



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.

Dean Skokan - 141st Grand Master

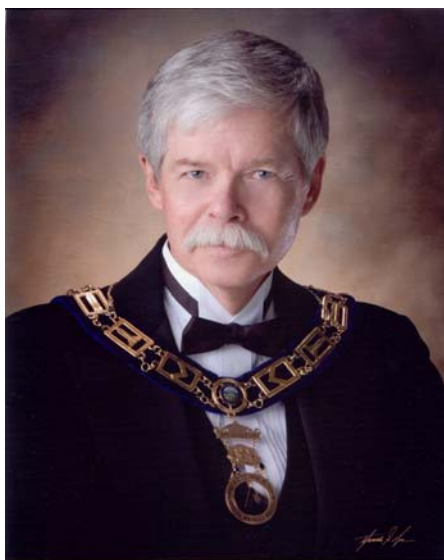
Dean Skokan was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Wayne Lodge No. 120 on May 15, 1973. After moving to Fremont, Nebraska, he demitted to Fremont Lodge No. 15. Dean was appointed Junior Deacon of Fremont Lodge No. 15 in 1998. After passing through the chairs, he was elected and served as Master of Fremont Lodge No. 15 in 2001.

He joined the Omaha Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and the Tangier Temple Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in 2002. He organized and served as Director of the Grand Lodge Scottish Rite 8th Degree team until 2006. He is now Director of the 32nd Degree for the Omaha Valley. He currently serves as Expert in the Omaha Valley Lodge of Perfection.

Dean and his wife Nancy joined Arbor Vitae Chapter No. 92, Order of the Eastern Star, in 2003.

He was initiated into Court #19 Royal Order of the Jesters in 2006.

Dean is a member of Signet Chapter No. 8, Hiram Council No. 7, and Mt. Tabor Commandery No. 9, York Rite of Free-



masonry. He also works in the Grand Lodge York Rite Past Master Degree Team.

He was inducted into Omaha Chapter #19 of the National Sojourners in 2004.

Dean was appointed Grand Senior Steward in 2002 by Most Worshipful Brother Michael E. Jones; Grand Junior Deacon in 2003 by Most Worshipful Brother Kenneth D. Beebe; elected Grand Junior Warden in 2004, serving under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Les Seiler; elected Grand Senior Warden in 2005, serving under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Ivan A. Vrtiska; and elected Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master-Elect in 2006, serving under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Scott J. Kreiger, Sr. Dean was installed as the 141st Grand Mas-

ter of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha on February 10, 2007.

2007-2008 Grand Lodge Officers

- GRAND MASTER Dean Skokan (15), Hooper
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER Reg Kuhn (19, 34), Lincoln
GRAND SENIOR WARDEN Russell G. Reno (297, 183), Lincoln
GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN John T. Parsons (268, 39), Papillion
GRAND SECRETARY Bruce A. Watkins (300), Lincoln
GRAND CHAPLAIN Randall L. Hart (222, 31), Tekamah
GRAND ORATOR Kent B. Broyhil (5), Dakota City
GRAND HISTORIAN Stephen C. Kennedy (4), Brownville
GRAND CUSTODIAN Gerald D. Verbeek (15), Fremont
GRAND MARSHAL Joe D. McBride (224), Ainsworth
GRAND SENIOR DEACON E. David Watts (65, 314), Lincoln
GRAND JUNIOR DEACON Bruce A. Baker (317), Hastings
GRAND SENIOR STEWARD John T. Maxell (327), Omaha
GRAND JUNIOR STEWARD Thomas L. Hauder (210), Lincoln
GRAND TYLER Dennis E. Rix (15), Fremont

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND MASTER

- Dale W. Anderson (158) Chadron
L. Doug Fausnaugh (32, 265) Scottsbluff
Randall E. Ogier (279) Wallace

150th Anniversary Items Available

Grand Master Dean Skokan commissioned the creation of coins, pins and caps to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. These items are available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Office. Hats are \$12.00, and are available in sienna (shown), dark blue, green or khaki. Coins are \$5.00 each, and pins are \$3.00 each. Shipping costs will be added.



rand Master's Message

Dean Skokan

Those of you who have traveled around Nebraska have doubtless noticed a blank spot on the radio dial around Valentine. After the sun goes down, about the only station you can get broadcasts Lakota War chants on what my friend and Brother Warren Arganbright calls Rosebud Radio. He got me started on satellite radio, which now keeps me awake better than a cup of truck stop coffee. One of my favorite channels plays nothing but bluegrass - solid banjo twang 24/7. One of the songs getting some play lately is a song called "Be ready to Sail." The chorus goes something like... Be ready to sail, when a good wind blows your way, be ready to sail. Cast your fate upon the water, catch a big wave by the tail, and when a good wind blows your way... be ready to sail." My brothers, a good wind is blowing our way. Big waves of new interest in Freemasonry are all around us. Books are being written about Freemasonry. Books, which show Freemasonry in a positive light, are selling big. Movies like the *DaVinci Code* and *National Treasure* are piquing interest in our brotherhood. Internet search engines are recording thousands of queries about Freemasonry, about us, every day. Those of you at Grand Lodge in February heard Chris Hodapp predict that we were on the cusp of a membership surge that hasn't been seen since the end of the Second World War.

This certainly is a good wind, and these really are big waves. The question we have to ask ourselves is "Are we ready to sail?" Realistically, and sadly, the answer to that question is "not yet." We have some work to do. Many of our lodges and our members are old and most of us are tired. We have chartered two new lodges in 35 years. We have lost over a hundred in that time. PGM Les Seiler is fond of telling a story about a town that lost its last grocery store. The closing was covered by TV stations and newspapers across the state. Yet when the Lodge in that same town closed, it went without notice. Nobody missed us.

Many of our lodges are struggling financially. Only a handful has an internet connection in their lodge. Most don't even have a telephone. Grand Custodian Jerry Verbeek, who travels more than most of us, tells me that he will often stop in a MiniMart and ask where the Masonic Lodge is. Too frequently he gets a blank stare and a phone book - often one without a listing for the lodge. Our membership has declined every year for the last 50 years. We have work to do. If we are to catch that good wind, we don't have a lot of time.

I am convinced that the path to the future we all want for our fraternity does not lie in the direction of making it cheaper or easier to be a Mason. If we are to reconstruct Masonry in Nebraska, we must build it on the minds of men who are committed enough to study Masonry, to learn and work towards an understanding of our principles, and upon the shoulders of men who understand the value of Masonry in their daily lives and are willing and able to pay for it.

Many such men belong to our order today, but no longer participate in lodge activity. Many others would be interested if we were perceived as something other than a bunch of old men hiding in old buildings. It seems to me that the first step in revitalizing our current membership and attracting the men who will carry our brotherhood forward is to restore pride in Masonry, making membership in our brotherhood something to be proud of, something to be sought after. Brethren, we have much to be proud of. Our brothers who founded the Grand Lodge 150 years ago started a prairie fire of

Masonry that spread across the mountain west. At Grand Lodge this year, we had delegations from Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and New Mexico. The Light they now carry came from our Masonic forefathers, men like Robert Carrel Jordan, George Armstrong, Robert W. Furnas. Nebraska Freemasons have been Governors, Generals, and Statesmen. They have sat on our Supreme Court and filled our legislative chamber. Nebraska Freemasons have done us proud. Now it is our turn.

We need to refurbish our lodges and reinvigorate our members. Our Lodges should be showplaces of the community. They need to be painted, cleaned and used. Every highway into a town with a lodge should have a Masonic sign. Lodges should be open and available to civic groups, church organizations and youth clubs. I realize many of you do maintain your lodges and make them available, but we need to do better, across the state.

There is a line in our Lodge leadership course which goes "A man who becomes a Nebraska Mason can expect to find in his fraternity the opportunity to learn and to lead; to be inspired and entertained, to be challenged and respected; to be involved with his family, his Brethren, and his community; and be proud to be a member of an organization committed to making a difference, that has a history of making a difference. Nebraska Freemasonry. What is your lodge doing to meet that expectation?"

The Grand Lodge is moving in that direction. In May, to celebrate our 150th anniversary, the Grand Lodge will bring the Initiated Eye exhibit to Joslyn Museum in Omaha. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia commissioned the exhibit. It is a series of paintings depicting some of the Masonic origins of our country. Several thousand people tour Joslyn in a month, people who don't know anything about us. They will see President Washington in his apron. They will see the cornerstone of the nation's capitol being laid by Freemasons. I want you to see these things too. We did this not only to generate interest in our fraternity, but also to inspire our brotherhood. A Masonic ceremony is being planned to open this exhibit, tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of April 29, 2007. All Lodges will be notified when the planning is completed.

