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Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the



Orient of Nebraska

July-August 2023

Volume XIII, Issue 4

Membership

Sometimes Freemasonry feels like a battle between Digital Masonry vs Analog Masonry. On a daily basis, I am bombarded with dozens of e-mails from various Masonic bodies: my Lodges, the Scottish Rite, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library Blog, the Masonic Library & Museum Association, York Rite, Shrine, Masonic podcats, and other Masonic organizations. Add to that, a seemingly endless flow of social media posts, shares, comments, and “likes” from Masonic organizations.



Members of Mizpah Lodge #302 camping at Two Rivers State Recreation Area

Interestingly, however, there seems to be an organic reaction to all this digital Freemasonry.

Masons are unplugging and getting together for in-person fellowship outside the Lodge room. John J. Mercer Lodge #290 members enjoyed a firepit in their parking lot for great fellowship (though we hear their

Secretary remained plugged in, working on Masonic Band Camp on his laptop). A dozen Masons from Mizpah Lodge #302 went camping at Two Rivers State Recreation Area in April. The guys from Centennial Lodge #326 met for dinner at Lighthouse Bar, and Masons from Florence #281 enjoyed an evening of cigars and whiskey at Hearth Lounge. Springfield Lodge #112 and Mizpah Lodge #302 both held incredibly successful Easter Egg hunts, welcoming the community as well as members.

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plan on it!

a RiteCare vision for the future

Fundraisers are always quick to spot trends in how donors give. A decade ago, the “ice bucket challenge” was a popular activity to foster donations. Crowd-funding activities like GoFundMe have dramatically increased over the past several years, as well as numerous social media-driven campaigns.

The on-going war in Ukraine or recent hurricane damage illustrates a trend of donations given to address immediate and pressing humanitarian needs for those displaced from their homes and towns. Donations come in quickly and generously to support humanitarian causes, but often fall off just as quickly as the news cycle moves on to the next crisis elsewhere.

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Orient Calendar

- July 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesday Lunches (H)
- July 21 Wine Tasting (O)
- Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Lunches (H)
- Aug 5 Lobster Feed (O)
- Aug 20-22 Supreme Council Biennial Session
- Aug 25 Mezcal & Tequila Tasting (O)
- Sept 20 Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Lunches (H)
- Sept 29 RiteCare Classic (O)
- Oct 6 State RiteCare Retreat (at Lincoln Scottish Rite)
- Oct 7 Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesday Lunches (H)
- Oct 20 KCCH 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

July 28, Aug 25, Sept 22,
Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

July TBD, Aug 1, Sept 5,
Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20,
Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

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



The community is truly involved: 2nd graders from Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church & School served lunches at Community Table last October.

Community Table is a non-profit addressing food insecurity in Alliance, and has been our primary philanthropy at the Alliance Scottish Rite along with the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. I had the pleasure of meeting with Karen Benzel, one of the organizing directors of Community Table.

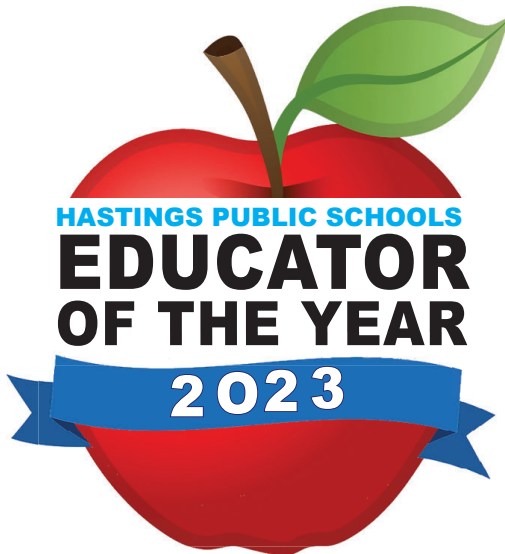
Karen recounted the history of Community Table, which began as an idea in the Spring, 2018, led the Alliance Ministerial Association, United Way, KAB and other organizations. It was originally formed by the Alliance Poverty Task Force, providing lunches for children in the area. Organizers quickly learned there were adults and senior citizens in the area who fell below the poverty rate. For many, these meals were the only good meal of the day. A steering committee realized that this service needed to be provided year round, which is when Community Table partnered with the Alliance Scottish Rite to use our kitchen and dining facilities to serve lunches.

