



Omaha Valley News

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Orient of Nebraska

Valley of Omaha - A Newsletter

February 2007, Volume 18, Number 1

The 2007 Masters and Officers

Omaha Lodge of Perfection



| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Venerable Master | John T. Maxell, 32° KCCH |
| Senior Warden | Edward W. Nolte, 32° KCCH |
| Junior Warden | Greg W. Carlson, 32° |
| Orator | William Henderson, 32° |
| Master of Ceremonies | Dean F. Skokan, 32° |
| Expert | Peter G. Larson, 32° |
| Assistant Expert | D. (Rick) Whitesides, 32° |
| Captain of the Host | Matthew Vandergriff, 32° |



Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°
Personal Representative
of the
SGIG in Nebraska

Omaha Chapter of Rose Croix



| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wise Master | Robert S. Maline, 32° KCCH |
| Senior Warden | Dennis P. Samuelson, 32° KCCH |
| Junior Warden | Donnie D. Perry, 32° KCCH |
| Orator | Richard D. Myers, 32° |
| Master of Ceremonies | Gary D. Fields, 32° KCCH |
| Expert | A. J. Johnson, 32° |
| Assistant Expert | Micah I Evans, 32° |
| Standard Bearer | Alan L. Nelson, 32° |
| Guardian of the Temple | Michael Sorensen, 32° |



John W. Webster, 33°
President
Scottish Rite Cathedral Association

Omaha Council of Kadosh



| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Eminent Commander | Richard T. Chilton, 32° |
| 1st Lt. Commander | Thomas K. Brummett, 32° KCCI |
| 2nd Lt. Commander | Carroll E. Sefrit, 32° |
| Chancellor | Phillip F. Harris, 32° |
| Orator | Gary W. Bunnell, 32° |
| Master of Ceremonies | Jeffrey E. Jackson, 32° |
| Lucoplier | Scott D. Reuman, 32° |
| Draper | Nizar K. Wehbi, 32° |

Omaha Consistory



| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Venerable Master | Robert D. Whipple, 32° KCCH |
| Prior | Okley Gibbs, 32° |
| Preceptor | Daniel J. Wellendorf, 32° KCCH |
| Chancellor | Robert F. Jasa, 32° KCCH |
| Minister of State | Ralph V. Joss, Jr., 32° |
| Marshall of Ceremonies | Cary L. Manson, 32° |
| Relate | William E. Martin, 32° KCCH |
| Expert | Buster Hicks, 32° KCCH |
| Assistant Expert | Gary S. Eller, 32° |



Curtis M. Edic, 33°
*General Secretary/Treasurer

*Almoner
*Tiler
*Assistant Tiler

Richard L. Corwine, Jr., 33°
Joseph B. Carter, 33°
William R. Craig, 33°
Richard W. Whiteman, 33°

*Common to all four bodies



Knights of St. Andrew Officers

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Master | Micah I. Evans, 32° |
| Senior Warden | Gsry Prokop, 32° |
| Junior Warden | Phil Harris, 32° |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Armel Mac Donald, 32° |
| Chaplain | Dean Cook, 32° |
| Senior Deacon | George Pfeiffer, 32° |
| Junior Deacon | Chris Edwards, 32° |



2006 Winter Reunion Saturday, February 11, 2006



| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 7:00-8:00..... | Registration, Breakfast by KSA | |
| 8:00-8:15..... | Class Assembles | |
| 8:15-8:45..... | | 4° |
| 9:00-10:00..... | | 14° |
| 10:00-10:15..... | Break | |
| 10:15-11:20..... | | 18° |
| 11:30-12:00..... | Picture | |
| 12:00-1:00..... | Lunch | |
| 1:00-2:00..... | | 29° |
| 2:15-3:00..... | | 30° |
| 3:15-4:15..... | | 32° |
| 4:30-5:00..... | Order Pictures and Rings | |
| 4:20-6:00..... | Social Time | |

New Opportunities.....

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, a 501 (c)3 tax deductible foundation, has had contributions given to it in many ways during the years including the Century Club (commitment to at least \$100 per year for 10 years), wills, bequests and donations with dues payments.

This has allowed the Foundation to make yearly donations to the Plattsmouth Masonic Home, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Omaha Home for Boys and the Nebraska Masonic Youth Foundation. These are in addition to the 13 student scholarships to at UNO and our RiteCare™ Language Disorder Clinic donations made each year.

This year one of our new members that joined in 2006 has offered to start a *Matching Funds Program* for Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha to be used specifically for the treatment of children at the RiteCare Clinic at Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI). A matching funds program means that for every dollar you give, up to a specified amount, will be matched by this anonymous new member.

If the Century Club seems to be too large amount for you to contribute, your \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 contributions will be hardily accepted with recognition given to you for being a part of the *Matching Funds Program for RiteCare*. We are excited for the opportunity to add new money to the funds of our Foundation and we believe there may be others that will also step forward to also challenge you to make these special donations.

For more information about making your tax deductible donation please call the office or send the donation to Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, 202 S. 20th Street, Omaha NE 68102.

We need Petitions!
Initiation fee \$150

EDITOR'S COLUMN

I hope you all had a happy holiday season and look forward to a new and exciting year. Things in the Omaha Valley got off to a rousing start with the Installation of Officers for the Four Coordinate Bodies, the Cathedral Board, the Scottish Rite Foundation, and the Knights of Saint Andrews on January 22nd. In addition to Scottish Rite installations, numerous Blue Lodges, Star Chapters, and Tangier Shrine have all had their installations within the past month. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year to all the new officers in all sundry bodies!