On September 21, there will be a special memorial service. Most of you know about the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the rotunda of the Capitol building. You may not know that of the 17 men enshrined, 10 were Masons. We have received permission to conduct a Masonic Memorial service in the Capitol rotunda to honor those men. I expect three hundred masons, in white gloves and aprons, to march across the street and up the stairs of the Capitol to attend that service. It will be a grand day, our one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

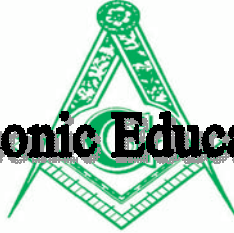
These events are designed to build pride in our members and awareness in the general public, but they will have maximum effect only if we take pride in them, if we participate in them and if we are identified as Masons in doing so. At Grand Lodge, I urged you to wear your insignia to identify yourselves as Masons. But upon reflection, I think that, better than rings, pins, and bumper stickers, we are our own best advertisement for Masonry. When we act like Masons, practicing the tenets of our order, brotherly love, relief and truth, we are noticed. There is a need in our country for men of such character. There is a great need for the skills taught by the craft. There is a need for Freemasonry.

One evidence of that need is immediate. Perhaps I just watch too much of Fox News, but I feel the sands of public opinion shifting away from our efforts in Iraq. I pray that it does not shift from our soldiers as it has before. When many of us came home from Vietnam, it was a very difficult time. It is a small wonder that Vietnam veterans are not joiners. Many were treated very badly. Our troops in this current struggle deserve better. They are older - many

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TO LIGHT!

Bringing Masonic Education To Light



A Publication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Nebraska

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SPRING 2007

Nebraska Remembers Gerald R. Ford – U.S. President and Freemason



by Larry Jacobsen

On December 26, 2006, Mason and former President, Gerald R. Ford died. The press coverage and remembrances were extensive, and it struck me how often the word ‘character’ was used by the many journalists, reporters and commentators in defining his life. I found no mention in the press coverage citing that he was a Mason, but President Ford never had to wear that on his sleeve – he simply lived his life by the square. Albert Pike’s famous quote probably best fits here:

“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.”

Gerald R. Ford was born in Omaha in 1913, and lived in a house at 3202 Woolworth Avenue for only a short period of time before moving to Michigan with his mother. His Omaha home was razed after a fire in 1971. Omaha businessman and Mason, James M. Paxson, purchased the site in 1974 after Ford became President, and then set up the Paxson Foundation to fund the memorial to the President that includes a portico evoking of the north side of the White House and a pagoda that resembles a portion of the original home. Ford visited the site in 1976, and again in 1980 for the dedication of a rose garden in honor of Betty Ford.

Adjoining the birth site is the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, which was also established by James Paxson. It was constructed in 1996, and is maintained by the Nebraska State Historical Society which provides conservation services for historic artifacts. A Masonic cornerstone ceremony was conducted on July 28, 1996, Grand Master V. K. Ramsey presiding.

Gerald R. Ford’s Masonic biography follows, as well as his oration on receiving his 33rd Degree Honorary in 1962.

Gerald R. Ford, the thirty-eighth President of the United States of America, was initiated into Masonry on September 30, 1949, in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, along with his brothers Thomas Gardner Ford (1918-1995), Richard Addison Ford (1924-) and James Francis Ford (1927-). The Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were conferred by Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C., on April 20 and May 18, 1951, as a courtesy to Malta Lodge.

Brother Ford was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33^o, and Honorary Member, Supreme Council A.A.S.R. Northern Jurisdiction at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, on September 26, 1962, for which he served as Exemplar (Representative) for his Class.

President Ford said of Masonry, “When I took my obligation as a master mason—incidentally, with my three younger brothers—I recalled the value my own father attached to that order. But I had no idea that I would ever be added to the company of the Father of our Country and 12 other members of the order who also served as Presidents of the United States.

Masonic principles—internal, not external—and our order’s vision of duty to country and acceptance of God as a Supreme Being and guiding light have sustained me during my years of Government service. Today especially, the guidelines by which I strive to become an upright man in Masonry give me great personal strength.

Masonic precepts can help America retain our inspiring aspirations while adapting to a new age. It is apparent to me that the Supreme Architect has set out the duties each of us has to perform, and I have trusted in His will with the knowledge that my trust is well-founded.

...It was almost 200 years ago, in the darkest days of our war for independence, that George Washington answered a question that is sometimes asked today. The question is whether things are as bad as some say. George Washington answered, and I quote: ‘We



Ford Birthsite

Continued on page 4

should never despair. Our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times.'

Let us today rededicate ourselves to new efforts—as Masons and as Americans. Let us demonstrate our confidence in our beloved Nation and a future that will flow from the glory of the past. When I think of the things right about America, I think of this order with its sense of duty to country, its esteem for brotherhood and traditional values, its spiritual high principles, and its humble acceptance of God as the Supreme Being."

Gerald R. Ford, U.S. President and Mason, will be forever remembered as a man of character and a shining example for all Masons.

by Denny Brydl

WHAT is the true value of Masonry? The answer to this question is probably like asking a college football fan "What is the #1 football team in the nation?" You will get many different answers. None of them are wrong; some of them far-fetched, but the fan believes his knowledge points him in only one direction. Does my neighbor have the potential to value the same benefits I do from being a Mason? Sure, but equally possible is that he may find another benefit of Masonry that I don't. This is one of those secrets of Masonry that everyone is looking for. Every Mason gets something different out of his membership. Perhaps, some members don't even realize the benefits they enjoy the most. How can you find out what these potential benefits are? Join the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Education Committee at the Spring

Education Symposium for Happy Hour at the Goose and Gridiron. The discussion topic will be "Why did I become a Mason?" The Grand Lodge Education Committee is determined in bringing Masonic Education to every Mason in Nebraska. The Spring Education Symposiums are another attempt to reach more Masons in Nebraska with Masonic Education. These Symposiums promise, and deliver, fascinating facts in regards to Masonic history, ritual, philosophy, biographies, and book reviews. A list of times and topics for the Spring Symposiums is shown below. The discussion will be followed by a game of Masonic Jeopardy. One of Masonry's many lessons is to encourage members to learn more about the Fraternity. Seek **MORE LIGHT IN MASONRY**; attend the Spring Masonic Education Symposium nearest you.

According to Coil

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

Free-Mason; Freemason

The origin of this name is not positively known. The earliest name for a workman in stone was *caementarius*, from the Latin *caementium*, meaning rubble or small stones, this name appearing as early as 1077 A.D. By 1212, though that name was still employed, a new term, *sculptores lapidum liberorum* (sculptors of free stones) appeared. In 1217 *caementarii* is found associated with *maszun*. At Canterbury, masons were referred to as *artifices*. About 1300, *magister caementarius* (master mason) appeared.

In 1391, at Oxford *magister lathomus liberarum petrarum* (master mason of free stones) was used. In 1396, the contractors at Westminster Hall were called [foregoing the Latin here] *masons called free masons and masons called layers*. This use of *ffre maceons* is said to be the first appearance of a name literally meaning *freemason*.

The *Gothic Constitutions* usually employed *mason* but the minutes of the Masons Company of London from 1620 to 1653 used *ffremason*. From about the middle of the 17th century, *mason* and *freemason* were used interchangeably.

Three theories have been proposed to account for the name. First, it is claimed that the name had a purely operative origin, being applied to those who worked in and sculptured and carved free stone, which was a fine grained sandstone or limestone lending itself to carving and sculpturing and suitable for window and door frames, vaulting, capitals, and other ornamentation, constituting a large part of the Mason's work in Gothic architecture. Such workmen were first called masons of free stone, then, free stone masons, and finally freemasons. This theory is supported by the fact that hewers of hard stone were ultimately called *hard hewers*. The name freemason, thus served to distinguish the trade from the rough masons, wallers, layers, and setters on the other hand. Most authorities seem to prefer this explanation.

Secondly, the theory is advanced that, in Scotland, the terms *free man* and *free-man mason*, indicated a master who had become free of the Masons' guild or incorporation and had the freedom of the city or burgh. Some color is lent to the theory that the latter name was contracted to *free mason* by the fact that there were free carpenters, free vintners, free dredgers, free fishermen, free linen weavers, and free gardeners, some of these names having persisted into the 18th century. In fact, the free gardeners formed a Grand Lodge in 1849. On the other hand, the doubt cast by recent investigations showing that Masons' guilds did not exist in England renders improbable their existence in the North. The Scots incorporations of builders contained Masons but also several other building trades. It is not impossible that both the first and second theories are true and that the same name developed out of different usages, in different places and at different times. This is not an infrequent occurrence as to words of such broad application as *free*, which here indicates not only a kind of stone but a status of a tradesman.

A third theory was proposed by George F. Fort to the effect that *brother mason* in French is *frere macon* and that this was corrupted into *freemason*. This theory has received very little support.

