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Membership

I attended a recent Scottish Rite dinner, and the Culinary Masters knocked it out of the ballpark with a fantastic dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and roasted potatoes. We recognized several members who completed the Master Craftsman program and presented 32° patents and life membership certificates to two members. The evening's program, however, is immaterial. What was significant was attendance that began with 65 registered Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies on Friday afternoon and swelled to well over 100 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies by the time we sat down to dinner on Monday. They came for the laughter, joking, and the fellowship which defines Freemasonry almost more than anything else.



M. W. Freddie Clopton, 33° and Past Potentate David Norton, 32° hare a laugh at the 2022 Shrine Circus earlier this year.

The special bond of being a Freemason - that connection between each man in that room - is what makes the fraternity so special. That mystic tie is something that connects us in a way that almost nothing else can.

Two men may meet and find they attended the same university, share the same profession, or maybe have both served in the same branch of the Armed Services. Does that auto-

matically create a bond, a fellowship between them? Possibly. But the tie of Freemasonry certainly does, and the convivial spirit at the Scottish Rite dinner, the Potentate's Ball, the Lodge meeting, or many other Masonic events drives home the wonderful ties of Freemasonry.

plan on it! a RiteCare vision for the future

Here we are in the last third of 2022, and what a year we have had. War in the Ukraine, supply chain shortages, increased prices at the gas pump. While reading the news is a depressing prospect, we have had a positive year in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. New members have joined across the Orient. Our Walks for RiteCare, RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit, and fundraisers have done well this year, and Brethren have stepped up to support RiteCare services and our philanthropies in significant ways.

Scottish Rite Masons are looking forward to breaking ground on the new RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln, greatly expanding services and therapy for children in Lancaster County. Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons have been chosen

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Orient Calendar

- Sept 16.....Aperitif and Digestif tasting (O)
- Sept 21..... Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 7, 14, 21, 28Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Oct 15.....Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Oct 5, 12, 19, 26Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Oct 28.....Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)
- Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Nov 4.....Nebraska RiteCare Fall Retreat in Lincoln
- Nov 4-5Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Nov 17, 18, 19.....Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
- Dec 7, 14, 21, 28.....Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Dec 19Omaha Christmas Banquet (O)

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

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23, Jan 27, Feb 24

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20

**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



The Alliance Valley goes dark during July and August, as I write this. Alliance is celebrating Heritage Days, and the Scottish Rite is serving lunch after the parade - pulled pork sandwiches and sides, and we anticipate a good crowd.

Of course, I am proud of the Scottish Rite's support for Community Table, which is addressing food insecurity in Alliance. Local families and businesses continue to step up to provide food and serve anyone needing a meal in the Scottish Rite's dining room.



The Smith and Schulze families provided food and served meals recently.

Our Fall Reunion will be on November 4th and 5th. We weren't able to hold the Spring Reunion earlier this year, so I am looking forward to the Reunion. If you have Candidates, please forward them a petition and invite them to join the Scottish Rite to continue their Masonic journey.

We always welcome your involvement as a Line officer, help on a Reunion Degree team, help with the stage crew, or simply to sit on the side lines to watch Degrees and and welcome our new 32° Scottish Rite Brethren. The Scottish Rite both complements and builds upon the lessons of Blue Lodge Masonry, so please encourage Brethren in your Lodge to submit a petition for the Fall Reunion.

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



Les Seiler, 33°: Spotlight on a Scottish Rite Mason

M.W. Brother Lester R. Seiler, 33° was born in Red Cloud and raised in Madison, Nebraska. He graduated Madison High School in 1959, Wayne State College in 1963, the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1966, and the Judge Advocate General's Corps School of Military Law from the University of Virginia in 1967. Les and his wife, Jo, have three children and eight grandchildren.

After graduation from the UNL College of Law, Les began working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Nebraska Attorney General's office. In 1967, he joined the US Army where he served with an Artillery Forward Observer unit, later moving into the Army Reserve and National Guard JAG Corps for a total of ten years' service.

