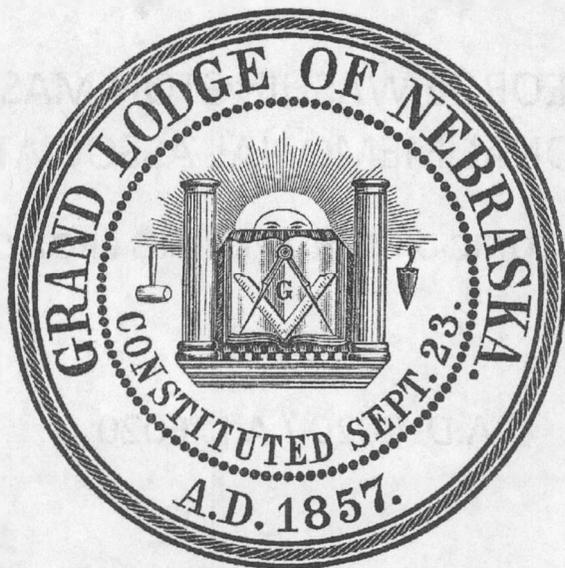


**2013**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**GRAND LODGE**  
of  
**Ancient Free & Accepted**  
**MASONS**  
of the  
**STATE OF**  
**NEBRASKA**



**A.D. 2013 / A.L. 6013**

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A.D. 2020 / A.L. 6020

# **Grand Lodge**

A.:F.: & A.:M.:  
of Nebraska



**2013**

Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.:  
of Nebraska

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**Grand Lodge**  
of the  
**Most Ancient and Honorable  
Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons  
of Nebraska**



**2013 Proceedings**  
of the  
One Hundred Fifty-sixth  
Annual Communication

Kearney, Nebraska  
January 31-February 2, 2013

**2013**



## **Rex J. Moats**

**Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska  
2012-2013**

# **Masonic History of the 146<sup>th</sup> Grand Master**

## **Rex J. Moats**

Rex J. Moats was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 on May 29, 1987 by Most Worshipful Brother V. Kaye Ramsey, then serving as Worshipful Master. Rex was appointed Junior Steward of John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 in 1988 and appointed as Senior Steward in 1989. He joined Waterloo Lodge No. 102 as a dual member in 1994 and was appointed Senior Steward in 2002. After passing through the chairs, he was elected and served as Worshipful Master of Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in 2006 and 2007. Rex is currently serving as Junior Steward of Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in 2012.

He joined the Omaha Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and the Tangier Temple Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in 1987. Rex is also a member of the Nebraska York Rite Bodies, Florence Chapter #61, Omaha Council #1, and Mt. Calvary Commandery #1. Rex was initiated into the National Sojourners in 2010 and is a member of Omaha Chapter No. 19. He was initiated in the Joseph Warren Camp Heroes of '76 in 2011.

Rex was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star, Luna Chapter No. 169 in 1987. He served as Worthy Patron in 1998 and 1999, and in 2000 with his wife Diane. Rex served as a Grand Representative in 2000 and 2001. He and his wife Diane are currently serving as Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron of Luna Chapter No. 169.

Brother Rex was appointed Grand Junior Deacon in 2008 by Most Worshipful Brother Reg Kuhn; Grand Senior Deacon in 2009 by Most Worshipful Brother Russ Reno; elected Grand Junior Warden in 2010, serving under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother John T. Parsons; elected Grand Senior Warden in 2011, serving under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Bruce Baker and elected Grand Master in 2012. Rex was installed as the 146th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska at Waterloo Masonic Lodge No. 102 on February 12, 2012.

Rex and Diane Moats were married on May 31, 1986 in Omaha, NE. They are the parents of four children, Ariel-15, Jonathan-13, Madeline-10 and Jasmine-7, and live in Elkhorn, NE. Rex is an attorney and the owner of Moats Law Firm. Diane is a business analyst with the Mutual of Omaha Companies. They enjoy attending activities in which their children participate, traveling and Husker football.

# Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b>	
Rex J. Moats, 2012 Grand Master .....	ii
<b>Proceedings</b>	
Certification of Authenticity .....	
Record of Proceedings .....	1
Introduction of Representatives from Rainbow for Girls .....	2
Introduction of Representatives from Job’s Daughters .....	2
Introduction of Representatives from DeMolay .....	2
Introduction of Representatives of Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star .....	3
Introduction of Representatives of Daughters of the Nile .....	3
Introduction of Representatives of the Social Order of the Beauceant .....	3
Rainbow Rose Ceremony .....	3
Job’s Daughters Living Cross .....	3
DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year Award and Mason of the Year Award .....	3
DeMolay Ceremony of Light .....	4
Plans for 300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry .....	5
Lodge Membership Awards .....	6
Necrology .....	6
Change for the Troops Awards .....	7
Grand Oration .....	8
Formal Opening Session – Friday .....	12
Master Mason Reobligation .....	13
Report of the Committee on Business and Rules .....	13
Reception of Past Grand Masters of Nebraska .....	14
Preliminary Report of the Finance Committee .....	15
Report of the Youth Committee .....	15
Introduction of Officers of Visiting Jurisdictions .....	16
Introductions of Officers from Nebraska York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine .....	17
Afternoon Sessions – Friday .....	20
Grand Master’s Recruitment Award .....	20
Plus Club Certificates .....	21
Voting on Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 1 .....	23
Membership Banquet – Friday .....	27
Masonic Charities Golf Tournament Proceeds .....	27
Child Identification Program Awards .....	27
Gold Pan Award .....	28
Rock Maul Award .....	28
Secretary of the Year Award .....	28
Morning Session – Saturday .....	29
Election of Officers – Opening of Ballot .....	30
Preliminary Report of the Jurisprudence Committee .....	30
Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution .....	31
Voting on Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 2 .....	34
Voting on Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 3 .....	37
Election of Officers – Close of Ballot .....	38
Report of the Credentials Committee .....	39
Report of the Committee on Nebraska Work .....	40
Report of the Masonic Relief Committee .....	41
Report of The Nebraska Masonic Home .....	45
Report of the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children .....	48
Report of the Masonic All-Star Band Committee .....	50

Report of the Fraternal Relations Committee .....	53
Election of Officers – Report of Ballot.....	54
Announcement of Appointed Officers for 2013 .....	55
Report of the Nebraska Freemasons CHIP Foundation .....	55
Approval of Printed Reports.....	56
Report of the Masonic Education Committee .....	57
Report of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Committee .....	58
Report of the Grand Lodge Office Committee .....	60
Report of the Public Relations Committee .....	61
Report of the Lodge Leadership Committee .....	61
Report of the Membership Committee .....	62
Report of the Grievances Committee .....	63
Report of the Awards Committee .....	64
Report of the Internet and Computer Technology Committee .....	64
Report of the Masonic Heritage Committee.....	65
Report of the Change for the Troops Committee .....	66
Report of the East Grand Master’s Masonic Charities Activity Committee .....	67
Voting on Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 4 .....	68
Address of the Grand Master.....	69
Report of the Grand Secretary .....	113
Deputy Grand Master Address .....	114
Presentation of James L. “Sonny” Eatmon Traveling Gavel.....	116
Voting on Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 5 .....	117
Ratification of Action of Grand Lodge Officers.....	118
Report of the Nebraska Masonic Foundation .....	118
Final Report of the Finance Committee.....	119
Presentation of Past Grand Master’s Apron and Jewel.....	125
Report of Pending Resolutions .....	125
Report of the Grand Custodian .....	127
Final Report of the Jurisprudence Committee .....	130
<b>Organization of the Grand Lodge</b>	
2012 Grand Lodge Officers.....	135
Past Grand Masters/Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge.....	135
Grand Lodge Committees.....	137
Deputy Grand Custodians & Their Districts.....	141
Deputy Grand Custodians Emeriti.....	144
Deputy Grand Custodian Apprentices .....	144
Membership Activity Record .....	145
<b>Historical Records and Information</b>	
Roll of Past Grand Masters.....	149
Roll of Past Grand Secretaries .....	152
Roll of Past Grand Custodians.....	152
Grand Lecturers .....	153
Roll of Deputy Grand Custodians & Date of Appointment.....	153
Rock Maul Award .....	158
Gold Pan Award .....	159
Grand Master’s Humanitarian Award .....	160
Existing Lodges .....	161
Consolidated Lodges .....	165
Lodges Organized in Territories Other Than Nebraska.....	168
Extinct Lodges.....	169

Masonic Calendar .....	170
Rules for Masonic Dates.....	170
Representatives of Lodges.....	171
Supplemental Schedule of Unrestricted Net Assets.....	174
Supplemental Schedule of Restricted Net Assets .....	176
Index.....	178

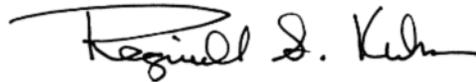
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# *Certification of Authenticity*

*Attest:*

*It is hereby certified that the following is a full, true and complete record of the Proceedings of the One Hundred Fifty-sixth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, held at Kearney, Nebraska, January 31 - February 2, 2013, and printed under my direction.*

*Witness my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge A.:F.:& A.:M.: of Nebraska this 1st day of September, 2013.*



Reginald S. Kuhn  
GRAND SECRETARY



**2013 Proceedings**  
of the  
**Grand Lodge**  
of the  
**Most Ancient and Honorable**  
**Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons**  
**of Nebraska**

One Hundred Fifty-sixth  
Annual Communication

Held in Kearney, Nebraska  
January 31-February 2, 2013

Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats  
Grand Master

First Day – Public Opening  
Friday, February 1, 2013

Preceding the formal opening of the Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Masons of Nebraska held public opening ceremonies at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska, at 8:30 a.m. Friday, February 1, 2013.

Most Worshipful Bruce A. Baker, Past Grand Master, presided.

A request was made by Past Grand Master Baker that all in attendance silence their cell phones unless anyone wanted to make a \$20 donation to Change for the Troops.

The Nebraska Grand Lodge Officers entered in reverse order, followed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Rex J. Moats and his Lady Diane. Past Grand Master Baker led grand honors for Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats, Grand Master.

M.: W.: Rex J. Moats presided from the lectern and introduced the Grand Chaplain for the invocation.



Very Worshipful Donald E. Rife, Grand Chaplain, invoked the blessing of Deity.

“Grand Architect of the Universe, we ask for your wisdom and guidance in these endeavors. May we be ever mindful of those dedicated brethren that have made it possible with their foresight and sacrifices to hold this Annual Communication. Make us worthy of the trust placed in us to lead this great fraternity into the future, ever mindful of who we are and the good that we do. In your name we pray, Amen.”



Grand Master Moats asked that all remain standing for the presentation of the colors. The Colors were presented by the Heroes of '76, Joseph Warren Camp.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.



M.:W.: Moats welcomed everyone to the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication and thanked them for attending. Grand Master Moats thanked the members of the Heroes of '76, Joseph Warren Camp for their presentation of the colors. He indicated that a busy session would ensue, with some special performances by the youth groups during the Public Opening.



M.:W.: Moats asked the Grand Marshal to escort to the East the representatives from the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Nebraska Job’s Daughters, Nebraska DeMolay, Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile and the Social Order of the Beauceant to be seated in preparation to bring greetings.



Grand Senior Deacon Joe McBride introduced the representatives:

**International Order of the Rainbow for Girls**

Samantha Voshell, Grand Worthy Advisor  
Ariel Moats, Miss Nebraska Rainbow  
Betty Garwood, Supreme Deputy in Nebraska

**Nebraska Job’s Daughters**

Kaylee Jenkins, Grand Bethel Honored Queen  
Jazmine Jirsak, Miss Nebraska Job’s Daughter  
Julia Williams, Miss Nebraska Congeniality  
Robin Brown, Grand Guardian  
Robert Williams, Associate Grand Guardian  
Bruce Bugbee, Grand Treasurer  
Deanne Grant, Grand Guide  
John Grant, Grand Inner Guard

**Nebraska DeMolay**

Luke Castner, State Master Councilor  
Adam Medley, State Senior Councilor  
Max Carter, State Junior Councilor  
Michael W. Stuhr, Executive Officer

**Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star**

Judy Wehrbein, Worthy Grand Matron  
 Alvin Benemerito, Worthy Grand Patron  
 Beverly Donham, Associate Grand Matron  
 Jim Dusch, Associate Grand Patron  
 Sharlene Coulter, Grand Conductress  
 Brenda McGuire, Associate Grand Conductress  
 David Wetrosky, Grand Chaplain  
 Cynthia Timmermier, Grand Adah  
 Cheryl Beckius, Grand Warder  
 Delbert Rogers, Grand Sentinel  
 Jerrie Wilcox, Past Worthy Grand Matron

**Daughters of the Nile**

Merry Susan Kim, Queen, Naamah Temple No. 108, Hastings  
 Pam Lindholm, Queen, Naphis Temple No. 66, Lincoln

**Social Order of the Beauceant**

Tami Stites, Worthy President, Omaha Assembly No. 91



Grand Master Moats invited Brother Paul Younes to the podium to bring greetings from the Younes Hospitality Management Group.



M.:W.: Moats called on Samantha Voshell, Grand Worthy Advisor, to bring greetings from the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Samantha Voshell then performed the Rainbow Rose Ceremony to Ariel Moats.



Miss Jazmine Jirsak, Miss Nebraska Job’s Daughter, was asked to bring greetings from Nebraska Job’s Daughters.

The Job’s Daughters then performed the Living Cross.



M.:W.: Moats invited State Master Councilor Luke Castner to the podium to bring greetings and present the DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year and the DeMolay Mason of the Year awards.

**DEMOLAY SPONSORING BODY OF THE YEAR AWARD AND THE MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD**

State Master Councilor Luke Castner, State Master Councilor Adam Medley and State Junior Councilor Max Carter presented the awards for DeMolay Mason of the Year and Sponsoring Body of the Year.

DeMolay Chapters must have at least three Master Masons on their Advisory Board and be sponsored by a Masonic Family Body. Each year, Nebraska DeMolay recognizes a

group who has gone “above and beyond” as the Nebraska DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year.

“The 2012 recipient is always looking for ways to assist their chapter. Not only do they furnish a meeting place and complete all reports in a timely manner, they help facilitate the Chapter’s fundraisers. This is not to say that they just hand out money, however, they provide a number of sweat opportunities for the members of the Chapter. In return, the Chapter donates countless hours of Masonic service where they work side by side with their Masonic supporters. For several years, Chapter members have staffed every performance of the local Shrine circus, as well as other Masonic events. This sponsoring body has underwritten transportation for Chapter members to attend every state event for several years and went above and beyond during the calendar year of 2012. Nebraska DeMolays travelled to Oklahoma City for a Leadership Conference in 2012, and the 2012 sponsoring body the year provided a vehicle to transport not only the members of their local Chapter, but DeMolays from around the state. The example that was set by this sponsoring body is paying off for Freemasonry in Nebraska. Nearly every DeMolay of their Chapter has petitioned a lodge upon reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Nebraska DeMolay is pleased to present the Sponsoring Body of the Year Award to Tangier Shrine of Omaha, Nebraska.”

Each year at Grand Lodge, Nebraska DeMolay has the pleasure of presenting the Mason of the Year Award as selected by the Grand Master. Before presenting to this year’s recipient, the boys thanked Rex Moats for allowing the tradition to continue.

“Since agreeing to serve as a chaperone for the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp in 2004 (with just a little bit of arm twisting), this individual has never looked back. His experience as a band director and an educator has been an asset to the camp, and he is always a positive influence for the chaperones and high school students. When Past Grand Master Jerry Rittenburg passed away in 2007, the Grand Lodge Officers thought he would be an ideal person to step in as Chairman of the Masonic Band committee. This individual is very passionate about Jerry's vision for the band camp, always keeping in mind the reason the Masonic band exists. He wants to make the camp the absolute best experience for the students who attend and actively searches for ways the camp can be improved year on year, striving for the Masonic Band Camp to continue to be one of the premier band camps for high school students in Nebraska. He is also secretary of an active lodge in southeastern Nebraska and has served as the main coordinator of six very successful CHIP events for the schools in his area since 2005. For these reasons, I am pleased to announce the DeMolay Mason of the Year for 2012 - K. Roger Dill of Victory Lodge No. 310 in Valley, Nebraska.”



Grand Master Moats introduced Brother Aaron Estep for his performance of the DeMolay Ceremony of Light.



Following the youth presentations, Grand Master Moats thanked the representatives from the three youth groups for their moving ceremonies and mentioned that it shouldn’t surprise anyone that a Grand Master with four children under 16 would focus on our

Masonic youth, and thanked everyone for indulging him in his efforts to include the youth in the program.



M.:W.: Moats invited Judy Wehrbein, Worthy Grand Matron, and Alvin Benemerito, Worthy Grand Patron, to bring greetings from Grand Chapter of Nebraska, Order of the Eastern Star.



Grand Master Moats thanked the photographers for their services at Annual Communication, and Deputy Grand Master Tom Hauder for putting together the slideshow that was presented at the Grand Master's Banquet Thursday evening. He mentioned that the setup of the lodge room was different at the session this year to make it look more like an actual lodge room.



M.:W.: Moats welcomed Merry Susan Kim, Queen of Naamah Temple No. 108, to bring greetings from the Daughters of the Nile.



Next to be welcomed to the podium was Tami Stites, Worthy President of Omaha Assembly No. 91, to bring greetings from the Social Order of the Beauceant. .



Grand Master Rex summarized the activities planned by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Masonry.

“In 2017, it will be the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry in the world. As a precursor to that event, we are counting down the next five years from now until 2017 with a tracing of our Nebraska Masonry genealogy, specifically we’re looking at how the charters came from England to the various United States, how they came across the country and finally culminating with how we got our charter. Those of you that are familiar with Nebraska Freemasonry know that we actually claim our heritage from three states, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. Worshipful Brother Carter has done a fantastic job this year on behalf of the Grand Lodge Masonic Heritage Committee putting this event together not only for my year in the kick off this year, but for the next four years as well. I want to

publicly proclaim my thanks to Worshipful Brother Chris for doing that. I would encourage all of you to come to the open workshop session this afternoon when our speaker Piers Vaughan, who is from St. Johns Lodge No. 1 in New York, will be speaking about the England to United States portion of how charters came across to the various states and how we became a chartered Grand Lodge.”

**LODGE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

The Grand Master explained that the two membership awards are given for the highest percent of positive net growth – counting new members, reinstatements, suspensions and deaths. Each winning lodge received a traveling trophy to display in their lodge for one year. The winner in the large lodge division was Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 in Plattsmouth. The trophy in the small lodge division went to Magnolia Lodge No. 220 in Emerson.



M.:W.: Moats called attention to the lists of Emick, Grand Lodge Youth Committee, and Houghton Scholarships printed in the program, indicating Masonic funds were well invested in these young scholars in 2012.

Grand Master Moats asked that Past Grand Master V. Kaye Ramsey be escorted to the East. M.:W.: Rex stated that M.:W.: Ramsey was the man who raised him to the sublime degree of a Master Mason twenty-five years ago. Grand Master Moats then presented Past Grand Master Ramsey with a 50-year membership pin and certificate, and read the 50-year presentation ceremony.



M.:W.: Moats then asked Donald Rife, Grand Chaplain, to present the Necrology Report.

**NECROLOGY**

*Donald E. Rife, Grand Chaplain*

Each year we take time to pay tribute to our brothers who have laid down their tools and have gone to be with the Supreme Architect of the Universe. This last year, Most Worshipful Brother Warren D. Lichty, Past Grand Master, passed through the final veil of life. Most Worshipful Duke served as the 114<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska in 1979. He also previously served as Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite of Nebraska from 1991 to 2007, and was extremely dedicated to the George Washington Masonic Memorial, serving as President of the Memorial Association from 2002 to 2005. He passed away on May 23, 2012. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

I'd like to read a passage from the *Book of John, 8:12*: I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

I'd like to share a poem entitled *The Sunset*.

How lovely is a sunset at the end of a day.  
Beauty from the fallen sun can take one's breath away.

The sunset at the end of life when this earthly body dies  
prepares us for another day with a beautiful sunrise.

It's the time we leave this earth and rise to a glorious dawn  
where suffering and earthly cares will suddenly be gone.

Family and friends left behind will grieve because of love,  
while those departed rise with joy into the arms of God above. That was written

by a Ron Tranmer.

And now a reading from the *Book of Matthew 11:28-30*: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

As we view the names of our departed Brethren, let us remember their hard work and dedication that has preserved the integrity and honor of this great fraternity.

Let us pray,

Supreme Architect of the Universe, Thank you for sharing with us the lives of our Brethren, who have laid down their working tools and have come to be with you. Thank you for the memories they have provided for us. Watch over their families and loved ones in their time of need and give them your loving comfort. In your name we pray, Amen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald E. Rife, 173, 135  
Grand Chaplain

A PowerPoint presentation was then observed listing the names and lodges of the 338 brethren who departed in 2012 to that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

M.:W.: Moats thanked V.:W.: Rife for his report.

### **CHANGE FOR THE TROOPS AWARDS**

Grand Master Moats asked Worshipful Brother AJ Johnson, Chairman of the Change for the Troops Committee, to approach the East to help with the presentation of awards. Most Worshipful Rex indicated that the Change for the Troops Program was started in 2010 by M.:W.: John Parsons. He went on to say that the awards would be given in two categories for the Change for the Troops Program: Total Contributions and Total Per Capita Contributions. The top three lodges in each category would receive a sculpture featuring the flag and bald eagle, and the top five lodges in each category would receive certificates for their participation in and contribution to the program. M.:W.: Moats read the top three winners in each category and asked that a representative from each lodge come forward to receive the awards. He then read the remaining two winners in each category, and asked that a representative pick up the certificate after the close of the Public Opening.

**Top Total Contributions**

1. George W. Lininger No. 268
2. Saints John Lodge No. 331
3. Geneva Lodge No. 79
4. Shiloh Lodge No. 327
5. Papillion Lodge No. 39

**Top Total Per Capita Contributions**

1. Saints John Lodge No. 331
2. Franklin Lodge No. 264
3. Geneva Lodge No. 79
4. George W. Lininger No. 268
5. Shiloh Lodge No. 327

Grand Master Moats invited W.:B.: Johnson to the podium to present a slideshow and to make a special presentation.

Brother Johnson thanked everyone sitting in the room, from the youth groups to the Order of the Eastern Star to all of the appendant bodies who were gracious enough to put money in the combat boot or the Change for the Troops jars for their continued contributions to the program. He indicated that over \$27,000 had been raised to date and at the end of 2012 a little over \$14,000 remained, along with 305 phone cards. He went on to state that the Committee was tasked to come up with a different way to contribute to the troops due to the decrease in deployments and troops returning stateside. He said that a number of programs were considered, including the Fisher House, Homes for our Troops, the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund, and the Department of Veterans Affairs of Nebraska. In his research, it came to his attention that the VA was in need of a new vehicle to transport veterans across the state of Nebraska to and from the VA hospitals. He also found that the phone cards could be contributed to troops returning who are trying to find housing and adjust into civilian life, as well as the Wounded Warriors Project. Brother Johnson also stated that the VA hospitals are in constant need of volunteers who can transport patients to and from rooms to operating rooms and for tests in other locations, and encouraged anyone who may be willing to volunteer to speak to him after the session. He indicated that, after his extensive research and spending a lot of time looking at the high mileage and rundown vehicles that were being used to transport VA patients, it was determined that the greatest need was a new vehicle. Government matching funds can be obtained by the VA to buy a new vehicle. Brother Johnson proudly presented a ceremonial check for \$14,000 to Angela Williams and other representatives present from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and informed everyone that with permission of the Grand Master, the actual check was presented in January so that the matching funds could be obtained in 2013. Brother Johnson again thanked everyone for their contributions and encouraged continued participation to try to obtain one more vehicle for the VA next year.

**GRAND ORATION**

*Robert W. Moninger, Grand Orator*

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, distinguished guests, brethren of the Craft and ladies:

“Most cheerfully, the task of constructing and delivering an oration to this assembly would have been passed onto another who is more adept in the spoken word and with more maturity in Masonry. None stepped forward to accept the challenge for today. It was with great apprehensiveness I sat down at Thanksgiving time, not with pen in hand, but with fingertips on keyboard to commence writing the Oration for this 156th Annual Communication. Where do we begin? What should be said? Where do we end? After many attempts to formulate a trestle board in the mind and failing miserably each time, it was decided to commence with putting word to computer screen and wait with patience

to see where the journey ended. So many topics to choose from, so much to say, all the while being cognizant of the limited knowledge of any one area of interest.

Over the past few years I have heard the question repeatedly asked, ‘What do Masons do?’ Well, we all know the saying ‘We take good men and make them better,’ to which one particular Past Grand Master will say is hogwash. We merely set before a man the core values of which he must practice and live accordingly to make himself better.

Another answer is: Well, we go to Lodge once a month, read the minutes of last months’ meeting, listen to the communications, approve the bills so they can be paid, then close Lodge and retire to the dining area for coffee and cookies. Sound familiar?

Back to the question, ‘What do Masons do?’ If one stops to think about it and look at what Lodges are doing, the answer is very clear. We do an awful lot collectively as Masons of Nebraska, as local lodges, and as individual Masons.

Take for instance the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children. Do you know how many children have lived at the home in Fremont since it was founded in the early 1900’s? Would you believe in the neighborhood of 1,400 children? Have you seen some of the improvements made in the last few years? Do you realize the impact we have had upon the residents of the home? There are many success stories about children who have lived at the home – a state Senator in a neighboring state, a mayor of a good sized city right here in Nebraska, and the achievements go on and on.

Another example is The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. This fine facility provides a gracious and dignified lifestyle for our brethren and their qualifying female relatives. When the doors opened in the early 1900’s it began with a three story sixteen room private home and has evolved into 29 apartment units today which offer comfort and security to the residents. The new construction of added wings will allow for additional services and comfort for our brethren and their families, as well as a 58-bed, 24-hour nursing care wing, 14-bed private rooms in the Alzheimer unit, and then 19-bed private room assisted living center.

An often overlooked charity is the Nebraska Masonic Foundation which was formed in 1985 by a group of concerned Brothers. The Foundation provides educational scholarships and is also a supporter of the Masonic All-Star Marching Band and the Nebraska Freemasons Child Identification Program.

The CHIP events held across the state culminated with 26 events and 2,432 children going through the identification process this past year. The Masonic All-Star Marching Band camp hosted 278 students from schools all over Nebraska. The financial support of the George Washington Masonic Memorial is yet another example of what Masons do. These accomplishments could not have happened without the involvement of local lodges and countless individuals.

These examples are supported by a small portion of our annual per capita dues and by the loving generosity of donations and gifts made by brethren of the craft. These are just a few examples from a macro view of what Masons do. Now, you may say that is fine, but what do Masons do at the local lodge level?

We do a lot. I want to take a little time to tell you about a lodge and what Masons can do. This lodge could have been viewed by some as a dying Lodge. Membership rolls were falling and the organizations that met at the lodge building had either merged with other chapters or moved from the building. These actions left only the lodge to pay all the financial obligations. The brethren of this Lodge had many discussions about selling the

building and moving to another location or consolidating with another Lodge. The brethren did not like the options before them so they decided to go down a different path...one of lodge revitalization, which was no small task in and of itself. Then Mother Nature came rolling into town. High winds completely blew the roof off the lodge building. Now stop and think about it. You have a struggling lodge trying to revitalize itself and increase membership rolls and spur more interest in Masonry. Then this natural disaster came along. How easy it would be to take the insurance money, sell the lot and go on?

Once again these brothers went down a different road. They rebuilt the lodge by redoubling their efforts. Yes, insurance monies helped a lot, but we all know insurance often falls short. A capital campaign was started to aid in improving the lodge building and fixing those things not covered by insurance, such as putting in a handicap entrance and chair lift, sprucing up the exterior of the building by fixing windows, trimming trees, and regraveling the parking lot, just to name a few. As the membership of this Lodge is growing, the brethren are no longer acting as drones in the hive, but rather are striving to become more relevant in their local community.

Seven Lodges requested the Grand Lodge lay Cornerstones in their community to commemorate a new edifice. This process takes a lot of time and commitment not only from the Grand Lodge, but also from the local lodge which requests such an event.

One lodge assisted their local school by purchasing Kindle eReaders for students, thereby helping our youth learn and expand their horizons.

Yet another lodge held a cleanup day, but not at the lodge building. Armed with lawn mowers, chain saws and weed eaters, they met one Saturday at a rural cemetery which had not received maintenance for many years and when the day was done, the cemetery was much improved. Other lodges held highway cleanup days in various parts of the state.

One Lodge raised money through a raffle to aid in installation of a lift at their local swimming pool. Others raised money to support their local youth sports programs.

Brethren in another part of the state funded the pouring of a sidewalk and a large concrete pad at their local swimming pool with funds received from a pancake feed.

A number of lodges participated in the Boon Memorial Food Truck which directly benefits the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth.

Special Ladies nights, regular fundraising dinners, friendship dinners, and recruitment dinners are just a few of the functions which Masons take upon themselves to do, all in hopes of promoting and living by the basic Masonic principles. Masonic ritual practice is yet another activity, although not public, which allows brothers to come together in fellowship and learn from one another to grow in Masonry.

There are numerous other activities which take place across the state that I did not mention and for this I apologize.

And then there are the unspoken deeds. I personally know of brothers who take it upon themselves each year to anonymously pay the annual dues of a worthy brother Master Mason who may not have the means to otherwise continue to be a member of this great fraternity. They do not seek notoriety or recognition, but do so because it is part of their obligation. Then there is the brother who mows the yard or clears the sidewalks and driveway of snow of another member of the craft. They do not expect payment as they

are simply practicing some of the secrets they have discovered in their Masonic journey. Then there is the brother who calls to invite a couple of his brothers to lunch, not to discuss anything in particular, but simply for the fellowship.

Now you might say this is all fine and dandy, but how do we get something going in our lodge to show we are relevant in our community? My Brothers, the activities mentioned were accomplished by both large and small lodges across the state. One place to start is by going to the Grand Lodge website and printing off some of the documents available such as 10 Steps to Lodge Renewal and Activities that Work. Do not be afraid to think outside of the box and guard against saying 'We can't do that,' or 'We have never done that before.' Doing nothing constitutes failure.

I have purposely avoided mentioning all of the very worthwhile and noteworthy activities which are undertaken by each of the appendant Masonic bodies, not because they are unimportant, but primarily due to my limited knowledge of each and every cause and the fear of omitting important details pertaining to each.

In the next few years, we as Masons will witness the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this fraternity with special functions. There will be many more instances of the principles of Masonry in action as we approach this special anniversary. I encourage each and every Brother to become involved in Masonry and show everyone 'What Masons Do.'"



M.:W.: Moats again thanked the Heroes of '76, Joseph Warren Camp for serving as the color guard; Bill Gekas and Gary Jones for serving as photographers throughout the session; and Paul Rutherford for his dedicated service as audio specialist for so many years aimed to preserve and document the proceedings of this Annual Communication. Worshipful Brother Mark Clinton, Grand Musician, was also recognized for sharing his extraordinary musical talents during the session.

Most Worshipful Moats then asked everyone to remain seated as the Grand Lodge Officers retired. The room would then be cleared in preparation for the tyled Formal Session to begin promptly at 11:15 a.m. A current dues card would be required for admittance to the Formal Session, and Deputy Grand Custodians were asked to assist at the door.

**2013 Proceedings**  
*of the*  
**Grand Lodge**  
*of the*  
**Most Ancient and Honorable**  
**Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons**  
**of Nebraska**

*One Hundred Fifty-sixth*  
*Annual Communication*

*Held in Kearney, Nebraska*  
*February 1-2, 2013*

*Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats*  
*Grand Master*

*First Day – Formal Opening Session*  
*Friday, February 1, 2013*

Prior to the Public Opening, a tyled Lodge of Master Masons was opened by Waterloo Lodge No. 102.

The Grand Lodge Officers assumed their stations. Deputy Grand Master Thomas L. Hauder accepted the gavel from the Master of Waterloo Lodge No. 102. Deputy Grand Master Hauder led grand honors. He then presented the gavel to Grand Master Rex Moats.

M.:W.: Grand Master Moats requested that the Grand Secretary ascertain if there was a quorum present.

M.:W.: Grand Secretary Reg Kuhn declared a quorum present for the transaction of business.

V.:W.: Grand Chaplain Donald E. Rife invoked the blessing of Deity.

M.:W.: Moats thanked the members of his home lodge, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, for opening.

The Grand Master declared the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication duly opened for the transaction of business and asked that the Grand Marshal proclaim the Annual Communication open in ample form.



Grand Master Moats asked M.:W.: Scott J. Krieger, Sr. to kneel at the altar to receive the obligation of a Master Mason, and gave the following instruction: “Brethren, fall in as you are able in proper form, with your right hand resting on the shoulder of the brother in front of you and join Most Worshipful in this re-obligation, which will be administered by our Grand Custodian, Worshipful Brother Bruce Watkins.”

M.:W.: Watkins administered the obligation to M.:W.: Krieger.

Grand Master Moats thanked the Brethren for their participation, and commended M.:W.: Baker for starting the tradition last year of the re-obligation at the formal opening.



M.:W.: Moats asked all Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to retire with the Grand Marshal to form a procession to be received by the Grand Lodge.



Grand Master Moats appointed M.:W.: Dean Skokan as Parliamentarian for the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication.



R.:W.: Grand Secretary Reginald S. Kuhn brought the report of the Committee on Business and Rules, and then moved for its adoption.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND RULES**

*Reginald S. Kuhn, 134, 19*

The business of an Annual Communication shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Part I of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska, as amended. The order of business shall be as shown in the printed program for the Communication, or as may be revised by the Grand Master to expedite the business and procedure of the Grand Lodge. The committee further recommends:

1. The Grand Master shall appoint a brother to serve as Parliamentarian of the Annual Communication. The Parliamentarian need not be a member of the Jurisprudence Committee. It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian to advise and consult the Grand Master regarding procedures.
2. Committee Reports shall be given by the Chairman or designated member from the East unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master.
3. Amendments which have been brought to the floor for ballot: One of the signers of an amendment shall state the position of the signers prior to the ballot.
4. Officers speaking on any motion, resolution, committee report or other matter may speak from the East. Members of the Grand Lodge may then speak from the main floor at a microphone near the altar or as directed by the officer presiding. Time permitting, other brothers may speak to the issue. Prior to speaking, each brother shall be recognized by the officer presiding and shall state his name and lodge before addressing the Grand Lodge.

5. No brother shall speak more than twice on any motion, resolution, committee report or other matter unless special permission is granted by the officer presiding. Members shall be recognized to speak in the order they rise unless the officer presiding shall otherwise direct. If more than one brother rises at approximately the same time, the officer presiding shall direct the order of speaking.
6. Time limits on speaking shall not be imposed unless the officer presiding shall announce time limits in order to expedite the business of the Annual Communication. Upon announcement, the officer presiding shall enforce the stated limits.
7. When the Grand Lodge is passing upon the decision and formal recommendations of the Grand Master, the Grand Master shall first announce his position. The Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee will announce the position of the committee. Discussion will then be permitted with the Grand Master permitted to speak. Members of the Grand Lodge shall then be permitted to speak to the issue. Time permitting, other brothers may speak after which a vote will be taken.
8. When the voting method is not prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws, it shall be by the usual sign of a Mason while voting. The Grand Master, or other officer presiding, may prescribe voting by secret ballot or other method at his discretion.
9. Questions of procedure not provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws, or these rules, shall be determined by the Grand Master.

The Grand Secretary moved for approval, and the motion was seconded and passed.



M.:W.: Rex Moats asked M.:W.: George Braatz, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association, to come to the podium to bring an update on the activities of MSA. M.:W.: Braatz also presented Grand Master Moats with a framed certificate of appreciation from the Masonic Service Association in appreciation of all that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska did for MSA in 2012.

Grand Master Moats thanked M.:W.: Braatz for the certificate and informed the Brethren that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska had contributed \$4000 to the Masonic Service Association from the Grand Lodge Relief Fund to be split between the Grand Lodges of New York and New Jersey for relief efforts after Hurricane Sandy.

**RECEPTION OF THE PAST GRAND MASTERS**

M.:W.: Moats raised the lodge and the Past Grand Masters were brought to the East. Grand Junior Deacon Richard D. Myers introduced them individually.

Paul R. Eveland.....	1988
V. Kaye Ramsey.....	1996
Kenneth G. Fleming.....	1997
Don E. Rasmussen.....	1998
Dwight E. Smith.....	1999
James F. Brown, Jr.....	2000
Philip A. Lorenzen.....	2001
Michael E. Jones.....	2002
Kenneth D. Beebe.....	2003
Ivan A. Vrtiska.....	2005
Scott J. Krieger, Sr.....	2006
Reginald S. Kuhn.....	2008
Russell G. Reno.....	2009

John T. Parsons ..... 2010  
 Brue A. Baker ..... 2011

M.: W. : Moats led the grand honors.



M.:W.: Moats asked all visiting Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters and other distinguished guests from other jurisdictions, and officers of Nebraska appendant bodies, to retire with the Grand Marshal to form in procession to be received by the Grand Lodge.

**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*John E. Lorenzen, Chairman*

W.:B.: Jack Lorenzen referred the brethren to the Report of the Finance Committee on page 47 in the Annual Communication book and announced that the Finance Committee met in 2012 to conduct its assigned duties as prescribed in Section 1-318 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. He indicated that the books were independently audited by a certified public accountant and noted that the revenue did exceed the budgeted amount, however, a net deficit still exists, but it was less than budgeted. A draw on the investment account was not required to meet the total budget. The Finance Committee found satisfactory documentation for expenditures within the books and records of the Grand Lodge Office and was able to conduct its work in a complete and timely manner. Worshipful Brother Lorenzen directed everyone’s attention to the proposed budget for 2013 in the Annual Communication book and noted that money had been budgeted for additional office personnel in 2013.

**REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE**

*Gene Wehrbein, Chairman*

The Youth Committee continues their work in support of our young people and their youth organizations through various activities.

The Committee has been formed for the 5th Tri-Annual Masonic Youth Leadership Conference and plans are well under way. The Conference will be held in Kearney, Nebraska at the Holiday Inn on September 27 and 28, 2014.

This year the Youth Committee received eight scholarship applications. \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to the following: Christopher Goodell – International Order of DeMolay for Boys; Katrina Sieler – Job’s Daughters International; Deirdre Hoffman – International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; and Jazmine Jirsak (Job’s Daughters International) – Grand Master’s Scholarship.

The Silent Auction held in conjunction with the 2012 Annual Communication was again a success. Over \$2,800 was raised and was divided among the three Nebraska Youth Groups – DeMolay, Job’s and Rainbow. I hope that this activity will continue for future years to show our support to our young people.

Our sincere thanks to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska for their continued commitment and support to our Nebraska youth. It is with gratitude that we thank everyone who so faithfully supports our youth organizations, our young people and adult sponsors through your generous monetary donations, your time and your talents.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gene Wehrbein, 6, Chairman  
Tim Birdsall, 210  
Bruce J. Bugbee, 65  
James A. Carlton, 325  
Greg E. Mason, 297  
Dennis L. Smith, 15

Ex-Officio: State Master Councilor, DeMolay  
Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Job’s  
Miss Nebraska Job’s Daughters, Job’s  
Grand Worthy Advisor, Rainbow

W.:B.: Wehrbein referenced the location of the report and announced the dates of the 2014 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference. He mentioned the Silent Auction being held at Annual Communication and encouraged everyone to participate. He then moved for the adoption of the report of the Youth Committee as printed. The motion was seconded and carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE OFFICERS OF VISITING JURISDICTIONS**

The visiting brethren were escorted to the front by Grand Marshal Ron Stites and introduced by Grand Junior Deacon Rick Myers.

- Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska ..... M.: W.: Glenn W. Dee, Grand Master  
M.: W.: Eric Critchlow, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master  
W.: B.: Russell W. Hobson, Grand Lecturer Emeritus
- Grand Lodge of Iowa ..... M.: W.: Bryce B. Hildreth, Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of Kansas ..... M.: W.: Don Newman, Jr., Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of Minnesota ..... R.: W.: David Olson, Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of Nevada ..... M.: W.: Hans J. Scheurer, Past Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of New York ..... W.: B.: Piers A. Vaughan, St. John’s Lodge No. 1, AYM,  
New York City
- Grand Lodge of Ohio ..... M.: W.: George O. Braatz, Past Grand Master and  
Executive Secretary. Masonic Service Association of North America
- Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania ..... R.: W.: Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., Past Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of South Carolina ..... M.: W.: Jay Adam Pearson, Grand Master  
W.: B.: Paul V. Nestberg, Grand Senior Deacon
- Grand Lodge of South Dakota ..... R.: W.: Charles H. Gilson, Deputy Grand Master  
R.: W.: Douglas C. McFarland, Senior Grand Warden  
M.: W.: Donald A. Gray, Junior Grand Warden
- Grand Lodge of Texas ..... R.: W.: Jerry L. Martin, Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of Washington ..... M.: W.: Gale Kenney, Past Grand Master
- Grand Lodge of Wyoming ..... R.: W.: Richard N. Lewis, Grand Senior Warden
- George Washington Masonic Memorial ..... George D. Seghers, Executive Director

Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in Iowa.....David Krogh  
Past Potentate, Abu Bekr

M.:W.: Moats led grand honors and then greeted each individually.