Community Table coordinator Whitney Baldwin and her crew of volunteers cook and serve excellent meals, providing lunch for 30 to 60 people every day, insuring that no one in Alliance leaves hungry. The Alliance Scottish Rite is proud to support their mission of addressing food insecurity.

The Alliance Scottish Rite has also signed a contract, renting the dining hall to Foxhall, a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. Foxhall is one of the oldest AA meeting groups, established in the 1950s in Bellevue, Nebraska. Their “tie and jacket” meetings bring a quality speaker via Zoom, helping members improve their lives through sobriety.

You can see the Alliance Scottish Rite is working avidly to help improve the lives of the less fortunate in the Panhandle. Of course, RiteCare is our primary philanthropy statewide, though we have found Clinicians through the local school district have decreased the immediate need for speech therapy. Regardless, we remain committed to supporting services statewide for any child in the state who needs speech therapy.

The Alliance Valley is committed to being an essential part of our statewide Scottish Rite fraternity, as well as serving our communities and our region. I hope you will get involved to support the good work we do.



HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
**EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR**

2023

For teacher Jeff Bittfield, his job is all about celebrating successes and giving students the tools to succeed.

Jeff Bittfield recently was honored as the Hastings Public Schools Educator of the Year by the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings.

Bittfield grew up in Kenesaw and later graduated from Hastings College before spending 11 years as a special education teacher at Hastings High School.

“As a SPED teacher, I just wanted to kind of help the students’ caseload better. We were starting to see some more social emotional issues, and I wanted some more tools in my toolbox,” he said of the decision to go back for a counseling degree. While he was working toward his counseling endorsement, a counseling position opened up at the high school. Even though he wasn’t completely qualified at the time, Bittfield applied and was hired anyway.

“Jeff is a ray of sunshine. He is always greeting all students in the hallway- doing his best to be a welcoming warm environment. His students all respect and enjoy working with him.”

In his own high school experience, Bittfield said, he had two or three high school counselors, so he didn’t have the greatest picture of what the job entailed. But he’s come to discover it requires the wearing of many hats.



*Jeff Bittfield and Robin Koozer, 32°
KCCH*

Bittfield said his job is to focus on the total well-being of the student, from the classroom to social emotional well-being to plans for postsecondary life.

The counseling staff organizes both a college fair and a career fair each year to address that postsecondary plan for students. The counselors write letters of recommendation and help students fill out college and job applications. Recently they started small-group sessions for specifically-identified students who need a little extra support in the area of social emotional well-being. A lot of support is put forth on the front end as students move from Hastings Middle School to the high school — a major transition for all students.

In an attempt to ease students into the transition, the school organizes a freshman orientation. The biggest transition, he said, is getting students to realize that their classes, their grades and their credits are no longer just for fun, and now they actually mean something. “My observation is you really see a lot of growth from freshman to sophomore year, and that’s not the counselors. A lot of that is on the students,” he said. “That’s why we implemented the small group to focus on the freshmen and give some of the

kids those extra tools to be successful students here at Hastings High.”

Jeff is very involved in making sure his students have what they need to be prepared for college and career options

DANIEL SANCHEZ RAMOS HONORED AS SCOTTISH RITE AFJROTC CADET OF THE YEAR



Daniel Puckett, 32° presents a certificate to Daniel Sanchez Ramos

In his third year at the Grand Island High School AFJROTC Cadet Corp, Daniel Sanchez Ramos serves as this year’s Recruiting Officer. With membership still down from COVID, Daniel’s efforts resulted in the unit’s participation at six middle school conference days, speaking to interested parents and students.