In 1970, Les and Jo moved their family to Hastings where he joined the Seiler & Parker Law firm, retiring in 2016 as Senior Partner after 46 years as an active attorney. Les also served as a Nebraska State Senator representing District #33 from 2012 to 2017. During his Senate term, he served on several committees and was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Brother Les and his family have a long Masonic Legacy. His great-great grandfather, John Ray, was a member of Fremont Lodge #15. Great-grandfather

G. W. Ray, and his father, Harold E. Seiler, were members of Globe Lodge #13 in Madison, Nebraska. Les' sons Greg and Brad are members of Hastings Midwest Lodge #317, Tehama Shrine and the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite. His Daughter, Stephanie, was active in Job's Daughters.

As a member of Midwest Lodge #317 Les was very active, serving in all the Lodge offices and as Master in 1997. He later led the Nebraska Masons as the 138th Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 2004. Over 700 new Master Masons were raised during his year as Grand Master. Les served in a number of positions in Tehama Shriners including Potentate in 1982 and Shrine Bowl Chairman. He was the head of all four Lodges in Scottish Rite and served as Personal Representative to the S.G.I.G of Nebraska for many years. With Ron Swanson, 32°, Les helped found the RiteCare Clinic within the Hastings Scottish Rite. Les was Coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary on December 12, 1995.

Throughout his career, Les has been recognized for outstanding leadership in many areas of his work, including: the 2014 Mystery Son of Madison, Nebraska, 2015 Distinguished Scottish Rite Mason, 2015 ACLU Bill of Rights Award and Chairman of the Madison Sesquicentennial Celebration.

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE
Hastings Valley
Fall Reunion
Saturday, October 15, 2022
Call Phil Odom, 33° at
(402) 462-5813 or e-mail
podom@hastingsmasonic.org

Emily Hass, UNK Clinical Fellow, Studying to be the Next Generation of Speech Pathologists

I have had the opportunity to provide telepractice services through the UNK RiteCare Clinic for three semesters in my graduate career.



Through this experience, I was challenged to create fun, engaging activities for each client. I was initially hesitant to provide services via Zoom because I am not the most tech-savvy person. However, I quickly found my groove and grew to love telepractice! It was very rewarding seeing the kids light up and engage in teletherapy activities while simultaneously making progress towards their speech and language goals. The client's parents were also very appreciative for having the opportunity to receive services from their home. Not only is teletherapy convenient for the families, but it also allows clinicians to reach out to more individuals who are in need of speech and language services. I believe that teletherapy will become more and more popular in the future, and I am glad to have had this experience practicing through the UNK RiteCare Clinic in graduate school.



*Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite Summer Reunion
June 24th and 25th, 2022*

Front Row (left to right): David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Dan Bolin, 32°, Nick Hanson 32°, Michael Gray, 33°

Second Row: Dale Lueders, 33°, Stephen Tobiassen, 32°, Edward Boone, 32°, Wade Kendle, 32°, William Nelson, 33°, Dennis Brydl, 33°

Third Row: Andy Seachord, 32°, Rodney Poskochil, 32° KCCH, Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH, Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH

Fourth Row: Nick Furchert, 32°, Micheal, Buchardt, 33°, Steve Nelson, 32°

Fifth Row: Ray Dimmick, 32° KCCH, Dennis Mundt, 32°, Eric Bachenberg, 32° KCCH, Edward Bennett, 32° KCCH

The Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite welcomed three new members at the Summer Reunion on June 24th-25th, 2022. The Reunion began on Friday evening with the presentation of the 4° and 14°, and the 5°-13° communicated in the John D. VerMaas Lodge Room.

On Saturday, the Reunion resumed with the 18°, 29°, 30°, and 32°, with the intervening Degrees communicated in the Lodge room. Few Scottish Rite Valleys do Reunion work on the Lodge floor, which makes for some unique Degree work. Among the most impressive work is the tent scene of the 32°, where members march in before taking their places at the tents. Rather than see the tents represented on a scenic backdrop, the Class exemplar is escorted to each tent on the Lodge floor for the lectures at each station.

