



Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Master's Address



Front Row: WB Jeffrey Buhman, Grand Junior Deacon. RWB Kevin Scheele, Grand Junior Warden. RWB John Herbolzheimer, Deputy Grand Master. MWB John Ferguson, Grand Master. RWB Tyler Loontjer, Grand Senior Warden. MWB Jim Carlton (PGM), Grand Secretary. WB Eric BenSalah, Grand Senior Deacon.

Middle Row: WB Curtis Wolbert, Personal Representative. WB Graham House, Grand Musician. MWB Patrick Barger (PGM), Grand Custodian. WB Hal Cottrell, Grand Historian. WB Mohan Krishna, Grand Orator. VWB Sean Sutherland, Grand Chaplain. WB Jim Cope, Personal Representative. WB Dick Clark, Personal Representative.

Back Row: WB Kevin Wynne, Grand Tyler. WB Stan Weidner, Grand Senior Steward. WB Robert King, Grand Junior Steward. WB Ron Nielsen, Grand Marshal.

Most Worshipful John Ferguson and his Grand Lodge Officers traveled extensively this year. Traveling to Sidney, David City, Lincoln, Pawnee City, Beatrice, Kearney and Fremont, the Grand Master and his officers put on numerous Cornerstones, Lodge Rededications and even a Lodge Dedication (something that hasn't been done for many years).

Fidelity Lodge No. 51 had the first Lodge Dedication in many years to properly dedicate their brand new lodge building in David City. Additionally, a cornerstone event was held for the new building with quite the showing from the public.

Fremont Lodge No. 15 hosted a cornerstone event for the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children's new Charles and Emiko Folsom Technology center. The public showed up in force for this event. In Sidney NE, a cornerstone ceremony was put on at Pole Creek Estates for their new hospital. Beatrice Lodge No. 26 also had a cornerstone ceremony for the new elementary school. Pawnee Lodge No. 23 also had a cornerstone the same day as Beatrice, this time for the new

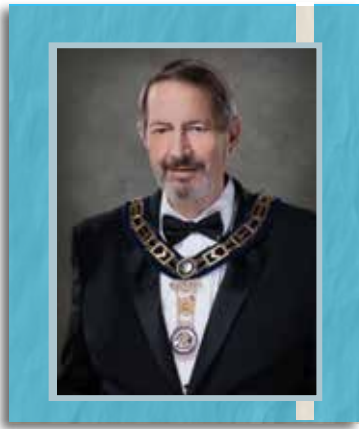
community building in Pawnee City.

Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 held a Lodge Rededication ceremony to commemorate their 150th year as a Masonic Lodge. Additionally, MWB Tom Tye (PGM 1989) was presented with the Bronze Jordan Medal by MWB Alex Straatmann (PGM 2022).

This fall, Lancaster Lodge No. 54 celebrated 150 years as a Masonic Lodge with a Rededication. The ceremony was held in the newly remodeled larger lodge room of the Masonic Temple at 1635 L St in Lincoln.

It was an honor and a pleasure for MWB John Ferguson and his Grand Lodge Officers to travel so extensively throughout the state of Nebraska in 2024. Cornerstone, Lodge Rededication, and Lodge Dedication Ceremonies are some of the most beautiful ceremonies we have and give the Grand Lodge Officers and other Brethren a chance to see the whole scope of what and who Nebraska Freemasonry is.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



M.W. John B. Ferguson
Grand Master of Nebraska Masons

My brothers, this has been a tumultuous year for Freemasonry in Nebraska. As any Past Grand Master will tell you, any decision he makes is going to be slammed by any number of Masons who disagree, and I've sometimes felt like I've been fighting a rearguard action as much as trying to look ahead. For better or worse, my year is drawing to an end, and it is time for new leadership to tackle these issues. Whether they forge a new course for Freemasonry in the Good Life State or continue the course either I've

followed or that of my predecessors, I think we all agree that we want what is best for Freemasonry.

The idea that we all have that in common had me thinking about what else we have in common. And that core thing we all have in common, whether you joined in 1974 or 2024, is that we all took our obligation of Freemasonry in the same way, in the same manner, at the altar in a Lodge.

Whenever and wherever you took that obligation, the words that preceded it in the Entered Apprentice Degree are "the design of the Masonic institution is to make its votaries wiser, better, and consequentially, happier."

Think about that for a moment. Politics, media, social media – all of this seems to revel in our divisions. Republicans. Democrats. The Left. The Right. Stoking fear, resentment, anger and fostering our differences increasingly seems to be the norm "out there." Yet, our obligation tells us that Masons "naturally seek each other's welfare and happiness equally with [our] own." What I am getting at is that Freemasons are one of the few groups where we can leave those differences at the door and revel in the things that unite us.

- **Education and Knowledge** – exploring the moral and ethical teachings inspired by the symbolic tools and allegories of our degrees, to cultivate wisdom and understanding.



Visit the Grand Lodge website!

www.glnet.org



www.facebook.com/GrandLodgeofNebraska

- **Moral and Ethical Guidance** – encouraging members to live with integrity, practice charity, and uphold the values of honesty, justice, and compassion. These values guide all members toward self-improvement and virtuous living.
- **Ritual and Symbolism** – using our rituals to reflect on important life lessons and universal truths, helping Masons gain a deeper insight into ourselves and our relationships with others.
- **Brotherhood and Support** - creating a fraternal bond among members where we uplift and encourage one another, promoting a sense of belonging and shared purpose, contributing to that personal happiness and satisfaction.
- **Service to Others** – emphasizing service and aid to those in need, within the fraternity and within our communities. This benefits our communities, but provides members with a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

If these are some of the bullet points of what we do as Masons, then I can confidently say that every single Freemason in this state is achieving these goals. Maybe our differences aren't so vast after all! Maybe we have a few things in common, as well!

