



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.

## Membership Moment: Conveying the Importance of Recruiting New Masons

*By Patrick Barger, Grand Lodge Membership Committee Chairman*

In the previous issue of the *Nebraska Mason* I explained my view toward the significance of keeping the members we already have and how that should be at least as important as bringing in new ones. Now it's time to discuss a series of hints for identifying and recruiting new men into the Fraternity.

The continued strength and prosperity of Masonry depends on dedicated Masons like you. In fact, as a Mason, you are still the most valuable and virtually only recruiter the Fraternity relies upon. In essence, prospects provided by active Masons are consistently more productive than those from other sources such as advertising or internet inquiries to the Grand Lodge. In fact, you account for the overwhelming majority of new members due to the historical design of Masonry's accession process.

Target the best and brightest from your community - people who have demonstrated their ability to be successful in their own lives who can make Masonry better than it was without them. Notice I didn't say the most educated or most affluent—I mean good, quality men who know how to act as a member of a team and see the value of the big picture, as opposed to focusing solely on their personal interests. Men whose reputation in their communities will strengthen that of the Fraternity and doesn't do anything to diminish it. Help them see the Fraternity as an opportunity to break from regular routine and breath new vigor into their journey through life! Look at your efforts to recruit as a challenge to help good men discover a new kind of fellowship through Masonry. It's a fresh opportunity to break from your regular routine and pump new vigor into your life as well!

### **2B1ASK1?**

For years, Masonic culture was such that Masons were discouraged to actively "recruit" men to join. Prospective members were unofficially required to ask a known Mason how to join the Fraternity with no prompting from the Brother. At the same time, Masonry sought little publicity due in part to avoid "showboating" and an "if they want to join us, they'll make an effort to seek us out" attitude. Advertising in the media and elsewhere was not used for the specific goal of recruiting. Time and time again I hear Masons who I recruited tell me their father was a Mason but never spoke much about the fraternity and never asked them to join. This was no doubt due to the archaic view toward recruiting. What an unfortunate situation that was!

As the years passed, Masonry found the success of this recruitment method in decline and created a new "catch." Many men who have been Masons for years know what "2B1ASK1" means. It usually came in the form of a bumper sticker or other

type of sign designed to catch the curious eyes of men who subsequently ask a Mason what it means. The Mason was then free to pitch his spiel for recruitment since the man "inquired" about joining the Fraternity. In effect "2B1ASK1" means, "To Be One (a Mason), Ask One (a Mason)." This recruitment method exists today but is rarely seen.

The fact Masonry was forced to create this method of recruitment so many years ago should have been indicative of the changing times and subsequent change in society's norms. The times have changed even more significantly since then. For example, today's society has shifted to one in which women work full-time and still choose to be mothers. Men also work long hours, work from home after normal work hours, work more than one job, and share childcare duties equally with their wives. This places a great limit on free time for men who might become Masons. This is why the Fraternity must offer something of value to these men by meeting their needs and/or convince them Masonry offers something they would enjoy and make time for.

People are not as social as they once were. They tend to stay home more, socialize with smaller groups, and do not become active in their communities. The last of which is likely the result of the fact community organizations do not market themselves in a way that can reach today's younger adults. Numbers in organizations across the country have dropped dramatically in the last forty years. In 1966, approximately 40,000 men were Masons in Nebraska. Today, there are only 12,000 or so. This was happening at a time when Nebraska's population increased by nearly 150,000 males during the same period! Hundreds of Lodges across the nation have been forced to close over the past forty years due to lack of membership and Nebraska is no exception. Obviously, the Fraternity must develop a new way to bring in new members and keep those we already have or it will disappear before we know it. Or worse yet, it will disappear and no one else will know it. We cannot afford to ignore the modern recruitment culture.

Masonry has evolved in countless ways over the hundreds (or thousands?) of years it has existed. It is time to evolve again to meet the needs of today's society.

Over the next few issues of the *Nebraska Mason* I will share simple methods to make Masonic recruiting easy!

Send your comments to: Grand Lodge Membership Committee, 1240 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-1125, or email: [patrick.barger@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.barger@gmail.com).

# Grand Master's GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE Bruce A. Baker

## THANK YOU; NEBRASKA MASONRY IS ALIVE AND WELL

As Grand Master, I have had the pleasure and honor of representing the Masons of Nebraska while visiting other Grand Jurisdictions and participating in the Mid-West Conference of Grand Lodges. When given the opportunity to address these august groups, I typically begin with the line "Thank you; Freemasonry **IS** alive and well in Nebraska."

A few months ago, I wrote that I believed Nebraska Masonry then stood at a crossroads, which might well determine not only the quality, but the very fate of our beloved fraternity. While meeting with many Masons during my travels around the state, I can say with conviction – Nebraska Masonry is definitely on the right path. However, while I'm inspired by what's been accomplished these past few months, much work lies ahead.

The Grand Lodge Committees have been meeting and are committed to achieving the goals they have set for themselves, on behalf of Nebraska Freemasonry. The local Lodges are doing Degree Work on good men who are coming to the Fraternity seeking a place to grow individually, while having the opportunity to serve their fellow man. The appendant bodies have renewed enthusiasm and commitment as a result of Nebraska Masonry taking the high road and doing what's right.

While having the honor of addressing the Youth groups at their respective state gatherings this summer, I've stressed the importance of raising their expectations not only of themselves, but also of those around them. It doesn't matter whether we are referring to a DeMolay, a Rainbow Girl, or a Jobie; as they grow, they will be well served by their experience when those tough decisions need to be made. The same holds true for the adult organizations. Only when we understand the obligations which we freely took and embrace them in our daily lives will we receive the full benefits of Masonry.

The many great philanthropies of Masonry are a result of what Masons believe and not our primary reason for existence. Only by embracing the teachings of Freemasonry and putting them into practice will we make a difference in our own lives, our families, and our communities. Such endeavors as the Nebraska Freemasons Child Identification Program, the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp, Academic Scholarships, the Triennial Youth Leadership Conference, the Children's Home in Fremont, the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, along with those of the concordant bodies; we are making a difference by doing what's right.

The next time someone asks about the state of Masonry in Nebraska, you can tell them with confidence; Nebraska Masonry is alive and well!

## You Can't Always Believe Everything You Read... especially if you don't know who wrote it

*Bruce A. Baker, Grand Master*

In a continuing effort to keep the Masons of Nebraska informed on events that affect our craft, I find it necessary to address yet another "anonymous" correspondence that is chock full of partial truths, innuendos, and what I, for lack of a better term, would classify as fantasy. This mailing, postmarked September 1<sup>st</sup>, was sent to local Lodge Officers, which made several false charges, along with soliciting funds for their purpose; I'm compelled to address a couple of these issues with the facts.

First and foremost, this mailing was illegal per the Nebraska Grand Lodge By-Laws framed by our Fraternity for its guidance and protection, and, as such, I directed that it not be read or otherwise distributed in Lodge. Bylaws Section 2-612 - Solicitation requires that any solicitation for financial aid must be approved in advance by the Grand Master, and additionally requires that any

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## CHANGE FOR THE TROOPS UPDATE

*M.W. John T. Parsons, PGM & member of the Change for the Troops Committee*

This is just a quick update on the Change for the Troops Program that was implemented last year. The Masons of Nebraska raised over \$23,000 last year to purchase phone cards. The Grand Lodge presented a total of 1,522 phone cards to individuals who were deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. We received thank you notes and cards from many of those individuals. Most of the troops who received phone cards prior to their deployment were members of the Nebraska National Guard or Army Reserve units, with a few active duty individuals (Air Force, Marine Corps, or Army) also receiving phone cards. The bottom line is that if we learned of any individual from Nebraska who was going to deploy to one of those areas, they got a phone card.

Thus far in 2011, the Masons of Nebraska have contributed nearly \$10,000 to continue to purchase phone cards. Through June of 2011, 144 cards have been distributed. We anticipate

that another 250 or so will be given to Guard and Reserve folks this year. While the Guard and Reserve unit deployments are decreasing, there are still a large number of active duty personnel who will be deploying this year (Security Police personnel from Offutt, for example), and we will continue to issue cards to them as well.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your efforts are truly appreciated by our service men and women. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their fight and sacrifices for those of us comfortably quartered back here. Additionally, if you know of any individual, perhaps a friend or family member, who is deploying, or has already deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, please let the Grand Lodge office know so that we can get them a phone card. Thanks again for your support and demonstration that patriotism runs deep among Nebraska Masons.