The Omaha Valley continues to sponsor a lot of social events as well. In December we had "Chili and a Movie" rather than the "Chili and Lights" of the past several years. The food was great, as was the movie, "The Da Vinci Code". My wife and I saw the movie in the theater right after it came out, so this was our second viewing of it. Even after two screenings, I'm still somewhat mystified as to the stir it caused. Folks need to remember that it's fiction: sort of like Indiana Jones visits Paris, London, and Roslyn Chapel. The main thing that caught my eye was one of the street scenes in London near the Templar Church. When my wife and I visited that site several years ago, we were the only folks on that particular stretch of street: in the movie it was crammed with what looked like hundreds of people. I can only assume that the movie producers paid some good money for lots of extras.

The Omaha Valley also procured some tickets for the Lion King. All the reviews of that thus far have been tremendous, and the tickets we obtained were sold out in short order.

| Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Feb 10 | Grand Lodge Installation Social & Dinner @SRMC |
| Feb 16 | Membership Dinner - SRMC |
| Feb 18 | SR Winter Reunion |
| Feb 19 | Lodge Meeting - Ladies Night Masonic Education - Ladies Program Program |
| Feb 22-25 | Tangier Circus |
| Mar 3 | Wine Tasting, Dinner & Dance American Wines |
| Mar 17 | Tangier Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner |
| Mar 19 | Rememberance & Renewal Ceremony Dinner to follow |
| Mar 24 | Tangier Potentate's Ball |
| Mar 25 | Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Annual meeting - Lincoln |
| Mar 30 | Membership Dinner @ CB Temple |
| Apr 6 | Fish Fry for SRMC 11:00 to 7:00 |
| Apr 7 | 357 Dinner @ SRMC |
| Apr 14 | One day Masonic Lodge @ SRMC |
| Apr 16 | Lodge Meeting |
| Apr 20-21 | Scottish Rite Spring Reunion |
| May 13 | All-Masonic Day @ Zoo/Ballpark |
| May 18 | Friendship Dinner - Shrine |
| May 21 | Lodge Meeting |
| May 23 | Spring Outing @ Papillion Gun Club |

I'm looking forward to seeing the show on the 28th of January.

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska will hold its Annual Communication in Kearney on February 2 and 3, and the Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers will be held on February 10 at the Omaha Scottish Rite. Dean Skokan, a member of this Valley, will be installed as the Grand Master, and we wish him a successful year, as well.

There will be a Friendship Dinner at the Rite on February 16, and that

is a terrific venue for you to introduce potential new candidates to Masonry. There will be a one day Scottish Rite Class on the 17th (the following day), so get those petitions in.

2007 promises to be a very active and productive year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at some of the upcoming events.

John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor

**Do you like wine? Do you dance? Do both March 3rd.
Call office for details.**

MASONIC FAMILY ACTIVITIES OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METRO AREA

MASONIC FAMILY ACTIVITIES

OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METRO AREA

2007

FEB 1-3 Grand Lodge Holiday Inn, Kearney
 FEB 3 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 FEB 3 DeMolay Sweetheart Dance
 FEB 4 Installation Westside Assembly 3:00pm WOT
 FEB 9 "A Night to Remmber" by D of Nile
 FEB 10 Grand Lodge Installation, Social & Dinner SRMC
 FEB 11 Valentine Waffle Breakfast Benson Diana Rainbow
 FEB 16 Membership/Friendship Dinner at SRMC 6:00pm
 FEB 17 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 FEB 17 One-Day SR Reunion SRMC
 FEB 17-18 Bethel #18 Sleep-over WOT
 FEB 19 Bloodmobile at Tangier
 FEB 22-25 Shrine Circus
 FEB 24 4-H Chili Feed, 4:30pm Fremont
 MARCH 3 Chapter degrees (YRite) at Benson Temple
 MARCH 3 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 MARCH 3 Wine Tasting Dinner and Dance SRMC
 MARCH 4 Trinity's Soup dinner 11am WOT
 MARCH 4-10 JOB' S Daughters Founder Week
 MARCH 10 Job's HIKE fund raiser/luncheon Tangier
 MARCH 10 Adah's chil/soup dinner 4:00-7:00pm
 MARCH 11 Green Eggs & ham breakfast Benson Temple
 MARCH 15 Narcissus Visitation 7:30pm Benson Temple
 MARCH 17 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 MARCH 17 Corned Beef & Cabbage at Tangier 7:00am
 MARCH 18 Pancake Breakfast Ak Sar-Ben OES
 MARCH 18 Pancake Breakfast by Westside Assembly
 MARCH 20 Friendship Dinner Council Bluffs
 MARCH 24 Narcissus Red Hat Luncheon Benson
 MARCH 24 Council & Commandery Degrees Benson
 MARCH 24-25 Job's Spring Workshop—Aurora
 MARCH 25 Fontenelle's Spaghetti feed 11am WOT
 MARCH 27 Vamaflont 6:30 pm AkSarBen at Mizpah
 MARCH 30 Membership Dinner 6:00pm Council Bluffs
 MARCH 31 Papillion Smorgasbord 5:00pm Papillion
 MARCH 31 One-Day Degree (YRite) Hastings Masonic
 APR 1 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 APR 1 "All Shook Up" at the Orpheum SRMC
 APR 14 One-Day-Degree 7:30am place—SRMC
 APR 14 Masonic Family Garage Sale Papillion
 APR 14 Narcissus' Roast Beef Dinner 4:00pm Benson
 APR 14 Hi-Plains HIKE (Jobs) & Supreme Visitation
 Ft Robinson