Happy Hour at the Goose & Gridiron

In 1717, our founding brethren relished in the discussion of great ideas. We should be doing the same in 2007. Join us for an evening of inquiry. All you need to bring is an open mind. The subject will be "Why did I become a Mason."

Masonic Jeopardy

Participate on a team in playing this fun-filled game of Masonic trivia.

When & Where:

- March 26** - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Lincoln Scottish Rite Temple
332 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln
- March 26** - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Papillion Lodge No. 39
S. 84th & Centennial Road, Papillion
- March 27** - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Hastings Masonic Center
411 N. Hastings Avenue, Hastings

All Masons and Guests are Invited No Reservations Required

150th Annual Communication



Photos taken by Bill Gekas, College View Lodge No. 320, and Cliff Moore, Porter Lodge No. 106 and Custer Lodge No. 148.

The Nebraska Masonic Home

Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director

Boon Memorial Food Truck

The Boon Memorial Food Truck contribution as always was a big success. We are very grateful to Richard Schlaman for assuming the position of Chairman of the Food Truck for 2006. He made this time-consuming job look easy. Thanks also go to Ashlar Lodge No. 33 for spearheading this annual event.

Everyone at The Nebraska Masonic Home extends a huge thank you to the individuals from each lodge and chapter that contributed to the Boon Memorial Food Truck. This is such a worthwhile endeavor as well as a long-standing tradition. We very much appreciate your donations.

It is always a special treat to have Mary Lois Tolin and Loy Teter of Andrew Chapter No. 41 OES make a personal trip to Plattsmouth to greet each resident and distribute the candy. They make the food truck delivery day even more delightful for everyone.

Albion Lodge No. 78
Alliance Lodge No. 183
Andrew Chapter No. 41 OES
Ashlar Lodge No. 33
Aurora Lodge No. 68
Bartley Lodge No. 228
Beatrice Lodge No. 26
Charity Lodge No. 53
Comet Lodge No. 229
Composite Lodge No. 81
Custer Lodge No. 148
Deuel Chapter No. 11
Royal Arch Masons
Elwood Lodge No. 167
Fidelity Lodge No. 51
Franklin Lodge No. 264
Friend Lodge No. 73
Friendship Lodge No. 239
Geneva Lodge No. 79
Guide Rock Lodge No. 128
Lotus Lodge No. 289

Jachin Lodge No. 146
Keystone Lodge No. 62
Lebanon Lodge No. 323
Lily Lodge No. 154
McCook Lodge No. 135
Mid-West Lodge No. 317
Mitchell Lodge No. 263
Monument Lodge No. 293
Mt. Lebanon Commandery No. 6
Newman Grove Lodge No. 305
Oliver Lodge No. 38
Osceola Lodge No. 65
Platte Valley Lodge No. 32
Rob Morris Lodge No. 46
Samaritan Lodge No. 158
Solar Lodge No. 134
St. Paul Lodge No. 82
Stromsburg Lodge No. 126
Superior Lodge No. 121
York Lodge No. 56

The Nebraska Masonic Home would like to dedicate this year's Food Truck event to the memory of Ed Weber, Past Food Truck Chairman.



Loy Teter (left) and Mary Lois Tolin (right) of Andrew Chapter No. 41 OES greet Harold Beed, resident, (center) with his bag of candy and Season's Greetings on behalf of the Boon Memorial Food Truck.

Valentine's Day King & Queen

This year's 2007 Valentine's Day King & Queen are Murray and Helen Shaw. Congratulations to this wonderful couple that moved to an apartment at The Nebraska Masonic Home in 2006.



A Special Thank You

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, residents and staff of The Nebraska Masonic Home, I extend my thanks to Past Grand Master Scott Krieger, Sr. and the 2006 Grand Lodge Officers. Your year was well-planned, and the Annual Communication was exceptional. Thank you for your support.

Congratulations are extended to Grand Master Dean Skokan and the 2007 Grand Lodge Officers. Best wishes to you.

As always, the Administrative Staff at the Grand Lodge office has been helpful in many ways. We look forward to working with the Grand Lodge in the upcoming year.

Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

Anita B. Crisp, Executive Director

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation gratefully acknowledges the gifts from the following individuals.

In Memory Of

(Nov 1, '06 – Feb 28, '07)

David Armstrong

Duard & Lois Dempster

Verna Blodgett

Shirley D. Frink

Lenore I. Anderson

Gail K. Anderson

Lydia Andrus

Temple Chapter No. 271

Fred Arnold

Floy B. Arnold

John, Helen, Charles & Roger Ballou

Mary L. Courtright

Bob and Ione Becker

Michael & Lisa Primavera

Donald Bickham

Viron & Mildred Baxter

Gerald & Barbara Beideck

Ed & Carolyn Bredemeier

Marie A. Coffey

Gladys L. Crocker

Henry & Leah Greenwalt

Donald & Elaine Kemper

Kenneth & Julia Martin

P. E. O. Chapter F

Lynn & Denise Rakes

Frances Blackmore

Duard & Lois Dempster

Varna Blodgett

Nancy J. Beach

Dick & Bonnie Brasel

Lowell & MaryLou Erickson

Mick & Nancy Johnson

Dorothy A. Mara

Kaye & Jill Ramsey

Robert & Mary Tvrdy

Bob & Jean Whiteaker

Howard & Eileen Whitmore

Robert C. Bosley

Nadine Bosley McCreary

Anna Brydl

Ralph & Ruth Beach

Frank and Edna Carr

Richard & Shirley

Ed Carter

Schoettger

Ed Carter

Straddlers Masonic

Camping Club

Edith and Betty Cary

Howard D. Cary

Norman Case

Randall B. Case

Donald W. Churchill

Jay & Kaye Evans

Wayne C. Cleaver

Mary J. Cleaver

Leonard Corr

Arlene L. Boyd

Leslie R. Corr

Marjorie H. Corr

Anita B. Crisp

Virginia Dennis

Helen R. Ditmer

Walter & Carol Fichter

Dale & Linda Giebler

Tammi N. Hicken

William F. Munn

Ronald & Kathryn Ronhovde

Linda Carlson Schmidt

Mrs. Valjean Stall

Steven & Janis Thelen

Marlene R. Trunkenbolz

Margery B. Yohn

Frances Dalton

Duard & Lois Dempster

Floyd Delano

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

Harold & Edna Eatinger

Marvin H. Eatinger

Harley M. Eberly

Robert I. Eberly

Edward and Gladys Elsasser

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Elsasser

Arthur J. Fye, Jr.

William & Edythe Cascini

Cotner Lodge No. 297

Kathleen M. Fye

Carol Anne Gifford

Daryl & Ramona Hill

Lincoln Benefit Life Co.

Mr. & Mrs. John P. Ludden

Marilyn G. Meier

Sharon Robinson

Elizabeth Scott

Pat Wiseman

Geraldine Boshart

Duard & Lois Dempster

Eldon Gockley

Mae G. Gockley

Dick Good

Ken & Ramona Hilligas

Floyd Gorgen

Arbor Chapter No. 200

Paul Gulbranson

David & Lorette Hedges

Leonard Haneline

Trestle Board Chapt. No. 67

Jack H. Hendrix

Gerald & Barbara Beideck

Paul & Kay Eveland

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Joy M. Ballou

Ethel A. Barnes

Mary Berner

Larry & Judy Biere & Family

Maxine L. Callen

Carolyn Bolstad & Family

Fern L. Classen

Ken & Alma Henry

Doris N. Hirz

Donald & Glenis Hopp

N. Betty Mrasek

Susan R. Nielsen

Dr. & Mrs. Richard K.

Osterholm

Marty Paulson Pope

B. H. Sheil

Helen Svoboda

Irene Wellsandt

Gary & Suzanne Wilson

Laurin Winkelhake

John F. Hoffman

Nova G. Hoffman

Cecil F. Keyes

Marion F. Keyes

Arlene Kikendall

James & Patricia Kikendall

Everett Knoche

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

Joann Krapp

Clarence Leo Krapp

Abe Krasne

Shirley D. Frink

W. Bud Kurtz, Sr.

Coastal Healthcare Consulting

Kenneth & Elaine Frost

Donald & Elaine Kemper

Betty Kurtz

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Norman and Alice Lallman

Norman & Ann Jessop

Chris C. Larsen

Cullen & Ardith Pilker

Charlie Lathrop

John & Imogene Waner

Ruth Lear

Springview Chap. No. 205

John Lewis

Cotner Lodge No. 297

David Lewis

John A. Lewis, Jr.