Of course, I know that we all have different ideas on how things ought to be done, and maybe one of these items is more important to you than another. But let's start with that obligation as the foundation which binds us all together in this fraternity, and look at those things which we can agree on and build our fraternity from there!

In Brotherly Love and Friendship,
M.W. John B. Ferguson
Grand Master of Nebraska Masons



TO LIGHT!

BRINGING MASONIC EDUCATION TO LIGHT

VOL XXVII NO. 2 ❖ A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE AF & AM OF NEBRASKA ❖ FALL 2024

Light Links

Studio 357 Masonic Podcast
By members of Beehive Lodge #184

<https://www.youtube.com/@Studio357podcast>

We already mentioned this podcast back in the Spring, but they continue to do good work and have since added many great new episodes / interviews.

This video podcast covers a variety of subjects and interviews various Nebraska Masons. These podcasts make for wonderful viewing and listening. They help promote the craft to a wider audience. The most recent interview was our own Deputy Grand Master, RW John Herbolzheimer. You can find their social media links and Patreon at the following link.

<https://linktr.ee/Studio357>

What if the Solution to Men's Loneliness Is ... Freemasonry?
By Slate Magazine

<https://slate.com/life/2024/09/freemasons-lodges-conspiracies-membership-requirements.html>

Freemasonry got some wonderful positive publicity with this fantastic article in Slate Magazine written by Allegra Rosenberg. It provides a great explanation of our fraternity to non-members, and why joining may be a good idea.

Random Masonic Title Generator (Satire)
By WB T. J. Brumfield III

<https://enderandrew.com/masonic-titles/>

In the Spring we included a little levity with our third link. Continuing that trend, this website is presented entirely for entertainment purposes. This website will generate one of over 85 septillion random Masonic titles every time you load it.

According to Coil

From Mackey's Masonic Encyclopedia

Untempered Mortar

In the lecture used in the United States in the early part of the nineteenth century, and in some parts of the Country almost as recently as the middle of the century, the Apprentices at the Temple were said to wear their Aprons in the peculiar manner characteristic of that class that they might preserve their garments from being defiled by untempered mortar. This is mortar which has not been properly mixed for use, and it thus became a symbol of passions and appetites not duly restrained. Hence the Speculative Apprentice was made to wear his Apron in that peculiar manner to teach him that he should not allow his soul to be defiled by the "untempered mortar of unruly passions."

Masonic Bookshelf

Working Tools: Your Guide to a Fulfilling Masonic Lodge Experience
By RW Patrick Carr

<https://www.amazon.com/Working-Tools-Fulfilling-Masonic-Experience-ebook/dp/B0CW1DXQ5Z>

Working Tools is not the typical ponderous masonic tome in which the author dissects histories, symbols, and assigns metaphorical assumptions to esoteric themes. It is an instruction manual for how to transform your lodge from functional to phenomenal.

R.W. Brother Patrick Carr takes the reader through a ready-made continuous improvement plan, designed to stimulate best practices, and ensure forward movement for the smallest rural lodge to the largest urban temple. Written in approachable form, this work is laid out in a fashion which can be easily understood by the youngest Entered Apprentice and effectively applied by an experienced lodge Master.

As Nebraska Masons, we have standardized approved ritual. We also have Custodians who assist with proficiency to ensure the work is consistent. But that wasn't always the case.

We don't know exactly how old Speculative Freemasonry is. However, we have minutes of speculative degree conferrals going back to at least 1598. These early lodges weren't governed by Grand Lodges. Even when Grand Lodges formed in the early 18th century, they didn't have a standard ritual nor custodians to supervise the work. Ritual evolved and developed differently in England, France, Ireland and Scotland. Even within the same country, ritual could be different from one lodge to the next.

And while the main method of initiation was fairly consistent, the lectures were either largely absent, optional or completely different from one place to the next. Catechisms start to appear in early Masonic exposes. This method was already common in churches to teach lessons through questions and answers. Within Masonry, a catechism would serve as its own mode of recognition, as well as a means to teach a new initiate what they went through and the symbolic lessons contained within. The obligation makes the Mason, but questions and answers instruct the Mason.

When the Grand Lodge of Scotland formed, member lodges forbade their Grand Lodge from dictating standard ritual and reserved the right for individual lodges to perform the work how they saw fit.

William Preston tried to collect and standardize English ritual with his "Illustrations of Masonry" in 1772. Speculative Masonry was at least 174 years old at this point. In the United States, Thomas Smith Webb greatly expanded on this with his monitor in 1797 which sought to standardize Blue Lodge, Royal Arch and Templar degrees. His consolidate of side degrees into one "Rite" effectively made him the Father of the York (or American) Rite.

However, Masonry was rapidly expanding across the globe, and across our rapidly growing country. Distant lodges were hard to supervise, with new lodges popping up all the time. Just because Webb had proposed standard

ritual didn't mean everyone was familiar with it or was consistently using it. True standardization arguably didn't come about until after that growth subsided and the fraternity was left to reassess. The Morgan Affair (and the subsequent Anti-Masonic movement) nearly killed American Masonry in the early 19th Century.

In 1840 the Grand Lodge of Alabama proposed a gathering of representatives from all American Grand Lodges to form uniform ritual. They first met in Washington DC in 1842 and then proposed another meeting (with more Grand Lodges) in Baltimore in 1843. This time representatives from 17 Grand Lodges were in attendance. This assembly in Baltimore is one of the most influential events in American Freemasonry. The convention largely agreed that Preston-Webb work with its lectures and catechisms to be the standard work for American Freemasonry.