M.:W.: Baker asked Bryce Hildreth, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, to bring greetings on behalf of the out of state dignitaries.

“Most Worshipful Grand Master Rex, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, and Brethren all. It’s a distinct pleasure to be with you this morning and bring you the fraternal greetings and best wishes of all of your visiting dignitaries, Past Grand Masters, Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and everyone else that’s not a member of Nebraska. It’s our pleasure to be with you. We thank you for all of the courtesies extended to us. As Grand Master of Iowa, I have a theme called ties that bind and it truly means that wherever we go throughout the world we are all brothers and we are all vow bound by those ties that bind us together, and we have and continue to experience those ties with you, Most Worshipful Grand Master and brethren of Nebraska. Thank you.”

**INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS FROM NEBRASKA YORK RITE,  
SCOTTISH RITE AND SHRINE**

The visiting brethren were escorted to the front and introduced by Grand Junior Deacon Rick Myers.

**Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Orient of Nebraska**

- Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr. .... Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
Supreme Council for Nebraska
- Curt Edic.....General Secretary, Omaha
- Bruce Wood.....General Secretary, Lincoln
- Gene Gatti.....General Secretary, Alliance
- W. Glen Jorgenson .....General Secretary, Hastings and  
Recorder for Tehama Shrine

**Grand York Rite of Nebraska**

- Edward W. Nolte ..... Grand High Priest and Grand Captain General,  
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and  
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, respectively
- Jonathan Paz ..... Grand Master of the First Veil  
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons
- Jerry F. Bepalec..... Grand Master, Grand Council, Cryptic Masons
- A.J. Johnson..... Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lecturer,  
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons and  
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, respectively
- Larry Zwart..... Grand Treasurer, Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons,  
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, and  
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar
- Michael E. Jones, PGM .....Grand Chaplain and Grand Principal Sojourner,  
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons and  
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, respectively

- Ron Grass ..... Grand Arch Supervisor, Grand Council, Cryptic Masons
- Steven Barchus ..... Grand Conductor of the Council,  
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons
- Carl Plants ..... Grand Sentinel, Grand Council, Cryptic Masons
- Donald Rife ..... Grand Commander, Grand Captain of the Host and  
Grand Steward, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, Grand Chapter,  
Royal Arch Masons, and Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, respectively
- James F. Brown, Jr., PGM ..... Grand Generalissimo,  
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar
- Brett Bennett..... Grand Senior Warden, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar
- Gary Bunnell ..... Grand Warder, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar

**Red Cross of Constantine**

- James F. Brown, Jr., PGM.....Intendant General for Nebraska

**Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Nebraska**

- Charles Lovell ..... Potentate, Tangier
- Daryl Finley..... Chief Rabban, Tangier
- Gary Unger ..... Assistant Rabban, Tangier
- Charles Marchand..... High Priest and Prophet, Tangier
- James B. Parks..... Treasurer and Past Potentate, Tangier
- Thomas K. Brummett ..... Past Potentate, Tangier
- Ralph Joos ..... Past Potentate, Tangier
- Kent D. Priest ..... Potentate, Tehama
- Charles W. Haskell ..... Chief Rabban, Tehama
- Bob Summers ..... Assistant Rabban, Tehama
- Ron Nielsen ..... High Priest and Prophet, Tehama
- Stanley Thayer..... First Ceremonial Master, Tehama
- R. William Lichtenberger ..... Past Potentate, Tehama
- Ron Cerveny..... Potentate, Sesostris
- Keith Houfek ..... Chief Rabban, Sesostris
- Bill Cummins..... Recorder, Sesostris
- Richard Eggerling..... Second Ceremonial Master, Sesostris
- Mike Buchardt ..... Past Potentate, Sesostris
- Jack Lorenzen ..... Past Potentate, Sesostris

**National Sojourners, Inc.**

- Charles Folsom ..... Past National President/Past National Commander

M.:W.:B.: Moats stated that he appreciated everyone’s attendance at the session, and asked the brethren to welcome the leaders of the appendant bodies.

Grand Master Moats asked Charles Sederstrom, Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Supreme Council for Nebraska, to bring greetings on behalf of the Nebraska appendant bodies.

“Most Worshipful, Brethren, I’d like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of the appendant bodies within Nebraska to thank you very much for a very, very great event. Last night it was wonderful and today has been spectacular. It was really nice to see the youth groups today and to remind ourselves of how important it is to cultivate those young people to become not only Masons, but Orders of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile. I’m always reminded when I come to one of these functions each year how many of my brothers I’ve missed

over the year, and I think that most of us in the appendant bodies would say the same thing. It's great to be a Mason. It's great to be with all of you, and my congratulations and my thanks to the entire grand line this year, and particularly the Grand Master for doing a spectacular job. Thank you very much, Rex, and thank all of you for being here today, and thank you once again for being brothers."



The Grand Lodge was called from Labor to Refreshment, to reconvene at 2:30 pm, following the workshops beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**2013 Proceedings**  
of the  
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**Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons**  
**of Nebraska**

One Hundred Fifty-sixth  
Annual Communication

Held in Kearney, Nebraska  
February 1-2, 2013

Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats  
Grand Master

Afternoon Session  
Friday, February 1, 2013  
2:30 p.m.

V.:W.: Grand Chaplain Donald E. Rife invoked the blessing of Deity.

R.:W.: Tom Hauder, Deputy Grand Master, called the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska from Refreshment to Labor at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2013.

**GRAND MASTER'S RECRUITMENT AWARD**

The Grand Master's Recruitment Award Program recognizes the top petition signers in the jurisdiction of Nebraska. This award is calculated on a point system giving 10 points for every first-line signature and three points for every second-line signature. There were 22 qualified recipients in 2012,. Grand Master Moats read the names and asked them to come forward to receive their pin.

- 22 - Keith L. Will, Hickman No. 256
- 21 - Mark A. Lighthall, East Lincoln No. 210
- 20 - A. Carl Highman, Papillion No. 39
- 19 - Darryl K. Evans, Bellevue No. 325
- 18 - Matthew C. Briggs, George W. Lininger No. 268

- 17 - Edward J. Bliss, Hebron No. 43
- 16 - Christopher S. Nigro, George W. Lininger No. 268
- 15 - David J. Gibbs, Jr., Miloma No. 328
- 14 - William E. Young, Jr., Papillion No. 39
- 13 - James D. Mueller, Magnolia No. 220
- 12 - Roger A. Mlady, Capitol No. 3
- 11 - Wade R. Kendle, Liberty No. 300
- 10 - Gary L. Kruse, Ashlar No. 33
- 9 - Andrew L. Kroupa, Springfield No. 112
- 8 - Jason E. Knupp, Nebraska No. 1
- 7 - James A. Carlton, Bellevue No. 325
- 6 - Brett R. Bennett, Plattsmouth No. 6
- 5 - Eric J. Clements, Magnolia No. 220
- 4 - Charles J. Odorizzi, III, John J. Mercer No. 290
- 3 - Jay H. Speck, Plattsmouth No. 6

In addition to the pin, first and second place will also receive a plaque.

- 2- Wayne E. Vian, Ashlar No. 33
- 1- David C. Norton, Bellevue No. 325

David also received a pocket badge and his picture will be placed on the plaque that is displayed at the Grand Lodge Office.

### PLUS CLUB CERTIFICATES

M.:W.:B.: Moats announced that all lodges that achieved a net increase in membership would receive a certificate for their accomplishments. The percentage of growth is calculated with new raisings, reinstatements and deaths, and does not include affiliations and demits. He read the following lodges that earned the award and asked that one representative of each come forward to receive the certificate.

Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha  
 Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha  
 Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, Plattsmouth  
 Peru Lodge No. 14, Peru  
 Hiram Lodge No. 52, Arlington  
 Friend Lodge No. 73, Friend  
 Euclid Lodge No. 97, Weeping Water  
 Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn  
 North Bend Lodge No. 119, North Bend  
 Wayne Lodge No. 120, Wayne

Purity Lodge No. 198, Imperial  
 Magnolia Lodge No. 220, Emerson  
 Robert W. Furnas Lodge No. 265,  
 Scottsbluff  
 George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268,  
 Omaha  
 Olive Branch Lodge No. 274, Walthill  
 Omaha Lodge No. 288, Omaha  
 Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Omaha  
 College View Lodge No. 320, Lincoln



Most Worshipful Moats invited Bryce Hildreth, Grand Master, to bring greetings on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

“Most Worshipful Grand Master, can I say good afternoon? Grand Officers, Distinguished Guests, and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, it’s my pleasure to be in front of you again and to officially bring you the greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Iowa of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. It’s my pleasure to be here representing them. It’s also our pleasure to put out on loan some of our great artifacts and resources of our Grand Lodge

library, and we did so willingly and we hope that you enjoyed them. I would also let the other grand lodges here know that we're starting to do that more, so if we would have an artifact or a book or something you'd like to have on loan for your grand lodge sessions, we'd be most welcome to see what you would like and probably provide it for you. We have a wonderful resource in the Grand Lodge of Iowa library and I would encourage anyone, either individually or as a tour, to come and visit us in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It's kind of a hidden gem in the Midwest. As you heard, we have a copy of the 1700 proceedings and we're the only one in the United States that has that volume, so it's a great treasure that we have. The theme I mentioned this morning is Freemasonry, ties that bind, and in going along with that theme, I have a presentation to make to you, Most Worshipful Grand Master and to you Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. I will try not to embarrass you, I told you I wouldn't, but we have Grand Master ties in Iowa, but they're a little different. They are the proper ties. That is a real tie, Brethren, and they have to learn how to tie it. It's been my pleasure to be with you, Brethren, I wish you well. I hope to come back in the future as one of your mother Grand Lodges and help you celebrate through the next four years to 2017. Again, thank you for all of the hospitality shown to me."

Grand Master Moats thanked Most Worshipful Hildreth for the gift and reciprocated by presenting M.:W.: Hildreth with a Husker tie to take back to Nebraska's Big Ten neighboring state of Iowa.



Most Worshipful Moats invited George Seghers, Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial to bring greetings and share information about the Memorial, along with a short video and a brief statement about why members should support the Memorial.

"It is very difficult to state a logical purpose for supporting this wonderful Memorial or any memorial, monument or museum. Although the George Washington Masonic National Memorial cannot be explained logically, it is something that touches a part of us that defies logic and reason. We honor and remember those human beings who have done great things to advance and benefit all of humanity. It is because we are all interconnected that the actions of those who do great deeds affect us on a level that is difficult to define and explain. In Masonry, we understand that all of humanity exists under the fatherhood of God and that we are responsible for each other. It is imperative that the Memorial is supported and that it continues to be a reminder of the great man who did more for the advancement of humanity than any other man in the history of western civilization. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial was conceived, financed, constructed and is supported and maintained by the Freemasons of the United States to honor the memory, character and legacy of the greatest American citizen, soldier, Freemason and President that has ever lived. From almost the day he took his Masonic obligation, Washington's character became such that he was the same man in private that he was in public. Through his lifetime and Masonic understanding he became a perfect ashlar, a just and upright Mason and a true Master Mason. Washington was indeed a living stone who remains the cornerstone of American civilization. He is American Freemasonry's grand example of which countless Freemasons seek to emulate in their own lodges and their own communities. At the second meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association on

February 22, 1911, President and Brother William H. Taft said, ‘Brethren, every President of the United States feels heavy upon him the burden of following George Washington and being in his place, and making himself in some slight way worthy of the first President, the father of his country. No honor can be greater than to have a direct association with that great man, who in every sense of the word was the founder of this republic and who exhibited as President, as man and as Mason all the principles of morality, of patriotism and of religion that we like to think is our highest ideal.’

The mission of the Memorial for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the man, the Mason and father of our country. The challenge all Freemasons must face is whether we as Masons are still striving to live the virtues Brother Washington exemplified. Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania and President of the Association Lewis Waters articulated that challenge clearly in 1929 when he wrote, ‘The Memorial will eloquently tell the world that Masons are builders, builders of individual character and that the vital question of our time and our country is not how many adhere to any particular creed, but how many accept as their standard the stabilizing, constructive character of him in whose memory this temple shall stand throughout the coming years.’

Our Masonic forefathers joined together and created the only Masonic National Memorial in this nation. The Memorial was financed through contributions from Freemasons. Not one cent of public funds has ever, nor will ever, be received by the Memorial Association. The Memorial now belongs and will forever belong to the Freemasons of the United States. It is our duty and our honor to support this magnificent Memorial to America’s greatest citizen and Freemason.”



M.:W.:B.: Moats announced the appointment of the Deputy Grand Custodians as tellers for this session, with W.:B.: Ron Grass as Chairman.



Grand Master Moats explained the procedures for voting on the five Grand Master’s Recommendations, noting that all five recommendations will be voted upon secret written ballot.

**VOTING ON GRAND MASTER’S RECOMMENDATION NO. 1**

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to assume the lectern and preside over the discussion of the Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 1. R.:W.:B.: Hauder gave the general instructions, limiting remarks to two minutes or less per brother. Most Worshipful Hauder reminded the brothers that a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary for approval of any recommendation.

**Recommendation No. 1**

Amend the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska by adding a new **Section 2-808 – MANDATORY PUBLIC RECORDS CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK** to the end of **CHAPTER VIII – TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**; amend **Section 3-911 – PAYMENT AFTER THREE YEARS**; and amend **Section 2-408 – PLURAL MEMBERSHIP** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such sections, as

amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken:

**Sec. 2-808 – MANDATORY PUBLIC RECORDS CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK**  
*– A criminal history check, consisting of a local county and national criminal history check of public records, will be obtained for all petitioners seeking to receive the degrees of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, as well as those members submitting an application for reinstatement after suspension for non-payment of dues or an application for affiliation from a parent lodge outside of this Grand Jurisdiction. The public records criminal history check will be obtained by the Grand Lodge office, and the results thereof will be furnished to the Investigating Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master of the subordinate lodge receiving the petition for their consideration. Annually, the Grand Master will determine the online public records criminal history check provider that will be utilized for his term in office, and will notify the subordinate lodges of the name of the provider and the costs associated with generating the reports. The cost of such public records criminal history check shall be payable by the petitioner in an amount equal to the cost charged by the online public records criminal history check provider utilized for the report, rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The form of the Petition to receive the degrees of Masonry and the Petition for Reinstatement shall advise petitioners that a public records criminal history check will be conducted, and that their signature on the petition will constitute consent to such check and charge for the same.*

**Sec. 3-911 – PAYMENT AFTER THREE YEARS** – If the dues for which a brother shall have been suspended shall not be paid or remitted within three years from date of suspension, reinstatement shall not be had except upon favorable secret written ballot of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting of the subordinate lodge and approval by the Grand Master. Each application for such reinstatement shall be accompanied by the dues for the year for which suspended and the dues for the current year, *and the fee associated with the mandatory public records criminal history check referenced in Section 2-808.* It shall be the duty of the lodge in which such applicant shall have been suspended, to carefully inquire into and ascertain all the facts in connection with such application and submit the same to the Grand Master with such application, so that as far as possible he may arrive at a full understanding whether such applicant will probably become a charge on the Fraternity.

**Sec. 2-408 – PLURAL MEMBERSHIP –**

Second Paragraph:

The petition for affiliation as a plural member in a subordinate lodge must state the name, age, and residence of the applicant, and the name and number and location of the parent lodge of which said petitioner is a member; petition must be signed by the petitioner and be recommended by two Master Masons, members of the lodge to which the petition is addressed, and shall be governed by the same procedure relating to regular petitions for affiliation. *A petitioner who presents with his petition a Certificate of Good Standing from a parent lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction authorized by law shall be subject to the mandatory public records criminal history check and fees associated therewith referenced in Section 2-808.*

***If Recommendation No. 1 passes, the following Sections must also be amended in the following ways to change references to the petition process.***

Amend the **Section 2-907 – REJECTED PETITIONER** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken:

**Sec. 2-907 – REJECTED PETITIONER** – A rejected petitioner for initiation, advancement or admission, must petition anew, and the petition must be referred, balloted upon, and in all things take the course of an original petition. If the petition is refused consideration by the lodge, the petitioner shall be reported as rejected. Notice of such rejection shall be communicated to the petitioner by the Secretary and *the initiation fee* ~~any fees~~ accompanying such petition shall be returned to the petitioner with such communication. *The mandatory public records criminal history check fee shall not be refunded.*

Amend the **Section 2-911 – LAPSED ELECTION** by adding certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized:

**Sec. 2-911 – LAPSED ELECTION** – One who is not initiated within one year after his election must present a new petition which must follow the same course as an original petition, *with an exception to the mandatory public records criminal history check outlined in Section 2-808.* In no case shall a petitioner be required to pay the same fee more than once.

Amend the **Section 2-913 – ALTERNATE PETITION AND ELECTION PROCESS** by adding certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language:

**Sec. 2-913 – ALTERNATE PETITION AND ELECTION PROCESS** – As an alternative to Section 2-903, any three (3) Master Masons, members of the subordinate lodge seeking to exercise the procedures of the Section 2-913, may propose a candidate for initiation by presenting a Recommendation of a Candidate for the Degrees of Masonry signed by all three of said proposers, whose signatures shall be attested by the secretary of the lodge, which form of recommendation shall be in the form provided by the Grand Secretary and which form of recommendation must have attached thereto the regular petition form then in use in the Jurisdiction of Nebraska and available from the Grand Lodge Office, provided however, that the petition shall be in draft form and shall not be signed by the proposed candidate and may otherwise be incomplete. The three proposers shall constitute the investigating committee and the Master shall make declaration of their appointment. At the stated meeting of the subordinate lodge next following the proposal of the candidate, the petition will be balloted on, with a favorable vote being subject to subsequent completion of the petition by the proposed candidate, *including mandatory public records criminal history check outlined in Section 2-808, along with* satisfactory answers to the questions posed on the petition including, but not limited to a belief in a Supreme Being, and questions as to health, financial responsibility, not having been rejected in another lodge within the time period set out in the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge, and the completed petition must be signed by the candidate and applicable fees paid prior to his presenting himself for initiation. After election, the Master shall direct one or more of the three proposers to inform the proposed candidate that he has been proposed, has been elected, and is invited to present himself for initiation upon completion of and signing of the form of petition. *The petition must be signed and a mandatory public records criminal history check referenced in Section 2-808 completed.* The petition must be completed, signed and returned to the secretary of the lodge within 60 days of the election of the candidate and such return date shall be certified by the lodge secretary. In the event such petition is not completed and returned within such 60

day period, such draft petition shall be null and void and such finding shall be declared by the Master and an entry as to such action recorded in the records of the lodge. In the event of an unfavorable vote, as the candidate did not make the initial application, he will have no knowledge of such rejection and accordingly such proposed candidate would not be subject to a three year hold as being the material of the lodge as set out in Section 2-906; he would not be notified in any form whatsoever of the proposal of a draft petition nor the rejection as provided by Section 2-907; and, he would not be subject to any time limit as set out in Section 2-908 for submission of a petition under his own initiative, but no re-proposal under the provisions of this Section 2-913 by any three members of the subject subordinate lodge may be made until the expiration of not less than six (6) months from the time of the initial unfavorable ballot.

A motion for the adoption of Recommendation No. 1 was made and seconded. M.:W.:B.: Moats gave his rationale for proposing the Recommendation. After discussion, R.:W.:B.: Hauder called for the question and the written ballot was collected and would be counted by the Tellers, the results to be reported at the session beginning Saturday morning.



Most Worshipful Moats made a few announcements regarding the location of meetings to be held following the close of the session, reminded the brethren of the location of the various vendors and hospitality rooms, and encouraged everyone to take part in the silent auction that benefits the youth groups.



The Grand Lodge was called from Labor to Refreshment, to reconvene Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 9:00 am.

**2013 Proceedings**  
of the  
**Grand Lodge**  
of the  
**Most Ancient and Honorable**  
**Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons**  
**of Nebraska**

One Hundred Fifty-sixth  
Annual Communication

Held in Kearney, Nebraska  
February 1-2, 2013

Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats  
Grand Master

Membership Banquet  
Friday, February 1, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

After dinner, Grand Master Moats asked all Bronze Jordan Medal holders and 50-plus year members to stand and be recognized for their years of service to the fraternity.

Presentations and Grand Lodge awards were given at the banquet, including:

**MASONIC CHARITIES GOLF TOURNAMENT PROCEEDS**

M.:W.:B.: Moats invited a representative of the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children to come forward in Ron Giesselmann's absence, Phil Lorenzen represented Mary Stapp of The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth in her absence, and Mike Jones, President of the Nebraska Masonic Foundation, came forward to receive checks representing the proceeds of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonic Charities Golf Tournament. Each was presented a check in the amount of \$3,339.02.

**CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (CHIP) AWARD**

Grand Master Rex Moats asked Stephen Kennedy, President of the Nebraska Freemasons Child Identification Program Foundation, to present the CHIP Awards. The Child Identification Program (CHIP) Award recognizes outstanding contributions, monetary or otherwise, in the promotion and assistance with CHIP events. One award is given to a member of the Masonic Family, and the second goes to an individual, company or charitable group that has met the award guidelines. Nominations for the awards are submitted by individual lodges to the CHIP Foundation Board for selection.

The recipient of the award in the Masonic Family category was George Robertson, a member of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte. Brother George was unable to attend the banquet. Worshipful Brother Glenn Mulholland, Secretary of Platte Valley Lodge, accepted the award in his absence.

Two awards were given in the Non-Mason category. The recipients were the Lincoln Journal Star/Neighborhood Extra and the Omaha Police Department. The awards will be presented to those two organizations at CHIP events being held in the spring.

### **ROCK MAUL AWARD**

The Large Lodge Rock Maul was presented to M.:W.: Byron C. Jenkins by the Omaha Area Past Masters of 1966 to be used as a traveling trophy. It is sixteen pounds in weight with a bronze head. The Rock Maul has been used for its original purpose in a stone quarry, and has been beautifully refurbished with a square and compass worked into the metal.

The Small Lodge Rock Maul was presented as a gift to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska by the family of Past Grand Master Harold Hultman. In recognition of the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States, and in honor of Grand Master Hultman, W.:B.: Herman O. Hansen, DGC, gold plated the head of a rock maul, engraved the handle with Masonic working tools, and gifted it to M.:W.: Hultman. This Rock Maul is now presented at each Grand Lodge Communication to a Small Lodge deemed to be the Outstanding Lodge that year.

The Rock Maul Awards are presented by the Grand Master to a large lodge and a small lodge whose works most agree with the programs of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. The lodges selected represent the best all-around lodges in the jurisdiction of Nebraska.

As guidelines to award the Rock Maul, the following are used: officer leadership, attendance, bulletin or newspaper, ritual, enthusiasm, fellowship, temple appearance and condition, secretary reports, and programs other than regular meetings and ritual meetings held through the year.

The Grand Master announced Cotner Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln as recipient of the Large Lodge Rock Maul Award and Geneva Lodge No. 79 in Geneva as winner of the Small Lodge Rock Maul Award.

### **SECRETARY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

In 2006, an award was created for the Lodge Secretary of the Year. The award was fashioned after a practice used by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The recipient is chosen by the Grand Lodge office staff as the secretary who has fulfilled all necessary duties, filed reports completely and on time, and generally gone above and beyond the call of duty as requested throughout the year.

For the lodge year 2012, Michelle Fulmer presented the award to Ronald D. Stites, Secretary of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 in Omaha.



(Note – Due to insufficient and incorrectly submitted applications, no awards were given for the Gold Pan, Nebraska Pillar or Grand Master’s Leadership Awards.)

After the awards presentations, the featured speaker was Jay Adam Pearson.

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One Hundred Fifty-sixth  
Annual Communication

Held in Kearney, Nebraska  
February 1-2, 2013

Most Worshipful Rex J. Moats  
Grand Master

Morning Session  
Saturday, February 2, 2013

V.:W.: Grand Chaplain Donald E. Rife invoked the blessing of Deity.

R.:W.: Tom Hauder, Deputy Grand Master, called the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska from Refreshment to Labor at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 2, 2013.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

R.:W.: Hauder announced the first order of business to be the receipt of results on the voting on Recommendation No. 1 from Deputy Grand Custodian Ron Grass. Recommendation No. 1 failed to receive the required two-thirds vote.



Grand Master Moats welcomed the brethren to the morning session.



M.:W.:B.: Moats announced the appointment of the Deputy Grand Custodians as tellers for this session, with W.:B.: Ron Grass as Chairman, and presented Brother Grass with the key to the Grand Lodge Officers Election ballot box.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS – OPENING OF BALLOT**

Grand Master Moats directed the delegates to cast their ballots for the election of the offices of Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master-Elect, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, and Grand Secretary, stating the voting delegates must choose only one of the voting options. Delegates may either write in a name on the line provided on each ballot, or use the check box at the top of the ballot to advance the officers. If both methods were filled in, the ballot would be declared spoiled. He directed that the ballots be deposited in the locked ballot box in the back of the room and the ballot would remain open for approximately one hour. After that time, the ballot would be declared closed and the Tellers instructed to count the votes received for each office, to be reported later in the day.



Grand Master Moats stated that the silent auction collected \$2,863 and would be split among the three youth groups. He reminded members to pick up items if they had not already done so.

**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE**

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked M.:W.:B.: Dwight Smith to come forward to give the preliminary report of the Jurisprudence Committee. M.: W.: Smith read the report:

At this time we will only give a report on the findings of the form of the recommendations to be voted on. At the meeting of the Jurisprudence Committee held on Thursday, January 31, with all members present, the motion was made, seconded and adopted that Grand Master Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are in proper form and may be voted on at this annual communication. The remainder of the Jurisprudence Report will be submitted later on in the session, and approval will be requested at that time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwight Smith, Chairman, 205  
Steven Mattoon, 75  
Les Seiler, 317 & 331  
Dean Skokan, 15  
Reg Kuhn, 134 & 19



Most Worshipful Moats commented on the difference from previous annual communications in the setup of the lodge room for Grand Lodge. He indicated that in visiting other jurisdictions it became apparent to him that most of them were setup like a real lodge room as opposed to a convention room setting, and although that works in certain circumstances, the officers thought they would give the lodge room setup a try. He mentioned that the lodge furnishings were from the Minden Lodge, an extinct lodge, and the lodge furniture has been on loan to Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 from the Grand Lodge since the extinction of the lodge in Minden. He further stated that Worshipful Brother Ron Nielsen was kind enough to assist with bringing the furnishings to the Younes Center for the Grand Lodge session. Grand Master Moats also pointed out that Jachin and Boaz were brought from his home lodge at Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn, the bible open on the altar was his family Masonic bible, and the bible used on Friday was his family bible that his parents gave to him and his wife when they were married. He expressed his pleasure at having those items present as part of Grand Lodge.



Most Worshipful Moats invited Most Worshipful Bruce Baker to approach the east to discuss an edict made by him in 2012 with regard to dues payments of active duty military members serving in a combat zone. The edict stated that the Grand Lodge would forgive the per capita and special assessment for any brother whose lodge voted to absorb the lodge portion of his dues while he was deployed in a military situation. M.:W.: Baker stated that he was aware that a lot of the troops were coming home, but that there would continue to be troops around the world put in harms way, and he felt it was an important piece of legislation. M.:W.: Baker proposed a resolution to amend Section 2-601 - Dues and Assessments to add a line that reads “upon application from a subordinate lodge that has remitted a member’s dues pursuant to Section 2-603 – Remittance of Dues, the Grand Master may authorize the Grand Lodge to remit the Grand Lodge per capita and special assessments on behalf of said member.” M.:W.: Baker then asked the Grand Master to pole the delegates present to see if a unanimous consent to consider the piece of legislation could be obtained.

Most Worshipful Rex indicated that two votes would take place. The first vote, if unanimous, would consent that the legislation could then be voted upon. He then asked all those delegates who opposed considering the legislation for ballot.

A member stood and was asked by the Grand Master to approach the microphone:

“Harry Storz, North Star 227, Junior Warden. Time and time again, brethren from subordinate lodges have submitted changes to bylaws and constitutions in writing and they have been denied because they weren’t in proper form. I think that we should take a year, have this submitted in writing and vote on it next year and not throw it in to a piece of paper that’s already out here.”

After some further debate, it was determined that the matter would lay over until the following year.



Grand Master Moats asked officers of Florence Lodge No. 281 and Omaha Lodge No. 288 in Omaha to come forward. He explained that, due to illness, he was unable to attend the installation of the officers of the lodges as promised and presented each of them with a replica George Washington Bible. It was noted that Florence Lodge was also celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Most Worshipful Rex called on Don Newman, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, to bring greetings.

“Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Visiting Dignitaries, Brothers All. I’m a Mason. My name is Don. I’m called the Grand Master, but I tell everybody in Kansas that my name is Don. I never asked for this job, as many of us don’t. Anybody that’s crazy enough deserves what they get. My associations with Nebraska began back in about 2005. I went to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and the then Grand Junior Deacon, John Parsons, and I met down there, and we’ve had great associations since then. I was here last year when he decided to answer his telephone and give somebody some extra money. Thank you, John, for doing that. But I’ve come to the Midwest Conference of Masonic Education. I’ve met with some of your Grand

Lodge Officers there and learned a lot of things. There are a lot of great things going on in Nebraska. We feed off of that. I understand that we helped you with a Masonic Band Camp to show you how to get that started. It's doing well in Kansas and it's doing great up here. The only thing I'd like to have is to be able to steal Michelle away from you and have her come down to Kansas and she could, she could help us. She's a great individual. I'm very fortunate enough to know her too.

Our associations through the Midwest Conference, going around to many different places, meeting many great dignitaries, I've led a storybook life as Mason. I've never tried to do anything or be anything but just a good Brother, and I believe that's what all of us have done. Rex has done a very wonderful job as a Grand Master, as so many of your Past Grand Masters have too. All we want to do is help. And, as we heard last night from Most Worshipful Brother Jay, it's about love. It's our love for the craft, it's our love for Masonry and what we can do with our communities and through our lives. It improves our lives and our communities' lives. It makes us better men, better husbands, and I just thank God that I can be a Mason, and I thank God that I know all of you for that. Most Worshipful, thank you."

Grand Master Moats presented Grand Master Newman with a Masonic bag and inscribed knife, as well as a Husker tie, stating that he and M.:W.: Bryce Hildreth of Iowa could match at the Conference of Grand Masters in Kansas City.



M.:W.: Rex invited Gale Kenney, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington, to bring greetings.

"Grand Master, what a pleasure. Indeed, what a pleasure it is to be here. Good morning, brethren. You really, really missed a great DeMolay play this morning if you weren't here. This jurisdiction should be so proud of its youth, my goodness. Let's see, you know, I haven't been Grand Master for a few years, so I always forget what to say now, so I had to write some things down, so I'll go through the regular pleasantries if you don't mind. Grand Master Rex, Deputy Grand Master Tom, Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, Most Worshipfuls, Worshipful Brother and my goodness, my Brethren All. I bring you greetings from our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Dean W. Heinemann and the Masons of Washington on this, your 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska. We're just Free up in Washington, so it's always nice to come down and visit you Ancients sometimes. It's always a pleasure to be here at your annual communication and share in the brotherly love, fellowship and reacquaintance of good friends. And that is the beauty of Masonry, my brethren, no matter where your travels may take you, you will always be home, home among friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree, and I know you know those words very well.

As such, I am happy to say as Grand Master Rex has just pointed out to you, this is my sixth visit down to this great jurisdiction in the last seven years and every year when I see that Nebraska is ready to come rolling through around February, I say, 'Grand Master, I want to go,' and I always get to go. So here I am and,

matter of fact, as I've shared with you before, I'm proud to say I'm a Sojourner and a Hero from Nebraska and I will never change that membership because it means too much to me down here. And you know, when I visit other places and you've heard other Grand Masters say the same thing that no matter where you go, you're always home, and that is such a wonderful, wonderful feeling. You're amongst brothers and you've heard this said before, and I said it to my jurisdiction when I was Grand Master, and to other jurisdictions too, you may advance up the ranks and become the Worshipful Master of your lodge and receive the title Worshipful Brother, or in our jurisdiction you might become a Deputy Grand Master and become a Very Worshipful, or aspire to the line and become a Right Worshipful and someday sit up in the East and be Grand Master, Most Worshipful. They're nice pleasantries in that sense, but never ever, ever forget that the most important title that you will ever, ever have is Brother and you will never ever go wrong by calling somebody a Brother. Because first and foremost, that's what we are, and that's why this is such a beautiful organization worldwide and no matter where you travel in the world, you're always home.

Our Grand Master's message this year is such, and I quote it, 'The future of Freemasonry is bright. Our sun is rising again. We have something of value to offer the next generation. To do so, we must stay involved, look to the future and make a positive difference in our communities. Our challenge is to communicate effectively, educate our membership and plan for success. We must take pride in who we are and what we represent. Remember that it's not about me. It's not about you. It's about what is best for the whole fraternity. What is best for the fraternity will also be good for you and for me. Thank you for your time, have fun and share your Freemasonry.' Grand Master Heinemann is also very supportive of our three youth groups and he encourages them to flourish and our brethren to participate and be there, and that was what was so beautiful coming down here this year is that Grand Master Rex had highlighted all three youth groups, and you saw them yesterday at the informal opening. You know, of course, I'm a Jobie and I have to admit, I spent 27 years with them. Most Worshipful Brother Reno, my counterpart, Past Associate Grand Guardian, we have our fondness for the kids, and when I see that closing cross done, and when I hear their voices and everything, it brings a tear to my eye. And it should bring a tear to all of your eyes when you see our youth perform. As I said this morning, the DeMolay did a fabulous job on their degree. This is our future; don't forget that - and we do so often. Be there, support them, and I'm not just talking monetarily. They want to see your presence. They do great, great work and they're so proud to present it to you, and yesterday we saw that, so what a wonderful thing.

I always like to try to find a little tidbit of some fun information or something to share with Grand Lodges, and this one is called *The Seven Wonders of the World*, and it goes something like this: A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present seven wonders of the world. Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes. 1. Egypt's great pyramids, 2. Taj Mahal, 3. Grand Canyon, 4. Panama Canal, 5. Empire State Building, 6. St. Peter's Basilica, and 7. China's Great Wall. When the teacher gathered the votes, she noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked that girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, 'Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there were so many.'

The teacher said ‘Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help.’ The girl hesitated and then read, ‘I think the seven wonders of the world are to see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh and to love.’ The room was so quiet that you could hear a pin drop.

My brethren, the things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous. A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man, and we forget some of those things. So often, we just take them for granted. In my travels, a lot of times I have used the term that in undergraduate school we call it plagiarism, and in graduate school we call it research, and I always encourage people to research all they want because there’s nothing new out there. And so I did a little research and I have to give credit to Jack McConnell, who was Grand Master of Colorado in 2008. And so I’m going to now share with you a little research and what I’d like you to do is four things for me. I would like you to drink, swear, steal and lie. I would like you to drink from the loving cup of kindness. I would like you to swear that you’ll be a better person today than you were yesterday. I would like you to steal a little bit of time from your busy schedule to help someone less fortunate than yourself. And, finally, when you lie down at night, thank the Lord above for those that protect your freedoms and that you live in the United States of America where you can enjoy those freedoms. So that’s my research for you today.

Grand Master Rex, thank you and the brethren of this great jurisdiction for the courtesies extended and for the hand of fellowship and brotherly love which have been extended to me and other visitors to your Grand Lodge. My wish for you is for a most successful annual communication and that your year was full of memories and that you will cherish them for a lifetime.

Past Grand Master Kenney then presented Most Worshipful Brother Moats with the Grand Master’s tie and a business card holder from the Grand Lodge of Washington. M.:W.: Moats reciprocated by presenting M.:W.: Kenney with an inscribed Masonic knife and a Nebraska tie.

**VOTING ON GRAND MASTER’S RECOMMENDATION NO. 2**

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to assume the lectern and preside over the discussion of Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 2. R.:W.:B.: Hauder gave the general instructions, limiting remarks to two minutes or less per brother. Most Worshipful Hauder reminded the brothers that a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary for approval of any recommendation.

**Recommendation No. 2**

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**, by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of

Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.00, 2015 - \$30.00, 2016 - \$31.00. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, ~~2006~~, 2014, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of ~~\$1.00~~ \$1.50 per member to support the CHild Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

A motion for the adoption of Recommendation No. 2 was made and seconded. M.:W.:B.: Moats gave his rationale for proposing the Recommendation. After discussion, R.:W.:B.: Hauder called for the question and the written ballot was collected and counted by the Tellers. Recommendation No. 2 passed with the required two-thirds vote.



Grand Master Moats asked Right Worshipful Ron Aungst, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to approach the east to bring greetings.

“Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Distinguished Guests, Brethren all. One, I am not the third wiseman, I do not come bearing gifts. I would need to tell you I can only bring a gift of friendship and I would tell you that is the driving force in which I am here. Some years ago around a table I met a young lady and her husband and her name is Joanie Bologna. So if that doesn’t make an impression upon anybody, it surely did me that day, and my wife. And since that day, Most Worshipful Brother Mike and I have had an extremely fond relationship and friendship. And I would tell you that is the driving force in which I travel.

I am fortunate to bring you greetings now from our Right Worshipful Jay W. Smith, and Brother John [Parsons] knows my love for Freemasonry. He has visited our Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania, as well as you Grand Master. And I know our Grand Master hosted you and your lady and your family just recently. Indeed, I was privileged to be given the opportunity to travel here to continue with the great relationships that we have established in this craft. To see Brother Gale was a nice treat. I did not expect to see him. You just never know when and who you’re going to run in course with. As well as Brother Jay Pearson, Most Worshipful Sir. Brother Jay and I have known one another for over twelve years. I remember seeing him stand on the floor as a District Deputy Grand Master and he knows, and I referred to that two years ago when he was installed as Grand Master, that I was impressed by his oration and his gift. Last night I told him he still has the wrong occupation. He has, indeed, a gift to give much inspiration to all of us. But I would tell you that this morning I was strongly impressed, as I am the Chairman of Masonic Education for our Grand Lodge,

and I am very impressed with your Education Committee, Grand Master, and what it does and what it continues to do. I am an educator. Now they tell me on my form that I'm retired. If any of you are an educator, you know we are never retired. We are constantly seeking light and knowledge, and indeed, I have sought and have found knowledge and I have found additional friendships, and for that, Grand Master, I am thankful. And I thank you, my Brethren, for the opportunity to be here and share time with you. Thank you."

Grand Master Moats shared a story about attending the Presidential inauguration and the pleasure of traveling via train back to Philadelphia and the chance acquaintances they made with Pennsylvania Masons in their travels.



Most Worshipful Moats called on Right Worshipful Charles H. Gilson, Deputy Grand Master of South Dakota, to bring greetings.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Rex, Deputy Grand Master Tom, Grand Lodge Brothers, Dignitaries, Brethren all. Last year, well let's start off with bringing you greetings from Most Worshipful Grand Master Jack Hantz, who was unable to attend today. He was snowed in up in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, and the nearly 6,000 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota. We who are members of this fraternity are well aware of the ancient customs and time honored traditions that we hold true. Last year at this annual communication I had transgressed those boundaries and owing to a true and just brother, Most Worshipful Brother Rex, he was quick to come to me and explain and aid in my reformation. Due to his good and kindly advice, as you can see the brothers that are with us from South Dakota are again in the green coats, so we tried to do some changes last year. By our Bylaws in South Dakota, the green coat is the uniform for the Grand Lodge Officers. So we're back in green. Thank you for your good and kindly advice and thank you for your hospitality this year. We wish you the best.

Grand Master Moats thanked Right Worshipful Gilson for his comments and presented to him a Masonic inscribed knife.



Right Worshipful Jerry L. Martin, Deputy Grand Master, was asked to come forward to bring greetings from the Grand Lodge of Texas.

"Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Distinguished Visitors, my Brethren all. And let me say that each and every one of you, any member, is distinguished to me. I bring you greetings on behalf of my Grand Master, Walter Rogers and the approximately 90,000 Masons of the state of Texas. And Brother John, I must be crazy because in Texas you have to ask for this job, and my wife will agree with you. We certainly appreciate, Brother Rex, your visit to our grand annual communication and that is in part why I'm here is to pay you back, my friend. We especially enjoyed your company in many of the grand lodges where we've crossed paths. And I have to tell you when I was thinking about coming up here, I told my wife, Betty, I said, 'Betty, how would you like to go to Nebraska?' And she said, 'Oh, I'd love to. I want to practice my Latin.' I said, 'Betty, I don't think they speak Latin in Nebraska.' She said, 'Well I'm sure they do and it will give me a chance to

practice my favorite Latin phrase.’ I said, ‘Well what is that?’ She said, ‘Vindi, Vendi, Visa.’ I said, ‘What? What does that mean?’ She said, ‘I came, I shopped, I bought it.’ Now I’m not sure if her Latin was correct, but I’ll tell you one thing, the translation sure was. Brethren, I don’t want to take much of your time. I would share with you this thought which is my slogan and that is that Masonry is a gift. Share it. It is almost like the gift of blood. It keeps giving. When you give membership to someone, you receive a gift. You receive a new brother, a new friend. And when he does the same, it starts a perpetual chain. And that’s what we need in this great fraternity of ours. We want good quality, but we will take quality of quantity. Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master for this privilege and thank you my brethren.”

Grand Master Rex presented Deputy Grand Master Martin with a gift to be passed on to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

**VOTING ON GRAND MASTER’S RECOMMENDATION NO. 3**

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to assume the lectern and preside over the discussion of Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 3.

**Recommendation No. 3**

Amend **Section 1-404 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 1 404 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS** – Commencing January 1, ~~2012~~, *2014*, the per capita tax shall be divided as follows:

To the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children	\$ 1.00	
To the George Washington Masonic Memorial	<del>1.00</del>	<i>1.50</i>
To the Nebraska Masonic Home	2.50	
To the Masonic Education Newsletter	.50	
To the General Fund		
January 2012	22.00	
January 2013	23.00	
January 2014	24.00	
January 2015	25.00	
January 2016	26.00	

The Initiation Fee shall be allocated to the General Fund.

*If Recommendation No. 3 passes, the following Section must also be amended in the following ways to change references to the allocation of funds and to maintain consistency within the Bylaws.*

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of

Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - ~~\$29.00~~ \$29.50, 2015 - ~~\$30.00~~ \$30.50, 2016 - ~~\$31.00~~ \$31.50. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, 2006, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of \$1.00 per member to support the CHild Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

A motion for the adoption of Recommendation No. 3 was made and seconded. M.:W.:B.: Moats gave his rationale for proposing the Recommendation. After discussion, R.:W.:B.: Hauder called for the question and the written ballot was collected and counted by the Tellers. Recommendation No. 3 passed with the required two-thirds vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS – CLOSE OF BALLOT**

Grand Master Moats declared the ballot for Election of Officers closed and directed the tellers to collect and count the ballots.



Most Worshipful Moats invited Piers Vaughan, Personal Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York, to bring greetings.

“Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Distinguished East, Brethren all. I bring you the very warm fraternal greetings of the Most Worshipful James E. Sullivan, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, Free and Accepted Masons. It’s been an absolute pleasure to be here and it’s so nice to come back here after I was here last and see so many familiar and friendly faces. Over this last year since we came here a year ago with the Bible, the relationship between us and your Grand Master has grown and we were delighted a few months back to receive him and the First Lady at an event at St. Johns Lodge where he, indeed, met our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master and his Lady. All I can say is the strong bonds which were formed a year ago just continue to grow. It’s been an absolute pleasure to be with you and to be invited to speak and I look forward to the relationship between Nebraska and the State of New York growing over the future as well. Thank you very much indeed for your courtesies and your friendship.”

Grand Master Moats presented a Masonic inscribed knife to Brother Vaughan, and thanked him for being a workshop presenter at the annual communication.

**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE***Delmar A. Jones, Chairman*

The Credentials Committee is pleased to report the following for this the 156th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

We have in attendance all Grand Lodge Officers, 18 Past Grand Masters, 19 Deputy Grand Custodians and 68 Non-delegate Masons. At the time of this report, there are the following Masters, Wardens and Secretaries registered. There are 66 Worshipful Masters in person and 21 by proxy; there are 42 Senior Wardens in person and 30 by proxy; there are 29 Junior Wardens in person and 28 by proxy and there are 52 Secretaries in person and 30 by proxy.

Again this year we are recognizing the lodges that have all four delegate officers in attendance in person. They are Lodges 1, 39, 46, 112, 146, 183, 256, 268, 300, and 332. They will receive a certificate to display in their lodge. We thank them for their attendance.

There are no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered from the following Lodges: 9, 21, 43, 53, 56, 59, 68, 82, 83, 89, 91, 114, 120, 128, 164, 165, 184, 192, 211, 221, 241, 263, 286, 291, and 293. There have been no Masters, Wardens or Secretaries registered for two years from the following Lodges: 21, 43, 53, 59, 68, 83, 89, 91, 120, 128, 184, 286, and 291; and for three years from Lodges 59 and 286.

We are pleased to have dignitaries present from the following jurisdictions: Prince Hall Masons of Nebraska, Grand Lodges of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, as well as the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

We are also pleased to have in attendance representatives from the following Masonic related organizations: Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, York Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, Scottish Rite, Abu Bekr, Tangier, Sesostris and Tehama Shrine Temples, Daughters of the Nile, National Sojourners, The Nebraska Masonic Home and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

Other attendance items that may be of interest are: There were 239 at the Grand Master's Banquet Thursday evening; there were 408 at the Public opening Friday morning' and 330 at the Membership Banquet Friday night.

It has indeed been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Credentials Committee this year for you Most Worshipful Rex Moats. I want to personally thank the other brothers on the Committee who spend many hours at the registration table to help make this an enjoyable Grand Lodge Communication. They are Frank Dougherty, Philip Edwards, Mike Hoagland and Karl Rasmussen.

I also extend a huge thank you to Michelle and Carol at the Grand Lodge Office who work so hard to make this Grand Lodge session run smoothly.

With possible additions or corrections due to late registrations, I move for the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Delmar Jones, 65 & 46, Chairman  
Gordon L. Brown, 146  
Frank S. Dougherty, 297  
Philip O. Edwards, 326  
Robert M. Hoagland, 46 & 146

The motion was seconded and carried favorably. M.:W.:B.: Moats thanked Delmar and the Credentials Committee for the work they do at Annual Communication each year.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEBRASKA WORK**

*Philip A. Lorenzen, Chairman*

The charge of the Committee on Nebraska Work includes assistance to the Grand Custodian in his efforts of oversight to see that the ritual is precise, well presented, and that it is not perverted or subjected to wholesale change to fit the whims of self-appointed champions of a new cause. Thus, change in the ritual ought to be slow, methodical and carefully amended only as absolutely necessary and only after very cautious review.

With that lead-in qualification, the Committee, meeting with and negotiating with the advice and input of W.:B.: Bruce Watkins, Grand Custodian, recommends several clarifications in the work as set out in the official Floor Work Manual. The items principally consist of the placement and conducting of a candidate through the ritual in relationship to placement of the Senior Deacon. The minor clarifications will provide for consistency in the floor work and will essentially cement the manner in which the work is done. The Grand Custodian will instruct the Deputy Custodians, who will inform subordinate lodges of those clarifications, and they will be included in the next reprint of floor work manuals or take the form of an addendum to the floor work manuals. Approval of this report by the Grand Lodge at the 2013 Grand Communication formalizes and accepts those items of clarification.

Now climbing onto a soapbox and repeating part of the content of the Committee Report of last year, change in one area seems desirable – that being the manner in which our ritual and floor work is presented. First impressions to our candidates are important. Worshipful Bruce Watkins is an outstanding ritualist. He is appropriately probably unreasonably demanding of himself and he is demanding of our great contingent of dedicated Deputy Custodians. Bruce and the Grand Custodians serve as a strong example of what each of us can accomplish in the Masonic Ritual. They spend countless hours aiding all of us in our proficiency and delivery of the work. The change needed, in the opinion of your Chairman of Nebraska Work, is simply to encourage every one of us as Masons to be more demanding of ourselves in the manner in which we deliver the message in our ceremonies. Some of you have unusual ability to memorize and deliver – but not all of us share the same skills – that is ok, we must not be judgmental of anyone but our personal selves. Encouragement is the key to improved ritual – not criticism and put downs – the best teaching method is by example not undue pressure.

True we are a volunteer organization. But we get out of the ritual only what we put into it. Too often your Committee Chair finds it too easy for some of us to make excuses. Many of you are too self-critical. Take it a step at a time and you will be amazed at what you can each accomplish. And you will be amazed at three findings: first, the self-satisfaction and confidence you gain; second, the realization that once planted in your memory the ritual tends to lock into your mind forever; and third, when you reach that confidence level, you stop thinking about what comes next, and instead really communicate the lessons of ritual to the candidate. Each of us can hone our skills a bit

more. It starts with practice, practice, practice, which builds confidence, followed by improved proficiency. First impressions are important; the message of the ritual and its language is beautiful. But that message and its carefully crafted expression is lost if we leave a mediocre impression on the candidate. We do not have multiple chances to impress.

Ritual is a key component of that which separates us from other organizations. Masonic Ritual remains important. It is the bonding agent for many of us, with the lessons contained therein demanding of Masons a higher standard of self-imposed conduct. Masons are not confined only to civil or governmental law, every Mason's conduct is first governed by one's heart with his first responsibility to God and secondly to his brother, Masonic or not. The lessons are timeless, demanding, and just as applicable today as when first understood and stated. Ritual and lectures are not just words to be memorized and uttered back to the candidate, they are to be understood and applied as a guide to a Mason's daily life. The manner in which ritual is performed is the basis of a new Mason's view of our Fraternity and its seriousness. If we don't undertake ritual seriously, our candidates will certainly not take the meaning seriously.

Quality of work is a matter of pride – if your lodge does not feel comfortable in the ritual, there are many Brothers in other lodges who are willing to help, not in a condescending manner but quietly and graciously. The Grand Custodian and Deputy Custodians are always ready to suggest names of others in your area to help in the ritual. Your Committee appreciates the efforts of the officers and members of subordinate lodges willing to take the time to learn the ritual, including lectures and to deliver them with feeling and understanding, enabling the new candidate to better appreciate the beauty and profound content of the Masonic degrees.

Several One-Day Classes were held in 2012 for degree conferral for multiple candidates. Those classes and the resultant new Masons are enumerated in the Grand Master's Address.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip A. Lorenzen, 10, 327 & 1, Chairman  
Roger A. Deininger, 317  
Gerald D. Verbeek, 15

M.:W.:B.: Phil Lorenzen encouraged those in attendance to work on their own proficiency, expressed appreciation for the service of Most Worshipful Brother Scott Krieger and the Deputy Grand Custodians, and moved for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Nebraska Work as printed. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **REPORT OF THE MASONIC RELIEF COMMITTEE**

*Bill Dittmer, Chairman*

In the absence of Brother Dittmer, the report was presented by R.:W.: John Maxell, Grand Lodge Liaison to the Masonic Relief Committee.

The Grand Lodge Relief Committee continues to be a self-supporting committee that raises funds for our Brethren, families and lodges when unexpected expenses occur. This has been accomplished the last five years without help from the Grand Lodge or the Nebraska Masonic Foundation, but from the Masons of Nebraska who have helped with their donations, time, and purchases of fundraising material.

The Committee had two major fundraisers in 2013 with the sale of garmented bags at Annual Communication and t-shirts. These two projects raised over \$3,200. The

Committee was able to help several Brothers with relief of \$6,000, with \$4,000 going to the Masonic Service Association to help Brethren in New York and New Jersey affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The members of the Masonic Relief Committee take great joy in being able to help the Masonic family not just monetarily, but also with Hope and Charity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Dittmer, 317, Chairman  
Stephen R. Barchus, 308  
Lowell Erickson, 251  
Jonathan Paz, 39  
Stanley Thayer, 50

Before moving for approval of the report, R.:W.:B.: Maxell noted that prior to 2007, there used to be a budget line item for relief of \$500, but now Masonic Relief acts as a self-supporting committee. He stated that as the Brethren look at how much money was given out in 2012, \$500 would not have gone far. He thanked the members for their generosity and reminded the brethren to stop by the Masonic Relief table in the lobby to take a look at the items for sale to benefit the relief fund. Worshipful Brother Maxell moved for the approval of the report. The motion was seconded and favorably carried.



Grand Master Rex Moats called on W.:B.: Russell Hobson, Grand Lecturer Emeritus of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska, to bring greetings.

“Most Worshipful Sir, Deputy Grand Master, Distinguished guests and visitors, protocol having been established, good morning. I hadn’t planned on saying anything but since the Grand Master asked me to say something, I will say it. I bring you greetings from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Glenn Dee is our Most Worshipful Grand Master. He was here for the first day and he stated that he had an enjoyable time, the hospitality was good, he got to meet some new friends, he picked up some new things, and he was quite happy to be here. As you know most of you brethren have seen me around band camp or other areas such as Sojourners and I enjoy it and I’m glad to be here in your presence. Back in 1995, I believe it was our fifth anniversary of joint recognition, Past Grand Master Sonny Eatmon told me, he said, ‘Try to come to the Grand Lodge session because we did too much work to let it fall down.’ When Past Grand Master Don Pohlman left, he said, ‘Brother Hobson, please try to keep the light lit.’ And I think I have done that, so brothers, thank you. I enjoyed myself, I enjoyed the hospitality. Thank you and thank you and thank you.

Most Worshipful Moats thanked W.:B.: Hobson for his words and attending the grand session.



Richard N. Lewis, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming, was invited by Grand Master Moats to bring greetings.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master Tom, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Distinguished Guests and Brothers all. Howdy! I bring you greetings from Clarence L. Vranish, our Worshipful Grand Master of

Wyoming. He unfortunately could not be here today. He is at the Grand Lodge of Utah. Grand Master Vranish's theme this year is 'Proud to be a Mason,' and he's asked us to go forth and promote his theme. And I couldn't stand before you any prouder than I am because I'm a fifth generation Mason, that I am able to document. In Wyoming, we brand our cattle. Do we have any cattle producers in here? This is a registered brand with the Wyoming livestock board and this is the Grand Lodge brand. And Brother Clarence has made these brands available to all of us and here has made these. Most Worshipful Brother Rex, I'd like to give you those. You can stick them on about anything. They stay pretty well, and along with Brother Clarence's theme, he has encouraged us to put these decals or these stickers on our vehicles, this, that or the other, and he's promoting the usual things that most of us Masons do. You know, wear a ball cap with an emblem on it, a polo, something. And along with that, he promotes the fact that as Masons we have an obligation. We are somebody's impression of what a Mason is, so we have to take care when we're about our daily lives and back and forth and out in the community. And one of the things that was impressed upon me is that at times I have to hold my tongue because I really like to kick and cuss a piece of equipment sometimes but I can't do that because there's those profane out there that look at you and say 'My gosh, that guy's cussing like a sailor, and he's a Mason.'

I noticed that Wyoming took most of our ritual from Nebraska and while we weren't paying any attention you changed your ritual a little bit, and I'll try to take that home to my brothers in Wyoming and tell them that there's been a few changes made that you brothers didn't allow us to know about. (laughter) But we like to have fun in Wyoming. Brother Gale and I were talking about some of the hijinks and things that have happened, but I'd like to quickly tell you a little story about one of our brothers from Chuckwater, Wyoming. That old cowboy never had married and one day he was in town at the co-op and there's a lady there and she's buying some things for her horse and had quite a few purchases. So he offered to help load her vehicle, and they were visiting and he said, 'You know, I'm a bachelor. I've never married, I've been working out in the ranches all my life and I never really had time for a lady friend.' And he said, 'I overheard your conversation that you're new around here and that you're a widow. Do you think we can have coffee?' And she said, 'Well sir, you know, you're pretty straggly looking.' He said, 'Well, ma'am, I've worked on the ranch all my life.' And he had these deep wrinkles in his face and he had hair that he couldn't shave real close and a pretty rough looking old boy. His Levis had holes in them, his boots were kinda run over. And she said, 'You know if you were to clean yourself up and get a nice smooth shave and some nice clothes, I'd be more than happy to go out with you.' So he consults with some of the brothers at Chuckwater Lodge and they told him there's a fantastic barber down in Cheyenne. So he goes down there and he finds this place and it's not a barber shop, it's an emporium. And he goes in there and this fella says, 'Well yeah, I can fix you up.' So he gives him a wonderful haircut and a style.' And he said, 'Well how are you gonna shave all these wrinkles and smooth that out?' And he said, 'It's not a problem,' and he hands him two wooden balls. He says, 'Put these in your mouth and as I pass this razor over that area, push one of those balls up there and smooth the skin out and we'll get a close shave.' So the old cowboy's got these two balls in his mouth and the guy's shaving away. They get all done and he's going, 'My gosh, I haven't been this smooth since I was six

years old. That is fantastic. But there was one point where I almost swallowed one of those balls. What happens when somebody does that?’ He said, ‘Oh, don’t worry about it, they bring ‘em back in a couple of days.’ (laughter)

Grand Master Moats thanked Right Worshipful Brother Lewis for attending the session and presented him with a Masonic inscribed knife.



Most Worshipful Rex asked Hans J. Scheurer, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nevada, to come to the east to bring greetings.

“Worshipful Brother Rex, Distinguished Brethren. I am privileged to bring you greetings of our Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard M. Hoaglin and the Masons of Nevada. It’s an honor and privilege for me to be here this morning. Mike is in Utah right now enjoying a little warmer weather than we have here. Allow me to share a couple of thoughts with you. Every time I listen to the opening of lodge, there are three things that kind of stick in my mind. One of them is the ability to travel, another is to learn and the last one is to earn your wages as a Master. Traveling this last year or over the last several years has been a challenge for me sometimes. You wonder why I’m standing up here without my apron on. The day before yesterday, I got to Denver at 8:30 in the morning and the flight here was cancelled. The same plane showed up about seven hours later, so I asked the pilot what happened, and it’s a little 20-seater. He says, ‘Oh, when I started this morning in North Dakota, at 40 below, nothing works. But we got this thing out and we should be getting to Kearney in due time.’ And he did, he said an hour and fifteen minutes with a little tail wind, he got here in 50 minutes. So actually I still made it here in time for the banquet. And then my apron, the bullion started unraveling so that is in the case, obviously I’m not going to wear it until I get it fixed. However, a couple of highlights in my travels, as Rex said, we met at the Grand Master’s Conference. My wife and I had the privilege of meeting his wife and family. Jasmine, his youngest, won my wife’s heart in about ten seconds, and it’s been an absolute delight. The relationship we’ve had with him and his family, and then coming here is just superb. I was also privileged to attend the Grand Lodge of Germany a couple of months ago. In one of their formal sessions there were 2000 of us, 47 different delegations, and brethren, there was not a stranger among them. Probably 50 different languages, and we had no trouble communicating, We were all on the level.

And earning my wages as a Master - I have two idols. One of them is my godfather who was Grand Master in Nevada about ten years ago. And the other one was my own dad. And both of them encouraged me, at the end of the day to draw a (unknown word). You take a piece of paper and on the left side you write down all the good things that happened during that day. On the right side you write down the not-so-good things that happened during the day. And you check them off one against each other and you draw a balance sheet at the end. And if the right side is longer than the left, you lost the day. If the left side is longer than the right, you won the day. And brethren, since I became a Mason 40 years ago I’ve traveled throughout Nevada and throughout the rest of the United States and to some parts of the globe as a Mason, I haven’t lost too many of those days. I’ve earned my wages every day. Just being honored to be here with you this

morning and sharing the time and this floor is an honor and privilege for me to be here and I think you very, very much. Thank you, Grand Master Rex.”

Grand Master Moats thanked Most Worshipful Hans and presented him with a Masonic inscribed knife.

### **THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME**

*Mary Stapp, Executive Director*

M.:W.: Rex asked Phil Lorenzen, a member of The Nebraska Masonic Home Board of Trustees, to come forward to bring the report from the Home.

Phil made the following remarks:

“I hope you’ve all taken the time to visit with Mary, Mary and Jo and to see the display out there. A couple of changes I’m reporting now on behalf of M.:W.: John McHenry, W.:B.: Jim Erixon, who has been on the board for eighteen years, and continues his board membership – Jim has had some health issues and he has been President of The Home for fourteen years, and he asked that he not continue in that task. After some maneuvering, John McHenry was willing to take that position, and we look forward to his strong leadership.

I would like to mention at this time and if you’re here, please stand, I’d just like to call out for you, you get plenty of mailings from us, but the brethren that serve so well on this board, M.:W.: John McHenry is President. If you’re present, please stand. W.:B.: Gary Radil, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Marla Burg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; myself, Phil Lorenzen, I’m a 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; W.:B.: Jay Speck is here, I’m sure, serves as the Secretary of the Board; M.:W.: Ken Beebe is on the board; M.:W.: James F. Brown, Jr.; Kent Broyhill; W.:B.: Russ Clark; W.:B.: Fran Crowe; W.:B.: James Erixon; W.:B.: David Knudsen; W.:B.: Bob Maline; and M.:W.: John Parsons. Take just a moment and thank them for all of the service they give. It’s a marvelous task that we perform.

The exciting news right now is that we have opened a part of the new building. It’s approximately a \$7 million project. It’s been two years since the ground breaking ceremony in April 2011. You’ll receive announcements for the cornerstone ceremony during the course of this year. On November 6, after 18 hours of moving from the old kitchen, the new kitchen was actually opened and put in place and the first meal that was served out of that new kitchen was on November 7. The first meal that was actually eaten in that kitchen was on January 22. The residents were served breakfast that day in the new dining room. And on Monday, the 4th day of February, the residents in the assisted living area will be served the evening meal as well. In the 1924 wing, we have six new large two bedroom apartments with two baths and we have three larger apartments for a total of nine. Three of those nine are already spoken for. It’s a marvelous facility. It’s not paid for. We ask for your continued help in that process, and I would close with this one admonition. We take an oath in our obligation and I apologize Most Worshipful sir that I missed the obligation the other day. I was unavoidably detained. But I assured Most Worshipful Brother Rex that I took an obligation earlier last week when I did the answers to the questions in a Master Masons degree. But our obligation provides that we will help, aid and assist poor distressed brother Master Masons, their widows and

their orphans. This facility affords you an opportunity for a place to live. It doesn't guarantee you a place to live if you're debilitated and not able to care for yourself, but if you qualify mentally and meet certain tests as far as your ability to be there, then it's a situation you can gain admission to The Nebraska Masonic Home. But the key element for me is this, the majority of our residents are the wives, the widows, the daughters of Masons, and brethren, for those of us that are concerned about the future or concerned about health care, and we're concerned about a variety of things, this home affords the most fantastic care in the world. And don't lose sight of the fact that when you join the Nebraska Masonic lodges, you in fact have the right to apply for admission to that, and you have created an avenue for those survivors of us. Because we tend to go first, brethren, as we well know, and our population is primarily widows and female relatives, don't hesitate to encourage others to join our fraternity just for the right that you can at some point in time apply to that home, if necessary. Thank you and thank you for your continued support of The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, and take a moment to thank Mary, Mary and Jo for the work that they do. Thank you very much."

The printed report is as follows:

It is my distinct pleasure to report on behalf of The Nebraska Masonic Home for the Year 2012. The Nebraska Masonic Home Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors for The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation have had a year where many very important decisions were made on behalf of The Nebraska Masonic Home. The Nebraska Masonic Home employees continued to impress all of us through the year with their adaptability and willingness to adjust to the constantly-changing environment created by the on-going Building/Renovation Project.

The Masonic Home resident census was 95 in January 2012. At this time our census is 97 (as of date of Board meeting). Keeping our resident census at this level is a challenge in this very competitive field of assisted living and long-term care. Our current census is comprised of 22 men and 75 women. At this time we have 9 couples residing in our facility.

The Nebraska Masonic Home takes great pride in providing a full continuum of care to Masons and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and grandmothers. Our employees give the highest level of medical and personal care from independent/assisted living apartments to maximum 24-hour nursing care services. All employees deliver care and services to each resident with the highest level of excellence and the resident's dignity is deeply respected. The Masonic Home's highly-valued reputation in the health care industry is what makes The Masonic Home such an attractive assisted living and long term care facility.

Everyone remembers with pride our Ground Breaking Ceremony that took place April 30, 2011. The Building/Renovation Project has moved forward since that green light date. The challenges and decisions that have had to be addressed as a result of a project of this magnitude have all been addressed in a positive manner and solutions were made as promptly as possible to keep progress moving forward. To date we are currently occupying the new kitchen and dietary storage areas. The 1962 Wing was complete enough for the Activity Room, Work Room, and four offices to be occupied. The 1924 Wing apartment renovation is 75 percent complete, and the new residents' laundry on 2nd Floor is now open and being used by our apartment residents. The 1924 Wing 1st Floor area where the old kitchen area is being totally renovated is about 50 percent

complete. The tentative date that the entire project will be finished is the end of April 2013

Our in-house goal is to occupy the new 3rd Floor Dining Rooms by the end of January and the 2nd Floor Dining Room by the middle of February.

Needless to say our residents, employees, and families are very excited as each area is completed and occupied. The journey has been a challenge and our employees have been incredibly accepting of all the on-going rearranging that has had to take place to make room for the contractors to get to the various areas of the facility to complete their work. This is truly a dream come true. Being able to occupy each area as it is completed is so exciting for our residents, employees, and family members. When I reflect on the incredible impact the completion of this project will have on the overall future of The Nebraska Masonic Home, I am always grateful for the Board of Trustees' decision to move forward and continue to make The Masonic Home a state-of-the-art facility in this competitive health care industry. Our current and future residents will continue to enjoy and appreciate their time at The Masonic Home because of how much everyone put the residents' dignity and quality of life first as these crucial decisions were being made. Thank you to everyone for their part in making this Building/Renovation project happen.

Our residents and staff are so grateful for the faithful visits from all the organizations and individuals in the Masonic Family as well as those from the community who truly enjoy our residents and appreciate the excellent care they receive. On behalf of our residents I want to say how much they look forward to and appreciate every visitor.

Our annual indoor picnics provided by Narcissus Kensington and Home Chapter No. 189 OES are two events that our residents and staff truly enjoy. At the July Home Chapter Picnic we are so pleased to have as our guests the Nebraska Grand Chapter officers and their companions. A special thank you is extended to both groups for the hard work that goes into preparing and planning for these special events.

The Boon Memorial Food Truck continues to be an annual project coordinated by Richard Schlaman of Ashlar Lodge No. 33. This year \$4,550 was presented to The Home just before Thanksgiving to be used to purchase food for our residents' daily meals. A special thank you on behalf of the residents, staff, and Board of Trustees was sent to Richard and all the lodges that made this annual fundraiser a worthwhile endeavor and a tremendous success.

The Tangier Shrine Chanters entertained our residents in the chapel with a beautiful Christmas musical program on December 4. It was such a special way for our residents to start the holiday season.

A special thank you to Grand Master Rex Moats, the Grand Lodge Officers, and the Grand Lodge Office Staff (for their continued assistance); as well as Worthy Grand Matron Judy Wehrbein, Worthy Grand Patron Alvin Benemerito and the Eastern Star Grand Family. Both Grand families continue to show their commitment to The Nebraska Masonic Home in so many ways throughout the year. Each act of support is truly appreciated by our residents, employees, and Board of Trustees.

Our residents' Christmas continues to be a special time because of the continued generosity of the Masters and Wardens Club of the Greater Omaha Area. The residents, staff, and Board of Trustees extend to you their deepest appreciation for the holiday generosity you have extended to The Masonic Home residents.

My deepest appreciation to all of the Administrative Staff, Department Supervisors, and each employee for the continued dedication and commitment they show on a daily basis to each resident. The Masonic Home's excellent reputation is the result of the pride each employee takes in being a part of our caring team. The employees strive on a daily basis to provide excellent care and attention to each resident. I truly appreciate every one of you, and I thank you for choosing The Masonic Home as your employer.

Thanks are also extended to The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation Director, Jo Peters, and Administrative Assistant, Maria Alban.

On behalf of the employees and residents I personally wish to extend a very sincere thank you to The Masonic Home Board of Trustees. You have all given another year of dedication, hard work, good counsel, and your individual expertise. The betterment of The Masonic Home has always been uppermost in every action that you make. Your guidance and decision-making responsibilities have continued to lead all of us through another busy year. The faith you have demonstrated in each of us is greatly appreciated. Thank you, gentlemen, for your continued commitment to making The Nebraska Masonic Home the excellent facility it is today.

In closing, I wish each of you a happy and healthy 2013.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director  
The Nebraska Masonic Home

**REPORT OF THE MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN**  
*Charles E. "Ched" House, President, Board of Directors*

M.:W.:B.: Rex invited Ron Giesselmann to present the report from the Children's Home.

Brother Giesselmann made the following remarks before referencing the printed report:

"Thank you for the invitation to speak today, thank you Most Worshipful Brother Rex Moats for serving on the Home's Board of Directors this year. He was very diligent about attending and we appreciate that. In addition to his report, we try to team up with the retirement home as much as we can. Two times we go to Plattsmouth - one in the summer to show our animals to the residents there, and another one in the winter to sing caroling. This year, unfortunately, weather was against us. We went there to play bingo in the summer and it was way too hot to take animals there that day so we played some bingo and had a good time. And in the winter caroling, we had an ice storm and were unable to go. But I heard that Mary, Mary and Jo went around caroling to the residents for us so hopefully they had a good voice that day and represented us well. It's our pleasure. It's great for the kids and I think the residents have a good time too.

In addition to the report that you'll find in your booklet from our President Charles House, I have some statistics for you because I do get a lot of questions from our brothers concerning statistics. So I'd like to read this for you. Twenty-four children were on campus at the beginning of 2012. Thirty-two were on campus at the beginning of the summer and twenty-six were on campus at the end of 2012. Three children graduated from high school, two went on to college and one joined the Army. Four children earned straight A's in school and twelve

were involved in extracurricular school activities. This year's building and grounds projects consisted of installing irrigation on three of five pastures. I don't know if he's here right now, but Bob Rhodes serves on our board and he served us very well in helping with that project. We also purchased land and a building from the Fremont Lodge to accommodate future growth and purchased land with an existing two-car garage on the north end of our campus. The important part of that was the two-car garage was made into an industrial technology shop where over 200 4-H awards were earned. Children worked on electrical, welding, wind generation and rocket projects. All children participate in 4-H. Eleven hundred thirty-seven awards were earned in 2012, 53 awards were earned at the State Fair, three children showed their calves at Aksarben, 350 people attended Achievement Day in August and 750 were served chili at the Chili Feed in February, which is our annual fundraiser for the 4-H program. We were blessed to have George Washington's Bible on display at the Chili Feed, and thanks to Most Worshipful Brother Rex Moats for that coordination. We also are blessed to have excellent employees, gracious donors and a wonderful Board of Directors. The employees keep the children happy, the donors keep us financially independent from the government and the Board makes decisions for the good of the children. Thank you to everyone here for your support of the Children's Home and please stop by the booth in the lobby."

The printed report from the President of the Board is as follows:

It is my pleasure to report that operations at the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont appear leaning toward a great year. Ron, Todd, Gloria, and other staff members have activities running smoothly and at a normal pace. Our Endowment portfolio is doing well, but no longer at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Policies changed and the Kloeckner Group no longer felt comfortable there, and moved their staff and business to UBS Financial Services. James DeMoss, and the Board chose to move with them. We appreciate your donations, gifts and bequests for which we are eternally grateful, and keeping those funds safe and earning well is most important..

Our efforts to increase the number of children served has provided positive results, and our census is a comfortable 32, currently balanced between boys and girls, all this while dealing with challenging government rules. The children and their education, and development, in an appropriate home-like atmosphere, will always be our goal. Grades continue to improve with the new tutoring method, and having fun times in the Activity area of the nearly finished lower level of the Education facility gives us many activity options. We hope the results please you. Everyone enjoys hearing from the alumnus returning to the Home, and telling us how things are going for them and of their accomplishments. We are proud of them all.

Last year I stated that we would use the proceeds from the sale of a portion of the Wakefield farm to purchase replacement acres. We began a search and found several parcels that might work, but were sold at auctions for above appraised valuations. In September we were made aware by Marge Andersen that her daughters had advertised and were in the process of selling parcels of their farm by sealed bid auction- with right to rebid- until final bidding process finished. We were late into the bidding activity, and one parcel- with house and out-buildings - had already sold. Our committee had the remaining parcel appraised, and in September submitted a bid for the appraised price for the 240 acres. These acres are fully center pivot irrigated level ground, 4 miles east of Fremont, in Dodge County. After the close of bidding, we were informed that ours was declared the accepted high bid gaining 80 acres more than we sold. The current tenant

farmer, who has farmed the ground for many years, agreed to farm with us. We have received farms from the estates of five Sisters and Brothers, and have enjoyed grain sales income from this alternate source, and the newly purchased 80 Acre sixth farm was deemed a good investment.

I speak for the interested proud and hard working of the Board whom in your behalf performed their duties during this year of many changes. We again commend you as members of Masons and Eastern Star for your continuing personal and monetary support. The lives of the children of our wonderful Home have been greatly enhanced by your kindness, thoughtfulness and support, and they will thank you for the rest of their lives. Truly, Masonry at work.

Charles E. "Ched" House  
President, Board of Directors

## **REPORT OF THE MASONIC ALL-STAR BAND COMMITTEE**

*K. Roger Dill, Chairman*

Worshipful Brother Dill made the following remarks before referencing the printed report:

"Before I get started I'll tell you a little bit about myself. I'm from Kansas. I was born in Kansas, raised in Kansas, educated in Kansas, taught in Kansas. Now I'm a Nebraskan. And we went down and we got the idea of the Masonic All-Star Band from Kansas. So I share many, many things with Kansas. But rest assured, Michelle will not be one of them. As you know, the Shrine Bowl will be here in Kearney and that's all in the report as to why and that sort of thing. The band has grown, and grown, and grown. 278 marched this last year. That's the largest band we've ever had. It's going to continue to grow and we're going to continue to need help. I'm here really today to ask for help. You know your way to Kearney. You got here. Now, come back at the end of May and be a chaperone. We can really use all the help we can get. Russell comes every year and helps us and I appreciate that. There are others that come every year and spend the whole week with us. We have a great time. The students are wonderful. We have no problems, well maybe one or two, but really, no problems. And we just have a good time. The students work very, very hard. They put on a tremendous show, not only in the parade, but also at half-time and the pregame. And we could really use the help. Like I said, we're growing and growing, and we're going to need scholarships this year. We're going to need financial help there, and we really need chaperone help. So if you can, we'd appreciate it."

The printed report is as follows:

WOW!!! If bigger is better, then we were the best ever. 278 students (our largest band) marched and played at our band camp this year. This was an increase of 22 students over last year. This seems to be an indication of how much the students enjoy the camp and how the word is spreading throughout the State that we are the best band camp to attend. Band directors from all Nebraska High Schools are asked to recommend their best players to attend and they seem to be doing just that. We have great students who not only play well but are well behaved and represent their towns and schools in a very positive manner. Their way is paid for by scholarships provided by Masonic Lodges throughout the state, Eastern Star Chapters, Shrine organizations, individual members

and other donors. This was the 18th year of the camp and again, with the leadership of Michelle Fulmer, it went off without many problems. The weather was the only thing we couldn't control and it was the coldest and dampest we have had. The students didn't let that bother them and went about their business in a very professional manner. Our half-time show was the best one I can remember, their lines were straight, as well as their diagonals, and the sound was great. Due to the lights being worked on at the stadium, the game was played in the afternoon. This presented us with a slight problem of time management but seemed to work in our favor. The students went right from the parade to the stadium and we were done earlier this year than ever before. Again this year DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbows donated the water bottles. This is a great way to introduce these fine organizations to the students as their logos are on the bottles.

The Band Committee voted to purchase a trailer for use at band camp. This will alleviate the need to rent a second trailer each year, and will serve as a second traveling billboard to promote Masonry and the good works that we do.

In 2013, the Masonic Band Camp and the Shrine Bowl football game will be moving to the University of Nebraska in Kearney. Due to a new NCAA rule banning all-star football games from being played at Division 1 facilities, the Shrine Bowl can no longer be held at Memorial Stadium. Information about the band is on the Grand Lodge web site and is available to everyone. There is a link to the Facebook page with many pictures of our students and activities. The Facebook page serves as an avenue for information to a young generation that is so comfortable with such methods of social media. Take a look at what we do. The Band Camp does as much as any other activity in promoting Masonry and Masonic values to not only the students but also the parents, friends and relatives of the students.

As chairman of this committee, I would like to thank the committee members, the staff of the Grand Lodge, the band directors and the chaperones who make my job very easy. We are always looking for more chaperones. If you would like to take a week, a day or an hour and help with the camp let us know. We can guarantee a good time.

Respectfully submitted,  
 K. Roger Dill, 310, Chairman  
 Joseph A. Chapman, 21  
 Jennie Danner  
 Donald G. Havekost, 132 & 72  
 Dennis E. Rix, 15  
 Robert Rolfs, 102  
 E. Thomas Spunaugle, 198 & 38  
 Jan Thoman, OES

W.:B.: Roger Dill moved for the adoption of the printed report of the Masonic All-Star Band Committee. The motion was seconded and carried favorably.



Grand Master Moats invited Jay Adam Pearson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, to come forward to bring greetings.

“Thank you Most Worshipful Sir, Distinguished East, our Deputy Grand Master, Brethren all. Good morning. It's been an honor and privilege to be here on behalf of and to bring you fraternal greetings from 40,000 Masons in the great state of South Carolina. I congratulate your Education Committee. You all do a

much better job than we do in South Carolina, I must admit. A lot of times we take for granted that our young Masons are well aware of our Masonic traditions. How many Masons in the room have been a Mason for 10 years or less. Will you raise your hand? (brief pause) Absolutely phenomenal, absolutely phenomenal. You're to be congratulated on your wisdom and foresight to your elected line for encouraging our young Masons to take an active role. You know, one of the things that we kind of forget to tell our Masons in South Carolina is about the voting. We always tell them that everybody who's there must vote. And we had a young Mason, true story, about a year ago he attended a lodge. He was raised and went to that lodge to vote, or excuse me, went to another lodge just to visit and they came to the voting process and he didn't know any better. He wasn't a member of that lodge and in South Carolina you can only vote in a lodge that you're a member of. And he went up and approached the ballot box and voted and when they checked the ballot box, a good old brother past master who always keeps us straight pointed across the hall and said 'That man voted! He wasn't supposed to vote.' And they checked the ballot and of course it was pulled and there was a black ball and he instantly sunk in his seat. The Worshipful Master declared the ballot to be spoiled and they re-voted and that young Master Mason said he's never prayed so much in his life that one of his brethren chose a black ball when they took that vote again because he didn't want to be blamed for interfering with the business of that great lodge.

To you, our young Masons, I want to tell you that in the great state of South Carolina, we have nine Past Grand Masters, eight of whom continue to be active around our state. And I will assure you that you will learn more from listening to and talking with a Past Grand Master than you will any other Masonic book you'll ever read. So you're to be entrusted to the care of our Past Grand Masters. I encourage you to seek them out and seek their wisdom and they will definitely help you. I've been able to be a better man and a better Mason because of the Past Grand Masters that have influenced my life. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Rex, thank him for who he is and what he does. Also, Brother Paul Nestburg, our Senior Grand Deacon, for his patience with me as we travel around this great country.

Brethren, there are four things I think you ought to do every day of your life. Number one, I think you ought to laugh. I just don't think we laugh enough, especially when the Grand Master shows up. Everybody says, 'Hide the charter, hide the charter.' You know, it's not that way, we just don't laugh enough. A man's walking by the kitchen window in his house and he looks out the window and he sees a gorilla up a tree. And instantly he starts panicking and everything, and he gets on the phone and calls 911 and says, 'You're not gonna believe this but there's a gorilla outside my house up a tree.' And the operator says, 'Yes, we know, a gorilla's escaped from the zoo. Just don't go outside the house. Just stay in the house. We're gonna send the gorilla catcher.' Well, shortly, a knock comes on the door and he goes to the door, opens it up and to his surprise he finds a little bitty short man standing there. He's got a shotgun in one hand, a stick in the other, a big old pair of handcuffs hanging off of his belt loop, and a little bitty Chihuahua dog standing there. And he says, 'What's going on.' And he says, 'Well, I'm the gorilla catcher.' And he says, 'Here!' and he hands the man his shotgun. He says, 'Follow me, let's go to the backyard.' So he says, 'Well you're gonna have to explain to me exactly what's going on.' He said,

‘Oh, it’s very simple.’ He says, ‘We’re gonna get to this backyard back here and I’m gonna climb up that tree and I’m gonna take this stick and I’m gonna start poking at that gorilla and when I do, he’ll get all addled and he’ll lose control and he’ll fall down out of the tree.’ And he said, ‘Now, that little dog right there, that’s Fang, and Fang is a trained attack dog, and the instant that gorilla hits the ground, Fang’s gonna go up and he’s gonna grab him with everything he’s got right up in there in his privates. He’s taught to grab ahold and never let go.’ He said, ‘When that gorilla sticks his hands down to protect himself,’ he said, ‘I’ll climb down out of the tree, I’ll put the handcuffs on that gorilla and he’ll become docile and I’ll lead him away.’ The man says, ‘Well, I understand everything but what in the world is this shotgun for?’ And he said, ‘Oh, that’s the most important thing because when I’m sticking at that gorilla if he knocks me out of the tree, shoot Fang.’ (laughter) I just don’t think we laugh enough.