APRIL 14 Concert Masonic Lincoln Scottish Rite
 APR 17 Trinity's Card Party WOT
 APR 18 Unity Meeting at Tangier 4:00pm
 APR 19-21 Grand York Rite, Columbus
 APRIL 20-21 Spring Reunion SRMC
 APR 21 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 APR 22 Omaha Area Initiation 2:00pm SRMC
 APR 23 Visitation at Ak-Sar-Ben OES Shi-Omaha
 APR 27 Fontenelle visitation 7:30pm WOT
 APR 28-29 Jobs Workshop at Camp Comeca
 APR/MAY Installation Omaha Chapter #1 & Council #1
 Benson Temple
 APR/MAY R.A.M Florence #61 Installation 2pm
 Papillion
 MAY 5 Mid-America HIKE—Jobs at Topeka, KS
 MAY 5 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 MAY 5 Job's Carwash at Papillion 10:00am
 MAY 5 RAM #61 Installation 2:00pm
 MAY 8-10 Grand Chapter OES Lincoln Installation
 MAY 13 All Masonic Family Day at the Zoo and Ballpark
 MAY 18 Friendship Dinner at Tangier Center 6:00pm
 MAY 19 Visitation Vesta Chapter OES 2:00pm Shi-Oma
 MAY 19 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 MAY 19 Job's Rummage Sale Papillion
 MAY 22 Vamaflont 6:30pm Papillion
 JUNE 1 "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Orpheum SRMC
 JUNE 2 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 JUNE 3 Winery Tour by SR
 JUNE 3 OES Grand Reception So Sioux City
 JUNE 4 Scottish Rite Golf Outing
 JUNE 8-9 National CHIP Convention at SRMC
 JUNE 8-10 Grand Assembly(Rainbow)—Crete
 JUNE 9 Installation Bethel #18 WOT
 JUNE 10 Shrine picnic
 JUNE 16 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 JUNE 17 OES Grand Reception Hastings
 JUNE 20-23 Grand Session(Jobs) Kearney
 JUNE 28 Membership Dinner 6pm Council Bluffs Temple
 JUNE 29-30 OES Grand Officer Exchange IA/NE
 JULY 7 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 JULY 14 One-Day-Degree 7:30am SRMC
 JULY 13-15 DeMolay Conclave Grand Island
 JULY 14 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 JULY 21 Narcissus Red Hat Card Party 11:00am Benson
 JULY 25 Unity meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 JULY 22-28 Supreme Session Job's Mariville, IN



AUG 4 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 AUG 5 Centennial-Fontenelle Corn feed 11:00am WOT
 AUG 11 Trinity style Show 11:30am WOT
 AUG 10 Friendship Dinner at Tangier Center 6:00pm
 AUG 12 4-H Achievement Day Masonic/OES Home for Children 2:00pm Fremont
 AUG 18 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 AUG 25 Adah visitation 2:00pm Papillion
 AUG 25 One Day SR Reunion SRMC
 AUG 26-28 Supreme Council Session in Washington D.C.
 SEPT 1 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 SEPT 8 Annual Papillion Bar-B-Que Papillion
 SEPT 10 Grand Master's Golf —East Fremont Golf Club
 SEPT 11 Trinity's Card Party 11:00am WOT
 SEPT 15 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 SEPT 15 Papillion OES Salad Luncheon Papillion
 SEPT 20 Second Annual Hog Roast by Shi-Omaha Temple
 SEPT 21 Grand Lodge Celebration of 150 years Lincoln
 SEPT 22 RAM Chapter degrees (YR) at Papillion
 SEPT 25 Vamaflont 6:0pm Omaha Home for Boys
 SEPT 27 Membership Dinner 6pm Council Bluffs Temple
 SEPT 27 Alpha's visitation 7:30pm Bellevue
 SEPT 29 Narcissus's Craft Show 11:00am
 SEPT 30 Second Annual Shi-Oma Pig Roast Shi-Oma Masonic Center 2:00pm-&:00pm
 OCT 6 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 OCT 6 Papillion Salad Luncheon Papillion
 OCT 17 Unity Meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 OCT 7 Trinity's Steak Fry 4:00pm WOT
 OCT 13 Narcissus' s Turkey Dinner 4:00pm Benson
 OCT 14 Alpha's Harvest Dinner 11:30 am Bellevue
 OCT 14 DeMolay Sweetheart Ball Lincoln 7-?pm
 OCT 19-20 OES Grand Officer Exchange—NE/KS
 OCT 20 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 OCT 20 Council and Commandery degrees Benson
 OCT 21 Fontenelle's Soup Supper 4:00pm WOT
 OCT 25 Trinity's Visitation 7:30pm WOT
 OCT 26 KCCH Investiture Lincoln
 OCT 27 33° Conferral Omaha
 OCT 27-28 Ak-Sar-Ben's Haunted House Shi-Oma
 OCT 28 Adah's Pancake Breakfast Papillion
 NOV 3 One-Day-Degree 7:30am place—TBA
 NOV 3 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 NOV 3 One-Day degree 7:30am SRMC
 NOV 4 Trinity's Pancake Breakfast 8:00am WOT
 NOV 13 Vamaflont 6:30 pm CB Chapter Council Bluffs
 NOV 17 SCATT 9:00am Papillion
 NOV 17 Papillion OES Visitation 7:00pm Papillion
 NOV 18 Spaghetti Dinner by Ak-Sar-Ben OES Shi-Omaha Temple 4-7 pm
 NOV 9 Friendship Dinner at SRMC 6:00pm
 DEC 1 Coffee on the Square, 8:00am Papillion
 DEC 13 Papillion OES Seniors Christmas Party 11:30am
 DEC 15 SCATT 9:00am Papillion

