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Orient of Nebraska

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Volume XI, Issue 5

Membership

Pageantry. That's one thing our Masonic forebears knew how to do well. A man raised in Lodge participated in Degree work done well, by practiced, proficient ritualists. The newly raised Brother was presented with a richly decorated patent and joined a festive board afterward with Masonic poetry, toasts, and song. It was common for even the most average Lodge to have a printed program for the Lodge banquet with a gold foil square and compass, embossed printing, and a ribbon as binding.



A Brother would have been proud to hand such a document to his sons and grandsons as a memento of his Freemasonry.

Knights Templar Commanderies traveled across the nation on specially chartered trains competing in marching and drill-

ing competitions for ornate silver trophies. Shriners' parades stretched for blocks and blocks as units marched past the reviewing stands in elaborately embroidered costumes. Scottish Rite consistories in even the smallest Valleys did all 29 Degrees with well-practiced teams in full costume, from memory over the course of several days and nights. No crib notes tucked up the sleeve, no blue jeans poking out from underneath a robe!

Over time, it became expedient that we cut a few corners here and there. Instead of a catered banquet, a Lodge opts for the easier carry-out chicken. The program for the Past Master's Dinner is printed on copy paper. We look

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plan on it! giving the gift of voice

Exciting things are happening across Nebraska which will have a profound, long-term positive impact on providing childhood speech therapy through the RiteCare Clinics.

- Hastings Scottish Rite Masons built new clinical space in the Masonic Center, giving Clinicians more space for creative therapy.
- The Omaha RiteCare Clinic and the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute moved into their new state-of-the-art building on the AkSarBen campus, allowing for easier access to integrated therapies for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The Lincoln Clinic is exploring ways to move to the Scottish Rite for improved access pediatric speech therapy space.

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Orient Calendar

- Sept 15..... Fall Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)
- Sept 17.....RiteCare Retreat (Lincoln, NE)
- Sept 24.....RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)
- Sept 25.....Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
- Sept 30..... Whiskey Tasting (O)
- Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29..... Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Lincoln Valley Lunch (L)
- Oct 1-2 Lincoln Fall Reunion (*new date*) (L)
- Oct 22..... Nebraska KCCH Investiture (Lincoln, NE)
- Oct 29.....Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)
- Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 Lincoln Valley Lunch (L)
- Nov 12-13Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Nov 18-20 Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
- Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Nov 4, 11, 18..... Lincoln Valley Lunch (L)
- Dec 13 Christmas Banquet and Awards (O)
- Jan 22, 2022 Robert Burns Celebration (L)

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

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 24, Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20, Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 21

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

- Gene Gatti (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
- Phil Odom (Hastings)..... (402) 462-5813
- Bruce Wood (Lincoln) (402) 435-2144
- John Maxell (Omaha)..... (402) 342-1300



Devon Walker, Ed Russell, Mark Carley, and Patrick Drake received their 32° Scottish Rite caps and patents from M.W. Bob Moninger, 33°, Orient Representative to the Deputy at the May 28th business meeting.

CAPPING CEREMONY

On Friday, May 28th, the Valley of Alliance hosting a capping ceremony for the Brethren who joined at the Don E. Loos, 33° Memorial Reunion in April.



Four Brethren attended the meeting, and received their 32° Scottish Rite patents and their Scottish Rite caps from M.W. Bob Moninger, 33°, Orient Representative to Deputy Dan Wellendorf, 33°

Jackie Carley places a 32° cap on Mark's head as Bob Moninger, 33° looks on.

Bob Moninger, 33° drove in from Burwell, and the Brethren represented Hyannis Lodge #234 (Devon Walker, 32°), James Eatmon Lodge #294 (Ed Russell, 32°), and Frank Welch Lodge #75 (Mark Carley, 32° and Patrick Drake, 32°). Bob challenged the Brethren to get involved in the Scottish Rite as officers, on Degree teams, and volunteering at Reunions. Additionally, he challenged Brethren to replace themselves by finding Masons to join the Scottish Rite in upcoming Reunions. The more you are involved, the more enjoyment you get out of your membership, he told Brethren.