Keith and Bertha Lyons

Tom & Donna Lee Johnson

Johnny Maatsch

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

Stan Maline

Robert & Jackie Maline

Ann Mavis

Eugene & Sharon Winterfeld

Virginia and Nancy McCall

Richard L. McCall

Charles Mead

Olin & Evelyn Morris

Clara M. Meisinger

David & Janet Meisinger

Cora Miller

Judson & Joyce Douglas

Marvin K. Morehead

Lincoln Lodge No. 19

Edith Mae Newhouse

Charlene D. Tierney

Dorthea Niday

Margaret E. O'Connor

Doreen Peppel

Atkinson Chapter No. 186

Ervin Peterson

Robert & Joan Peterson

James Peterson

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

James G. Pickard

Louise G. Pickard

Velma Pierce

Norvald & Edith Nielsen

Darrel W. Piper

Patrick & Sandy Piper

Fred Prell

Duard & Lois Dempster

Maurice Rainer

Centennial Lodge No. 326

Ralph Reedy

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

Jerry H. Rittenburg

Audre Rae Beckenhauer

John & Joann Brown

Marlo & Jean Burg

Paul & Kay Eveland

Ken & Corky Fleming

McHenry, Haszard,

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Mary & Mike Stapp

M. Dale Roberts

Madine Roberts

Paul Rossbach

Floyd & Betty Kalber

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Lee H. Sapp

Donald C. Scott & Luther Goding, Jr.

Calvin & Susan Goding

Virginia L. Sellhorn

Willis H. Sellhorn

Erma Smith

Jack & Mary Smith

Robert W. Smith

Bess T. Smith

C. Volney Steele

Beatrice Lodge No. 26

Ernest Svoboda

Ronald & Camillo

Svoboda

Freda Teten

Darlene Boughman

Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Feichtinger

Irving & Gail Veitzer

Marty D. Williamson

Marilyn H. Woerlen

John L. Thomas

Lawrence E. Thomas

Philecta Van Winkle

Suzanne K. Byler

Doris Van Winkle

Thomas and Alice Vrana

Benjamin W. Vrana

Frederick C. Way

Eleanor Anderson

Nita D. Babcock

Gale & Karen Barnhill

Patty Bartels

Albert & Barbara Chatfield

Meredith E. Edwards

Steven & Nancy Flader

Lewis & Linda Garton

David & Linda Hanneman

Betty Kirby

Ted & Patricia McNeese

Dorothy Metcalf

Dean W. Misko

C. Richard Morris

Rick & Melissa Morris

Florence E. Nelson

George & Elizabeth Sawyer

Mr. & Mrs. L. O. Schleiger

Jerry & Jan Starcher

Donna Thoman

Fred & Eileen Way, Jr.

Woodrow Wilson

Robert Wheeler & Millard Younk

Centennial Lodge No. 326

Janet Wunder

Aquilla Lincoln Employees

Donald E. Burge, M.D.

Albert & Barbara Chatfield

Henry & Leah Greenwalt

Richard Hegale

Theodore J. Johnson

Barbara Mager

Ted & Patricia McNeese

Don & Donna Monnette

Jesse & Shirley Neely

George & Elizabeth Sawyer

Ronald & Susanne Schleiger

Richard & Judith Vlach

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne C.

Walkenhorst

Jerry & Sandra Wunder

Margueritte Zimmerman

Rodney & Donna Page

In Honor Of

(Nov 1, '06 – Feb 28 '07)

Martha McQuin-Jones

Jon & Dee Schuetz

Donald L. Miller

Patrick & Sandy Piper

Jack and Karen Nichols

Mike & Wendi Nichols

Cullen & Ardith Pilker

Harold & Jeane Waller

Harry A. Spencer, Sr.

Keith L. Hatfield

Harry A. Spencer Jr.

Joe Stoupa

Paul Stoupa

###

MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN

Ben Harvey, Executive Director

Cornerstones for Life

One of the many fine traditions of Masonry is the laying of cornerstones to commemorate the erection of a public, religious or Masonic building. Externally, the cornerstone exhibits the date of the ceremony, while, internally, it holds important information regarding the building, related Masonic material, as well as current events. It might be said that the contents of the cornerstone are the hopes upon which the building was erected. Each of our buildings at the Children's Home has a cornerstone, the earliest is dated 1915. While we may not be sure of the contents of our cornerstones, we do know they do hold the hopes and dreams of those who were responsible for seeing the building projects completed.

Through its various tenets, Masonry lays cornerstones in the hearts of its members. One of the very basic tenets is to "aid the distressed worthy brother, his widow and orphans." This single tenet has influenced the construction of Masonic Homes for the aged or for children in most Masonic jurisdictions across the country.

Our Children's Home is a specific example of the care that Masons and Eastern Stars provide. In Nebraska, the idea of caring for Masonic affiliated children began in the early 1900's. The current permanent site was begun in 1915. Our most recent cornerstone was set in 2006. The cornerstones gracing each structure are important because they demonstrate our heritage and communicate to the children from whence we came.

As Masonry lays cornerstones in buildings, we at the Children's Home lay cornerstones in the hearts of children. We have been able to do this because of the obligation and vision our forefathers felt as they perceived the need for the Children's Home. We have been able to continue the work because of the support given by Masons throughout the decades following our founding.

One of the benefits of working with children is being able to see and hear of the impact the Home has had upon their lives. When children who lived at the Home relate their memories and experiences, it becomes evident that a positive effect imparted upon a young life translates to productive and happier adult life.

Laying a cornerstone in a building calls for it to be plumb, level and square – a task made easier with proper tools. Setting a cornerstone in a child's life can be much more difficult, because of the lack of a proper foundation. With consistency, firm logical reason, life's necessities, a sense of humor, much love and patience, the stone can be set.

The Children's Home has been setting cornerstones in the lives of children for almost a century. If you ever ask yourself "does Masonry make a difference," all one need do is visit the Children's Home or talk to an alumni and you will know you as a Mason have made a difference.



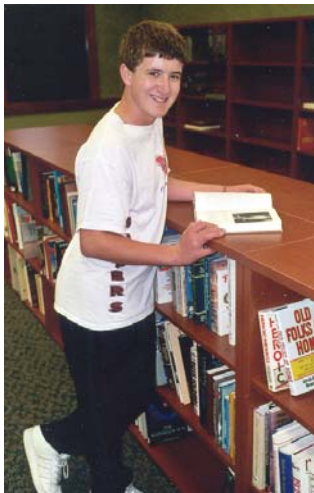
The children are assigned many chores to perform within their cottage. Chelsea is busy watering one of the several plants of Harmann Cottage.



There are a large number of sidewalks at the Children's Home and, following a snow, the children enjoy clearing them. Cassandra fits nicely into the landscape with her warm clothing and friendly smile.



Cory enjoys his relationship with "Pepper," the Children's Home 4-H dog. "Pepper" is always on hand to greet the children as they arrive to perform the daily farm chores.



The Education Center library offers books on many subjects. Cody is shown looking over one of his choices.



Christmas is truly a highlight of the year for children at the Home. Raechel is very happy to have received a fancy pair of farm boots.



GENERAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Holiday Inn Downtown, 9th & "P" Streets

REGISTRATION AND SESSIONS

Pershing Center, 15th & "M" Streets

COURTESY VANS AND BUSES will be available for transportation to and from Pershing Center and the Holiday Inn Downtown, and from the Ramada Limited South to the Headquarters Hotel and Pershing Center.

GREETINGS and RESPONSES should be limited to THREE minutes. REPORTS should be as brief as possible. A copy of all presentations, greetings and reports MUST be filed with the Grand Secretary prior to or immediately after they have been given.

TO OUR NEBRASKA MEMBERS

PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE BY APRIL 24, 2007. See your Chapter Secretary to obtain the forms.

TICKETS TO ALL SOCIAL EVENTS must be purchased in advance by ordering on the pre-registration form. Tickets will be in your Registration Packet.

HOURS FOR REGISTRATION & PICKING UP PRE-REGISTRATION PACKETS (DUES RECEIPT REQUIRED)

Monday, May 7 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8 9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday May 9 8:00 a.m. 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 10 8:00 a.m. to noon

ALL MEMBERS must present a 2006 or 2007 receipt for dues to receive their registration packet. If not pre-registered, they must pay the \$2.00 registration fee in order to register.

ALL MEMBERS must show BOTH the receipt for dues and the card showing payment of the \$2.00 Registration Fee to be admitted to the sessions.

REGISTERING CREDENTIALS: The Credential Committee will be on duty at Pershing Center from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8 and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 9. Voting members must present (1) dues receipt, (2) Registration Card (3) Official Credential, Proxy or a Past Matron or Past Patron card to receive a voting ballot. (Members will need to register with the Registration Committee before proceeding to the Credential Committee.) Ballots are not transferable and cannot be replaced, if lost.

MILEAGE CHECKS will be available on Thursday afternoon and evening at the Registration Desk.