Daniel has been involved in 36 community service events totaling over 73 hours (over 21 hours this year) and 58 leadership development requirement (LDR) events. These LDRs included planning committees, Color Guard training, morale team, etc. His community service ranges from feeding those in need every week at the local Salvation Army, fundraising for annual charity and scholarship donations, Loaves and Fishes (monthly food distribution to 550+ families), elementary school carnivals, and more. Daniel also got certified as a Color Guard member this year and took up duties as community service event Team Leader numerous times.

Academically, Daniel garnered a 3.625 term GPA last fall and is taking Advanced Placement Physics. He has grown immensely in taking the initiative and continual desire to lead.



Lincoln Scottish Rite Recognizes the 2023 Distinguished Educator of the Year

Teaching at Hartley Elementary was a dream job for Lacey Eddy. “I did not want to teach anywhere but Hartley Elementary School, Lacey said. “It was my dream job.”

More than twenty years after starting her dream job, Hartley and Lincoln Public Schools awarded Eddy the 2023 Distinguished Educator of the Year award at a surprise assembly in the Hartley gym, surrounded by students, colleagues, district leaders, and her family.

Eddy is a Lincoln native and LPS graduate, and was a single mom working at a day care when she discovered her love for education. She went to college, got her degree, and did both her practicum and student teaching at Hartley. When she graduated, Eddy secured a position teaching first grade there and never looked back.

Principal Rob Rickert said she is so well-known, families will request to come to Hartley to have their children in her class. “Miss Eddy has a way about her with instilling just love and joy in the way she teaches her students on a daily basis to just love coming to school,” Rickert said. “It’s one of the few classrooms that I can walk into where the students don’t stop and turn around and look at me when I walk in because they’re so engrossed in her teaching.”

Landon Beard, Eddy’s son, flew in from Brooklyn to surprise his mother along with Eddy’s sister, parents, and other family members. “I know how much of a difference she makes in kids’ lives. I still see people in town that are as old as me and that are like, ‘Hey, how’s Miss Eddy doing,’ and ‘Hey, she made this huge impact on my life and I still live with this mantra today because of what I learned in her class in first grade.”

“I absolutely love learning. I am passionate about learning new things as a teacher, trying new things as a teacher, and helping kids realize how much potential they have,” Eddy said. “Lacey is an exceptional educator. She has devoted her life to instilling the love of learning into all



Spring Reunion: April 27-28th, 2023

Back Row: John Knoell, 32°; Randy Rutt, 32°, Gene Sibley, 33°, Ray Dimick, 32° KCCH, Edward Bennett, 32° KCCH, Bruce Wood, 33°, Mike Lagueux, 32° KCCH, Suman Vallabhbhai, 32° KCCH, Nick Furchert, 32°

Middle Row: Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH, Pete Kruse, 32°, David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Rod Poskoch, 32° KCCH, Bill Cummins, 32° KCCH, Edward Boone, 32°, Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH

Front Row: Michael Gray, 33°, Dennis Brydl, 33°, Nathanel Gabel, 32°, John Willis, 32°, Turner Cox, 32°, Kent Cerny, 32°, John Lange, Michael Kovarik, 32°, Robert Moninger, 33° PGM, Dale Lueders, 33°



Lincoln Knights of St. Andrew members with the Class

(left to right) David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Turner Cox, Nathaneal Gabel, Andy Seachord, 32°, Kent Cerny, Nick Furchert, 32°, Michael Kovarik, Dennis Hecht, 32°, John Willis, Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH, John Lange, Micah Evans, 33°, and Edward Boone, 32°

Lincoln Teacher of the Year, continued

students that enter her life,” Rickert said. “She inspires me to be a better leader. I’m thankful that she chooses to share her gift at Hartley.”

The Lincoln Scottish Rite’s Distinguished Teacher of the Year award began in 1964, and since then, the Scottish Rite’s grant to teachers has grown to \$10,000.

At the end of the day, the award and Hartley are only about one thing for Eddy. “It is 100% because of the kids is why I’m here.”