At the April Reunion, members pitched in on the stage crew, setting up backdrops, props, and wardrobe, as well as jumped in on the Degree teams wherever needed. Was the Alliance Reunion as polished as a Broadway theater production? Nope! But I challenge you to find better Brotherhood than we had from everyone present.

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TEACHER — OF THE — *Year*

Watson Elementary kindergarten teacher Jade Bartunek honored as the Hastings Public School Teacher of the Year for 2021, presented by the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation.

Bartunek said she was honored and humbled to be selected. She explained that she wanted to be a teacher since she was in kindergarten herself, and benefited from all the support she received from her own teachers in a small town in western Nebraska. Now, she wants her students to know that they are loved, valued, and heard in her classroom and that she learns from them just as they learn from her.



Above: Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH presents the Teacher of the Year award to Jade Bartunek; Below: Mrs. Bartunek with her students at Watson Elementary.

“Mrs. Bartunek has a special way of making her classroom feel like a family. She advocates for students, for families and for education as an institution. . . I truly believe that there is no extra mile she would not go to if it meant improved outcomes for children.”

“Education is a two-way street, and every day we’re learning and growing together.”

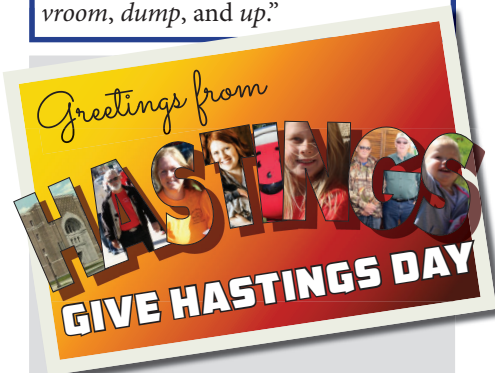
Bartunek has taught since 2008. Principal Jason Cafferty said, “She has been an excellent teacher for many years in the district. She is just so consistent and caring with the kids. . . You just never hear a parent walking away with their kid having a negative experience with Jade Bartunek.” Cafferty said Bartunek is involved in faculty committee work and is well-known for her skills as a mentor to student-teachers and other education students from Hastings College doing practicum work. “She’s a leader in many aspects,” he said.

Mrs. Bartunek received a \$1,000 stipend from the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation. To support the Teacher of the Year fund or to learn about starting a Teacher of the Year program in your community, reach out to Phil Odom, 33° at podom@hastingsmasonic.org or (402) 462-5813.



CONSTRUCTION SPEECH IN PROGRESS

Speech Pathologists teach sounds and sound-letter correspondence. Bjorem Speech Cues are picture cues designed to help young children acquire, use, and combine sounds by giving each sound a meaning that children can relate to. In this activity, our construction site targets the sound cues in the words “go, road, vroom, dump, and up.”



The Hastings Scottish Rite was part of a record Give Hastings Day last May, raising \$676,556 for non-profits serving Adams County. The Valley raised \$5,368 from RiteCare families and members, including over \$2,100 from a special campaign by RiteCare mom Jacqueline Cranson, who owns Small Town Famous on W. 2nd Street in Hastings. Tagge Rutherford Property & Casualty also promoted RiteCare, donating back to the Clinic. In addition, RiteCare also received a \$500 award for the biggest increase in donors since 2020 plus \$283 in ‘bonus bucks,’ for a total of \$6,151, all of which supports speech therapy through the Hastings Scottish Rite Foundation!

Valley of Lincoln



Belmont Elementary teacher Bobbie Ehrlich was honored for her 32 years of service on Tuesday with the Scottish Rite Teaching Award.

She had no idea what was coming when she walked into the Belmont Elementary School Gym. She thought it was an assembly to showcase her fifth graders' work.

