



The Vision of Nebraska Masonry: Nebraska Freemasonry will establish itself as the premier fraternal organization promoting universally acknowledged values of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

MOVING FORWARD...

Installation Remarks from the Grand Master

As you're probably all aware, Masonry relies heavily on symbolism to impart its moral and ethical lessons. I believe that the installation of the 2011 Grand Lodge Officers on this beautiful spring day is symbolic of a new beginning for Nebraska Masonry.

Though the events of the past few months have been trying, this group of Officers has remained grounded by their faith in, and commitment to, the tenets of Freemasonry. The patience, dignity and loyalty these men have displayed should be an inspiration to anyone who has any doubt about the future of Nebraska Masonry. While I have no intention of dashing the zeal these men have for the Craft, I have reminded them, and I'm certain you'll hear me say again, the order of our priorities this year will be service to God, our family & country, to our vocations, and to Masonry.

As we move forward doing the business of Nebraska Masonry, our focus will be on returning to, and reinforcing the core values of this great Fraternity, which include morality, truth, relief and Brotherly love. I'm convinced that there are countless men who will want to be part of an organization that adheres to these tenets, rather than one that tries to adapt to Society's ever changing moral compass.

One of the greatest honors and responsibilities of a Nebraska Grand Master is to appoint his probable successor to the "advancing line." The events which have brought us to this day have also changed the traditional time table of this appointment. The time honored tradition of making this announcement at the Brother's home Lodge has been lost, which I regret very much, however, this forum will serve as a suitable alternative. W.:B.: Dennis Rix is my choice and he has accepted the appointment, Dennis is a spiritual man whose moral compass is right on; he has served Masonry well both in Fremont and as a Grand lodge Officer. While W.:B.: Dennis can't be installed as Grand Junior Deacon at this time, he should be afforded the respect and privileges of that office; I might also add that he has the support of his lovely lady Nan.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for taking time to be here today, your support and dedication to the Masonic family is not lost on me or this group of Grand Lodge Officers. The opportunity to serve this Great Fraternity with these fine men is truly an honor, and I believe that our best days are ahead.



Bruce A. Baker
145th Grand Master

2011-2012 Grand Lodge Officers

- GRAND MASTER** **Bruce A. Baker** (317), Hastings
- GRAND SENIOR WARDEN**.....**Rex J. Moats** (102, 290), Elkhorn
- GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**.....**Thomas L. Hauder** (332), Lincoln
- GRAND SECRETARY**.....**Bruce A. Watkins** (300), Lincoln
- GRAND CHAPLAIN**.....**Donald E. Rife** (173, 135), Stratton
- GRAND ORATOR** **John B. Ferguson** (294), Kimball
- GRAND HISTORIAN**..... **Christopher M. Carter** (268), Omaha
- GRAND CUSTODIAN** **Scott J. Krieger** (317, 332, 33), Hastings
- GRAND MARSHAL** **Ronald D. Stites** (268), Papillion
- GRAND SENIOR DEACON** **Joe D. McBride** (224), Ainsworth
- GRAND JUNIOR DEACON** **John T. Maxell** (327, 6), Omaha
- GRAND SENIOR STEWARD**.....**Brett R. Bennett** (6), Plattsmouth
- GRAND JUNIOR STEWARD**.**Robert W. Moninger** (200, 256), Burwell
- GRAND TYLER, Pro-tem** **Dennis E. Rix** (15), Fremont
- GRAND MUSICIAN**.....**Mark K. Clinton** (54, 332), Lincoln

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

- PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**.....
- Patrick D. Barger** (54, 332, 5, 268), Dakota City
- PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**.....**Kent B. Broyhill** (5), Dakota City
- PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**..... **Joel W. Zilmer** (183), Alliance

Nebraska Masonry - Men putting ethics into practice.

Grand Master's MESSAGE

Bruce A. Baker

Message

In a continuing effort to keep all Nebraska Masons informed concerning events that affect our Craft, I've included a letter which was sent to all Nebraska Lodges to be read aloud at their May Stated Communications. While I'm aware that most have heard the information included in the letter, many more may not have been brought up to speed on these events.

Greetings Brethren,

In an ongoing effort to keep you informed of the events that affect you, as Masons of the Nebraska Grand Lodge, I'm writing to confirm that Most Worshipful John T. Parsons has resigned as Grand Master effective 16 Apr 2011. Citing personal and health reasons, it should be noted that Most Worshipful Brother Parsons has served the craft well for the past 14 plus months, while enduring personal attacks, innuendos, and out and out lies. Through it all, Most Worshipful John and Lady Pauline have served with dignity and dedication to the tenets of our beloved Fraternity.

Having been elected at the 2011 Annual Communication, and subsequently installed as Deputy Grand Master on 19 Feb 2011 in Alliance, I have now been installed as the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska on 16 Apr 2011 in Omaha at the Scottish Rite Center during the Statewide Scottish Rite Spring Reunion, per the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Nebraska. Article XI. states in part "and in the event of the death of the Grand Master, or of his permanent absence from the state, or of his inability from any cause to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden, and the Grand Junior Warden, in the order of their rank, shall succeed to the office of Grand Master, and, upon being installed by any Past Grand Master, shall thereupon assume the duties of Grand Master and be entitled to all the rights and prerogatives of a Grand Master."

Brethren, we Nebraska Masons stand at a crossroads that will determine the future of this great Masonic Fraternity we've come to know and love. There is a very small vocal minority that would have you believe that it's in the best interest of Nebraska Masonry to allow accusations and charges based on supposition, half truths, and lies to shape our future, when the plain truth is that it only serves their personal agendas and egos.

I'm asking you to unite with me and the Grand Lodge Officers in returning Masonry to the high moral standards that we embrace in our beautiful lectures and ceremonies. While I recognize the benefits of technology and some of the positive changes that have resulted, I don't for a single moment believe that we should try to reinvent Masonry so as to conform to the eroded moral standards of today's society as it has changed, as some would have you believe is in Masonry's best interest. I sincerely believe that if we return to the precepts of our fathers' Masonry; that of service to God, our families and country, and our honest efforts to our vocations, and Masonry; that we will prosper. I'm convinced that there are countless men anxious to be part of an organization that not only claims to embrace high moral standards, honesty, integrity and service, but actually lives those tenets.

Brethren, so that there can be no mistake, I'm fully aware, as you are, that Dave Watts was suspended from Masonry for 1 year as a result of his Masonic Trial; the suspension began on 06 Apr 2011, and Watts still has an opportunity to appeal that decision, no appeal has been filed to my knowledge, at this time. If Watts does in fact appeal the findings, and subsequently has the sentence reduced or reversed, he would be eligible to apply for reinstatement as a Nebraska Mason. At such time of his reinstatement, if he is eligible prior to the 2012 Annual Communication to be installed Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska; I will tender my resignation, thereby allowing him to be installed as such. There will be no assumed loop holes claimed, or excuses made; you have my word as a man and a Mason.

My final request of all good Nebraska Masons is for you to consider the following post card I received on 19 Apr 2011, and my resolve to rid our Fraternity of any who had a part in, or knowledge of this anonymous threat sent to my house. The fear and confusion on my granddaughter's face as she brought the mail into our home that day was caused by a un-Masonic act of a spineless individual or group who has no place in Masonry.

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WOOD RIVER LODGE RECEIVES FORMAL REPRIMAND

Grand Master John T. Parsons convened a special meeting of Cement Lodge No. 211 on 14 April 2011 in Wood River to determine the facts surrounding reports of an illegal Grand Lodge Installation. Several Grand Lodge Line Officers including: Deputy Grand Master Baker, Grand Senior Warden Moats, Grand Senior Deacon McBride, and Grand Junior Deacon Maxell met with the officers of Cement Lodge along with other interested Brothers. The discussion was honest and forthright, with everyone given the opportunity to express their opinions and ask questions. The formal reprimand that resulted stated, in part, "On 17 Feb 2011 Cement Lodge hosted an illegal installation in direct violation of an order issued by the Grand Master and confirmed by the membership of the Grand Lodge. It appears that most of the members of the Lodge were not cognizant of the order prohibiting the illegal installation, and those that belatedly became aware of it felt that they were not in a position to stop it. While ignorance of a law or edict is not excusable, in that case it does provide some mitigating circumstances." Everyone in attendance agreed that a reprimand was a fitting response to the events of 17 Feb 2011. Most Worshipful Brother Parsons wished Cement Lodge good luck and his best as they continue their efforts for Nebraska Masonry.

TO LIGHT!

Bringing Masonic Education To Light

A Publication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Nebraska

VOL XIV NO 2

SUMMER 2011

The Building or the Builder?

By Larry Jacobsen

Freemasonry, as we all know, is replete with metaphors using the tools of the operative mason as symbols representing the processes we use to better ourselves. Plumbs, squares, levels, 24" gauge, common gavel, and trowels. We refer often to the transformation from the rough ashlar to the state of perfection of the finished ashlar. We use geometry, mathematics, orders of architecture and temples as educational tools in comprehension of our own Masonic philosophy. And so it was, as I sat listening to a keynote speaker at a conference on historical preservation, that another unopened door in the realm of Freemasonry was unlocked.