TO OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

DISTINGUISHED GUEST REGISTRATION

Holiday Inn Downtown - Assembly Room

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

After Tuesday Distinguished Guests will register at Pershing Center, 15th & 'M' Streets

PRE-REGISTRATION AND RESERVATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS BY APRIL 24, 2007.

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Nebraska Grand Jurisdiction and our Distinguished Guests:

We are so pleased to invite you to the 2007 "Love is in the Air" Session. It has been an honor for the 2006-2007 Grand Officers to serve the Grand Jurisdiction of Nebraska this past year. Our travels have been many, our friendships have increased, and our love has deepened. And now, we have the honor to invite you to this 132nd Session where we truly wish to "Celebrate What's Right" with our beautiful Order. We look forward to joyfully welcoming you."

BETTY KIRBY

Worthy Grand Matron

WILLIAM "BILL" PARRISH

Worthy Grand Patron

CATHY WAGNER, Grand Secretary

PO Box 156 Fremont, Nebraska 68026-0156

Phone: (402) 727-8644 Email: nebraskaoes@msn.com

Additional Information, Schedule of Events and Registration Forms can be found on the Nebraska Grand Chapter website at www.neoes.org.

GRAND CHAPTER OF NEBRASKA

HOLDS ANNUAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

Martha Washington Chapter No. 153 hosted the annual School of Instruction in Lincoln January 14-16, 2007. The Board of Grand Supervisors, headed by Worthy Grand Matron Sister Betty Kirby, was in charge of the School. Twenty-four District Grand Supervisors from across the state gathered to receive instruction from the Board and the Grand Secretary. Seventeen Grand Officers and nineteen Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons also attended and were helpful in assisting when called upon.

In 2007, a new format for instruction has been planned by the Board of Grand Supervisors in that all Chapters in the state will attend a District School of Instruction. Three or four District Grand Supervisors will attend each district school and will work as a team in instructing the various areas of ritualistic work. Each Chapter has been sent a schedule which the Supervisors will follow for the District Schools. Following the District Schools, each District Grand Supervisor will attend a stated or special meeting of those Chapters assigned to her. It is the hope of the Board that this format will incorporate what is good about group schools and what is good about individual supervision. All Chapters are required to have a quorum (7 members) present at the District School, and if that is not possible, the District Grand Supervisor will hold a complete school for that Chapter when she visits individually. The Board of Grand Supervisors will instruct the District School and the Chapters of District No. 20.

All Supervisors were instructed thoroughly on law contained in the newly revised Law Book and the newly revised Book of Instruction. These two books have now been combined under one cover, the "Red Book." This book can now be purchased by any member of the Order. Please call the Grand Chapter Office (800-832-9320) to make arrangements to purchase your copy. Updates to these books will be mailed directly to the members owning books as necessary.



2007 Board of Grand Supervisors

Nebraska Chapter Celebrates 80-Year Member

Sister Clara Thoms, a member of Wausa Chapter No. 159, Wausa, Nebraska attained the honor of being a member of Wausa Chapter for 80 years on October 14, 2006. She is pictured here with her friend "Kirby" on her 104th birthday, which she celebrated on November 30th 2006. Sister Clara served her Chapter as Worthy Matron in 1946.



Members of Wausa Chapter report that Sister Clara lived in her own home until age 99 and then moved to live with her daughter and family in Ankony Iowa. She now resides in a nursing home in Ankeny. Sister Clara served as Installing Marshal for the Chapter's Installation of Officers for many, many years.

NEBRASKA DEMOLAY

Michael W. Stuhr, Executive Director

Nebraska DeMolay State Master Councilor Tyler McCabe's "Power of One" Membership campaign, based on the premise that an organization's membership can be impacted positively with one member talking to one friend, continues to "Rock" our DeMolay World. Twenty-nine "Power of One" Membership Polo Shirts have been awarded since the program's inception in July 2006 and rumor has it that more initiation reports are "in the mail." Nebraska DeMolay was ranked 9th internationally in membership for the second half of 2006 and was tied for 5th internationally in membership at the end of January 2007. Just goes to show what one DeMolay talking to a friend, coupled with a little recognition, can achieve.

December 2006 found Nebraska DeMolay converging on the City of Hastings Nebraska to celebrate the initiation of a Membership Class in honor of M.W. Scott J. Krieger. The weekend started with DeMolays, Sweethearts, and Advisors enjoying an afternoon of basketball, racquetball, climbing walls, adventure challenge, and waterslides at the Hastings YMCA Champions Complex. After dinner at the Masonic Center, the degree teams practiced for the Sunday initiation while others in attendance watched a disappointing Nebraska - Oklahoma Football game. The evening concluded with a number of exciting billiards and air hockey matches.

Everyone was back at the Hastings Masonic Center Sunday morning for breakfast prepared by Masons of the community followed by a "full-form" Initiatory Degree and DeMolay Degree presented "on-stage" in the awesome Masonic Center auditorium. Sixteen Candidates received the degrees and were presented to our Grand Master as the Scott J. Krieger Class. For the first time, female members of the Order of Eastern Star over the age of 21 were permitted to attend the initiation through an Executive Officer order. The State Chapter was honored to receive Worthy Grand Matron Betty Kirby and Worthy Grand Patron Bill Parrish, along with numerous Grand Officers. It is hoped that the participation of the Grand Chapter will become an annual event.

Fort Sidney Chapter, one of the rising stars of Nebraska DeMolay, held a combined Initiation and Installation of Officers on January 14, 2007. The ritual work was performed impeccably during the initiation; notable for the fact that this relatively new chapter was doing their own degree work for the first time. Executive Officer Michael W. Stuhr attended the event and was pleasantly surprised to see nineteen officers installed. A nasty snowstorm impacted the attendance of some of their candidates; however, they caught up with another initiation in the next two weeks. Congratulations to Fort Sidney DeMolays and Advisors for a job well done.



M.W. Scott J. Krieger, State Master Councilor Tyler J. McCabe, and Executive Officer Michael W. Stuhr surrounded by members of the Scott J. Krieger Grand Master's Class.

The Nebraska DeMolay State Line travelled to Kearney in February to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Representing Nebraska DeMolay was Tyler McCabe, State Master Councilor; Bryan Kehler, State Senior Councilor; Ryan Grazier, State Junior Councilor; and Michael W. Stuhr, Executive Officer. The DeMolay International Booth and latest promotional videos were on display to the members of the Masonic Family. Nebraska DeMolay extends our thanks for all of the courtesies extended to our delegation. With the permission of M.W. Scott J. Krieger, Nebraska DeMolay was privileged to present the 2006 Sponsoring Body of the Year and 2006 Nebraska Mason of the Year awards. Our congratulations go out to Tangier Shrine who won the Sponsoring Body of the Year for the third consecutive year and to Ill. Sir John Wonder who was recognized as the Mason of the Year for his contributions to Masonic Unity in Nebraska and Western Iowa. Grand Lodge is an excellent opportunity to meet with our Masonic Family and there was even preliminary discussion of a new DeMolay Chapter in Western Nebraska.



Newly Installed Officers of Ft. Sidney Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

Looking ahead, DeMolay is preparing for totally new and improved Spring Roundup and Summer Conclave. We're also on track to achieve net growth in membership for calendar year 2007.



Nebraska's Grand Worthy Advisor Christine Bryant and Supreme Deputy Betty Garwood of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls enjoyed visiting with Grand Master Scott Krieger at the recent Grand Lodge in Kearney. They truly appreciated all of the hospitalities shown them at the Grand Lodge session by the Nebraska Masons.

Our THANKS to EVERYONE who contributed by donating and purchasing items at this year's **Silent Auction** held at Annual Communication in Kearney. Your contributions generated nearly \$2,000 from the 64 items donated.

These monies will be divided among our Nebraska Youth Organizations - DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow. Your support was very much appreciated!

*Gene and Judy Wehrbein
Silent Auction Committee*

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Betty Garwood, Supreme Deputy

Nebraska Rainbow is on the move—walking in the Breast Cancer Walk in Lincoln in October, off to Columbus in November for Mini-Grand, to Kearney in February for Grand Lodge, back to Columbus in April for Grand York Rite, to Lincoln in May for Eastern Star Grand Chapter and finally to Crete in June for our own Grand Assembly which will be held June 8-9-10 on the Doane College Campus. As one of our sponsoring bodies, all Masons are cordially invited to Grand Assembly. Saturday afternoon is the Informal Opening, followed by the banquet and ritualistic opening and initiation Saturday evening.

Thank you to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska for the generous donation to Nebraska Grand Assembly which was presented to Grand Worthy Advisor Christine Bryant following her remarks at the Friday morning Grand Lodge session. The financial and moral support of Grand Lodge and its members is very much appreciated. We know it represents hard work and thoughtful support of the Masons for the Masonic youth. All of the Nebraska Rainbow Family says, “THANK YOU!”

