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Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the



Orient of Nebraska

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Membership

Another Grand Lodge jurisdiction has a page on their website dedicated to “how to be a good leader.” The page has some sound advice on how to run an efficient meeting, how to delegate, communicate, manage time, and offers pertinent advice relating to the effective governance of the Lodge. This is effective Lodge management. . . but not really leadership. The terms leadership and management are often used interchangeably; while there is a great deal of overlap, there are significant



R. W. Mike Stuhr receives the jewel of Grand Senior Warden from M. W. Jim Carlton. Leadership in Freemasonry is conferred as a badge of authority, but how do Masons build leaders at the Lodge level from men who may not have any experience in true leadership?

differences between the two. Harvard Business School professor Joe Fuller wrote that “*Management* is getting the confused, misguided, unmotivated, and misdirected to accomplish a common purpose on a regular, recurring basis.” Professor John Kotter wrote that “*Leadership* is the creation of positive, non-incremental change, including the creation of a vision to guide that change—a strategy—the empowerment of people to make the vision happen despite obstacles, and the

creation of a coalition of energy and momentum that can move that change forward.”

Harvard Business School Dean Nitrin Nohria elaborated on this, writing that “Management is working with other people to make sure the goals of the organization are executed. Leadership is about developing what those goals should be. It is about driving change.”

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plan on it!

a RiteCare vision for the future

Fundraisers always keep their thumbs on the pulse of donors, and keep an eye out to spot giving trends. In 2023, two trends have really come to the forefront in how and why people choose to give.

Among the items that the fundraising community has seen on the rise is *trust-based philanthropy*. Trust-based fundraising is about building relationships between donors and non-profits that are both more power-equal and trusting of non-profits to behave with transparency and ethics.

In the past, a major donor might

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Orient Calendar

- May 17..... Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31..... Wednesday Lunches (H)
- May 26-27.....Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
- June 5, 12, 19, 26..... Wednesday Lunches (H)
- June 18 (tentative) WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
- June 28 Alliance Meeting in Bridgeport (A)
- July 5, 12, 19, 26..... Wednesday Lunches (H)
- Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Lunches (H)
- Aug 20-22Supreme Council Biennial Session
- Sept 20..... Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 29..... RiteCare Classic (O)
- Oct 7.....Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Oct 20.....KCCCH Investiture (Lincoln Scottish Rite)
- Oct 21..... Thirty-Third Coronation (Omaha Scottish Rite)
- Oct 27-28.....Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Oct 29..... Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)

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

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug 25,
Sept 22, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

May 2, June 6, July TBD, Aug 1,
Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16,
Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug 21,
Sept 15, Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 18

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

- Art Stricker, 33° (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
- Phil Odom, 33° (Hastings) (402) 462-5813
- Bruce Wood, 33° (Lincoln)..... (402) 435-2144
- John Maxell, 33° (Omaha)..... (402) 342-1300

When I first came on board as General Secretary, one of the conversations I had with “Deputy Dan” was growing our Valley - members, engagement, and support for our RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic philanthropy.



One of our challenges we face are members spread across the Panhandle, and many of us can't just hop on over to Alliance, particularly during planting season or harvest season. But we are going to make an effort to encourage members to be involved when and where they can.

To kick things off, we had a wine tasting in February, and I gave a presentation on Brother George Washington. In March, we welcomed Jessica Manion, our financial advisor from Raymond James, who spoke about the state of our investments. On April 28th, we had dinner at Ken and Dale's in Alliance, followed by a meeting and discussion of the May 26-27th Reunion.

Our June meeting will also be in Alliance. On July 29th, we are meeting in Bridgeport at Peter G. Lapaseotes' lake for barbecue and paddle-boating from 1 pm to 7 pm. On September 22nd, we will meet in Scottsbluff. Our Fall Reunion will be on October 27th and 28th. I'd like every Brother to make an effort to join us, even for just a Degree or two. Join us for a donut, some fellowship, some great Degree work, and to welcome our new Brethren.

Our members continue to do great things within Nebraska Freemasonry. I am proud of that, and I hope you are, too. And I invite you to be part of the conversation about the future of Freemasonry, particularly the Valley of Alliance. Please let me know if you want a meeting in your town, and we will set that up.

One of our conversations will be about dues. Community Table and RiteCare are our charities, but the Scottish Rite shouldn't be. Dues haven't been increased since 2010, and we need to consider this option, particularly to maintain our building and our commitment to RiteCare. This won't be done without the input and discussion with Brethren.