The keynote speaker was Rudy R. Christian, a founding member and executive director of the Preservation Trades Network and also founding member and past president of the Timber Framers Guild. What I expected to hear from Rudy was an examination of the techniques of woodworking as it applied to historic preservation. What he presented was something quite different. It was about what Rudy sees when he looks upon a work of craftsmanship. Rudy said, "I don't see the building, I see the builder."

Rudy used allegories and metaphors that would immediately connect with us Freemasons. He was speaking from the heart and yearning for us to look, if at least for a moment, through his lens of examining the qualities of the finished product. We observed through Rudy the synthesis of craftsmanship and endurance, of self-satisfaction and user benefits, of form and beauty. Rudy referenced the carpenter's rule. Not necessarily a standard rule, but one the carpenter uses all the time – his rule. Used consistently and with refinement over many projects the craftsman embodies his spirit, his mark, on the building.

Rudy said, "You cannot understand an old building unless you take the time to understand the builder's tools and techniques . . . each piece of construction had the craftsman's 'mark'." Rudy compared this to today's mass production techniques in construction. Not only have we lost so much of the craftsmanship in construction, but with it we lose the appreciation of the building by the user, for it is no longer perceived as being worthy for the ages. And so, Rudy asks, "Are the trades obsolete?"



So What?

Listening to Rudy it was easy to make the connection between his presentation of the operative craft to the speculative nature of our own fraternity. So from a speculative point of view, do we see the building or do we see the builder? In other words, do we see the image of a man (building), captured in time, as he would hope that others see him? Or, do we see the man laboring (builder), ever improving himself in the service of mankind, God, country and nature?

You cannot understand a man's personality and philosophy until you understand his core values and his 'mark' – the consistency with which he applies his core values in the performance of his duties in daily life. Man has always been tempted by vanity, passion and self-interest at the expense of others, but our current era exploits those traits more than ever. So as we Freemasons build our own inner temples, we each use the allegorical building tools in different ways and different combinations, but with a common purpose.

W.L. Wilmshurst, English author and Freemason (1867-1939) in his article on Masonic Initiation took a very worldly view of this journey of life:

"In Masonic metaphor it saw Nature to be the vast general quarry and forest out of which individual lives have been hewn like so much stones and timber, which when duly perfected are destined to be fitted together and built into a new and higher synthesis, a majestic Temple worthy of the Divine indwelling, and of which Solomon's temple was a type. All life has issued out of the "East," i.e., from the Great World of Infinite Spirit, and has journeyed to the "West" or the Little World of finite form and embodiment, whence, when duly perfected by experience in those restricted conditions, it is ordained to return to the "East."

Or Roscoe Pound, in the conclusion to his 'Masonic Philosophy':

"As the apprentice stands in the corner of the lodge, the working tools are put in his hands and he is taught their uses. But they are not his. They are the tools of the lodge."

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He is to use them that the Worshipful Master may have pleasure and the Craft profit. The Grand Master of the Universe has entrusted to us the principles of Masonry as working tools. They too are not ours, they belong to the lodge of the world. We are to use them that He may have pleasure and the Craft of humanity that labors in this wide lodge of the world may profit thereby."

Interpret any of this as you like since Masonic symbolism and metaphors are free for anyone's contemplation, but the connections between the journeys of the operative craft and the journeys of speculative craft overlap in so many ways, and it's not for us alone to discover – it often takes teamwork and mutual respect. A segment from Rudy's writings below:

"The context in which I saw my own work changed as I learned how the trades evolved over the centuries, composed, as they are, of individual components of a complex network of skills and knowledge based on both historic traditions and cultural influences. I was humbled by how little I really knew and motivated by the opportunity to learn from so many tradespeople who were happy to share their knowledge and insight."

The operative tools and speculative tools have a lot in common for the individuals

who wield these instruments. The recipient of the operative or the speculative's product may see a fine building or a fine gentleman, but the craftsman who uses these tools over time and constructs with them to the highest level of perfection possible has achieved a connection to the divine. It was not achieved by fame, fortune or self promotion. The builder did not usurp the work of his fellow craftsmen, nor did the builder simply rest on the laurels of previous work. No, the builder has tirelessly labored and learned throughout his life to set the next stone just a bit more perfectly, to carve the last moulding ever more elegantly, and to leave his 'mark' unseen to the world, but known to the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Albert Pike's quote sums it best: *He who industriously sows and reaps is a good laborer, and worthy of his hire. But he who sows that which will be reaped by others, by those who will know not of and care not for the sower, is a laborer of a nobler order, and worthy of a more excellent reward.*

So, do you see the building or do you see the builder? Look closely into the heart of your brethren.

Mental Reservation

By Chris Carter

As I was preparing for a presentation on Ethics at the Scottish Rite in Omaha, I was performing some last-minute Google searches for some bits of trivia that I might be able to use as a sort of "ice breaker."

When I typed "ethics," "lying," "1717" and some other key words I saw Google bring up its usual list of possible matches. As I paged through them, I saw something that caught my eye. The summary of the link said "mental reservation ... equivocation". It didn't appear to be a Masonic-related link thus it really raised my curiosity.

It took me to an article in Wikipedia (feel free to go there now on your Smart phone if you'd like; simply search Wiki for the phrase "mental reservation"). To my surprise I discovered something called the "Doctrine of Mental Reservation" aka the "doctrine of mental equivocation."

In summary, in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance periods, the topic of Ethics was firmly within the realm of the churches to determine ... in short, it was a matter of Moral THEOLOGY instead of a matter of Moral/Ethical Philosophy or Psychology (especially considering that Psychology, as a "science" didn't exist at this time).

The Doctrine of Mental Reservation/Equivocation was, essentially, a sanctioned way to ethically lie. There were two types of Mental Reservation; "wide" and "strict".

Wide Mental Reservation would best be described with the following analogy:

Mr Joe Mason comes back from Home Depot. His wife asks "You promised not to spend more than \$5.00. Did you?"

Mr Joe Mason says "No, I did not spend more than \$5.00". He then proceeds to say to himself (in his head)... "until I spent an additional \$150.00 on that really cool new table saw."

Another example comes from Wikipedia.org:

A frequently cited example of equivocation is a well-known incident from the life of Athanasius of Alexandria. When Julian the Apostate was seeking his death, the saint fled Alexandria and was pursued up the Nile. Seeing the imperial officers were gaining on him, he took advantage of a bend in the river that hid his boat from its pursuers and ordered it turned around. When the two boats crossed paths, the Roman officers shouted out, asking if anyone had seen Athanasius. One of the saint's followers shouted back, as instructed by Athanasius, "Yes, he is not very far off." The other boat hastily continued up the river, while Athanasius returned to Alexandria, where he remained in hiding until the end of the persecution.

According to Coil

Excerpts from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, authored by Henry Wilson Coil.

Mystery

Even as late as the 18th century, crafts, trades and other working formulas or methods were called *mysteries* and regarded as trade secrets. Before the Industrial Revolution and the dissemination of scientific knowledge during the 19th and 20th centuries, many rather simple processes requiring skill and dexterity were regarded with some awe and mystification. Those which were carried on in the home, such as spinning, weaving, knitting, soap making and a score of others, were too familiar to be regarded as mysteries, though they were just as intricate as the art of the blacksmith, tinsmith, plumber or mason. The mystery lay more in the ignorance of the public than in the intricacy of the process. The term, *mystery*, is also used to mean simply *secret* and in that sense is applied to symbolic or speculative Masonry. Such secrets remain mysteries to the outsider, but it must not be overlooked that there are many mysteries in Freemasonry for the initiated, even those who have taken all the degrees and read all the books that have been written on the subject. Those mysteries are both historical and esoteric events and facts about Freemasonry, the old records of which are obscure or entirely lacking. That is why many Freemasons are still engaged in research and some occasionally develop a fact which throws light on the past.

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MASONIC CHARITIES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, August 22

10:30 am
Shotgun Start

North Bend
Golf Course



Open to the Public

(Eastern Star Members and Youth Groups
also encouraged to participate!)

\$125 per person
4-person Scramble

Great prizes

Hole-in-one Contest

Steak dinner following
(included in price)

**The tournament benefits the following
Masonic Charities:**

The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
The Nebraska Masonic Home
The Nebraska Masonic Foundation

Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Masons of Nebraska

Check one - Play as a: Team Individual (Put me on a great team)

Player Name Email or Home Address Phone

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail and make check payable to:

Nebraska Masonic Foundation
1240 N 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1125

Groundbreaking Ceremony April 30, 2011 marked the beginning of the Construction/Renovation Project . . .

Amid impending raindrops and unseasonable cool weather Mary Stapp, Executive Director, opened the Groundbreaking Ceremony with greetings to Masonic family dignitaries, local officials, guests, residents, and employees. Phil Lorenzen, Board of Trustees 3rd Vice President, served as Master of Ceremonies and speaker.

Going strong for 108 years and never faltering is a remarkable feat. . . one that will continue with the construction of a new 3-story addition to the north end of the Spencer Wing and renovation of the 4 floors of the 1924 Wing. It was the day of a new era to begin in the life of The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Grand Master Bruce Baker told the crowd, "This facility is one of the crown jewels of Masonry. It will be a greater facility as we continue to grow."