This same convention further sought to unify the Grand Lodges when it came to funeral ceremonies, agreed upon Masonic history, installation ceremonies and Masonic Jurisprudence. Pennsylvania's absence from this convention and standardization process is a large reason why their work is notorious for being particularly unique. But the decisions made at this convention had a profound and lasting impact that we still see today.

For example, the immovable jewels in our current Nebraska ritual mirror those chosen at the Baltimore Convention as opposed to the earlier British ritual. The convention also established the practice of dues cards, initiation fees prior to degree conferrals, conducting official Masonic business in the Master Mason degree, suspension for non-payment of dues and standardization of modes of recognition. The Convention noted that some of the due guards and signs had already changed from earlier British ritual to their present day.

Collectively the Morgan Affair and the Baltimore Convention of 1843 indelibly shaped American Masonry. The former is generally well known amongst Masons. The latter is all too commonly overlooked.



General Donations (April 15, 2024 - December 10, 2024)

Dean & Judy Abels, Abu Bekr Shrine, Gene & Rose Acklie, Terry Aiken, Albert Pike Lodge No. 333, Robert & Barbara Alf, Alliance Scottish Rite Temple, Alpha Chapter No. 325, Gary & Mary Anderson, Joan Anderson, Bruce & Ilah Anderson, Andrew Chapter No. 41, Roger Angus, Gaylord & Joan Apfel, James Applegate, Arbor Chapter No. 200, Linda Armstrong, Robert Aronson, Robert Attebery, Travis Bader, Jim & Stephanie Ball, Terry & Sara Beans, Dennis & Jeanne Lea Beavers, Ken & Pat Beebe, Brett Bennett, Greg & Jan Rae Berggren, Bethany Chapter No. 113, Michael & Nenita Bianchi, Charlie Binge, Martin & Ursula Bohac, Gary & Pamela Brhel, Dale Brinkman, Brownville Chapter No. 263, Thomas & Randy Brummett, Dennis Brydl, Bruce & Karen Bugbee, Marlo Burg, Jerry Caha, Susan Campbell, Capitol Lodge No. 3, F. David Cappell, James Carlton, James & Debbie Carson, Ceresco Chapter No. 198, Donna Chaney, Madaline Christensen, Chris Clark, Jeffrey & Brenda Coleman, Rick & Laura Collins, Jay Conaway, Clair Conrad, John & Nancy Cooke, Dennis & Pamela Coufal, Herbert Coulter, John & Cherilea Cramer, Crete Chapter No. 104, Frederick & Gerry Crom, Amybeth Curtis, Jean Esther Dale, Don & Eileen Darling, Hal & Mary Daub, Michael & Stacey Davis, Wayne Delong, Al & Barbara Dietrich, Dorcas Chapter No. 144, Lloyd & Retha Dowding, Randy & Diann Dunn, Jerry & Joyce Ebers, Electa Chapter No. 8, Elizabeth Chapter No. 250, David & Gay Emry, Euclid Lodge No. 97, Eureka Chapter No. 86, Nancy Evans, John & Liz Ferguson, Donald & Rosella Frank, Kathleen Freiman, Monty & Peg French, Darryl & Becky Frerichs, Friendship Chapter No. 122, Bruce Galda, James & Barb Gammill, Jim & Jackie Gansemer, George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, George Washington Lodge No. 250, Bill & Colleen German, Oakley & Katie Gibbs, Lanny Glup, Cal & Sue Goding, Ronald Grass, Bradley Griess, Michael & Teresa Gunson, Margaret Haith, Leone Harlan, Maurice Hawthorne, Frank Hazelwood, James Heinke, Marilyn Hendrickson, Jack & Betty Hendrix, Raymond Herbert, John & Laura Herbolzheimer, Keith & Corky Herbster, Keith & Norma Heuermann, Carol Hill, Michael & Peggy Hitchcock, Home Chapter No. 189, Humboldt Chapter No. 234, Dona Hurst, Wayne & Marilyn Jacobsen, Richard & Margaret James, Clifford Janda, David Jelinek, Liz Johnson, April Johnston & Jeremy Thumann, Michael & Joanie Jones, Ralph Joos, Doc & Jeanne Karnegis, Keepers of The Word WSMRA, Keepers of The Word WSMRA and their Ladies, Kevin & Teresa Keyes, William Kimme, James & Nancy Koch, Tom Koksall, John & Linda Koppenhaver, Paul & Patty Lambert, Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Laura Chapter No. 301, Jolene Lehman, Dick Leitschuck, Robin Lomax, Doug & Cindy Lottman, Dale Lueders, Luna Chapter No. 169, Bob & Jackie Maline, Bill & Jeanenne Malmberg, Marcia Malzer, Martha Washington Chapter No. 153, Cynthia McLaughlin, Larry & Carol Miley, Susan Miller, Wayne & Kathy Minikus, Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Roger & Martha Moeller, Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84, David Mrsny, Vince & Tamala Murphy, Ryan Murphy, David Myers, Narcissus Chapter No. 369, Amber Naylor, Bill & Yvonne Nelson, Kent & Mary Neumann, Terrence & Barbara Nies, Ed & Linda Nolte, Ogallala Chapter No. 142, Jeffery Ogle, Dale Olson, Randall & Theresa Olson, Dave & Jan Ordway, Oshkosh Chapter No. 264, Lois Otte, Mary Owens, Dean Papenhagen, Papillion Chapter No. 114, Papillion Chapter No. 114, Angelmakers, Papillion Lodge No. 39, John & Pauline Parsons, John Pemberton, Van Phillips, Phillips Chapter No. 204, Louise Pickard, Plattsburgh Lodge No. 6, Walt & Sandy Price, Jeanette Putney, Scott & Kim Rager, Bruce & Mary Anne Ramage, Rash-McReynolds Foundation, David Randall, Karl & Annette Rasmussen, Don & Marie Rasmussen, Donna Rector, Red Cross Of Constantine, Jerry Reed, Hilda Resso, Gale & Wanda Retzlaff, Keri Rheinfrank, Phil Rhynalds, Richard Roberts, Joan Rogers, Jimmy & Irene Rogers, George & Mary Rolofson, Royal Chapter No. 184, David Ruffner, James & Susan Ryan, Rexford & Alice Sala, Tom & Dana Samson, Joe & Kathy Sanders, Rodney & Ruth Schake, Pat Scheuneman, Carroll Schnurr, Steven Scott, Rhett & Carol Sears, Chuck & Karen Sederstrom, Jr., Dale & Nancy Sells, Douglas & Donna Shultz, Daniel & Joan Shurtliff, Eugene & Carol Sibley, Myron Sieckmeyer, Laurie Sieg, John & Joanne Slader, Douglas & Joyce Smith, Duane & Jackie Smith, Patrick & Amanda Smith, George Speliotes, Betty Spohn, Bill & Jeanne Stark, Verl & Donna Steinhauer, Brian Stemmermann, Terry Stentz, Rogalyn Stevens, Paul & Mary Stevenson, Lois Stille, Ron & Tami Stites, Straddlers NCT #47 Camping Group, Allen Straub, Mike & Staci Stuhr, Tom & Della Sullivan, Sunshine Chapter No. 261, Ronald & Camilla Svoboda, Bill & Beverly Sweeney, Skip Talmadge, Howard Tarleton, Isobel Taylor, Temple Chapter No. 271, Harold & Susan Terry, Terry & Marilyn Theis, Gordon Thompson, Craig & Rhonda Thompson, Brent Thone, Garry Toombs, Trinity Chapter No. 299, James Turpen, Utica Chapter No. 199, Eddie & Brooks Utterback, Sandra Vassar, Vesper Chapter No. 9, Vesta Chapter No. 6, Ivan Vrtiska, Wendall & Cathy Wagner, Washington Lodge No. 21, Richard Watkins, Wayne Chapter No. 194, Dick & Delores Weatherly, Atley & Susan Wedemeyer, Steve & Marlene Wehrbein, Paul & Margaret Welsch, Western Star No. 2, David & Marsha Wetrosky, David & Birgit White, Frances Whited, Larry & Jane Whiting, Widows Sons Memento Mori, Robert & Marjorie Wilbur, Laura Wilson, Ronald Winqest, Bill Workman, Lou & Nancy Worm, Fred Wyant.

