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Orient of Nebraska

November-December, 2022
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Membership

There was an interesting editorial in the newspaper entitled "Those Who Show Up Should Not Be Easily Dismissed," written by Rebecca Fahrlander, retired Professor of Psychology and Sociology. She noted the numerous organizations where someone arrives at a meeting and says "There's no one here." "No one here?" Dr. Fahrlander asks. "But, I'm here!"

She asks whether we are taking for granted the people who do show up and always take on the projects that need doing. Think of those Masons who show up for each meeting, taking a Degree part or an office, year after year.

plan on it!
'tis the season

If you have been paying attention to the Scottish Rite Journal, you can't you can't help but be excited for the future of our principal Scottish Rite philanthropy, the Rite-Care Speech and Language Clinic.

As I write this in August, I hope that construction begin soon on the new RiteCare Clinic at the Lincoln Scottish Rite, providing expanded state-of-the-art clinic space to better serve children in the greater Lincoln area. The Nebraska Scottish Rite leadership are already considering how to increase clinic space at the Hastings Masonic building and working with UNK to expand services through central and western Nebraska.



A good mix of both long-standing Masons and newer members come together for a Master Mason's Degree

Like many organizations, Masons often bemoan the lack of more members, younger members, and more involvement. And we certainly do need that.

But, Dr. Fahrlander notes, does the focus on new membership inadvertently lead to a failure to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions by the faithful members who routinely show up for the Lodge or any other organizations? Of course,

we should always seek membership growth, but not at the expense of the long-time members who have been doing the work for years and years. Where would we be, she writes, if all those older members stopped showing up, stopped doing the hard work or sharing their wisdom?

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Orient Calendar

- Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Nov 4 Nebraska RiteCare Fall Retreat in Lincoln
- Nov 15 Feast of Tishri (H)
- Nov 4-5 Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
- Nov 17, 18, 19 Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
- Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Dec 19 Omaha Christmas Banquet (O)
- Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Jan 16 Installation of 2023 Officers (O)
- Jan 27 Scotch Tasting (O)
- Jan 28 Robert Burns Celebration (L)
- Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 Hastings Valley Lunch (H)
- Feb 2-4 Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)
- Apr 20, 21, 22 Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
- May 17 Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)

**Please check with your
Valley for most current updates
to Scottish Rite events
Lodge of Perfection meetings:**

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

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 22

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

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

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



An estimated 17,000 people from all around Box Butte County and the Panhandle were in Alliance in July for Heritage Days. Alliance Lodge #183 opened up the building, serving pulled pork barbecue sandwiches after the Heritage Days parade, serving 60 people and selling the left over pulled pork. The Lodge raised \$1,200 after expenses.



The Alliance High School band marches past the Scottish Rite on 3rd Street in Alliance at the Heritage Days parade.

Alliance Lodge #183 also hosted a raffle in memory of Brother Todd Harris, who passed away last September. Todd had been a fifty year member of the Alliance Scottish Rite. W.M. James Karell (32°) presented a \$1,000 check to winner, Todd's son Jeff Harris. The Lodge raised \$1,200, which will be help meet Lodge expenses.



The Scottish Rite replaced the roof this Summer and had the air conditioning serviced. Of course, we are looking forward to the Reunion on November 4-5th. As always, please reach out to Brethren to continue their Masonic journey as a member of the Scottish Rite, and we invite all members to join us to help welcome our new 32° Brethren.

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

WALK FOR RITECARE RAISES \$6,000 FOR RITECARE CLINIC



On a beautiful Saturday morning on July 23rd our RiteCare clinicians, Kris Althouse and Sydney Norton registered around 90 family and friends of the Hastings Clinic to our annual Hastings Walk for RiteCare. After several months of planning by Clinicians and a Scottish Rite committee, the event raised approximately \$6,000.00.

The Walk was held for the second year at Libs Park in Hastings. The paved sidewalk, large shade trees, and a children's splash pad has again proven to be a great place for our event. The children enjoyed the cool water of the splash pad as well as several fun games placed near by the shelter. Corn hole, bowling, ladder golf, bean bag toss and a water table were games available along with face painting and cookie decorating. Brother Bill Taylor had his air pressure rocket ready for those who were interested in pressing the launch button.



Brothers Richard Johnson and Greg Seiler prepared hamburgers and hot dogs, and all of the condiments were donated by Big Dally's Deli in Hastings. In addition, Brothers Randy Jones, Chuck Hastings, Phil Odom plus wives Dana Odom and Cindy Jones assisted with serving food, games and greeting walkers. Volunteer Zane Norton helped with set up and games also.



Scottish Rite Masons Supports National Night Out

Randy Jones and Richard Johnson represented the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite in Hastings on Tuesday, August 2nd at Libs Park.