DEC 15 Installation Bethel #18 WOT
2008
 JAN 16 Unity Meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 JAN 26 One-Day Degree 7:30am place—TBA
 FEB 1—Feb 4 Grand Lodge Ramada Inn Kearney
 FEB 8 Membership Dinner 6:00pm SRMC
 FEB 23 Chapter Degrees (YR) at Plattsmouth
 FEB 24-25 DeMolay Leadership Camp Mahoney St Park
 MARCH 22 Council & Commandery degrees at Benson
 MARCH 28 Membership Dinner 6pm Council Bluffs
 APRIL 14-15 DeMolay Roundup Kearney
 APRIL 16 Unity Meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 APRIL 2-5 Grand York Rite place -TBA
 APRIL 19 One-Day Degree 7:30am place—TBA
 MAY 16 Membership Dinner 6:00pm Tangier Center
 JUNE 26 Membership Dinner 6:00pm Council Bluffs
 JULY 12 One-Day Degree 7:30am place—TBA
 JULY 23 Unity Meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 AUG 15 Membership Dinner 6:00pm Tangier Center
 SEPT 20 Chapter degrees (YR) at Benson Temple
 SEPT 25 Membership Dinner 6:00pm Council Bluffs
 OCT 15 Unity Meeting 4pm Tangier Center
 OCT 18 One-Day-Degree 7:30am place—TBA
 OCT 18 Council and Commandery Degrees Benson
 NOV 7-9 2008 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference Holiday Inn, Kearney
 NOV 14 Membership Dinner 6:00pm SRMC
2009
 Feb 5-7 Grand Lodge Kearney
 APRIL 15-18 Grand York Rite —place—TBA
2010
 APRIL 7-10 Grand York Rite place—TBA

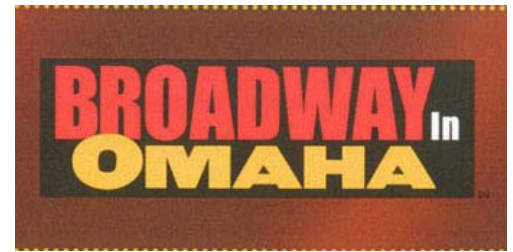
This is an informational service offered through the Omaha Metro Area Masters & Wardens Club to all of the Masonic family members in the Greater Omaha Area via e-mail. Updates are tentatively planned for mid-month and near the end of each month. This is also found on the Scottish Rite web site. The Tangier Shrine incorporates part of the list in their monthly publication—The Hot Sands.

For additions, corrections or the adding of people to receive the list, please contact Phil Edwards, Chairman of Masonic Activities List for Masters and Wardens at 895-3781.

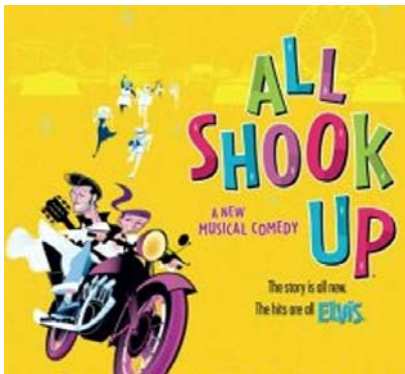
For other activities see the following websites:
 Grand Lodge— www.gln.org
 OES www.neoes.org
 Scottish Rite www.scottishriteomaha.org
 Tangier Shrine www.tangiershrine.com
 Jobs Daughters www.nejd.org
 DeMolay www.nedemolay.org
 Rainbow www.nebraskarainbow.com
 York Rite www.yorkrite.com/ne

OMAHA
PERFORMING
ARTS

&



Presents



All Shook Up - April 1, 2007 - 7:30 PM - \$67

Jesus Christ Superstar - June 1, 2007 8:00 PM-\$72

Price includes tickets, bus ride, parking in garage, food and drink. Reservations must be made 30 days in advance.

2006 Summer Reunion Class



**Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection**



John T. Maxell, 32° KCCH

Bro. John T. Maxell is the son of John D. Maxell and Karen K. Kraft. He was born at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Shortly after birth his family moved to Bellevue, NE. Where he attended school and graduated from Bellevue Sr. High School. Bro. John was active in athletics and received several awards while attending Bellevue High School for his athletic ability. After high school he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha and later received a Degree in Accounting from Metro Community College.

In September of 1985, Bro. Maxell married Deb Dunn-Graham daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas G. Dunn of Omaha. The Maxell's have a son, Jason Douglas Graham. Bro. John also has a sister Teri K. Lighthart, who lives in Omaha with her husband Patrick and her three daughters, Nicky, Amanda, and Molly. John and Deb are members of Living Faith United Methodist Church. He serves on several committees in the church.

Bro. John is employed by Gustave A. Larson Company as a salesman and has spent nineteen years in the HVAC industry.

Bro. John was raised as a Master Mason on February 1995 in Shiloh Lodge and served as the Master for Shiloh Lodge in 2001. He is also a member of Lodge of St. Johns #331. He has served as Chairman of Membership and CHIP for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska and is presently a Personal Rep. for the Grand Master for Omaha.

Bro. John joined Scottish Rite in 1995 and was invested with the honor of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) in 2005. He is presently serving on the Membership committee and on the 4th and 14th degree teams. He most recently accepted the appointment of Assistant Class Director.