SPRING STEAK FRY OUTING



277th Reunion: April 19th, 20th, and 21st, 2023

Back Row (left to right): Ronald D. Stites, 33° PGM, Patrick D. Graves, 32° KCCH, *Gabriel Ruiz*, 32° Class President, *Gary Maes*, 32°, *Ian Webster*, 32° Class Secretary/Treasurer, *Scott Christensen*, 32° Class Orator, *Christopher Olson*, 32°, *Mitchel Deuter*, 32°, *Eric Jones*, 32°, *Brian Pickett*, 32°, Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, Class Director

Front Row (left to right): Gary S. Unger, 33°, Richard E. Gilmore, 33°, Schadd D. Gray, 32° KCCH, John A. Hardy, 32° KCCH, Curtis M. Edic, 33° G.C., Daniel J. Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, Carl F. Simmons, 32°, Matthew B. Schell, 32°, Micah I. Evans, 33°, John T. Maxell, 33° PGM



Wednesday, May 17th was yet another perfect evening for the annual Spring Outing at the Papillion Gun Club. Around 175 Scottish Rite Masons and prospective Masons attended, enjoying trap shooting, cocktails, and great steaks, baked potato, corn, and salad served by the Culinary Masters.

The Spring and Fall Outings are always great social events, welcoming many prospective Masons. It is rare that the Scottish Rite or a Masonic Lodge doesn't get at least one petition from the evening - at least four guests took a Scottish Rite petition for the Fall Reunion.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 20 for the Fall Outing at the Papillion Gun Club, and invite a prospective member for a fun evening!

Celebrating Mom

The Scottish Rite hosted a Mother's Day high tea and organ demonstration on Sunday, May 14th. About 100 guests attended, enjoying beautiful music on the Scottish Rite's restored 1926 Kilgen pipe organ, played by Dr. Daniel Page and Mr. Nick Behrens. The Mother's Day high tea was the brainchild of Sean Reed, 32°, who has taken over the maintenance and preservation of the Scottish Rite's organ. Afterward, guests enjoyed tea, sandwiches, and desserts. Any freewill offerings will benefit the Scottish Rite building fund.



INTRODUCING THE 1914 SOCIETY



Arab Patrol, wearing their distinctive green and red velvet uniforms, and the Fourth Infantry band from Fort Crook. M.W. James R. Cain, Jr., Grand Master of Masons, led the age-old ceremony, dedicating the Scottish Rite cornerstone. The Omaha Scottish Rite was completed in time for the Fall, 1914 Reunion which welcomed nearly 200 new 32° Scottish Rite Masons.

109 YEARS LATER

Scottish Rite Masons continue to meet in the same building, recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

But the Omaha Scottish Rite requires a lot of upkeep to maintain the beautiful building in a manner that welcomes Masons and the community. To support the Scottish Rite building fund, the Scottish Rite Cathedral Board authorized *The 1914 Society*, which asks members to consider a \$250 annual pledge for the building. All annual donors of \$250 or more will be listed in each edition of the Scottish Rite Journal on the Omaha Valley page throughout the year. Please consider a donation, which can be paid in full or paid in monthly or quarterly payments, supporting the upkeep of our historic Scottish Rite Masonic Center. (Please note that donations to *The 1914 Society* can not be considered tax-deductible donations.)

October 2, 1912 - On a drizzly, rainy Wednesday, some 400 Masons paraded from the Masonic Temple at 16th and Capitol to a site at 20th and Douglas Street, headed by the Tangier Shrine



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Since 2002, Scottish Rite Masons in the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction have recognized Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets for their scholarly excellence and patriotic Americanism.

This April, John Maxell, 33° presented a certificate and a medal to UNO Senior Lindsey Sonnenfeld, a Senior graduating in May with her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice. She will be going into nuclear missile operations upon commissioning in May, 2023. Lindsey served as Cadet Colonel with the 470th Cadet Wing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"This award doesn't just recognize service; it recognizes leadership. We know Lindsey won't just lead others, but truly inspire those she leads and help them become more than they are," said John.

HASTINGS GAVE!