Afterward, Dan Wellendorf, 33°, joined the Class and Brethren in 'Chuck's Place' to place 32° caps on our new Brethren, and welcome the members to the Lincoln Scottish Rite.



The procession for the 32° Prince of the Royal Secret Degree



Ed Bennett places a 32° cap on Nick



Deputy Dan Wellendorf with members of the Summer Reunion Class

Lincoln Scottish Rite Removes Chimney in Emergency Project



On April 12th, the chimney on the Lincoln Scottish Rite was struck by lightning, knocking some bricks into the alley. The alley was closed, and the Valley immediately appropriated \$18,500 to remove the entire chimney, which allowed the alley to be re-opened for traffic.

To help pay for this project, the Lincoln Valley sent an appeal asking for members to donate \$50.00 or more as a voluntary assessment. More than 30 Scottish Rite Masons answered the appeal, raising several thousand dollars as of June 30th.

If you would like to contribute toward this project, you can send a tax-deductible donation to the Lincoln Scottish Rite, or donate online at <https://www.scottishritelincn.org/chimney-appeal>. All money raised by this voluntary assessment underwrites the cost of this project, and helps the Valley reduce financial demands on the endowment.



WalkRite for RiteCare™

14th Annual WalkRite for RiteCare Raises \$7,500 for Speech and Language Therapy



Since 1975, Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons have funded RiteCare speech and language therapy for children, supporting thousands of sessions of therapy for children, without regard to a family's ability to pay.

On Saturday, June 18th, Omaha Scottish Rite Masons hosted the 14th annual WalkRite for RiteCare at Chalco Hills Recreation Area to support that mission.

Around 100 RiteCare families and Scottish Rite Masons turned out on a warm, sunny day to walk at Lake Wehrspann, enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers hosted by the Culinary Masters, face paintings by clowns, purchase raffle tickets for extraordinary gift baskets donated by the RiteCare families, and participate in kid-friendly activities hosted by the UNO Nebraska Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA).

WalkRite for RiteCare raised \$7,500 this year, with all proceeds going toward RiteCare speech therapy services through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha.



While the event helps raise funds to continue speech therapy, it is also a celebration of the partnership between the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) Speech Pathologists, the Scottish Rite Masons, and the families. It is a chance to have fun, show how much we care about the families, and sustain the future of RiteCare speech therapy," said Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of the Speech department.

Scottish Rite PICNIC

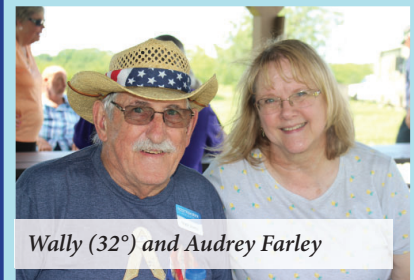


Tracy McClarnon, 32° and his family at the Scottish Rite Members Picnic

The Omaha Scottish Rite could not have ordered a better summer's day for the Membership Picnic on Sunday, June 12th. Held at the Bur-Oak Picnic Pavilion at Mahoney State Park, more than 30 Scottish Rite Masons and their families came out for a family picnic. After some light morning rain, the afternoon weather was a warm 90°, but a cool breeze and the shade of the picnic pavilion kept everyone from getting too hot.

The Culinary Masters served freshly made pulled pork sandwiches, beans, and chips, with Greg Swinarski's famous s'mores afterward made over the fire pit.

It was a perfect day for the Scottish Rite family picnic, and everyone enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of fellowship and great food!