A Tribute: In January Nebraska Rainbow lost its longest active Mother Advisor. Mrs. Fern Trosper of Fullerton died January 14, 2007. Fullerton Assembly No. 14 honored her memory with the presentation of the Rainbow Funeral Service. Upon her retirement in November 2006, Mrs. Trosper received the title Mother Advisor Emeritus. She was a tireless and dedicated worker who served Nebraska Rainbow for over 35 years. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, family and assembly.

Mother Advisors for 2007 are: Benson Diana Assembly No. 2 Omaha—Mrs. Stephanie Chrastil; Weeping Water Assembly No. 5 Weeping Water—Mrs. Dana March; Lincoln Assembly No. 6 Lincoln—Ms. Jennifer Rose; Lynn Broyhill Assembly No. 12 South Sioux City—Mrs. Kathy Kenkel; Fullerton Assembly No. 14—Mrs. Denise Gilley; Westside Assembly No. 22 Omaha—Mrs. Cathy Voshell; Athena Assembly No. 24 Bellevue—Mrs. Paula Heyen; Plainview Assembly No. 34—Ms. Courtney Retzlaff; and Elkhorn-Waterloo Assembly No. 38 Elkhorn—Ms. Elizabeth Imig. Each assembly has an Advisory Board of up to 15 members and the Mother Advisor is selected from this group of volunteers. Their responsibilities are daunting and their love and dedication to the girls unequalled.

Other unsung heroines: Mrs. Sandi Hahn of Weeping Water is the Grand Assembly Director of Grand Representatives, Mrs. Laurie Sieg of Lincoln is Grand Cross Degree Director and Mrs. Christine Reed of South Sioux City is the Chairman of the “Mom” Scheurich Educational Loan Fund.

Last fall when we held a statewide School of Instruction in Columbus we appreciated being able to use the Columbus Masonic Center for the school. Arrangements were made through Wayne Jacobsen, Past Grand Patron OES, and Rick Porter, Master of Lebanon Lodge No. 323 and Associate Bethel Guardian. Rick and Ada Marsh, Guardian of Bethel No. 39, graciously provided refreshments following the school. Talk about Masonic Family cooperation! We proudly share with our Rainbow friends in other grand jurisdictions about the spirit of cooperation in the Masonic Family in Nebraska.

Check out our website—www.nebraskarainbow.com or from the Rainbow link through the Grand Lodge website. *Giving, whether it be of time, labor, affection, advice, gifts or whatever, is one of life's greatest pleasures.—Rebecca Russell*

Nebraska Job's Daughters

Trudy Else, Grand Guardian

Ron Nielsen, Associate Grand Guardian

Our Carousel year seems to be picking up speed as we approach the spring spinning with activities. We invite our Masonic family members to join us at any of our upcoming events, which include:

Circle of Friends Workshops for members and prospective members

March 24-25 at the Leadership Camp in Aurora

April 28-29 at Camp Comeca near Cozad.

High Plains HIKE

April 14-15 at Fort Robinson with Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska

Supreme Visitation

April 14 at Fort Robinson where Miss International Erin Leigh Weissar from Wyoming and Supreme Associate Guardian Tom Sapp from Illinois, along with Nebraska's Supreme Bethel Officers Meghan Kirchoff, Kali Autrey and Maegyn Rawlings, will be honored at a reception

Annual Mid America HIKE

May 5 in Topeka, Kansas

“Carousel of Dreams” Grand Session

June 20-23 at UNK in Kearney

Geneva Bethel #79 hosted a HIKE presentation on February 11, granting a hearing device for a young girl. Many HIKE activities and fundraisers are planned this spring.

We appreciate the financial support and want to thank the Masons for the check presented to Job's Daughters at Grand Lodge. We feel so privileged to have our Masonic “circle of friends.”



Miss Nebraska Congeniality Tori Smith, Grand Bethel Honored Queen Michelle Carlson and Miss Nebraska Job's Daughters Eden Clausen attended and brought greetings at the 150th Annual Communication in Kearney.

Year Pin Presentations

50-Year Pins

Charles T. Adams, North Star No. 227
 William Bang, John J Mercer No. 290
 Stanley C. Barnes, John J Mercer No. 290
 Lavern R. Blank, McCook No. 135
 Hillis Bowen, Falls City No. 9
 Jerry J. Bowsman, Mizpah No. 302
 Thomas L. Boyd, North Star No. 227
 Frank X. Burger, Florence No. 281
 Donald L. Calkins, Jachin No. 146
 Fred L. Capler, Diamond No. 291
 Robert E. Clark, Mizpah No. 302
 James E. Cornish, Tekamah No. 31
 Gordon G. Cram, Tekamah No. 31
 Harry Crawford, Jr., Seneca No. 284
 Duard O. Dempster, Diamond No. 291
 Theodore E. Dimmitt, Fremont No. 15
 Harold D. Dorsey, Porter No. 106
 Paul M. Erdman, Justice No. 180
 James K. Feese, Pawnee No. 23
 Leslie A. Evert, Arcana No. 195
 George H. Finley, College View No. 320
 Eugene S. Freeman, Fremont No. 15
 Dale L. Gardner, Arcana No. 195
 Robert C. Graham, North Star No. 227
 Wilbur R. Gewecke, Jachin No. 146
 Robert B. Hall, Mizpah No. 302
 Robert L. Hansen, Ashlar No. 33
 Clarence Don Harpst, McCook No. 135
 Robert V. Haxby, Fremont No. 15
 Paul J. Hickman, Mizpah No. 302
 Elden L. Hodges, Thistle No. 61
 David L. Janovy, Newman Grove No. 305
 Robert Glen Keating, Palisade No. 216
 Rodney F. Knaup, Falls City No. 9
 John M. Klotz, Mizpah No. 302
 David A. Koch, Centennial No. 326
 Ramon R. Kohl, Mid-West No. 317
 Donald H. Kuhl, Corinthian No. 83
 Ernest E. Kuhl, Jachin No. 146
 Lloyd Dale McAllister, Tekamah No. 31
 Frederick J. Miller, Pawnee No. 23
 Raymond E. Paulson, Corinthian No. 83
 Don L. Peters, Fremont No. 15
 Charles D. Phelps, Mizpah No. 302
 George L. Pinney, Jr., Mizpah No. 302
 Robert A. Pope, Table Rock No. 108
 Stanton B. Smith, Purity No. 198
 Bryce G. Shopp, Purity No. 198
 Gordon Spangler, Hiram No. 52
 James W. Summers, Mizpah No. 302
 Richard D. Sutton, Superior No. 121
 Ralph W. Tipken, Mt. Moriah No. 57
 William G. Umberger, Elwood No. 167
 Carl A. Yonkers, McCook No. 135



Pictured left to right, Wayne Lautenschlager, Duard Dempster and Fred Capler all received service pins from Diamond Lodge No. 291 in December.

60-Year Pins

Elsworth L. Abbott, Falls City No. 9
 Edwin Robert Ayres, Fairbury No. 35
 John W. Barkhurst, Western Star No. 2
 Glenn W. Binder, Pawnee No. 23
 Oswald W. Brookes, Jr., Samaritan No. 158
 Delbert W. Carroll, Thistle No. 61
 Robert E. Cox, Newman Grove No. 305
 O. Dale Foltz, Craftsmen No. 314
 Donald Gifford, Fremont, No. 15
 Marshall D. Halvorsen, Mt. Moriah No. 57
 Lloyd L. Hardesty, Thistle No. 61
 Carl L. Horton, Oakland No. 91
 Charles E. House, Hiram No. 52
 Vance G. James, North Star No. 227
 Bennett F. Johnson, Hay Springs No. 177
 Warren L. Jones, York No. 56
 John Robert Keifer, Superior No. 121
 Joseph F. Kent, Arcana No. 195
 Roland E. Laird, Fremont No. 15
 Wayne W. Lautenschlager, Diamond No. 291
 Ivan K. Little, Mizpah No. 302
 John MacDonald, Tekamah No. 31
 Rolland H. Mangold, Omaha No. 288
 Dewain J. McCartney, McCook No. 135
 Marlan L. McCoy, Hay Springs No. 177
 Gordon G. McLeod, Seneca No. 284
 Frank A. Meyer, North Star No. 227
 Clarence A. Nelson, Fremont No. 15
 Paul Eugene Painter, Western Star No. 2
 Roy W. Pearson, Jachin No. 146
 Robert Eugene Reutzler, Oakland No. 91
 David Rosenberg, Mid-West No. 317
 Willard M. Rouze, Purity No. 198
 Leslie F. Shaffer, Jachin No. 146
 G. Hanford Smith, Thistle No. 61
 Robert H. Stitt, Mizaph No. 302
 William W. Wagner, Blazing Star No. 200
 Fred C. Warnemunde, Thistle No. 61
 Johnny Wycoff, Mizpah No. 302



W.M. Troy Clausen (left) and M.W. Philip Lorenzen (right) presented Ched House with his 60-year pin, along with his wife Ruby.