Bro. John is also a member of Tangier Shrine and York Rite.

**Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix**



Robert S. Maline, 32° KCCH

Bro. Bob Maline was born and raised in North Platte, Nebraska. He graduated from North Platte High School and received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in Business Administration.

He went to work for Western Electric in 1965 and transferred to Northwestern Bell in 1975. He served as Town Manager in Gothenburg and McCook before moving to Omaha in 1986. He was Central Officer Manager and later Public Relations Manager for Qwest Communications. After 36 years of service he took his retirement.

Bro. Bob served a three-year tour of duty with the United States Army in Vietnam.

Bro. Bob joined Covert Lodge #11, Omaha Valley of Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine in 1996, all sponsored by Ill. Bro. Frank Kroupa, 33°. Bro. Bob got involved very quickly. He became a member of the Shrine Greeters, Vintage Iron (old car club), Arab Patrol and Corvette Club. He served five years on the Tangier Shrine Divan and was Potentate in 2004. At Scottish Rite he joined the Membership Committee (which he now serves as Chairman), Stage Crew and Culinary Masters. He also was invested with the honor of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) in 2005.

If you ask him why he is so active he will tell you he likes to stay busy. Also Bro. Bob's Grandfather M. C. Redman was a 60-year member of his Masonic Lodge which gives him incentive. Bro. Bob is constantly bringing new ideas for membership to the committee. Last year several letters were sent to Master Masons which were followed with personal phone calls to encourage them to get involved in Scottish Rite. In 2006, Bro. Bob was appointed Orient Membership Chairman by Ill. Bro. Warren D. Lichty, 33°, SGIG in Nebraska. He is ever ready to help the other Nebraska Valleys with membership ideas.

Bro. Maline and his wife, Jackie, have been married for 42 years. They have a son, Craig, his wife Cherie and grandson Josh here in Omaha. Their daughter, Robyn lives in Tampa, Florida. Bro. Bob's hobbies include Classic Chevrolets, Corvettes, NASCAR and sometimes golf.

There's going to be a
Wine Tasting and Dance
at the SRMC on March 3rd. Do you have
your tickets yet? Call the office

2007 Fall Reunion Class



Each Reunion Class Officers are elected to include a Class President, Vice-President, Secretary and Orator. At each Reunion Banquet we ask the Orator to come before members and guest to say a few words about the class's experience during the Reunion. The 2007 Fall Class Orator was Bro. Jack Price, 32°. So many people were impressed with his speech that we were requested to print it for everyone. Please take time to read some excellent words.

During the past 48 hours, men of different creeds, nationalities, ideas and beliefs have come together with a common goal. Forming a new and closer bond of fellowship with our Masonic brothers in the Scottish Rite of Masonry.



Teacher and student alike sharing in the richness of its symbolism, and focused reflection on how each of us can be a better man, living a life of integrity, honesty and fidelity. Furthering our own understanding in our own way, at our own pace... with

study and involvement.

Our class.... The 244th Fall Reunion is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this proud history and future of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. We sincerely offer our thanks and appreciation to the brethren and families of the Valley of Omaha and Orient of Nebraska. The principles for what they, Masonry, and Scottish Rite stand for.

I'd like to share this passage with you taken from the book....."The Builders" "When is a man a Mason?"

When is a man a Mason?

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness

in the vast scheme of things....., yet have faith....., hope and courage which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble...., as vile..... as divine,... as diabolic,... and as lonely as himself... Yet seeks to know,... to forgive.... and to love his fellow man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows... and in their sins..... Knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, but above all.... how to be a friend to himself. He smiles with memories of, hunting birds without a gun and feeling the inner joy when he hears the laughter of a little child....Being happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.... And subdued with the thought of one much loved and long since dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain...and no hand seeks his aid without response.....he knows how to pray....how to love...and how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself...his fellow man and with his God. In his hand a sword for evil....in his heart a bit of song.....glad to be alive....but not afraid of death.

Such a man..... These men..."YOU MEN"..... have found the only real secret of Masonry. One shared with.... and given to the entire world.

Bro. Jack Price, 32°

From the Secretary's Desk...

The Omaha Valley just finished our year of celebration of our 125th Anniversary in Omaha. Being chartered in 1861, now it is easy to say, "It seems like only yesterday." But we know our long existence didn't happen without hard work and sweat. We have a strong Valley because our forefathers saw the need to build our membership, to build our building and to build our financial security.

I've been blessed to be General Secretary since 1999. Each January I wonder what our projects will be for the year and each year our leadership provides different ideas that creates unique challenges. In that length of time we have remodeled the first floor, second floor and added restrooms. We have started using our building for rentals and added many social programs for our members and guests. We golf, go on winery tours, have wine tasting and get group priced tickets for Broadway shows. We hold four Reunions each year to 1) let our degree teams perform more and 2) to be more available for our new members. Most of these projects we've never done before.

As we celebrated our Anniversary last year, we also had financial challenges that we had never faced in the past. In 2005 during our most recent remodel of restrooms we were paying our contractor with funds raised from the sale of some of our securities. What was not realized was we were limiting money for our operating cash at the same time. It turned on a light bulb. We wouldn't continue to survive in the future on the amount of income produced from our portfolio interest and dividends, rental and dues income. This created the by-laws decision to raise our dues which will help....some.