Get involved. This is *YOUR* Valley, and we are going to do great things with the Valley of Alliance in the coming years!

~ Art Stricker, 33°
General Secretary
artstricker77@gmail.com



Hastings Clinicians Awarded Grant for Communication Sign at Crosier Park


Hastings Clinicians Kris Althouse, MA, CCC-SLP and Sydney Norton, MS, CCC-SLP recently applied for and were awarded a grant through the Hastings Community Foundation, which will place a post-mounted 70x19" communication board at the playground at Crosier Park.

This sign, produced by Talk To Me Technologies and customized by the RiteCare Speech-Language Pathologists, will have appropriate symbols and vocabulary to meet children's communication needs at the playground. This sign offers viable communication methods for minimally vocal or non-speaking

children, or children in need of a way to communicate their wants during play.

"The idea came from visiting the park almost every weekend in the summer," Clinician Sydney Norton said. "While playing with my son, I noticed that the park had many great aspects that provide a fun and safe way for children with disabilities to play. However, I also noticed that although there is a board with American Sign Language (ASL), a way for children to communicate in a more robust way was missing. With many caregivers or unfamiliar conversation partners not always knowing ASL, a symbol-based communication system was needed to

Pencil Us In



Give Hastings Day
May 4, 2023

Give Hastings Day is a day of online giving which supports the RiteCare Clinics and the philanthropies of the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation

www.givehastings.org/RiteCare



include our children with speech and language disorders. It is difficult for children who use a communication device to carry those throughout the playground. Giving another option that children can use to communicate without interrupting their play is so important!"

BALLOON THERAPY

At RiteCare Hastings | MMI, one of the items we requested from the Friends of RiteCare Dinner hosted in Omaha this past Fall was a hand balloon pump. Since the arrival of COVID-19, we have been unable to use balloons (a highly motivating therapy activity). Imagine our excitement when the 2-pack of pumps were delivered as an early Christmas present!

Since their arrival, our patients have been thrilled and encouraged by the balloon fun, but the therapy targets it has inspired in the kids have been even better than anticipated! I especially love using this activity with my little patients who have Childhood Apraxia of Speech, a disorder in which the brain struggles to develop the plan for the movement of speech.

While getting ready to use the pump, I help my patients sequence the intricate movements to say any number of single and multi-word utterances, such as: *on, put on, I pump, pump up, I go, I do it, big, go off, you do, and help me.* Our clients' deficits with productions often forces us to simplify words into simpler syllables or syllable shapes, and to maximize motor learning we need to attempt multiple repetitions of the same speech target. However, multiple repetitions are no problem when we use such a highly motivating activity like balloons!

We have been delighted to use the balloon pumps in therapy and are extremely grateful for this gift provided by the Scottish Rite Masons!

by Kris Althouse, M.A., CCC-SLP
Hastings RiteCare Clinician



Haggis, Scotch, and Verse

Lincoln Scottish Rite Celebrates Robert Burns Dinner

The Valley of Lincoln celebrated the annual Robert Burns Dinner, honoring the memory of Scotland's most famous son - the Ploughman Poet and Freemason Robert Burns, who was born on January 25, 1759 and died in 1796.

Robert Burns died 226 years ago at age 37 - the victim of a rheumatic heart condition or, as some say, his licentious lifestyle. Burns is still heralded as Scotland's most famous son. His life is celebrated each year on his birthday the world over with dinner, Scotch, his poems and music, and of course, haggis, the national dish of Scotland. The Valley of Lincoln joined in the celebration of the Ploughman Poet on January 28th with a Burns Celebration.



Chef Andy Seachord, 32° hit a home run with a phenomenal dinner

Andy Seachord, 32° served a fantastic dinner beginning with salad and Cullen Skink, a hearty soup traditionally made with smoked haddock. The main course was a bacon wrapped pork tenderloin, creamy mashed potatoes, and roasted Brussel sprouts. For dessert, Andy served cranachan, a quintessential Scottish combining the ingredients Scotland is known for: oats, honey, and a healthy splash of whiskey. Andy substituted pears for raspberries, which one guest insisted was the best he had ever had!



The Toast to the Lassies and Reply to the Laddies was given by Gary Olsen, 32° and his wife Jennifer

Nick Furchert, 32° chaired the evening as Knight Master for the Knights of St. Andrew, and served as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed 60 guests for the evening, which began with cocktails and for many, a wee dram of their favorite Scotch.

Lincoln musician Chris Sayre entertained guests with a variety of Scottish songs, and anecdotes.