For more than ten years, Hastings, Nebraska has shown their philanthropic spirit. On May 4th, 5,523 Hastings residents donated \$952,408 to 109 charitable organizations through Give Hastings Day.

As part of Give Hastings Day, 46 individual donors gave \$6,724 to the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Foundation, supporting speech therapy services throughout Central Nebraska. In addition to serving kids in Adams County, Nebraska's RiteCare Clinicians have provided services to children in 25 counties in the past year, often through telepractice.

One RiteCare parent wrote *"They have helped our son leaps and bounds! He has come so far in the last year, from needing a translator - his brother or a friend at school - to now being able to communicate freely. Everyone deserves a voice! THANK YOU for helping our son find his! It truly takes someone special to hear what a child can not say. We are blessed with the best!"*



Additionally, the Hastings Clinic received a \$1,200 grant to purchase iPads. The Clinicians use the iPads during teletherapy sessions, projecting activities onto Zoom screens, supporting kids' speech, language, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication skills. The iPads being sent home are used while the child is waiting for their own personal communication device to be funded by insurance.

Some Reflections on

Faith - Hope - Charity

Faith - Hope - Charity. It is said the greatest of these in Freemasonry is charity; it is also said charity begins at home. It was originally a 17th century British pastor, Thomas Fuller, who said "Charity begins at home, but should not end there."

As Masons, we focus so much on "doing good for others," we often neglect the needs of our own family, neighbors, and fellow Masons in the community. We have no problem attending a fund raising dinner or working concessions stands for charity, but we often forget to check in with our fellow Masons who may be suffering in these tough times. Many of us are so



active in our Masonic bodies that our wives are affectionately called "Masonic Widows." While a funny statement, there is some truth there. Even our friends are orphaned by us while we attend Masonic meetings and commitments.

~ by Art Stricker, 33°
artstricker77@gmail.com
General Secretary, Valley of Alliance

Don't get me wrong, I am a full supporter of bettering Masonry and our charities as much as possible, but we must never lose site of our own family, friends, as well as Brethren who could be hurting. We may forget our own families for our own Masonic commitments, but we also have a bad habit of not worrying about the Brothers who don't come to Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite, or Shrine meetings until they don't pay their dues.

We must stop to think what reasons keep him from attending: is it because he is in financial distress, poor health, or family crisis? Just some food for thought.

Hastings Recognizes Teacher of the Year

... continued from p. 3

beyond High School. Jeff stays up to date on mental health and how it impacts our students and staff.



Jeff said his approach is "...relatively simple: I show up every day ready to bring it... I know my students. I know when they need to be pushed with tough love and sometimes they just need to vent. I am really big on building relationships with kiddos...I learn their name, call them by their name- Never underestimate how important that is."

Mr. Bittfield said he truly has the student's best interest at heart, and he takes their education very personally. "Their successes are my successes, their struggles are my struggles." Mr. Bittfield concluded by sharing a quote by Friedrich Nietzsche, "He who has a WHY can bear almost any HOW. My why is our students."

A Note of Thanks to Rite-Care Clinician Paul Laikko

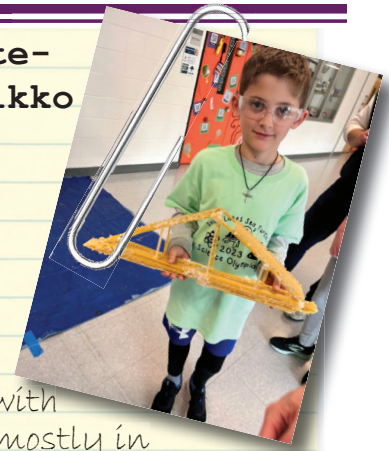
Dear Paul,

I'm not sure if you remember us but I wanted to send you a quick note letting you know how much you impacted our son's life. Luke came to you with Apraxia of Speech, speaking mostly in vowels. I recently come across old videos of Luke and homework he had during that time. He still remembers you fondly during his time at the Omaha RiteCare Clinic. Luke was done with speech therapy by the end of Kindergarten. He is now at the end of 4th grade, and was recently placed in the intellectually-gifted program.