# TO LIGHT!

## Bringing Masonic Education To Light



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### TALES FROM A CORNERSTONE

By Larry Jacobsen

Freemasons have conducted many cornerstone laying ceremonies, but rarely do we get the opportunity to open one. This story covers three phases of a prominent cornerstone in Omaha, and an interesting side story about the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

#### The Cornerstone

The year was 1890, and the growing city of Omaha was in need of a much larger and more prominent city hall. It was to be constructed on the northeast corner of 18<sup>th</sup> & Farnam Street, where the Woodmen Tower stands today. The 6-story granite and sandstone Romanesque/Gothic Revival structure was to have a tower on the southwest corner reaching a height of 200 feet. By June 19, 1890, the building's foundation work was completed and in the northeast corner the space was made ready to receive the cornerstone, and the ceremony was to be conducted by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Five blocks away in Freemasons Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> & Capitol Ave., the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska was in session and hundreds of Masons from throughout the state gathered for what was to be a very controversial session, but more on that later. After lunch, several hundred Masons formed in grand procession, with the Musical Union Band in the lead, taking a rather circuitous 10-block march to the new city hall site for the cornerstone ceremony. Four Omaha newspapers covered the story, with the Omaha Daily Democrat exclaiming, "This will be one of the most imposing ceremonies ever witnessed in Omaha." The Omaha Daily Bee took note of the elaborate preparations for the ceremony: "Superintendent Coots has seen to it that every precaution against any accident, however slight, to those who attend

the ceremonies. A substantial board flooring has been laid that covers nearly the entire area of the building. The uncovered portion has been securely guarded so that accident will be almost impossible. The cornerstone will be laid on the northeast corner, that being the only location ever officiated by the Masonic order." The cornerstone was ready, and into the stone was inserted a small copper box crammed with items including photos of city dignitaries, annual city department reports from 1889, report of the 1889 Omaha City schools, several newspaper articles relating to the day's events, one set of false teeth submitted by a local dentist, a small bottle of spirits, several 1890 coins donated by Byron Reed, Proceedings of the 1889 Grand Lodge of Nebraska and many other published documents. The cornerstone ceremony was conducted by Grand Master John J. Mercer with many city dignitaries present. Afterwards, the Masonic

procession returned directly to Freemasons Hall and end of story . . . but not quite.

#### Opening the Cornerstone

Fast forward 76 years to 1966. The old, stately city hall was really showing its age. The top portion of the 200-foot tower was removed in 1919 due to structural instability. Remodeling in the early 1950's obliterated much of the architectural character of the building, and in 1962 the Public Safety Director classified the structure as dangerous. Woodmen of the World Life Insurance had designs for a new corporate headquarters tower on the site, and by 1966, the old city hall came under the wrecking ball.

By then, the memory of the old cornerstone was lost on nearly everyone. After all, it was on the alley side of the building, and grading of the site east of the city hall resulted in the cornerstone being nearly 25 feet higher than the lowered grade at that corner. It was basically out of sight, out of mind – but not out of the mind of the 100<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Nebraska, M.W. Louis Sylvester. M.W. Sylvester knew the cornerstone was there. In an interview with Grand Historian Albert T. Reddish in 1984, M.W. Sylvester commented:

"Nobody ever saw it. I tried to get permission to retrieve the cornerstone, however, Mayor of Omaha [Sorenson], who happened to be a Mason himself, opposed it. Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society had purchased the old building. So I asked Grand Master John *Futcher*, who was still working with the Company, to gain permission from the company officers to tell me that the Grand Lodge should retrieve the box and the cornerstone. I then made arrangements



Omaha City Hall - 1889

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## Tales from a Cornerstone - Continued from page 3

with the wrecking crew who tore the building down that when they got to the point of disturbing the stone, they should let me know about it so we could get over there and grab the box out of it.

They called one February morning and said the building was all down with the exception of the northeast corner, which they had left standing, with the stone up there. I called Carl Greisen, the Grand Secretary, and we ran over. It was snowing like nobody's business, and I watched as they tried to take the stone down without marking it or anything. They had an awful time, but they finally got it out. I had one of the truck drivers back his truck up over the debris to the cornerstone, and they loaded the stone in that truck. I got on top of the thing and began to look for the copper box. I couldn't find it. It was certainly not in the bottom of the stone where it belonged. I took a crowbar and started hitting the stone in various places. Suddenly in the top of the stone I thought it sounded as though there was something hollow inside. On closer inspection it looked like cement had been laid over the stone. I took the crowbar and chipped away at the thing and finally went through the stone and hit something metallic. I knew I had found the box. I chipped away and knocked the rest of it out.

We grabbed the old box out of there and Carl and I ran all the way from over there to the Golden Nugget, the old restaurant in the Fontenelle Hotel. We had the box and guarded it for fear the Mayor was going to take it from us. The box was simply an old copper basket of some kind. [Later.] I had invited the City Commissioners to come, but the only one to show up was Betty Abbott. The three heads of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society were there. We got the top of the thing off. There was a little bottle of Barkley bourbon in there, a little tiny box with a hinged lid with false teeth inside, and all kinds of papers and pictures of old Past Grand Masters Bob Furnas' picture was in there, first Grand Master and stuff like that."

As for the stone itself, M.W. Sylvester had it hauled up to Masonic Manor at 52<sup>nd</sup> & Leavenworth, and a place was excavated at the entrance to the building on the driveway. The stone is buried there, face up to this day.

### Rediscovery of the Contents of the Copper Box

The copper box was in the museum of the Omaha Masonic Temple for many years, and later, M.W. Sylvester took the box over to the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Omaha. There it resided for another 15+ years at the back of small storage room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor where it was pointed out to us matter-of-factly in June,

2011. Unceremoniously, we took the box into the library and poured through the contents. Many of the original 1890 newspaper clippings about the cornerstone ceremony were in there along with the interesting advertisements (and prices) of the day, and yes, the little bottle of spirits was still in there. But as we examined other contents, we stumbled across another interesting story.



### 1890, Controversial Grand Lodge Meeting

Stuffed inside the copper box was a printed copy of the *Grand Masters Address* of 1890. Omaha newspapers had taken note of a controversial issue at the Grand Lodge. The Omaha Daily Bee on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1890, had a multi-line headline: "MASONRY BY THE HUNDRED – Prospects of a Lively Session – Questions Having a Direct Bearing on the Peace and Harmony of the Craft to Come up for Consideration. . . The lodge was opened in due form by Grand Master Mercer at 4 o'clock and a committee appointed to make arrangements for laying the corner stone of the new city hall this afternoon.

The grand master then proceeded to read his address to the grand lodge. It was a very lengthy document containing 35 pages in minion nonpareil type, twenty two of these pages being devoted to the consideration of Scottish Rite Masonry in Nebraska. The grand master then reviewed at length his action upon this question."

So what was this all about that should garner such coverage in the public newspapers? The issue was Cerneau Scottish Rite. By means of a quick history, Joseph Cerneau, a French jeweler, arrived in New York in 1806 with a restricted patent to conduct certain Scottish Rite degrees, and then proceeded to take matters into his own hands and proclaimed himself Sovereign Grand Inspector General of a Supreme Council that never met. According to author William L. Fox, "He operated what would be later called a Masonic "diploma mill."

Regardless, Cerneauism was a periodic irritant to the two recognized Supreme Councils (Southern Jurisdiction and Northern Jurisdiction) for nearly all of the nineteenth century. This issue being, can individual

Grand Lodges accept more than one jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. This issue came to a head in Iowa in 1889 where the Grand Lodge of Iowa adopted a resolution that affirmed recognition of the Southern Jurisdiction as having "exclusive jurisdiction in this state." Several hundred Iowa Masons petitioned the courts for orders prohibiting the Grand Lodge from such interference. This went all the way to the Iowa Supreme Court and the Grand Lodge resolution prevailed. Several Iowa Masons were initially suspended and later expelled from the fraternity.

The issue carried into Nebraska, where Nebraska Lodge No. 1, in 1889, made the same challenge to allow Cerneauism in addition to the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction's exclusive authority in Nebraska. Grand Master J.J. Mercer cited a June 1889 approved resolution:

*First, that two bodies claiming to be Masonic, of the same grade, cannot lawfully exist in the same state at the same time. Second, that the first lawfully constituted authority established in a state thereby obtains exclusive jurisdiction in such territory, and that any other body of the same grade or rite, entering later within such territory is in itself unlawful.*

Since the Scottish Rite's Southern Jurisdiction obviously was already established in Nebraska, and Nebraska Lodge No. 1 challenged the resolution, Grand Master Mercer "on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1889, arrested the charter of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, suspended the Master and Wardens thereof from the exercise of their official functions, took possession of the charter, records and seal of said lodge, and directed the Treasurer of said lodge to retain all moneys belonging thereto in his possession informing him that I would hold him personally and officially responsible for the same until called for by proper authority."

So at the Grand Lodge Communication in June of 1890, you can imagine the interest of all those in attendance as they listened to Grand Master Mercer's 22-page statement of the issues and his subsequent actions. To the credit of Masonic jurisprudence, the issue was civilly resolved, and by resolutions the charter of Nebraska Lodge No. 1 was restored and all lodge members involved acknowledged in writing their concurrence with the 1889 resolution allowing only one jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in Nebraska.

Over 120 years have now passed since this particular incident, but given the recent challenges within the Nebraska Grand Lodge, it's reassuring to look back over time and recognize how often the processes and principles of Masonic jurisprudence have strengthened and preserved our great fraternity.

# CUSTER LODGE HAS A LOT TO CELEBRATE!!

By Chris Carter & Kevin Lindly

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were going camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep. Sometime in the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said: "Watson, look up at the stars, and tell me what you see." Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes said: "And what do you deduce from that?" Watson replied: "Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like earth out there. And if there are a few planets like earth out there, there might also be life." And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

Why do I tell this story? Because, when you hear that a Lodge had a rededication celebration it's so easy to miss what that really means. For example, when you hear that Custer Lodge No. 148 celebrated 125 years with a Lodge rededication ceremony it's easy, like Dr Watson, to gloss over the most important detail ... they didn't just have a rededication ceremony...they celebrated 125 years of quality Masons, community leaders, integrity and trust!

It's the Masonic Sherlock Holmes in us that sees that something much bigger is going on. So, the challenge for Brother Kevin Lindly, Secretary of Custer Lodge, and I is to, in a brief article, truly honor 125 years of Custer Lodge's history and to tell you about the event but still keeping you focused on the most important detail of all...that Masonry has a long history in Broken Bow and it's alive and well at Custer Lodge!

I'll start with some excerpts from Brother Lindly's speech during the June 18, 2011, rededication ceremony:

"A Petition for authority to open and hold a Lodge at Broken Bow, NE, by the name of Custer Lodge, U.D. (ie "Under Dispensation") was issued by M.: W.: Manoah B. Reese, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, on July 13th, 1886.

Edward McClure, a charter member, was fond of mentioning that he had taken his degrees in Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney and that he had walked 58 miles from Broken Bow TO Kearney for his degree work! It took him 2 days EACH WAY for the trip.

The Nebraska Grand Lodge changed the name of Custer Lodge, U.D., to Emmet Crawford Lodge No. 148 when it received its charter on June 17, 1886. It was named in honor of Captain Emmet Crawford, a well-known and active Nebraska Mason, who was killed in January 1886 while in pursuit of Chief Geronimo into Mexico.

The two-story, wooden Masonic Temple (their first permanent building) was constructed and dedicated with full Masonic rites in 1906. The building was severely damaged by fire in February of 1934, and was rebuilt and rededicated on January 28, 1935.

In 1971, the present brick Lodge building was purchased from the United Methodist Church and, on April 25, 1971, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska held a formal dedication and performed a cornerstone laying ceremony at the new Masonic Temple with 13 Grand Lodge Officers in attendance. It was at this time that Emmet Crawford Lodge No. 148 officially changed its name to Custer Lodge No. 148 A.F. & A.M."

On June 18, 2011, one of many milestones was once again celebrated as the Brothers, family and friends of Custer Lodge No. 148, fourteen Grand Lodge Officers, including Grand Master Bruce Baker, and Nebraska's Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy, participated in a well-deserved Rededication Ceremony.

The men of Custer Lodge have performed their research so well and so thoroughly for this 125th anniversary celebration and

Lodge rededication that it is impossible for us to include all of it in this article and doubly impossible to provide them the reward in print they so richly deserve simply due to space limitations! It's for this reason that I encourage you to contact Brother Lindly at [klindly@bbps.org](mailto:klindly@bbps.org) for a copy of any of the following documents that they put together and distributed on June 18, 2011:

"Notable Men who were members of Custer Lodge No. 148." This list includes farmers, settlers, Grand Masters, Governors, members of the Supreme Court, Masonic Home Trustees, a President of the Freemasons Association, a Congressman, a Secretary of State, a member of the Nebraska Legislature, a member of the committee over the State Parks, and many, many, many more men of quality, leadership and distinction.

"Notable Dates in the History of Emmet Crawford (Custer) Lodge No. 148." This document chronicles important dates from 1885, 1886, 1890, 1906, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1934, 1936, 1954, 2010 and 2011.

"Untitled" This document shows a photo of the original, two-story, wooden Masonic Temple (taken in 1906) where Emmet Crawford (Custer) Lodge and various other Masonic Orders met. It also includes articles about Emmet Crawford (Custer) Lodge from May and June of 1906 and a story about a hanging that occurred near the Lodge building on May 23, 1891.

"Remember" A document provided by P.:M.: Phillip A. Severson that can best be described as motivational reminder of the pride we feel as Masons, the joy we feel to discover the Light of Masonry, and the satisfaction that comes as we men become better men.

"Television Interview" Brother Kevin was interviewed by local news station KNOP of North Platte. The recorded interview serves as a great example of one of the ways that you can promote your own Lodge's events through the media.

The rededication not only included corn, wine and oil, but also provided an opportunity for Midwest Lodge No. 317, of Hastings, to present the Sonny Eatmon Traveling Gavel to Custer Lodge, to present two 50-year pins to Brothers Donald Miller and Maurice Thompson, and to honor Brother Roy William "Bill" Lichtenberger with a Masonic Individual Achievement Award for his commitment and dedication to Masonry. It also gave Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy the opportunity to show how



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## The Nebraska Masonic Home

Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director

**Just In . . . August 12, 2011**

### SECOND RAIN GUTTER REGATTA

Open Garage Division

at The Legendary Nebraska Masonic Home

This presentation, sponsored by the always excellent Activities & Frivolities Department, enthralled a crowded congregation of residents after eight contestants applied their favorite paint colors to their miniature “American Clipper” sailboats in preparation to determine a winner during the perilous, grueling Regatta!

Anticipation swelled among the participants before actuality set in. Then pandemonium presided! Boats wandered off course, tilted precariously, tipped over, bumped into railings or otherwise denied contestants any sense of seaworthy satisfaction! Perspiration rained down as contestants fought to overcome the effect of harsh breezes, courtesy of paper straw intervention from entrants’ lung power inequities!

That is when the audience became involved – incessant audience laughter continued while perplexed contestants confronted their sailing capabilities. But yes, there were winners, else what are competitions for??

–Submitted by Dean Cowles  
(Regatta Contestant & Winner  
& Special Masonic Home Resident Author)



As the regatta drew to a close, Dean Cowles was declared the winner of the 2nd Annual Rain Gutter Regatta.

The competition is on!



Dick’s boat proves to be seaworthy.



Barbara experiences smooth sailing.



Be watching the upcoming publications of the Hour Glass for more details on the construction/renovation project or call (402) 296-7300 to find out how to contribute to this very important project.

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## The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

*Jo Peters, Director*

### General Donations (April 8, 2011 – August 25, 2011)

Dean & Judy Abels, Betty Avery, James & Stephanie Ball, Richard & Ruthanne Barber, Gerald & Wanda Barnes, Neva Bartlett, Kenneth & Patricia Beebe, Robert Bennett, Ashley Bernu, Duaine Blaser, Edgar & Carolyn Bredemeier, Robert & Teresa Brown, Brian Brunton, Darrell & Jeanine Bryceson, Ellis & Maxine Burton, F. David Cappell, Henry & Cathy Carnaby, David & Wendy Carrano, John Carter, Ceresco Chapter No. 198, Albert & Barbara Chatfield, Bill & Madaline Christensen, Chris Clark, Thomas & Lois Clark, Byron Covey, Francis & Barbara Crowe, Glenn Dalrymple, Lloyd & Retha Dowding, Harold Dukes, James & Sherrie Dee Dusch, Richard & Bobbye Ebel, Electa Chapter No. 8, Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson, Paul & Donna Eveland, First National Bank of Johnson c/o Michael C. Casey, Albert & Wanda Fisher, Kenneth & Corky Fleming, Robert Foley, Charles Folsom, O. Dale Foltz, Howard Foy, Kari Franklin, James & Jackie Gansemer, Douglas & Betty Garwood, Grand York Rite, Bob & Belva Hanna, Franklin & Shirley Hartranft, Frank & Shirley Hazelwood, Roger & Cathy Heedum, Duane & Roxanne Heim, Keith & Norma Heuermann, Harold Hilton, Charles & Janet Hinze, Richard Hitz, Ronald & Bonnie Hoffman, Charles & Nancy Holderby, Floyd & Marlene Holmgrain, Charles & Ruby House, Larry & Carol Hudkins, Duane Hunter, Michael & Kelly Hunter, Imperial Chapter No. 279, Virgil & Delores Irelan, Wayne & Marilyn Jacobsen, Wayne Jacobsen, Jr., Clifford Janda, Donald & Sharon Jelinek, Marvin & Judith Johnson, Mitchell & Janice Jones, Donald & Elaine Kemper, Thomas & Marcia Kennedy, Calvin & Dorothy Kline, Jr., David & Marilyn Koch, James Koehler, Thomas Koksall, Clarence Leo Krapp, Richard & Patricia Kutilek, Ruby Lancaster, James & Joanne Lawrence, Walter & Judith Long, Philip & Marilyn Lorenzen, Danforth & Alison Loring, Robert Lowe, Thomas & Susan Lucht, Fred & Marlyn Mackey, William & Jeanenne Malmberg, Virginia Malone, Toni Manley, William March, Robert & Shirley Marks, David & Darlene McCord, Martin McGuire, Cynthia McLaughlin, Betty Mears, Dorothy Meisinger, Sidney & Louise Meridith, John & Marilyn Milks, Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Stanley & Bethene Morris, Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84, Keith & Eleanore Muenchow, Dennis Mundt, Narcissus Chapter No. 269, Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Jesse & Shirley Neely, Mary Anne Nelson, Edward & Linda Nolte, Robert & Rita O'Neill, James & Marcia Ochsner, Richard & Marie Odgers, Dale & Fern Olson, Loren & Winifred Page, Gary Panzer, Sandra Panzer, James & Patti Papek, Papillion Chapter No. 114, John & Pauline Parsons, Betty Pauley, David Portwood, Walter & Sandy Price, Providence Chapter No. 108, Ace & Anna Ranslem, Raymond & Eva Reed, Lois Rhoadarmer, Rob Morris Lodge No. 46, Virgil Rodgers, Lee & Carol Rowe, Russell & Jane Sawyer, Joe & Jeanette Schneider, Carroll Schnurr, Jacqueline Scholz, Paul & Chere Schroeder, Norman & Carol Schuttler, Daniel & Joan Shurtliff, Eric & Carolyn Siburg, Charles Slagle, Richard & Lois Smith, Margaret Sorensen, Mike & Mary Stapp, Stacy & Judy Stasenka, Dorothy Sterns, Ronald & Tami Stites, Leroy & Mary Stuehm, George & Emogene Sullivan, Lloyd & Nola Synovec, Charles & Barbara Talmadge, Roy Talmadge, Terry & Marilyn Theis, Vernon & Ardythe Thompson, Grace Varney, Gerald Verbeek, Ivan & Karen Vrtiska, Robert & Sharon Walgren, Harold & Jeane Waller, Rex & Denise Waller, Terry Walsh, Roger & Glee Warnke, Wausa Chapter No. 159, Warren & Joan Weber, Gene & Judith Wehrbein, Geraldine Wilcox, Michael Wilson, Bernard & Shirley Wolf, Michael Yale, Eleanor York, Gerald Young

### Memorial Donations (April 8, 2011 - August 25, 2011)

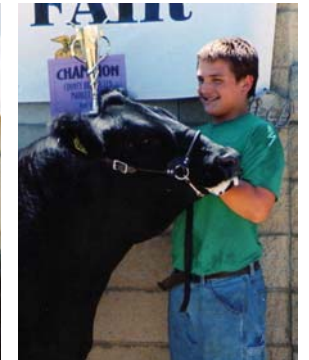
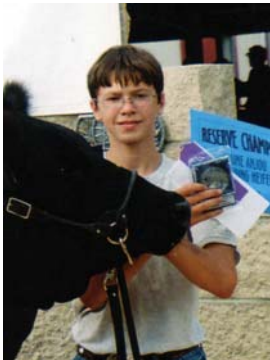
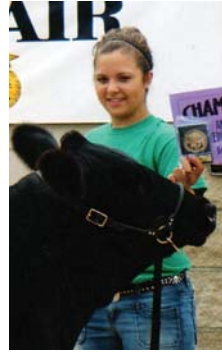
**Nettie Albaugh** (Jeanne Lambert), **Helen Anderson** (Concordia Chapter No. 97), **Louise Argabright** (Edgar Bredemeier, Wayne Schlange), **Harry Arnold** (Kay Arnold), **Mary Aylor** (K. E. & J. C. Aylor, Anne Begley, Francis & Rosemary Bodnar, Anthony Calhoun, Dennis & Sharon Campbell, Hugh & Donna Diggs, Arthur & Phyllis Durand, George & Arlene Eledge, Mayden Layne Enterprises Inc., Joann Forman, Ronald & Raylene Frazier, Donald & Meredith Grove, John & Linda Hauck, Kelli Henry, Dennis Hirz, Doris Hirz, G. L. Hoffman, Loyle & Betty Van Horn, Jean Howland, Randall Hrabik, Charles & Janet Konkler, Donald & Kathy Larsen, Margaret Meier, Dawn Meisinger, Christopher & Jacquelin Morehead, Eileen Morehead, Walter & Beverly Neal, Conrad & Nancy Nelson, Mark Nutzman, Milo & LaVerne Perry, Kenneth & Linda Polzin, Dewayne & Mary Prince, Michael Schuldt, Lavon Speck, Eleanor York), **Dr. Earl Batty & Anna Batty** (John Batty), **James Baxter** (Marcia Baxter), **Virginia Bell** (James Bell), **Jerrne Bennett** (Duard & Lois Dempster), **Letha Berry** (Duane Berry), **Marlene Bieber** (Raymond Bieber), **Juanita Brendel-Peck** (Roger Hild, Ruby Lancaster), **Betty Bumgarner** (Mervell Bumgarner), **Doris Burbee** (Jean Tague), **Dorothy Burcaw** (Papillion Kensington O.E.S.), **Ray Burton** (Ellis Burton), **Clyde Campbell** (Florence Harvey), **Michael Cates** (Max & Sandy Cates), **Mike Chaney** (Donna K. Chaney), **Alfred & Margetta Chester** (John Chester), **Wayne Cleaver** (Mary Cleaver), **Clyde Cram** (Phillip & Loraine Cram), **Eileen Davidson** (Wausa Chapter No. 159), **Maurice & Mary Diehl** (Klaus & Edie Schoenherr), **Dean Dinklage** (Lamoine & Donna Carmichael, Duard & Lois Dempster, Marleen Dinklage, Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson, Albert & Wanda Fisher, Robert & Roma Rhodes), **Jackie Edwards** (Eugene Edwards), **Edward & Gladys Elsasser** (Robert & Inez Elsasser), **Stuart Erickson, Sr.** (Palmyra Chapter No. 257), **Virginia Rauert Fagan** (Roger & Dian Eigenberg), **Marie & Albert Felthousen** (Robert & Grace Felthousen), **Albert French** (Palmyra Chapter No. 257), **Ruth & Art Fye** (Kathleen Fye), **Rayme Graham** (Duard & Lois Dempster, Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson, Albert & Wanda Fisher), **Rozella Gray** (Barry & Tereva Rine), **Joyce Harris** (Chester & Joann Harris), **Freida Hocking** (Duard & Lois Dempster), **Leslie Howes** (Phil & Marilyn Lorenzen), **Jacob Huck** (Cotner Lodge No. 297), **Paul Hudson** (Lincoln Lodge No. 19), **Don Huffman** (Donald Huffman), **Harold & Virginia Hultman** (Joseph & Bea Ranieri), **Ike Jenkins** (Dean & Sylvia Jenkins), **Emma Jones** (Robert & Mary Jones), **Arlene Kikendall** (James & Patricia Kikendall), **Raymond Lancaster** (John & Dottie Engle), **Jean Larson** (Harry Larson), **George Lemen** (James & Vicki Dinsmore), **George Lininger** (Hugh David Minor)

Continued on page 15

**MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN**

*Ron Giesselmann, Executive Director*

**Thank you to all  
Purple Ribbon Club  
and 4-H Fund  
Donors!**



**The Rawhide  
Wranglers 4-H Club  
appreciates your  
contributions.**

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN TRIP

*By Jan Thoman, GGCCM-Membership  
Betty Kirby, GGCCM-Service Dogs*

The Triennial Pilgrimage at the International Peace Garden was held August 12th, 13th and 14th. The Nebraska delegation consisted of 14 Sisters and Brothers. The Peace Garden is truly a beautiful garden where everyone can feel a sense of peace and look at God's beautiful handiwork. The Peace Chapel is built and sits in both the USA and Canada. Around 300 participated in the Pilgrimage festivities. One very sobering thing at the Peace Garden is the 9-11 Memorial. Beautiful Vesper Services were held and a wonderful musical concert was enjoyed by all in attendance. It was a great weekend to see old friends and to meet many new friends from across our Eastern Star World. Pictured below are members of the Nebraska delegation that made the trip.



## Eureka Chapter Served Luncheon to Car Enthusiasts

*By Brenda McGuire  
Grand Warder of Nebraska Grand Chapter*



Twenty members and three Masonic brothers of Eureka Chapter No. 86 of McCook, Nebraska, served lunch to about 325 Tour Nebraska 2011 car participants of Rod and Custom Association of Nebraska on Sunday, June 12, 2011 in the 4-H building of Red Willow County Fairgrounds. The luncheon netted a profit of almost \$1,600, of which half is earmarked for the Service Dogs project.



Pictures top to bottom: Nebraska Rod and Custom Association "Tour Nebraska 2011" participants drove classic, antique and special interest cars and pickups into McCook on June 12; Harvey Bish of Aurora, Nebraska, drives his 1959 Belvedere on West Q Street in McCook., (photos courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette)

**Attention All Singers:** General Grand Chapter will be held in Fort Worth, Texas in 2012. Jerry Neuenschwander is the General Grand Chapter Choir Director and he wants you to start making plans to join the choir at General Grand. He would like to know if you are interested and he will begin sending information about rehearsals and there is a songbook for each choir member and it will be sent to you so you can begin practicing. Please contact him and let him know if you're interested and send your name, voice part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) and contact information. Jerry said one of the best parts of singing in the choir might be that you have a reserved seat at every session. Near the front and you will have fun! Contact information is: J. W. Neuenschwander, POB 105, Brandera, TX 78003 or ggchoir2012@gmail.com

## About the 2012 General Grand Chapter Assembly

At the Area Visitations members have had the opportunity to sign up to receive information on the 2012 trip to the General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly to be held Nov 1- Nov. 9 in Fort Worth, Texas. If you missed signing up to receive the information on the trip to General Grand Chapter, you can call the Grand Chapter office and give us your name, address, phone number and an email address. A bus trip is no doubt in the plan and you will receive information as it is available. Sign up now—Fort Worth is a wonderful opportunity to attend a General Grand Chapter Assembly!

# Nebraska Job's Daughters

*Samantha McCrea, Grand Guardian*

*Jerry Taff, Associate Grand Guardian*

Nebraska Job's Daughters had a wonderful "Seeking the Treasure" Grand Session in June. Grand Bethel Honored Queen Rachel Nerud, Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter Katie Hergenrader and Miss Nebraska Job's Daughters Congeniality Courtney Smith each represented the girls well traveling during the previous year. Members across the state took numerous awards home, too numerous to name them all. However, some of the highlights were the selection of the 2011-2012 Grand Bethel Officers, Representatives, HIKE coordinators, Spirit Ambassadors, Miss Congeniality and Miss Nebraska Job's Daughters.

Lauren Busche from Plattsmouth Bethel #24 was selected the Grand Bethel Honored Queen. Ashley Murphy from Ainsworth Bethel #37 was selected Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter and Nickki Parks from Omaha Bethel #13 was selected Miss Congeniality. The "Fun & Friendship Take Flight" Grand year began with a wonderful installation of the officers on Saturday, June 25. The girls began their travels visiting Bethels in Oakland, Tekamah, Lincoln, and attending Demolay Conclave – quickly building friendships.

"Youth the Heart of the World-Let Your Light Shine" was the 2011 Supreme session theme in St. Louis held in July. The Nebraska members who attended were Lauren Busche, Ashley Murphy, Haley Murphy, Marley Murphy, Nickki Parks, Brittany McElfresh, Ashley Siers, Jazmine Jirsak, Sarah Leeper, Hannah Leeper, Rebecca Holman, Carlin Daharsh, Desiree Russell, Julia Williams, Dakota Randles and Stephanie Schuler.

These girls did a fantastic job representing Nebraska and had a BLAST!! Stephanie Schuler was Supreme Sr. Princess at this session and did a beautiful job! Nebraska girls participated in Performing Arts, Ritual, and the Spirit Cheer contest at the HIKE dance. A quick highlight of awards and honors received are:

**HIKE awards** for \$1,000 raised were given to: Katie Hergenrader, Kyra Holloway, and Jazmine Jirsak!!

A **Scholarship award** was given to Katie Hergenrader at formal opening!!! Nebraska Choir took 1<sup>st</sup> place and the Nebraska Supreme Team took 2<sup>nd</sup>! A wonderful time was had by all those who attended!

Job's Daughters International has seen an increase in 2010 of 2.24%. This is the trend I would love to see in Nebraska! The U.S. has 5,900 members. Brazil comes in a close second with 4,032! We need to find out what Brazil is doing, as many of those Bethels have only been instituted in the past 20 years!

The Grand Bethel Officers, representatives, HIKE coordinators, Spirit Ambassadors and Grand Family gathered August 20<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln for a weekend retreat to discuss their respective commitments to Nebraska Job's Daughters. The girls also participated in tours of the Capitol building, a Geocache 101 course and Clue Cache hunt, and had a blast playing Minute to Win It games! A sleepover is always so much fun with your Jobie sisters!

The members now look forward to the Masonic Youth Conference provided by the Nebraska Masons October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kearney. We hope everyone has safe travels to this event and we look forward to seeing our Masonic Family there!

# NEBRASKA DEMOLAY

*Michael W. Stuhr, Executive Director*

*By Dalton Kock – State Master Councilor*

Well Hey there!

We've got some great goings on here in Nebraska DeMolay, and we're excited to tell you all about them! To start off, we had a fantastic time at Conclave 2011, hosted in Lincoln this year. Friday saw the ritual competition come underway which saw more competitors than we have had in the last TEN years! For the afternoon event, we stormed the forest out at CJ's paintball. When we got back to the hotel to cool off, we held our now annual Mini Relay for life, and Sweetheart extravaganza.

Saturday we conducted our business meetings, electing Brother Adam Medley as the new State Junior Councilor, and Brother Luke Castner to State Senior Councilor. Congratulations to the both of you. That evening was our banquet and State Installation, followed shortly by the Sweetheart Ball, where Miss Pamela McLeod was crowned State Sweetheart for the next year. Congratulations to you also! As always, Sunday was the statewide initiation, and then before you know it, it's time to head home.

My program for the year is titled DeMolay – Army of Youth. We need to band together as brothers to really achieve all of our goals, and only as brothers are we able to face the world as a united front to better the world around us. I've also designed my own polos, which will be unveiled at a later time.

I also want to extend a special Thank you and congratulations to Brother Cameron Daiss and Miss Kaitlynn Bradley on a fantastic year; you both did a wonderful job, and I'm proud to have to follow such a fantastic team.

As always, 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.



Luke Castner, State Senior Councilor; Dalton Kock, State Master Councilor; Adam Medley, State Junior Councilor

# INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Betty Garwood, Supreme Deputy

Summers for Masonic Youth are full of new beginnings, travel and fun. The new beginnings start for Rainbow at Grand Assembly with the installation of the 2011-2012 Grand Family. The Grand Family visited the Nebraska Assemblies, Grand Bethel and DeMolay Conclave. Grand Worthy Advisor Shanda Born had her first official introduction at the Area Eastern Star Visitation in Wayne. She brought greetings from Grand Assembly to Grand Bethel and DeMolay Conclave. Plans are now made to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial Masonic Youth Leadership Conference in Kearney October 1 & 2. Grand Worthy Advisor Shanda Born, Grand Worthy Associate Advisor and PGWA and Junior Member of the Grand Executive Board Heather Wilkie will be among the youth leaders assisting.

Five from Nebraska attended the biennial Supreme Seminar which was held in Kansas City in July. The focus of the seminar was brainstorming, networking and sharing of information. Zoe Maurer from Lincoln Assembly No. 6 was the youth delegate and will be working on the Grand Assembly level to share her experiences and develop new programs. It was reported that Supreme Assembly has positive growth for the first time in a number of years. There are fewer assemblies but more members in those assemblies. Kerri Straub attended the Junior Marketing Liaison sessions and Sandi Hahn the Grand Executive Board sessions. Thelma Domingo and Betty Garwood attended sessions specified for the Supreme Family.



Those who attended the Supreme Seminar from left to right: Kerri Straub, Sandi Hahn, Zoe Maurer, Betty Garwood, Thelma Domingo.

## FROM ONE BROTHER TO ANOTHER



Outgoing Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 33 in Grand Island, Brother Justin Richardson, passed the gavel to his biological and fraternal Brother Joshua Richardson in January 2011. The two are

twins. Their dad, Brother Terry Richardson, is also a member of the lodge. Pictured left to right are Justin, Terry and Joshua.

We are seeing a renewal in Nebraska Rainbow as the smaller Assemblies are initiating new members and getting new pledges. Westside Assembly will be going to Worlds of Fun as their reward for “building a bow” or initiating seven girls in a term. Another Assembly is close to the goal; another missed it by only one. When applications for membership are turned in by 12 girls, there will be a new Assembly instituted in Wayne. This will be the direct result of the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp. There are other prospects on the horizon. Go Rainbow!



Zoe Maurer participates in Seminar youth activities.

More new beginnings... Pamela McLeod, a member of Lincoln #6, is the new DeMolay State Sweetheart. Nate Shumate of Eiche Chapter is our State Rainbow Beau. Riley Kearns of Weeping Water #5 is Miss Nebraska Rainbow. State Mom is Karan Birdsall of Lincoln and State Dad is Lee Fraley of Omaha. Fall Grand Cross event will be November 13<sup>th</sup> in Elkhorn.

A check for \$899 was received from the Grand Lodge Silent Auction; thanks everyone who contributed in any way.

Help build the future of other organizations within the Masonic Family—remember... **Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life.** See [www.gorainbow.org](http://www.gorainbow.org) and [www.Nebraskarainbowgirls.com](http://www.Nebraskarainbowgirls.com)

## Lodge Rededication - Continued from page 11

important Custer Lodge's rededication is to Nebraska...he made this celebration “priority one” in spite of the worst flood on the Missouri River in over 100 years!

I leave you with the same thoughts given by Brother Lindly during the rededication ceremony that day. He quoted P.M. Jonathon A. Frye's (Nebraska Lodge No. 1) oration given in Omaha at the 75th Anniversary celebration of the birth of Masonry in Nebraska on April 8, 1930:

*“Time is but a spot between two eternities. It is not a closed book, nor our memories, though tender and dear, our only engrossing thought. We stand in the archway between the past and what is to be. With many of the burdens lightened by modern life, we should look with increasing confidence to the fruition of another day. As representatives of this great institution it should be our aim and our portion to exemplify with ever increasing effect those noble principles, which are, co-equal with the creation of man, and transmit them unimpaired as our heritage to generations to come. With the immortal poet we should ever feel the compelling urge to...*

*Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll!*

*Leave thy low-vaulted past –*

*Let each new temple, nobler than the last,*

*Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,*

*Till thou at length art free,*

*Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!”*

# Year Pin Presentations

## 50-Year Pins

Harold L. Allen, Oshkosh No. 286  
 Vayden R. Anderson, Stromsburg No. 126  
 Gaylord D. Apfel, Ashlar No. 33  
 Richard A. Beesley, Pawnee No. 23  
 Elton E. Bray, Olive Branch No. 274  
 Robert C. Chipps, Ashlar No. 33  
 Charles H. Crane, Robert Furnas No. 265  
 Frank R. D'Louhy, Papillion No. 39  
 John I. Erickson, Thistle No. 61  
 Frederic S. Gakle, Garfield No. 95  
 Gail L. Gonnerman, Osceola No. 65  
 Calvin J. Hockley, Thistle No. 61  
 Donald G. Hudson, Stromsburg No. 126  
 Dwayne D. Jackson, Wausa No. 251  
 Milton D. Johnson, Stromsburg No. 126  
 Stanley A. Judd, Fairbury No. 35  
 Gaylen D. Kjer, Corinthian No. 83  
 Richard J. Kutilek, Covert No. 11  
 Lewis E. Laffin, Pawnee No. 23  
 Norman B. Leeper, Papillion No. 39  
 Donald E. Loos, Robert Furnas No. 265  
 Philip J. Maurer, Jachin No. 146  
 James H. Morrison, Papillion No. 39  
 Glen H. Shoemaker, Highland No. 194  
 John Edward Skarda, Bellevue No. 325  
 Harold P. Stuckey, Thistle No. 61  
 Kenneth W. Summers, Bellevue No. 325  
 Richard Van Winkle, Pawnee No. 23  
 Virgil L. Willits, Osceola No. 65  
 Robert W. Zimmerman, Springfield No. 112



W.M. Douglas Kristensen presented a 50-year pin to Dwayne Jackson (right) at the regular meeting in June for Wausa Lodge No. 251.



Kenneth W. Forbes (right) received a 60-year membership award from Diamond Lodge No. 291. W.M. Duard Dempster presented the award.

## 60-Year Pins

Frederick L. Alexander, Superior No. 121  
 Donald M. Anderson, Thistle No. 61  
 John C. Barnhart, Lininger No. 268  
 James L. Bone, Lininger No. 268  
 Benjamin G. Disney, Superior No. 121  
 Bergie B. Dyson, Papillion No. 39  
 Byford Elwonger, Nemaha Valley No. 4  
 Kenneth W. Forbes, Diamond No. 291  
 Elliott E. Gilmore, Jr., Lininger No. 268  
 H. Lloyd Heim, Pawnee No. 23  
 Lloyd D. Hinkley, Cotner No. 297  
 Frederick Hosterman, Nemaha Valley No. 4  
 Donald D. Hotz, Sr., Wymore No. 104  
 Orville W. Housel, Cotner No. 297  
 Donald R. Jackson, Thistle No. 61  
 Rodney D. Johnson, Scotts Bluff No. 201  
 George E. Lemen, Jr., Lininger No. 268  
 Jack Mehaffey, North Bend No. 119  
 William S. Olson, Oshkosh No. 286  
 William F. Pflug, Papillion No. 39  
 Don H. Pritchett, Lincoln No. 19  
 Bobby G. Ranard, Ashlar No. 33  
 William T. Rawson, Thistle No. 61  
 Elwyn Robertson, Garfield No. 95  
 Mark A. Romohr, Jr., Stromsburg No. 126  
 Robert W. Shively, Lebanon No. 323  
 John C. Sierks, Nemaha Valley No. 4  
 John M. Stalder, Pawnee No. 23  
 Harold D. Steiner, Crete No. 37  
 Jerry E. Tomsik, Lincoln No. 19  
 John D. Truman, Garfield No. 95  
 Richard M. Wolf, Covert No. 11  
 Carroll Dale Young, Cedar River No. 89

## 70-Year Pins

Lewis H. Dunn, Olive Branch No. 274  
 W. Richard Prohs, Scotts Bluff No. 201



Don Hudson, Vayden Anderson, Mark Romohr, Milton Johnson received membership awards from W.M. Marlon Buzek of Stromsburg Lodge No. 126.



Frederick L. Alexander of Superior Lodge No. 121 received a 60-yr membership award from W.M. George Piper at the June lodge meeting.



Brother Lewis Dunn (seated middle) received his 70-year pin from Olive Branch Lodge No. 274 at his residence at The Masonic Home.



W. Richard Prohs, a member of Scotts Bluff Lodge No. 201, received his 70-year pin in July. Brother Prohs has been the Bronze Jordan Medal holder for the lodge since 2003.



Jack Mehaffey of Tarkio, MO, was presented with his 60-year pin by Grand Senior Warden Tom Hauder, with 40 guests, family and brethren attending at North Bend Lodge No. 119.



Rodney D. Johnson received his 60-year pin from Scotts Bluff Lodge No. 201 in July.

## GOLD JORDAN MEDAL HOLDER



Brother James W. Gray, East Lincoln Lodge No. 210 and Blue River Lodge No. 30, received the Gold Jordan Medal for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on July 12 at his residence at the Nebraska Masonic Home.

Grand Master Bruce Baker made the presentation to Brother Gray. The Gold Jordan Medal is awarded to the Nebraska Mason who has been a member of the fraternity longer than any other Nebraska Mason living in the state.



W.B. Gaylen Kjer, a member of Corinthian Lodge No. 83 in Wakefield, received his 50-year pin on August 6. Members of Cotner Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln made the courtesy presentation. Pictured are W.M. Val Ryckman, W.B. Kjer, and W.B. Ken Linafelter. Brother Linafelter helped Gaylen with his degree work 50 years ago when he joined Golden Rule Lodge No. 236 in Allen.

Brother John Barnhart (center) of George W. Lininger Lodge No 268 received his 60-year membership award from W.M. Okley Gibbs (right) and Grand Junior Deacon John Maxell (left) at the Annual Table Lodge in February.



W.M. Okley Gibbs presented Brother George W. Lemen of George W. Lininger Lodge No 268 with a 60-year membership award on March 25, with the help of Brother Lemen's wife Marty.

## BRONZE JORDAN MEDAL HOLDERS

Raymond F. Evers was presented the Bronze Jordan Medal for Platts-mouth Lodge No. 6 on June 8, 2011. The presentation was made at Brother Evers' home by Worshipful Master L. Cecil Smith (left) and Jay H. Speck, Secretary (not pictured).



The Bronze Jordan Medal for Robert W. Furnas Lodge No. 265 in Scottsbluff was presented to Robert W. Hartley on June 6, 2011 by Grand Master Bruce Baker.

Eugene P. Jorgensen was presented with the Bronze Jordan Medal for East Lincoln Lodge No. 210 at the regular communication on June 2, 2011 by Worshipful Master Jeff Wunder.



Grand Master Bruce Baker presented the Bronze Jordan Medal to W.B. John Osler (pictured below) of Purity Lodge No. 198 in Imperial at a dinner held on July 9, 2011.



David H. Mickey was presented the Bronze Jordan Medal for North Star Lodge No. 227 on April 6, 2011 by WM Keith Brocksmith. The presentation was held after the regular communication and Brother David's family was in attendance.

Grand Master Bruce Baker presented 50-year membership awards to Donald Loos and Charles Crane of Robert W. Furnas Lodge No. 265 in Scottsbluff on June 6.



## Active in Alliance

Alliance Masons held their annual raffle to support the American Legion Baseball program, CHIP, academic scholarships and other Masonic programs supported by the lodge. Co-Chairmen W. B. Todd Harris and B. Mike Sautter thank all who helped sell tickets and especially those purchasing tickets. Don Berg was the \$1,000 grand prize winner and Lori Mazanec won the 2nd prize of \$500. The Spartan Baseball team received a check for \$920 from Alliance Lodge 183. In addition to the check from the Masons presented to Spartan coaches Tom Swanson and Morgan Mracek, Don Berg donated his winning check to the Spartans.



At left, Don Berg donates his winning check to Tom Swanson; and at right, W.B. Todd Harris presents a check to Lori Mazanec.

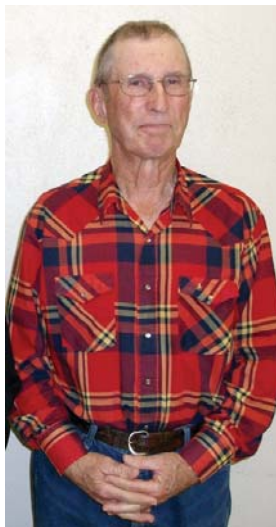


Alliance Lodge 183 continues its commitment to Alliance's annual Heritage Days celebration. The Masons held a noontime BBQ and the DeMolay boys had a pancake feed Saturday morning prior to the parade. Pictured and ready to serve the crowd after the parade are W.B. John Adam, B. Todd Rehder and W. B. Brad Dutton.

## Nemaha Valley Honors W.B. Sierks

W.B. John Sierks of Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4 was presented with his 60-year pin for years of membership and service to the Brownville Masonic Lodge by Stephen Kennedy on June 11 at the Nemaha Valley Community Center. John was raised as a Master Mason on June 14, 1951 and began his 60 years of active membership to his lodge. John was Master of the lodge three times and in 1969 was appointed as a Deputy Grand Custodian to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. As a custodian, he works with area lodges to help them with their lodge and degree work, and he also presents many lectures that are part of the initiation ritual. He has continued as a Deputy Custodian continually since that time, which in itself is quite an accomplishment.

The event was attended by John's wife, Dorothy, and all of John's children: Lonnie, Myrna, Michelle, David, Chuck and Melissa. Other members of the Lodge and Star were also present and several spoke of what it meant to have these two as part of their lives.



## SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OF NEBRASKA MASONRY

*(an article by Charles S Lobingier/reprinted from The Omaha Bee, 1900)*

This day is an historic one in the annals of Masonry. Exactly 183 years ago the Grand Lodge of England was formed. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1717, designated by the annalists as "the high noon of the year, the day of light and of roses," the four Masonic lodges of London established the body which there-after became the mother grand lodge of the world. Of course, this was not the beginning of Freemasonry. It merely marked the introduction of a new phase – the tendency toward complete organization and closer structural union – while Masonic lodges and the institutions of Masonry had then already existed for centuries.

Compared with these chapters in its history, Masonry in Nebraska is young. But, then, Nebraska is a young commonwealth and Masonry within its borders is practically as old as any phase of civilization. Coincident with the very first step toward the formation of civil government in what is now Nebraska was the movement for the organization of its first Masonic lodge. In the fall of 1854, the very time when Francis Burt, the first governor, arrived in the territory, the grand lodge of Illinois granted a dispensation to constitute Nebraska lodge No. 184, afterward No. 1 of Nebraska at Bellevue. This lodge was fully organized by the following April and among the members received during 1855 was Peter A Sarpy, the pioneer fur trader, whose relation to Nebraska history is almost like that of Daniel Boone to Kentucky. This pioneer Nebraska lodge held its meetings in Colonel Sarpy's trading post and a picture of that historic building now adorns the walls of the ante-room of the Masonic hall in Omaha – a fitting and perpetual reminder of this cradle of Nebraska Freemasonry. This lodge was removed to Omaha in 1888 and is now in prosperous condition.

### Activity of Pioneer Masons

But Masonic activity in pioneer Nebraska was not confined to Bellevue. Almost from the first the members of the ancient craft in the little settlements that fringed the Missouri began to take steps toward organization. Giddings Lodge, No 165, afterward Western Star lodge, No. 2 at Nebraska City, was created May 10, 1855, and chartered by the grand lodge of Missouri, May 28, 1856. Capitol lodge, No. 3 of Nebraska was created January 9, 1857, and chartered June 3, 1857, at Omaha, where it is now a flourishing organization of over 300 members. On September 23, 1857, these three pioneer bodies, just as their sister lodges in London had done 140 years before, sent representatives to Omaha, who there constituted the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. The three subordinate lodges were there-upon renumbered and rechristened as above indicated.

From this time on the record of the fraternity in this state is one of steady and substantial, though never of extremely rapid progress. Each year in Nebraska history shows a gain both in membership and in the number of lodges, and it is a remarkable fact that even during times of depression, like the grasshopper year of 1874, the rate of increase has not been lowered...To read the rest of this article, go to <http://bit.ly/pb25Zh> or [www.nebraskamasoniceducation.com](http://www.nebraskamasoniceducation.com), click on Course Catalog and Nebraska Masonic History.

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**Alvin & Helen Lippert** (Frederick & Sarah Wong), **Mary Helen Little** (John & Imogene Waner), **Ed & Olga Lorenzen** (Phil & Marilyn Lorenzen), **Frederick Martincik** (Carol Martincik), **Dorothy Metcalf** (Duard & Lois Dempster), **Joan Marie West Minor** (Hugh David Minor), **Thomas Morrissey, Jr.** (Monica Wunderlich), **Lewis & Nettie Mougey** (Richard Mougey), **Spec Nelson** (James & Phyllis Anderson), **JoAnn Nichelson** (Ceresco Chapter No. 198), **Ivan Nord** (Ceresco Chapter No. 198, Comet Lodge No. 229), **Laurel Perkins** (Bruce & Carolyn Riddell), **Bernadine Phillip** (Robert Phillip), **James Pickard** (Louise Pickard), **Thomas Pilker** (Cullen & Ardith Pilker), **Ray & Ruby Poage** (Raymond & Jeanne Poage), **Jack Price** (Carl Barney, Marlo & Jean Burg, James & Mary Erixon, Phil & Marilyn Lorenzen, Betty Price, Jack E. Price, Jr.), **Mervin Otte** (Esther Otte), **Guilford Railsback** (Pomegranate Lodge No. 110), **Ruby Reiber** (Curtis Reiber), **Arlo Rice** (Duard & Lois Dempster), **Larry Rogers** (Joan Rogers), **Jean Rouch** (Bill & Lenda Stone), **Abbie Schulze** (Nova C. Schulze), **Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Sells** (Dale & Nancy Sells), **Ruth Shown** (Gerald & Marvidene Warwick), **Erma Smith** (Jack & Mary Smith), **James Ray Smith** (Dorcas Chapter No. 144), **Florence Spargen** (Ceresco Chapter No. 198), **Hazel Sitlington** (Concordia Chapter No. 97), **Howard Speck** (Nebraska Lodge No. 1), **Barbara Steyer** (Betty Kurtz, Phil & Marilyn Lorenzen), **Joe Stoupa** (Papillion Lodge No. 39), **John Sullivan** (Custer Lodge No. 148), **Ernest Svoboda** (Ronald & Camilla Svoboda), **Don Tague** (Jane Tague), **John Thomas** (Lawrence Thomas), **James Tucker** (Lincoln Lodge No. 19), **Jewel Whipple** (Ronald Warthen), **Richard Williamson** (Duard & Lois Dempster), **Rex Wilson** (Duane & Roxanne Heim), **Robert & Dorcas Young** (Tom Young) **Edna Zuhlke** (Joyce Hecht),

**Honorarium Donations (April 8, 2011 - August 25, 2011)**

**2010-2011 Grand Family** (Dennis & Sherry Smith, Gene & Judith Wehrbein), **2011-2012 Grand Family** (Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson, Gene & Judith Wehrbein), **2011-2012 Grand Officers** (Albert & Wanda Fisher), **2011 March Directors & Page Coordinators** (Gene & Judith Wehrbein), **2011 OES Grand Officers** (Carl & Carolyn Plants), **Assistant Grand Sentinels 2011** (James & Sherrie Dee Dusch), **Bruce Baker** (Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson), **Chapter 260 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart** (Donald & Elaine Kemper), **Betty Garwood, PGM** (Gary & Rita Hanson), **James W. Gray** (Richard Hitz), **Doriz Hirz** (Gene & Judith Wehrbein), **Carol Hudkins, WGM** (Robert Attebery), **Betty Kirby, PGM** (Gary & Rita Hanson), **Phil & Diane Lyons** (Eureka Chapter No. 86), **Charles & Wanda McMillan** (Charles McMillan), **John T. Parsons** (Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson), **Carl Plants, WGP** (Robert Attebery), **Ray & Sharon Smith** (Gene & Judith Wehrbein), **John L. Thomas** (Lawrence Thomas), **Lila White** (Cullen & Ardith Pilker), **Sue Rhea Zieman** (Gerald & Marvidene Warwick)

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**Can't Always Believe...Continued from page 2**

circular letters receive prior written consent from the Grand Master, and such communications must not be read in Lodge without the consent of the Grand Master shown thereon.

The letter also leveled accusations against the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee for not following the Bylaws concerning proposed legislation found to be "not in proper form." The documentation maintained by the Jurisprudence Committee supports that the Law was in fact followed and disproves any purported misconduct by this Committee. Yet another attack was directed at the author of an article that was published in the Nebraska Mason; unlike this "anonymous" letter, Masons that write articles for the Nebraska Mason do not hide behind anonymity.

Again, I firmly believe that the fabrications and misinformation contained in this mailing are the act of a few individuals, intent on serving their personal agendas and egos at the expense of the Fraternity, and clearly has no place in Masonry. It's my opinion that Nebraska Masonry is better served by the Grand Lodge Officers maintaining a course on the high road of integrity, honesty and serviceability; we will continue to be transparent in our Masonic dealings and approachable on every occasion.

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**Masonic Charities Golf Tournament**

Seventy-seven golfers participated in the 10th Annual Masonic Charities Golf Tournament on August 22 at the North Bend Golf Course. The golfers enjoyed beautiful weather, and a steak dinner cooked by members of North Bend Lodge No. 119 following their 18-holes of play. Thank you to the participants and numerous volunteers who made the tournament a success. Profits from the tournament benefit The Nebraska Masonic Home, the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children and the Nebraska Masonic Foundation. Mark your calendars - the 2012 tournament has been tentatively set for Saturday, September 8, with a 9 a.m. start.



The members of the winning team were Randy Colberg, M.W. Mike Jones, Shane Rhian and M.W. Jim Brown.

M.W. Bruce Baker thanks participants.

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**Grand Lodge Officer Ladies  
 Going "Green" for our  
 Youth Groups**



**Show others that  
 "Nebraska  
 Masonry  
 Values  
 Making a  
 Difference!"**

The Grand Lodge Officer Ladies are selling reusable grocery bags to benefit the three Masonic youth groups. The bags can be purchased for \$3.00 each or two (2) for \$5.00. Contact one of the GLO Ladies or the Grand Lodge Office to get yours today!

**GRAND LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Sept 24 CHIP Event, Nebraska City
- Oct 1-2 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference, Kearney
- Oct 15 One-day Conferral, Omaha
- Oct 16 Cornerstone, Bridgeport Physicians Clinic
- Oct 22 CHIP Event, Adams Bank & Trust, North Platte
- Oct 24 Colonial Ladies at the Table, Florence 281
- Oct 24 Masonic Education Symposium, Lincoln
- Oct 25 Masonic Education Symposium, Omaha
- Oct 25 Masonic Education Symposium, Hastings
- Nov 12 Veterans Day Parade, Hastings
- Jan 6 Tangier Shrine Installation, Omaha
- Jan 7 Sesostris Shrine Installation, Lincoln
- Jan 8 Tehama Shrine Installation, Hastings
- Feb 2-4 Annual Communication, Kearney

**New Years Eve Party**

The Hastings Masonic Center will be having a New Years Eve party, followed by the Grand Master's Breakfast. Complete details will be on the Hastings Freemasonry website soon. Go to [www.hastingsfreemasonry.org](http://www.hastingsfreemasonry.org) and click on Mid-West Lodge 317 on the left.