Micah Evans, 33° gave the Selkirk Grace and read Ode to the Haggis, and the Knights of St. Andrew marched in procession with the guest of honor - the haggis, which was served with crackers.



Edward Boone, 32° and Dennis Hecht, 32° Bringing in the Haggis

The Toast to the Lassies and Reply to the Laddies is often hilarious and endearing, and a traditional part of every Burns Dinner. Gary Olsen, 32° gave a wonderful toast, with his wife Jennifer.

Nick closed the evening, thanking guests for attending and playing "The Parting Glass," which is traditionally played at the end of a gathering of friends. Next year's Burns Dinner is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2024.



LINCOLN IS COMING!

Give to Lincoln Day is a day of online giving on May 24, 2023.

Your online gift through the Lincoln Community Foundation will benefit the Lincoln RiteCare Clinics, the Teacher of the Year award, and the philanthropies of the Scottish Rite.

www.givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/ritecare

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The Lincoln Valley Knights of St. Andrew welcomed a new Knight into the fold at their regular meeting on Monday, March 13. Nick Hanson was elevated from Squire to Knight by Knight Master Justin Williamson, with the assistance of Knights Nick Furchert, Greg Prosofski, and Andy Seachord. Also in attendance was Knight Adam Thayer and Knight Emeritus David Bloomquist. Knight Hanson was raised in Hickman Lodge #256 in 2021 and joined the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite in 2022.



Knight Emeritus Bloomquist was presented with a medal by the Chapter for his contributions as one of the Charter Members.

Those interested in the Lincoln KSA can reach out to any KSA member. The Chapter meets at 6 PM on the Monday prior to monthly Scottish Rite meeting.



Jane presents Michael Duffy with his 32° Scottish Rite cap; Roy Bradburn, 32° and Carl Simmons, 32°, the Rubber Chicken accepts the Degree Work Hall of Fame award on behalf of Chris Carter, 32° KCCH; EA Mason-elect Andrew Beckner is excited for ice cream!

Celebrating the Ladies

Always one of the best attended evenings of the year, Scottish Rite Masons celebrated our ladies at the February 20th Ladies Night at the 'Rite dinner. Over 120 Scottish Rite Masons enjoyed a great evening with a steak and shrimp dinner, served by the Culinary Masters. The Lodge of Perfection officers gave each lady a stick pin with a red or white rosette as a gift.

Lee Terry, 33° started the evening off with his Ethics Series debate. Former City Councilor Ben Gray and Doug Kagan from the Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom debated a California proposal to pay "comprehensive reparations" amounting to \$223,000/person to descendants of slaves harmed by a historical system of oppression.

Venerable Master John Hardy, 32° KCCH served as emcee for the evening. After dinner, John welcomed members from the Fall, 2022 Reunion, and their ladies. The ladies presented their husbands with their 32° caps and their 2023 membership cards.

Paul Rutherford, 33°, Okley Gibbs, 33°, Chris Carter, 32° KCCH, and Steven Barchus, 33° were also recognized as our newest members of the Degree Work Hall of Fame for fantastic work at Scottish Rite Reunions.

Ladies Night at the 'Rite has been a popular favorite at the Scottish Rite, and definitely a dinner not worth missing! Mark your calendar for next February and plan to be here for a great evening.

Centerpiece Therapy

Membership Secretary Cheryl Wonder is always thinking about how we raise the prestige of our Lodge dinners and events. For Ladies Night, Cheryl created beautiful floral centerpieces for the February dinner. Thank Cheryl for taking time each month to make our Lodge dinners special for both members and our ladies!



"You can take my life, but my chili - never!" Chris Olson from Florence Lodge #281 reacts to T.J. Brumfield, 32° winning the chili cook-off

Omaha Knights of St. Andrew Host Super Bowl Party

The Knights of St. Andrew hosted a Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 12th at the Scottish Rite. More than 20 KSA members, their ladies, and Brethren from area Lodges attended for an informal evening of football and fellowship.

Members brought their own chili recipes for a chili cook-off competition, including T.J. Brumfield, 32° and Chris Olson from Florence Lodge #281. T.J.'s brisket chili was declared the winner of the Super Bowl party chili cook-off.

The Scottish Rite even picked up a petition from Chris Olson, who said, "I had always heard that the Scottish Rite was the path to a deeper understanding of Masonry, and it is finally time for me to take this journey."