We would not have been able to afford those services when we needed them. Now that we are in a place to prioritize financial giving, we will continue to keep the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska in mind.

Sincerely,

Patty Van Cleve (RiteCare Mom)



Membership, continued

Elsewhere, the Widows Sons of Nebraska hit the road for the 7th annual Child Abuse Awareness ride, donating 4 bicycles and helmets to the cause. Western Star Lodge #2 hosted a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and potato dinner and silent auction. Liberty Lodge #300 hosts an annual BBQ festival.

These were just a few events shared on the 'Nebraska Freemasons' Facebook group. Aside from the irony of reading about "Unplugged Masonry" events on social media, all these events show that there is a deeper movement in Freemasonry to get out of the Lodge room and get back to the roots of fellowship, friendship, and brotherhood. I always think of Past Sovereign Grand Commander for the Scottish Rite Ron Seale, 33°, visiting Omaha back in 2011, who noted that he saw more



Social time at John J. Mercer Lodge #290

Freemasonry happening behind the scenes with the stage crew at the Reunion or the Culinary Masters having a laugh in the kitchen than he saw in your average Lodge meeting.

Getting Masonry out of the "greet-meet-and repeat" mode and out of the Lodge for drinks, dinner, camping, cigars, a book club, card night, or a night at the ballpark seems to be a successful

strategy. Even if it doesn't dramatically increase membership, it certainly has a positive impact on membership engagement and retention. If these family-friendly events help bring in one or two petitions while giving Brethren a good reason to maintain their dues, then it is well worth it!

The wonderful thing about Freemasonry is that it has the benefit of being all things to all members. There is room for the ritualists to do Degree work. There is a place for those that enjoy making connections through social media. And there is a place for those who want to disconnect, to enjoy events and activities outside of the routine meetings. Step up at your Lodge with an idea for an Unplugged Masonic event, and see how it engages your membership in a new way!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

... continued from page 1

That often leaves non-profits who don't have ever-changing needs in a quandary: how to keep donors engaged in the on-going mission when the public focus draws philanthropic attention elsewhere.

That's one reason the *Nebraska Scottish Rite Journal* focuses so heavily on our RiteCare children. The cause for supporting speech therapy services for Nebraska kids does not ebb and flow like the need for aid after a natural disaster. Providing services remains consistent.

One of the hidden needs Scottish Rite Masons face, which we don't really talk about, is the continual upkeep on our Masonic temples. I have been fortunate to visit Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha over the years, and each of these buildings are architecturally unique, beautiful, and have their own rich history. Each is over 100 years, with Hastings turning 100 by 2030) and there are many reasons for all of us to be genuinely proud of our Scottish Rite Lodges.

Keeping up to codes, addressing the



roof, electrical, or simply fixing normal wear and tear is daunting. Sometimes I wonder why the General Secretaries don't throw up their hands in defeat in the face of the constant projects.

This development column is a bit different from previous columns. I still ask Brethren to think about your Scottish Rite Foundation in your estate plan and annual gifts. I still ask you to think about how you can create your legacy through exceptional speech therapy services. But I also ask you to think about including the Scottish Rite Valley in your estate,

supporting the upkeep of our historical and beautiful homes. Knowing that you are helping the building keep a fresh coat of painting in the Lodge room or purchase new chairs for the dining room may not be exciting, but knowing that your gift will welcome Brethren for another century truly cements your Masonic legacy.

To learn more about how to include the Valley in your estate or the tax implications, talk to your tax or legal consultant, or call me at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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Micah I. Evans, 33°

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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
Dennis Brydl	Lincoln
Charles Bukin	Lincoln
Warren Cooke	Omaha
William Cook, Jr.	Lincoln
Schadd Gray	Omaha
Peter Hartwig	Lincoln
Ben Harvey	Omaha
James Heinke	Lincoln
Gene Hokom	Hastings
Bill Kimme	Omaha
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.