W.M. Byron Hock presented Brother William Umberger with his 50-year pin and certificate.



W.M. Charles McElfresh presented John Barkhurst (above) and Brother Paul Painter (below) with their 60-year pins. Brother Mead is shown in the background .



70-Year Pins

Frank E. Blazek, Mizpah No. 302



William Bang (left) received his 50-year pin at his home in Bennington from W.M. George Eckert.



M.W. Scott Krieger presented Don Kuhl (center) with his 50-year pin and his wife Joyce did the honor of placing it on his jacket.



Brother Willard Rouze received his 60-year pin in Imperial. As Bro. Rouze received his pin, he said, "Masons have been good to me and I have enjoyed every bit of it."

SPECIAL AWARDS AT A PAST MASTERS' DINNER

During the Bellevue Lodge annual Past Masters' Dinner, individual proficiency cards were presented to several deserving members. Wα μα Harold Noble, Deputy Grand Custodian, presented proficiency cards to Wα Βα Dick Nieman, Wα Βα Bob Carter and Wα Βα John Sheffield. Highlight of the presentations was the plaque and card presented by Mα Wα Βα Scott Krieger to Wα Βα Lew Miller for fifty continuous years of individual proficiency. Wα Βα Lew, a Charter Member of the lodge, was one of the brothers who built the lodge building in 1955 when the Bellevue Square and Compass Club received its charter from the Nebraska Grand Lodge. Wα Βα Lew regularly attends monthly meetings and is always available to provide learned advice when needed.



Pictured are M.W. Scott Krieger and W.B. Lew Miller with the special proficiency plaque presented by Nebraska Grand Lodge.

W.B. Harold Noble, DGC, is pictured with proficiency card recipients W.B. Dick Nieman, W.B. Bob Carter and W.B. John Sheffield. Worshipful Master Mike Kegley is visible in the background



50-Year Masons Recognized at Annual Banquet

The Dixon County-Northeast Nebraska 90th annual Masonic Banquet was held in Wakefield September 13. During the festivities, two Wakefield Masons were recognized for 50-year membership in the organization. Honored were Donald Kuhl and Ray Paulson. Lodges represented at the banquet were Golden Rule in Allen, Magnolia in Emerson, Mosaic in Norfolk, Oakland, Omadi in South Sioux City, Tekamah, Olive Branch in Walthill, Wayne, Wisner, and Corinthian in Wakefield. Grand Orator Kent Broyhill was the Master of Ceremonies. Guests were welcomed by Master Terry Henschke of Wakefield. Rev. Gail Axen gave an invocation, celestial roll call and benediction. Recognition was also given to Jordan Medal holders, members of the All-Star Marching Band and the recipients of Masonic Scholarships. Garrett Powder provided entertainment for the evening.



TRAVELING ROCK MAUL BEGINS JOURNEY AROUND STATE

Cotner Lodge, winner of the 2006 Rock Maul Award, presented the traveling Rock Maul to Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney. Rob Morris Lodge, in turn, traveled to Holdrege to present the traveling maul to Jachin Lodge No. 146 in Holdrege at their regular communication in February. Pictured left to right are Master of Rob Morris Lodge Darren Morgan, Master of Jachin Lodge Leonard Matejka, Past Master of Rob Morris Lodge Mike Hoagland, and Ron Nielsen, Senior Warden of Rob Morris Lodge.

Bronze Jordan Medal Holders

On October 22, 2006 the Bronze Jordan Medal for Hiram Lodge No. 52, Arlington was presented to Charles "Ched" House. The presentation was made by Past Grand Master Philip Lorenzen in the community room.

The presentation of the Bronze Jordan Medal for Newman Grove Lodge No. 305 was made by Worshipful Master Rich Christensen. The presentation was made to James Leroy Colhover, Jr.



Alliance Lodge Thanks Longtime Secretary

W.M. Brad Dutton and the Brethren of Alliance Lodge No. 183 presented a plaque of appreciation to W.B. Roscoe Bills for his 17 years of faithful, dedicated and outstanding performance of the duties as Secretary of their Lodge.

LODGE OFFICER INSTALLATIONS



On January 25, 2007, Hiram Lodge No. 52 held its installation of officers, at which W.M. Carlos Yandel's family, wife Becky and daughters Laura and Ledona, presented Carlos with an engraved gavel.



M.W. Scott J Kreiger (center) is pictured with new Worshipful Masters Richard Goehring, III (left) of Mid-West Lodge 317 and Stan Thayer (right) of Hastings Lodge 50 at the combined installation ceremony for both of Hastings Lodges on January 20 2007.

Sesquicentennial Memories

The following memories of Nebraska Masonry's past are from a forthcoming book, "A Sesquicentennial History of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska - 1857-2007," which will be released later this year.

5 Years Ago – 2002

The Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge performed a tribute to Nebraska's Masonic forefathers for the founding, settlement and development of the Nebraska Territory, the state and many communities. The graves of the first Grand Masters located at the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha were appropriately honored.

10 Years Ago – 1997

A cornerstone ceremony was held at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha. The Grand Lodge worked closely with the Nebraska State Historical Society, which operated the center.

25 Years Ago – 1982

The Grand Lodge received a gift of \$58,194 from Glenn O. Emick to fund scholarships for members and former members of the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

50 Years Ago – 1957

Twenty Pre-Centennial Banquets were held across the state leading up to the 1957 Centennial Communication. Attendance ranged from 150 to more than 600 in Nebraska City. About 5,000 Masons and their ladies attended. The Grand Custodian provided a history of the development and evolution of the ritual.

75 Years Ago – 1932

About 150 cars transported delegates at Annual Communication to Bellevue to dedicate a monument commemorating the location of

the first Masonic lodge in Nebraska in 1855. The Grand Lodge of Illinois instituted Nebraska Lodge No. 184 at the John Jacob Astor Fur Trading Company. The event was attended by the Grand Masters from Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, the three jurisdictions that started lodges in Nebraska before the Grand Lodge was formed in 1857.

100 Years Ago – 1907

The committee planning the observance of the Grand Lodge's 50th Anniversary held an event in Omaha with speeches on the purposes of the fraternity and the history of Masonry in Nebraska. Other activities included a street parade and another meeting and a banquet the following day.

125 Years Ago - 1882

A bottle of wine sealed by 46 Masons 25 years earlier on the anniversary of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, was drunk at the 50th Anniversary observance by the remaining 22 Masons. Two bottles of wine were then sealed, one to be opened at the 75th anniversary and the other at the 100th anniversary.

150 Years Ago – 1857

Transportation on the Missouri River consisted of an occasional steamboat. When the members of Giddings Lodge No. 156 in Nebraska City were ready to leave for the meeting in Omaha to organize the Grand Lodge, no steamboat had arrived to journey up the Missouri River. The brothers walked the entire distance to and from Omaha and slept under the stars.

MASTERWORKS OF MASONS CONCERT SCHEDULED APRIL 14TH IN LINCOLN

Cotner Lodge No. 297 is sponsoring the first-ever *Masterworks of Masons* concert to be held April 14, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Scottish Rite Temple, 332 Centennial Mall South. This concert will feature the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Symphonic Band under the direction of Cornhusker Marching Band Director Anthony M. Falcone; internationally known concert pianist and UNL piano professor Dr. Mark Clinton (Cotner Lodge Senior Warden, Sesostri Shrine, Tabula Rasa Lodge, and Columbia Chapter #275, OES) and internationally known clarinetist for the Lincoln Symphony orchestra and UNL clarinet professor Dr. Diane Barger (Columbia Chapter #275, OES). Lincoln has never witnessed such a diverse group of internationally known musicians to honor the music of such Masons as Mozart, Mendelssohn, Weber, Gershwin, and Sousa. Tickets went on sale February 15. "People usually pay \$50-60 to see these soloists perform with the Lincoln Symphony or at the Lied Center," said Patrick Barger, Cotner's Worshipful Master. "As a fundraiser for Cotner Lodge's charitable programs, the artists are donating their services and

we are only charging \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students. People who know nothing of the music's connection to Masonry are anxious to hear these artists for less than half the price of what they'd pay to see them elsewhere," Barger said. "Likewise, the phone has been ringing off the hook with calls from Masons who don't want to miss this inaugural event in Nebraska's Masonic History! We anticipate a sell-out." Tickets can still be purchased on the web using credit cards at www.masterworksofmasons.com. Special arrangements to accept cash or check can be made by calling toll-free at 1-866-272-2631. Tickets will be held at the door for pick-up on the night of the concert.