Honorarium Donations (April 15, 2024 - December 10, 2024)

Barry Jargensen (Victory Lodge No. 310), Lori Nerud, DGS
(Bethany Chapter No. 113, Minnehaha Chapter No. 246), Mary Jo Osterholm (Pat McVay, Linda Stewart).

Memorial Donations (April 15, 2024 - December 10, 2024)

Lanny Billings (Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84), Barbara Chatfield (Myrtle Chapter No. 94), E. Kenneth Dappen (Steven & Bonnie Herdt), Sharon D'Louhy (Bill & Tam Engler, Greg & Dina Sikora), Flo Evers (Betty Henry, Home Chapter No. 189, Randy & Sandy Keeler, Larry & Karen Klingman, Nick & Meridee Lucas, Norman & Kathryn Manley, James & Sandra McKnight, Steven & Barbara Molck, Gary & Marinell Neuhaus, Stuart & Susie Nielsen, Richard & Mary Jo Osterholm, Dirk & Barbara Reek, Ronald & Lois Sills, Sharon Smith, Roddy & James Spangler, Joseph & Suzanne Temme, Connie Terbrueggen, Gary & Suzanne Wilson), Art & Ruth Fye (Kathleen Fye), Myrna Hale (Vincent & Maura Stewart), Don Jelinek (Home Chapter No. 189, Marilyn Jepson, Temple Chapter No. 271), Don Kemper (Elaine Kemper), Karen Loveless (Bonnie Burdine, Randy & Sandy Davidson, Betty Fox, Nancy Kelly, Roger McNeil, Joseph & Jeanne Tourek), Cheryl Mayfield (Euclid Lodge No. 97, William Mayfield, Richard & Mary Jo Osterholm), Inez Meister (Vesper Chapter No. 9), Jack Nichols (Dome Rock Chapter No. 215), Mariel Oftelie (Amy Anderson, Charlotte Austin, Paul & Lois Benson, Nancy Duck, Doris Edwards, Cheryl Havekost, Elizabeth Lacy, Loren & Karen Loibl, Galen & Marilyn Rothe, Lorraine Schmidt, Kylon Schmitt, Martha Zubke), Ruth Paulson (Bob & Marilyn Carhart), Doris Perkins (Ralph Perkins), William Raecke (Temple Chapter No. 271), Dennis Reichenberg (Sue Lazarus, Richard & Mary Jo Osterholm, Monte Reichenberg), James Ryals (Gene & Sherry Magwire), Dwight Smith (Bernard & Cheryl Beckius), David Thienel (Home Chapter No. 189, Sharon Gilson).

Help!!!!!!

We need to raise \$1 Million in 3 months.

There is a **huge need looming** before us . . . **our industrial chiller must be replaced!!!!** I know most people hear words like industrial chiller and think of a refrigerator in a kitchen. This is far from that . . . this piece of equipment helps cool 80% of our building.

This is a **huge project** as far as cost and timing are concerned. We have 3 months to raise \$1 million for this project. This unit must be up and running before the spring heat arrives. The last thing we want to do is to relocate our residents due to uncontrolled temperatures in the building.



This is a 100% need not a want.

If ever there was a time to show your support, now is the time. I hope you will dig deep into your pockets for this project. We need \$1 million in donations. Any gift large or small will help.

Donate Today!!!!

Send Checks to:

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation
1300 Avenue D
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Donations can be made online at:
TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org/ways-to-give.



Free Planned Giving Seminar

Tangier Shrine Center	TBA
Grand Lodge Afternoon Breakout Session	Feb. 7th
Sesostris Shrine - Lincoln, NE	Feb. 18th - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Platte Valley Lodge #34 - North Platte	Mar. 22nd - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Steven R. Barchus
402-203-7334
sbarchus@nemh.net

Presented by: MW Rick Myers, MW Reg Kuhn, MW Alex Straatman, and Andrew Loudon.

Omaha Area Masters & Wardens Club Multi-candidate Fellow Craft Degree Put on by Grand Lodge of Nebraska Officers



Nine Entered Apprentice Masons were Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft Mason on Saturday, October 26th as part of the second annual Omaha Area Masters and Wardens Multi-candidate Fellow Craft Degree. Grand Lodge Officers, including the Grand Master – Most Worshipful John Ferguson – confirmed the Fellow Craft Degree, its lectures and the Charge for the nine candidates.

The candidates came from Albert Pike Lodge No. 333, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Covert Lodge No. 11, Tekamah Lodge No. 31 and Springfield Lodge No. 112. The degree was performed in the theater of the Omaha Scottish Rite building to provide a unique backdrop and experience for the candidates and their mentors.

The Grand Lodge Officers have continued to partner with the Omaha

Area Masters and Wardens Club, for the past two years, to provide courtesy work for a large class of Entered Apprentice Masons. Albert Pike Lodge No. 333 was the host Lodge for the event. As part of the group of nine candidates, Bro. Jacob Jensen, came to Masonry from his experience as a Junior Band Assistant for the Nebraska Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp. WB Eric BenSalah (Grand Senior Deacon) worked closely with Jacob during his time as the camp's Director in 2022 and 2023.

The Grand Lodge and its officers look forward to the next multi-candidate degree with the OAMWC and are also exploring options for other degrees. A big congratulations to all the Brethren, their mentors, and their Lodges on the next step in their journeys.



It is a program sponsored by the Nebraska Masonic Foundation and Nebraska Grand Lodge in conjunction with the Annual Nebraska Shrine Bowl Classic. Students from Nebraska high schools will attend music clinics and training sessions conducted June 3-June 7, 2025, at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The band will be featured on game day in the Shrine Bowl Parade and perform a half-time show at the Annual Nebraska Shrine Bowl Classic football game in Kearney.

www.nebraskamasonicband.org

2024 a year of Cornerstones/Rededications/Dedications

Cornerstone laying ceremonies as well as Lodge Rededications are a wonderful way to draw Public attention to the Masonic Fraternity and its teachings.

This year 2024, had 4 Lodges celebrate 150 years since receiving their Charter, on June 6th, 1874, each Lodge in their own way had a public celebration.

The Grand Lodge had the Honor of Laying the Cornerstone for 7 new or repurposed buildings.

We began 2024 in Pawnee City, on April 6th, with the assistance of Pawnee Lodge 23, laying the Cornerstone for the New Pawnee City Fire Station (this cornerstone had been previously scheduled but, due to circumstances was delayed).

On May 18th we were in McCook, where McCook Lodge 135 provided a very generous donation to kick off fundraising for a new Aquatic Park & swimming pool, where the cornerstone was laid.

June 18th, took us to Rob Morris Lodge 46 in Kearney where they celebrated 150 years with a Lodge rededication ceremony, WB Nate Lowe presented a wonderful history of Rob Morris Lodge and the Kearney Community.

Thursday, June 27th, Hastings Lodge 50 celebrated their 150th Anniversary with a ribbon cutting and open house. The Hastings Masonic Temple was listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

July 27th brought a doubleheader, with the assistance of Pawnee Lodge 23, The Grand Lodge laid the cornerstone for the new Pawnee City Cornerstone Community building in the morning, followed by a short drive to Beatrice, with the assistance of Beatrice Lodge 26, for

a cornerstone laying at the new Beatrice District 15 Elementary School. WOW have things changed since our youth with a new school that has a 2 story slide inside the building.

August 2nd, with the assistance of Frank Welch Lodge 75 in Sidney, laid the cornerstone for the Pole Creek Estates, a senior living facility of the Sidney Regional Medical center.

On August 7th, the Grand Lodge attended the 4-H achievement day at the Masonic - Eastern Star Home in Fremont, followed by the cornerstone laying of the Charles & Emiko Technology Center, which will allow the home to provide a variety of teaching opportunities for the residents.

September 29th, Fidelity Lodge 51 at David City celebrated 150 years with the laying of a cornerstone for their NEW (to them) Lodge building with reception hall. Followed by a Dedication of the New Lodge Building.

October 27th, Lancaster Lodge 54 celebrated 150 years, with a refurbished large Lodge room, and open house with a Lodge Rededication ceremony.

Just a reminder, a Cornerstone may be laid in "buildings erected for the worship of God, Educational or Charitable purposes or for the administration of justice and free government", this would include but not limited to; Law Enforcement centers, Fire Stations, City and County government buildings, Schools, Churches, and Masonic Lodges.

Cornerstone Ceremonies are usually sponsored by the Local Lodge with the assistance of the Grand Lodge. Contact the Grand Lodge office or the Grand Marshal if you have any questions or are in need of assistance.