National Night Out is a countrywide event that provides law enforcement officers an opportunity to meet families in a fun, family-friendly setting. More than 10,000 communities across the United States and Canada participate in the event where people are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police.

Hastings has celebrated National Night Out as a community event since 1995. "The Scottish Rite is participating to show our support for law enforcement and encourage interaction between our families, our Brethren, and the police," said Randy. "Plus, we want to build awareness about the fraternity and our philanthropy."

Spotlight on Brother Randy Jones, 33°



Brother Randall Dale Jones, 33° was born on August 13, 1949 in Hastings, Nebraska. With the exception of a few years during and after college, he has lived in Hastings all of his life. He and his wife Cindy have five grown children and 11 grandchildren.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Education, Randy taught math in the Omaha-area school districts for three years before moving back to Hastings to work in the family construction business.

During his high school and college years Randy worked part time at Dutton-Lainson Com-

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Lincoln Valley Celebrates the Ploughman Poet with Annual Robert Burns Dinner



Left: Ed and Joni Bennett with their family; Center: Chef Andy Seachord, 32° serving dinner; Above: Kyle Beckner, 32° KCCH, Kate Boulter and Alan Boulter, 32°



COVID cancelled the Robert Burns Dinner this past January, but the Knights of St. Andrew would not be deterred from hosting the annual celebration. Once conditions allowed, the KSA hosted the Robert Burns Celebration on July 23rd.

Thirty guests turned out for a fantastic evening, with Kim Meyer enchanting guests with a medley of Scottish tunes on her harp. The Legacy String Quartet

entertained guests during dinner, playing a mix of Irish and Scottish folk music.

The menu was prepared by the Culinary Team of Andy Seachord, 32°, Oscar Sinclair, 32°, and Nick Hanson, 32°. They served a four-course meal beginning with salad and a pepper gazpacho soup. Of course, the guest of honor was the haggis, presented with all the ceremony that goes with that venerated dish.

The Ode to the Haggis was given by a true son of Scotland, Jimmy Joyce, who lived in Edinburgh but now resides in Fremont. After the haggis, our chefs served a stuffed chicken breast with a curry sauce with root vegetables, followed by a lemon curd tart for dessert.

The Knights of St. Andrew raised \$120 for the RiteCare Clinic with a silent auction of a Lad and Lassies basket.

The evening concluded with a round of thanks for everyone who helped, and a save the date for the Robert Burns Celebration on January 28, 2023.

KNIGHTS OF ST ANDREW CELEBRATE HIGHLAND GAMES

by Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH
Past Venerable Master, KSA

Some believe the roots of the Highland games date as far back as the 11th century, when King Malcolm III called a foot race to the summit of Creag Chòinnich in the hopes of finding the fastest runner in the land to become his personal courier. Many games still include a hill race, although the winner is no longer destined for a life of servitude!

The games evolved into a test not only of strength and stamina, but also of creative dance and music skills, to keep kings, queens, and clan chiefs entertained.

On July 23rd the Lincoln Knights of St. Andrew and friends displayed their Scottish prowess accompanied by the hill music of the Oasis Blue Grass Band.



Gary Olsen, 32° and Andy Seachord, 32° prepare the caber for the next toss.

Some modifications to the contests were necessary for our co-ed participants. The caber throw consisted of throwing an eight-foot eight-inch vineyard post. Throwing a rubber boot was substituted for the Haggis hurling event. Haggis



Stacie Sinclair tries her hand at the Caber Toss, with Gary Olsen lending a hand

hurling began as a practical joke in the 1970s but is now a popular event at many Highland games.

The event was organized by Lincoln's Cotner Lodge #297 for families and friends of Masonry, which of course included the Knights of St. Andrew.



Scottish Rite Honors 50-Year Members and UNO Scholarship Recipients

One of the best-attended meetings each year is the September dinner, welcoming our newest 50-year members and our UNO scholarship recipients. Over 100 Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies and guests came to a great roast beef dinner.

Bennie Kugler, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection served as master of ceremonies for the evening. He called on John Maxell, 33°, who came up for a surprise presentation. Over the past few months, the Scottish Rite has welcomed Samantha Peatrowsky to Lodge dinners while her husband Kevin has been serving in Kuwait. John jokingly chided that the first place Kevin brought his wife on his return home was to a Scottish Rite meeting! To help him provide a slightly better dinner than the Scottish Rite, he surprised Kevin with a gift card for \$50 to Sullivan's Steakhouse.