This concert idea was the dream of Cotner Past Master and Barger's father-in-law Robert "Bob" Cawein. Cawein died five days prior to his installation in 2004 and never got to see his dream evolve. Barger and Clinton were actively involved in the development of the concept with Cawein. They want to ensure his dream comes true and have turned his initial idea into a reality.

GM MESSAGE - Cont. from page 2

are now members of our lodges. As Grand Master I charge each of you that when our brothers return to us they are to be welcomed into our lodges; they shall be brought before our altars, their sacrifices acknowledged, and their service honored.

When my officers and I visit your lodges, we will ask if you have brothers in service overseas. We will want to know if you are offering assistance to their families, and we will want to know your plans for their return. *Brethren, I will not tolerate indifference.*

In this regard I have directed, my first order if you will, that during this Masonic year in this Grand Jurisdiction, no Masonic assembly will adjourn without first invoking the blessing of God on

behalf of our brothers in military service, praying for their bravery and safety in battle, providing support and relief of their families in their absence, and pledging a heartfelt welcome in our lodges when they return to us.

There is a part in the 8th Degree Scottish Rite Ritual about the reasons for secrecy in Freemasonry. We value secrecy and swear to maintain it because it has not always been safe to be a Freemason; indeed, in some places it is not safe to be a Freemason today. We can safely gather to practice our mystic art because our brothers and many like them protect and project our freedoms around the world. Freemasons must always stand with our soldiers, even if we stand alone. I have no doubt that Nebraska Masons will proudly do so.

MASONIC FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

FOOD and FUN plus
Royals Baseball Game
OR
Henry Doorly ZOO

\$5.00 / person
Food & Fun from 11 AM—3 PM
Ball Game @ 1:35 PM
Zoo - all day

Hamburgers!
Hot Dog!

Soft Drinks!
Tea!

For information call
 Tom Brummett-490-4080
 John Wonder-669-9437
 Scottish Rite Office-342-1300





A Cornerstone Project

Until the development of steel-frame construction, most buildings were built from stones. Stones marked the progress of the construction of each part of the building. The Foundation Stone was the first stone placed underground at the beginning of the construction. The Corner Stone was the first stone placed above ground level. At the top of the building was the Cap Stone. The ceremonies of placing stones were under the direction of the stonemasons. Freemasons have continued the tradition of laying cornerstones.

A cornerstone may represent different things to different people. To me, the cornerstone and the building where it is laid is representative of Freemasonry and the society in which we live. The relationship that I believe exists between the two can be summarized in the following:

- 1) As a cornerstone is part of a building, Freemasonry is part of a community.
- 2) The cornerstone is an important component of the base of the building. Freemasonry is an important component of the base of our community.
- 3) The bigger the building, the stronger the cornerstone. Therefore, Freemasonry will be as strong as our community requires us to be.
- 4) You will always know where to find the cornerstone (NE corner of the building). The community will always know where to find Freemasonry, and will always find it if the community looks for it.
- 5) As long as the building will stand, so will the cornerstone. As long as the community will exist, there will be Freemasonry.
- 6) The cornerstone will be one of the last stones standing in a building. Freemasonry will be one of the last societies standing in a community.

The objective of this communication is to ask for your assistance in identifying existing cornerstones in Nebraska. Wα Bα George W. Rosenlof, Grand Historian in 1963, compiled a comprehensive list of the cornerstones laid within the 150 years of the Freemasons of Nebraska. I would like to take that list one step further, enhancing the information on each cornerstone, including pictures. I would like to get in touch with officers of local Lodges or interested brethren. I would like you to take a (digital) picture of the cornerstones and the building in which it is located and send it to me (electronically). I can provide the information of which cornerstones have been laid in each city (or neighboring cities). Please contact me if you are able to assist in this quest.

Eduardo Casas, Saints John Lodge of Education No 331
 2331 Home Street, Hastings, NE 68901
 (402) 462-5013, arscasas@yahoo.com

Presence in Communities



Olive Branch Lodge No. 274 exhibited their Masonic Float in 14 northeast Nebraska parades in 2006. The Lodge also participated in three CHIP events and were present at two Tribal Pow Wows. Brother Randy Dunn, a perpetual member of Olive Branch Lodge took the lead in scheduling the appearances and secured the assistance of 17 Northeast Nebraska Masons and five family members and friends to be involved in the parades. The Northeast Nebraska Masons provided \$150 toward the expenses involved and have pledged an additional \$200. This activity has, no doubt, created a better awareness of Masonry and the CHIP program in northeast Nebraska. (Pictured left to right are Randy Dunn, Gene Closson and Ron Bruns at a parade in Walthill on July 23, 2006.)

TOGO REPRESENTATIVE GIVES HONORS AT GRAND LODGE

Most Worshipful Joseph Kossi KPELLE HUKPORTI, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Nationale Togolaise, West Africa, sent his personal representative Right Worshipful Joseph MENSAH, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Grand Sword Bearer to our 150th Year Annual Communication.

Rα Wα Joseph MENSAH presented Mα Wα Scott J. Krieger Sr. with a Secretary's Scarf of the Grand Secretary's Council of Grand Lodges of Africa and a plaque as a memorial of this historic visit.

Mα Wα Krieger summoned Pepper Aasgaard to the podium and witnessed Rα Wα MENSAH present Pepper with the Grand Lodge Nationale Togolaise title of Assistant Grand Master of Honor and handed the now Rα Wα Pepper Aasgaard his credentials, as ordered by Mα Wα Joseph Kossi KPELLE HUKPORTI, signed and sealed by the Secretary of Grand Lodge Nationale Togolaise.

The documents attested that Rα Wα Aasgaard is the guarantor of friendship between the National Grand Lodge of Togo and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska with the rank of Assistant Grand Master of Honor. Needless to say, the recipient was quite speechless, at least for a brief moment, and was very humbled by the honor.

Mα Wα Krieger congratulated Rα Wα Aasgaard and stated that he was well deserving of the honor. Pepper is planning to visit the Grand Lodge of Togo in September.

Pictured are Mα Wα Scott Krieger, Rα Wα Joseph MENSAH, Rα Wα Pepper Aasgaard and Yoni Mensah, Junior Deacon, Nebraska Lodge No. 1 (hidden).





*2007 - 13th Annual Masonic All-Star
Marching Band Clinic
July 24-28, 2007
University of Nebraska - Lincoln*

**Lodges, Chapters and Appendant Bodies -
Please remember to send in your Band
Scholarship materials!**

Masonic Youth Scholarship Applications

The deadline for Masonic Youth Scholarship Applications is May 1, 2007. These scholarships are awarded to members of Nebraska youth groups who will be entering or are already attending college. Applications can be downloaded at www.glne.org.

The Nebraska Mason is produced quarterly and distributed to more than 26,000 members of the Masonic Family. Copy for articles is due at the Grand Lodge Office on or before March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Articles received after these deadlines will be held for possible inclusion in future issues.

Send articles to:
The Nebraska Mason
Office of the Grand Lodge
PO Box 81852
Lincoln, NE 68501-1852
(402) 475-4640
or
(800) 558-8029
Fax: (402) 475-4736
E-mail: michelle@glne.org

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New Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

The Emick-Masonic Youth Scholarship

The Glenn O. and Evelyn F. Emick Memorial Scholarship provides a \$1,000 scholarship for each of the three state colleges: Chadron, Peru, Wayne, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The recipient must show a respectable scholastic record, be a Nebraska resident and active in one of the Masonic Youth organizations: DeMolay, Job's Daughters or Rainbow for Girls. An application and further information can be acquired by writing to: Grand Lodge of Nebraska, PO Box 81852, Lincoln, NE 68501-1852.

Want a fulfilling week? Call the Grand Lodge Office and ask how you can be a Masonic Chaperone for the Masonic Band Camp. You'll have as much fun as the kids!

GRAND LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 24	Constitution of Tabula Rasa No. 332, Lincoln
April 14	One-day Conferral, Linger 268, Omaha
April 14	Masterworks of Masons Concert, Lincoln
April 19-20	Grand York Rite, Columbus
April 22	Cornerstone, Grand Island Fire Station
April 29	Initiated Eye Exhibit at Joslyn Opens, Omaha
May 5	One-day Conferral, Liberty 300, Lincoln
May 8-10	Eastern Star Grand Chapter, Lincoln
May 13	All Masonic Day, Rosenblatt in Omaha
June 8-9	National CHIP Workerbee Conference, Omaha
June 8-10	Rainbow Grand Assembly, Crete
June 10	Initiated Eye Exhibit at Joslyn Closes, Omaha
June 20-23	Job's Daughters Grand Bethel, Kearney
July 14	One-day Conferral, Omaha
July 24-28	Masonic All-Star Band Camp (One week later this year)
July 28	Shrine Bowl Football Game

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED