aside and I called.

When I called, I was directed to whom I needed to get in touch with and a few phone calls and a few questions answered, we set up a time for Ben to be evaluated. I was so excited, my buddy Ben was gonna get help he needed!

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Robert Burns Celebration

A great evening celebrating the life and works of Scotland's favorite son, the Plowman Poet and Freemason, Robbie Burns

\$40/person - visit scottishritelincoln.org/events for reservations or more information

January 22, 2022 at the Lincoln Scottish Rite



Scottish Rite Presents Fifty Year Pins

The September Lodge Dinner was a great evening for the Omaha Valley. The Culinary Masters started us out with a great dinner of meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, corn, salad and rolls.

After a wonderful dinner, Venerable Master Mike Stuhr, 32° KCCH recognized our fifty-year Scottish Rite Masons. Joining us were Frank Kroupa, 33° and Gene Geise, 32°, both of whom joined in 1971.

Most Scottish Rite Masons know Frank - active for 25 years on the stage crew at Reunions, Venerable Master of Kadosh for the Omaha Consistory in 1990, Potentate of Tangier Shrine in 1997, and for many years, President of the Cathedral Board. And of course, most members know Frank for his tireless efforts to raise funds for the Scottish Rite, including the mural garden bricks, Lodge room, organ restoration, theater and balcony chairs, and the Grand Cross Room.

Gene Geise, 32° also received his pin, coming up from the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth to receive his certificate and pin from his grandson John Hardy, 32° KCCH-elect.

Afterward, MW Rex Moats and John Hardy presented Gene with his 50-year

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MW Craig Hummell, 33°, Doug Reed, 32°, Steve Keast, 32°, and Walt Keast, 33°-elect

Nebraska RiteCare Clinic Raises \$20,000 at the 2021 RiteCare Classic



Shane Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Andrew Muska, 32° KCCH and Don Leu, 32° KCCH

The annual RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit was held on Friday, September 24 at Pacific Springs Golf Course in Omaha. This year's RiteCare Classic raised approximately \$20,000 for Nebraska RiteCare speech and language services.

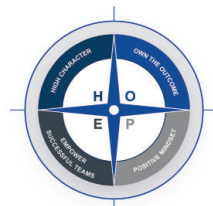
"Given these uncertain times, having the continued support and success we receive is incredible," said RiteCare Classic chairman Buzz Garlock, 32° KCCH. "The outpouring of support from sponsors and players has been fantastic, and every dollar raised will help children across the state get access to as much speech therapy as they may need."

Despite a little rain, 21 teams played 18 holes of golf, followed by a hamburger buffet and awards in the clubhouse. Flight winners included Gary Unger, Howard Fouts, Bob Allen and Dugan Allen at 18-under par, Jeff DeWispelare, Jess Robins, Jason Gustafson, and Grady Bishop tied at 14-under par for second place with Lee Terry, Bob Pelletier, Jamie Stojel, and Tim Herrick.

RiteCare Classic Chair Buzz Garlock took time to acknowledge the sponsors, saying "The support of our sponsors means everything to us, and when so many of our RiteCare families are feeling the pinch, their support is even more meaningful."

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Presenting Sponsors



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2021 RiteCare Classic

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Hole Sponsors

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Lodge of Perfection Officers
Omaha Consistory Line Officers
The Omaha Home for Boys
Supreme Council Development Office
(Gary Unger, Donor Officer)

The Scottish Rite gratefully acknowledges members of the UNO Nebraska Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association for volunteering at the RiteCare Classic



Nebraska RiteCare Clinicians: Top row: Kris Althouse (Hastings), Beth Hughes (Omaha), Leslie Van-Winkle (Omaha), Brittany Steinfeld (Omaha), Paul Laikko (Omaha, Sydney Norton (Hastings) Bottom Row: Holly Schlautman (Lincoln), Suzanne Budzinski (Lincoln), Amy Nordness (Omaha), Jeena Kouris (Omaha), Corey Stading (Omaha)

Lincoln Scottish Rite Hosts Annual RiteCare Retreat

Scottish Rite Masons from around Nebraska joined the Clinicians from the RiteCare Clinics in Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha for the annual RiteCare Retreat at the Lincoln Scottish Rite on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council, welcomed guests. He spoke about the continued need to collaborate with the Clinicians and serve as stewards for the long-term success of RiteCare's mission of providing speech and language therapy to Nebraska children.

Jason Wood, 32° KCCH-elect, fundraising consultant with the Hartsook Company, who is working with the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska on a fundraising campaign to raise around \$7 million dollars for both the Foundation endowment as well as a plan to build enhanced and expanded Clinic space within the Lincoln Scottish Rite. Architectural renderings and a budget were scheduled to have been completed by early October, and Dan Wellendorf and Jason Wood will begin working with Gary VerMaas, 33°-elect of VerMaas Construction and potential major donors to raise funds for construction to begin.



Lincoln Clinicians Suzie Budzinski and Holly Schlautman discuss their goals for 2022.

The Clinicians spoke from each Valley about their accomplishments during the year, including expanding outreach to rural counties and expanding programs within the Clinic, as well as their goals for the coming year.

After lunch, the Clinicians remained for continuing education and to discuss ways to better collaborate and maximize Clinicians' expertises across the state for therapy. Mark your calendar for next September as the Scottish Rite continues to host the annual RiteCare Retreat.