What it did was "wake us up" to the facts and what's needed for a stable organization in the future. Earlier I mentioned the unique challenges we have each year, well 2007 will be no different. Our biggest project this year will be to complete another long range plan to determine what we will look like in the next 10 years. In the next column you will find an article by Bro. Larry Jacobsen, 33°, who in 1994, helped formulate our aforementioned projects and programs we are doing today. We believe that what we expect from our Valley today may not be what the next generation will expect from the Valley.

Bro. Larry not only is a great facilitator for long range planning but he has a vision for our Valley or at least some great ideas to keep us strong. I've asked Bro. Larry to share his vision. Please take time to read his ideas and let your mind go to work. If you are a Line Officer or not this project involves you. Please step forward. Bring your thoughts, help set goals and implement ways to see them accomplished. If you have questions please give me a call at the office.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary

Omaha Valley, Scottish Rite The Next Generation

Recent discussions among the leaders of the Omaha Valley have focused on the long-term sustainability of our organization. We are, by most measures, in very good shape today, but our growing generational gap is cause for concern in the long-term. As a result, the following DRAFT Recommendation has been prepared for review and comment among not only the Omaha Valley leadership, but also by all our members. We welcome your comments. In early March, the leadership will take this up in serious discussion.

The Omaha Valley intends to take charge of its future.

Recommendation:

That the Omaha Valley focus on the identification, recruitment and empowerment of a new generation of young leaders to sustain and grow the organization – preserving the Scottish Rite's values, while building programs and activities that are relevant, appealing and fiscally prudent for the 21st century.

The Problems:

The Omaha Valley has been blessed with strong leadership at the Board, staff and elected officer positions for many years. However, the average age of the leadership continues to rise and the numbers of the younger leaders (20-45 age range) has dwindled.

The wider our generational gap becomes the harder it will be to entice younger members to take an active role in the Omaha Valley.

What attracts the senior members to the Omaha Valley may not provide the same motivation to attract the younger members.

Youth volunteerism and civic involvement is increasing nationwide, but few have discovered the Omaha Valley as a vehicle for such involvement.

There are fewer corporate or civic leaders joining Masonry than there were in the past, thus reducing the pool of leadership talent to draw from.

The Omaha Valley's primary activities are within the organization, or in support of charities that, while very

necessary and beneficial, have very little community identity.

We promote tolerance, yet we are primarily a Caucasian, men's organization.

The perception that the Omaha Valley's endowment will take care of the organization's financial needs into perpetuity is a falsehood. Decreasing membership and rising expenses will deteriorate the value of the endowment over time.

Our building is one of the most significant historical structures in Downtown Omaha, yet we are slow to aggressively promote it for increased utilization and income.

Discussion of the Problems:

The problems listed above gravitate from our growing generational gap to the wider issues of our relevance in the 21st century.

There is no question that the Omaha Valley is one of the leaders in the Scottish Rite nationally in terms of fiscal governance, diverse programs and activities and an organizational environment that is alive and forward thinking. Add to that, we live in an area of the country that ranks the highest nationally in social capital – we recognize the value of social networks.

Despite our advantageous situation, the Omaha Valley, like nearly every volunteer social organization, is suffering from declining membership and an aging membership.

If we agree that the future will not take care of itself, we must reenergize the younger members of our organization to mold this great organization into an energized, creative force that is relevant to the social aspirations of the 21st century members and the societal needs the Scottish Rite must address.

We are not starting from ground zero. We have many younger members that will, and have, taken the leadership challenge. We need more, and we need a program that will identify those potential leaders when they enter the Scottish Rite and more challenging, we need to identify those quality future leaders who are candidates for our organization.

How do we do that?

This requires some visioning. For instance, here is a possible vision for the Omaha Valley in 2020:

“The Omaha Valley Multi-Cultural Center, the area's most respected non-profit organization, exists to serve as a resource that facilitates and promotes a learning community of multicultural understanding, tolerance and exchange through collaboration, dialogue, and action. Their scholarship programs, training sessions, and community betterment programs have been heralded throughout the country for promoting the interaction of key community leaders and diverse cultural groups to foster a ‘One City-Many Cultures’ environment that makes Omaha a ‘City of Opportunity’ for all.”

That vision would be a radical change from who we are today, but it would not be contrary to Scottish Rite values. The point here is that the needs of 21st century society and those who might give of their volunteer time need to be in synch. Those visions can best be crafted by those who will live that vision – the younger members of our organization.

Let's return to the issue of focus. What is the most critical, long-term issue of the Omaha Valley? This report does not purport to answer that question. It must be arrived at by the best and brightest of our membership. Those who can craft a vision, agree to consensus on an idea, and have the courage to see it implemented. Yes, we need the participation of senior members who can help guide the discussion with experience and wisdom, but it is the younger leadership that will see it implemented.

If this Recommendation is to be enacted, it will take a strong Focus by all levels of the Omaha Valley organization and it must be committed to over a long period of time. It must become part of the Omaha Valley's culture.

The enactment of this Recommendation also necessitates a consistent process of planning that transcends yearly changes in officer leadership.

The enactment of this Recommendation should consider the most effective way to achieve its goals. Some parts may be best handled by an outside facilitator or consultant.

Continued from page 9 (Next Generation)

Identification – who are the types of members we want to attract that will sustain and grow this organization through the 20th century?

Recruitment – how do we recruit leaders, both within our organization and those nonmembers who have been identified as candidates?

Empowerment – how do we augment our organizational structure to ensure that those we entrust to lead, in fact, have the power to do so?