The sun then emerged and greeted everyone with its warmth as many of those present took a turn at shoveling dirt to kick this project off properly. The day was a success, and we all look forward to the completion of another page in the history book of The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Feel free to call (402) 296-7300 to let us know how you would like to be a part of the "Planning Our Future" capital campaign to help fund this very worthy project.



Phil Lorenzen, Board of Trustees 3rd Vice President, and Jim Erixon, President of the Board, were the first to break ground for this important project.



Jerri Wilcox, Worthy Grand Matron, and Bruce Baker, Grand Master, took their turn at making a mark in the history book.

THE MOTHER'S DAY TEA . . .

at The Nebraska Masonic Home brought smiles and laughter to everyone attending with an abundance of food, fun, and entertainment. It was a wonderful afternoon as the dining room was brimming with residents and guests. Of course, no Mother's Day celebration is complete without joy, laughter, hugs, and kisses. The day was truly a recipe in the making that would describe the "Perfect Mom." Happiness was everywhere.



Resident Barbara Sirek and her daughters Susan, Connie, and Bernice had a lovely afternoon.

Our special thanks are extended to . . .

Nebraska Order of Eastern Star. On behalf of our residents and staff, we want to sincerely thank you for another year of monetary support, kind thoughts and deeds from individual members, chapters, and Grand Chapter. We appreciate all of you.

A very sincere thank you is extended to Past Grand Matron Jerrie Wilcox and Past Grand Patron Denny Smith as well as the Grand Family for their support to The Nebraska Masonic Home this last year. You should be proud of your very successful year.

Best wishes to Sister Carol Hudkins, Worthy Grand Matron; Brother Carl Plants, Worthy Grand Patron; and the Grand Family during 2011-2012. We look forward to your official Masonic Home visit in July as well as visits throughout the year.

Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Grand Master Bruce Baker and the 2011-2012 Grand Officers. May this year bring growth to Nebraska Masonry under your leadership.

Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

Jo Peters, Director

Memorial Donations

November 4, 2010 thru April 8, 2011

Vern Atkinson

Herman & Helen Wiebers
Bev Armour

Doyle E. Austen

Vesper Chapter No. 9

Arvella L. Beaman

Ceresco Chapter No. 198

Jack Betts

Rosalie Betts & Family

Willard E. Bookwalter

American Legion Aux. No.
362

Augusta Verthein

Bonnie Brasel

Bev Armour

Dick Brasel

Marvin H. Eatinger

Jack & Phyllis Brookhouser

Dale & Dorothy Brookhouser

Alfred & Margetta H. Chester

John G. Chester

Wayne C. Cleaver

Mary J. Cleaver

Florence Conner

Barbara Maytes

Hazel DeVasure

Tekamah Chapter No. 131

Ronald B. Dudley

Kenneth & Marjorie Fridrich

Delores Dukes

Harold E. Dukes

Edna & Harold Eatinger

Marvin H. Eatinger

Norman R. Ellis

Janice E. Ellis

George Blake Ernst

Lincoln Lodge No. 19

Jacob Z. Esbenshade

Dorothy N. Esbenshade

Virginia Ruert Fagan

Darlene Fagan
William & Kathleen Frank
Patricia J. Hancock
Raymond & Karen Leicht
Robert & Ellen Phagan
Ronald E. Purdy
William & Marian Slaughter
Tom Wieck

Gordon D. Francis

Michele Francis-Stine

Ben D. Fussell

Geneva Lodge No. 79
Dr. David A. Portwood

Ruth & Art Fye

Kathleen M. Fye

Paul D. Galda

Centennial Lodge No. 326

Helen Gardner

Dawson Chapter No. 33

Tamsey Gatewood

Eletha J. Sheldon

L. Dale Griffing

Liberty Lodge No. 300

Sandy Heffelfinger

Butch & Nancy Furse

John F. Hoffman

Nova G. Hoffman

Arlene Hunter

Duane A. Hunter

Dwight C. Jameson

David & Donna Thoman

Helen E. Johnsen

Roger & Marlene Johnsen

Adeline Johnson

Ceresco Chapter No. 198

Kenneth C. Johnson

Centennial Lodge No. 326

Larry Johnson

Lawrence & Reta Johnson

Raymond Jones

Douglas & Erma Tetherow

Cecil F. Keyes

Marion F. Keyes

Arlene Kikendall

James & Patricia Kikendall

Lavina Kinder

M. Vern & Phyllis Shires

Margaret Kloke

Arbor Chapter No. 200

David Lynn Koch

David & Marilyn Koch

Joann Krapp

Clarence Leo Krapp

Magnus R. Kristensen

Larry & Karen Foster
Wausa Chapter No. 159

Don Maca & Milton Krogstad

Centennial Lodge No. 326

Raymond A. Lancaster

Butch & Nancy Furse

Keith & Bertha Lyons

Thomas & Donna Lee
Johnson, Jr.

Frances Mailand

Walter C. Mailand

Frederick Martincik

Carol N. Martincik

Ann Mavis

Eugene & Sharon Winterfeld

Helene Mayhew

Vesper Chapter No. 9

Marilyn M. McIntyre

Fullerton Chapter No. 191
Deborah Wilkie

Collins S. McMaster

Betty J. McMaster

David & Clara Meisinger

Janet Meisinger

Ballou Family Members

Clarence & Mary Courtright

H. Lewis Miller

Dwight & Ronnie Gotch
Ronald & Alma Holscher
Charles W. Kubich
Arlon & Doris Miller
Harold & Mildred Noble
Donald & Lois Rogert

Roy Milner

Monna Milner

Bertel Olson

Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson

Sara "Betty" Olson

Ceresco Chapter No. 198

Carrie Olson-Fava

Ceresco Chapter No. 198

John W. Paden

Kenneth & Patricia Beebe

Lester & Thelma Pedersen

Cecelia H. Coenen
Anna Edwards Edmundson
Joanne M. Edmundson
Bobby & Eleanor Gooding
Richard & Connie Halloran
Marcella H. Krieger
Marilyn M. Nielsen
Allan D. Pedersen
Don & Marie Rasmussen
Geraldine S. Shuman

Louis Petersen

Larry & Karen Foster

Helen Phelps

Tekamah Chapter No. 131

James G. Pickard

Louise G. Pickard

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MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN

Ron Giesselmann, Executive Director

Summer 2011

Six children graduated from the Home in the 2011 class. Two graduated mid-term and four graduated in May.

Noell is going to college to be a mechanic, Amber is going to college/Navy, Kaylin plans to attend college and enter the human services field, Kai Xi plans to attend college and be a psychiatric therapist, Tiffany plans to attend college and study to be a legal assistant, and Ashley plans to attend college and be an elementary school teacher. They have a lot of dreams and a lot of work ahead of them.

Cattle shows/progress shows were successful for the children this year. Progress shows help the children prepare for the fairs by giving them experience showing their calf with a judge and audience present.

Between rain showers the garden got planted. The Home's garden is 100 yards long and 15 yards wide. Last year a generous donor helped the Home purchase a fence to keep the critters out of the garden. The garden is looking good and free of rabbits.

Please wish our graduates luck and pray that the children have good weather for the fairs.



Ricky had no problem finding a dance partner at Prom.



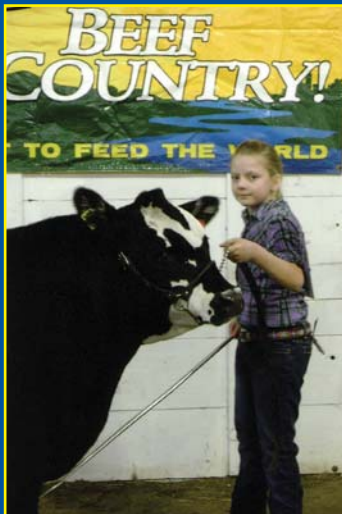
Lauren at a cattle show.



Class of 2011



Barri caring for her calf.



Merrisa at a cattle show



Kai Xi



Ashley



Kaylin



Noell



Tiffany



Amber

GRAND CHAPTER OF NEBRASKA

Order of the Eastern Star

Carol Hudkins, Worthy Grand Matron • Carl Plants, Worthy Grand Patron

It is with happy hearts that we greet you as your new Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. We are so grateful for the faith you have placed in us. This is something that we will not take for granted and we will work very hard to fulfill your trust. This is an honor, not only to us, but to our Chapters, Blue River Chapter #132 and Temple #271.

Our aim is to promote cooperation and unity among the members of our combined Masonic Family. Our projects will be ES-TARL; General Grand Chapter Projects; the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, specifically their 4-H program; DeMolay; Job's Daughters; Rainbow Girls; The Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, specifically funding for dining tables and chairs. Our special projects are research for the Heart Association and Breast Cancer. We will be selling lollipop "tulips" to support these projects. Let's "lick" heart disease and breast cancer.

The "Let There Be Light" Session will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 8, 9, and 10, 2012, at Pershing Auditorium. This will most likely be the last session of Grand Chapter to be held in Lincoln. Plans are to move Grand Chapter to Kearney for 2012-2013.