Bennie then called up our 50-year members present – Don Wilkie, 32° and his wife Patricia and Hal Daub, 33° and his wife Mary. Dan Wellendorf, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council, joined them to present 50-year certificates, dues cards, while their wives placed the pins on their husbands. Bennie lead a round of applause to Don and Hal, and the other 50-year Brethren not able to be present.

Seven of our 2022-2023 scholarship

recipients attended with their families, receiving certificates. Frank Kroupa, 33° came up to present a certificate in his name to Abigail Logeman, and we recognized Christina Augilar, a graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology, whose scholarship is given in memory of F. Jerome Given, 33°.

Our speaker was Distinguished Scholar recipient Abigail Logeman, a junior. She spoke how an early passion for sports has informed her life. Getting outside her comfort zone with tennis, she soon found herself playing in all-state championship, and now coaching 4 to 17 year olds. Supporting her throughout her practices and games, her parents and brothers created a constant in her life where Abigail learned to be a leader and the best teammate possible.

Aspects from sports follow into daily life: how to be a leader, a supporter, and a drive to work for what she wants. At UNO, her work ethic is leading her toward Dentistry, studying chemistry and biology. She thanked the Scottish Rite for presenting her with a scholarship that helps her grow as a person in college.

For over 30 years, the Scottish Rite has funded \$2,000 scholarships to UNO students, and each year, members are genuinely impressed by the extraordinary caliber of students at UNO .

Top: Frank Kroupa, 33°, Patrick Graves, 32° KCCH, and raffle winner Jim Smith, 32°; Bottom: Terry Nelson, 32°

Scottish Rite FALL OUTING

September 20th was a cool 65° with an early rain that drove away any mosquitos - the perfect weather for the Fall Outing at the Papillion Gun Club. Around 130 Masons and prospective Masons turned out or an evening of trap shooting and the Culinary Master's famous pork chops, served with baked potato, salad, corn, and roll on the side.

The Lodge of Perfection officers ran a 50-50 draw, awarding \$250 to Jim Smith, 32° and Mike Precella, 32° KCCH, and Scott Oglesby, 33° drew for raffle prizes.

The evening has become the perfect venue for prospective Brethren as well, and several members brought along sons, coworkers, or friends to introduce them to Freemasonry in a relaxing environment. The Lodges always welcome a few new Brethren from the Fall or Spring Outings at the Papillion Gun Club.

With perfect weather, great Brotherhood, and a relaxing evening, the Spring Outing is an event not to be missed. The Spring Outing will be on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.



Flight Winners at 17 under par: Jamie Stogdill, Bob Pelletier, Lee Terry, and Mike Albright

RITECARE CLASSIC

24TH ANNUAL GOLF BENEFIT

The 24th Annual RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit raised \$21,180 for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, with a net profit of \$15,476 for our philanthropies.

Twenty teams played on a perfect Friday afternoon on August 12th at Dodge-Riverside Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Chairman of the RiteCare Classic Golf Committee, Buzz Garlock, 32° KCCH welcomed our players and thanked sponsors for another fantastic year, and reminded guests that every dollar raised supported speech therapy for children across Nebraska. “We appreciate our players and sponsors who allow Scottish Rite Masons to offer the highest level of care for children needing speech therapy through our partners at the Munroe-Meyer Institute,” Buzz said.

In addition to a four-person Texas scramble, players competed to win a new car by McMullen Ford with a hole-in-one contest and Super Team Mulligan contests on several holes.

Flight winners were Lee Terry, Bob Pelletier, Mike Albright, and Jamie Stogdill, who were 17 under par, with the Omaha Home for Boys foursome coming second at 14 under par. For men/womens’



Munroe-Meyer faculty volunteers with Carl Mathis, Tom Brummett, Bill Garner, and Ralph Joos

mixed flight teams, a UNMC team came in at 9 under par, tied with Buzz and Becky Garlock’s team. Other prize winners included Rick Whitesides, for coming closest to the pin in one and Bob Gilmore for longest putt from on the green.

After the game, players returned to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center for a fantastic barbecue brisket dinner, served by the Culinary Masters who also donated the food. Buzz Garlock presented awards to the flight winners, and guests drew raffle prizes.

The RiteCare Classic committee looks forward to returning to Dodge-Riverside Golf Course in 2023, with September 29th as the tentative date.

The 2022 RiteCare Classic was generously sponsored by:

UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
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Robert and Terry Pelletier

Tangier Shrine Divan

Lodge of Perfection Officers

Council of Kadosh Officers

Chapter of Rose Croix Officers

Omaha Consistory Officers

Omaha Home for Boys

A Letter from a RiteCare Mom

I am very grateful to the Scottish Rite Masons for the opportunities my son has been given through the RiteCare Clinic.