The Value of RiteCare

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We went into that meeting and met his first Clinician, Dyann Rupp. She was amazing with Ben! She talked with him, found out he loved puzzles and games, and by the time we left the evaluation, Ben had spoken his first word. The most beautiful word in the whole wide world, "Mom!!!!" (Of course I cried).

Ben was approved for services and we began the journey of hearing Ben speak more and more words. Dyann would give us things to practice at home and Ben was so excited to do his "homework". I would go around the house saying words and he would repeat them back to me. One time I remember I was laying in bed and Ben came running in and said "Mommy, apple!" We hadn't even practiced that word yet! We continued to go twice maybe three times a week for two awesome years.

Ben had two other amazing RiteCare Clinicians, Trisha Funk and Amber Jara I cannot thank these wonderful ladies and all they did for Ben and my family. I am happy to report, Ben is currently a



Ben with Miss Amber in 2012

I am happy to report, Ben is currently a 9th grader at Lincoln East and enrolled in all Diff classes. He currently is in the Lincoln East Marching Band and the Lincoln Boys Choir! He is an amazing son and I am so proud of him!

You ask if Ben talks a lot now?

Yes, yes he does!!! I always say he is making up for the two years he didn't.

I also have to add, all the services from the RiteCare Clinic Ben received was at no cost to us. All costs were covered by generous donations to the RiteCare clinic by Scottish Rite Masons.

~ Deb Foreman Kendle
RiteCare Mom

Scottish Rite Presents Fifty Year Pins

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pin with members of Waterloo Lodge #102 in attendance rose to congratulate him.

We met our UNO scholarship recipients, and heard from two by video how their scholarships are helping them achieve their dreams. Scottish Rite Masons have donated \$729,130 since 1991 for scholarships to 159 merit and need-based students at UNO. One student wrote about how the scholarship helps reduce the financial burdens on his family, to pursue his dream of becoming a physician's assistant.



Members of Waterloo Lodge #102 presenting Brother Gene Geise with his 50-year pin.

Membership, continued

achieving a standard of excellence as defined by the character of the Lodge.

The Candidate-turned-Brother earns his own respect and honor through his dedication of learning the ritual, and his Brethren earn the respect by serving as mentors. All Brethren develop respect and the traits of manhood through the quality of their words, actions, and behavior.

When the Brethren fail to take the time and effort to earn that respect, the cogs of Masonry break down. At best, the Lodge simply goes through the motions of opening, closing, doing Degree work. *Wash, rinse, and repeat.*

So how do we build that respect between Brethren and develop those characteristics and values of thoughtful Manhood? Rather than recite a



Demonstrating a purpose in Masonry: Olive Branch #274 awarding bikes to area youths

litany of axioms from leadership manuals, there is one that, to me, encompasses the entirety of how we achieve respect across membership and leadership in Freemasonry: *rethink everything.*

Rethinking everything begins with the initial contact with the Candidate, to the Degree work, to the way we conduct Lodge business. or events. If Masons are doing these things:

- creating meaningful communication among members,

- wholeheartedly fulfilling our obligations as officers,
- owning up to any failures or shortcomings,
- engaging Brethren directly,
- showing a confidence and a purpose in Masonry to inspire others,
- working toward proficient Degree work or opening/closing ritual.

These are the characteristics of a Manhood-based model that builds a foundation for strong and empowered leaders and creates a system of mutual respect among Brethren.

By rethinking the entirety of the Masonic experience, we are creating a new generation of Masons with the bearing and gravitas to truly build the fraternity for the coming century.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

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To do this,

- you must be 70 1/2 to make a tax-free distribution from your IRA,
- you can make up to \$100,000 to an eligible non-profit organization without paying income tax on the transaction,
- if you file jointly, your spouse can make a charitable contribution of up to \$100,000 as well, meaning couples can exclude up to \$200,000 of retirement savings from income tax if they donate to charity,
- charitable donations must be made from an IRA rather than a 401(k), so you might need to roll funds from a 401(k) to an IRA to make a distribution,
- and you don't need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution.

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

Another powerful tool that can make a substantial impact on our Scottish Rite philanthropies is by purchasing an insurance policy, naming the Scottish Rite as a beneficiary.



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

The donation of the premium is tax-deductible, and you can super charge your donation with a significant bequest from the policy.

You might have heard about the Nebraska Scottish Rite capital campaign, which has the ambitious goal of raising \$7 million for the long-term success of RiteCare Speech and Language services across Nebraska. A year-end donation from your IRA distribution will build the endowment which provides much-needed funding for speech therapy to children in Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, and across the state through teletherapy.

You can always call me at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail me at micah@SRNE.org to discuss these options and how they can benefit our RiteCare Clinics and your Scottish Rite Valley's philanthropies. **As always, THANK YOU for being a Brother and a Scottish Rite Mason.**

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 January-February, 2022 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-November for consideration.)

Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director
(402) 342-1300
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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
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Micheal Buchardt.....	Lincoln
Gary Bunnell.....	Omaha
William Cook.....	Lincoln
William Craig.....	Omaha
John Ferguson.....	Alliance
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Gary Unger.....	Omaha
Dan Wellendorf.....	Deputy for Nebraska
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.”