Carl Plants
Worthy Grand Patron

We are excited to begin this year of service to the Order of the Eastern Star for the Grand Chapter of Nebraska. We have all committed to be of service to our members and the communities in which our Chapters are located. We know we have challenges to face but it is our intent to find ways to make our Order and membership in it relevant and worthwhile. We look forward to these challenges with enthusiasm, optimism, and thankfulness, and with your help and love, we will be able to serve you and your communities throughout Nebraska.

International



Peace

Garden

The General Grand Chapter Triennial pilgrimage will be held August 12-14, 2011. Registration deadline is July 31, 2011 and the registration fee for the weekend, inclusive of 4 meals is \$90 per person. The attire for the concert and worship service is business attire and casual for other times. Comfortable shoes are very advisable. The only other expense will be a 3 day entrance pass of \$15.00 per vehicle and \$30.00 for buses. No per person charge. Please contact the Grand Chapter office for more information 402-727-8644.

VISITATIONS BY AREA

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Friday, June 17 | Area 1 Visitation - Evening
Laurel, Norfolk, Orchard, Plainview, S. Sioux City, Stanton, Wausa, Wayne |
| Saturday, June 18 | Area 2 Visitation - Noon
Columbus, David City, Osceola, Schuyler, Stromsburg |
| Saturday, June 18 | Area 3 Visitation - Evening
Elkhorn, Fremont, Ft. Calhoun, Herman, Hooper, North Bend, Tekamah, Valley |
| Friday, July 8 | Area 4 Visitation - Evening
Beatrice, Brownville, Humboldt, Pawnee City, Table Rock, Wymore |
| Saturday, July 9 | Area 5 Visitation - Noon
Elmwood, Nebraska City, Palmyra, Plattsmouth, Weeping Water |
| Saturday, July 9 | Area 6 Visitation - Evening
Omaha: Adah, Aksarben, Bellevue, Fontenelle, Narcissus, Papillion, Trinity, Vesta |
| Friday, Jul 22 | Area 7 Visitation - Evening
Davenport, Geneva, Guide Rock, Hastings, Hebron, Nelson |
| Saturday, July 23 | Area 8 Visitation - Noon
Bartley, Benkelman, Imperial, McCook |
| Saturday, July 23 | Area 9 Visitation - Evening
Broken Bow, Callaway, Cozad, Lexington, North Platte |
| Friday, Aug 12 | Area 10 Visitation - Evening
Bridgeport, Gering, Kimball, Mitchell, Scottsbluff |
| Saturday, Aug 13 | Area 11 Visitation - Noon
Alliance, Chadron, Gordon, Hay Springs, Hyannis |
| Saturday, Aug 13 | Area 12 Visitation - Evening
Ainsworth, Atkinson, O'Neill, Thedford, Valentine |
| Friday, Sep 23 | Area 13 Visitation - Evening
Chappell, Ogallala, Oshkosh, Sidney |
| Saturday, Sept 24 | Area 14 Visitation - Noon
Aurora, Central City, Fullerton, Grand Island, Phillips, Ravenna |
| Friday, Sep 30 | Area 15 Visitation - Evening
Franklin, Holdrege, Kearney, Republican City |
| Friday, Oct 14 | Area 16 Visitation - Evening
Cortland, Crete, Friend, Milford, Utica |
| Saturday, Oct 15 | Area 17 Visitation - Noon
Ceresco, Lincoln 8, 94, 153, 271, 275, 307, 320 |

4th TRIENNIAL MASONIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Have you wanted more information on this great conference? The registration packets are now available on the Grand Lodge website. Just click on the "Masonic Youth Leadership Conference" listing at www.GLNE.org. There you will find the registration sheet, a permission form, and a brief synopsis on three of the major speakers, Shannon Pickard, Aaron Davis and Tou Ger Xiong. There is also a brief review of the service project. It's not too early to look at this and start making plans to attend.

Again, the Conference is October 1 & 2, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, NE. Brochures about the conference have been mailed to over 900 Masonic family organizations and individuals this year. An additional brochure is on the website.

We are still in need for sponsors to help defray the cost of this world-class event. Donations are to be sent to the Masonic Youth Foundation 202 South 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102-1275.

Hope to see you in Kearney in October!



NEBRASKA DEMOLAY

Michael W. Stuhr, Executive Director

DeMolay continues to GROW in the great state of Nebraska! After completing a year of net membership growth in 2010 (initiating more candidates than were lost to majority), we are on pace to set the record again in 2011. State Master Councilor Cameron Daiss' theme for the membership program in 2010-2011 is "Living DeMolay" and members who spread the excitement of DeMolay to their friends continue to be rewarded with a personalized Nebraska DeMolay polo.

The weekend of April 9-10, 2011 witnessed the descent of a multitude of DeMolays, Sweethearts, and Advisors on the City of Kearney Nebraska for the 2011 Nebraska DeMolay Spring Roundup. Roundup is an annual sports weekend where chapters compete against each other in various sporting events. Saturday afternoon was held at the Big Apple and competitions included Sand Volleyball, Billiards, and Mini-Golf. During their downtime, DeMolays were able to participate in Go Kart racing, video games, and of course junk food (courtesy of the Big Apple's snack bar).

The Roundup Banquet included the presentation of an unprecedented (for a single event) fourteen "Living DeMolay" polo shirts. We were privileged to have in attendance the International Master Councilor Michael Benedetti from Georgia. Also in attendance was Nebraska's own Ryan Grazier who is serving as the International Congress Secretary for DeMolay.

Saturday evening found the group adjourning to the Kearney YMCA which was exclusively reserved for DeMolay for the night. The festivities began with an hour long open swim which was followed by competition in 3 on 3 Soccer, Basketball, and Ping Pong. The weekend wrapped up on Sunday morning with a statewide initiation at the Kearney Masonic Center.

DeMolay Chapter sponsorship is open to all adult Masonic Family groups which include Master Masons in their membership. For further information on the sponsorship of a DeMolay chapter, please contact Executive Officer Mike Stuhr.

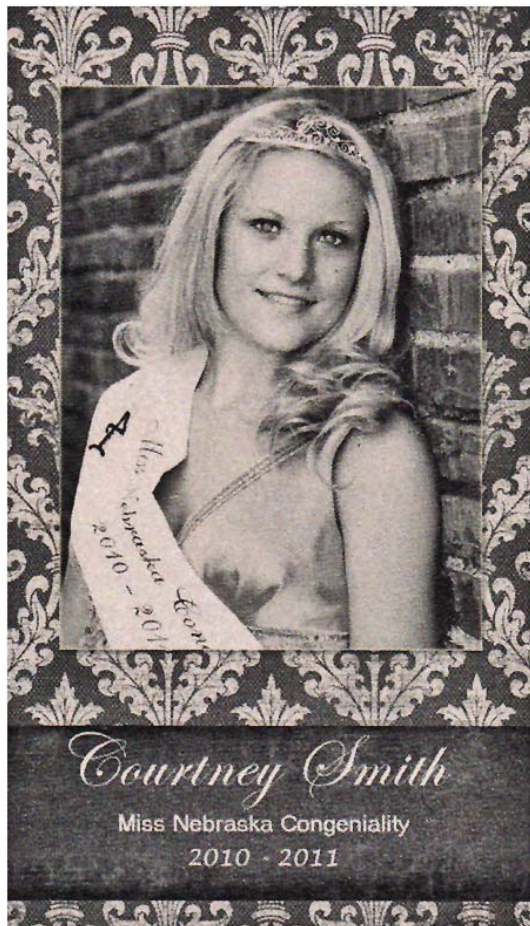


Recipients of "Living DeMolay" polo shirts presented at the 2011 Nebraska DeMolay Roundup

Nebraska Job's Daughters

Cindy Bartling, Grand Guardian

Jerry Taff, Acting Associate Grand Guardian



Ahoy my fellow Masonic Family. My name is Courtney Smith. I am currently Miss Nebraska Congeniality. As Miss Nebraska Congeniality I get the opportunity to work with all the members of Nebraska Job's Daughters. I also get to work directly with eight girls called Spirit Ambassadors. Together we spread the word about good character. Nebraska Job's Daughters practice the Six Pillar of Character Counts. We believe in responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, respect, fairness and caring. Our theme this year "Seeking the Treasure" was a perfect theme to incorporate these characters. In June we will gather as a state at Grand Bethel. We will reflect on our "Seeking the Treasure" year. Our first gathering together was the 2010 Shrine Bowl. Our last gathering will be the 2011 Shrine Bowl. We celebrated our year with fund raising, workshops, snow angels, BBQ's, church services, formals, pajamas, meetings, parades and more. Along the way I found the treasure. I learned that we should treasure the love God has for us. Through His love we can learn to treasure ourselves as worthy individuals. We then can spread his love to others. May God watch over you as you seek your treasure. I am always seeking a good laugh. In closing I will quote one of my favorite pirate jokes.

Q: Why couldn't the pirate play cards? A: He was sitting on the deck.

Godspeed, Courtney, MNC

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Betty Garwood, Supreme Deputy

A very successful Grand Assembly session held on the Doane College Campus at Crete completed the 2010-2011 term of Miss Heather Wilkie of Bellevue. Heather graciously represented Grand Assembly and brought greetings to all of the meetings of other Masonic Bodies in Nebraska. She was a Supreme Page, has participated in two Shrine Bowls, will continue her education at UNK and service to Rainbow as a Junior Member of the Grand Executive Board. Heather says, "My year as Grand Worthy Advisor has been filled with travel, adventure, and fantastic memories. I have learned many things during this year such as the value of patience, teamwork, and leadership. I have developed a stronger relationship with the sponsoring Masonic bodies of Nebraska. My most memorable experiences have been traveling the state to visit various assemblies' events and connecting with all the girls of Nebraska Rainbow. I'm so honored to have been given the opportunity to travel to different jurisdictions to represent Nebraska Rainbow. From these travels I have developed long-lasting friendships. I have grown as a leader and hope that my experience as Grand Worthy Advisor will help me in my educational journey to become an elementary school teacher. It has truly been the best experience and life-opportunity I have had so far."



Miss Shanda Born of Plainview was installed as the 2011-2012 Grand Worthy Advisor. Shanda's theme: "Believe in Your Dreams." Her motto: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Shanda says, "Each and every one of you can dream, but the only way to reach what you dream for, is to believe. That is how I made it to where I am today and I believe that each one can do the same." The mascot is the angel, the flower a yellow

rose and goals are to encourage everyone to pitch in and make new friendships by getting new members. The service projects will support and promote Alzheimer's and Cancer associations and the Rainbow loan fund. Shanda encourages participation in fund raising for these worthy causes remarking, "I know everyone is capable of helping so let's go on believing and achieve greater things." Shanda is a 2011 graduate of Plainview High School, is going into pre-professional nursing, works at a nursing home and will be an RA in the fall. She is a member of Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84 OES.

We celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and look forward to the challenges of the new always remembering... **Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life.**

--Contributions by Heather Wilkie PGWA and Shanda Born GWA, Submitted by Mrs. Betty J. Garwood Supreme Deputy

Year Pin Presentations

50-Year Pins

Joseph D. Adamson, Geneva No. 79
 Deryl C. Beck, Solar No. 134
 William Brinkman, Geneva No. 79
 William H. Brooks, Nebraska No. 1
 Mervell Bumgarner, Geneva No. 79
 Joseph Burstein, John J. Mercer No. 290
 J. Robert Carmichael, Jordan No. 27
 Charles H. Claytor, Cotner No. 297
 Gary L. Comfort, Falls City No. 9
 Robert Keith Cox, McCook No. 135
 Donald L. Craig, Olive Branch No. 274
 Charles L. Doane, Jr., Covert No. 11
 George R. Douglas, College View No. 320
 Billie J. Drinkwalter, Wood Lake No. 221
 Richard A. Dudden, Ogalalla No. 159
 Harold W. Dunker, Fremont No. 15
 Gordon E. Eichmeier, Fremont No. 15
 Roger F. Evans, Monument No. 293
 Arthur J. Ferguson, Wood Lake No. 221
 Donald E. Fleming, G. Armstrong No. 241
 Charles Gove, John J. Mercer No. 290
 Henry E. Graalfs, Covert No. 11
 Roger F. Harbert, Cotner No. 297
 Del F. Hartung, Fremont No. 15
 Ronald O. Hein, Fairbury No. 35
 Roger R. Holthaus, Mid-West No. 317
 Robert E. Horton, McCook No. 135
 Gene R. Hull, Pomegranate No. 110
 James B. Hyland, Cotner No. 297
 Roland Knox, Mid-West No. 317

Wendell W. Lauber, Geneva No. 79
 Donald E. Lenker, Ogalalla No. 159
 David W. Lilley, Florence No. 281
 Earl A. Lipp, Fremont No. 15
 Charles R. Lynn, Washington No. 21
 Allen J. Marsh, Miloma No. 328
 Kendall A. Martin, Laurel No. 248
 Merle B. McDonald, Nelson No. 77
 William W. Moore, Cotner No. 297
 Howard J. Nellor, Wisner No. 114
 Calvin E. Nevin, Covert No. 11
 Phil H. Norman, Capitol No. 3
 Ray D. Ostergaard, Platte Valley No. 32
 Allan D. Pedersen, Mid-West No. 317
 Larry A. Pershing, Pomegranate No. 110
 Fain M. Rankin, Jr., Covert No. 11
 Antonio Renda, John J. Mercer No. 290
 Roger W. Sailors, Olive Branch No. 274
 James R. Sefried, Falls City No. 9
 James O. Scheffler, Washington No. 21
 Bertrand N. Sherwin, Miloma No. 328
 Jerold L. Sievers, Hickman No. 256
 Albert Sorokin, Capitol No. 3
 Neal A. Thomas, Solar No. 134
 Billy L. Thompson, Covert No. 11
 Roger L. Titus, Silver Cord No. 224
 Lowell E. Van Cleef, Fairbury No. 35
 James A. Weeks, Platte Valley No. 32
 Doyle A. Wineland, Miloma No. 328
 Gene H. Zimmerman, Fremont No. 15

60-Year Pins

Billie P. Anderson, Franklin No. 264
 Roy I. Anderson, Washington No. 21
 David E. Anthony, Hay Springs No. 177
 Ray L. Balderson, Justice No. 180
 Dean K. Barnell, Geneva No. 79
 Gilbert G. Barnell, Geneva No. 79
 Hollis S. Barnell, Geneva No. 79
 William Bohrman, John J. Mercer No. 290
 Alvin W. Campbell, Platte Valley No. 32
 William E. Campbell, Porter No. 106
 Gene M. Collins, Wausa No. 251
 Joyce C. Cranfill, Aurora No. 68
 Richard D. Curley, Fremont No. 15
 Robert T. Davis, Hay Springs No. 177
 Donald R. Desch, Cotner No. 297
 Ira M. Dewalt, Jr., Silver Cord No. 224
 Vernon J. Gidley, Mid-West No. 317
 Wilbur R. Grubbs, Fremont No. 15
 Elisha F. Guerry, Jr., Cotner No. 297
 Harry S. Hartley, Fremont No. 15
 Harold G. Haswell, Pomegranate No. 110
 Edward Heineman, Jr., Silver Cord No. 224
 Marcus Hodges, John J. Mercer No. 290
 Marlin K. Hoffman, Charity No. 53
 Warren A. Hutchinson, Albion No. 78
 Dale Ingram, Porter No. 106
 Melvin E. Kella, Covert No. 11
 Carl J. Kelley, Mid-West No. 317

Archie E. Kriutzfield, Ashlar No. 33
 John V. Lawson, Jr., Nebraska No. 1
 Lyle F. Lemkau, Mid-West No. 317
 Denzil R. Lofgreen, Monument No. 293
 Larry L. McMaster, Wisner No. 114
 Valarian D. Miller, McCook No. 135
 David G. Mitten, Fremont No. 15
 John M. Pedersen, Jr., Wood Lake No. 221
 Thomas P. Pomeroy, Blue River No. 30
 Paul A. Quisenberry, Jr., Cement No. 211
 Leo K. Scott, John J. Mercer No. 290
 Leon S. South, Falls City No. 9
 Marvin R. Steel, Fremont No. 15
 Victor K. Tatman, Platte Valley No. 32
 John W. Taylor, Ashlar No. 33
 Thomas C. Vian, Wood Lake No. 221
 Robert H. Walker, Platte Valley No. 32
 Kenneth R. Walters, Jachin No. 146
 J. Kent Wassung, Jr., Cotner No. 297
 Richard N. Wehrs, Blue River No. 30
 Kenneth J. Whitcomb, Wisner No. 114
 H. William Wurtz, Solar No. 134

70-Year Pins

Virgil Boyd, Florence No. 281
 Jackson F. Lee, Fremont No. 15

More year pin pictures on page 14



Marlin K. Hoffman (seated center) received his 60-year pin from Charity Lodge No. 53 in Red Cloud on March 20, 2011, with his wife Marie and granddaughter Julie at his side. Many members of Charity Lodge were present to honor a valued member of the lodge. Brother Marlin served as an officer for a number of years, including Master and Secretary, each for a period of six years.



Ray Balderson (center) received a 60-year pin from W.M. Tom Jones of Justice Lodge No. 180 in Benkelman. Brother Ray's wife Maxine placed the award on his lapel.



Neal A. Thomas, H. William Wurtz, and Deryl Beck, (left to right) 50-, 60- and 50-year members of Solar Lodge No. 134 in Clarks, respectively, received membership awards on May 10 from W.M. Phil Foulk (not pictured).



W.B. Paul Schroeder of Papillion Lodge No. 39 (at right) presented a 50 year membership pin to his long-time friend Donald E. Fleming (center), a member of Geo. Armstrong Lodge No. 241 in Craig. W.B. Cullen Pilker, also of Papillion Lodge, assisted with the presentation.

BRONZE JORDAN MEDAL HOLDERS

P.H. Young, Jr. (right) was presented the Bronze Jordan Medal for Minnekadusa Lodge No. 192 on March 22, 2011, by W.:B.: Stephen Isom. The presentation took place at the Cherry Hills Assisted Living Facility in Valentine, with several Masons and family members present.



Brother Raymond Thomsen (on right in picture at left) received the Bronze Jordan Medal from Highland Lodge No. 194 in Cortland on April 26. W.:M.: Steve Rowell made the presentation.



Paul Filipi (center at right) received the Bronze Jordan Medal from W.:M.: Randy Busse and W.:B.: Terry Theis, Secretary, of Capitol Lodge No. 3.



The Bronze Jordan Medal was presented on March 29, 2011 to Brother Ray Thompson (left). In attendance was Brother Bob McDowell (right), the Bronze Jordan Medal holder of Hickman Lodge No. 256.



A dinner was held and a ceremony followed at which Jim Ball (on left in picture at left) was presented with the Bronze Jordan Medal for Lebanon Lodge No. 323 on April 13, 2011 by W.:M.: Troy Medinger.



Worshipful Master Kevin Kelly of Euclid Lodge No. 97 presented the Bronze Jordan Medal to Robert D. Keckler on April 9, 2011 at his residence at The Nebraska Masonic Home. (not pictured)

Long-Time Secretary Receives Bronze Jordan Medal

Clay Kennedy received the Bronze Jordan Medal for Masons on Sunday, April 3 at a ceremony in Brownville. The Bronze Jordan Medal is awarded to the longest serving member of a Masonic Lodge in Nebraska. Clay is the new recipient of the Medal Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4 in Brownville. He has been a member for 61 years and remains very active in the lodge. The open house was attended by many friends, family and Lodge members from around the area. The award was presented by Past Grand Masters Paul Eveland and Ken Beebe of North Bend. Ken is a long time friend and was a grower with Clay for NC + Hybrids. Most Worshipful Bro. Beebe recited some past experiences with Clay and read of his Masonic history which included:

Brother Clay served as Master of the lodge four times and was named Master in the Year 1958 when the 100th anniversary of the lodge was celebrated. He has been secretary for 30 years and still faithfully holds that position. He was a member of the York Rite in Auburn for many years and held several positions with that appended body.



M.:W.: Paul Eveland, Clay Kennedy and M.:W.: Ken Beebe.

Clay joined the Sesostriis Shrine in the 1960's and was a member of the southeast Rag-tops club. With the club they raised money and awareness for the Shrine hospitals. Later he became a Roadrunner for the Shrine and drove children and their family to the Shrine Hospital in Minneapolis many times. He was accompanied by Richard Vlach, a fellow member, on most of the trips and a few years ago they were named Roadrunners of the year for their dedication. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge in 1988 by Mr. Eveland and served as the Grand Junior Steward. Clay was initiated into Masonry by his Father George Cassius Kennedy and was able to return the same by initiating his son Stephen in 1978. Clay has also been a part of bring in two of his grandsons, Thomas and David Wheeler into the lodge.

Clay was presented with the medal and a certificate by M.:W.: Beebe during the ceremony and then was given some time to express his appreciation for those who attended and what Masonry has meant to him. He has enjoyed all the friends he's met over the years by being a part of the organization and was deeply moved by the experiences he had taking children to the Shrine hospital.

The day was completed by cake and refreshments presented by his daughter-in-law Chris Kennedy, daughter Nancy Wheeler, and granddaughter Stephanie VerHarst. Other Bronze Jordan Medal holders present were Ival Schmucker from the Pawnee Lodge and Most Worshipful Paul Eveland from North Bend Lodge. A special thanks goes to the Village of Brownville for the use of the City Hall for the event.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

On March 3, 2011, On behalf of the Grand Lodges of California, F.& A.M and Nebraska, A.F.& A.M., and John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 in Omaha; I had the pleasure of presenting my father, Dr. Bernard N. Harris, with his 50-year pin. This was planned as a total surprise to him and he delighted all the Brothers, Ladies and guests who attended our Burbank Lodge No. 406 Stated Meeting and his presentation by commenting to my mother, not 10 seconds before he was called up to the East, "I should be due a 50-year pin soon. I wonder why I have not gotten one yet. I am going to have to check my records when we get back home to see when I was raised." It took all of my mother's (Devera Harris) and my younger brother David's willpower not to crack a smile or burst out laughing. In the end, it truly made my father's day and mine too for him to be presented his pin by myself.

We talk of the family of Masonry, but it carries a double meaning when the joy of the Craft is shared within a family. There is always something special when one family member can raise another family member in his lodge; as all too often, this is a rare event. I hope all my fraternal brothers will one day know the joy of sharing the craft with a son, brother, or father. As for me, I am very blessed to be able to say that at one time, I sat in lodge with my father, my late grandfather (Norman L. Green of Omaha Lodge No. 288) and one of my uncles. I will leave you with one last riddle. When are a father, a grandfather, and a son all brothers? The answer, when they are all Masons.

Steven J. Harris, Senior Warden
Burbank Lodge No. 406
Grand Lodge of California, F.&A.M.



From left to right: Steve Harris, S.W.; Bernie Harris, 50-year pin recipient; Al Moen, W.M.

Year Pin Presentations...



W.:B.: Paul Quisenberry, Jr., a 60-year member of Cement Lodge No. 211 in Wood River, received a membership award on March 17 from W.:M.: John Prettyman.



W.M. Kenneth Killion presented Joyce C. Cranfill (right) of Aurora Lodge No. 68 with a 60-year pin on April 5. Brother Cranfill commented that a sergeant in the Army told him he should become a Mason.



Members of Nebraska Lodge No. 1 in Omaha presented a 60-year pin to Frank V. Lawson, Jr. at his home on June 2. Pictured are J.W. John Fairlie, Brother Lawson, Secretary Jason Knupp and W.M. Kirk Carlson.



Brothers Bertrand Sherwin, Past Master Doyle Windeland and Allen Marsh received 50-year pins from Miloma Lodge No. 328 in Omaha.

McCook Lodge No. 135 Awards Academic Scholarship



W.B. Steve Harrison presents an academic scholarship certificate to his grandson Jim Harrison.



College View Lodge No. 320 a Past Masters' dinner on the evening of April 16 in the Forest Brown Fellowship Hall. Bro. Byron Van Patten arranged for a delicious dinner. W.:M.: Jason Phelps (right) presented Bro. George Douglas (left) with his 50-year certificate and pin from the Grand Lodge and read the inspiring ceremony that accompanies this presentation. Jo Peters, Director of the Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation, was the guest speaker. She explained the capital improvement project planned to expand the services of the home and the many benefits of residency.

CHIP EVENT SEES 120 CHILDREN

By Micah I. Evans

Hosted by Florence Lodge No. 281, Omaha-area Masons held a Child Identification Program event on Saturday, May 7, 2011 during the Omaha Police Department's 14th annual Omaha Safety Expo at the Westroads Mall.

The Omaha Safety Expo was a family-friendly event, geared to promoting safe community and safe neighborhoods. "This is a perfect opportunity for Freemasons to reach out to families with our CHIP program," said David Rose, Master of Florence Lodge.

CHIP gives law enforcement and recovery officials the necessary materials to find missing children, while giving peace of mind to families. All items generated during the CHIP event are given to the child's family, and no copies are retained by the Masons or given to law enforcement agencies.

CHIP includes the following:

A digital video is recorded in front of a height chart backdrop, and a digital still photograph is also recorded. The CHIP interview captures a child's appearance, speech, mannerisms, and other personal characteristics, as well as digitally scanned fingerprints. These are recorded and saved on a CD that can quickly be distributed by law enforcement officials to the media to



reach a large audience. The CHIP package for parents includes a cheek swab and a tooth imprint, performed by students from the Creighton University School of Dentistry. This year, John Maxell, Chair of the CHIP program for Nebraska, added a scent pad. Parents are provided with the pad and two sterile gloves, another valuable tool for law enforcement to aid in the speedy recovery of a lost child.

Nearly 31,000 children have gone through the CHIP program since 2004, including about 120 children at the Saturday CHIP event. Volunteers from Omaha area Lodges were in attendance all day, including Florence No. 281, Shiloh No. 327, Papillion No. 39, Lininger No. 268, Omaha No. 288, Covert No. 11, Nebraska No. 1, and Prince Hall Nat Hunter Lodge No. 12.

Parents expressed their gratitude to Masons for hosting this free event, and the local lodges have already been invited back to host a CHIP event at the Safety Expo next year.



The DeMolay Omaha Chapter helped place flags for Memorial Day.

A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

By Phil Edwards



Centennial Lodge No. 326 completed their third annual recognition of deceased military veterans by the placing of 4,000 flags in the WestLawn-Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha. This was done just before the annual Memorial Day Celebration. Flags were placed at the headstones of known veterans by the members, families and friends of Centennial Lodge. They were ably assisted by members of the Omaha Chapter of DeMolay, Boy Scout Troops #282 and #552, Bethel #18 JDI, and Nebraska Lodge No. 1. This monumental task was completed in three evenings and two days despite the rain, and wind on Wednesday, May 25.

Numerous comments were received by people visiting the cemetery during the placing of flags. Often they received the names of those whose headstones were not designated by military symbols or titles, thus expanding the list of those to be recognized. The flags were the only decoration on many graves as there apparently are no known relatives in the area.