The Scottish Rite Award is a distinguished award within Nebraska, specifically Lincoln Public Schools. The award has been given out to an outstanding teacher since 1965, with Bobbie Ehrlich being the 56th teacher to receive the award.

Teachers are typically nominated by their administrators or others who work closely with them. Ehrlich was chosen for her dedication to preparing her fifth graders and their families to become ready for the future. She said she was shocked and honored by the award.

"I got to share this with the most important people in my life, my family and

Photos: (top left) Bruce Wood presents the Teacher of the Year award to Bobbie Ehrlich; (top right); Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Bruce Wood, 33°, Bobbie Ehrlich, and Mike Gray, 33° at the award ceremony.



my Belmont family," said Ehrlich. "I'm very appreciative of the opportunity every day to do what I believe I was put on this Earth to do."

Ehrlich has spent all 32 years of her teaching career at Belmont. She said she has taught three generations of Belmont students.

Given out since 1965, the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award comes with a \$10,000 check, endowed by Lincoln Scottish Rite Masons, which the teacher may use any way she wishes.

Knights of St. Andrew



Top: Knight Master Nick Furchert, 32°, Gary Olsen, 32°, and First Knight Greg Prosofski, 32° Bottom: Nick knights Gary as a member of the Knights of St. Andrew

On Friday July 9th, the Lincoln Valley Knights of Saint Andrew held its first Knighting Ceremony in over 3 years for Squire Gary Olsen, 32°.

The intimate ceremony was put on by Knight Master Nick Furchert, 32° and First Knight Greg Prosofski, 32°. Gary Olsen came into the Scottish Rite in the 2019 Fall Reunion, and joined the KSA shortly after. As a Squire, Gary has helped with several events for the Scottish Rite during 2019 and early 2020. Gary also serves as Senior Warden for Cotner Lodge #297, and his wife Jennifer is very active with the Daughters of the Nile.

Knights at the FORE

On Friday June 25th, the Lincoln Valley Knights of Saint Andrew held its first outing of 2021 at Adventure Mini Golf, welcoming members families as well as the Lincoln Chapter DeMolay. Knight Master Nick Furchert, 32° and Brother David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH, Stuart Cowan, Junior Councillor,

Lincoln DeMolay, and Squire Gary Olsen, 32° and his family played 18 holes of mini-golf. Nick offered a snow cone to the first guest to shoot a hole-in-one. The KSA is looking to doing this again in the Fall, and is looking forward to seeing many more Knights and their families coming out!



~ by Nick Furchert, 32°
nfurchert@yahoo.com

Scottish Rite-Shrine SUMMER PICNIC

Great day at the Scottish Rite-Shriners Members picnic at the Lakeview Pavilion in Mahoney State Park! 80 Scottish Rite Masons, Shriners, and their families attended the picnic, which followed Tangier Shriners' participation in the Gateway to the West parade in nearby Blair, Nebraska. The picnic was also the first event for some members, after the past year of social distancing due to COVID-19. The Culinary Masters served freshly made pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, chips, with plenty of beer, soda, and water. Members made their own s'mores afterward on the grill.

The weather was a perfect 85°, and the pavilion was large enough for everyone to comfortably enjoy the shade. Mark your calendar for next June's picnic at Mahoney State Park.



Top: Dan Alati, 32° and Ben Zaayer, 32°. Bottom: Mike Stuhr, 32° KCCH shows how to eat a s'more without making a mess.

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www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org/golf

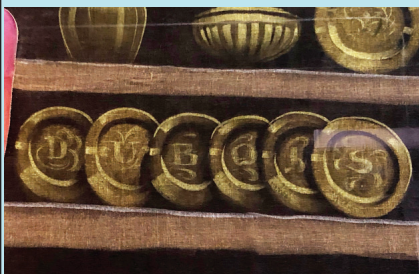
Masonic Day AT THE BALLPARK



Dustin Johnson and Dave Gibbs from Miloma Lodge #328 grilled burgers, brats and hot dogs at the Tailgate

Around 50 Scottish Rite Masons and guests came out to Werner Ballpark in Papillion on Thursday, May 27th for a tailgate party for Masonic Day at the Ballpark, arranged by the Omaha Area Masters & Wardens Club. The Omaha Scottish Rite provided meat, chips, soda, water and beer. Members of Miloma Lodge #328 brought the grill and served hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats in the parking lot before the Omaha Stormchasers defeated the Indianapolis Indians, 6-5.

Assessing Omaha's Scenic Backdrops



If space permitted, we could write pages about the Scottish Rite's scenic drops. In June, Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D. visited from Minneapolis for a few days, to assess, appraise, and consult on Omaha's Scottish Rite scenic backdrops in the theater. Wendy declared Omaha's to be some of the finest preserved drops she has visited, and she should know! Her expertise is in the history and restoration of scenic drops, particularly of those made for the Scottish Rite fraternity.

Our original drops were made by Sosman & Landis in 1914, and our current drops were purchased in 1996 for approximately \$40,000 from the Valley of Kansas City, Kansas. They were painted in 1951-1953 by Maj. Don Carlos DuBois of the Great Western Stage Equipment Company of Kansas City, Missouri. DuBois was known to include his name on the drops, despite written admonition from his superiors not to. DuBois' name appears on the plates in the vault scene of the 15th

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Photos: Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D. meets with members on June 4th; DuBois' name painted on plates on the 15th drop; Sosman & Landis Studios advertisement (c. 1914)

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13th Annual WalkRite for RiteCare a Great Success for Omaha

The annual WalkRite for RiteCare was a wonderful success this past June 19th at Chalco Hills Recreation Area. The weather was a breezy 82° as we welcomed 100 RiteCare families, the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute Clinicians, and Scottish Rite Masons.

Chalco Hills was the perfect location for the Walk with a cool visitor's center for registration and families gathering out back. Members of the UNO Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA) hosted activities for the kids, and the Culinary Masters grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with desserts provided by the Clinicians. Walkers went around a short kid-friendly trail near the visitor's center at Chalco Hills before lunch.

RiteCare families donated several beautiful raffle baskets, which raised an additional \$150, and many families made generous donations throughout the day. The Walk raised \$5,500 all of which will support the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic.



Photos Luann and Marshal Rabe; Kyle and Andrew "Tex" Beckner; Eagerly checking raffle winners; making a silly face; UNO NSSHLA volunteers



Brethren from Long Pine Lodge #136

Left-to-right: Stan Weidner, 32° KCCH, Grand Marshal for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska and Senior Warden; W.B. Garrett Weidner, 32°, Worshipful Master, W.B. Terry Foxworthy, Chaplain; B. Don Coash, 32°, Junior Deacon; and Alvin Benemerito, 32° KCCH, Secretary.

Long Pine #136 Brethren Assist at Yankton, South Dakota Reunion

It might be forgivable to forget that Long Pine, Nebraska in north-central Nebraska is closer to the Valley of Yankton, South Dakota (150 miles) than to any of the Nebraska Scottish Rite Valleys. So it is no surprise that Brethren from Long Pine Lodge #136 visited the Yankton Valley this past April 10th and 11th to assist in the Spring Reunion.

Brethren from Long Pine Lodge comprised the cast of the 14th Degree (pictured above), and assisted in the 5th, 22nd, and 31st Degrees. Members from Wausa Lodge #251 also joined the Brethren from Long Pine Lodge with speaking parts in the 5th Degree.

Historically, it was traditional that a Lodge or a company might have "ownership" of a particular Degree in a Reunion, with railroaders from Union Pacific doing this Degree or men from Northwestern Bell taking charge of that degree. Brethren interested in having their Lodge take responsibility for a particular Degree - or even starting a new Degree - can reach out to the General Secretaries for information on how to take on a particular Degree in a Reunion.



WalkRite for RiteCare

~ by Phil Odom, 33°
Hastings General Secretary
podom@hastingsmasonic.org

Shortly after 8 A.M. on Saturday, July 24th, volunteers for the Hasting Walk for RiteCare began arriving at Libs Park in Hastings. Committee volunteer, Bill Taylor, began the morning setting up the start lights along with his powerful sound system for the days event.



Hastings RiteCare Clinicians Kris Alt-house and Sydney Norton arrived, along with our great parent volunteers, and began setting up tables, games and walk route signs. Chalk messages were also written on the sidewalk walking trail offering encouragement to walkers during the walk along with facts about RiteCare and speech & language statistics. Other member volunteers were Dana Odom, George and Joy White, and Randy Jones from Hasting. Denise Wolf, Supervisor at our UNK Clinic, and her daughter, who is beginning a career in the Papillion school system as a Speech Language Pathologist, also worked one of the registration tables.



2021 became our largest walk in Hastings Clinic RiteCare history both in attendance and dollars raised. Over 70 children, parents and family members attended the walk, raising a little over \$4,350 was raised for the Hastings Valley Foundation which will be used to continue the great services in Hastings for all of Central and Western Nebraska.

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Membership, continued

at Reunions as something we just need to get through; if that means reading Degree work right from the script or on an iPad, so be it. And the effect of all this is that the Candidate does not truly experience Freemasonry. Without the pageantry and the spectacle of Masonry, it is just one more reason for a Brother to stay home.

It is easy to simply chalk it up to “that’s just the way it was,” and “this is the way it is now,” and go back to business as usual. But it seems to me that putting some pageantry back into Masonry is about the easiest things we can do to restore the luster of those bygone days.

My small Lodge re-instituted catered dinners before the Lodge meeting. Linen, china, and a good meal. No more boxed pizza. We asked officers to step up their attire, moving from blue jeans and t-shirts to slacks and a



John Maxell, 33° presents a framed Scottish Rite patent to David Greenawalt, 32°.

button-down shirt and tie (or at least a polo). We are polishing up our opening and closing ritual, as well as Degree work. The goal is to provide the Candidate an experience that he will remember, and will proudly return for more.

Across the state, Scottish Rite Valleys are reintroducing capping ceremonies and presenting the 32° patent to new

members at their Blue Lodge or at a special event. The Reunion photo hangs in a place of pride in the Valley, and the Scottish Rite Mason will proudly show off his class photo to friends and family for years to come!

Maybe a year of COVID-19 pandemic quarantine put things in perspective, or maybe Masons simply realize that if we are to build our Lodges and grow the membership roll, we need to put the enthusiasm, excitement, and the spectacle back into Masonry.

When polled, members want “more” out of their Masonry - not so much more work, but rather, a true Masonic experience that justifies their time. To engage our members and attract new ones, Brethren need to look at our current activities and think about how to re-introduce that pageantry to make each event something special.

Bumpy Speech Camp

Many thanks to the Scottish Rite Masons!

Our son, Braysen, has been a client at the RiteCare Clinic in Lincoln for about 4 years now. He followed in his brother's footsteps who also had a speech delay and was able to receive assistance and we're very grateful for the RiteCare program Scottish Rite Masons help support!

Our Speech Language Pathologist, Holly Schlautman, has recently introduced a new additional approach to help our son grow with confidence regarding his difference in speech amongst his peers.

The idea was brought about to begin a "Bumpy Speech Bootcamp". The name "Bumpy Speech Bootcamp" elaborates on working through those times when a stutter develops causing frustration with difficulty being able to use appropriate sounds of words in everyday speech.

This rings true for Braysen in times when he is very excited or tired and speech sounds become "bumpy" or stuttered. This in addition to difficulty with



Miss Holly dressed for 'Super Hero Day' at Bumpy Boot Camp to engage the kids in what interests them.

pronouncing correct word sounds can lead to one frustrated and or discouraged 5 year old at times. The concept behind the group sessions is to teach him that it is okay to be "different" with his speech, learn ways to remain confident in his communication, and learn strategies to improve his fluency.

The "Bumpy Speech Bootcamp" meets once a month for an hour. There are currently 3 children working in this group together with similar speech focus. Some of the exercises performed in class have shown them that it is okay to make mistakes. Through fun games and activities, acceptance and growth are learned.

Much appreciation and gratitude to the Masons! Our family has been blessed with their generosity providing speech and language assistance for both of our boys! The confidence and assistance given will remain true to us for all the years to come.

Many thanks,

The Pieper Family

CAPPING CEREMONY IN ALLIANCE

... continued from p. 2



Bob Moninger with Patrick Drake and wife Heather.



Ed Russell receives his 32° cap from Patrick Drake's mother Angie.

I was proud to call each and everyone one of those men my Masonic Brothers and Scottish Rite Masons.

The Alliance Valley has been dark over the Summer months, but we will come roaring back in September, with our business meeting on September 24th and the Fall Reunion on November 12-13, 2021. We had six candidates this past Spring, and I hope you'll help Brethren at your Lodge continue their Masonic journey by inviting them to join us this Fall.

Thanks again to M.W. Bob Moninger, and thanks to the members who came to the Capping Ceremony in May!

~ Gene Gatti, 33°
General Secretary
gene123@mail.com

Assessing Omaha's Scenic Backdrops

... continued from p. 5



Degree, painted on a column or tree trunk, or included as a scarab representing his initials.

Wendy joined members and guests at a reception on June 3rd to talk about DuBois and the history of scenic drops in the Masonic fraternal history. Her final report will include recommendations relating to the repair and restoration, as well as proper lighting for the drops, as well as a more thorough documented history for Omaha's drops.

AZARI'S STORY

submitted by Tonya Bailey
RiteCare parent

It was right at the time that COVID had shut down our world that I realized my son was not hitting many developmental milestones he should be hitting at 18 months. He was born prematurely, so for the first 12-16 months it was the go-to reasoning behind his slowing development. Not only was this realization a roller coaster of emotions for me as a parent, I also felt alone and helpless as many organizations and services were shut down due to the pandemic.



As a parent you have this constant worry that you're failing your child when you are trying to engage with them and teach them valuable skills, yet things aren't clicking. I can't stress enough how much Beth's positive attitude and empathy helped me as a Mother. Her teaching style made it easier for me to understand what I needed to do to help start the process of play engagement and communication with Azari, which in turn also lessened his frustrations with me. Halfway through Project ImPACT

we were finally able to safely meet in person, and at that point his development took off! I was quite astounded by the progress we started to make.

It is bittersweet to finish Project ImPACT, as I'm so very grateful for this strong foundation Beth helped us build, and we will miss her dearly. She has gone above and beyond to answer questions and suggest other services we could use going forward. Beth is a gem, as a professional and as a person who is obviously passionate about helping give a voice to those who don't quite have one yet.

So we say thank you so very much to Miss Beth and to all of you who help make Project ImPACT possible. We are forever grateful.

Six months after this realization, my son was finally able to be evaluated virtually and given a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a parent, my concerns were growing concerning the amount of time we had lost getting professional help due to the pandemic. After what seemed like a million different services, wait lists, programs, and names were given to me, I felt overwhelmed and lost.

Fortunately for us, our first real contact with services was being referred to Project ImPACT and in touch with the amazing Beth Hughes at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. [Project ImPACT is a program that uses naturalistic developmental behavioral intervention strategies to help caregivers improve their child's social engagement, communication, imitation and play skills.]

Beth immediately made me feel optimistic, calm and ready to learn how to help my son. While the first half of the program was not ideal (due to having virtual meetings during the pandemic) she provided me with a plethora of information to help start engaging in play with my son. Finally, we were getting somewhere!

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2021 Honors Men

Daniel J. Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, announced the Brethren who had been elected by the Supreme Council to receive Honors in 2021. 15 Brethren in the Valleys of Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha will be invested with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour and 6 32° KCCH Brethren will be coroneted 33° Inspectors General Honorary this October. Please extend congratulations to:

KCCH-elect:

Alliance

- Tommy D. Yung

Hastings

- Geoffrey K. Bogle
- Richard A. Johnson

Lincoln

- Edward W. Bennett
- Harry F. Lipert, Jr.
- Daniel J. Roth
- Jason B. Wood

Omaha

- Kyle A. A. Beckner
- James E. Carter
- John A. Hardy
- Robert M. Pelletier
- Mark D. Pilley
- Albert M. Sesemann, Jr.
- Stanly M. Truhlsen
- Gary H. Williams



33rds-elect:

Alliance

- Brenton E. Van Patten

Hastings

- Jeffrey A. Herber

Lincoln

- Gary M. VerMaas

Omaha

- Walter L. Keast
- Charles V. Sederstrom, III
- Gary S. Unger



Hastings Walk for RiteCare

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Parents and kids enjoyed many games, the park splash pad and a great hamburger/hot dog meal. Part of the meal was covered by *Big Dally's Deli*, a longtime supporter of the Walk for RiteCare in Hastings.

Hometown Famous of Hastings was a major contributor by sponsoring T-shirts for the Walk. Other sponsors include:

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Lincoln RiteCare Clinic Hosts Annual Walk at Pioneer Park

Fifty RiteCare families met at Lincoln's Pioneer Park on Saturday, July 17th for the annual Walk for RiteCare, walking to support speech therapy.

The kids' excitement was evident, as children rushed to give hugs to Miss Holly Schlautman and Miss Suzie Budzinski, our Lincoln Clinicians, who gave each of the children a RiteCare backpack stuffed with treats and a water bottle. Clinicians also brought frosted Eileen's cookies, chips, and pretzels as snacks.

At 10:30, with a welcome by Holly and Suzie, families kicked off a walk around the Pioneer Park trail, with families returning to the picnic pavilion for bean bag toss games or the adjoining playground. Proceeds from the Walk will support RiteCare services in Lincoln.



Fifty RiteCare family members as well as Scottish Rite Masons joined the Walk for RiteCare on July 17th at Pioneer Park to support pediatric speech services.



UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute Cuts Ribbon and Dedicates New Facility

Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons should be justifiably proud of the new University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute facility, which was dedicated on June 8th at its new state-of-the-art home in Omaha. The event included remarks by Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Chancellor of UNMC, Dr.

ple with intellectual and developmental needs. The Scottish Rite RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic has been affiliated with Munroe-Meyer Institute for more than 40 years.

Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons have made a 5-year commitment, pledging



Cutting the ribbon at Munroe-Meyer Institute



The new recreation therapy pool

In addition to the RiteCare Clinic, the new MMI building includes cold and warm-water pools, an indoor splash pad, state-of-the-art physical therapy and virtual reality labs. Simulated apartment spaces will help young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn to live independently.

Dr. Karoly Mirnics, Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute, declared that these services are not here for a day, but for a lifetime. "...[this] represents a promise to help them reach their potential," he said at the dedication.

Susan Gass said her 15-year-old son, Kaleb, who has Down Syndrome, initially visited the institute for speech therapy. For the past nine years, he has come for recreational therapy. The institute offers camps throughout the year. There, he can let down his guard and simply be with his friends. "It is his community, and he fits," Susan said.

Dan Wellendorf, 33rd, Deputy to the Supreme Council, said, "We are indebted to Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33rd as SGIG and Dr. Nordness who built a cohesive unit among our RiteCare Clinics across the state, improving and expanding services for children. Now, we will work for a long-term endowment to make sure those services are available for Munroe-Meyer's second century."