The next thing I think we oughta do every day of our life, I think we ought to read a book. I think we ought to try to improve ourselves to become a better man, a better husband, a better father, a better brother. I think we just need to try to improve ourselves, maybe turn the TV off and not do so much Facetime or Skype or just try to spend a little bit of time on thinking about who we are. Where’d we come from? How does our relationship with God affect our relationship with others?

The next thing I think we ought to do every day of our life, I think we ought to teach somebody something. I think we ought to teach our children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews, I think we ought to teach them the way that they should go. I think we ought to teach them the lessons we learned in life to make their road in life just a little bit easier. The command to teach is found over 216 times in the great light of Masonry. No other command is found greater than the command to teach. Go ye therefore and do likewise.

The next thing I think we ought to do every day of our life, I think we ought to share our heart. I think we ought to let those in our circle of acquaintances know how much we love them, how much we appreciate them. ‘Isn’t it strange that princes and kings and clowns that caper in sawdust rings and common people like you and me are builders for eternity. To each is given a bag of tools, a shapeless mass and a book of rules, and each must build ‘ere life has flown a stumbling block or a stepping stone.’ You, the Masons of this great state, have provided stepping stones for the future generation of the Grand Lodge. Thank you for being a stepping stone to my brethren. Thank you, Grand Master, for being a stepping stone and encouraging me to be a better man, a better Mason, a better Grand Master. And thank you for the friendship that we share until time shall be no more.”

Grand Master Moats explained that it has been a pleasure laboring in the quarries of Freemasonry with M.:W.: Pearson over the past year and that he is a better Mason for having known him. He thanked Grand Master Pearson and presented him with a Nebraska tie and Masonic engraved knife.

## **REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

*Lawrence J. Zwart, Chairman*

This year we have received requests for recognition from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware and the Most Worshipful

Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska. Both Grand Lodges meet the criteria for recognition set down by the rules of the Committee on Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and our Grand Lodge Constitution and Bylaws Section 1 - 306 – Standards of Recognition. Our committee recommends recognition for both. The Grand Master, M.: W.: Rex Moats referred a request from the Supreme Council Grottoes of North America to be recognized. We definitely find the organization to be Masonic.

The committee recommends that we not recognize the following jurisdictions at this time because of lack of recommendation by the Committee on Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and they be carried forward for further consideration in the ensuing year: United Grand Lodges of Serbia, Grand Lodge of the State of Guanajuato (Mexico), Grand Loge du Niger, The Grand Lodge of Estado de Aguascalientes (Mexico), The Grand Lodge of Estado De Guerrero (Mexico), The Grand Lodge of Montenegro, The Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco, The Grand Lodge of San Marino, Grand Lodge of Baja California (Mexico), Gran Logia “Occidental Mexicana” (Mexico), National Regular Grand Lodge of the Principality of Monaco, National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan, and the Grand Lodge of Moldova.

The Committee continues to solicit for recognition from the various Prince Hall Grand Lodges in those jurisdictions where Prince Hall Grand Lodges and Grand Lodges under the canopy of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America have entered into agreements of mutual fraternal recognition.

Thanks to the staff at the Grand Lodge Office for help with mailings and research. We are ever grateful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence J. Zwart, Chairman, 11  
Byron L. Hust, 198  
Scott J. Krieger, Sr., PGM, 317, 332 & 33  
Cullen F. Pilker, 39  
John R. Timmermier, 102  
Ex-Officio: Reginald S. Kuhn, 134 & 19

After a few brief comments about the contents of the report, W.: B.: Larry Zwart moved for the adoption of the printed report of the Fraternal Relations Committee. The motion was seconded and carried favorably.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REPORT OF BALLOT**

The Chairman of Tellers, W.: B.: Ron Grass presented the report of the balloting for the Grand Lodge Officers. The election was deemed proper. The following individuals received a majority of votes for the offices indicated:

Deputy Grand Master/  
Grand Master-Elect..... R.: W.: Joe D. McBride  
Grand Senior Warden ..... R.: W.: John T. Maxell  
Grand Junior Warden ..... R.: W.: Dennis E. Rix  
Grand Secretary ..... M.: W.: Reginald S. Kuhn

The Grand Master then elicited acceptance from each of the newly-elected officers and congratulated them on their election.



Grand Master Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to approach the lectern and announce the slate of appointed officers for the 2013-2014 term, when he will serve as Grand Master.

Donald E. Rife, Grand Chaplain  
 James A. Carlton, Grand Orator  
 David N. Silver, Grand Historian  
 Bruce A. Watkins, Grand Custodian  
 Robert W. Moninger, Grand Marshal  
 Richard D. Myers, Grand Senior Deacon  
 Patrick D. Barger, Grand Junior Deacon  
 John B. Ferguson, Grand Senior Steward  
 Kevin R. Lindly, Grand Junior Steward  
 Dennis H. Brydl, Grand Tyler  
 Mark W. Clinton, Grand Musician

R.:W.: Hauder made the following special appointments:

Steven R. Barchus, Personal Representative of the Grand Master  
 Kent B. Broyhill, Personal Representative of the Grand Master  
 Stephen C. Kennedy, Personal Representative of the Grand Master

Right Worshipful Hauder moved for the approval of the aforementioned appointed officers for 2013-2014. The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, motion carried.

#### **REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA FREEMASONS CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM FOUNDATION**

*Stephen Kennedy, President*

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked Stephen Kennedy to come forward to present the report from the CHIP Committee.

Worshipful Brother Kennedy referenced the printed report and mentioned that the Nebraska Freemasons have now passed the milestone of 35,000 kits handed out in the state. He added that 27 events were held in the state in 2012, including the event at the State Fair. He congratulated the members of Nebraska for supporting the program because it is so important to the children of the state, their parents and guardians.

The printed report is as follows:

We are finishing nine years of the NECHIP program; a pat on the back to all Nebraska Masons. We are pleased to inform the membership that it was once again a successful year. Much thanks needs to go to all those who provided a CHIP event to families around the state. This is truly the best child identification program to be offered to parents and guardians. The program continues to provide local lodges with the opportunity to serve their communities.

We had 27 events this year, 280 events since the beginning, and once again had a booth at the State Fair. We utilized 2,432 kits at these events and have now provided 35,129 kits to families in Nebraska. We have continued to have a spot at the Nebraska State Fair and are adapting to the new location in Grand Island. We will continue to need all the

great volunteers that have assisted with the State Fair, as this is a labor intensive few days each year. It continues to be a great place to get the word out on what we can provide.

We continue to update the equipment and hope to provide the best technology. This last year we finished replacing the old fingerprint scanners with new glass cover/laser scanners that are more durable and reliable. We have started procuring a simpler backdrop that will have fewer moving parts and be lighter to handle. We also have improved the microphones to help avoid recording issues. The systematic replacement of older components and laptops is continuing and this will also help keep the units reliable.

Masons may also notice that the program is receiving more exposure in newspapers and by law enforcement. This publicity has been positive and has provided more opportunities to hold events. Local law enforcement has contacted us to do special identifications for individuals that they suspect are at risk of abductions due to family events, and there were nine children identified for this purpose in 2012.

NECHIP board meetings are held on the first Friday of the month. We meet quarterly at the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont and the other months via teleconference. Anyone wishing to attend a board meeting is welcome.

Those members who desire to make a gift to the NECHIP program may do so by contacting the Grand Lodge office. Nebraska CHIP is a 501(c)3 foundation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Kennedy, President



Grand Master Moats asked R.:W.: John Maxell, the newly elected Grand Senior Warden, to the microphone where Brother Maxell moved for approval to hold the 159<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska in Kearney, Nebraska on February 4-6, 2016. The motion was seconded and carried.

Right Worshipful Joe McBride, the newly elected Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master-Elect was invited to the podium and announced that, as approved at the 155<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication in 2012, the 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska will be held at the Younes Center in Kearney, Nebraska on February 5-7, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF PRINTED REPORTS**

M.:W.:B.: Moat read a list of reports of committees not verbally received and entertained a motion that the following reports, as printed and distributed to the delegates, be accepted without reading, and printed in the proceedings:

- Masonic Education
- George Washington Masonic Memorial
- Grand Lodge Office
- Public Relations
- Lodge Leadership
- Membership
- Grievances
- Awards
- Internet and Computer Technology
- Nebraska Masonic Heritage

Change for the Troops  
 East Grand Master's Masonic Charities Activity Committee  
 Necrology – Report received during Public Opening

There was a second from the floor and the motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Dennis H. Brydl, Chairman*

The Grand Lodge Education Committee consists of Bob Whipple, Denny Brydl, Eduardo Casas, Larry Jacobsen, George Harrison, Jim Stull, Mike Webb, Jonathan Paz, Jeremy Meyers, and Tom Hauder. These Brethren work very hard to support the many projects of the committee. The committee is constantly on the lookout for more Brethren with the same desire to assist in bringing Masonic Education to the Masons of Nebraska. More support is needed from the Western and Northern parts of Nebraska. Experience is not necessary, everyone else started with limited knowledge in Masonry and only the desire to learn more.

In 2012, as in the past, the Masonic Education Committee begins the year with the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Breakfast. A very professional Masonic Education program is presented by the talented members of the committee. Masons from all over Nebraska have the opportunity to attend this presentation and go home with a little more knowledge about the Fraternity. In addition, the committee makes book reading recommendations that enable the Masons of Nebraska to expand their Masonic knowledge even more.

The Masonic Education Symposiums are held in March and October. The committee is actively searching for someone to host the symposium in the Western part of Nebraska. These are professional programs, which will allow the attendees to walk away with Masonic history, philosophy, information, etc., about the fraternity and perhaps to present Masonic Education to their Lodge. In addition, a game of Masonic Jeopardy is presented. The committee members enjoy this, as much as the attending Brethren.

The Nebraska Grand Lodge Masonic Education committee continues to support the Midwest Masonic Education Conference. This conference gives the committee ideas about how to better channel Masonic Education to the Masons of Nebraska. Many of the committee activities are aided, if not born by ideas picked up at these conferences. The conference gives the committee the opportunity to hear the successes and experiments of several surrounding states in Masonic Education. Member states are Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, and Manitoba, in addition to Nebraska. In 2012, the conference was held in Toledo Ohio. Two members of the committee attended. The conference will be in Winnipeg Manitoba in 2013.

The quarterly section of the Nebraska Mason called "To Light" is a product of the Nebraska Grand Lodge Education Committee. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Larry Jacobsen, John Parsons and others, Masonic Education is delivered to the mailboxes of all Nebraska Masons. Thanks to utilizing the Nebraska Mason as a delivery method, four issues a year are being delivered. Articles are being provided by the SRICF and the Saints Johns Lodge (Education Lodge) in addition to members of the Education Committee.

The Nebraska Masonic Education Lodge (Sts John Lodge No. 331) continues to draw both attendees and presenters. Members of this Lodge share a desire to pursue more light in Masonry. Dues are rather inexpensive and there are only two meetings a year. The

meetings include papers presented by members and of course, no Masonic gathering would be complete without a meal. Any member of the committee will be happy to give Masons more information and instruction on how to join.

Thanks to the members of the committee and other volunteers who take the time and effort to make the presentations. The committee thanks the lodges, and valleys who volunteer to support the committee in this task.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis H. Brydl, Chairman, 287, 314, 331 & 332  
George J. Harrison, 5  
W. Larry Jacobsen, 331 & 327  
Jeremy Myers, 112  
Robert D. Whipple, 281  
Thomas L. Hauder, 332 & 331, Ad-hoc  
Jonathan L. Paz, 139, Ad-hoc  
Michael J. Webb, 46, Ad-hoc

### **REPORT OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

*Edward D. Nolte, Chairman*

It is fitting that in this year's report of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Committee that we honor a Brother who served this committee for many years. That Brother is Warren D. "Duke" Lichty, President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association from 2002–2005, who passed away on May 23, 2012. This memorial is posted on the George Washington Masonic Memorial website.

Brother Lichty resided in Lincoln, Nebraska. He received a B.S. in Law from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1952 and his J.D. there in 1954, after which he was admitted to the Nebraska State Bar. He was also a member of the American Bar Association. After service in the Army from 1954–1958, he began his law career. He was a member of the U.S. District Court (Nebraska—1954), the U.S. Court of Appeals (8th Circuit—1973) and the State Supreme Court (1979). He served as the Judge for Dawes County, Nebraska from 1958–1968. He was Special Assistant Attorney General with the Nebraska Department of Justice in Lincoln from 1961–1969, and Managing Assistant Attorney General and Chief Counsel for the Nebraska Department of Roads in Lincoln from 1969–1997.

Brother Lichty had a long and illustrious association in the Masonic Fraternity. He served as Grand Master of Nebraska in 1979. In 1981, he became a member of the Nebraska Board of Directors Foundation and served as its President from 1990–2008. He was a 33° Mason and served as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska for the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite from 1991–2007. He also served as Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council. He was the founding President of the Scottish Rite Research Society and also served on its Board of Directors. He was Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine from 2001–2002. The Order of DeMolay made him an International Supreme Council Honoree. He was also a member of the Shriners and the Royal Order of Scotland.

In addition to serving as President of the Memorial Association for three years, Brother Lichty was also a member of the Board of Directors for 13 years. The Directors of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and the Masonic Brethren of Nebraska are

eternally grateful for his strong leadership and wise counsel that helped to steer the Memorial in a positive and stable direction. He instituted the Memorial's Annual Contribution Program, which has now evolved into the \$1 Per Member Campaign and recently increased to \$2.00 per member. To date there are 27 Grand Lodges that participate in annual giving and 20 Grand Lodges, including Nebraska, that contribute \$1 per member.

Brother Lichty is survived by his beloved wife Margaret, with whom he would have been married 50 years in December 2012. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Grand Lodge of the Month – Participation in Grand Lodge of the Month has been outstanding. The program was initiated to recognize and honor the Grand Lodges that created the Memorial Association and constructed the Memorial. It exemplifies a united effort by the diverse and geographically separated Brethren who support and maintain the Memorial. Each month a state flag is flown on the grounds of the Memorial, Grand Lodge publications are made available to our visitors, information is posted on the Memorial's website and a Grand Lodge display is featured in The Form and Function of American Freemasonry exhibit.

Many of the participating Grand Lodges visit the Memorial during their month, hold Emergent Communications and/or confer degrees. For additional information contact Mark Tabbert at 703-683-2007, ext. 2012, or mtabbert@gwmemorial.org.

The schedule for 2012 is: January–New York, February–Virginia, March–North Carolina, April–Rhode Island, May–Vermont, June–Kentucky, July–Tennessee, August–Ohio, September–Louisiana, October–Indiana, November–Mississippi and December–Illinois. For those who may not know, Illinois is the 16th State to enter the Union. An interesting fact is that Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi were admitted into the Union between 1796 and 1817. However, these States did not get their stars on the flag until the Third Flag Act of 1818. Yes, Tennessee waited 22 years to get its star on the flag. Hence, the Third Flag Act specifies that on the 4th of July following a State's admission into the Union, its star will be added to the flag. Illinois was the first state under the new law.

For Nebraska, the 37th Territory to become a State in 1867, our month at the George Washington Masonic Memorial will be in April 2014. This only occurs once every 50 months, so let's make it special in 2014. The Memorial extends its appreciation to all the Grand Lodges who participate in this program.

Nebraska Memorial Leadership – Nebraska is represented on the George Washington Masonic Memorial Board of Directors by Past Grand Master M.W.B. Russell G. Reno, whose term expires on February 22 (George Washington's Birthday) in 2013.

For further information on the George Washington Masonic Memorial please see the following website: [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Nolte, 39, Chairman  
Gayle Angus, 297 & 95  
Charles Folsom, 15 & 119  
Richard L. Hill, 317  
Kyle Peterson, 5 & 274  
Russell G. Reno, 297, 183, 332 & 54

## **REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE COMMITTEE**

*James F. Brown, Jr., Chairman*

The Grand Lodge Office Committee is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the efficient operation of the Grand Lodge Office and its employees. Additionally, the committee manages the assets required by the Grand Lodge Office. In discharging this responsibility the committee met formally on one occasion and at other times through the use of email. The results of the actions taken by this committee follow:

- Mileage Reimbursement Amount – The rate for eligible members of the Grand Lodge traveling in an official capacity is currently set at .40 per mile. This mileage reimbursement rate was retained for the 2013 Masonic year.
- Grand Lodge Fixed Assets - The committee reviewed the list of fixed assets owned by the Grand Lodge. A second trailer is being purchased with funds from the band camp to remove the need for a rental trailer. It was also brought to the attention of the Committee that the Grand Lodge Officers were in the process of closing on the purchase of a new building in Lincoln. That purchase was completed in December 2012.
- Committee Budget - The 2013 budget request for the Grand Lodge Office Committee was set at \$75.
- Grand Lodge Liability and Insurance Package – The current status of the insurance package carried by the Grand Lodge was reviewed. The Grand Lodge Office provides health, dental and life insurance covering the two office employees. The 2012 premiums were as follows for January through June of 2012: \$2579.16 per month health, \$106.54 per month dental, \$314.00 per year for \$25,000 life insurance. In June 2012, one of the office employees turned 65. After a review of options, the Grand Lodge Office Committee determined that a reimbursement system for health care costs would be in the best interests of the Grand Lodge and the employees due to a lower cost. The monthly reimbursement total for health care for June through December was \$314.08 per month. The monthly premium for health insurance in 2013 is expected to be \$340.19. The dental insurance through MetLife will increase to \$1114.32 in 2013 and the life insurance annual premium should be \$465.30. The Grand Lodge Office Committee decided to stay with the same insurance companies for 2013 for dental and life insurance –MetLife and United States Life Insurance Company.
- CHIP Program – Since the CHIP Foundation uses resources of the Grand Lodge, an Administrative Fee is charged to cover payroll, rent, and other elements of overhead. The fee was set at \$1350 per month for 2013. This is an increase of \$50 per month over the 2012 fee.
- Grand Lodge Office Employees – Raises for employees of the Grand Lodge were determined and subsequently communicated to the employees.

The Grand Lodge Office committee would like to acknowledge the professional manner in which the employees of the Grand Lodge Office perform their duties. Their competence and professional demeanor should be applauded by every mason in Nebraska! You are encouraged to stop by the Grand Lodge office the next time you are in Lincoln. Your presence is always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
 James F. Brown, Jr., 54 & 332, Chairman  
 Christopher M. Carter, 268  
 Francis L. Crowe, 56 & 79  
 W. Glen Jorgenson, 50 & 211  
 Dennis L. Smith, 15  
 Ex-officio: Reginald S. Kuhn, 134 & 19

### **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

*Curtis Edic, Chairman*

The Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee met in 2012 to discuss several ongoing projects. The advertising wrap for the trailer was installed early in the year. The Grand Master offered to make it available to any Lodge in the state for display during community parades or special events at the Lodge. The wrap included four Nebraska Master Masons of various ages to signify the fraternity membership is for all men. The offer from the Grand Master to display the trailer ran into logistics problems from one side of the state to the other. The PR Committee then recommended that four 4' x 8' vinyl banners be made. These banners were easier to ship and could be put in a parade or displayed at a Lodge building in any Lodge City. These banners and the trailer were used several times during the year, advertising Masonry in Nebraska.

The CHIP events continue to be held throughout the state with great success. Grand Lodge again held a CHIP event at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island identifying just over 400 children, up from last year's total. Public donations make this project successful and we thank the CHIP committee members for their work at the events plus the solicitation of donations that make the events successful.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the Grand Lodge office staff for all their work during the year. They oversee the Nebraska Mason publishing, help coordinate the Band Camp, Camp sponsors, working with the CHIP program and fulfilling other tasks asked by the PR Committee. They are the cement that see the work is complete.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Curtis Edic, Chairman, 268 & 1  
 Gregory D. Beebe, 119  
 Brett R. Bennett, 6  
 William A. Garner, 112  
 Jerrell F. Gerdes, 264  
 Bill Lichtenberger, 207 & 148, Ad-hoc

### **REPORT OF THE LODGE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Dan J. Davis, Chairman*

The Lodge Leadership Committee met this year in Fremont and by teleconference. We continued the committee's efforts to develop lodge leadership training materials for use by subordinate lodges and to advise and consult with subordinate lodges facing difficulties in maintaining an active and progressive program in their community.

We delivered the leadership training presentation at the 155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to several members of the fraternity. We have started work in developing a Lodge Leadership presentation based more on the Grand Lodge "10 Steps to Lodge Renewal" and the Lodge Leadership manual. This new presentation is designed

to be more practical in addressing the common problems facing Lodges today and more flexible in that the local Lodge leadership can review the material and focus on specific items of interest that may be unique to their Lodge’s needs.

The Committee worked with several lodges identified by the Grand Lodge Officers this year experiencing difficulty, and considering consolidation or closing. The direction of these lodges has been variable, some resulting in an improvement of their situation and others in consolidation or pending. The committee feels it would be more successful by identifying lodges that are beginning to face difficulties and consult with them while their problems are still manageable and have the potential to be resolved. A more proactive stance would include reviewing Grand Lodge statistics, Custodian and lodge activity reports and current degree work. The committee appreciates the dedication of the members of lodges seeking to consolidate and those they consolidated with. All keep as their greatest concern a viable presence of Masonry in their community and in Nebraska.

As chairman of this committee, I am pleased with the committee members’ dedication and their willingness to accept the duties of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan J. Nonneman, 317, Chairman  
John Fairlie, 1  
Josh Foster, 6  
Jerrold F. Gerdes, 264  
Joe L. Work II, 6  
Jason E. Knupp, 1

**REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Patrick D. Barger, Chairman*

**PURPOSE:**

- Outline the vision and mission of the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership
- Identify 2012 members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership
- Describe the committee’s efforts to identify and reboot its mission, validate established goals, and execute those initiatives to sustain and cultivate Masonic membership

**VISION AND MISSION:** In conjunction with the goals and guidance of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership (hereafter referred to as the “committee”) strives to establish procedures to sustain Blue Lodge membership levels through reviewing, modernizing, and creating initiatives to facilitate that process at the local lodge level. The committee conveys this message through articles in the Nebraska Mason, reports at Grand Lodge Annual Communication, and local presentations. The Membership Committee solicits and addresses ideas concerning new efforts to retain and recruit quality members from Nebraska Masons that may be implemented. The Chairman leads the committee with a focus on collaboration, creative thinking, problem solving, and consensus.

**THE COMMITTEE:**

- Chairman: WB Patrick Barger, 5, 54, 268, 332
- Vice Chairman: WB James Carlton, 325
- Member: WB Ron Nielsen, 46
- Member: WB Art Stricker, 265 & 263
- Member: Bro. James Stull, 38, 54, 96 & 332

**EFFORTS:** While the Chairman was deployed to Afghanistan for approximately half of the year, Vice-Chairman James Carlton led the committee's efforts. The committee met at various times and locations over the past year including teleconferences, face-to-face meetings, and the All Committee Meeting held in Fremont.

Over the past year, committee members travelled the state executing Phase II of its three-year plan for rebooting its mission. As such, they gathered input from numerous brothers from South Sioux City to Scottsbluff and many points in between concerning their view of the committee's goals of focusing on quality versus quantity of new members as well as making retaining the good members we have a No. 1 priority.

As a result of input from a sampling of the brethren at large, the committee believes it validated its two broad categories of effort for the future of Nebraska Masonic membership recruitment and retention as identified last year in Phase I: 1) to foster a FOCUS ON QUALITY of members and 2) to execute the MEMBERSHIP MISSION of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska as described below:

- 1) FOCUS ON QUALITY:
  - Acknowledging the fact not every man can or should be a Mason
  - Implementing thorough Investigative Committees, not just "on paper"
  - Utilizing the "blackball" process for the good of the lodge when necessary
  - Refraining from allowing the need for dues money to drive who we admit to the fraternity
  - Cease allowing the need to place new men in Blue Lodge advancing leadership positions to solely drive who is admitted to or retained within the fraternity
- 2) MEMBERSHIP MISSION of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska
  - Focus on retaining quality existing members as Mission No. 1
  - Identify methods to recruit quality new members as Mission No. 2
  - Move away from viewing membership solely in terms of numbers
  - Plan, organize, and develop tools to assist Blue Lodges with membership
  - Ensure members understand what it means to be a Mason
  - Re-energize indifferent members

From this point forward and as a result of the 2012 validation of its goals, the Membership Committee prepares to move into Phase III of the plan for 2013: to identify and develop programs and initiatives to support a focus on quality and retention in statewide efforts to identify, recruit, and sustain quality members.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Patrick D. Barger, 54, 332, 5 & 268, Chairman  
 James A. Carlton, 325  
 Ronald A. Nielsen, 46  
 Arthur R. Stricker, 265 & 263  
 James M. Stull, 332, 38, 54 & 96

## **REPORT OF THE GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE**

*Don C. Bortorf, Chairman*

The Grievances Committee had no matter of appeals or grievances for examination, report or recommendation, submitted to it for the 2012 year of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don C. Bottorf, 79, Chairman  
Phillip F. Harris, 290  
Robert D. Kinsey, 297  
Robert J. Parker, 317  
Jay H. Speck, 6

### **REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE**

*Michael J. Webb, Chairman*

The Awards Committee considered several applications for awards in 2012 and approved the awarding of ten (10) Masonic Individual Achievement Awards. The committee congratulates the recipients and would like to encourage more submissions by all lodges in 2013.

The committee conversed via e-mail and phone during January to review the applications for the major awards. We were pleased by the quality of the submissions, but are again concerned with the small number of submissions received for all awards.

The Gold Pan award had only two (2) submissions, compared to six (6) in 2012. The Rock Maul had ten (10) submissions, down from twenty-two (22) in 2012. There were ten (10) submissions for the Nebraska Pillar / Grand Master's Leadership awards compared to sixteen (16) in 2012.

During the All Committee meeting in April, there was work started on a new award that would be presented by the subordinate lodges to a member of their lodge who exemplifies the meaning of working in the quarries of our Lodges. Also there was a new member award considered and work was started on the criteria for this award. There will be more on these awards in the coming months.

The Committee strongly urges all lodges to compete for all the awards as a means of developing an interest in your lodges and communities.

The Committee would like to thank Most Worshipful Grand Master Rex Moats and the Grand Lodge Officers for their support during the past year. We especially want to thank Michelle and Carol in the Grand Lodge Office for their assistance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin R. Lindly, 148 & 331, Chairman  
Barry L. Frerichs, 136  
Robert Moninger, 256 & 200  
Maynard L. Smith, 102  
Tyler J. Weers, 297

### **REPORT OF THE INTERNET AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

*Tarl W. Carpenter, Chairman*

The archival of the Grand Lodge membership records to a digital storage format is ongoing.

The online calendar continues to be active on the Grand Lodge web site for use by all Masonic appendant bodies. All appendant bodies are encouraged to post their activities there to provide one place for all statewide Masonic activities. The calendar can also be embedded within or linked to the Masonic body web sites. There is an option on the calendar to "Suggest an Event" to add to the calendar. All suggested events will be

reviewed by Michelle at the Grand Lodge and submitted for inclusion in the calendar. The calendar also allows for RSS feed subscriptions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tarl W. Carpenter, 62, Chairman  
Thomas L. Hauder, 331 & 332

## **REPORT OF THE MASONIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

*Christopher M. Carter, Chairman*

Our committee met in Kearney at the 2012 Annual Communication and again in September in Lincoln to discuss current and future plans for this committee.

- 1) Plans for the Peru Lodge No. 14, Fremont Lodge No. 15, and Lincoln Lodge No. 19 history tables were discussed. Letters of invitation to display their history tables were sent to them with tips on what to display. Additionally, Florence Lodge No. 281, will have a 100th Anniversary history table on display as well.
- 2) The following from Micah Evans was discussed and plans to follow up “on this taunting mystery” were made: “In the Grand Lodge report for February 19th, 1913, assisted by R.W. Brother Alpha Morgan, Deputy Grand Master, M.W. Brother Robert E. French, Grand Custodian, and V.W. Brother George Beecher, Grand Chaplain, I dedicated the new temple of the brethren of Parian Lodge No. 207 at Calloway. This splendid Lodge is famed for its genuine Masonic spirit, and the occasion was all that could be desired. . . There is in the ranks of this lodge a “history crank,” & the lodge room is a veritable museum of treasures, largely of a Masonic character, that have been gathered together from many famous localities. On this occasion, each Grand Lodge officer present was presented with a gavel of Hollywood from the birthplace of Brother George Washington. It is needless to say that they are highly prized by their recipients, because of Masonic as well as patriotic reasons, all present are willing to agree that the brother, Secretary Henry H. Andrews, is the right kind of a “crank.” . . . ”
- 3) History “Snapshot” project – The goal is to create a book that lists each lodge along with a one or two paragraph snapshot of its history. No final “due date” was established due to the large scope of the project; however, the goal is to have it completed in time for the 2017 Annual Communication.
- 4) 200th & 300th Anniversary celebrations from 2013 to 2017 were also discussed. The scope of planning for this project includes annual presentations with special guests, artifacts, etc, to celebrate the migration and origin of Masonry to Nebraska while celebrating the birth of “the Moderns” Grand Lodge as well as the birth of the United Grand Lodge of England.
- 5) Expanding the Heritage Committee – Due to the evolving nature of this committee with an increasing number of historical projects, it was decided to create two NMHC sub-committees and to assign a committee to Western Nebraska, Central Nebraska & Eastern Nebraska. This will allow us to have the sub-committee from each region reach out to more of the lodges than we could with one “eastern-based” committee. The goal is to promote:
  - a. Establish history tables “by region” instead of “by lodge.” Each region can feature multiple lodges on a single history table at Annual Communication.

- b. Assist lodges to find, identify, and preserve their history.
  - c. Assist lodges in collecting video interviews of older Masons in their region.
  - d. Advise lodges in their region on “how to” document their history for future generations.
  - e. Promote the idea and build support for an annual Masonic Heritage Conference.
  - f. Promote the idea and build support for a Nebraska Masonic Museum where regalia, relics, etc of all Nebraska Masons (deceased and living) can be saved, stored and displayed so that it doesn’t go to the pawn shop, eBay, or the trash heap.
- 6) Assignments
- a. Brothers Doug Lewis, Devin Charles & Micah Evans will create a “template” for the Regional Committees to take to their lodges that will allow them to create a lodge history in a common format. Doug’s research tenacity, Devin’s background in various electronic production areas and Micah’s vast historical knowledge of Nebraska are ideally suited to this project.
  - b. Brother David Silver has agreed to make visits to lodges throughout the state to any lodge that would like someone to speak about history. His experience in the Grand Lodge of Virginia and his experience as a member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Library & Museum will be a great asset to expand awareness of our robust Nebraska Masonic Heritage throughout the state.
- 7) Past Grand Master interview project – For the Grand Lodge archives, each PGM is interviewed and asked to describe the events of their year. This will be assigned according to in which region a Past Grand Master lives.
- 8) Grand Lodge Library & Museum – The books and artifacts are in continual need of organization and restoration. The committee met there in September to go through extinct lodge archive boxes, to organize the library and to go through a large cache of books stored in the basement of Lancaster Lodge. Many historically significant books were discovered (in good shape!) and a return trip is still planned (though not scheduled).

As Chairman of this committee I am pleased to see the growth of this ad-hoc project and I look forward to seeing the fruits of our labors to find, save and protect our Nebraska Masonic Heritage in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Christopher M. Carter, 268, Chairman  
 Carl J. Diamond, 326  
 Micah I. Evans, 281 & 268  
 Douglas L. Lewis, 268  
 Christopher S. Nigro, 268

**REPORT OF THE CHANGE FOR THE TROOPS COMMITTEE**

*Anthony T. “A.J.” Johnson, Chairman*

I would first like to start off by thanking all the Masons of Nebraska for the generosity they continued to display towards the Change for Troops initiative. The Change for Troops had a reasonably good year of collection even though we were not deploying as

many troops and were looking at new ways we could support these brave men and women as the forces were drawn down in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

We started the year of 2012 with \$9101.83, and after the deployment of one of the last groups from Nebraska we still have 305 phone cards. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Rex Moats tasked the Committee with finding new ways Nebraska Masons could continue to support the Veterans who were returning. The Committee looked into several options. The first was a sponsorship into rooms at a Fisher House. Unfortunately this probably will not happen until they break ground for a new VA hospital, so that was put on hold for future consideration. The second idea was to support a group providing housing for wounded Veterans, however, there have been no requests for this type of housing from Nebraska and no group currently works in the state performing this function. The third idea finally hit pay dirt, which was to see how we could help the current VA hospitals and clinics within Nebraska.

The committee scheduled a meeting with the VA representatives in Omaha and found out there were several areas where we could help the individuals who have given so much. The new items include the purchasing of a vehicle in which they can transport the Veterans back and forth across the state, another initiative would be with funding going towards HUD/VASH which is a program designed to get homeless vets off the street and into actual housing. The needs for this program range from furniture to general household goods in which we can assist. The VA in Omaha also has a homeless service center on campus and this program can always use personal care items and non-perishable foods, giving us another option or way to help the Veterans who are down on their luck. The Grand Lodge and Masons of Nebraska will donate the phone cards we have left over to this and the wounded warrior program to allow these men and women to communicate with their loved ones and assist them to use the money normally used for that purpose to go for clothing and food and alleviate one less worry and expense.

Lastly, my report for this year ends on a high note for the Grand Lodge and Masons of Nebraska. Over this year, we collected \$4848.91, bringing the total in the program to \$13950.74 and this allowed the Grand Lodge to sponsor a new vehicle through a matching fund program the VA has to purchase a new vehicle to transport Veterans from across the state. The new vehicle will have wording on it down its side saying it was donated by the Grand Lodge of Masons of Nebraska and is something of which you can all be proud, because your efforts met a dire need. The VA hospital's lowest mileage vehicle already has over 80K and the others have well over 200K and 300K respectfully. Your generosity helped replace that oldest aging vehicle. I respectfully submit my report for approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Anthony T. (AJ) Johnson, 268, Co-Chair  
 John T. Parsons, 268 & 39, Co-Chair  
 Skip W. DeBusk, 268  
 John E. Lorenzen, 10, 314 & 331  
 William E. Nelson, 256  
 Gary S. Unger, 112

#### **REPORT OF THE EAST GRAND MASTER'S MASONIC CHARITIES ACTIVITY COMMITTEE**

*Donald I. Peterson and Danforth D. Loring, Co-Chairs*

The Grand Master's Masonic Charities Golf Tournament was held at the North Bend Golf Course on Saturday, September 8, 2012 with 57 golfers participating. Our profits

were \$10,017.07, which were divided equally among the three charities: Masonic Home, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, and the Masonic Foundation. I want to thank each of the committee members for their hard work in making this event so successful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald I. Peterson, 119, Co-Chair  
Danforth D. Loring, 268, Co-Chair  
Karl R. Adamson, 31  
Richard E. Gilmore, 268  
Del F. Hartung, 15  
Benjiman H. Harvey, 119  
David L. Knutson, 302  
Dale G. Lueders, 300  
Richard D. Myers, 102 & 119  
Ivan A. Vrtiska, 331 & 327  
Daniel J. Wellendorf, 112 & 268

**VOTING ON GRAND MASTER’S RECOMMENDATION NO. 4**

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to assume the lectern and preside over the discussion of Grand Master’s Recommendation No. 4.

**Recommendation No. 4**

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – PER CAPTITA TAX** – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

**Sec. 2-601 – PER CAPITA TAX –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.00, 2015 - \$30.00, 2016 - \$31.00. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, ~~2006~~ 2014, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.50 per member, *said assessment to be distributed as follows: \$1.00 to support the CHild Identification Program, \$.50 to support Nebraska Job’s Daughters, \$.50 to support the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Nebraska, and \$.50 to support Nebraska DeMolay.* Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

A motion for the adoption of Recommendation No. 4 was made and seconded. M.:W.:B.: Moats gave his rationale for proposing the Recommendation. After

discussion, R.:W.:B.: Hauder called for the question and the written ballot was collected and counted by the Tellers. Recommendation No. 4 failed to receive the required two-thirds vote.

### **ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

M.:W.:B.: Rex J. Moats made a few remarks about the Address before moving for its approval:

“The Grand Master’s Address is found in the booklet that you were given with your registration on page 11. I’m not going to go through it word for word. You’re not going to have to listen to me read this, but there are a couple things that I want to point out. I know that each of you, in your petition, was asked do you read and write the English language, so I’m pretty sure all of you are able to read and write the English language.

So I want to first of all publicly proclaim the thanks for my wife Diane. If you see her in the hall, please thank her. It is very difficult, not impossible, but difficult when you have children, to serve in this role and to do it right. And those of you that know Diane and I know that I’ve kinda got one speed, mach eight with my hair on fire. I don’t halfway do anything, but I would not have been able to do the things that I did, the visitations that I did this year, without her. So that is, quite honestly, my biggest secret that I had to be able to get out to as many of your events as I could was her and the children.

Of course, we’ve all heard about the great Grand Lodge office staff. I appreciate Michelle and Carol. It was a pleasure to serve with them. The Nebraska Past Grand Masters have been phenomenal in providing advice throughout the year, as well as my Grand Lodge Officers. On Wednesday evening before Grand Lodge starts, we traditionally have a dinner with your Grand Lodge Officers and I can’t think of any finer people to have served with this year. It was a pleasure to have my father be our Grand Tyler as well, and it was a memory that I sure will never forget. The appendant bodies, thank you for inviting me to different events and having the Grand Lodge representation; it was a pleasure to do that. It was a pleasure to travel to the jurisdictions that we traveled to this year and represent each and every one of you there. I think the social committee that I appointed this year has really, they really did a good job last night and all throughout and I want to thank them. There’s two of them coming in the back door right now, Jack and Wayne, I appreciate you serving on the social committee and all your efforts there.

One of the neat things I think we did this year, and I hope that the Deputy Grand Master continues this, is we did a Grand Master’s blog and we had a lot of hits on that this year where each time we’d go to an event we’d put a picture up and a little blurb and you didn’t have to wait for the Nebraska Mason. You could see what was going on right at that moment.

You can read on page 16 the George Washington bibles that were presented. It was a lot of fun going out doing that and it was a neat tool to present that here in the state. Our marching band continues to be strong. Our Rainbow, Job’s Daughters, and DeMolay, it was so neat to have them here, and regardless of how things come out on the Grand Master recommendation, it was neat to have them be part of this Annual Communication. You’ve heard from Ron and from

John on CHIP and the Children’s Home. Our Grand Lodge committees, I’m so happy that the Heritage Committee came up with what they did as far as our 300<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, and AJ with Change for the Troops. Chuck, the other night, getting the Humanitarian Award with Jay Speck, I thought were two very deserving people.

One of the things that we did this year, on page 20 in the Grand Master’s Address, is we ended up having a little bit of damage, well actually a lot of damage, to the Grand Lodge building because of the dry weather. The foundation sunk and unfortunately we were not able to get permission from the next door neighbor to let us fix that from the outside, so we had to do it from the inside. It created kind of a mess to fix, and we were kind of waiting for the other shoe to drop on the other side, and Right Worshipful Tom Hauder is going to talk a little bit more about the office building, but we were currently leasing that building from the Foundation. We were able to find a different home for Grand Lodge in Lincoln and we’re excited about that.

The list of visitations is listed, as well as the necrology and cornerstones and Grand Master recommendations, lodge consolidations, all of the permissions, dispensations, orders; we included this year reports of Grand Lodge Officers, which I thought it was important that each of you know what they were out there doing, as they are in their Masonic journey as well.

So with that, it has been the highest honor of the world for me to serve as your Grand Master in 2012. It’s been an awesome and humbling experience with good men and good Masons in Nebraska. The state of the Craft is good, but we must always be vigilant in protecting our landmarks and preserving the institution for future generations. You strive to leave an organization a little better off than when you started. I think we did that. The craftsmen have done their duty. I pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe will stand by each of you in your journey through the quarries of Freemasonry. Masonry is a way of life. It’s important how you live it. This is our best marketing tool. Finally, my sincere thanks to the Nebraska Masons for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your Grand Master; it’s been a pleasure and an experience I’ll cherish the rest of my days. I’ll close this Address with the words of our most famous Mason, George Washington as he used to sign many of his correspondence and letters, Your humble obedient servant, Rex J. Moats, 2012 Grand Master.