A total of 61 individuals spent 236 hours completing this project to recognize those who served our country. One area of special interest was the Circle of Honor which is designated for the veterans. The larger flags were used at all headstones which surround a flag and monument recognizing the various branches of the military. A picture of this area was featured in the Saturday, May 29th issue of the Omaha World-Herald.

This cemetery is over 100 years old and has graves of veterans from the Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, as well as from the current military involvements.

This activity was started in 2008 when W.:B.: Carl Diamond was Master and a retired navy veteran as community service project. W.:B.: Phil Edwards has done much of the ground work with the Cemetery to get names and lists of veterans to use and to line up help and make sure all sections are adequately covered. Those helping put out flags in the previous years have made lists of names they have found on the headstones, thus expanding the list of veterans. As W.:B.: Diamond remarked, "It sure makes me feel good to see all those flags recognizing those that have served our country. It has a tendency to bring a lump in my throat."

Membership Moment: Should Recruiting New Masons Be Our Primary Concern?

By Patrick Barger, Membership Committee Chairman

I was having a conversation with Grand Master Bruce Baker the other day when he asked me why I thought lodges across Nebraska have experienced consistently declining membership numbers since the 1960s. My answer surprised him, as it was this: “We need to direct our efforts toward a few other things than bringing in new members.” After he picked his jaw up off the floor and considered firing me as Chairman of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee after a mere two months in my position, I clarified my statement by saying, “We need to put more effort and energy into keeping the members we have than bringing in new ones.” Now, I do not suggest we reduce our efforts to bring in new members, just ramp up our endeavors to keep those good men we have already raised. After all, you put a lot of time into initiating, passing, and raising these men to have them turn right around and be suspended.

Without quoting a bunch of statistics, you can rest assured that statewide we lose many more members to suspensions for non-payment of dues than we ever bring in during the year. That doesn't count those brothers who pass into that Undiscovered Country each year. I compare the solution to losing suspended

members by doubling our recruiting efforts to putting more and more air in a tire without patching the leak. The Scythe of Time forces us to recruit new members, but only until we get better at keeping our existing ones should we double our efforts to recruit. As history records, many of those new Masons will slip out of the fraternity like the air in a leaking tire and much of our time and effort will be wasted. Back to square one, only this time tired and discouraged by how hard we worked with little long-term result.

It has been the policy of the Grand Lodge to require subordinate lodges to make strong efforts to contact members delinquent with dues before submitting their final suspension paperwork. When lodges submit their list of suspended members to the Grand Lodge, it has been the personal policy of several Grand Masters over the years to review it and randomly select names to call personally to inquire as to why they abandoned Masonry. Grand Master Bruce Baker told me he was shocked recently when many of the people he personally

Continued on page 17

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

Jo Peters, Director

Memorial Donations

November 4, 2010 thru April 8, 2011

Velma Pierce
Norvald & Edith Nielsen
Frank Plymale
Donald & Marilee Ann Petersen
Everett Real
Dr. David A. Portwood
Floyd E. Richards
June A. Richards
M. Dale Roberts
Madine Roberts

Bill, Denny, & Douglas Robinson
Lorna M. Robinson
Toivo & Rose Ronni
James & Wanda Ronni
Betty Rouse
Steve & Jeannette Swearngin
Erma Smith
Jack & Mary Smith
Harry A. Spencer, Sr.
Richard M. Dustin

Marvin Stake
Beatrice Lodge No. 26
Joe Stoupa
Paul & Robin Stoupa
Glen Strain
Temple Chapter No. 271
Don Tague & Doris Burbee
Jane M. Tague
Dean & Marjorie Taylor
Cathleen R. Hefti
Scott & Sheri Jackson
Brian S. Mustonen

Donna Thege
Ceresco Chapter No. 198
Thomas & Alice Vrana
Benjamin & Marilyn Vrana
Gary D. Wilcher
Ardis N. Wilcher
Sharon Zbylut
Cynthia A. McLaughlin

General Donations (con't from Winter issue)

February 19, 2010 thru April 8, 2011

Solomon Chapter No. 17 Royal Arch Masons, Margaret Sorensen, Vickie L. Spring, Kathryn E. Stapp, Mike & Mary Stapp, Starcraft Chapter No. 307, Starcraft Chapter No. 307 Kensington, Starcraft Chapter No. 307 Past Matrons, Vicki Steeby, Warren & Joanne Stenback, Leo & Sylvia Stokes, Bill & Chris Stone, Straddlers NCT #47 Camping Group, Leroy & Mary Stuehm, Sunset Chapter No. 300, Sunshine Chapter No. 261, Symphony Chapter No. 316, Charles & Barbara Talmadge, Jr., Tangier Road Runners Club, Bernard Janice Taulborg, Tekamah Chapter No. 131, Temple Chapter No. 271, Terry Marc & Marilyn Kay Theis, Lawrence E. Thomas, Warren R. Thomas, Vernon & Ardythe Thompson, James W. Thwing, Carman & Gary Tilford, Trinity Chapter No. 299, Russ & Betty Trotter, Truth Chapter No. 262, Monica L. Tucker, VBM Printers dba Old Stuff Newspaper, John & Jan VerMaas, Vesta Chapter No. 6, Veteran's Free Masons Association, Victory Lodge No. 310, Violet Chapter No. 105, Frank & Lucille Vondra, Sr., Robert & Joyce Vondrasek, Richard & Doris Walker, Rex & Denise Waller, John & Imogene Waner, Robert & Mary Ward, Washington Lodge No. 21, Mary Ann Watchorn, Wausa Lodge No. 251, Atley & Susan Wedemeyer, Roger & Jeanine Wehrbein, Stephen & Marlene Wehrbein, Charles & Vicki West, Robert E. White, Bob & Donna Wiegand, Geraldine B. Wilcox, Warren & Beverly Wilkie, Harold & Wanda Wilkinson, John S. Williams, John M. Williamson, Michael B. Wilson, Thomas & Sally Withers, Sr., Herman & Vesta Wolf, Richard & Deanna Wolf, Zola S. Wood, Raymond & Karen Woods, William T. Workman, Lou & Nancy Worm, Eleanor S. York, Jim & Linda Young, Irene A. Zimmerman

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

- Continued from page 16

called stated they were never contacted by their blue lodge and wished to send in their dues money immediately. One brother had been a Mason for 68 years and was suspended without being contacted—what a tragedy that would have been had the Grand Master not intervened. M.:W.: Baker assured me he has scheduled extra time over the next several months for additional calls to include some to lodge Secretaries.

But phone calls from the Grand Master can't be the extent of our efforts to keep those good men we want to keep—we must identify new ways to do so at the individual lodge level. We all realize some men get into Masonry only to determine it's just not for them. We understand that. But many others over the years tell us they joined the fraternity and found out we didn't deliver what we promised we would. Of course, that may mean different things to different men, but we need to make an effort to find out what it is our members want from Masonry. And what works for one lodge may not for another, but we must find a way to deliver value to our members within the scope of the tenets of Masonry.

The Grand Lodge Membership Committee is committed to identifying new ways Nebraska lodges can keep their existing members. We have several ideas on the drawing board but we also want to hear from you about yours. We are as committed as ever to bringing in new members as well. So, I ask you: what can the Grand Lodge Membership Committee do for your lodge to help you keep your existing members? What can we do to assist you in recruiting new ones? Mail your ideas to:

Grand Lodge Membership Committee
1240 N. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1125

Or email: patrick.barger@gmail.com

Are you ready for some football?

Nebraska Football

You provide the tickets, we'll provide the parking. A new drawing will be held for the parking spots available at the Grand Lodge Office located just two blocks north of Memorial Stadium. Parking places for the season are available for a \$70 donation to the Nebraska Masonic Foundation. If you would like to be included in the random drawing, please call or email Michelle at the Grand Lodge Office by July 29. 402-475-4640, Ext. 1, or michelle@GLNE.org.



MENTAL RESERVATION

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According to “Wide Mental Reservation”, since God can hear our words AND our thoughts, God heard Mr Joe Mason’s entire statement and God heard him tell the truth. Regardless of what his wife DIDN’T hear, he was truthful to God and therefore he told the truth.

Strict Mental Reservation would best be described with the following analogy:

Mr Joe Mason comes back from Home Depot. He knows that his wife will not be happy that he spent more the \$5.00 like he promised. He’s nervous as he takes it out of his truck and sets it on the floor of the garage. He waits several days before he says anything and, in fact makes a second trip to Home Depot to buy a hammer (for under \$5.00). About a week later, his wife is in the garage and says “Oh, you DO have a table saw, I didn’t realize that. How long have you had it?” Mr Joe Mason says “oh that? I got that awhile ago.” His wife says, “I don’t remember seeing it before, it looks new.” Mr Joe Mason says “it might be because I never got around to taking it out of the box.” His wife asks, “I know you didn’t get that at Home Depot on your last trip because you promised not to spend more than \$5.00.” Mr Joe Mason says, “Honey, I swear, I did not get that at Home Depot on my last trip.”

Another example comes from Wikipedia.org:

Another anecdote often related to illustrate equivocation concerns Francis of Assist. He once saw a man fleeing from a murderer, who then came upon the saint and demanded to know if his quarry had passed that way. Francis answered, “He did not pass this way,” sliding his forefinger into the sleeve of his cassock, thus deceiving the murderer and saving a life. This anecdote is cited by the canonist Martin de Azpilcueta to illustrate his doctrine of a mixed speech (oratoria mixta) combining speech and gestural communication.

Mr Joe Mason is using “equivocation” and Mental Reservation to intentionally deceive. Although he technically wasn’t lying, he was using “smoke and mirrors” to make it appear as though he was telling the truth.

Why is this significant? “Context” is the reason this is important. We sometimes read, memorize and, if we spend the time, learn the words that are our ritual. It’s sometimes easy to dismiss the word as “that’s just old English, just muscle through it.” But, it’s more than “just Old English”. The histories behind these words mean something. And in the case of “... without the least equivocation, mental reservation or secret evasion whatsoever ...” the additional context of these “key” words opens a door of understanding. These words are a direct reference to a battle between the Jesuits and the Protestants; between King George and the Jacobites*; between truth and lying.

Modern Masonry was born in 1717. Mental Reservation & Mental Equivocation were “doctrines” that were squarely on the theological battleground between the Jesuits and the Protestants. The more you read about the Religious and Political turmoil in England between 1650 and 1750 (do a Google search for “England 1717” and read about the Jacobites and the Bangorian Controversy), the more it becomes clear that why we, as Masons, take a vow to swear that we will not employ Mental Reservation or Equivocation to “get out of” our oath to God and to our Brethren to keep the secrets of Masonry secret to all but fellow Masons. Mental Reservation and Equivocation was reviled, feared and existed at the birth of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In the Wikipedia.org article, they give other examples and go into more detail; I invite you to take a few minutes to go there to read it. I also invite you to “go down the rabbit hole” and follow some of the links within the article.

(oh ... and why do I mention King George? Go to Wkipedia.org and find out ...)

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

- Continued from page 2

The following is the text of the afore mentioned post card:

“Do the one honorable thing you should do.

STAND DOWN from installment as Grand Master. That is illegal according to the Grand Lodge By-laws. If you proceed, we will add yet more Masonic Charges against the Jurisprudence committee and prepare those necessary against you. Do not further complicate the mess already made by the **ACTING** and **TEMPORARY** Grand Master.

If you proceed, do so at your own risk.

You have just been served with your Masonic warning!”

Brethren, this type of action is totally unacceptable anywhere, let alone in our Fraternity; enough said on this matter.

While I am not purposing any new programs for Nebraska Masons at this time; I would rather that we refine those fine programs already in place. The Grand Lodge Committees are gearing up with renewed enthusiasm and ideas to promote Nebraska Masonry in a positive light. Additionally I'm asking that each and every one of you continue to support the “Change for the Troops” effort with the same commitment as last year.

In closing, please unite with me and all good Masons as we distance ourselves from any negative activity, and work to move this Fraternity forward for the good of all. My sincere thanks to all my Sisters and Brothers who have offered their support and good wishes during this trying time for our organizations.

I sincerely believe that our best days are ahead of us.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Bruce A. Baker
Grand Master of
Masons in Nebraska

The attorney that defended Dave Watts at his Masonic Trial has filed an appeal of the one-year suspension that Watts received as a result of said Masonic Trial. The appeal was filed on May 27, 2011, which is within the prescribed time period as required by the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. The attorney that prosecuted the Watts Masonic Trial has likewise filed a cross appeal of the sentence that resulted. The cross appeal was filed on June 2, 2011, which is also within the prescribed time period.

In order that the appeal and cross appeal be given a fair hearing, they have been forwarded to the Grievance Committee for their consideration. The recommendation of the Grievance Committee will be made public in accordance with the applicable Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

On a more positive note, the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp was a huge success again this year, with 265 students participating. While chaperoning at the camp, I was truly inspired by the dedication, effort, and quality of the young people who attended this year's camp. The Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp is only possible because of the efforts of the Masonic Family who provide the scholarships for these fine young musicians. This high quality camp is the result of countless volunteer hours provided by the Band Committee members, Michelle Fulmer, and the chaperones from the Masonic/OES family, and I thank you.

In closing, I again appeal to each and every Mason in Nebraska to offer your support for the programs of your Grand Lodge. The good that Nebraska Masonry is doing with such things as the Change for the Troops, CHIP and Scholarship programs is truly what Masonry is all about.

Show You're Proud to be a Mason and Support Masonic Relief

The Masonic Relief Committee is taking orders for the new “Real Men Wear Aprons” t-shirts. Shirts are blue with white printing.

Don't delay, order yours today!

\$15.00 each - t-shirt without pocket

\$17.00 each - t-shirt with pocket

Call Bill Dittmer, Chairman (after 5pm)
402-751-2531 to order or
email at billdittmer@windstream.net



Front small pocket image



Image on back

17th Annual Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011, 265 of the best high school band students in Nebraska converged at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Smith Hall for the five-day Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp. Participants of the largest band ever practiced approximately eleven hours each day Tuesday through Friday, and began their performances with a public concert at SouthPointe Pavilions Shopping Center to a crowd of about 1000 in the audience. On Saturday, the band marched in the Shrine Bowl Parade down Havelock Avenue, played the National Anthem and provided the half-time entertainment for the Shrine Bowl Classic Football game. The Masonic All-Star Marching Band began in 1995, orchestrated by then-Grand Master Jerry L. Rittenburg. Jerry served as chairman of the Grand Lodge band committee until his death in 2007. The band lives on as his legacy and proves still to be one of the best public relations tools in Nebraska Masonry. However, it's not all about the press. The band camp is a vehicle for hundreds of students to come together and meet others from all over the state, many forming lifetime friendships, and, to date that we're aware, one marriage. Students look forward all year to returning to band camp or attending for their first time. A search on Facebook brings up nine individual groups created by students for the camps over the years, with pre-camp posts about how much they can't wait for camp and post-camp posts on how much they enjoyed it, miss their friends already and can't wait for next year. The Masonic All-Star Marching Band allows Nebraska Masonry, including the appendant bodies, to make a difference and impact the lives of hundreds of teenagers, and that's something of which each member should be extremely proud.



Thank you to all chaperones and sponsors that gave their time and money to make the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp possible. Without your support, it would not be possible to provide this first-rate camp to the Nebraska band students.

The Nebraska Mason is produced quarterly and distributed to more than 23,000 members of the Masonic Family. Copy for articles is due at the Grand Lodge Office on or before the following dates. Articles received after these deadlines will be held for possible inclusion in future issues:

September 1, 2011 - December 1, 2011
 March 1, 2012 - June 1 - 2012

Send articles to:

E-mail: michelle@GLNE.org
 -OR-

The Nebraska Mason
 Office of the Grand Lodge
 1240 N 10th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68508-1125

(402) 475-4640

or

(800) 558-8029

Fax: (402) 475-4736

THE NEBRASKA MASON

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MOVING? Please cut off the top of this page including your old address at the right and mail to the above address after filling in the NEW address shown below.

New Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A **CHIP Event** will be held at the **Nebraska State Fair** again this year. The event will take place over Labor Day weekend, **Saturday, September 3 - Monday, September 5**. Please call the Grand Lodge Office to volunteer. We need 135 volunteers to fill all openings for the weekend. Shifts are from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 9:00 pm. This is an extraordinary way to show the public that **Masonry is relevant and involved**. Admission and parking passes are provided to all volunteers.

Call today to make a difference!

GRAND LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jun 18 Custer Lodge 148 Rededication, Broken Bow
- Jun 22-25 Job's Daughters Grand Session, Kearney
- Jul 9 CHIP Event, St. Paul
- Jul 10 Cornerstone, Lied Library, Scottsbluff
- Jul 16 One-day Conferral, Omaha
- Jul 16-18 DeMolay Conclave
- Jul 27-30 Job's Supreme Session, St. Louis
- Jul 30 CHIP Event, Saunders County Fair, Wahoo
- Jul 30 CHIP Event, Wayne County Fair
- Aug 5-6 Eastern Star 5-State Gathering, Overland Park, KS
- Aug 6 CHIP Event, Dodge County Fair, Scribner
- Aug 12-14 International Peace Garden 100th Anniversary
- Aug 13 CHIP Event, Hastings
- Aug 14 4-H Achievement Day, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Fremont
- Aug 22 Masonic Charities Golf Tournament, North Bend
- Aug 27 CHIP Event, Lebanon Lodge, Columbus
- Sep 3-5 CHIP Event, Nebraska State Fair
- Sep 10 CHIP Event, YMCA Trails Camp, Scottsbluff
- Sep 23 Feast of Tishri, Lincoln Scottish Rite
- Sep 24 CHIP Event, Western Star Lodge, Nebraska City
- Aug 24 Masonic Home Caring Club Dinner
- Oct 1-2 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference, Kearney
- Oct 15 One-day Conferral, Omaha
- Oct 16 Cornerstone, Bridgeport Physicians Clinic
- Oct 24 Masonic Education Symposium, Lincoln
- Oct 25 Masonic Education Symposium, Omaha
- Oct 25 Masonic Education Symposium, Hastings

**The Grand Lodge Office is located at
 1240 N. 10th Street
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508**

Website: www.GLNE.org