MASONIC EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN

by Ron Giesselmann, Executive Director

Tractor Repair 10.21.24

Some of the 4-H'ers helped put a new gas tank on a 1948 Ford 8N tractor. It was the first mechanics class in the new Technology Center.

The gas tank, on a Ford 8N, is built into the hood of the tractor. This made for a challenging project, but it was a great experience for the 4-H'ers.

This project gave the 4-H'ers a taste of what needs to be done on a farm and/or ranch. It also opened their eyes to a possible career path.



GRAND CHAPTER OF NEBRASKA ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



Sheli Rice, Worthy Grand Matron
Keith Lindvall, Worthy Grand Patron

To God Be the Glory

Let Your Light Shine!

The "Let Your Light Shine" Grand Family is enjoying an exciting and adventure-filled year. We kicked off the year announcing special projects supporting both OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc., which provides grants to organizations who train therapy and service dogs as well as those individuals and groups in need of therapy dogs and the Masonic Youth Foundation of Nebraska, Inc., which raises and stewards funds to sustain and grow the youth development programs of DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls in Nebraska.

We began our official travels with the Shrine Bowl Parade and Game in June, quickly followed by Chapter Official Visits throughout July, August and September taking us far and wide from Bridgeport to Nebraska City. Nebraska OES proudly supports our Youth Groups by being active in local Assemblies, Bethel and Chapters as advisors, helpful adults and mentors. In June we attended Rainbow for Girls Grand Assembly in South Sioux City and Job's Daughters Grand Bethel in Kearney. The end of July found us in Fremont attending DeMolay Conclave. We took advantage of the additional opportunities to support Nebraska Youth by also attending Supreme Assembly for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Hampton, VA and Supreme Bethel for Job's Daughters International in LaVista, Nebraska.

We traveled to neighboring states for Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma Grand Chapter Sessions. A delegation of 35 Nebraska members traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC to attend the 51st Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Chapter at the end of October after a six-year lapse since the last Assembly. Over 30 resolutions were considered, discussed (some briefly, some passionately) and voted upon. Significant work was completed. In late November four new members were welcomed at the annual Kansas/Nebraska Exchange Reunion weekend, which drew more than 120 members from Kansas

and Nebraska in attendance. Throughout 2024 we have enjoyed greeting new members, presenting 50-year and 75-year membership recognitions and spending time in our Nebraska Chapters.

As we look ahead to spring, we invite you to join us for the 149th Session of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, May 13-15, 2025. We Shine as examples of Service, Share the Principles of our Order, Invite participation in community events and activities and build with the gift of Membership. A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle, we are not diminished; we are strengthened. Let your Light Shine!





Emma King,
Grand Worthy Advisor

Mrs. Karan Birdsall,
Supreme Deputy

Mrs. Betty Garwood,
Supreme Faith, Past Supreme
Inspector

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

I'm Emma King, and I am serving as Grand Worthy Advisor of Nebraska's International Order of the Rainbow for Girls this 2024-2025 term! My biggest focus is welcoming our new girls into Rainbow by making it a comfortable and supportive space for everyone. Rainbow is an organization that embraces individuality and being yourself, and I hope to make that an even bigger aspect this year. As for my charity, I am raising money and supplies to help low-income families send their children to early childhood education programs. As an elementary education major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, I am aware of how essential programs such as Head Start are to developing the minds and skills of our young ones, as well as giving them a place where they will receive two meals a day and improve on social skills.

For Mini Grand this year, we had the incredible opportunity of spending a night in the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo! The girls had a blast, as we started with the Ghouls and Glow package to celebrate Halloween. We were able to go trick-or-treating in the zoo, and even see a couple of exhibits after hours! Afterwards, we unpacked our things and set up to spend a night in the aquarium. The next morning, we were able to take a lap around the zoo and make an effort at taking down tents for their Safari package (unfortunately, we weren't much help, as the tents were not able to be taken down by hand). Finally, we were able to get an individualized tour of the Asia Highlands exhibit before the zoo opened. It was such a fun and exciting bonding experience for the girls, and I am so grateful we were able to make it happen!

We would love to invite each and every one of you to our Grand Assembly June 13-15 of 2025 at the Marriott Riverfront in South Sioux City. Our girls have been working so incredibly hard, and we want to showcase their talent and dedication so that it may be properly appreciated.

Thank you all for your support. Our girls are especially thrilled when you attend their meetings and events! Take a look at what happened Monday, December 16 in Elkhorn!



Welcome aboard! Inspired by their adult advisors, girls are engaged to celebrate the opportunities that come to being a Nebraska Masonic youth! Thank you for supporting out youth!



Leading the team of officers for the Initiation
Grand Faith Alexis and Past Grand Worthy Advisor Courtney



Giving the gift of Membership on December 16 in Elkhorn
New members for Elkhorn/Waterloo #38, Athena #24 and Lincoln #6
365 Growth by new members in 2024 for Nebraska Rainbow



Kori Radloff – Grand Guardian
Matthew Schell – Associate Grand Guardian
Naomi Johnson – Grand Bethel Honored Queen
Rem Watts – Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter
Jenna Helter – Miss Nebraska Congeniality

NEBRASKA JOB'S DAUGHTERS

Our year started this June with our Grand session. Along with our new Grand Bethel Officers, Daughter HIKE Coordinators, Spirit Ambassadors, and Grand Representatives, we welcomed a new grand family – Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter Sara W., Miss Nebraska Congeniality Grace J., Grand Bethel Honored Queen Naomi J., Grand Guardian Dehnia B., and Associate Grand Guardian Dan C.

We started this year by traveling to installations, Bethel fundraisers, promotion activities, DeMolay Conclave, and the "All Roads Lead Home" Job's Daughters Supreme Session. We were honored to have our Supreme Session right here in the founding place of Job's Daughters International - Omaha, Nebraska. Many Nebraska Jobies attended. This was the first time that Daughter Delegates were able to vote on international amendments and the Ritual revision. Nebraska was represented by Alyssa C. of Bethel #63 and Grace V. of Bethel #27. It was so amazing to see Job's Daughters from all around the world come together in Nebraska. Greetings were given by GBHQ Naomi at Supreme Formal Opening, and we were visited by many of the Masonic and Masonic youth leaders of Nebraska.

The Grand theme for this year is "Growing Ethel's Garden," with a special focus on community service. At our annual Fall Retreat for our Grand Officers, we held a food drive and received 1,119 items! For Fall Workshop we asked for school supplies to donate to an elementary school, and the daughters and prospects came through with 1,137 items! At our upcoming Spring Workshop, we will be holding a clothing drive.

So far this year, the Grand Family has visited every Bethel in the state. We went duck pin bowling with Bethel #25, Sydney, painted gnomes with Bethel #14, Nebraska City, and participated in a murder mystery game at Bethel #63, Lincoln. We also attended a silly supper at Bethel #5, Lincoln, had fun on a waterslide with Bethel #4, North Platte, marched in a parade with Bethel #8, Hastings, and much more.

Every year, the daughters of our Grand Family have a project to share at visitations. This year, MNJD Sara's project is the HIKE fund. Bethels are encouraged to hold fundraisers and then, at Grand, Sara will use a flower display to showcase the girls' fundraising work. Many HIKE fundraisers have already been held, including a baked potato bar, a fiesta feed, and a silent auction.

MNC Grace is supporting membership. Membership has been a big focus this year. We are proud to announce that, between June and December of 2024, we have initiated 19 new members! Grace has convinced a Lincoln Mason to dye his beard pink for Grand Session if we initiated 20 members. We are only one away, with plans for more initiations this winter!

GBHQ Naomi is encouraging support of the charity Caring for Kenya. This is a nonprofit organization that supports underprivileged families in Kenya with clean water, farming equipment, and education. Bethels are raising money by holding bake sales, and the Bethel that raises the most money by Grand Session will receive plush safari animals.

Nebraska Job's Daughters has shown a remarkable amount of teamwork this year as so many members travel to other Bethels to help with initiations. We are immensely proud of our members and their Ritual work. We are very thankful for the 19 new members that have joined us this year, and we would love to welcome more. We welcome new members not only to add to our numbers, but because we, the daughters, have experienced great things here. Our organization builds friendships, provides us with travel opportunities, and strengthens our self-confidence. This is something we want to share with others. If you know a girl aged 10-19, please considering talking about Job's Daughters with her. This is truly a great time to be a member.

For more information, see our website at grandsecretary@jdne.org. Thank you for your ongoing support,

Naomi Johnson, Grand Bethel Honored Queen



DEMOLAY NEBRASKA

Grady Wells – Executive Director
 Isaac Barchus – State Master Councilor
 Isaac Barchus – State Senior Councilor
 Tom Parker – State Junior Councilor
 Abigale Pickle – State Sweetheart



2024-2025 SMC - Hello everyone my name is Isaac Barchus I am the State Master Councilor of Nebraska DeMolay for this year. My term theme for this year is DeMolay Believe based on the show Ted Lasso. My goals for this year are simple and all about working as a team and working on DeMolay Together. It's also a reminder that we have to believe in ourselves as well as each other and if we do that we can accomplish anything!

Honors Day

October 6th Honors Day was a shining moment in Nebraska DeMolay's calendar, celebrating the achievements and contributions of members, advisors, and supporters. From awarding well-deserved accolades to inducting new members into the ranks of dedicated DeMolay leadership, the day exemplified the values of brotherhood and recognition. It was a heartfelt reminder of the hard work and commitment that makes DeMolay thrive. We had 6 brothers honored with the chevalier degree along with 2 legions of honor! Along with these two awards we also had multiple individual awards like PMC-MSA and Pink Honor Key as well as Advisor of the Year

Fall Fest

On September 28th, members of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters gathered at City Park in Papillion for Fall Fest. The event was a testament to the unity of the Masonic youth organizations, offering an afternoon of games, food, and social bonding. From lively conversations to shared laughter, Fall Fest highlighted the importance of fellowship and building lasting friendships across organizations.

Back-to-School Lock-In: Learning and Bonding

Nebraska DeMolay kicked off the year with a memorable back-to-school lock-in on August 24th. Designed to mix life skills with fun, the event taught participants how to tie a tie, change a tire, and more. Team-building activities like the human knot reinforced

the principles of teamwork, while the overnight stay at the lodge capped the day with a sense of unity. It was a perfect way to welcome members back and set the tone for the rest of the year.

Chapter-to-Chapter Relations

This year we have been prioritizing going to multiple big chapter events examples include: Omaha Chapters Dad Land Kansas City Trip along with the Cornhole fundraiser, Keene Very Grady Christmas, Lincoln has had Masonic campfire, and Friendsgiving. All of our DeMolay Chapters have had installations as well. I make these events a priority because it is super important to support every chapter no matter what! We have also introduced a Traveling gavel as a prize for Chapters who travel to different chapters.

Masonic Relations

This year one of my key focuses is focusing on helping out other masonic bodies. We have been going to multiple Jobs events such as their International session and a variety of installations. We also have been attending a variety of rainbow events as well! My goal is to continue to support everyone and hopefully, we can get ahold of OES and Lodges in the second half of this year!

Upcoming Events: We have multiple more fun events coming up the rest of the year, we have our Winterfest, Roundup, and Sweetheart Ball.

Fraternally,
 Isaac Barchus
 State Master Councilor of Nebraska DeMolay





Membership Awards

50

Dale Fjell, 126
Wayne Jacobsen, 323
Loren Lindahl, 59
John Lohr, 323
Dennis E Rix, 15
Ray V. Schwarz, 256
Robert Sorenson, 184
Bradley A Waite, 184

60

Dennis D Beavers, 184
Clifford R. DeBoer, 256

70

Robert Cohn, 184
Rolland D Betzer, 184



Brethren of Hickman Lodge No. 256 congratulate Worshipful Brother Ray V. Schwarz on 50 years in Masonry! He was raised as a Master Mason on June 19, 1974 and served as Worshipful Master of the lodge in 2001 and 2004. He was presented his Masonic service pin and award on September 28, 2024 at the Lodge Appreciation dinner. Also pictured is 2024 Worshipful Master John Willis.



Robert Cohn 70 year



Dennis Duan Beavers 60 year

Bronze Jordan Medal

Duane L Tunnyhill, 184
Richard Kelley, 268



This is the 50 year pin ceremony presented to Dale Fjell on May 27, 2024. Picture left to right Ryan Jones, Rick Jones, Dale Fjell, Jim Winslow and Tim Waller of Stromsburg Lodge #126



Richard Kelley Bronze Jordan Medal Winner



Rolland Dean Betzer 70 year



WB Wayne Jacobsen and his wife Marilyn



Brethren of Hickman Lodge No. 256 congratulate Worshipful Brother Clifford R. DeBoer on 60 years in Masonry! He was raised as a Master Mason on May 26, 1964 and served as Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1969. He was presented his Masonic service pin and award on September 28, 2024 at the Lodge Appreciation dinner. Also pictured is 2024 Worshipful Master John Willis.



Bradley A Waite 50 year pin



Duane L Tunnyhill Bronze Jordan Medal Winner



Robert Sorenson 50 year



At Wahoo Lodge's June business meeting this evening, Worshipful Master Curtis Wolbert presented a 50-Year Service Award to Brother Loren Lindahl for his honest and faithful service to the Masonic fraternity since 1973.



Dennis E Rix, member of Fremont Lodge No. 15 and Victory Lodge. No. 310, presented with 50 Year Membership Award on 8.6.24.



Brother John Lohr 50 year

Masonic family clears lunch accounts of many LPS elementary school students

LINCOLN – Besides earning promotion to the next grade this week, many Lincoln Public School elementary students and their parents will be glad to find out that several bodies of Lincoln's Masonic family paid their lunch accounts Wednesday.

Four Masonic lodges, an Eastern Star Chapter, Lincoln Scottish Rite, two bodies of the York Rite, Shriners and individual members donated \$19,000 to the LPS Foundation earmarked to pay off elementary students' lunch accounts.

"Reports a few months ago about the number of uncollected lunch accounts was concerning," said Matt Zier, donation organizer and member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54. "So, first and foremost, our intent is to reduce the stress on families. Since the Masonic family is a community member, we also hope our donation takes pressure off LPS to collect accounts, which benefits taxpayers."

"Every child deserves a chance to shine, and freedom from the weight of debt is one way the community can support our students," said Wendy Van, president of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. "The Lincoln



In the photo are (left) Master Troy Myers, Cotner Lodge #297; Venerable Master Ed Bennett, Scottish Rite; Bro. Mike Williams, Lancaster Lodge No. 54; John Hansen, High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter, and High Priest of Knights Templar of the York Rite; Master Greg Prososki, Lancaster Lodge No. 54; and (front) Wendy Van, president of the LPS Foundation; and Past Master Matt Zier, Lancaster Lodge No. 54.

community saw a need and responded. Though no child goes without lunch, families can feel the pain of their child's lunch debt, and thanks to this gift, many will go into the summer months with a little relief."

The overall school lunch debt for elementary schools in LPS is \$29,973; with the \$19,000 Masonic family's donation, just over 63 percent of that will be paid off.

Leaders of the Masonic bodies gathered at LPS headquarters to present the donations from Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Liberty Lodge No. 300, Cotner Lodge No. 297, Craftsmen Lodge No. 314, Lincoln Scottish Rite, Electa Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, Sesostris Shrine members, and Royal Arch Chapter and Commandery, both of the local York Rite.

The Masonic family comprises the world's oldest and largest fraternal organizations. They teach the universal values of equality, integrity, charity and respect for the differences of others. Members continually work to improve themselves while forming deep and lasting friendships that transcend race, religion, culture and geography.

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting excellence in Lincoln Public Schools. It connects generous donors to different areas of need at LPS to ensure all students reach their full potential. To donate, visit foundationforlps.org. You can make your dollar go farther with a donation May 30th through Give to Lincoln Day.



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MVP's Vehicles for Veterans

The MVP program has continued to be a very successful and visible outreach of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. This year, two vehicles were presented to the DAV for use at the Omaha VA Medical Center. The funds used to purchase these vehicles were raised by Nebraska Lodges during the terms of MWBs Alex Straatmann, John Millington, and John Ferguson. Veterans are picked up by DAV volunteers and driven to their medical appointments using these vehicles, which are very visible on the Nebraska roadways.



Wahoo Lodge Family BBQ

Wahoo Lodge held its "Lodge Family BBQ" at the Saunders County Museum on August 17th where WM Curtis Wolbert then presented the museum's curator, Erin Hauser, a "Non-Masonic Award" on behalf of the lodge for her outstanding leadership in the Wahoo and Saunders County communities.