View of the RiteCare Clinic preschool at MMI

Karoly Mirnics, Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, and Tim Shriver, Ph.D., Director of the Special Olympics.

The new building, which effectively doubles the space to 220,000 square feet for therapy services, replaces an older patchwork of buildings on the UNMC campus, some of which date back to the 1950s.

The Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) has been a part of the Omaha community since 1920, serving the needs of peo-

\$100,000 toward the \$92 million dollar cost of the new building, which was largely underwritten by several major Foundations in Nebraska, including the Lozier, Weitz, and Scott Foundations.

In addition to the \$100,000 pledge, the Nebraska Scottish Rite maintains an annual commitment of \$750,000 for speech therapy services for children through the RiteCare Clinic. The Nebraska Scottish Rite has also endowed a professorship in Speech-Language Pathology, currently held by Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of the RiteCare Clinic.

Giving the Gift of VOICE

... continued from page 1

Scottish Rite leadership are examining ways to add full-time speech clinicians to better fill the need for speech therapy across central and western Nebraska.



To read about the plans to expand RiteCare services as well as how we are helping children like Braysen (page 8) and Azari (page 9), it makes me proud to think how the Nebraska Scottish Rite fulfills the mission of helping not just be heard, but be understood.

If you have not already received it, you will shortly receive the 101-Club/SGIG Circle appeal in the mail. I ask you to please consider a donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, which helps hundreds of children like Braysen and Azari.

Each \$101 donation supports a session of therapy for children like Azari and Braysen, and donors will receive the new 2021-2022 101-Club lapel pin. I hope you'll wear it with pride and explain its significance to your Lodge brethren, co-workers, friends, and neighbors. Each \$101 donation will also be recognized on a poster at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Annual Communication.

For each donation of \$300 or more, you will receive the new SGIG Circle challenge coin, approved by Dan Wellendorf, Deputy to the Supreme Council, the 101-Club pin, and special recognition at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and in the Nebraska *Scottish Rite Journal*.

The 2021-2023 SGIG Circle challenge coin

Finally, we are offering members the opportunity to support the new Rose Croix Society with a \$1,000/year pledge for 5 years (which can be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually). As a Rose Croix Society Donor, you are creating working capital for RiteCare programs now and building the endowment for RiteCare services well into the future. Rose Croix Society donors will receive special acknowledgment from Dan Wellendorf, 33°.

Last year, Scottish Rite Masons raised over \$15,000 for RiteCare through the Nebraska Foundation's 101-Club/SGIG Circle. Please consider the appeal again this year as part of your 2021 philanthropy.

Thank you for your generosity through your Valley and the Nebraska Foundation. You are making a significant impact on the lives of children in Nebraska, and their families are truly grateful for what you continue to do to improve the lives of the children we serve.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska's Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the November-December, 2021 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-September for consideration.)

Micah I. Evans, 33°

Orient Development Director
(402) 342-1300
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SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Name	Valley
John Adam.....	Alliance
Kenneth Beebe.....	Lincoln
T.J. Brumfield.....	Omaha
Micheal Buchardt.....	Lincoln
Gary Bunnell.....	Omaha
William Cook.....	Lincoln
William Craig.....	Omaha
John Ferguson.....	Alliance
Michael Gray.....	Lincoln
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Donald Shiu, Jr.....	Omaha
Charles Sohm.....	Omaha
Michael Stuhr.....	Omaha
Gary Unger.....	Omaha
Dan Wellendorf.....	Deputy for Nebraska
George White.....	Hastings

Thanks to the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons, RiteCare children receive all the speech therapy they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. SGIG Circle donors have pledged \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year. Please consider a donation or pledge and make a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional Speech Therapy for Nebraska children.

“Your dues change the light bulbs.
Your donations change the world.”