Wally (32°) and Audrey Farley



Sarah Chambers, Tristan and Emma

Lincoln Scottish Rite Hosts the annual **WALKRITE FOR RITECARE**

The Lincoln Scottish Rite and the Lincoln RiteCare Clinicians – Holly Schlautman and Suzie Budzinski – hosted the annual Walk for RiteCare at Pioneer Park on Saturday, July 9th. About 30 RiteCare families and children enjoyed a morning of perfect weather for games, bike or scooter riding, bubbles, and snacks. Kids received RiteCare backpacks stuffed with applesauce packs, chips, and goldfish crackers. The Clinicians also brought Eileen’s cookies, and the kids enjoyed decorating their cookies with frosting and sprinkles.

At 10:30 am, Holly and Suzie led a mile-long walk around Pioneer Park, and families returned to the picnic pavilion for bean bag toss or for kids to play at the adjoining playground.

Proceeds from the Walk support RiteCare services in Lincoln.



Holly Schlautmann helps the kids decorate their cookies



Some of the RiteCare kids rode bikes around the trail at Pioneer Park




Call them "Sir"
THREE NEBRASKA BRETHREN RECEIVE ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND DEGREE

Tim Peters, Carl Diamond, and Carl Simmons joined the Royal Order of Scotland on Saturday, June 25th in Knoxville, Tennessee. There, they received the two degrees of the Royal Order of Scotland: the Heredom of Kilwinning and the Knight of the Rosy Cross Degrees.

These degrees are conferred entirely without scripts and include a considerable amount of rhyming verse, and reference many other Masonic Degrees throughout. The Royal Order of Scotland has existed since at least 1741, and the Order dates its origin to King David I in the 12th century for the Heredom Degree, with the Rosy Cross originating in 1314 after the Battle of Bannockburn.

The Royal Order of Scotland welcomes

members who have given exemplary service to Freemasonry, their church, or the community. The newest members have certainly met those requirements.

Tim Peters has served as Master of all three York Rite bodies, as well as Capitol Lodge #3. He is active as an officer in the Scottish Rite, Knights of St. Andrew, and a member of the Order of the Holy Spirit, a Hospitaller Order which provides care for the blind. Carl Diamond is a 5-time Past Master of Centennial Lodge #326, and is National 1st Vice President in the National Sojourners®, Past National Commander of the Heroes of '76°, serves as Secretary for the Sojourners and Heroes' Chapter and Camp, and heads Centennial Lodge's flag project, placing 8,000+ American Flags on veterans graves each year for Memorial Day.



Carl Diamond, 32°, Tim Peters, 32°, and Carl Simmons, 32°

Carl Simmons is Past Master of Albert Pike Lodge #333, an officer in the Scottish Rite, Past Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew, and is active in Downtown Omaha, Inc. Carl Diamond was called upon to provide the Sojourners Toast to the Flag at the banquet afterward, an impressive poem honoring the American Flag.

The Provincial Grand Lodge for the Royal Order of Scotland confers Degrees twice a year at locations around the nation, for which Omaha hosted the Conferral in 2019. Nebraska has 67 members of the Royal Order of Scotland.



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022
SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

Join the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite for an elegant evening, featuring a fine wine and Scotch tasting, a gourmet dinner, and extraordinary silent and live auctions. The evening benefits RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic services through the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Visit www.FriendsofRiteCare.org
for more information



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON. NEW MEMBERSHIP BANNERS HUNG AT OMAHA SCOTTISH RITE

The Omaha Scottish Rite installed new banners in the east courtyard, using membership material designed for the Masonic *Not Just a Man. A Mason.* campaign. This membership campaign, sponsored by the Scottish Rite House of the Temple, Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, and Shriners International, created material for use by any Masonic body, with the website www.beafreemason.org created specifically to promote Masonic membership. A wide range of posters, banners, social media graphics, videos, and logos are available at www.scottishritenmj.org/njam. These banners in Omaha will be changed out periodically with a new message from the *NJAMAM* membership campaign.

Membership, *continued*

Any Mason even remotely active in the fraternity, regardless of which group or body, already knows.

In these times of continued, and seemingly endless, social distancing and standing six feet from one another, the shared connection, friendship, laughter, and fellowship seems to me to be the strongest point to promote Masonic membership to prospective members.

Anyone can be philanthropic from the comfort of their recliner and laptop, and you can “belong” to any number of groups via social media. Freemasonry offers the hands-on connectivity that people crave.

Now let's be honest here. We know that Freemasonry will never have the membership resurgence as we did in the 1950s. Membership will always be a



Centennial Lodge #326 welcomes a good crowd for the fish fry friendship night this past June

an issue in our fraternity, and the fastest way to pick a fight among Masons is to debate how to address that issue!

Lodges are reporting a slow and steady stream of good men who want the hands-on, family fun Masonry offers, and every Lodge seems to have a few candidates in the pipeline, and an

Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason waiting to demonstrate proficiency and take the next Degree. We can capitalize on that interest by inviting potential candidates to join us for the Lodge potluck, social night at the bowling alley, or evening at the ballgame. And if the Lodge doesn't have a social event on the calendar, create one! Besides the dozen members and their wives ready to get out of the house for an event, I would bet there are an equal number of friends, neighbors, co-workers, or relatives who also want to partake in the fun of in-person events. And I'd even go double-or-nothing with you that some of those guests may turn in a petition!

So kudos to all those Lodges that are hosting great events for members and showing us that Freemasonry remains as important and relevant as ever!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

... continued from page 1

to host the 2024 national RiteCare Conference. Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) from around the nation, representing around 180 RiteCare Clinics, will come to Omaha, Nebraska to learn and share best practices, to see how Nebraska's RiteCare services are growing across the state and continue to be offered without regard to a family's ability to pay.

I hope you are as proud as I am of our Scottish Rite philanthropies across the state, and I hope you share our charitable accomplishments with your Lodge brethren, family, and friends.

As we start thinking about the holidays and year-end, please consider a few ways to support the Scottish Rite Foundation in your Valley.

- Year-end gift or 401(k) distribution, which offers certain tax advantages,
- A Charitable Gift Annuity, also providing tax advantages, as well as income now,
- Remembering your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation in your estate planning or will,
- The gift of stocks or securities,

- A pledge toward RiteCare or your favorite Masonic philanthropy, which can be paid out monthly, quarterly, or annually over several years.
- The Rose Croix Society has more than fifty Scottish Rite Masons who have pledged \$1,000/year toward the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska over five years. This money directly supports RiteCare services while reducing the need to dip into portfolio reserves. To join the Rose Croix Society, simply call me to discuss how you want to contribute (monthly, quarterly, annually by check or credit card)
- Or simply shop! Please remember to visit <http://smile.amazon.com>, and select the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. A portion of your purchase is donated directly to RiteCare. To date, several hundred dollars has been donated purely by shoppers using Amazon!

You can always reach me at (402) 342-1300 or micah@SRNE.org to discuss these options or learn more. Thank you for all you do for our Masonic philanthropies, **and thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.**

- Micah Evans, 33°
Orient Development Director

Micah I. Evans, 33°

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

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

Name	Valley
Dan Alati	Omaha
Kenneth Beebe	Lincoln
Charles Bukin	Lincoln
John Cooke	Omaha
William Cook, Jr.	Lincoln
Sam Grassmick	Alliance
Schadd Gray	Omaha
Peter Hartwig	Lincoln
Charles Hastings	Hastings
James Heinke	Lincoln
Virgil Johnson	Omaha
William Kimme	Omaha
Mel Morton	Omaha
Terry Nelson	Omaha
Charlie Odorizzi	Omaha
Robert Pelletier	Omaha
Michael Roe	Lincoln
Charles Sederstrom, Jr.	SGIG Emeritus
Donald Shiu, Jr.	Omaha
Carl Simmons	Omaha
Ronald Stites	Omaha
Michael Stuhr	Omaha
James Turpen	Omaha
Gary Unger	Omaha
Douglas Wasson	Hastings
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.**

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