The printed Address of the Grand Master:

**PREFACE**

This address is presented in compliance with Article X, Section 2 as found in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, and is written for the 156th Annual Communication. Additionally, I have submitted my Grand Master’s recommendations, which I feel are necessary for the good of Nebraska Masonry, to the Jurisprudence Committee as required by Sec. 1-307 of the Grand Lodge Bylaws. Included in this report are the official acts of the Grand Master during this past year, along with the previously mentioned recommendations.

**TO THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, MY PARTNER ON SPACESHIP EARTH**

First and foremost I need to acknowledge my wife Diane and her contribution to this successful year. When I was installed as Grand Master we had four children ages 15, 13, 10 and 7. That is very unusual for a Grand Master to have small children at home during

his term in office. But I must tell each and every one of you that I could not have done the job we did this year but for the efforts of Diane. There were many nights away from home, carpools that needed filled, homework that needed completed and she was my rock when I wasn't there to help. Only a former Rainbow girl who insisted her future husband be a Mason before she would marry him was capable of this Herculean effort. We did manage to make it to the Conference of Grand Masters in Atlanta, the Imperial Shrine Session in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges in Grand Rapids, Michigan together. But for many of the Annual Communications I attended in other states, Diane was flying solo. And we still managed to serve as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron in our Eastern Star Chapter in addition to Diane serving as the co-Mother Advisor of our Rainbow assembly while directing our daughter, Ariel's Masonic journey as Worthy Advisor. Wow. Any success I may have achieved this year was because of you and your loyal support.

**TO MY FAMILY AND CHILDREN**

To Ariel, Jonathan, Madeline and Jasmine, I thank you for having patience with daddy when he was not at home. I can assure you I will be there for you next year and truly believe that sometimes absence does make the heart grow fonder. To my parents, LeRoy and LaVonne, thank you for attending each and every cornerstone and making this Masonic journey one I will always cherish and remember with fondness. Dad, thanks for serving as my Grand Tyler. I know there were many times when I was growing up and you were not able to go to lodge because you were driving that Greyhound bus trying to make a living and keeping the kids fed. My hope was that this year would help "make up" for all that time you sacrificed for me and our family. I could not have had a better set of parents. From the bottom of my heart I thank you. To my father-in-law Allan Rolfs and brother-in-law Robert Rolfs, thank you for your efforts in supporting Diane while I was absent.

**TO THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE STAFF**

We have often acknowledged the efforts of Michelle Fulmer and Carol Schroeder at Grand Lodge. However, when you are in the driver's seat and the Grand Master's jewel is hanging around your neck, you have a new appreciation for a competent and efficient office staff. I had the privilege of working with these fine ladies this year and my job was easier because of them. A special thank you to Michelle for shouldering the load this past fall when Carol was on leave. Your dedication to Grand Lodge is appreciated and you will always be family.

**TO NEBRASKA'S PAST GRAND MASTERS**

To each of the Past Grand Masters that helped me on my Masonic journey, I thank you. M.:W.:B.: V. Kaye Ramsey made me a Master Mason at John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 while he was serving as Worshipful Master. Thank you for counseling me and setting me on a path of integrity and virtue. To M.:W.:B.: Kuhn, thank you for appointing me to the advancing line and having the confidence in me that I could lead the Craft. To M.:W.:B.: John Parsons and M.:W.:B.: Bruce Baker, thank you for being there anytime I called day or night to help, aid and assist. For your guidance and support I knew I could always rely on you.

**TO THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

To each of the Grand Lodge officers and personal representatives I express a profound thank you. You were always there for me. If I needed someone to ride with me to an event, if I needed someone to have a script ready, or if I could just not be in two

places at the same time you were there. R.:W.:B.: Tom, I know you will do a fantastic job next year as Grand Master and will have a fine officer corps. Thank you for always being there for me and taking on any project, day or night. A Grand Marshal is the secret to a successful cornerstone ceremony. We had seven very successful cornerstone ceremonies this year because of W.:B.: Ron Stites, my Grand Marshal. Thank you W.:B.: Ron for always making sure these events were duly and truly prepared. This year, we kicked off a countdown to a celebration of the 300th anniversary of Freemasonry. A really good Grand Historian is essential in preparing a five-year plan that will reach across the terms of five Grand Masters. I am proud to proclaim that W.:B.: Chris Carter filled that role and I thank you for your efforts in making this possible.

#### **TO THE SCOTTISH RITE**

One of the great strengths of Nebraska Masonry is the strong working relationship between the Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite. Your membership efforts are appreciated and have been beneficial to Nebraska Masonry. I was honored to be part of the 100-year re-dedication and cornerstone re-enactment ceremony of the Masonic Center in the Omaha Valley. SGIG Charles Sederstrom has been a shining leader of the Nebraska Scottish Rite and I am sure will continue to run a quality organization. Thank you for including Nebraska Grand Lodge in your celebration.

#### **TO THE SHRINE**

The Shrine is another outstanding example of the cooperation, which is the strength and secret of Nebraska Masonry. Grand Masters and Potentates have traditionally worked well together in pursuit of common goals. I attended several regular meetings at Tangier, my Shrine Temple, and always felt welcome. The trip Diane and I took to St. Louis to the Shriners Hospital will be something we never forget. Attending your Imperial Session was a first for me and I was amazed at the level of commitment shown by your members to keeping your hospitals healthy. Thank you.

#### **TO THE YORK RITE**

Special thanks to the York Rite for allowing me to speak at their annual session in Columbus, Nebraska this past April. You are small in numbers but mighty in heart. I attended several installations and events on your calendar and always felt welcome. Thank you.

#### **TO THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR**

What an honor it has been this past year to travel with you Sister Judy and Brother Alvin. We both share passion for our youth groups and that is a tie that binds. I can't think of a better cause to bring Grand Lodge and Eastern Star together than our Masonic youth. We visited many of the same places and events and it was always nice to see you, sister Judy, at the monthly Eastern Star Masonic Children's Home meetings. I was so excited to give Brother Gene the first George Washington Inaugural Bible while he was in the hospital recuperating from a heart attack. I will never forget the look on your face when you walked into the room and saw me sitting there with Gene. Thank you for a lifetime of memories.

#### **TO THE DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE**

I have attended several Daughters of the Nile Installations during my time as a Grand Lodge Officer. I had the opportunity to attend several Installations of the Daughters of the Nile this year as Grand Master. At the Omaha installation I forgot to introduce my wife and daughter, 8-year-old Jasmine. She will remember it because I

forgot to introduce her and she made her first trip to the store for daddy to buy her a new outfit. Our most special day with the Daughters of the Nile was this past October when Diane was initiated into Sat-ra Temple in Omaha on the same day that Suzie Schumacher, Supreme Queen of Daughters of the Nile was there for her official visitation. Thank you for all your efforts in making Diane and I feel part of the Daughters of the Nile Family.

#### **TO THE ORDER OF THE RAINBOW**

I feel so privileged that I was able to address all of you at Grand Assembly in Crete, Nebraska and sit in the Grand East. What an honor. Rainbow is the spark that united Diane and me when we discovered that I had sisters in Rainbow and Diane was active in Rainbow as well. Our daughter Jasmine was made a Rainbow Pledge at Grand Assembly and can't wait until she is eleven and can join her sisters. Ariel was able to travel with me some this year and wore the Miss Nebraska Rainbow title with pride. And speaking of pride, Diane and I were so proud when she was installed as Worthy Advisor and was able to initiate her sister Madeline this past October. Rainbow has many pleasant memories for us and we thank you for keeping the organization relevant in today's times. Thank you for taking part in my Grand Lodge Session.

#### **TO THE ORDER OF DeMOLAY**

In July, Diane I attended the DeMolay Annual Conclave in Grand Island, Nebraska. Little did we know that Diane's car would break down on the way out. But have no fear, I called PGM Mike Jones and he came to help, aid and assist Diane and our family members that were traveling with her. So thank you M.:W.:B.: Mike and Joanie for coming to our rescue. Had you not been there, Diane would have missed seeing Jonathan, our 13-year-old, being initiated into DeMolay at Conclave. What fine work you all did at his initiation and what a privilege for me to sit there as Grand Master and have my son initiated into this fine institution. My parents and Diane's father were able to attend as well and your efforts created a memory that will last a lifetime. Thank you for taking part in my Grand Lodge Session.

#### **TO THE ORDER OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS**

In July, my daughters Ariel, Madeline and Jasmine, and I attended Supreme Bethel in North Platte, Nebraska. Many of the girls were really focusing on the ritual competition. It was nice to see them taking their memory work so seriously. I spoke at the luncheon and made bible presentations. Although Diane and I have our girls in Rainbow, we strongly believe in the mission Job's supports and appreciate the hospitality extended to my family and me. Thank you for taking part in my Grand Lodge Session.

#### **TO THE LODGES**

The Brethren of my home lodge, Waterloo Lodge No. 102 have been so supportive this year and I want to publicly thank them for their efforts in supporting Diane and me. Likewise, I have had the opportunity to visit my "home" John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 several times this year. We have always been made to feel at home. And to all the other lodges visited this year, thank you for your hospitality extended. I was always made to feel at home.

#### **OTHER GRAND LODGE JURISDICTIONS**

Many Brethren do not realize the importance of visiting other Grand Jurisdictions. One of the most important reasons to visit is to see that many of the issues that impact

Nebraska also impact other jurisdictions. We can then see how a particular Grand Lodge approached that issue based on the culture and conditions of their state. Other Grand Masters are a very valuable asset. We really don't have a mechanism in place that allows all of us to communicate at the same time. We don't have one set installation date and there are 50 different installation dates for 50 different Grand Masters. But if you can go out and forge your own relationships, you and the Craft will benefit by sharing this knowledge. One issue impacting many jurisdictions is declining membership. We spend a lot less time re-inventing the wheel when we can talk to one another and see what works and what does not. In the process, we make relationships in the most unlikely circumstances and are able to share each of our unique circumstances.

In furtherance of establishing these valuable relationships, I traveled to the following jurisdictions this year: Kansas, Minnesota, South Carolina, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nevada, Texas and Colorado. To each of these Grand Lodges I offer my sincere thanks for the hospitality extended and courtesies shown. Diane and I traveled to New York in October to thank St. John's Lodge No. 1 and the Grand Lodge of New York for the use of the George Washington Inaugural Bible. What a fantastic experience to be in one of the oldest Grand Lodges in the United States. Thank you for an experience Diane and I will never forget. I attended the 275th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina last April. It is at that event in that city I met Jay Adam Pearson, the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of South Carolina. It was the pinnacle event for all of Freemasonry in 2012. I am proud to call Grand Master Pearson my brother and my friend and look forward to him giving remarks at the Membership Banquet at our Grand Lodge in February. Iowa Grand Master Jerry Levay and I were honored to present a 70-year-pin to W.:B.: Marvin Andersen, a member of Omadi Lodge No. 5 in South Sioux City, on May 5, 2012. What a special night that was with two Grand Masters participating in this historic event. Grand Master of California Frank Loui and Grand Master of Nevada Hans Scheurer were great friends this past year and we saw each other at several Masonic events. And last but not least I managed to meet two other Grand Masters who had extended their hands of brotherly love and friendship to me this year, Junior Past Grand Master Randall Rogers of Oklahoma and current Grand Master of Texas Walter Rogers. These are two great men I am also proud to call brothers and friends.

#### **TO THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

A special thanks to our social committee for serving this year. I am so proud of the relationship we have between our Grand Lodge and the appendant bodies. I know you will make all of our guests feel welcome and eager to return to Grand Lodge.

#### **INSTALLATION**

Pursuant to the Nebraska Grand Lodge Constitution and Bylaws, I was installed as the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska on February 12, 2012, at a ceremony performed at Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn, Nebraska. We were honored to have present at the installation ceremony the George Washington Inaugural Bible, owned by St. John's Lodge No. 1 in New York City, NY. This bible was used by Brother Washington on April 30, 1789 when he took his oath of office in New York, New York as the first President of the United States. What a humbling experience it was to have that sacred book open to the very page on which Brother Washington placed his hand and swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. You could feel a sense of awe in that lodge room that day. We placed several replica inaugural bibles on the altar next to the original bible and have given those as gifts to various recipients in Nebraska and

other Grand Lodge jurisdictions. The bible also made an appearance at the Masonic-Eastern Star Home in Fremont for their annual soup supper. Many of the residents and attendees were able to view this piece of American history. More on the bible later in this address, but needless to say we were very fortunate to have it brought to Nebraska.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

It's hard for me to put into words the hard work the Grand Lodge officers have performed for you this year. Although I have been elected as the leader of Nebraska Freemasonry for a year there are nineteen other officers who are standing behind me and making an even greater impact on Freemasonry. So rather than me trying to summarize those works I will let them summarize them for me. After attending several annual communications in other jurisdictions, it became clear to me that we needed to have each of the officers in our advancing line prepare a report of the activities in which they have participated this year. You will see those reports incorporated into my report in addition to the usual items addressed in the Grand Master's Address. I hope it gives each of those officers the credit they deserve for the countless miles driven and events attended.

Membership in this nearly 300-year-old Fraternity is a privilege, and I'm truly honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve as Nebraska's 146<sup>th</sup> Grand Master. We have moved Nebraska Masonry forward. The job of any chief executive is to be a leader and leave the organization in better condition than when you arrived. We can hold our heads high and proclaim, "Mission accomplished." We have attended a record number of Masonic events this year while remembering that our priorities were to serve God, our country & families, our vocations, and Nebraska Masonry.

Last year M.:W.: Bruce Baker stated that "Nebraska Masonry stood at a crossroads that would determine the future of our Craft, and I felt that it was imperative that we worked to return to the integrity that defined our fathers' Masonry." I could not agree with my predecessor more. His words are prophetic and the majority of Nebraska Masons agree with his observations and have embraced our efforts to avoid slipping into the ever-eroding morals we are seeing in society today. In this report I will detail some of the actions we took as a Grand Lodge this year to keep the integrity of our Craft paramount, including some changes we made to the one-day blue lodge degrees which now includes a mandatory public records criminal history check.

Contained within the fundamentals of our Craft are moral lessons that have withstood the test of time. One of the things we learned this year was that quality is ALWAYS better than quantity when it comes to Freemasonry. In an effort to increase our quantity of Masons we have sometimes not been as vigilant in guarding the west gate as we should have. This often manifests itself in new Masons who don't know what it means to be a Mason. As I have often said this year, we need Masons not members and there is a big difference between the two.

Masonry is a way of life and when we try to "sell" it like a country-club membership, it cheapens the experience of being a Mason. The accomplishments you cherish most in life are those things that were difficult to achieve, not those that were easy. As Grand Master Baker stated last year, we need to return to our fathers' Masonry. I interpret that to include learning and memorizing the meaning of the Master Mason's obligation. We want to change with the times and be relevant, but don't want to completely water down what is the essence of our craft. I have written more on this topic in the rationale of Grand Master's Recommendation No. 5. Please consider being part of the solution in this challenge facing Nebraska Masonry.

Diane and I attended and were welcomed at so many Masonic events this past year that it's impossible to thank each of you individually for the encouragement, courtesies

and kindnesses we experienced. We had the privilege of representing Nebraska while attending the Conference of Grand Masters in Atlanta, Georgia, Imperial Shrine in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I attended the Annual Communications of Kansas, Minnesota, South Carolina, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nevada, Texas and Colorado. I sent representatives to the Annual Communications in California, Illinois and Wisconsin. I also attended the Rocky Mountain Conference of Grand Lodges in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The opportunity to visit our friends in these grand jurisdictions, along with the many courtesies provided, was both educational and very enjoyable. During this past year as your ambassador of Nebraska Masonry I have driven over 25,000 miles in my representation of each of you. I can't think of a finer way to show the world what Nebraska Masonry is about than to travel from Canada to Mexico, Atlantic to Pacific and extend to each of those jurisdictions visited our Nebraska values.

#### **GRAND MASTER'S BLOG**

Upon the recommendation of R.:W.: Deputy Grand Master Tom Hauder, we kept a Grand Master's blog of many of the events Grand Lodge officers attended. It was a very useful tool for me and the Craft to document many Masonic events. I want to thank Tom for being instrumental in keeping the blog up to date every time I would send him a picture from some faraway place. He made it easy to step into the 21st century technology wise and I suspect he has plans for his own blog next year. Take a look at it at <http://nebraskagrاندlodge.wordpress.com>.

#### **GEORGE WASHINGTON INAUGURAL BIBLE**

George Washington was the father of our country and has always been a personal favorite of mine. Many of us have read many books about his Masonic history as well as his military service. Many of us have visited the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia and visited Mount Vernon, his plantation and home. However, one of the greatest legacies he gave our Country and Masonry was a tradition he started on April 30, 1789, the date of his first inauguration.

The ceremony took place in the open gallery of the old City Hall on Wall Street, New York City, in the presence of a vast multitude. Washington was dressed in a suit of dark brown cloth and white silk stocking, all of American manufacture. His hair was powdered and dressed in the fashion of the day, clubbed and ribboned. The oath of office was administered by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, then the Grand Master of Masons in New York. The open Bible on which the President laid his hand was held on a rich crimson velvet cushion by Mr. Otis, Secretary of State. With them were John Adams, who had been chosen Vice-President; George Clinton, first Governor of New York; Philip Schuyler, John Jay, General Knox and Jacob Morton who was the Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge who had retrieved the Lodge Bible when they discovered none had been provided.

After taking his Oath, Brother and now President Washington kissed the Bible reverently, closed his eyes and in an attitude of devotion said: "So help me God!" The Chancellor exclaimed, "It is done!" and turning to the people he shouted, "Long live George Washington, the first President of the United States." A shout that was echoed and re-echoed by the multitude present. And so began the long history in our country of the President adding the words, "So help me God" to the oath of office as well as taking that oath on a bible.

St. John's Lodge No. 1 A.Y.M., F & A.M. is the owner of what is now known as the George Washington Inaugural Bible. Since April 30, 1789, the Bible has been used for the Inaugurations of Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and

George H.W. Bush. In addition to its inaugural duties, the Bible has been utilized in funeral processions of President George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor. The Bible has also been utilized at the cornerstone laying of the United States Capitol, the dedication of the Washington Monument, the centennials of the cornerstone laying of the White House, U.S. Capitol and Statute of Liberty, the 1964 World's Fair as well as the launching of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

Brother George Washington could not have imagined the places that the sacred volume on which he took his oath of office would travel over the next 220 years. He certainly could not have imagined that the St. John's Inaugural Bible would travel to Nebraska with three members of St. John's Lodge on a cold February day. Nebraska Grand Lodge was honored to have the George Washington Inaugural Bible at the 146<sup>th</sup> Installation of Officers on February 12, 2012 at Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn. It was an historic day to have THAT bible on the altar of Nebraska Masonry. The bible also made a short trip to the Masonic-Eastern Star Children's Home in Fremont on February 11, 2012 for their annual chili feed. What a fantastic opportunity for the residents of the home to lay their eyes upon a real piece of Masonic and American history. Thank you to St. John's Lodge for making installation weekend a historic event for Nebraska Masonry. Because of your willingness to share your National Treasure many people had the opportunity to see this historic volume and contemplate its relevance in American and Masonic history.

### **GEORGE WASHINGTON INAUGURAL BIBLES PRESENTED**

It has been a pleasure to travel not only through Nebraska but throughout the United States and present replica George Washington Inaugural Bibles to each of the jurisdictions I visited while Nebraska Grand Master. A partial list of those to whom bibles were presented is below. Sometimes my recordkeeping was not the best and if I presented a bible to you and your name is not on the list, my apologies. Please let me know and I will make sure the list is amended before the proceedings are put in final form.

- Feb 12 2012 Grand Lodge Officers and Personal Representatives of the Grand Master
- Feb 12 Installing Officers: M.:W.: Dwight Smith, M.:W.: Dean Skokan, M.:W.: John Parsons, M.:W.: Bruce Baker
- Feb 16 W.:B.: Gene Wehrbein at Methodist Hospital
- Feb 19 Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., SGIG, Supreme Council in Nebraska
- Feb 19 M.:W.: Scott J. Krieger, Sr.
- Feb 19 Curtis Edic, Secretary, Omaha Valley Scottish Rite
- Feb 26 Geneva Lodge No. 79, in commemoration of cornerstone
- Mar 10 Phyllis Harper, Queen, Daughters of Nile Sat-ra Temple No. 59, Omaha
- Mar 10 Suzie Schumacher, Supreme Queen, Daughters of the Nile
- Mar 14 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Board of Directors
- Mar 14 M.:W.: Charles Amidon
- Mar 16 M.:W.: Tracey Bloom, Past Grand Master of Kansas
- Mar 17 M.:W.: Don Newman, Grand Master of Kansas
- Mar 31 Illustrious Sir Gregory Hadcock, Potentate, Tangier Shrine, Omaha
- Apr 10 Nebraska Masonic Home Board of Directors
- Apr 12 M.:W.: Thomas Hendrickson, Past Grand Master of Minnesota
- Apr 12 M.:W.: Brian Beerman, Grand Master of Minnesota
- Apr 13 Grand York Rite, Columbus
- Apr 15 Pam Lindholm, Queen, Daughters of Nile Naphis Temple No. 66, Lincoln

- Apr 17 George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268  
 Apr 26 M.: W.: Jay Adam Pearson, Grand Master of South Carolina  
 Apr 28 Illustrious Sir Micheal Buchardt, Potentate Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln  
 May 5 W.:B.: Marvin Andersen, 70-year member, Omadi Lodge No. 5, with  
     M.: W.: Jerry Levay, Grand Master of Iowa  
 May 8 Judy Wehrbein, Grand Worthy Matron, Grand Chapter OES  
 May 18 W.:B.: Keith Attebery, Lancaster Lodge No. 54  
 May 19 Brother William McLellan, 60-year member, Ashlar Lodge No. 33  
 May 20 Worthy Advisor Ariel Moats, Elkhorn-Waterloo Assembly #38, Elkhorn  
 May 22 W.:B.: Richard Japp  
 May 22 W.:B.: John "Jack" Lorenzen  
 May 22 W.:B.: Joe Chapman  
 Jun 1 M.: W.: Dean Barr, Grand Master of Michigan  
 Jun 1 M.: W.: Davey White, Grand Master of Wisconsin  
 Jun 9 Heather Wilke, Past Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor  
 Jun 10 Sami Voshell, Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor  
 Jun 14 M.: W.: John C. "Jack" Hantz, Grand Master of South Dakota  
 Jun 16 M.: W.: Brother Lon Kvasager, Grand Master of North Dakota  
 Jun 21 M.: W.: Will Anderson, Grand Master of Montana  
 Jun 23 North Bend Lodge No. 119  
 Jun 28 Kaylee Jenkins, Nebraska Job's Daughters Grand Bethel Honored Queen  
 Jun 28 Jazmine Jirsak, Nebraska Job's Daughters Miss Nebraska Job's Daughters  
 Jun 28 Julia Williams, Nebraska Job's Daughters Miss Nebraska Congeniality  
 Jul 11 M.: W.: Frank Loui, Grand Master of California  
 Jun 14 Scottsbluff Lodge No. 201  
 Jun 21 Dalton Kock, DeMolay State Master Councilor  
 Aug 14 M.: W.: Allen Pierce, Past Grand Master of Wyoming  
 Aug 14 M.: W.: Charles Vranish, Grand Master of Wyoming  
 Aug 22 Cornerstone, McCook Lodge No. 135  
 Aug 22 Cornerstone, Platte Valley Lodge No. 32  
 Sep 20 Liberty Lodge No. 300  
 Sep 24 M.: W.: John Hess, Grand Master of Missouri  
 Oct 1 W.:B.: Jay Speck, 50-year member, Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6  
 Oct 5 M.: W.: Terry Seward, Grand Master of Illinois  
 Oct 13 Illustrious Sir Gary Kruse, Potentate, Tehama Shrine, Hastings  
 Oct 30 W.:B.: Larry Jacobsen  
 Nov 10 M.: W.: Randy Rogers, Grand Master of Oklahoma  
 Nov 13 M.: W.: Hans Scheurer, Grand Master of Nevada  
 Dec 7 M.: W.: James Brumit, Past Grand Master of Texas  
 Dec 7 M.: W.: Walter Rogers, Grand Master of Texas  
 Jan 25 M.: W.: Karl Hinkle, Grand Master of Colorado  
 Feb 1 Florence Lodge No. 281  
 Feb 1 Omaha Lodge No. 288

### MASONIC ALL-STAR MARCHING BAND

We had the opportunity to travel with two Masonic All-Star Marching Band students and the North Shrine Football team to visit the Shriners Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. What a great experience to see and learn about the wonderful work being done at the Hospital along with getting to know these fine Nebraska young people who work so hard to make the Nebraska Shrine Bowl the huge success that it is. Upon our return to

Nebraska, Diane and I spent part of the week at the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp. There were 278 students who attended and when they took the field at halftime of the Shrine Bowl at Memorial Stadium for the last time I have to admit I shed a tear or two. Having seen the effort these kids put in all week to make our reputation shine brighter was humbling.

The Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp is made possible by the generosity of the many Lodges and Appendant Bodies who supply scholarships and chaperones for this fine effort. The three Nebraska Shrine units invited us to attend the Imperial Shrine Session held in Charlotte, North Carolina as their guests; a great honor for the Grand Master and his Lady. We were encouraged by the many fine works the Shriners make possible and had a fantastic time making new friends.

### **RAINBOW, JOB'S DAUGHTERS AND DEMOLAY**

After attending the Rainbow for Girls Grand Assembly, Job's Daughters Grand Bethel, and the DeMolay Conclave, along with a few installations and initiations, it became apparent to me that we need to do even more for these fine youth and our future Masonic leaders. I had the opportunity to present checks on your behalf and of the Grand Lodge to each of the Nebraska Masonic youth groups. Checks for \$2,000 each were presented to Rainbow, Job's Daughters and DeMolay. Although this is a nice gesture, I am certain we can do better with over 11,900 Masons in Nebraska. That is why I have asked the Craft to consider a .50 per group increase in our dues so that our annual presentation would be nearly \$6,000 per group. I have the unique perspective as your Grand Master to have four children under 16 years of age (16, 14, 11, 8), three of which are involved in the youth groups of Rainbow and DeMolay. The youth of today are not like the youth of 30 years ago. Increasingly, they are involved in many activities outside of school ranging from soccer, baseball, basketball, dance, track, wrestling, volleyball and many other activities. Their most precious resource is their discretionary time and we should be thankful when they agree to give us a portion of that time. Many years ago, without the distraction of the other activities these groups could have several fundraisers a year to help with their financial condition. That is not as easy in 2013 because of the other activities. Finances should never stand in the way of creating a successful Assembly, Bethel or Conclave and by adding a line item each Nebraska Mason will know exactly what each youth group is receiving. This is an investment in the leadership and the future of our Craft and I hope you consider supporting it.

### **CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (CHIP)**

Twenty-seven CHIP events were held by local Lodges across the state, along with the event at the Nebraska State Fair on the first weekend in September. These events are great for getting Masonry in the public eye while providing a relevant and valuable service to the families in our communities. With the help of SAR Unit, Inc. in Murray, Nebraska, a new element was added to the CHIP kits in 2012 – materials for the at-home generation of scent pads for canine search and rescue. CJ Chelin of SAR Unit, Inc., who was a workshop presenter at our Annual Communication a few years back with her search and rescue dogs, assisted the CHIP Foundation in determining the right materials and instructions to provide a means for parents and guardians to generate the best form of a scent article that can be given to search and rescue dogs in their search for missing persons. A ziplock bag with instructions printed on the outside, three sterile gauze pads and sterile gloves are provided to parents in the CHIP kits so that the generation of the scent articles can be performed at home.

**THE MASONIC EASTERN-STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN AND THE  
NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME**

The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children located in Fremont is probably the premier facility of its kind in the country. I attended almost all the monthly meetings this year and saw the inner workings of this fine facility. Caring and kind people populate the Board and the Executive Director, Ron Giesselmann runs a first class operation. Each month after the board meeting we would have lunch at one of the cottages. What fine facilities with employees that are strong role models for the residents. If you have never been to the home I would encourage each of you to consider attending the 4-H Achievement Day. We had such a great time seeing the residents show their livestock and more importantly show the maturity it takes to be responsible for another living thing. The Children's Home truly provides a great opportunity for the children that reside there.

As Grand Master I had the honor of serving on the Nebraska Masonic Home Board in Plattsmouth during my term in office. I can assure you it is well organized and well run. Diane and I attended the Caring Club Dinner this fall and what a treat it was to see many familiar faces supporting this fine Masonic Institution. The building project they have undertaken to expand their dining area is much needed and I can't wait to attend the cornerstone ceremony for this new addition in 2013. I must confess I frequented the Home often this year because one of my Lodge brothers, Gene Geise, is a resident. He is happy and healthy and well taken care of. We can all be very proud of our Masonic Home. Every Mason should remember that should the need arise he is eligible for admission into the home as well as his female relatives.

Both of the Homes provide exceptional care for their residents and truly represent that which we as Masons obligate ourselves to, which is to care for our distressed Brothers, their widows and orphans. We as Masons should take great pride in the work of the Masonic Eastern Star home for Children in Fremont and the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth and we must continue to support them as we are able.

**GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

I am happy to report that the new committee structure that was passed during M.:W.:B.: Reg Kuhn's year appears to be functioning well. There are still some committees that need some refinement however, I am confident that the current structure has the potential to be successful if populated with the appropriate brothers. Thank you to each of the committee members for your hard work and dedication to Nebraska Masonry.

**SWISHER LODGE U.D.**

Last year M.:W.:B.: Bruce Baker, at the request of W.:B.: Patrick Barger, granted dispensation for the formation of Swisher Lodge U.D. The Nebraska "Swisher Kit" was sent to Kabul, Afghanistan and Swisher Lodge U.D. was authorized to work under dispensation signed on December 1, 2011. W.:B.: Barger, Personal Representative of the Grand Master, served our country and fraternity in Afghanistan. Additionally, W.:B.: Patrick Barger served as Worshipful Master of the Swisher Lodge along with W.:B.: Ritchie Inns, a member of Cotner Lodge No. 297, as Senior Warden, and Bro. Hershel Talley, a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, as Junior Warden. I authorized the continuation of this lodge under dispensation until such time as W.:B.: Barger returned to Nebraska. I appointed W.:B.: Barger as a Personal Representative to the Grand Master in 2012. He was stationed in Afghanistan at the time of our installation of officers. However, we dialed up some technology and had Nebraska's first "virtual" installation via Skype with his wife Diane accepting his apron at the altar in his stead. Patrick, thank you for your service and thank you to all those who serve in our armed forces and keep us free.

### **CHANGE FOR THE TROOPS**

The Change for the Troops program, initiated by M.:W.: John Parsons in 2010 and continued by M.:W.: Baker last year, has been an outstanding success. The initial use for the funds was to provide phone cards to every service member from Nebraska, active duty, National Guard, or Reserve, that deployed overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan. Thanks to the generous contributions of Masons all across the state, this goal was met. Now, with troops returning to the US, the need for phone cards has diminished, but the need to support our troops has not. Consequently, we are currently exploring other areas for the use of these funds, such as providing transportation and housing for wounded returning veterans. The Change for the Troops Committee is busily engaged in this endeavor, and you can read their report in this year's proceedings. Thanks again for your heartwarming generosity for our troops.

### **GRAND MASTERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

It gives me great pleasure to present two Grand Master's Humanitarian Awards at this Annual Communication. The nominations of both W.:B.: Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr. of Omaha and W.:B.: Jay H. Speck of Plattsmouth indicated that their lives of service to their lodges, appendant bodies, professions and communities rendered them deserving of this honor. Both awards will be presented at the Grand Master's banquet on Thursday evening. I encourage lodges to nominate worthy brothers for this award as it is an excellent way to honor members of your lodge within the context of a community celebration.

### **300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FREEMASONRY IN 2017**

This year I asked my Grand Historian, W.:B.: Chris Carter to put together a program to celebrate Freemasonry that we could share with the Craft. What he and his committee came up with was brilliant and thanks to his efforts we will have a five-year countdown to the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Freemasonry in 2017. This year we have W.:B.: Piers Vaughn discussing at Grand Lodge how the various charters came across the Atlantic to the United States. Each year we will focus on how Masonry moved across the United States finally reaching Nebraska in the formation of a Grand Lodge in 1857. It is a bit like tracing our Masonic genealogy. I include now a summary of Chris' vision for the next five years and publicly proclaim my thanks to him and his team in putting this event together.

- 2013: Presentation from W.:B.: Piers Vaughan – Masonry: England to USA, 1717
- 2014: Celebrating the births of the Grand Lodges of Virginia (1778) and North Carolina (1787).
- 2015: Celebrating the births of the Grand Lodges of Kentucky (1800) and Tennessee (1813).
- 2016: Celebrating the births of the Grand Lodges of Illinois (1840), Iowa (1844) and Missouri (1821).
- 2017: Celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moderns Grand Lodge of England and the arrival of Masonry to Nebraska. Tentative plans include a presentation about Nebraska Masonic History; information about the roles Masons played in the development of the state of Nebraska; historical snapshots of Nebraska Lodge Histories. Join us at the 2017 Annual Communication to learn about the Masonic, historical, political and economic climate that existed from the time we were a territory through "where we are" today.

### **LININGER COLLECTION ON LOAN TO GRAND LODGE OF IOWA**

In my many travels this year I had the opportunity to visit the Grand Lodge of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. What an impressive edifice and tribute to our Iowa Masons to the east. If you have never visited the library and museum located in the Iowa Grand Loge consider making the trip. I did and found a little Masonic family history while I was there. You see the Grand Lodge of Iowa has the only copy of the Proceeding of the Grand Lodge of England from the 1700, which shows how and when the original charters came across the Atlantic to Colonial America. We will have that copy on display at out Grand Lodge Annual Communication this year as part of the countdown to the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Freemasonry. In exchange for the use of this important document I have authorized the loan of twelve medieval replica battle spears that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska owns and was part of the George Lininger Collection which was left to the Grand Lodge when he died. We had no place to properly display the weapons and it made sense to let our neighbors to the east display the spears. Morrill Hall in Lincoln provides a glimpse of the George Lininger Collection. Several knives, shields and firearms are displayed in a battle weaponry display on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the museum. Go check it out you will be impressed.

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICE BUILDING**

The dry weather we had this past summer caused a great deal of damage to agriculture in Nebraska but it also caused some significant damage to our Grand Lodge office building. In late summer we discovered the foundation was sinking and made arrangement to have it fixed. Unfortunately, we were not able to garner the required permission to fix the problem from the outside and had to fix the problem from the inside of the building. This required cutting through the concrete floor and digging a six foot hole in each of 12 holes to install supports that went to bedrock 60 feet below the surface. The building is repaired for now, but it became clear to us that, long term, we probably needed to find a new home. Accordingly, I tasked R.:W.:B.: Tom Hauder, Deputy Grand Master, to begin the search for a new Grand Lodge office building. I am happy to report that Tom did find a suitable building that could house the Grand Lodge office as well as provide a larger library and museum. We purchased the 6,700 square foot building for \$517,000 located at 301 N. Cotner Street in Lincoln and closed on December 17, 2012. There are some minor improvements which need to be made before we can move into the building but it should be ready sometime in the late winter, early spring 2013 for occupancy. I invite all of you to attend the cornerstone laying ceremony for that event which will be published in the Nebraska Mason and sent to lodges via e-mail as the date becomes solid. My thanks to the Grand Lodge Officers for supporting me in this decision to purchase the building and special thanks to R.:W.:B.: Tom Hauder and Michelle Fulmer for taking care of all details relating to the purchase.

### **MSA DISASTER RELIEF**

After receiving a request from the Masonic Service Association for Superstorm Sandy relief in New York and New Jersey, I authorized a Masonic relief payment of \$4,000 to be split equally between the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey to assist distressed brothers and their families in the wake of this natural disaster.

### **VISITATIONS**

#### **February**

- 10 Demolay Sweetheart Dance, Omaha Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 11 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Chili Feed, Fremont
- 12 Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn

- 18-22 Conference of Grand Masters, Atlanta, GA
- 24 Tangier Shrine Circus, Omaha, NE
- 26 Fillmore County Hospital Cornerstone, Geneva
- 27 Shiloh Lodge No. 327/Omaha Lodge No. 288 Building Committee Meeting, Omaha

**March**

- 6 Omaha Lodge No. 288, Dinner and Lodge Meeting, Omaha
- 6 Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Dinner and Lodge Meeting, Elkhorn
- 8 EA School of Instruction, Liberty Lodge No. 300, Lincoln
- 10 Masters and Wardens Meeting, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 10 Sat-ra Temple Daughters of the Nile Installation, Tangier Shrine, Omaha
- 13 Shrine Bowl Meeting, Scottish Rite, Lincoln
- 14 Masonic-Eastern Star Children's Home Meeting, Fremont
- 14 EA School of Instruction, Covert Lodge, Omaha
- 15-17 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Kansas
- 15 School of Instruction, Lincoln
- 17 Sonny Eatmon Traveling Gavel Presentation, Wahoo Lodge No. 59, Wahoo
- 18 Sesostris Shrine Circus, Lincoln
- 19 FC/MM 1st Section School of Instruction, Cotner Lodge No. 297, Lincoln
- 20 FC/MM 1st Section School of Instruction, John Mercer Lodge No. 290, Omaha
- 20 School of Instruction, Omaha
- 24 Scottish Rite Conference, St. Louis, MO
- 26 Masonic Education Symposium, Papillion Lodge No. 39, Papillion
- 27 MM 2nd Section School of Instruction, Papillion Lodge No. 39, Papillion
- 31 All Committee Meeting, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Fremont
- 31 Tangier Potentate's Ball, LaVista

**April**

- 1 Elkhorn-Waterloo Rainbow Assembly #38 Initiation, Elkhorn
- 3 Patrick Barger Reception return from Afghanistan, Lincoln
- 3 Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Business Meeting, Elkhorn
- 7 One-day Conferral, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 10 The Nebraska Masonic Home Meeting, Plattsmouth
- 10 Springfield Lodge No. 112, Springfield
- 10 Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
- 11 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Board Meeting, Fremont
- 12 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Minnesota
- 13 Grand York Rite, Columbus
- 15 Daughters of the Nile Installation, Lincoln
- 16 Victory Lodge No. 310 Entered Apprentice Degree, Valley
- 17 George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 Table Lodge, Omaha
- 19 Scottish Rite 8th Degree, Omaha
- 22 Scottish Rite, Lincoln
- 25-27 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of South Carolina
- 28 Sesostris Potentate's Ball, Lincoln

**May**

- 1 Omaha Lodge No. 288, Omaha
- 3 Grand Lodge Offices Meeting, Lincoln
- 5 York Rite Installations, Omaha
- 5 Omadi Lodge No. 5 70-year pin presentation, South Sioux City
- 8 Grand Chapter OES, Lincoln
- 10 Tangier Shrine Meeting, Omaha

- 11 Grand Lodge Officer Advancing Line Meeting, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 12 York Rite Soup Supper, John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290, Omaha
- 15 Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Fellow Craft Degree, Elkhorn
- 16 Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Fireworks Stand, Elkhorn
- 17 Luna Chapter No. 169, Elkhorn
- 18 Lancaster Lodge No. 54 pin presentations, Lincoln
- 19 Deputy Grand Custodian School of Instruction, Kearney
- 19 Ashlar Lodge No. 33 Year Pin Presentation, Grand Island
- 20 Elkhorn-Waterloo Rainbow Assembly #38 Installation, Elkhorn
- 22 Grand Lodge Office, Lincoln
- 22 Washington Lodge No. 21 Year Pin Presentation, Blair
- 23 Papillion Gun Club, Papillion
- 26 Grand Lodge/Grand Chapter OES Reception, Louisville
- 29 Shrine Hospital Trip, St. Louis, MO
- 30 Funeral for M.: W.: Warren D. Lichty, Lincoln

**June**

- 1 Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp, Lincoln
- 2 Shrine Bowl Parade, Lincoln
- 5 Omaha Lodge No. 288, Omaha
- 6 Visit Library at Grand Lodge of Iowa
- 7 Bee Hive Lodge No. 184, Omaha
- 8 Shrine Soccer Classic Dinner, Hastings
- 9 Shrine Soccer Classic Game, Hastings
- 9 Rainbow Grand Assembly, Crete
- 12 DeMolay Meeting, Omaha
- 13 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Board Meeting, Fremont
- 13 The Nebraska Masonic Home Board Meeting, Plattsmouth
- 13 Grand Lodge Office, Lincoln
- 14-15 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of South Dakota
- 23 Public Library Cornerstone, North Bend
- 23 Scottish Rite Friendship Dinner, Omaha
- 28 Job's Daughters Grand Bethel, North Platte

**July**

- 2-4 Imperial Shrine, Charlotte, NC
- 14 Lincoln Elementary School Cornerstone, Gering
- 19 Gold Jordan Medal Presentation, Lincoln
- 19 Rocky Mountain Conference, Colorado Springs, CO
- 21 DeMolay Conclave, Grand Island
- 28 Groundbreaking Re-enactment Celebration, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 31 Portrait Presentation to John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290, Omaha

**August**

- 3 Grand Lodge Officers Retreat, Lincoln
- 8 Custer Lodge No. 148 Entered Apprentice Degree, Broken Bow
- 12 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children 4-H Achievement Day, Fremont
- 12 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Wyoming
- 17 Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges, Madison, WI
- 17 Mid Plains Community College Cornerstone, McCook
- 17 Mid Plains Community College Cornerstone, North Platte
- 25 Membership Retention Meeting, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 26 Elkhorn-Waterloo Rainbow Assembly #38 Initiation, Elkhorn

**September**

- 4 Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
- 5 Bellevue Lodge No. 325 Awards Dinner, Bellevue
- 7 Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln
- 8 Masonic Charities Golf Tournament, North Bend
- 11 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Board Meeting, Fremont
- 15 Masters and Wardens, Shiloh Lodge No. 327, Omaha
- 16 The Nebraska Masonic Home Caring Club, Plattsmouth
- 20 Liberty Lodge No. 300 Awards Dinner, Lincoln
- 20 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Iowa
- 23 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Missouri
- 26 Shiloh Lodge No. 327 Awards Dinner, Omaha
- 27 Northeast Nebraska Masons, Walthill

**October**

- 1 Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 Awards Night, Plattsmouth
- 2 Area Meeting, Ogalalla
- 3 Area Meeting, Hastings
- 6 One-day Conferral, Scottish Rite, Omaha
- 6 Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen Visit, Omaha
- 9 Area Meeting, South Sioux City
- 9 The Nebraska Masonic Home Board Meeting, Plattsmouth
- 10 Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Board Meeting, Fremont
- 10 Grand Lodge Office, Lincoln
- 10 Area Meeting, Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha
- 11 Tangier Shrine Meeting, Omaha
- 12 Prince Hall Joint Dinner, Omaha
- 13 Custer Lodge No. 148, Broken Bow
- 13 Tehama Potentate's Ball, Hastings
- 14 Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 Awards Night, North Platte
- 15 Scottish Rite Meeting, Omaha
- 16 Apron Presentation by the Grand Lodge of New York St. John's Lodge No. 1 in  
New York, NY
- 20 York Rite Degrees, Papillion
- 21 Elkhorn-Waterloo Rainbow Assembly #38 Installation, Elkhorn
- 23 Area Meeting, George Washington Lodge No. 250, Lincoln
- 24 Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Fellow Craft Degree, Elkhorn
- 28 Fremont Lodge No. 15 Widows Dinner, Fremont
- 29 Grand Lodge Office, Lincoln
- 30 Masonic Education Symposium, Papillion

**November**

- 2 Inspect new Grand Lodge Office Building, Lincoln
- 4 York Rite Brunch, Omaha Country Club, Omaha
- 6 George W. Lininger No. 268, Omaha
- 7 Prince Hall Visitation, Omaha
- 8 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Oklahoma
- 11 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Nevada
- 15 Methodist Church Cornerstone, York
- 15 Hiram Lodge No. 52, Arlington
- 17 Scottish Rite Cathedral 100-year Rededication, Omaha Valley Scottish Rite
- 20 Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
- 21 Atkinson Lodge No. 164, Atkinson

**December**

- 1 Masters and Wardens, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
- 2 Luna Chapter No. 169 Meeting, Elkhorn
- 4 Past Masters Dinner, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
- 5 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Texas
- 11 Papillion Lodge No. 39, Papillion
- 12 Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Entered Apprentice Degree, Elkhorn
- 13 Tangier Shrine Meeting and Election, Omaha

**January**

- 8 The Nebraska Masonic Home Meeting, Plattsmouth
- 9 Masonic-Eastern Star Children's Home Meeting
- 9 Waterloo Lodge No. 102
- 12 Lincoln Scottish Rite Installation
- 13 Waterloo No. 102 Lodge Installation
- 13 Omadi Lodge Reception, Sioux City, IA
- 15 Lininger Lodge No. 268 Installation, Omaha
- 15 John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290 Installation, Omaha
- 16 Prince Hall Dinner with Grand Lodge Officers, Omaha
- 17 Grand Lodge Office visit
- 17 Luna Chapter No. 169 OES Meeting
- 22 Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Bible Presentation
- 24-25 Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Colorado
- 27 Luna Chapter Installation OES
- 30-31 Annual Communication, Kearney, NE

**February**

- 1-2 Annual Communication, Kearney, NE

**NECROLOGY**

As of this date, it has been reported that 333 of the Brethren in our subordinate lodges went to their eternal home in 2012. Our Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain Donald Rife will conduct a memorial service during our Annual Communication which will pay fitting tribute to these brethren.