Options

1. Stay the course. Select the best leaders, regardless of age or length of membership.
2. Put the focus on making our building financially self-sufficient by increased rentals, or sharing space with other organizations on a lease basis, and let the membership process continue as it does now. This would buy the Omaha Valley more time with our endowment.

To our members:

Two significant challenges to address here.

1. Change is not easy for large organizations to embrace. It takes the participation of a lot of passionate members who will commit to a common VISION.
2. The biggest challenge is not in creating the vision. It is the EXECUTION to achieve that vision.

This is a great time to be active in the Omaha Valley!

Larry Jacobsen, 33°

2007 Installation Ceremonial



Each year a small token of appreciation is given to each outgoing Master for their hard work. Here incoming Wise Master Robert Maline, 32° KCCH is presenting Past Wise Master John Hoagland, 32° KCCH his gift.



Bro. George Rice, 32° KCCH, organist

Unsung Hero.....

Sometimes there are members of the Omaha Valley that come, do their task and we forget how important they are to our organization. Bro. George Rice, 32° KCCH, our organist, is one such person.

It is hard to remember how long Bro. Rice has taken care of our organ at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The organ was dedicated to the Rite in 1926 and has been used at each Reunion since that time. I'm not suggesting that Bro. George has played it all that long but the organ has been his "baby" for over 25 years.

Bro. Rice, a retired college professor, has a passion for organs and the music they produce. He is a member of the local organ society and for many years shared his time repairing and adjusting the organ here and at the Orpheum Theater. His devotion is immeasurable.

Many years ago the roof leaked into the organ pipe area and did considerable damage to the pipes and leather connections. Bro. Rice patiently took the damage pipes down repaired and re-installed them. He has repaired electrical components on the blower and is constantly tuning before our special events. He has also paid for all the expenses for his repairs. I've asked him to send in a bill and his answer is, "We'll do that later."

When preparing for an event there are always many details to worry about. One that gets overlooked more than any is to make sure Bro. Rice is available to play for us. The real reward is to look into the auditorium and see our organist seated at the console ready to play.

The next time you're here for an event in the auditorium and Bro. George is playing, take time to walk over and thank him for his wonderful contribution of beautiful music. Bro. Rice is truly an Unsung Hero in the Omaha Valley.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary

Dues.....Dues.....and Over dues

This information is for all the brethren, more especially those members who have neglected to pay their 2006 and 2007 membership dues (called our 2-year list). These men are considered “delinquent.” The current policy set for by the Supreme Council allows the Omaha Valley to carry delinquent members for 2 years with the Valley paying the annual per capita (\$10/year) to the Supreme Council.

When the 2008 dues notices are sent out next September those members on the 2-year list have until the following December 31st to become current or they are suspended, losing the rank as a 32° Scottish Rite Mason.

As membership and member dues are the life blood of our organization, we will be contacting you to inquire as to why you haven't made payment. In some cases it has been overlooked by the member, in others there has been an address change not recorded in our database, and yet in others financial problems have arisen beyond the member's control. In any case, we need to hear from you, listen to your needs or concerns and see if we can resolve the reasons for non-payment of dues. In the past you took the obligations to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, we now need to work with you to continue your proud distinction.

The Retention Committee

READY FOR MY LAST DEGREE

An old man lay sick in the Masonic Home.
His face was as wan as the White Sea foam.
His eyes were dim, his hair was gray.
His back was bent with the trials of the way.
He faltering spoke, but I heard him say,
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've come to the end of the level time
That leads us all to the Grand Lodge sublime
From whose borne none ever return.
More light in Masonry there I shall learn

We have just printed a pocket petition. On the opposite page are three of them for you to cut out, three fold and put in your pocket to be available when you have a man interested in joining Scottish Rite.

By an Alter where light shall evermore shine.
I'm ready for my last degree.

With the Apprentice's gauge, I've divided my time
Into three equal parts since life's early prime.
And this I have found amidst life's turmoil.
My wages are due me, in Corn, Wine and Oil.
I'm ready for my last degree.

Each day from life's quarries, I've hewn a stone,
With the gavel I've shaped them, each one alone.
And shipped them along beyond that bright stand,
To build me a house in that great better land.
A spiritual house not made with hands.
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've squared each stone by the virtue square,
And plumbed them all true, as I shipped them there.
With the compass I've measured the Master's designs
And kept within due bounds, with his points and his signs.
My blue prints are folded; I've answered his signs.
I'm ready for my last degree.

The Mortar I've made, from friendship and love,
To be spread with the Master's trowel up above.
My apron is worn, but its surface is white.
My working tools now will be cold and quiet.
My Trestle Board's bare, and I'm going tonight.
I'm ready for my last degree.

A few moments later, the old man was dead.
And I fancy that I could see his soul as it fled,
Upward and onward, to the great door,
Where he gave an alarm, and a voice did implore.
The old man gave his answer with these words once more,
I'm ready for my last degree.

That night in a lodge, free from all strife and storm,
He took that degree his last in due form.
So may I live like he did; to build day by day,
A spiritual house, in that land far away.
So I, when I meet my Grand Master I can say,
I'm ready for my last degree.

Author Unknown



*Petition for Scottish Rite Degrees
Valley of Omaha, Orient of Nebraska*

Please print legibly

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Last Name _____
Mailing address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip code _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Employer _____
Occupation _____
Home Phone _____
Business Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Spouse Name _____

I am a Master Mason in good standing in
Lodge, # _____.

Located in the city of _____,
State of _____.

I was raised to Master Mason on (date) _____.
Signature of Petitioner
X _____

Recommenders must be in good standing and
members of the Omaha Consistory.

1. **Signature** _____
PRINT _____

2. **Signature** _____
PRINT _____

**Fees for all: \$150.00. Please remit fee with this petition. Make checks PAYABLE TO:
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.**

Life Memberships are available for \$1000.00, to
all who have a current dues card. Call the office if
you're interested.

*Petition for Scottish Rite Degrees
Valley of Omaha, Orient of Nebraska*

Please print legibly

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Last Name _____
Mailing address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip code _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Employer _____
Occupation _____
Home Phone _____
Business Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Spouse Name _____

I am a Master Mason in good standing in
Lodge, # _____.

Located in the city of _____,
State of _____.

I was raised to Master Mason on (date) _____.
Signature of Petitioner
X _____

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Valley of Omaha, Orient of Nebraska*

Please print legibly

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Last Name _____
Mailing address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip code _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Employer _____
Occupation _____
Home Phone _____
Business Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Spouse Name _____

I am a Master Mason in good standing in
Lodge, # _____.

Located in the city of _____,
State of _____.

I was raised to Master Mason on (date) _____.
Signature of Petitioner
X _____

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PRINT _____

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Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.**

Life Memberships are available for \$1000.00, to
all who have a current dues card. Call the office if
you're interested.

I have never applied for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees and I respectfully petition to receive the degrees from the 4th to the 32nd, inclusive, promising always to bear true faith and alliance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. I have complied with the provisions of Section 2-402 of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Law as to proficiency as amended June 7, 1951, or the equivalent. I support "the inculcation of patriotism, respect for the law and order, and undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Constitution of the United States." I also support "the separation of church and state and opposition to every attempt to appropriate monies – Federal, state and local – directly or indirectly, for the support of sectarian or private institutions." To all this I agree.

Please read and initial here _____

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED
SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY



VALLEY OF OMAHA
ORIENT OF NEBRASKA

Petition for Degrees

For Office Use Only
(Name & Number Label)

ELECTED DATES

Lodge _____

Chapter _____

Council _____

Consistory _____

CONFERRED DATES

Lodge _____

Chapter _____

Council _____

Consistory _____

R ___ C ___ S ___ L ___

Amount of fees paid \$ _____

Receipt # _____

Date paid _____

Jan07

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SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY



VALLEY OF OMAHA
ORIENT OF NEBRASKA

Petition for Degrees

For Office Use Only
(Name & Number Label)

ELECTED DATES

Lodge _____

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Consistory _____

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Lodge _____

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Consistory _____

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Please read and initial here _____

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SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY



VALLEY OF OMAHA
ORIENT OF NEBRASKA

Petition for Degrees

For Office Use Only
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ELECTED DATES

Lodge _____

Chapter _____

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Consistory _____

CONFERRED DATES

Lodge _____

Chapter _____

Council _____

Consistory _____

R ___ C ___ S ___ L ___

Amount of fees paid \$ _____

Receipt # _____

Date paid _____

Jan07

2007 Lodge of Perfection Officers



(l. to r., back) Dean Skokan, Pete Larson, Will Henderson, Matthew Vandergriff (front row) Rick Whitesides, Ed Nolte, John Maxell, Greg Carlson

2007 Chapter of Rose Croix Officers



(l. to r., back) Rick Myers, Micah Evans, Al Nelson, Donnie Perry (front row) AJ Johnson, Bob Maline, Gary Fields, Mike Sorensen

125th Anniversary Reunion Banquet Celebration November 19, 2006



Venerable Master of Kadosh, Steve Smith, 32° KCCH, Omaha Consistory, was Master of Ceremonies



Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG gave a brief history of the Omaha Valley at the Banquet.



Tiler Ill. Bro. Joseph Carter, 33° and wife Betty



Grand Senior Deacon Ill. Bro. John Parsons, 33° and wife Pauline



Ass't Tiler Ill. Bro. Bill Craig, 33° and wife Lois



Grand Custodian Jerry Verbeek, 32° KCCH and 2007 VM John Maxell, 32° KCCH

IN MEMORIAM

Donald LeRoy Sheahan
Frank E. Blazek
John C. Hughes
Terry D. Heskett
William E. Eirich
Jesse E. Davidson
Dale Robey Kenneth
J. Rogers
Leslie I. Telford
Truman M. Sailors
Michael J. Dudzinski
Philip A. Sterling
Hon. Paul J. Hickman, 33°
John M. Hobbs, 33°

GIFTS TO THE OMAHA FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY OF

Winfield "Bud" Kurtz
Kenneth A. Lundgren
Florence M. Schnieber
Tom and Jan Newman
Byron Erixon – Brother of Jim Erixon
Curtis and Carol Edic
Robert Hobbs – Son of John Hobbs
Curtis and Carol Edic
John Hobbs
Curtis and Carol Edic
John and Nancy Webster

Omaha Valley News

Published for the members of the
Scottish Rite Bodies
John T. Parsons, 33°, editor
W. Larry Jacobsen, 33°
Robert Whipple, 32°
R. Todd Simpson, 32° KCCH
Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary
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Omaha, NE 68102-1275
402-342-1300
FAX 402-344-0252
cedic@scottishriteomaha.org
WEBSITE: www.scottishriteomaha.org

Scottish Rite Officers will be having a Fish Fry Dinner on April 6, 2007 (Good Friday) for the benefit of the Valley. Hours 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Bring guests and friends! More information to follow.

Omaha Valley News
Scottish Rite Valley of Omaha
202 S. 20 Street
Omaha, NE 68102-1275

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