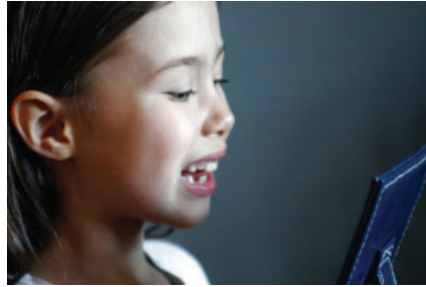
Roy Bradburn, 32°, Senior Warden for the Knights of St. Andrew called the Super Bowl party a great success and is looking forward to next year's Super Bowl party to continue building fellowship among members, but also as an event to promote the Scottish Rite to non-members.

Omaha Scottish Rite Masons Donate iPads to RiteCare Clinic

submitted by Jessica Gormley, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Interim RiteCare Director

The Omaha RiteCare Clinicians were thrilled to learn about the generous donation in December from the “Time for Change” fundraiser, making it possible to purchase 4 iPads fully stocked with communication software!

What a wonderful Christmas surprise for our Clinic! These iPads will be used to help children to “find their voice” even if they are not able to speak. Each iPad will have a variety of specialized speech-generating apps loaded, helping kids communicate during our AAC Preschool, AAC Evaluations, and treatment sessions.



The Omaha Consistory officers undertook the “Time for Change” fundraiser in 2022. Each Scottish Rite officer contributed change in a mason jar, with a competition on who raised the most individually and as an officers’ line. “A Time for Change” raised \$2,000, which was donated for the iPads.

With the simple touch of a screen, the kids can ask for their favorite toys, tell their families “I love you”, share jokes with friends, and more! With the addition of this new technology, we now can loan our older devices to families between sessions so the kids can continue to practice communicating with their loved ones at home! We are so grateful for your generosity and can not wait to see the impact this technology will have on the kids and families we serve!



Omaha Masons Present the Colors at Annual Communication

The National Sojourners® is a Masonic organization for Masons who served in the United States uniformed services. Within the National Sojourners is the Heroes of ‘76®, an auxiliary organization whose mission is to attend and support patriotic events in colonial attire.

Each year, Heroes traditionally present the colors at Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in Kearney, Nebraska. This year, the team consisted of Omaha members Cecil Smith, Bill Pickle, Dan Alati, Micah Evans, and Carl Diamond.

Carl Diamond gave the Toast the Flag, a poem written in 1917, honoring the United States flag.

Nebraska RiteCare Clinic Welcomes Interim Director Jessica Gormley, Ph.D.

In July 2022, Jessica Gormley, Ph.D, CCC-SLP stepped into the Interim Director role for the Department of Speech Pathology at Munroe-Meyer Institute. Dr. Gormley is Assistant Scottish Rite Professor, Research Coordinator, and a Speech-Language Pathologist at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Dr. Gormley earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Speech and Hearing Handicapped from the State University of New York at Geneseo, a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and a Ph.D in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Pennsylvania State University.

Her research and clinical interests center upon improving interactions among kids and adults with complex communication needs, their families, and health care providers. She has extensive training and experience serving infants, children, and adults with complex medical needs in inpatient settings to meet their speech, communication, and swallowing needs.

Dr. Gormley is currently collaborating with a group of researchers from Pennsylvania State University, Madonna Rehab Hospital, and Koester Performance Institute on the federally funded Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (RERC on AAC) project “mTraining in AAC for Communication Partners.” She is also the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI on grants from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. Dr. Gormley is a co-organizer for the Patient-Provider Communication Network. She also has co-authored several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the topics of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in acute care, personalization of patient-provider communication, and child-parent-provider communication interactions.



POSTCARDS



by Matthew Parker, 32°
mwparser42@gmail.com

Nebraska Masons Visit Washington, D.C. for George Washington Masonic Memorial Cornerstone Centennial Celebration

W.B. Matt Parker, Senior Warden Matthew Beahm, and Junior Warden Sean Reed from Nebraska Lodge #1 joined M.W. Russ Reno, P.G.M., and M.W. John Millington in Washington, D.C. for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial cornerstone re-dedication on Monday, February 20th in Alexandria, Virginia. Over 4,000

Masons from around the world arrived in Virginia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone dedication for American Freemasonry's tribute to George Washington and the values of freedom and patriotism.

The delegation also visited the Scottish Rite House of the Temple. Grand Com-

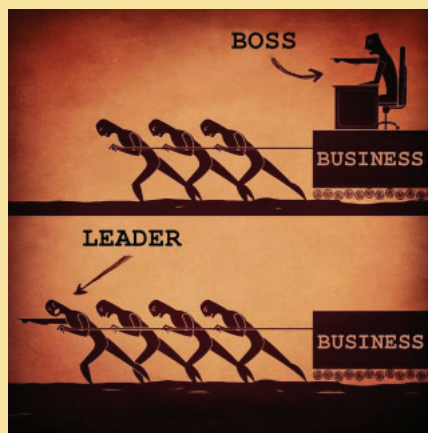
mander, James D. Cole, 33° took time to meet with the Nebraska members, giving them a tour of his office and speaking about the symbolism. The Nebraska Masons toured the historic House of the Temple, and of course posed for pictures in the Grand Commander's seat in the Supreme Council meeting room! "Today was once in a lifetime!" said Matt.

Membership, continued

As an analogy, a movie producer establishes the goals and visions for the production, while the director is a manager, executing that vision.

Being the manager does not necessarily make you a leader. While the best managers are leaders, the two titles are not synonymous. Freemasonry makes a great deal out of developing leadership skills, but it is more factual to say that we place more stock in members being effective managers.

If leadership is defined by strategic goals and vision, is it even worth talking about leadership in the Lodge when it is only for a single year, with a next year's Master potentially heading in a new direction? Should we simply focus on effective management instead? It certainly behooves



Whether in business or in Masonry, we need to develop the skills of true leadership as well as the skills of effective management

incoming Master to develop true leadership ability as he moves up the officer line, so his Wardens, Deacons, Stewards, and members are heading in the same direction during the year he is serving in the East.

As Master, however, leadership of the Lodge comes without any authority beyond what is granted by Grand Lodge by-laws. A culture of leadership without a true hierarchical structure or vested authority (as in a corporate or military organization) may actually be beneficial for us. Every member, regardless of his background, can develop the skills of leadership with the right opportunities and mentoring. The Master's passion and enthusiasm can inspire members to embrace the mission and relevance of the Lodge "of their own freewill and accord," without anyone having to be directed to do so.

Every Mason brings varied skills to the Craft. If we can build a culture of true leadership, our respective talents will grow the fraternity and develop the membership for positive growth.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

... continued from page 1

make a significant gift, and expect to receive financial statements and reports quantifying the return on investments. Donors wanted positive proof that the do-



nation not only went to the purpose for which the gift was given, but that the donation itself was generating tangible results. This might mean reporting on the number of children seen in a specific county, or scholarships awarded to recipients below the poverty line.

Today, the Scottish Rite Foundations in Nebraska have seen an increase in donations given with less strings attached. This has come with years of work building trust with the membership, sharing our financial statements, and showing the positive results of RiteCare speech therapy and our Scottish Rite philanthropies. Members know that their \$100 donation, \$1,000 donation, or even \$10,000 donation will go to the intended cause, without undue "administrative costs" cutting into the value the gift was made to achieve.

You can't underestimate the value of trust-based giving. It frees the donor from having to check over his shoulder to see that the non-profit is actually carrying out the mission in an integritous

manner, and that donations are fulfilling the mission.

The second trend gaining a foothold has been an acceleration in legacy giving, with billions of dollars poised to change hands as the Baby Boomers age and pass their wealth to philanthropies or their children and grandchildren.

We see among Masons a marked increase in IRA Distributions and charitable gift annuities, as Scottish Rite Masons want to make their mark on future generations through our RiteCare Clinics and our Masonic philanthropies.

As "Deputy Dan" Wellendorf secures resources and commitments for the new Lincoln RiteCare Clinic, we have found numerous Brethren who not only trust the Scottish Rite to be proper stewards of their philanthropic dollars, but want to make their mark through a major gift or planned gift supporting the project. They know that the new Clinic will be serving Nebraska kids well into the future, and they want to support that cause.

As you look at your charitable giving for the coming year, I hope you will consider trusting the Scottish Rite Foundations to be the steward of your philanthropic dollars.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director

(402) 342-1300

micah@SRNE.org

SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: Sept. 1, 2022 - Sept. 30, 2023

Name	Valley
Dan Alati	Omaha
Ken Beebe	Lincoln
Charles Bukin	Lincoln
William Cook, Jr.	Lincoln
Peter Hartwig	Lincoln
Ben Harvey	Omaha
James Heinke	Lincoln
Gene Hokom	Hastings
Mel Morton	Omaha
Terry Nelson	Omaha
Robert Pelletier	Omaha
Ward Reesman	Lincoln
Michael Roe	Lincoln
Carl Simmons	Omaha
Ronald Stites	Omaha
Michael Stuhr	Omaha
George White	Hastings
William Workman	Lincoln

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.”*