Upon receiving his Autism diagnosis, I was navigating the many services we would need to support his success. Our entire experience with the RiteCare Clinic has been exceptional; truly a gift on a difficult journey. My son has been able to work with an incredible Speech



Language Pathologists, and [Clinician] Beth Hughes has become an integral part of Cole's team.

The RiteCare Clinic has been a tremendous asset in the progress we have seen in Cole, and to receive these services at no cost is profound. We are so thankful.

With sincere gratitude,

*Ali Hult
Cole's Mom*

the summer college league, the Hastings Sodbusters. He has served on the YMCA Board along with the local Red Cross Board. Randy is a staunch supporter of the Red Cross Blood Mobile having given over 25 gallons during his lifetime.

Randy was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 19, 1982 in Hastings Lodge #50. He has served in all of the chairs and as Master in 1987 and 2013. He continues to support the Lodge by mentoring new candidates.

Randy joined the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite on March 23, 1984 where he served as Degree Director for the 9th degree. Randy currently serves as Commander of the Council of Kadosh and is the Hastings Valleys wardrobe coordinator for our Scottish Rite Reunions. He was invested with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 2001, and Coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in October, 2017.

Randy is also a member of Tehama Shrine and assists with local parades.

Spotlight on Randy Jones, 33° ... continued from page 3

pany in Hastings. After a few years back in Hastings, he began a 42-year career in sales at Dutton-Lainson. Upon retiring in 2016, he returned to his passion of teaching by serving as a substitute teacher in Hastings Public Schools and surrounding school districts.

Randy has always been quietly active in the Hastings community, supporting many youth activities. He was a member of Big Brother and Y-Pals of Lincoln. For over 10 years, he coached 5th grade basketball teams from Lincoln Elementary School. Randy has supported local Legion baseball teams and enjoys attending

Membership, continued

Dr. Fahrlander reminds us to appreciate the contributions of those who are here, even as we look to expand and grow our membership and engagement.

The world is run by those who show up. The original source of that expression is long lost, and it has come to be a euphemism for the two types of people: those who are disengaged from the world and those who are active participants in an organization, shaping the future by working in the present.

Regardless of what we all want for the future of Freemasonry, it is run by people who show up and put time into the things they know are important, and which need to be done. Whether they are the smartest or the most



Ward Shires and Keith Plummer cook for a Lincoln Scottish Rite picnic.

The world may be run by those who show up - and they often do the cooking, too.

innovative leaders or know ritual better than others is irrelevant. They are simply the Brothers who turn up at each meeting and push the organization a bit further for a longer time than others.

In fact, look at the Brothers who are recognized with Masonic or civic honors. These are most often the same Brethren who are who are also working back

stage at Scottish Rite Reunions, cooking dinners at Lodge meetings, or undertaking maintenance around the building. They are also likely coaching a Little League team, serving as a Scoutmaster for their son's troop, or serving on a community board.

Masons will always look to grow the fraternity by involving and engaging new members, but we should always remember to notice and appreciate the Brethren who are giving back simply by showing up for each meeting, Degree conferral, or pancake breakfast. The next time someone bemoans a sparsely attended meeting or reminds us that we need new members and new petitions, remind them, "I'm here!" And like the rest of the world, Masonry is run by those that are here!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

... continued from page 1

It really is an exciting time to be a Scottish Rite Mason in Nebraska knowing that this fraternity is making for children. On top of that, Scottish Rite Masons are recognizing



As you consider your year-end giving opportunities, please think of hundreds of RiteCare children across the state you support through speech therapy services.

Their parents send us numerous letters of gratitude for how we've helped their kids' personalities truly emerge as they learn how to communicate and to be truly understood. Many Masons are using a Required Minimum Distribution from their Individual Retirement Accounts. If you are 70 1/2 years old, you can direct your IRA provider to make a donation to your Valley's Scottish Rite foundation (or the philanthropies of your choice). Additionally, you can make up to a \$100,000 donation to a non-profit organization without paying income tax on the transaction. If you file jointly, your spouse could also give \$100,000, meaning couples can exclude up to \$200,000 of retirement savings from income tax if they donate.

Please talk to your family, financial planner, or attorney this holiday season about a year-end donation to RiteCare or how you can supercharge an IRA distribution. Thank you for supporting our philanthropies, **and thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason!**

Americans are generous. We donated \$450 billion in 2019 to philanthropies. \$466.23 billion in 2020. And \$484.85 billion donated in 2021, according to the Annual Report on Philanthropy. That's a lot of zeroes!

A great deal of this giving occurs around the holidays. Studies have shown that giving triggers the brains dopamine reward system, the same effect as when we enjoy cake, listen to music, or other satisfying activities. People get an even stronger sense of reward when they witness the positive impact of their giving.

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:

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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.