**CORNERSTONES**

One of the exciting programs in Nebraska, which provides great public exposure for Masonry, is the tradition of setting cornerstones for qualifying buildings. I am pleased to report the following five Cornerstone ceremonies were held:

**Geneva** – February 26 – Fillmore County Hospital

Host Lodge: Geneva Lodge No. 79

Master: Daniel G. Aspegren

**North Bend** – June 23 – North Bend Public Library

Host Lodge: North Bend Lodge No. 119

Master: Todd E. Zietlow

**Gering** – July 14 – Lincoln Elementary School

Host Lodge: Scotts Bluff Lodge No. 201

Master: Edwin L. Mayo

**McCook** – August 22 – Mid Plains Community College Campus Events Center

Host Lodge: McCook Lodge No. 135

Master: D. Gregory Fyn

**North Platte** – August 22 – Mid Plains Community College Campus Health and Science Center  
 Host Lodge: Platte Valley Lodge No. 32  
 Master: James E. Conner  
**York** – November 15 – Methodist Church  
 Host Lodge: York Lodge No. 56  
 Master: Kevin E. Leapley  
**Omaha** – November 17 – Cornerstone Reenactment, Omaha Valley Scottish Rite  
 Host Lodge: George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268  
 Master: Douglas L. Lewis

### GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Recommendation No. 1

Amend the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska by adding a new **Section 2-808 – MANDATORY PUBLIC RECORDS CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK** to the end of **CHAPTER VIII – TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**; amend **Section 3-911 – PAYMENT AFTER THREE YEARS**; and amend **Section 2-408 – PLURAL MEMBERSHIP** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such sections, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken:

**Sec. 2-808 – MANDATORY PUBLIC RECORDS CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK**  
*– A criminal history check, consisting of a local county and national criminal history check of public records, will be obtained for all petitioners seeking to receive the degrees of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, as well as those members submitting an application for reinstatement after suspension for non-payment of dues or an application for affiliation from a parent lodge outside of this Grand Jurisdiction. The public records criminal history check will be obtained by the Grand Lodge office, and the results thereof will be furnished to the Investigating Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master of the subordinate lodge receiving the petition for their consideration. Annually, the Grand Master will determine the online public records criminal history check provider that will be utilized for his term in office, and will notify the subordinate lodges of the name of the provider and the costs associated with generating the reports. The cost of such public records criminal history check shall be payable by the petitioner in an amount equal to the cost charged by the online public records criminal history check provider utilized for the report, rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The form of the Petition to receive the degrees of Masonry and the Petition for Reinstatement shall advise petitioners that a public records criminal history check will be conducted, and that their signature on the petition will constitute consent to such check and charge for the same.*

**Sec. 3-911 – PAYMENT AFTER THREE YEARS** – If the dues for which a brother shall have been suspended shall not be paid or remitted within three years from date of suspension, reinstatement shall not be had except upon favorable secret written ballot of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting of the subordinate lodge and approval by the Grand Master. Each application for such reinstatement shall be accompanied by the dues for the year for which suspended and the dues for the current year, *and the fee associated with the mandatory public records criminal history check referenced in Section 2-808.* It shall be the duty of the lodge in which such applicant shall have been suspended, to carefully inquire into and ascertain all the facts in connection with such application and submit the same to the Grand Master with such application, so that as far as possible he may arrive at a full understanding whether such applicant will probably become a charge on the Fraternity.

**Sec. 2-408 – PLURAL MEMBERSHIP –**

Second Paragraph:

The petition for affiliation as a plural member in a subordinate lodge must state the name, age, and residence of the applicant, and the name and number and location of the parent lodge of which said petitioner is a member; petition must be signed by the petitioner and be recommended by two Master Masons, members of the lodge to which the petition is addressed, and shall be governed by the same procedure relating to regular petitions for affiliation. *A petitioner who presents with his petition a Certificate of Good Standing from a parent lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction authorized by law shall be subject to the mandatory public records criminal history check and fees associated therewith referenced in Section 2-808.*

***If Recommendation No. 1 passes, the following Sections must also be amended in the following ways to change references to the petition process.***

Amend the **Section 2-907 – REJECTED PETITIONER** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken:

**Sec. 2-907 – REJECTED PETITIONER** – A rejected petitioner for initiation, advancement or admission, must petition anew, and the petition must be referred, balloted upon, and in all things take the course of an original petition. If the petition is refused consideration by the lodge, the petitioner shall be reported as rejected. Notice of such rejection shall be communicated to the petitioner by the Secretary and *the initiation fee* ~~any fees~~ accompanying such petition shall be returned to the petitioner with such communication. *The mandatory public records criminal history check fee shall not be refunded.*

Amend the **Section 2-911 – LAPSED ELECTION** by adding certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized:

**Sec. 2-911 – LAPSED ELECTION** – One who is not initiated within one year after his election must present a new petition which must follow the same course as an original petition, *with an exception to the mandatory public records criminal history check outlined in Section 2-808.* In no case shall a petitioner be required to pay the same fee more than once.

Amend the **Section 2-913 – ALTERNATE PETITION AND ELECTION PROCESS** by adding certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language:

**Sec. 2-913 – ALTERNATE PETITION AND ELECTION PROCESS** – As an alternative to Section 2-903, any three (3) Master Masons, members of the subordinate lodge seeking to exercise the procedures of the Section 2-913, may propose a candidate for initiation by presenting a Recommendation of a Candidate for the Degrees of Masonry signed by all three of said proposers, whose signatures shall be attested by the secretary of the lodge, which form of recommendation shall be in the form provided by the Grand Secretary and which form of recommendation must have attached thereto the regular petition form then in use in the Jurisdiction of Nebraska and available from the Grand Lodge Office, provided however, that the petition shall be in draft form and shall not be signed by the proposed candidate and may otherwise be incomplete. The three proposers shall constitute the investigating committee and the Master shall make declaration of their appointment. At the stated meeting of the subordinate lodge next following the proposal of the candidate, the petition will be balloted on, with a favorable

vote being subject to subsequent completion of the petition by the proposed candidate, *including mandatory public records criminal history check outlined in Section 2-808, along with* satisfactory answers to the questions posed on the petition including, but not limited to a belief in a Supreme Being, and questions as to health, financial responsibility, not having been rejected in another lodge within the time period set out in the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge, and the completed petition must be signed by the candidate and applicable fees paid prior to his presenting himself for initiation. After election, the Master shall direct one or more or the three proposers to inform the proposed candidate that he has been proposed, has been elected, and is invited to present himself for initiation upon completion of and signing of the form of petition. *The petition must be signed and a mandatory public records criminal history check referenced in Section 2-808 completed.* The petition must be completed, signed and returned to the secretary of the lodge within 60 days of the election of the candidate and such return date shall be certified by the lodge secretary. In the event such petition is not completed and returned within such 60 day period, such draft petition shall be null and void and such finding shall be declared by the Master and an entry as to such action recorded in the records of the lodge. In the event of an unfavorable vote, as the candidate did not make the initial application, he will have no knowledge of such rejection and accordingly such proposed candidate would not be subject to a three year hold as being the material of the lodge as set out in Section 2-906; he would not be notified in any form whatsoever of the proposal of a draft petition nor the rejection as provided by Section 2-907; and, he would not be subject to any time limit as set out in Section 2-908 for submission of a petition under his own initiative, but no re-proposal under the provisions of this Section 2-913 by any three members of the subject subordinate lodge may be made until the expiration of not less than six (6) months from the time of the initial unfavorable ballot.

**Recommendation No. 2**

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**, by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.00, 2015 - \$30.00, 2016 - \$31.00. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, ~~2006~~, *2014*, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of ~~\$1.00~~ *\$1.50* per member to support the CHild Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

**Recommendation No. 3**

Amend **Section 1-404 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 1 404 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS** – Commencing January 1, ~~2012~~, 2014, the per capita tax shall be divided as follows:

To the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children	\$ 1.00	
To the George Washington Masonic Memorial	<del>1.00</del>	1.50
To the Nebraska Masonic Home	2.50	
To the Masonic Education Newsletter	.50	
To the General Fund		
January 2012	22.00	
January 2013	23.00	
January 2014	24.00	
January 2015	25.00	
January 2016	26.00	

The Initiation Fee shall be allocated to the General Fund.

***If Recommendation No. 3 passes, the following Section must also be amended in the following ways to change references to the allocation of funds and to maintain consistency within the Bylaws.***

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS** by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language struck out:

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - ~~\$29.00~~ \$29.50, 2015 - ~~\$30.00~~ \$30.50, 2016 - ~~\$31.00~~ \$31.50. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, 2006, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of \$1.00 per member to support the CHild Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

**Recommendation No. 4**

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – PER CAPTITA TAX** – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

**Sec. 2-601 – PER CAPITA TAX –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.00, 2015 - \$30.00, 2016 - \$31.00. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, ~~2006~~ 2014, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.50 per member, *said assessment to be distributed as follows: \$1.00 to support the CHild Identification Program, \$.50 to support Nebraska Job's Daughters, \$.50 to support the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Nebraska, and \$.50 to support Nebraska DeMolay.* Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

**Recommendation No. 5**

Amend **Section 2-402 – PROFICIENCY** – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

**Sec. 2-402 – PROFICIENCY** – All those hereinafter initiated, passed, and raised, shall become proficient in each degree, and shall give proof thereof by examination in open lodge. Such examination shall consist of:

1. Completion of a study of the Standard Proficiency Manual following each degree received.

2. Verification by the Worshipful Master that the candidate has expressed knowledge of the material in the manual by answering, in his own words, the questions listed for the degree in which he is being examined.

3. Successful completion by the candidate of an examination in open lodge, consisting of *reciting the Master Mason's obligation, and of* answering questions from the First Section Lectures of the degrees as follows:

E.A. Degree – Starting with the words, “Give me a sign” and ending with giving of the “word.”

F.C. Degree – Starting with the words, “Have you any signs ...” and continuing to the end of the lecture.

M.M. Degree – Starting with the words, “Have you any signs...” and continuing to the end of the lecture.

No other Proficiency Examination shall be recognized in this Grand Jurisdiction. After such examination, the Master may declare the brother proficient. Such declaration and the recording of the proficiency of the brother shall be made in the degree in which the examination is made, providing no objection is raised; if objection is made and it becomes necessary to put the question to a vote the ballot shall be determined in a lodge of Master Masons. Whereupon the Master shall put the question; “The candidate has satisfactorily answered the questions in the Standard Proficiency Manual and has

completed the required examination in open lodge; is the brother proficient?" and this question shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

When a candidate for advancement fails to pass a satisfactory examination, the Master may direct him to become proficient and again present himself for examination.

Examination of all those hereinafter raised to the degree of Master Mason shall be had not later than ninety days following the conferring of said degree, but the lodge may for good cause shown extend the time, but not for more than six months after the degree is conferred; provided, that the Grand Master may extend the time for good cause shown. When a Master Mason has complied with the provisions of this section, a diploma shall be issued by the subordinate lodge of which he is a member, on the form prescribed by Grand Lodge.

An unaffiliated Master Mason in good standing in the Fraternity is entitled to be instructed and examined in any lodge as to his proficiency in the degree of a Master Mason, and upon being found proficient, this fact should be certified to the lodge electing him to membership.

When a candidate is initiated, passed and raised in a single day, he shall return to the Lodge with which his petition was filed and prove to the Master that he has *memorized the Master Mason's obligation and shall give proof thereof by examination in open lodge, and prove to the Master that he has* completed all the questions in the Standard Proficiency Manuals within the time period allowed in this section, before he may receive his diploma as prescribed above.

#### **LODGE BYLAW AMENDMENTS APPROVED**

The following amendments to lodge bylaws were approved during the past year:

On February 17, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Scribner Lodge No. 132 in Scribner to change the time of the regular communication.

On February 17, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Olive Branch Lodge No. 274 in Walthill to increase the annual dues.

On March 7, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Fairbury Lodge No. 35 in Fairbury to change the date of the regular communication.

On March 7, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Tabula Rasa Lodge No. 332 in Lincoln to decrease the annual dues and to remove Article VII, Section 5 with regard to the annual dining and social fee.

On March 12, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of McCook Lodge No. 135 in McCook to add language with regard to the Grand Lodge assessments to include them in the annual dues paid by members.

On April 16, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte to make the provisions regarding automatic suspension of dues consistent with that of the Grand Lodge Bylaws.

On April 16, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte to add language with regard to the Grand Lodge assessments to include them in the annual dues paid by members.

On April 16, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Oliver Lodge No. 38 in Seward to change the time of the regular communication.

On April 16, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Plainview Lodge No. 204 in Plainview to add language with regard to appointment a Treasurer pro-tem and which officers may sign disbursement orders on the lodge.

On May 2, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Covert Lodge No. 11 in Omaha to change the day of the regular communication and the day of the communication should the regular communication fall on a holiday.

On May 22, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Jachin Lodge No. 146 in Holdrege to change the time of the regular communication.

On May 22, 2012, I approved an amendment of the bylaws of Cement Lodge No. 211 in Wood River to increase the annual dues.

On June 13, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Wausa Lodge No. 251 in Wausa to change the time of the regular communication.

On July 19, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Peru Lodge No. 14 in Peru to change the time of the regular communication.

On September 5, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to increase the amount that may be appropriated by the Board without Lodge approval from \$100 to \$1000, and to require the need for a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the Lodge for any amount over \$1,000.

On September 5, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to increase the annual dues by adding language regarding a dues amount plus Grand Lodge per capita and assessments.

On September 5, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to increase the degree fees.

On September 5, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to increase the amount that may be appropriated by the committee on charity without Lodge approval from \$100 to \$1000.

On September 5, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to change language with regard to the minimum balance that must be maintained in the invested securities and to increase the minimum balance to be kept in the farm account.

On September 13, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 in Omaha to increase the annual dues and to add language with regard to the automatic date of suspension for non-payment of dues.

On September 20, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Covert Lodge No. 11 in Omaha to add a new section stating that if the amount of annual dues shall be a fraction of a whole dollar, it shall be rounded up to the next whole dollar.

On September 20, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Papillion Lodge No. 39 in Papillion to increase the degree fees.

On October 10, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Mosaic Lodge No. 55 in Norfolk to increase the annual dues.

On October 10, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Mizpah Lodge No. 302 in Omaha to increase the annual dues beginning in 2013 and by an amount of \$10 each subsequent year through 2016.

On October 29, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn to increase the annual dues and to add language with regard to the automatic date of suspension for non-payment of dues.

On October 29, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Liberty Lodge No. 300 in Lincoln to increase the annual dues.

On October 29, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Hooper Lodge No. 72 in Hooper to increase the annual dues to an amount plus the Grand Lodge per capita.

On October 29, 2012, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Wayne Lodge No. 120 in Wayne to change the time of the regular communication, to increase the amount of the Initiation fee, and to increase their annual dues.

On January 16, 2013, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Fairbury Lodge No. 35 in Fairbury to increase the annual dues.

On January 16, 2013, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 in Omaha to add a non-refundable fee payable by candidates for a public records criminal history check in the amount of \$20 to accompany the degree fees.

On January 28, 2013, I approved an amendment to the bylaws of Landmark Lodge No. 222 in Herman to increase the annual dues and to change language with regard to the automatic date of suspension for non-payment of dues.

### **LODGE CONSOLIDATIONS**

As I traveled the state this year I had the opportunity to see many active and thriving lodges and many that were distressed. Unfortunately we cannot change the population shift from rural to urban areas and I suspect we will see more regional type lodges in the future like we have with the Northeast Nebraska Masons. At one point in time we had over 300 lodges in Nebraska. At the beginning of 2012, we had approximately 141 active lodges on the books, 141 lodges that had consolidated and 48 lodges that had gone extinct. To have the privilege of a charter in your lodge is an awesome responsibility. To keep that privilege a lodge must be relevant in its community. It can be as simple as sponsoring a band scholarship, an annual chili feed, providing flowers for widows or a blood drive. But whatever it is you need a reason to keep on coming back to the lodge in your community.

I approved the following consolidations:

Wymore Lodge No. 104, Wymore, merged with Beatrice Lodge No. 26, Beatrice, effective February 20, 2012.

Nelson Lodge No. 77, Nelson, merged with Superior Lodge No. 121, Superior, effective April 27, 2012.

Ord Lodge No. 103, Ord, merged with Blazing Star Lodge No. 200, Burwell, effective November 2, 2012

In March, a check was received from Euclid Lodge No. 97 in Weeping Water in the amount of \$20,000. The check represented one-half of the proceeds of the sale of the building of Canopy Lodge No. 209 in Elmwood, which merged with Euclid Lodge in 2011. In 1996 Canopy Lodge No. 209 received funds from the Relief Fund to fix damages to the lodge hall sustained during a fire. The lodge thought it proper to allocate half of the sale of the property to repay the contribution. The funds were returned to the Grand Lodge Relief Fund.

### **ONE-DAY DEGREES**

It became clear to the Grand Lodge in mid-summer that our procedure for our one-day degrees needed refining. Springfield Lodge did not apply for a timely dispensation when they sponsored a one-day conferral in July 2012. Sixteen new masons were made at that event and I did not think it appropriate to back-date a dispensation. I consulted with Jurisprudence and elected to heal the breach by resolution which is re-printed below. However, prior to signing the resolution, I authorized a public records criminal history check on each of the sixteen brothers who were in that class. Five of the new Masons had

criminal histories and two were felons. This event, although unfortunate, caused us to re-think how we were doing one-day conferrals.

I tasked R.:W.:B.: Hauder with evaluating the data surrounding degree conferrals using the one-day method and the traditional way method. What we discovered was alarming. We started one-day degrees in 1995 as an innovative way to recruit more members. However, the data collected over a seventeen-year period showed that we had a nearly forty percent suspension for non-payment of dues rate for those brothers raised in a one-day degree. It is around 30 percent for those raised the traditional way. Both of those numbers are unacceptable and to not address them would be negligence on my part as the chief executive of the Craft in 2012. Accordingly, the Grand Lodge advancing line met on August 25, 2012 at the Omaha Scottish Rite and received input from the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine and the one-day coordinators. Out of that came new guidelines for the conferral of one-day conferrals which restricted the total number of one-days and mandated a public records criminal history check on those petitioners who chose to go through the one-day conferral. The remainder of the guidelines is presented below, but suffice it to say we have a multi-pronged problem with retention and making sure we have petitioners who are worthy and well qualified. Masonry is not for everyone. We take good men and make them better. We are not a religion. If a man needs saved, we send him to his church. We are not the custodians of his religious convictions. But we are best able to make a recommendation of a petitioner based on the guidelines in our work. The answers for qualifications are there, we just need to stand to and abide by those recommendations.

This analysis of the available data has shown that we need to do a little better job of getting the right man where we know Masonry will be a good fit. This is accomplished by a thorough interview by the investigating committee. All too often that is not done because we are desperate for new members. We think, as it relates to one-day degrees, that the public records criminal history check is a tool that the investigating committee can use to probe a little deeper, rather than just being satisfied that a man has a pulse and money to pay the initiation fee. We think that limiting the number of one-day degrees will provide more opportunities for our subordinate lodges to perform the work and preserve our ritual. There was a time less than twenty years ago where every brother who was initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason was able to participate in the work. He had to know the answers and obligations to each degree and he didn't know it at the time but was eligible to assist in the work. We don't have that luxury anymore and need to keep as much work in the subordinate lodges as possible if we have any chance of preserving our ritual for future generations.

**APPROVAL OF ONE-DAY CONFERRALS**

As provided by Section 2-1202, I approved the requests of the following lodges to confer the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees on more than one candidate at a time on the indicated date. Same lodges were allowed to accept and agree to requests for courtesy degrees for the approved multiple candidate conferrals from other lodges in their area.

<b>Date of Conferral</b>	<b>Host Lodge</b>	<b>Location of Conferral</b>	<b>No. of Candidates</b>
January 28, 2012	Papillion Lodge No. 39	Omaha	17
April 7, 2012	Geo. W. Lininger Lodge No. 268	Omaha	11
May 12, 2012	Omadi Lodge No. 5	Sioux City, Iowa	9
August 4, 2012	Ashlar Lodge No. 33	Hastings	18
September 8, 2012	Bellevue Lodge No. 325	Bellevue	2



WHEREAS, Springfield Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: No. 112 did not request special dispensation to confer the one-day on more than five candidates, and did work unlawfully without the permission of the Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, Springfield Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: No. 112 did not request special dispensation from the Grand Master to move their charter to the Omaha Scottish Rite Building to conduct the one-day conferral; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Craft that these sixteen (16) men be made Masons.

NOW THEREFORE I, THE GRAND MASTER OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEBRASKA, DETERMINE THAT the following men given the three degrees of Masonry on July 21, 2012, in a one-day conferral are in good standing and lawful members of the respective lodges: Russell L. Ashley, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Donald Burianek, Blue Valley Lodge No. 64; Mick L. Carlson, Bee Hive Lodge No. 184; Shane L Clapp, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Alex Dohrt, Magnolia Lodge No. 220; Glen T. Donovan, Washington Lodge No. 21; Andrew D. Kroupa, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Joshua E. Kroupa, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Nathan L. Kroupa, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Steven A. Lax, George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268; Aaron T. Mobry, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Paul D. Naumann, Mizpah Lodge No. 302; Kyle G. Niemi, Springfield Lodge No. 112; Kolby R. Smith, Magnolia Lodge No. 220; Michael D. Walsh, Covert Lodge No. 11; and Dakota S. Whiteowl, Springfield Lodge No. 112.

After review of the previous one-day conferral guidelines and requirements, approval was granted for a one-day conferral on October 6, 2012, hosted by Nebraska Lodge No. 1, to be held at the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite, subject to the following new conditions. A total of 5 candidates went through the one-day conferral.

During the conferral of each degree, each candidate will:

- a. Be received in each degree in the prescribed manner;
- b. Be caused to attend prayer and be asked the proper question in the Entered Apprentice Degree;
- c. Receive the obligation in each degree while positioned behind the Altar; and
- d. Receive instruction on the Working Tools, all lectures and the charge of each degree.

In addition, the following conditions will apply:

- a. The number of candidates for any one-day conferral will be limited to not more than fifteen (15);
- b. The number of candidates who may attend the one-day conferral from any one lodge is limited to three (3);
- c. A public records criminal history check will be obtained on each candidate by the Grand Lodge Office, a copy of which will be provided to the investigating committee at the home lodge of the candidate. The fee for such public records criminal history check shall be paid by the candidate. The fee for the public records criminal history check shall be determined annually by the Grand Master and set out on the List of Candidates described in paragraph (d) below;
- d. A minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the degrees, the enclosed List of Candidates form must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Office,

- along with the fee stated thereon to cover the public records criminal history check for all listed candidates;
- e. The top line signer of each candidate's petition or the candidate's assigned mentor must be present at all degree work. Each candidate must have a different top line signer or assigned mentor present at the degrees.
  - f. Each candidate will be instructed using the Standard Proficiency Manual for each degree, and will be required to pass a proficiency examination before proceeding to the next degree;
  - g. Conferral of each degree will be witnessed by a member of the Committee on Work, a Deputy Grand Custodian or a Grand Lodge Officer;
  - h. Each candidate will be instructed that he must sign the Bylaws of his Lodge within thirty days of his conferral;
  - i. Each candidate will be instructed that he must return to his home lodge and prove to the Master that he has completed all of the questions in the Standard Proficiency Manuals within the time period allowed in Section 2-402 of the Grand Lodge Bylaws, and receive his diploma;
  - j. Each candidate will be instructed that he must wait thirty (30) days to apply for membership in any Nebraska Masonic appendant body, and that the requirements of paragraphs (h) and (i) above must be completed prior to any application being made.
  - k. The attached checklist for the roles of the conferral will be completed prior to commencement of the degrees. Said list will be returned to the Grand Lodge Office at least one week prior to the conferral; and
  - l. The secretary of the host lodge will forward to the Grand Lodge Office immediately following the conferral the completed copy of the List of Candidates form with signatures of those who completed the work. Said form shall be certified by the supervising Member of the Committee on Work, Deputy Grand Custodian or Grand Lodge Officer as to the attendance of the first line petition signer for each candidate and completion of the work. The secretary of the host lodge will also notify the secretaries of lodges for whom courtesy work was given of the names of those candidates who completed the work.

#### **PERMISSIONS, DISPENSATIONS AND ORDERS**

The following permissions and dispensations were granted and approved by the Grand Master during the past year:

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Tabula Rasa Lodge No. 332 in Lincoln to install their 2012 Junior Deacon out of time.

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Centennial Lodge No. 326 in Omaha to install their 2012 Treasurer, Chaplain and Senior and Junior Stewards out of time.

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Friendship Lodge No. 239 in Chapman to install their 2012 Master, Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards and Tyler out of time.

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to install their 2012 Senior and Junior Stewards out of time.

On February 14, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Plainview Lodge No. 204 in Plainview to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On February 14, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Florence Lodge No. 281 in Omaha to install their 2012 Junior Deacon, Senior Steward and Tyler out of time.

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Thistle Lodge No. 61 in Lexington to install their 2012 Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards out of time.

On February 8, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit York Lodge No. 56 in York to install their 2012 Junior Warden out of time.

On February 15, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Mid-West Lodge No. 317 in Hastings to install their 2012 Junior Deacon and Junior Steward out of time.

On February 13, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-304, I ruled that dispensation could not be granted to Blue River Lodge No. 30 in Milford to allow them to hold an election to replace the installed Senior Warden who had passed away, and that a Senior Warden pro-tem would need to be appointed for subsequent meetings to fill the vacancy.

On February 17, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-612, I granted permission to Robert W. Furnas Lodge No. 265 in Scottsbluff to obtain a list of members and addresses from select lodges in western Nebraska for the purpose of sending the Panhandle Shrine mailing regarding circus tickets.

On March 5, 2012, I approved a waiver of the per capita payment for a member of Tabula Rasa Lodge No. 332 in Lincoln who was stationed in Afghanistan.

On March 12, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Mosaic Lodge No. 55 in Norfolk to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On March 18, 2012, I approved a waiver of the per capita payment for a member of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte who was stationed in Afghanistan.

On March 28, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Article X, Section 1(c) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge to permit Omaha Lodge No. 288 in Omaha to elect their 2012 officers out of time.

On April 3, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to East Lincoln Lodge No. 210 in Lincoln to move their charter on May 5, 2012 to Wisner Lodge No. 114, for the purpose of conferring a Master Mason's degree on the grandson of a member of Wisner Lodge to allow the grandfather to witness the degree.

On April 20, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Florence Lodge No. 281 in Omaha to move their charter on May 7, 2012 to The Nebraska Masonic Home, for the purpose of holding the regular business meeting at The Home.

On April 25, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Fidelity Lodge No. 51 in David City to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On May 1, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Golden Fleece Lodge No. 205 in Chappell to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On May 1, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Seneca Lodge No. 284 in Theadford to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On May 2, 2012, pursuant to Article X, Section 1(f) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, for good cause shown, I arrested the charter of Omaha Lodge No. 288 in Omaha.

On May 7, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte to move their charter on June 12, 2012 to an outdoor setting at Brother Walter Johnson's ranch, for the purpose of holding the regular communication in an outdoor setting.

On May 14, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Frank Welch Lodge No. 75 in Sidney to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On May 17, 2012, for good cause shown, I approved the healing of the record of a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 in Lincoln who had been suspended for a period of twelve years to restore all good time, if the per capita for all years of suspension were paid to the Grand Lodge.

On May 31, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Geneva Lodge No. 79 in Geneva to move their charter on June 5, 2012 to 2 miles east of Geneva and 1 ½ miles north on the east side of the road on the south side of Turkey Creek, for the purpose of holding an outdoor lodge meeting.

On June 5, 2012, satisfied that troubling matters concerning the lodge had been rectified, I reinstated the charter of Omaha Lodge No. 288 in Omaha.

On June 4, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Florence Lodge No. 281 in Omaha to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On June 4, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 in Omaha to move their charter on June 5, 2012 to The Nebraska Masonic Home, for the purpose of holding the regular business meeting at The Home.

On June 8, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-612, I granted permission to the George Washington Masonic Memorial to obtain a list of Nebraska members and addresses for the purpose of sending the Memorial newsletter "Light."

On July 10, 2012, I ordered the owner of a Facebook page for Friend Lodge No. 73 to cease and desist the posting of, and remove all references to, political and religious views on the page by no later than July 20, 2012, and ordered that failure to comply with the order would result in arresting of the charter for the lodge.

On July 12, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Cotner Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln to move their charter on September 10, 2012 to 17260 Davey Road in Davey, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a pasture lodge.

On August 10, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Capitol Lodge No. 3 in Omaha to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On July 27, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Thistle Lodge No. 61 in Lexington to move their charter on August 14, 2012 to a high hill overlooking the Platte Valley located eight miles south of Lexington, for the purpose of conducting the regular business meeting in an outdoor setting.

On August 10, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Wallace Lodge No. 279 in Wallace to move their charter on August 24, 2012 to a low valley two miles south and two miles east of Wallace, for the purpose of conducting an outdoor lodge meeting.

On July 25, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Wallace Lodge No. 279 in Wallace to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On August 9, 2012, I ordered that the charter of Atkinson Lodge No. 164 in Atkinson was forfeited until the next Annual Communication for being in violation of Section 2-514 by failing to hold monthly meetings; failure to file annual return paperwork and pay the annual return due in 2012 in a timely manner; and failure to submit monthly reports of lodge activity.

On August 15, 2012 pursuant to Section 2-612, I gave permission to the Masters and Wardens Club of Greater Omaha to obtain a list of all Lodge Secretaries for the purpose of sending a letter regarding funding for the annual Christmas parties at The Nebraska Masonic Home and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

On August 16, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Stromsburg Lodge No. 126 in Stromsburg to install their 2013 officers out of time.

On August 20, 2012, I determined that sixteen candidates who were raised at a one-day conferral on July 21, 2012 hosted by Springfield Lodge No. 112 without proper dispensation were prohibited from joining any Nebraska appendant bodies until the issue of dispensation was resolved.

On August 22, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-612, I granted permission to Ashlar Lodge No. 33 to sponsor the annual Robert W. Boon Thanksgiving Memorial Food Truck to benefit The Nebraska Masonic Home, and to send a letter to Nebraska Lodges requesting contributions for the same.

On August 30, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of James L. Eatmon Lodge No. 294 in Kimball to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On August 31, 2012, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Bee Hive Lodge No. 184 in Omaha to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On September 5, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 in Plattsmouth to move their charter on September 20, 2012 to The Nebraska Masonic Home, for the purpose of conferring the Fellow Craft Degree using the 3, 5 & 7 steps on the south side of the building for the Middle Chamber Lecture.

On September 6, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-402, I extended the time for a member of Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney who attended a one-day conferral to be examined in his home lodge to complete his proficiency examination.

On September 14, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Lancaster Lodge No. 54 in Lincoln to move their charter on their last meeting day of the month to Hughes Brothers Cabin near Seward, for the purpose of conferring a Master Mason degree.

On September 17, 2012, I appointed Past Grand Master Bruce Baker to act as my representative in reviewing an officer resignation issue with a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54.

On November 1, 2012, pursuant to Section 2-612, I granted permission to the George Washington Masonic Memorial to obtain a list of Nebraska members and addresses for the purpose of sending the Memorial newsletter "Light."

On November 16, 2012, pursuant to the authority granted by Article X, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, notice was given to the members of Atkinson Lodge No. 164 that a meeting of the lodge would be held on November 21, 2012, to discuss the future of the lodge.

On November 16, 2012, I ordered that the charter of Barneston Lodge No. 165 in Barneston was forfeited until the next Annual Communication for failure to file annual return paperwork and pay the annual return and assessments due in 2012 in a timely manner; failure to submit monthly reports of lodge activity, failure to submit an annual return for the previous year and failure to pay the annual return for 2011 and settle other indebtedness to the Grand Lodge; and being in violation of Section 2-514 by failing to hold monthly meetings.

On November 15, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Article X, Section 1(c) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge to permit Bartley Lodge No. 228 in Bartley to elect their 2013 officers out of time.

On November 21, 2012, a meeting of Atkinson Lodge No. 164 was opened by proclamation of the Grand Master for the purpose of discussing the future of the lodge.

On November 27, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Article X, Section 1(c) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge to permit Wallace Lodge No. 279 in Wallace to elect their 2013 officers out of time.

On November 27, 2012, after reviewing the report from Past Grand Master Baker, I concluded that, in a matter regarding officer resignation between a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and other officers of the lodge, there appeared to be equal culpability on both sides of the issue, and I determined that matter be closed.

On November 28, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Article X, Section 1(c) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge to permit Thistle Lodge No. 61 in Lexington to elect their 2013 Senior Warden out of time.

On December 4, 2012, I granted dispensation to Barneston Lodge No. 165 in Barneston to convene a meeting on December 11 for the purpose of meeting with the lodge leadership committee and Grand Lodge Officers to consider consolidation.

On December 5, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Omaha Lodge No. 288 in Omaha to move their charter on January 6, 2013 to the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite, for the purpose of holding an installation of officers.

On December 12, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Article X, Section 1(c) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge to permit Landmark Lodge No. 222 in Herman to elect their 2013 Senior Warden out of time.

On December 14, 2012, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Superior Lodge No. 121 in Superior to install their 2013 officers out of time.

On December 21, 2012, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Omadi Lodge No. 5 in South Sioux City to move their charter on January 13, 2013 to the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple at 801 Douglas Street in Sioux City, Iowa, for the purpose of conducting an installation of officers.

On January 1, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Lancaster Lodge No. 54 in Lincoln to install their 2013 Tyler and Chaplain out of time.

On January 7, 2013, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Plainview Lodge No. 204 in Plainview to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On January 9, 2013, under the provisions of Section 3-102, I approved the request of Oakland Lodge No. 91 in Oakland to conduct a raffle pursuant to the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act.

On January 9, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Alliance Lodge No. 183 in Alliance to install their 2013 Senior Steward out of time.

On January 15, 2013, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Miloma Lodge No. 328 in Omaha to move their charter on January 19, 2013 to Papillion Lodge No. 39, for the purpose of conducting an installation of officers.

On January 15, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Jachin Lodge No. 146 in Holdrege to install their 2013 Treasurer, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward and Junior Steward out of time.

On January 16, 2013, pursuant to Section 2-612, I gave permission to Heirloom Bible Publishers to obtain a list of all Lodge Secretaries for the purpose of sending the quarterly newsletter, The Cornerstone, to all lodges.

On January 18, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Lincoln Lodge No. 19 in Lincoln to install their 2013 Senior and Junior Deacons out of time.

On January 18, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268 in Omaha to install their 2013 Senior Deacon out of time.

On January 18, 2013, under the provisions of Section 2-502, I granted permission to Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn to move their charter on February 1, 2013 to the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska, for the purpose of opening a lodge of Master Masons for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

On January 21, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Shiloh Lodge No. 327 in Omaha to install their 2013 Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards and Marshal out of time.

On January 28, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Frank Welch Lodge No. 75 in Sidney to install their 2013 Secretary, Chaplain and Tyler out of time.

On January 28, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit Elwood Lodge No. 167 in Elwood to install their 2013 Chaplain out of time.

On January 28, 2013, I granted dispensation waiving the provisions of Section 2-312 to permit North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln to install their 2013 Senior Steward and Marshal out of time.

**REINSTATEMENTS**

The following brethren were reinstated during the past year, showing the names of the reinstated brethren, his lodge, and the date each was reinstated to membership. As Grand Master, I did not want to sign my name to reinstate any brother to the craft unless I knew something about him and the circumstances which led to his suspension. To do otherwise would have been disregarding the obligation I have to preserve the high morals and integrity of the craft. Therefore, prior to approving of any of the following for reinstatement, a public records criminal history check was performed.

- February 17, 2012..... George A. Reed ..... Lebanon Lodge No. 323
- February 24, 2012..... Allan C. Zeisemer..... Beatrice Lodge No. 26
- May 11, 2012..... Bradford W. Morrison ..... Platte Valley Lodge No. 32
- May 11, 2012..... Galen E. Stehlik..... Ashlar Lodge No. 33
- July 19, 2012 ..... Merlin G. Zoucha ..... Oshkosh Lodge No. 286
- August 15, 2012..... John L. Bilby, III ..... George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268
- August 15, 2012..... Kent W. Folsom..... Lincoln Lodge No. 19

August 15, 2012.....	Ronald B. Jorgensen .....	John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290
September 13, 2012 .....	Robert L. Burns .....	Papillion Lodge No. 39
September 13, 2012 .....	Robert E. Lukow.....	Blue River Lodge No. 30
October 29, 2012 .....	Roy E. Wagner .....	Platte Valley Lodge No. 32
October 29, 2012 .....	Daniel A. Bauer .....	College View Lodge No. 320
December 17, 2012.....	Jeffrey L. Salomons .....	East Lincoln Lodge No. 210
January 7, 2013.....	Michael J. Abbott .....	Shiloh Lodge No. 327
January 15, 2013.....	William J. Reinsch.....	Geneva Lodge No. 79
January 16, 2013.....	Kenneth G. Kizer.....	Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6

**TRIAL COMMISSIONS**

In the Trial Commission for a member of Cedar River Lodge No. 89, the individual was found guilty by the Commission and expelled from the Masonic fraternity on February 1, 2012.

In the Trial Commission for a member of Cotner Lodge No. 297, the individual was found guilty by the Commission and expelled from the Masonic fraternity on September 22, 2012.

Pursuant to the authority delineated in Section 1-103 of the Bylaws, a Trial Commission was appointed in the matter of a criminal offense by a member of Seneca Lodge No. 284. The individual was found guilty by the Commission and suspended for unmasonic conduct for an indefinite period of time on July 19, 2012.

I would like to thank the members of the appointed Trial Commissions for their service to the fraternity in these matters.

**WAIVERS OF JURISDICTION**

The following waivers of jurisdiction were granted:

October 24, 2012 .....	Michael James Gill
	Triangle Lodge No. 643, Iowa
October 24, 2012 .....	Jeremy Lamb
	Cobia Lodge No. 631, Iowa

**LAWSUIT**

In 2011, a lawsuit was filed in Lancaster County District Court against the Nebraska Grand Lodge and the Lincoln Scottish Rite by our former Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master-Elect, E. David Watts for reimbursement of money advanced for the payment of architectural drawings related to a joint project with the Lincoln Scottish Rite. That lawsuit was settled this past November for \$27,904.35 payable to E. David Watts, Watermark Investments and Watts Electric Company. Grand Lodge was responsible for 50 percent of the settlement amount and the Lincoln Scottish Rite was responsible for the remaining 50 percent. Arising out of the same incident was the payment of \$104,000 in professional fees paid to Paul Strawhecker and Associates for fundraising charges related to the joint project between the Grand Lodge and the Lincoln Scottish Rite. Rather than engaging in costly litigation, I consulted with SGIG Charles Sederstrom about resolving this matter and we both agreed to appoint four Past Grand Masters to review the contract and propose settlement terms. I appointed M.:W.: Jim Brown, M.:W.: Mike Jones, M.:W.: John Parsons and M.:W.: Bruce Baker to resolve this issue. M.:W.: John Parsons presented a report to me in October which summarized the decision of the committee. It was found that the contract provided that each party would be responsible for 50 percent of the costs if the project was not successful. Moreover, the committee

recommended that since the Grand Lodge had advanced the entire \$104,000 for payment that the Lincoln Scottish Rite would be responsible for one-half or \$52,000. The Lincoln Scottish Rite agreed to pay the entire amount owed in the original lawsuit and Grand Lodge then provided a credit of \$13,952.18 on the outstanding \$52,000 they owe to the Nebraska Grand Lodge. The committee also recommended that we allow the Lincoln Scottish Rite to sign a promissory note for the remaining \$38,047.82 they owe to be paid annually over the next 10 years at an interest rate of .4%. I accepted the recommendation of the committee and signed all the legal papers to resolve this issue. I want to thank the Past Grand Masters for serving on this committee and coming up with a win-win resolution for all. As a lawyer I often advocate using alternative dispute resolution as a process to resolve disputes and am so thankful that Charles Sederstrom was also willing to use alternative dispute resolution to cut to the chase and not let it disrupt Masonry anymore than it already had.

## **REPORTS OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

### **Thomas L. Hauder, Deputy Grand Master**

Brethren: It has been my honor and privilege to serve you this year as Deputy Grand Master. The year has gone by fast and as I look back over the year to make this document, it brings back many good memories of Masonic activities. The list below covers the major highlights of the year.

- **February**
  - Attended various installations of appendant bodies and subordinate Lodges.
  - Attended Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Atlanta
- **March**
  - Attended Lebanon Lodge No. 323
- **April**
  - Attended Geneva Lodge No. 79 Honors Night and presented 50 and 60 year pins
  - Created and launched Grand Master's Blog
  - Attended Shrine Bowl meeting in Lincoln
  - Performed 8th Degree for AASR Reunion in Omaha
  - Attended Lebanon Lodge No. 323
  - Attended York Rite Annual Communication in Columbus
  - Attended Friendship and Awards Dinner at Custer Lodge No. 148
  - Attended the Barchus Benefit at the Omaha AASR
  - Attended Awards luncheon at Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57 to hand out 50 and 60 year pins
- **May**
  - Attended Grand Chapter of OES
  - Attended Beatrice Lodge No. 26
  - Attended reception of OES and Grand Lodge Officers
  - Attended Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp
  - Attended Awards Dinner at Omadi Lodge No. 5
  - Attended dinner and meeting at Tangier Shrine Omaha
  - Attended Lancaster Lodge No. 54 for 60 year pin presentation
  - Attended Elkhorn-Waterloo Rainbow Assembly #38 installation
- **June**
  - Attended the Shrine Bowl parade and game
  - Attended the Masonic Walk in Omaha
  - Attended cornerstone for North Bend Library

- **July**
  - Attended North Bend Lodge No. 119 Steak Fry
  - Attended cornerstone for Public School in Gering, NE
  - Attended DeMolay Conclave in Grand Island
- **August**
  - Grand Lodge Retreat
  - Attended 4-H Achievement Day at Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
  - Attended Custer Lodge No. 148
  - Attended CHIP award presentation to Lincoln Public Schools
  - Attended Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges
  - Attended cornerstone ceremony for Mid Plains Community College in McCook
  - Attended cornerstone ceremony for Mid Plains Community College in North Platte
- **September**
  - Attended Grand Masters' Golf Tournament
  - Attended donor recognition dinner at Masonic Home in Plattsmouth
  - Attended Grand Lodge of Iowa Annual Communication
  - Took final York Rite degrees in Papillion
  - Attended Area Meetings in Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha
- **November**
  - Attended Awards night at Rob Morris Lodge No. 46
  - Attended cornerstone ceremony in York
  - Performed the 8th Degree at AASR reunion in Omaha
  - Attended cornerstone rededication at AASR in Omaha
- **December**
  - Attended Omaha Masters and Wardens club
  - Attended Bellevue Lodge No. 325
  - Attended Installation of the Beauceant
  - Attended Installation of York Rite Commandery No. 1
  - Attended Lodge at Papillion Lodge No. 39
  - Initiated into Sojourners in Omaha
  - Attended Sts. John Lodge of Education

**Joe D. McBride, Grand Senior Warden**

Greetings from the West Brethren,

It has been a truly wonderful, challenging, rewarding, exhilarating, exhausting and invigorating year of Masonic travels. I have been so blessed to visit lodges in this great territory, traveling to the east, west, south and even a little farther north, to share your brotherly love and friendship as only Masonic brothers can share. We have done Cornerstones, degrees, visitations, pin presentations, parades, banquets, awards nights, scholarship nights, committee meetings, barbecues, ceremonials, receptions, goat ropings, outdoor lodges and just good old fashioned coffee clubs....oh yeah, the goat roping was not Masonic.

The number of miles traveled in-state is rather large but also NEVER LARGE ENOUGH! I would never miss a chance to spend time with our Nebraska Masons if within the bounds of my Masonic obligation.

As your representative, it has also been my pleasure to extend these travels out of our borders. I have been lucky enough to visit South Dakota, Montana, Michigan, Missouri,

and Georgia on official Masonic business. This doesn't include several stops in my private travels to check out sights of Masonic interest and visit with our neighboring Brothers. Everywhere you travel, you meet brothers who share the same bonds, obligations and love of Masonry as our Nebraska brethren. It is the same in Omaha, Hyannis, St. Louis, Gering and Billings.

A gallon of gas: \$4.00. Motel room: \$100.00. Time spent helping the Greatest Fraternity in the World: Priceless.

### **John T. Maxell, Grand Junior Warden**

I want to thank the Masons of Nebraska for allowing me to serve you over the past year. I hope my effort and work helped touch each Mason and that they had positive experiences when we met.

What I learned this year was Brotherly Love has to come first when dealing a fellow Brother.

- **February**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Grand Lodge Annual Communication
  - Omaha Valley Scottish Rite meeting
  - Visited Papillion Lodge No. 39
  - Visited Shiloh Lodge No. 327
- **March**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Met with Shrine Bowl committee – Future Fund Raiser
  - Visited North Bend Lodge No. 119
  - Visited Florence Lodge No. 281
  - Visited Miloma Lodge No. 328
  - Attended Entered Apprentice School of Instruction in Omaha
  - Attended Fellow Craft School of Instruction in Omaha
  - Attended Fellow Craft School of Instruction in Lincoln
  - Cornerstone for Fillmore County Hospital – Geneva
  - Helped at Prince Hall CHIP Event – Omaha
- **April**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Performed in the 8th & 14th Degrees at Scottish Rite reunion – Omaha
  - All Committee meeting – Fremont
  - Attended Dodge County Masonic Banquet – Hooper
  - One Day Degree – Wisner Lodge No. 114
  - Helped at Westroads Mall Safety Expo CHIP event – Omaha
  - Attended York Rite Annual Communication – Columbus
  - Attended One Day Blue Lodge degrees – Omaha Scottish Rite
  - Attended the Grand Lodge of Minnesota Annual Communication
- **May**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Tangier Shrine Ball
  - Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp
  - Open House with Eastern Star – Louisville
- **June**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Cornerstone for North Bend Library

- Visited Bellevue Lodge No. 325, 50 & 60 Year Pin Presentation and Dinner
- Attended Masonic Walk across the Bridge – Omaha
- Helped at Bag-N-Save CHIP event – Omaha
- Visited Capital Lodge No. 3 – Dinner
- Attended the Grand Lodge of South Dakota Annual Communication
- **July**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Cornerstone for Gering School
  - Participated in Scottish Rite Cornerstone Reenactment – Omaha
  - Attended North Bend Lodge No. 119 Steak Fry and Lodge Meeting
  - Attended The Omaha Area Masters & Wardens Club meeting
  - Attended One Day Blue Lodge Degrees – Omaha Scottish Rite
  - Attended Annual Communication of F & A.M. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska
- **August**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Cornerstone for Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte
  - Visited McCook Lodge No. 135
  - Cornerstone for Mid-plains Community College – McCook
  - Grand Lodge Retreat – Lincoln
  - Masonic- Eastern Star Home for Children Achievement Days
  - Grand Lodge Meeting – Omaha
  - Attended Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges
  - Visited Nebraska Lodge No. 1 and Fund Raiser for Job’s Daughters
  - Helped at Nebraska State Fair CHIP event – Grand Island
  - Scottish Rite picnic – Omaha
- **September**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Visited Mizpah Lodge No. 302
  - Visited Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6
  - Helped at Living United Methodist Church CHIP event – Omaha
  - Attended Omaha Valley Scottish Rite monthly meeting
- **October**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Colonial Ladies of the Table Dinner – Florence Lodge No. 281
  - Attended Area Meeting at Covert Lodge No. 11 – Omaha
  - Attended Area Meeting George Washington Lodge No. 250 – Lincoln
  - Tangier Shrine Meeting
  - Attended Omaha Valley Scottish Rite monthly meeting
  - Attended the International Shrine Membership workshop – Tampa
- **November**
  - Cornerstone for First United Methodist Church – York
  - Visited York Lodge No. 56
  - Cornerstone Reenactment at Scottish Rite – Omaha
  - Performed in the 4th, 8th & 14th degrees at Scottish Rite reunion
  - Attended Fund Raiser dinner for Job’s Daughters – Shiloh Lodge No. 327
- **December**
  - CHIP Board Meeting
  - Tangier Shrine Meeting
  - Grand Lodge Budget meeting

- Visited Papillion Lodge No. 39
- Attended the Omaha Area Masters and Wardens Club meeting

### **Retention**

At the request of Grand Master Rex Moats I was asked to address the problem of how to strengthen the West Gate in our Blue Lodges. The West Gates are the brothers that become Master Masons, pay their dues, and in couple of years stop attending Lodge and paying their dues.

Over the last 20 years we have been losing Brothers at an alarming rate. Good men that can make a big impact in the community, our fraternity, and their own lives. We need to work at retaining these men. Nebraska Grand Lodge looked at other Grand Lodges to see what they have done to fix the problems of losing these members through the West Gates. Two states that have had great success were Massachusetts and Virginia by developing a Retention program.

So over the past six months we put together a Retention program and we believe this will help the Lodges keep their Brethren from going out the West Gate. The program is not the answer to all the membership problems, but with hard work by the lodge offices, lodge members, a Mentoring program, and strong Retention program, the Lodge should see positive growth.

The Retention program can be found on the Nebraska Grand Website ([www.glna.org](http://www.glna.org)), and the Grand Lodge Membership committee will be holding roll out training classes throughout the year.

### **Dennis E. Rix, Grand Senior Deacon**

It has indeed been an honor and a privilege to serve Masonry as your Grand Senior Deacon. I never tire of spending time with Masons, helping where I can, but more often, learning and enjoying. I have traveled throughout the state and country in service of Nebraska Masonry. I was able to participate in every Cornerstone ceremony held this year, most banquets I was invited to, and enjoyed many nights of degree work. One of the fondest times was the week spent at the Masonic All-Star Band Camp. The kids are great and the leadership even greater.

Our Grand Master has been a pleasure to work with. The Grand Master would call, and it was off to an adventure. Often the notice time was short, but I have been blessed with a very loving and understanding wife – that and a customized ring tone. M.:W.:B.: Rex, it has truly been an honor.

I thank you for your faith in me and the kindness and Brotherly love that has been extended to me in all of my time and travels. The memories are truly treasures to be laid up that money cannot buy nor Cowan steal.

- **February**
  - Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Chili Feed, Fremont
  - Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
  - Fillmore County Hospital Cornerstone, Geneva
- **March**
  - EA School of Instruction, Liberty Lodge No. 300, Lincoln
  - FC/MM 1st Section School of Instruction, Cotner Lodge No. 297, Lincoln
  - FC/MM 1st Section School of Instruction, John Mercer Lodge No. 290, Omaha
  - Scottish Rite Conference, St. Louis, MO

- MM 2nd Section School of Instruction, Papillion Lodge No. 39, Papillion
- All Committee Meeting, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Fremont
- **April**
  - Patrick Barger Reception return from Afghanistan, Lincoln
  - Osceola # 65 membership meeting
  - One-day Conferral, Scottish Rite, Omaha
  - Springfield Lodge No. 112, Springfield
  - Victory Lodge No. 310 Entered Apprentice Degree, Valley
  - Performed the Eighth Degree for SR Spring Reunion
- **May**
  - Washington # 21 50/60 year pin presentations
  - Grand Lodge Offices Meeting, Lincoln
  - Grand Chapter OES, Lincoln
  - Tangier Dinner / Grand Master Fez presentation
  - Grand Lodge Officer Advancing Line Meeting, Scottish Rite, Omaha
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Fellow Craft Degree, Elkhorn
  - Deputy Grand Custodian School of Instruction, Kearney
  - Ashlar Lodge No. 33 Year Pin Presentation, Grand Island
  - Papillion Gun Club, Papillion
  - Grand Lodge/Grand Chapter OES Reception, Louisville
  - Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp, Lincoln
- **June**
  - Shrine Bowl Parade, Lincoln
  - Public Library Cornerstone, North Bend
- **July**
  - Rocky Mountain Conference, Colorado Springs, CO
  - Portrait Presentation to John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290, Omaha
- **August**
  - Grand Lodge Officers Retreat, Lincoln
  - Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children 4-H Achievement Day, Fremont
  - Mid Plains Community College Cornerstone, McCook
  - Mid Plains Community College Cornerstone, North Platte
  - Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges
- **September**
  - Masonic Charities Golf Tournament, North Bend
- **October**
  - One-day Conferral, Scottish Rite, Omaha
  - Area Meeting, Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102 Fellow Craft Degree, Elkhorn
  - Masonic Education Symposium, Papillion
- **November**
  - Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Oklahoma
  - Methodist Church Cornerstone, York
  - Scottish Rite Cathedral 100-year Rededication, Omaha Valley Scottish Rite
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Elkhorn
  - Atkinson Lodge No. 164, Atkinson
  - Performed the Eighth Degree for SR Fall Reunion
- **December**
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102, Entered Apprentice Degree, Elkhorn
  - Tangier Shrine Meeting and Election, Omaha
  - Grand Lodge Budget meeting

**Richard D. Myers, Grand Junior Deacon**

During the year I visited the following lodges and lodge events:

- **March**
  - North Bend Lodge No. 119 regular meeting
  - School of Instruction at Covert Lodge No. 11
  - School of Instruction at John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290
- **April**
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102 regular meeting
  - Springfield Lodge No. 112 regular meeting
  - Osceola Lodge No. 65 membership meeting
  - Scottish Rite reunion in Omaha, perform in 8th Degree
  - Custer Lodge No. 148 Awards Dinner
  - Meet with Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee
- **May**
  - Attend Dodge County Masonic Banquet at Hooper
  - Attend Grand Chapter OES in Lincoln
  - Washington Lodge No. 21 50-year pin presentations
  - Attend reception with OES and Grand Lodge in Plattsmouth
  - Work at Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp as chaperone
- **June**
  - Attended Omaha Lodge No. 288 pot luck dinner
  - Bellevue Lodge No. 325 regular meeting
  - Jachin Lodge No. 146 regular meeting
- **July**
  - Presided over Masonic trial in Thedford, Nebraska
  - Participated in Scottish Rite Cornerstone reenactment, Omaha
- **August**
  - Grand Lodge Officer retreat, Lincoln
  - Florence Lodge regular meeting
  - Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children Achievement Day
  - Stromsburg Lodge No. 126 regular meeting
  - Cornerstone at McCook
  - Cornerstone at North Platte
  - Grand Lodge Officer Meeting in Omaha
  - Attended Scottish Rite Membership meeting in Lincoln
- **September**
  - Waterloo Lodge No. 102 regular meeting
  - Attended Grand Masters' Golf Event, North Bend
  - Washington Lodge No. 21 regular meeting
- **October**
  - Attended area meeting at Hastings, NE
  - Attended Illinois Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Springfield, Ill.
  - Attended area meeting at Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha
- **November**
  - Cornerstone at York, NE
- **December**
  - Wisner Lodge No. 114 regular meeting
  - Tangier Shrine annual meeting, Omaha

Plans for 2013: Presuming my appointment as Senior Deacon by the newly elected Grand Master, my plans are to continue to represent the fraternity at various subordinate

lodges, and neighboring grand lodges, participate as requested in events throughout the state, and attempt to advance the craft and its membership in any ways possible.

**Patrick D. Barger, Grand Junior Deacon 2013**

- **January through May:**
  - Established and maintained Swisher Lodge U.D. in Afghanistan
- **April**
  - Bellevue Lodge No. 325: Entered Apprentice Degree
  - Utica Lodge No. 96: Regular Communication
  - Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57: Multiple year pin presentations
  - Custer Lodge No. 148 Scholarship Night and Friendship Night
- **May**
  - Omadi Lodge No. 5: Conferred MM Degree
  - Barneston Lodge No. 165: Regular Communication to discuss future of the lodge
  - Omadi Lodge No. 5: 70 and 50 year pin presentations and dinner
  - Tangier Dinner/Grand Master Fez
  - OES Grand Chapter GLO reception
  - Lancaster Lodge No. 54: 60 year pin presentation
- **June**
  - Attended Grand Lodge of Indiana Annual Communication
  - Cornerstone at North Bend
- **July**
  - Cornerstone at Gering
- **August**
  - Grand Lodge Officer retreat, Lincoln
  - Cornerstone at McCook
  - Cornerstone at North Platte
  - Grand Lodge Officer Meeting in Omaha
- **October**
  - One-Day Conferral Omaha
- **November**
  - Cornerstone at York
  - Scottish Rite 8th Degree, Omaha
  - Scottish Rite Cornerstone reenactment, Omaha
- **December**
  - Bellevue Lodge No. 325: Attended DGM announcement of Grand Orator
  - GLNE office: Budget committee meeting

Plans for 2013: To continue working diligently toward attracting and retaining high-caliber men in the fraternity and assist in growing its favorable public reputation.

**CONCLUSION**

It has been the highest honor in the world for me to serve the Craft as your Grand Master in 2012. What an awesome and humbling experience. We have good men and good Masons in Nebraska. The state of the Craft is good but we must always be vigilant in protecting our landmarks and preserving the institution for future generations. You strive to leave the organization a little better off than when you started. I think we did that and the craftsmen have done their duty. I pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe will stand by each of you in your journey through the quarries of Freemasonry. Masonry is a way of life and it is important that you live it. That is our best marketing tool. Finally,

my sincere thanks to the Nebraska Masons for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master; it's truly been a pleasure and an experience I will cherish the rest of my days. I close this address with the words our most famous mason, George Washington, used to sign many of his correspondence and letters.

Your Humble Obedient Servant,



Rex J. Moats  
Grand Master

Following his remarks, Grand Master Moats made a motion that the printed address of the Grand Master be consolidated with the supplemental address of the Grand Master and, in its entirety, be referred to the appropriate committees for their consideration and action, and published in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge. The motion was seconded, and, with no discussion, carried.

### **REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY**

*Reginald S. Kuhn, Grand Secretary*

I did not anticipate one of the chapters in my life's story would find me again serving as Grand Secretary. However, as is often the case, the Grand Architect of the Universe decided I needed to write a different story. I want to express my sincere appreciation for this rare privilege to serve the Craft and for the warm welcome back to the active work of the Grand Lodge. The excellent work provided by Bruce Watkins over the past eight years made for a seamless transition, and I again want to thank Bruce for his service to our fraternity.

I also want to thank all of the lodge secretaries for their continuing service to our Craft and for their warm reception to me. The work of a lodge secretary is unseen and often not recognized, but it is vital to the health of each lodge. Having served as secretary of my own lodge, I appreciate the job each of you do for your lodge and I know what it means to our fraternity.

My service would not be possible but for the work of Michelle Fulmer and Carol Schroeder in the Grand Lodge office. Having had the opportunity to interact with many Grand Jurisdictions, I can state without hesitation we simply have the best staff of any Grand Lodge in the country. I hope you will take an opportunity during Grand Lodge to thank them for their dedication and service.

In addition to lodge visitations and Grand Lodge meetings throughout the state, I also attended most of the cornerstone ceremonies this year. I attended the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin held in Madison in June and the Midwest Conference of Grand Lodges in Grand Rapids, Michigan in August. I also continued serving on several Grand Lodge committees in my position as Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge appreciates the diligence of our secretaries in timely filing their reports with the Office and for their active participation in Grand Lodge. In recognition of those secretaries who timely filed all their reports, a Certificate of Achievement is presented at the Secretaries Workshop at the Annual Communication. Those secretaries who received this award at the 2012 Annual Communication for their work in 2011 were:

David A. Wetrosky, Western Star No. 2  
Jay H. Speck, Plattsouth No. 6  
Dennis L. Smith, Fremont No. 15  
Glenn R. Mulholland, Platte Valley No. 32  
William D. Parrish, Ashlar No. 33  
Dennis D. Coufal, Acacia No. 34

Philip E. Darby, Thistle No. 61  
Mervin E. Ransom, Osceola No. 65  
Lowell C. Erickson, Wausa No. 251  
Olin D. Boone, Hickman No. 256  
Ronald D. Stites, G. W. Lininger No. 268

David A. Wetrosky received a special award for 5 consecutive years.

I am pleased to report the following statistical information:

**Membership longevity awards presented in 2012**

50-year ..... 219      60-year ..... 152      70-year ..... 22

**2012 Membership Activity (preliminary)**

Number of Lodges .....	138	Demits .....	35
Entered Apprentices.....	280	Deceased .....	365
Fellow Crafts .....	252	Suspensions .....	385
Master Masons.....	262	Withdrew.....	1
Affiliations.....	30	Termination of duals .....	27
Duals.....	34	Consolidated.....	100
Reinstatements.....	137	Other .....	0
Consolidated .....	100	<b>Total Loss.....</b>	<b>913</b>
Other .....	0		
<b>Total Gain.....</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>Membership 12/31/2012 .....</b>	<b>11,921</b>

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to again serve our fraternity. Your warm welcome and support has allowed me to sustain dear friendships, renew old acquaintances, and most importantly, make new friends. These interactions continue to instruct me that Nebraska Freemasonry has a very hopeful future and I am excited to be an active participant as we continue to write our story.

Respectfully submitted,  
M.:W.: Reginald S. Kuhn, 134 & 19  
Grand Secretary

Grand Secretary Reg Kuhn moved for the adoption of the printed report of the Grand Secretary, along with the adoption of the 2012 Proceedings as printed. The motion was seconded and carried.

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER’S ADDRESS**

M.:W.:B.: Grand Master Moats asked R.:W.:B.: Thomas L. Hauder for his Address in anticipation of serving as Grand Master in 2013.

“Well good morning and thank you. In a few short hours, I’ll have the extremely humbling privilege of being installed as your Grand Master for the ensuing Masonic year. Some of you have known me for a long time, but many of you may not know me as well as you’d like to before I’m going to represent you. Therefore, I thought this would be a good time to talk with you about how I feel about Freemasonry, and some things that we want to accomplish this year.

I believe that Freemasonry is composed of three distinct pillars and that those three pillars are equally important and must all be present for the complete

Masonic experience. Much like a three-legged stool, if one of these pillars is missing, the structure will not stand. The first pillar that must be present is knowledge of our ritual. Ritual is the very cornerstone of our Craft. Our ritual contains all of the lessons that you will need to live a better life. It contains all of the information needed and points the way to our becoming a better person. It binds us together as brothers and flows through us to unite all Masons in generations. It all starts with ritual. Learning the ritual helps us set the concepts that it teaches in your mind, and will prompt you to want to learn more and to do more. While this is not an easy task, it is nonetheless an accomplishment that can be had through hard work and attention to detail. It's not enough however to be able to repeat all of the ritual words. You must also understand what the words are trying to teach and why they were chosen for the ritual.

This brings me to the second pillar of the equation, and that's Masonic education. Masonic education is so important that one whole degree is based on the idea of constant learning and investigation. When we stood in the East and we were charged as Fellow Crafts, we were given express instruction to ever be learners. The ritual is packed with interesting hints of greater philosophies and greater truths. You'll never come to appreciate these things unless you dig into your Masonic work and learn its many meaning and applications. Such learning will also support and refine your ability to perform ritual and make you a better mentor for the newly made Mason.

But being word perfect in your ritual and well read in Masonic knowledge is worth nothing if the third and last of the three pillars of Masonry is missing and that is that you have to live the tenets of Masonry. You must make them a part of your life's strategies. You must live and act such that people will know that you are different. Masonry is a process of lifelong learning and discovery that delivers a way of living a principled life, observable in the simplest behaviors, whether at lodge, at home or in the workplace. Regardless of whether people know you are a Mason or not, they must see something different in the way you act, the way you treat others and the way in which you handle your interactions with the world. Masonry needs to be a living practice that confirms in us and in our peers and shows the world the great tenets that are contained within the Masonic philosophy.

So there it is, my basic idea of the three pillars of complete Masonry. That's how I view it – ritual, education and living the lessons. Now be sure, this is not an easy task to master all three of these aspects of Masonry, and I'm certainly a long way from mastering them myself. But nothing worth having ever comes easy. We will often come face to face with our inherent human frailties and will have to work to overcome them. It is through the work of trying to master these three aspects of Masonry that you will grow as a person and become more than you are right now. So I ask you, are you willing to be different than those around you? More importantly, are you willing to be different than you are now? How you answer these questions will have a great impact on how our Fraternity survives and the value you derive from Masonry. Remember, each of us has a responsibility to steward our respected Fraternity into the future.

During my year, we're going to work on some projects that will support all three aspects of Masonry. Grand Lodge committees are going to be tasked with certain new projects that will roll out through the Craft throughout the year that we hope you can use as tools in your own lodge. For example, Right Worshipful

John Maxell has put together a simple but effective program for lodges to use to boost retention rates. Retention is a big problem that we seem to have in our state and I think is true throughout Masonry. This program is based on the successful program used by the state of Massachusetts. So again, we borrowed. We did research. It's not plagiarism, it's research. We feel that if we can fix our retention issue, it will also have a great effect on our overall membership issues. The decline of Masonic membership is well known, but I don't need to belabor the point here but to say that we must redefine what membership is and what goals should be set. We must look for new strategies and new standards for choosing new members. For many years now, we've been making it easier and easier to become a member, yet our numbers continue to shrink. But it's not simply a matter of numbers. Masonry is not a mass participation activity and never will be. That's not our goal. In the entire population, the good prospects for Masonry are a minority. Saying so is not elitist, it's simply a fact. I believe that in order to solve our retention recruitment problems, we need to focus on quality of candidates and value of experience for those candidates.

We will also be working on setting up some long-term strategic planning. This is something that we've done in years past and we kind of got away from. But we're going to try to set a five- and a ten-year plan so that the advancing line officers have some big projects that they can do, things that will take multiple years and we think will actually help the Craft. Our Craft must plan to be ready to accept and grow with changes that are part of this world, but at the same time hold onto our foundational beliefs. With proper planning, we can make this happen.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you again for the support you've shown me as I worked towards this amazing assignment. Special thanks goes out to all of the Past Grand Masters that I've watched and learned from over the years. I look forward to doing my best for the Craft and having a great year as your Grand Master. Thank you."

Right Worshipful Tom Hauder announced that the installation of the 2013-2014 Grand Lodge Officers would take place at 4:00 pm that day, with a reception following. He then announced that the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska would be held at the Younes Center in Kearney, Nebraska, February 6-8, 2014.

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE JAMES L. "SONNY" EATMON TRAVELING GAVEL**

The Traveling Gavel was presented as a gift to the Grand Lodge by the Family of Past Grand Master James L. "Sonny" Eatmon, (GM 1992) in 2005. M.:W.:B.: Eatmon entered into that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens on August 28, 1999. W.:B.: John Ferguson handcrafted this beautiful wood gavel and case in honor of his father-in-law. The gavel or wood maul was commissioned as the James L. "Sonny" Eatmon Traveling Gavel on February 3, 2006.

Symbolic of the operative craft working as Masons in the construction of Ancient Monumental Edifices and the intricate detail of ornamentation, it is appropriate that this gavel or wood maul work in our lodges to demonstrate leadership and concern to the fine details of fellowship among our speculative craft and thus encourage visitations among our lodges and brethren.

This gavel will depart Annual Communication each year with the Lodge of the New Grand Master. It will be the responsibility of at least four brethren, of which at least two must be officers, of that lodge to visit another lodge within 30 days and to carry and deposit the gavel to the visited lodge. That lodge will then hold the same obligation of visiting and depositing the gavel in another lodge within 30 days.

The gavel was presented to R.:W.: Thomas L. Hauder and Tabula Rasa Lodge No. 332 in Lincoln.

### VOTING ON GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

M.:W.:B.: Moats asked R.:W.: Tom Hauder to assume the lectern and preside over the discussion of Grand Master's Recommendation No. 5.

#### Recommendation No. 5

Amend **Section 2-402 – PROFICIENCY** – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

**Sec. 2-402 – PROFICIENCY** – All those hereinafter initiated, passed, and raised, shall become proficient in each degree, and shall give proof thereof by examination in open lodge. Such examination shall consist of:

1. Completion of a study of the Standard Proficiency Manual following each degree received.
2. Verification by the Worshipful Master that the candidate has expressed knowledge of the material in the manual by answering, in his own words, the questions listed for the degree in which he is being examined.
3. Successful completion by the candidate of an examination in open lodge, consisting of *reciting the Master Mason's obligation, and of* answering questions from the First Section Lectures of the degrees as follows:

E.A. Degree – Starting with the words, “Give me a sign” and ending with giving of the “word.”

F.C. Degree – Starting with the words, “Have you any signs ...” and continuing to the end of the lecture.

M.M. Degree – Starting with the words, “Have you any signs...” and continuing to the end of the lecture.

No other Proficiency Examination shall be recognized in this Grand Jurisdiction. After such examination, the Master may declare the brother proficient. Such declaration and the recording of the proficiency of the brother shall be made in the degree in which the examination is made, providing no objection is raised; if objection is made and it becomes necessary to put the question to a vote the ballot shall be determined in a lodge of Master Masons. Whereupon the Master shall put the question; “The candidate has satisfactorily answered the questions in the Standard Proficiency Manual and has completed the required examination in open lodge; is the brother proficient?” and this question shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

When a candidate for advancement fails to pass a satisfactory examination, the Master may direct him to become proficient and again present himself for examination.

Examination of all those hereinafter raised to the degree of Master Mason shall be had not later than ninety days following the conferring of said degree, but the lodge may for good cause shown extend the time, but not for more than six months after the degree is conferred; provided, that the Grand Master may extend the time for good cause shown. When a Master Mason has complied with the provisions of this section, a diploma shall be issued by the subordinate lodge of which he is a member, on the form prescribed by Grand Lodge.

An unaffiliated Master Mason in good standing in the Fraternity is entitled to be instructed and examined in any lodge as to his proficiency in the degree of a Master Mason, and upon being found proficient, this fact should be certified to the lodge electing him to membership.

When a candidate is initiated, passed and raised in a single day, he shall return to the Lodge with which his petition was filed and prove to the Master that he has *memorized the Master Mason's obligation and shall give proof thereof by examination in open lodge, and prove to the Master that he has completed all the questions in the Standard Proficiency Manuals* within the time period allowed in this section, before he may receive his diploma as prescribed above.

A motion for the adoption of Recommendation No. 5 was made and seconded. M.:W.:B.: Moats gave his rationale for proposing the Recommendation. After discussion, R.:W.:B.: Hauder called for the question and the written ballot was collected and counted by the Tellers. Recommendation No. 5 failed to receive the required two-thirds vote.



Right Worshipful Joe D. McBride, Grand Senior Warden, approached the East and made the following motion:

“I move for ratification of the work and actions of the Grand Lodge Officers throughout the past year on behalf of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.”

The motion was seconded, and with no discussion, the motion was approved.

## **REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA MASONIC FOUNDATION**

*Michael E. Jones, President*

There is no formal report in your packet because the body is aside from that of the Grand Lodge, however, I will tell you some recent developments, part of which have already been alluded to in the Grand Master's report. You will notice that he alluded to some problems we have with our facility. You'll need to remember that a number of years ago, back in about the era of Most Worshipful Brother Dwight Smith, that property was acquired with the intention that it be a temporary housing for our Grand Lodge until such time that we would find something more suitable. Well the suitable part has come before the time question because now we have had some serious problems. They've been repaired. The facility is now stable, but the forecast for its usefulness down the road is not stellar. To complicate that, I think we all agree there is one common employee concern for Carol and Michelle, and that part of the community in Lincoln is not quite as inviting as it was years ago. That being said, the Grand Lodge has moved forward. We will be losing our tenant, so the Foundation is underway to dispose of that property and enjoy the opportunity to have our museum housed in the Grand Lodge office that's now located in

a lot better facility in Lincoln. If you have any questions, you're welcome to approach me or any of the other members of the Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael E. Jones, President

### FINAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

*John E. Lorenzen, Chairman*

The 2012 Committee on Finance met during the past year to conduct its assigned duties as proscribed in Section 1-318 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Following the close of each calendar year, the books and records of the Grand Lodge are audited by an independent certified public accountant.

Actual revenue and expenses, compared to budgeted, for 2012 are as follows:

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	528,298	527,796
<b>Expenses</b>	518,413	573,468
<b>Net Difference</b>	9,885	(45,672)

After other activities affecting cash flow, such as prepaid Annual Communication, prepaid expenses, purchases of inventory assets and outstanding accounts receivable, \$16,393 in cash was on hand in the general fund on December 31, 2012, and an investment draw for operating expenses was not necessary – \$45,672 less than the investment draw budgeted for 2012. These numbers do not include the \$600,000 investment draw made in November to purchase the new building for the Grand Lodge and the \$89,904.45 remaining for expenses and renovations on the building. The results of the fiscal year show that the Grand Lodge Officers and staff have been excellent stewards of the funds of the Grand Lodge operating budget during 2012. An investment draw was not necessary in part due to most Grand Lodge Officers not claiming expense reimbursements for in-state travel; incidental expenses for Annual Communication and program expenses being held under budget; the office staff keeping budget items for equipment, printing, supplies, and computer repair/maintenance under budget; and employee health care expenses were reduced significantly due to a switch to reimburse employee self-paid health care premiums instead of paying for an employee-sponsored health care plan.

The Committee on Finance found satisfactory documentation for expenditures within the books and records of the Grand Lodge Office and was able to conduct its work in a complete and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Lorenzen, 10 & 314, Chairman  
Thomas A. Brazer, 11  
Michael A. Buchardt, 52  
Jack G. Frahm, 204  
Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19  
David G. Krogh, 5  
Steven S. Nichols, 102  
Steve B. Wetzel, 227

<b>Account</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>
<b>Lodge Income</b>	
4100.000 Membership Dues	\$266,225.00
4100.000 Membership Dues - from Perp	\$7,000.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home	\$11,575.00
4110.000 Dues-Fremont Home - from Perp	\$324.50
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home	\$28,937.50
4120.000 Dues-Masonic Home - from Perp	\$1,560.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington	\$11,575.00
4130.000 Dues-Geo Washington - from Perp	\$333.00
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason	\$5,787.50
4140.000 Dues-Educ. Pub. - NE Mason - from Perp	\$237.00
4175.000 GL Admin Fee - from Perp	\$1,200.00
4200.000 Initiation Fees	\$4,500.00
4210.000 Reinstatement Fees	\$1,000.00
4640.000 CHIP Assessment	\$12,270.00
4300.000 Surety Bond Premium	\$2,200.00
4350.000 Liability Ins Premium	\$19,396.00
Subtotal - Lodge Income	<b>\$374,120.50</b>
<b>Sales Income</b>	
4400.000 Donations for Supplies	\$9,000.00
4620.400 Sale of GM Banquet Tickets	\$4,000.00
4620.600 Sale of Memb. Banquet Tickets	\$9,180.00
4625.400 Sale of PGM Ladies Lunch	\$234.00
4625.500 Sale of Secretaries Luncheon Tickets	\$935.00
4625.600 Sale of Men's Luncheon Tickets	\$2,880.00
4625.700 Sale of Ladies Luncheon Tickets	\$1,700.00
4625.800 Sale of Vet's Luncheon Tickets	\$323.00
4631.400 Sales of Men's Sat. Ed. Breakfast Tickets	\$2,100.00
4632.400 Sales of Ladies Saturday Brunch Tickets	\$0.00
4633.400 Sale of Red Cross Breakfast Tickets	\$420.00
4633.500 AC Registration Fee	\$1,500.00
4875.000 Miscellaneous Income	\$1,000.00
4910.000 Interest - General Fund	\$400.00
Subtotal-Sales Income	<b>\$33,672.00</b>
<b>Program Income</b>	
4450.725 Band Clinic Registration	\$67,600.00
4460.725 Band Clinic Supplies	\$10,000.00
4900.000 GL Education Programs	\$0.00
4465.000 GM Program Income	\$10,000.00
4905.000 Masonic Unity Meeting	\$0.00

Subtotal-Program Income	<b>\$87,600.00</b>
<b>Participatory Income</b>	
4650.000 NE Masonic Home-Admin	\$5,000.00
4641.000 CHIP Foundation Admin Fee	\$15,900.00
4655.000 NE Masonic Home-Paper	\$7,500.00
4660.000 OES & Fremont -Paper	\$5,000.00
Subtotal-Participatory Income	<b>\$33,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$528,792.50</b>

<b>Annual Communication</b>	
5104.400 Guest Room Rental	\$1,300.00
5110.400 Grand Master's Banquet	\$7,030.00
5111.400 Entertainment - Grand Master's Banquet	\$3,500.00
5130.400 Membership Banquet	\$8,515.50
5131.400 Entertainment - Membership Banquet	\$2,000.00
5150.400 Ladies Program	\$200.00
5170.400 Misc Incidental Expense	\$7,500.00
5172.400 Grand Lodge Officer Breakfast	\$310.17
5173.400 Dignitaries Breakfast	\$0.00
5174.400 Mens' Lunch	\$2,865.60
5175.400 Ladies Lunch	\$1,662.00
5175.410 Vet's Lunch	\$315.78
5176.400 PGM Ladies Lunch	\$232.83
5177.400 Secretaries Lunch	\$914.10
5178.400 Men's Saturday Education Breakfast	\$2,107.50
5179.400 Ladies Saturday Brunch	\$913.25
5180.400 Red Cross Breakfast	\$421.50
5440.400 Printing & Copying - Ann. Comm.	\$2,500.00
5120.400 Proceedings	\$3,500.00
Subtotal-Annual Communication	<b>\$45,788.23</b>
<b>Installation</b>	
5170.425 Misc. Installation	\$2,000.00
5220.425 Meals	\$5,500.00
5440.425 Printing & Copying - Installation	\$800.00
Subtotal-Installation	<b>\$8,300.00</b>
<b>Travel &amp; Related</b>	
5210.000 Auto Allowance	\$900.00
5210.100 In-State Travel-Grand Master	\$5,000.00
5210.150 In-State Travel-Dep Gr Master	\$3,500.00

5210.200 In-State Travel-Gr Secretary	\$950.00
5210.250 In-State Travel-Gr Custodian	\$650.00
5210.350 In-State Travel-Other Officers	\$5,000.00
5210.300 Auto Allow- DGC's	\$600.00
5220.000 Meals-GL Office Staff	\$150.00
5220.100 Meals-Grand Master	\$800.00
5220.150 Meals-Dep Gr Master	\$325.00
5230.300 Motels-DGC	\$200.00
5235.150 Retreat-Dep Gr Master	\$2,000.00
5240.100 Conf & Conv -Gr Master	\$3,000.00
5240.150 Conf & Conv-Dep GM	\$1,500.00
5240.200 Conf & Conv-Gr Secretary	\$1,250.00
5240.350 Conf & Conv-Other Officer	\$3,000.00
5240.500 Conference of Grand Masters/Grand Secretaries	\$7,074.00
5240.550 Midwest Conference	\$5,070.00
5240.600 Rocky Mountain Conference	\$200.00
5240.700 Shrine Membership Seminar	\$750.00
5250.300 Per Diem-DGC's	\$400.00
5260.300 School of Instruction	\$1,200.00
Subtotal-Travel & Related	<b>\$43,519.00</b>
<b>Occupancy &amp; Related</b>	
5400.100 Office Rent	\$16,100.00
5410.000 Utilities	\$9,100.00
5412.000 Trash Removal	\$500.00
5413.000 Grounds Maintenance	\$2,800.00
5414.000 Building Maintenance	\$6,060.00
5415.000 Telephone	\$5,600.00
5420.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$7,150.00
5425.000 Equipment Rental	\$3,005.00
5430.000 Equipment Purchase	\$3,000.00
5435.000 Postage	\$5,000.00
5440.000 Printing & Copying	\$2,000.00
5440.250 Printing & Copying-GC	\$100.00
5445.000 Office Supplies	\$3,800.00
5450.000 Office Maintenance	\$1,000.00
5455.000 Computer Supplies	\$2,500.00
5460.000 Computer Repair & Maint	\$2,000.00
5465.000 Computer Software Sup	\$1,500.00
5470.000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$600.00
5475.000 NE Mason Pub Exp & Semi-Annual Flyer	\$35,790.00
5480.000 Bank Service Charge-Unrestricted	\$25.00

5481.000 Credit Card Fees	\$500.00
5485.000 Professional Fees - Accting Audit	\$4,200.00
5490.000 Corporate/Legal Fees - Sect'y of State, etc.	\$20.00
5500.000 Lodge Supplies-Printed	\$3,500.00
5505.000 Lodge Supplies-Other	\$1,700.00
5505.250 Supplies Lodges-GC	\$200.00
5510.000 Supplies Lodges-Pins	\$1,000.00
5515.000 Lodge Ofcrs Directory Printing	\$1,700.00
5525.000 GL Jewels, Aprons & Collars	\$9,000.00
Subtotal-Occupancy & Related	<b>\$129,450.00</b>
<b><i>Insurance &amp; Administrative</i></b>	
5600.000 Workers Compensation	\$721.00
5605.000 Group Ins for GL Employees	\$7,507.24
5610.000 Surety Bond	\$2,200.00
5620.000 Directors & Officers Ins	\$3,669.00
5625.000 Liability Insurance	\$19,396.00
5635.000 Office Contents & Equipment	\$1,138.00
5640.000 Building Insurance Coverage	\$2,000.00
5650.000 Other Admin Exp-General	\$5,500.00
Subtotal-Insurance & Admin	<b>\$42,131.24</b>
<b><i>Committees and Programs</i></b>	
5650.450 Masonic Education	\$350.00
5240.450 Conv & Conf Education	\$800.00
5650.600 Trial Commissions	\$500.00
5220.650 Gr Lodge Office Comm-Meals	\$75.00
5650.700 Public Relations Committee	\$6,000.00
5650.710 Grand Marshal Exp - Office Expenses	\$100.00
5650.720 Band Camp Expenses	\$77,600.00
5650.750 Youth Committee	\$2,500.00
5875.750 Youth Scholarships Awards	\$4,000.00
5650.800 Membership committee	\$100.00
5650.900 Awards Committee - Awards & Misc	\$500.00
5650.960 GW Memorial Committee	\$0.00
5650.970 All Committee Strategic Planning Exp	\$250.00
5650.980 Internet and Computer Committee	\$2,000.00
5660.000 Digital Proceedings Project	\$0.00
5800.000 GL Education Programs	\$2,000.00
5801.000 GM Program Expense	\$10,000.00
5805.000 GLO Strategic Planning	\$2,000.00
Subtotal-Committees	<b>\$108,775.00</b>

<b>Contributions</b>	
5820.000 Masonic Service Assoc Dues/Hosp	\$3,400.00
5810.000 NE DeMolay Donation	\$2,000.00
5811.000 Job's Daughters Donation	\$2,000.00
5812.000 Rainbow Donation	\$2,000.00
5830.000 Other Masonic Promotion - Cornerstones	\$1,200.00
5835.000 Assoc of Masonic Boards of Relief	\$175.00
Subtotal-Contributions	<b>\$10,775.00</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Related</b>	
6561.000 Salary-GL Office Staff	\$99,352.08
6560.000 Performance Incentive	\$2,400.00
6562.100 FICA-Employer Share	\$10,129.52
6562.200 Unemploy Tax-Fed	\$200.00
6562.300 Unemploy Tax-State	\$150.00
6560.000 Payroll Expenses-Other	\$60.00
6570.000 Employer's Share Sep/IRA	\$2,980.56
6681.000 Grand Custodian Contract Amt	\$6,000.00
6680.000 Contract Labor	\$25,000.00
6580.000 GL Office Staff-Training	\$500.00
Subtotal-Salaries & Related	<b>\$146,772.17</b>
<b>Pass Through</b>	
5704.000 Fremont Home Dues	\$11,899.50
5705.000 NE Masonic Home Dues	\$30,497.50
5706.000 Geo Washington Mem Dues	\$11,908.00
5650.100 CHIP Expense	\$12,270.00
Subtotal-Pass Through	<b>\$66,575.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$602,085.64</b>
<b>REVENUE LESS EXPENSES (Net Deficit)</b>	<b>-\$73,293.14</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	
4700.000 Int & Div FNB - Omaha	\$73,293.14
Subtotal-Investment Income	\$73,293.14
<b>ADJ. BALANCE WITH INVEST. INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

W.:B.: Jack Lorenzen moved for the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. With no discussion, the motion was seconded and carried favorably.

Most Worshipful Rex invited W.:B.: Ron Nielsen of Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney to the East to make a presentation of a Past Master apron to Alex Straatman, Junior Past Master of Rob Morris Lodge. W.:B.: Straatman is a member of the Army Reserve who has been called up for active duty.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE PAST GRAND MASTER'S APRON AND PAST GRAND MASTER'S JEWEL**

Past Grand Master Reginald S. Kuhn made the formal presentation of the Past Grand Master's Apron and Jewel to M.:W.:B.: Rex J. Moats.

### **REPORT OF PENDING RESOLUTIONS**

R.:W.:B.: Grand Secretary Reginald S. Kuhn announced that he received three resolutions to amend the Bylaws, as well as one amendment to the Constitution, and reminded the brethren that amendments to the Constitution are treated differently, and if they are to be found in proper form, the lodges will receive a postcard during the year. He explained that an amendment to the Constitution can only be considered at the next communication if more than fifty percent of the lodges consent to its consideration. Amendments to the Bylaws, if found to be in proper form, will be read and laid over until the session next year.

#### **Resolution No. 1**

Proposal to amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska

Amend **ARTICLE X – THE GRAND MASTER, Sec. 1** of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska by removing paragraph (h), so that such Article, as amended, will read as follows, with the deleted language stricken.

### **ARTICLE X. THE GRAND MASTER**

**Sec. 1.** The Grand Master, during the interval between the communications of the Grand Lodge, may exercise all of its executive powers excepting the granting of charters. His powers shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (a) To suspend any officer of any subordinate lodge from the exercise of the powers or duties of his office, for good reasons shown, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge;
- (b) To grant dispensations for the formation of new subordinate lodges, except for military lodges;
- (c) To grant dispensations for the holding of elections of an officer or officers at times other than the regular periods;
- (d) To grant dispensations to confer the degrees upon candidates without reference to time;
- (e) To convene any subordinate lodge, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and compel its conformity to Masonic usages;
- (f) To arrest the charter or dispensation of any subordinate lodge, for good reason shown, and suspend the operations thereof until the next Annual Communication;

(g) To require the attendance of and information from any Grand Lodge Officer, and respecting matters pertaining to the duties of his office; and

~~— (h) To appoint representatives to other recognized Grand Lodges, and to receive and accredit such representatives from them.~~

**Resolution No. 2**

Proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska.

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**, by adding certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized:

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Third Paragraph:**

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.00, 2015 - \$30.00, 2016 - \$31.00. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, 2006, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of \$1.00 per member to support the CHild Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above. *Upon application from a subordinate lodge that has remitted a member's dues pursuant to Section 2-603, the Grand Master may authorize the Grand Lodge to remit the Grand Lodge per capita and special assessments on behalf of said member.*

**Resolution No. 3**

Proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska.

Amend the third paragraph of **Section 2-601 – PER CAPITA TAX** – by adding and deleting certain language, so that such section, as amended, will read as follows, with the new language italicized and the deleted language stricken.

**Sec. 2-601 – PER CAPITA TAX –**

**Third paragraph:**

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013

- \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.50, 2015 - \$30.50, 2016 - \$31.50. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, ~~2006~~ 2015, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of ~~\$1.00~~ \$3.00 per member, *said assessment to be distributed as follows: \$1.50 to support the Child Identification Program, \$.50 to support Nebraska Job's Daughters, \$.50 to support the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Nebraska, and \$.50 to support Nebraska DeMolay.* Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

**Resolution No. 4**

The following proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska was received by the Grand Secretary after his report was given. No section of the bylaws to amend was given by the signers.

“If a resolution fails at two consecutive Grand Lodge annual communications, it cannot be submitted again for five years.”

The Grand Secretary noted that the submitted Resolutions are subject to confirmation that the signatories are registered delegates and that they are in proper form, and if found to be so, the process will be continued for consideration at the next Annual Communication.



Grand Master Moats asked all Deputy Grand Custodians in attendance to report to the back of the room to prepare for introduction during the Report of the Grand Custodian.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND CUSTODIAN**

*W.:B.: Bruce A. Watkins, Grand Custodian*

I gratefully acknowledge the privilege of serving the Most Worshipful, The Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, as your Grand Custodian this year. It has been a pleasant and rewarding experience to work with other Grand Lodge officers, the Deputy Grand Custodians and members of the Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction.

As we near the end of our Masonic year, 55 Lodges have been certified; 29 of them have been certified for more than 60 years. This is a remarkable record and the officers and members of these Lodges are to be congratulated for their efforts. The certified Lodges are as follows:

For the year 2012, we had 55 of the 138 lodges in Nebraska fully certified. The lodges are:

Name	No	City	Years	Name	No	City	Years
Western Star	2	Nebraska City	55	Washington	21	Blair	24
Omadi	5	South Sioux City	63	Blue River	30	Milford	55
Plattsmouth	6	Plattsmouth	89	Tekamah	31	Tekamah	59
Solomon	10	Fort Calhoun	58	Platte Valley	32	North Platte	61
Covert	11	Omaha	43	Ashlar	33	Grand Island	79
Fremont	15	Fremont	82	Papillion	39	Papillion	6
Lincoln	19	Lincoln	78	Rob Morris	46	Kearney	67

Name	No	City	Years
Hastings	50	Hastings	89
Lancaster	54	Lincoln	91
Wahoo	59	Wahoo	88
Keystone	62	Phillips	57
Osceola	65	Osceola	10
Hooper	72	Hooper	88
Frank Welch	75	Sidney	62
Albion	78	Albion	22
Geneva	79	Geneva	37
Utica	96	Utica	84
Euclid	97	Weeping Water	81
Waterloo	102	Elkhorn	62
North Bend	119	North Bend	54
Guide Rock	128	Guide Rock	59
Jachin	146	Holdrege	55
Custer	148	Broken Bow	69
Justice	180	Benkelman	62
Alliance	183	Alliance	68
Arcana	195	Gordon	1
East Lincoln	210	Lincoln	79
Wood Lake	221	Wood Lake	57

Name	No	City	Years
Landmark	222	Herman	60
Silver Cord	224	Ainsworth	33
North Star	227	Lincoln	80
Comet	229	Ceresco	60
Zion	234	Hyannis	10
Hickman	256	Lincoln	25
Mitchell	263	Mitchell	57
Robert W Furnas	265	Scottsbluff	74
Olive Branch	274	Walthill	4
Camp Clarke	285	Bridgeport	10
John J Mercer	290	Omaha	81
Cotner	297	Lincoln	72
Liberty	300	Lincoln	64
Mizpah	302	Omaha	63
Victory	310	Valley	63
Craftsmen	314	Lincoln	89
Mid-West	317	Hastings	65
Bellevue	325	Bellevue	1
Shiloh	327	Omaha	48
Tabula Rasa	332	Lincoln	5

Brother Ronald A. Nielsen, Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 and Brother J. Philip Wehrman, Lancaster Lodge No. 54 received their initial MM Certification this year. They join a select group of 127 other certified Masons within the State and I commend them all for their hard work and dedication. We have 84 brethren who are eternally certified.

The following brethren have completed their 10th year of proficiency: Jerry J. Caha, Comet Lodge No. 229 and John A. Sheffield, Bellevue Lodge No. 325.

The following brethren have completed their 25th year of proficiency: M.: W.: James F. Brown, Jr., Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and Gene F. Peterson, Comet Lodge No. 229.

The following brethren have completed their 40th year of proficiency: M.: W.: Kenneth G. Fleming, Frank Welch Lodge No. 75 and Roy J. Martin, Craftsmen Lodge No. 314.

The following brethren have completed their 50th year and beyond of proficiency:

Name and Lodge	Years Certified
Lawrence R. Bradbury, Pawnee Lodge No. 23	50
Augustus W. Clark, Ashlar Lodge No. 33	50
Richard L. Mauch, Silver Cord Lodge No. 224	51
Floyd R. Vires, Superior Lodge No. 121	51
M.W. Charles W. Amidon, Florence Lodge No. 281	52
Leo D. Lee, Ashlar Lodge No. 33	54
Donald W. Madsen, Covert Lodge No. 11	54
Wilbert W. Wittmuss, Papillion Lodge No. 39	54
James E. Cornish, Tekamah Lodge No. 31	55
Bruce C. Kaman, Mitchell Lodge No. 263	55
Jack Lefler, Comet Lodge No. 229	55

Name and Lodge	Years Certified
Loren L. McNeil, Utica Lodge No. 96	55
Marion J. Adkisson, Ashlar Lodge No. 33	57
Arthur S. Dye, Mid-West Lodge No. 317	57
Richard H. Hobson, Lancaster Lodge No. 54	57
M.W. Donald R. Swanson, Lancaster Lodge No. 54	57
Albert W. Watsek, Pawnee Lodge No. 23	57
David E. Anthony, Arcana Lodge No. 195	58
Richard L. Ely, Guide Rock Lodge No. 128	60

The following brethren serve the Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Custodians. These brethren contribute a great deal of time and effort in assisting the Lodges in their efforts to maintain an effective and efficient ritual program. I owe them a huge debt of gratitude for all that they do and I hope that all the brethren will make an effort to extend to them a word of thanks.

District	Name	Lodge
1	Roy L. Smith	6
2	Augustine S. Scolaro	3
3	Halsey D. Phillips	325
4	Brian K. Sandall	21
5	Ronald D. Grass	31
7	Lloyd .F Vrtiska	23
8	John C. Sierks	4
9	Edward W. Nolte	39
10	Steven A. Green	54
11	Suman Vallabhbai	314
15	Randall L. Hart	222 & 31
17	Roger A. Deininger	317
18	Arthur S. Dye	317
21	Wayne E. Beatty	126
24	Delmar A. Jones	65 & 46

District	Name	Lodge
25	Philip E. Darby, Jr.	61
26	Arthur J. Ferguson	221
27	Bill Lichtenberger	207 & 148
28	Jack D. Nichols	265 & 285
29	Leslie A. Evert	195
30	Richard H. Cooper	263
31	Kenneth G. Fleming	75
32	Roger L. Shillington	180
33	Glenn R. Mulholland	32 & 284
34	Frank Veverka	15
35	James R. Taylor	327
36	Carl C. Plants	54
37	Albert A. Wise	79
38	Dean Papenhagen	50

The following are the current Deputy Grand Custodians Emeriti. We receive a considerable amount of assistance from these brethren and hope to continue to do so in the future. We appreciate all they have done for Masonry.

- |                      |                       |                        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Glenn W. Binder      | Richard W. Linnemeyer | Vincent L. Rosenberger |
| Michael G. Birnstihl | Richard L. Mauch      | Augustine S. Scolaro   |
| Augustus W. Clark    | Ralph E. McNulty      | Eugene Sibley          |
| James E. Cornish     | Harold C. Mueksch     |                        |
| Kenneth G. Fleming   | Harold W. Noble       |                        |

I am sorry to inform you that Worshipful Brother Monte Bloyd, an Apprentice Deputy Grand Custodian in District 38, and a member of Hastings Lodge No. 50 and Cement Lodge No. 211, has laid down his working tools and been called from labor to rest.

Most Worshipful Brother Kenneth G. Fleming, Past Grand Master and Deputy Grand Custodian Emeritus continues to serve the fraternity as a Deputy Grand Custodian for District No. 31 and Worshipful Brother Augustine (Gus) S. Scolaro, Grand Custodian Emeritus, continues to serve the fraternity as a Deputy Grand Custodian for District No. 2. Another Deputy Grand Custodian Emeritus, W.B. Harold Noble, who previously had District No. 35 in the Omaha area, attended the DGC school last May and we appreciate his participation at that time. Thanks to you all for your continued service to the fraternity.

We have worked on updating and bringing more standardization to the Floor Work manuals. The Committee on Nebraska Work, Most Worshipful Philip A. Lorenzen, Worshipful Brother Roger A. Deininger and Worshipful Brother Gerald D. Verbeek, assisted in this endeavor and I appreciate very much their thoughts and ideas and inputs to get this accomplished.

The custodian school was held in Kearney this year and the date was moved up earlier in the year to May 19. Attendance was not real good but I thought that the work of the brethren who were there was done extremely well. We changed the format somewhat this year so that there was more participation by the brethren and I think that it worked out very well. I would like to thank the brethren of Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney for allowing us to use their Lodge and a particular thanks to W.B. Ron Nielsen who ended up doing most of the heavy lifting.

Those in attendance at the school were: Most Worshipful Rex Moats, Grand Master, W. Leroy Moats, Grand Tyler, W. Dennis Rix, Grand Senior Deacon, W.B. Kevin Lindly, Grand Junior Steward and Apprentice. Deputy Grand Custodians Emeritus: W.B. Richard Mauch and W.B. Harold Noble. Deputy Grand Custodians and their District: W.B. Gus Scolaro, No. 2; W.B. Frank Veverka, No. 34; W.B. Jim Taylor, No. 35; W.B. Carl Plants, No. 36; W.B. Halsey Phillips, No. 3; W.B. Art Dye, No. 18; W.B. Roger Deininger, No. 17; W.B. Lloyd Vrtiska, No. 7; W.B. Roy Smith, No. 1; W.B. Richard Cooper, No. 30; W.B. Glenn Mulholland, No. 33. AJ Johnson, Apprentice, No. 3. Others: Russell Simmons, Custer No. 148; Jerry Vrtiska, Pawnee No. 23; Charles Monter, Keystone No. 62; Cecil Smith, Plattsmouth No. 6; Kevin Johnson, Ron Nielsen, Gordon Muller, all from Rob Morris No. 46.

At the present time, we have five districts in the State that do not have a Deputy Grand Custodian assigned to them. We will probably merge some of these in with other districts, but the fact is, we need to have more brethren become proficient in the degree work so they can become our Deputies in the future. For the past ten years, we have averaged only three brethren per year who have achieved their certification in the degree work. If you are interested in becoming certified or a Deputy Grand Custodian, you can contact me at watkinsins@aol.com or the Deputy Grand Custodian of your Lodge.

It has been a great pleasure and honor to have served the Grand Lodge of Nebraska this past year – my first as Grand Custodian. My thanks to Most Worshipful Rex for his persistence in convincing me to be appointed to this office and his continued support. Also, to the other Grand Lodge Officers, the Deputy Grand Custodians and all the brethren across the State in the local Lodges who are doing the degree work. I look forward to continue to work with all of you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce A. Watkins, 300  
Grand Custodian

Grand Custodian Watkins moved for the acceptance of the printed report. The motion was approved and the report of the Grand Custodian was adopted by vote of the Masons assembled.

The Deputy Grand Custodians present were organized and brought to the East for individual introduction by Grand Custodian Bruce Watkins, and recognition by the Grand Master.

Grand Master Moats thanked the Deputy Grand Custodians for their work in the lodges.

### **FINAL REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE**

*M.:W.: Dwight Smith, Chairman*

Most Worshipful Smith summarized and read parts of the following report:

The meeting of the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge A. F. and A.M. of Nebraska was called to order on Thursday, January 31, 2013 by M.:W.: Brother Dwight

E. Smith, Chairman. The following members were present: Most Worshipful Brothers John McHenry, Dean Skokan and Les Seiler. Most Worshipful Brother Steven F. Mattoon participated by telephone. Also present were all the Grand Lodge Officers as well as Past Grand Masters Bruce A. Baker, Don E. Rasmussen, John T. Parsons, Michael E. Jones and Ivan A. Vrtiska.

Pursuant to Section 1-304 of the Grand Lodge Bylaws, the Jurisprudence Committee is to review all Resolutions delivered to the Grand Secretary, including a request for Bylaw revisions and determine within 45 days of delivery whether the Resolutions are in proper form. Section 1-304 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge provides that at least 15 days prior to the opening of the session of the Grand Lodge, the Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet and submit to the Grand Master an agenda and report. The entire Jurisprudence Committee met on January 14, 2013 and submitted to the Grand Master an Agenda and Report.

A motion was made by M.:W.:B.: Seiler and seconded by M.:W.:B.: McHenry that M.:W.:B.: Dwight E. Smith be elected as Chairman of the Committee for the upcoming year and that M.:W.:B.: Skokan be elected as Secretary. Motion carried.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: McHenry and seconded by M.:W.:B.: Skokan and adopted, The Grand Master's Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are in proper form and may be voted on the this Annual Communication.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: McHenry and seconded by M.:W.:B.: Skokan and adopted, the change in the By-Laws of Waterloo Lodge No. 102 was not approved due to the error in the date of suspension for non-payment of dues that did not agree with the date specified by Section 2-605 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: McHenry, seconded by M.:W.:B.: Seiler and adopted, the determination of the Grand Master dated August 20, 2012 that sixteen candidates who were raised at a one-day conferral on July 21, 2012 hosted by Springfield Lodge No. 112 without proper dispensation from the Grand Master were prohibited from joining any Nebraska appendant bodies until the issue of dispensation was resolved was not approved for the reason it is not within the power of the Grand Master as set out in Article X, Section 2(d) of the Grand Lodge Constitution.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: McHenry, seconded by M.:W.:B.: Seiler and adopted, the action taken by the Grand Master to reinstate the Charter of Omaha Lodge No. 288 on June 5, 2012 after it had been arrested on May 2, 2012 was not authorized by Article X, Section 1(f) of the Grand Lodge Constitution and is not approved.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: Seiler, seconded by M.:W.:B.: McHenry and adopted, the action taken by the Grand Master on May 17, 2012 healing the record of a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 was not authorized by the Constitution and By-Laws and is not approved.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: Skokan, seconded by M.:W.:B.: Seiler and adopted, the action taken by the Grand Master on July 10, 2012 which ordered the owner of a Facebook page for Friend Lodge No. 73 to cease and desist the posting of and to remove all references to political and religious views on the page and that the failure to comply with the order would not be a good reason to arrest the Charter of the Lodge under Article X, Section 1(f) of the Grand Lodge Constitution and is not approved.

On motion by M.:W.:B.: Seiler and seconded by M.:W.:B.: McHenry and adopted, all Lodge By-Law Amendments Approved, Approval of One-Day Conferalls, and Permissions, Dispensations and Orders as set out in the Address and Supplemental

Address of the Grand Master as reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee be approved except as specified in this Report.

The Committee then proceeded to pass a motion commending M.W. B. Rex J. Moats on his very successful year as Grand Master and commended him and his officers for their year of service to the Fraternity.

The Committee on Jurisprudence stands willing, ready and able to aid and assist your Grand Master and all of the elected Grand Lodge Officers to advise and assist them in any way we can with reference to the laws of our Grand Lodge's grand jurisdiction and to aid all of our officers in the execution of the duties of their office.

At this time I would like to thank the other members of the Committee. On behalf of the committee, I thank Michelle and Carol in the Grand Lodge Office for all their help.

**Codification of the Law**

**As a result of the approval by the Grand Lodge of Resolutions 2 and 3 on February 2, 2013, the third paragraph of Section 2-601 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws is amended to read as follows:**

**Sec. 2-601 – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS –**

Third paragraph:

Each Lodge shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge on or before the 10th day of April for each initiation during the preceding calendar year an initiation fee in the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). In addition, each Lodge shall pay annually for each member the sum of Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) as a per capita tax commencing on the 1st day of January 2011. The per capita tax shall increase at a rate of \$3.00 for the first year commencing on the first day of January, 2012, and one dollar per year for the next four years. The said per capita tax shall accrue as follows: 2011 - \$24.00, 2012 - \$27.00, 2013 - \$28.00, 2014 - \$29.50, 2015 - \$30.50, 2016 - \$31.50. The Grand Lodge shall distribute the per capita tax as provided in Section 1-404 of this code. Before any subordinate lodge shall be consolidated with another lodge, the per capita tax for the year preceding the year of consolidation shall be determined and paid. In addition to the per capita tax as currently provided, commencing on January 1, 2014, each subordinate lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge an assessment of \$1.50 per member to support the Child Identification Program. Said assessment shall be due and payable in the same manner as the Grand Lodge per capita tax. The funds from this assessment shall be separate from the Grand Lodge per capita tax and shall be used for no other purpose than provided above.

**As a result of the approval by the Grand Lodge of Resolution 3 on February 2, 2013, Section 1-404 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws is amended to read as follows:**

**Sec. 1 404 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS –** Commencing January 1, 2014 the per capita tax shall be divided as follows:

To the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children	\$ 1.00
To the George Washington Masonic Memorial	1.50
To the Nebraska Masonic Home	2.50
To the Masonic Education Newsletter	.50
To the General Fund	
January 2012	22.00
January 2013	23.00
January 2014	24.00
January 2015	25.00
January 2016	26.00

The Initiation Fee shall be allocated to the General Fund.

The Committee then proceeded to pass a motion commending Most Worshipful Brother Rex J. Moats on his very successful year as Grand Master and commended him and his officers for their year of service to the Fraternity.

The Committee on Jurisprudence stands willing, ready and able to aid and assist your Grand Master and all of the elected Grand Lodge Officers to advise and assist them in any way we can with reference to the laws of our Grand Lodge's grand jurisdiction and to aid all of our officers in the execution of the duties of their office.

At this time I would like to thank the other members of the Committee. On behalf of the committee, I thank Michelle and Carol in the Grand Lodge Office for all their help.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwight E. Smith, 205, Chairman  
Steven F. Mattoon, 75  
Les Seiler, 317  
Dean Skokan, 15  
Reginald S. Kuhn, 19 & 134

M.:W.:B.: Dwight Smith moved for the adoption of the report of the Jurisprudence Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

As alluded to in the Jurisprudence Committee report that the reinstatement by the Grand Master of the charter of Omaha Lodge No. 288 was not proper, M.:W.: Dwight Smith made a motion that the Grand Lodge take action to reinstate the charter of Omaha Lodge No. 288 and that all actions and doings by that lodge since their charter was arrested be ratified and approved. The motion was seconded, and with no discussion, the motion carried.



V.:W.:B.: Grand Chaplain Donald E. Rife led the delegation in a closing prayer.

Following the prayer, M.:W.: Grand Master Rex J. Moats thanked the brethren for their participation in the Annual Communication.

By virtue in the power and authority in him vested as Grand Master, Rex J. Moats then declared the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska closed in ample form.

Following the close of the Grand Lodge, the Lodge of Master Masons was closed by members of Waterloo Lodge No. 102 in Elkhorn.

Organization

of

# Grand Lodge

A.:F.: & A.:M.:  
of Nebraska



Kearney, Nebraska  
February 1-2, 2013

# GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

M.: W.: Rex J. Moats.....	GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Thomas L. Hauder.....	Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe D. McBride.....	Grand Senior Warden
R.: W.: John T. Maxell.....	Grand Junior Warden
M.: W.: Reginald S. Kuhn, PGM.....	Grand Secretary
V.: W.: Donald E. Rife.....	Grand Chaplain
W.: Robert W. Moninger.....	Grand Orator
W.: Christopher M. Carter.....	Grand Historian
W.: Bruce A. Watkins.....	Grand Custodian
W.: Ronald D. Stites.....	Grand Marshal
W.: Dennis E. Rix.....	Grand Senior Deacon
W.: Richard D. Myers.....	Grand Junior Deacon
W.: John B. Ferguson.....	Grand Senior Steward
W.: Kevin R. Lindly.....	Grand Junior Steward
W.: LeRoy Moats.....	Grand Tyler, Pro-Tem
W.: Mark K. Clinton.....	Grand Musician

## SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

### Personal Representatives of the Grand Master

W.: Patrick D. Barger	W.: Brett R. Bennett
W.: Kent B. Broyhill	W.: Joel W. Zilmer

# 2012 Past Grand Masters

## Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge

### A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska

DONALD R. SWANSON, 54.....	(109th).....	1974
1615 S. 44th St., Lincoln 68506-1121, 402-489-1615		
WARREN D. LICHTY, 314.....	(114th).....	1979
PO Box 22559, Lincoln 68542-2559, 402-421-1112		
CHARLES W. AMIDON, 281, 327.....	(120th).....	1986
1706 Hillside Dr., Omaha 68114-1621, 402-391-2657		
PAUL R. EVELAND, 119.....	(122nd).....	1988
1848 County Road 14 Blvd., Ames 68621-2123, 402-721-3298		
THOMAS W. TYE, 46.....	(123rd).....	1989
4225 S. Westcotta Dr., Green Valley, AZ 85614-5624, 520-648-5416		
JOHN M. McHENRY, 19.....	(124th).....	1990
PO Box 82426, Lincoln 68501-2426, 402-476-2200		
JAMES N. DeMOSS, 325.....	(125th).....	1991
92-1025 Makakilo Dr., #75, Kapolei, HI 96707-1385, 808-672-6598		
DONALD L. POHLMAN, 41.....	(127th).....	1993
12918 W. Skyview Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-977-7386		
STEVEN F. MATTOON, 75.....	(128th).....	1994
PO Box 316, Sidney 69162-0316, 308-254-5595		

V. KAYE RAMSEY, 290 & 317..... (130th).....1996  
14522 Patrick Ave., Omaha 68116-4130, 402-498-2821

KENNETH G. FLEMING, 75..... (131st) .....1997  
2449 Queen Dr., Sidney 69162-2623, 308-254-2387

DON E. RASMUSSEN, 82, 135..... (132nd) .....1998  
1327 W. 16th St., Hastings 68901-2907, 402-463-3864

DWIGHT E. SMITH, 205 ..... (133rd).....1999  
16950 Road 16, Chappell 69129-6830, 308-874-3268

JAMES F. BROWN, JR., 54 ..... (134th).....2000  
6710 Rexford Dr., Lincoln, NE 68506-1532, 402-483-1727

PHILIP A. LORENZEN, 10, 327, 1..... (135th).....2001  
13448 Burdette Street, Omaha 68164-4016, 402-493-3701

MICHAEL E. JONES, 51, 173 ..... (136th).....2002  
PO Box 229, David City 68632-0229, 402-367-3342

KENNETH D. BEEBE, 119..... (137th) .....2003  
1291 Old Lincoln Hwy, North Bend 68649-2011, 402-652-3380

LES SEILER, 317 ..... (138th).....2004  
848 N. 6th Ave., Hastings 68901-4117, 402-462-9396

IVAN A. VRTISKA, 327..... (139th).....2005  
1516 N. 170th Cir., Omaha 68118-2843, 402-397-7669

SCOTT J. KRIEGER, SR., 317, 332, 33..... (140th).....2006  
1231 Pershing Rd., Hastings 68901-2836, 402-463-4602

DEAN SKOKAN, 15 ..... (141st) .....2007  
404 E. Ridge Dr., Hooper 68031-3000, 402-654-2514

REGINALD S. KUHN, 134, 19, 332..... (142nd) .....2008  
2627 Park Ave., Lincoln 68502-4023, 402-438-4220

RUSSELL G. RENO, 183, 297, 332, 54 ..... (143rd).....2009  
4710 Larkwood Rd., Lincoln 68516-5129, 402-420-1270

JOHN T. PARSONS, 268..... (144th).....2010  
1512 Beechwood Ave., Papillion 68133-2506, 402-339-7565

BRUCE A. BAKER, 317 ..... (145th).....2011  
2510 S. Deer Trl., Hastings 68901-7497, 402-984-7396

# GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

(Per Section 1-301 of Grand Lodge Bylaws)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Jurisprudence (§1-307: 5 Past Grand Masters - 5 year term)

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### Masonic Education (§1-310)

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 Michael J. Webb, 46, 4816 Avenue E, Kearney 68847, 308-237-1304, [mike6802@hotmail.com](mailto:mike6802@hotmail.com)

### Awards Committee (§1-311)

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### Nebraska Work (§1-312: 3 members - 3 year term)

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 Roger A. Deininger, 317, 1319 W 11th, Hastings 68901, 402-462-8146, [r.dein@yahoo.com](mailto:r.dein@yahoo.com)  
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**Finance (§1-314: 8 members)**

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 Jeffrey C. Johnson, 19, 8250 Rockledge Rd #206, Lincoln 68506, 402-488-1775,  
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**Credentials (§1-315)**

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 Gregory D. Beebe, 119, 155 Legge Lake #7, North Bend 68649, 402-652-8763, [seedfarms@netscape.net](mailto:seedfarms@netscape.net)  
 Brett R. Bennett, 6, 1219 James St, Plattsmouth 68048, 402-296-6224, [chiefs0652@charter.net](mailto:chiefs0652@charter.net)  
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 Jerrell F. Gerdes, 264, 216 18th Ave, Franklin 68939, 308-425-3011, [jcgerdes@hotmail.com](mailto:jcgerdes@hotmail.com)  
**Ad-hoc Member:**  
 Bill Lichtenberger, 207, 148, PO Box 235, Callaway 68825, 308-836-4492, [billlich@gpcom.net](mailto:billlich@gpcom.net)

**Lodge Leadership Committee (§1-318)**

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[dannonneman@charter.net](mailto:dannonneman@charter.net)  
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 L. Joe Work, 6, 128 Debra Ave, Plattsmouth 68048, 402-296-5321, [lavern.work@afwa.af.mil](mailto:lavern.work@afwa.af.mil)  
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**Membership (§1-319)**

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 Ronald A. Nielsen, 46, 2 Cottonwood Place, Kearney 68845, 308-234-4482, [ramnielsen1@aol.com](mailto:ramnielsen1@aol.com)  
 Arthur R. Stricker, 265, 263, 401 W 32nd St, Scottsbluff 69361, 308-635-9626, [art.stricker@yahoo.com](mailto:art.stricker@yahoo.com)  
 James M. Stull, 332, 54, 38, 96, 550 South St, Staplehurst 68439, 402-641-1502, [jim@hughesbros.com](mailto:jim@hughesbros.com)

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

May be appointed at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master or at the direction of the Grand Lodge.

### Masonic All-Star Band

- Chm. K. Roger Dill, 310, 710 S East St, Valley 68064, 402-359-4440, [krogerdill@yahoo.com](mailto:krogerdill@yahoo.com)  
 Joseph A. Chapman, 21, 930 N 16th St, Blair 68008, 402-426-9567, [chapman87@abnnebraska.com](mailto:chapman87@abnnebraska.com)  
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### Internet and Computer Technology Committee

- Chm. Tarl W. Carpenter, 62, 1203 W 1st St, Grand Island 68801, 308-646-0540, [goldshadow@gmail.com](mailto:goldshadow@gmail.com)  
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### Youth

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#### **Ex-Officio:**

- State Master Councilor of DeMolay  
 Grand Bethel Honored Queen of Job's Daughters  
 Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter Job's Daughters  
 Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow

### Nebraska Masonic Heritage Committee

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 Frank R. Wooden, 265, 513 W 15th St, Scottsbluff 69361, 308-632-2090

**East Grand Master's Masonic Charities Activity Committee**

Co-Chm. Donald I. Peterson, 119, 740 Locust St, North Bend 68649, 402-652-8257, *dcpeterson@gpcom.net*  
Co-Chm. Danforth D. Loring, 268, 9410 Chicago St, Omaha 68114, 402-391-4471, *danforth@cox.net*  
Karl R. Adamson, 31, 1506 O St, Tekamah 68061, 402-374-1229, *lionkarl@huntel.net*  
Richard E. Gilmore, 268, 2426 S 84th St, Omaha 68124, 402-392-2247  
Del F. Hartung, 15, 1820 E 19th, Fremont 68025, 402-721-8501, *delhartung@aol.com*  
Benjiman H. Harvey, 119, PO Box 1119, Bellevue 68005, 402-502-3997, *benchal65@cox.net*  
David L. Knutson, 302, 3940 Hawk Woods Cir, Omaha 68112, 402-455-7172,  
*dknutson@farmers-national.com*  
Dale G. Lueders, 300, 220, 8350 Katrina Ln, Lincoln 68512, 402-430-4710, *dglueders@aol.com*  
Richard D. Myers, 102, 119, 2790 Big Island Rd, Fremont 68025, 402-250-1418, *rickmyers@q.com*  
Ivan A. Vrtiska, 327, 1516 N 170th Cir, Omaha 68118, 402-397-7669, *kiivrtiska@aol.com*  
Daniel J. Wellendorf, 112, 268, PO Box 27987, Omaha 68127, 402-315-9558, *bsclumber1@aol.com*

**Change for the Troops**

Co-Chm. Anthony T. Johnson, 268, 2613 Alberta Ave, Bellevue 68147, 402-291-8603, *tjark@cox.net*  
Co-Chm. John T. Parsons, 268, 39, 1512 Beechwood Ave, Papillion 68133, 402-339-7565, *parsoni1@q.com*  
Skip W. DeBusk, 268, 2405 S Mineral Dr, Papillion 68046, 402-291-6382, *busko@cox.net*  
John E. Lorenzen, 10, 314, 7447 Whitestone Dr, Lincoln 68506, 402-488-2603,  
*jack@qualitywaterservices.com*  
William H. Nelson, 256, 4221 Bingham Ln, Lincoln 68516, 402-420-1555,  
*william.nelson1@us.army.mil*  
Gary S. Unger, 112, 909 Leprechaun Ln, Papillion 68046, 402-895-6321,  
*garyandbeckyunger@cox.net*

**GRAND CUSTODIAN**

W.: Bruce A. Watkins  
 3711 S. 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68506-4509

**DEPUTY GRAND CUSTODIANS  
 AND THEIR DISTRICTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>APPOINTED</b>
<b>District #1</b>	
<b>Roy L. Smith, 6, 12200 24th St., Plattsmouth 68048-7802, 402-298-8570</b> .....	<b>1989</b>
Western Star #2, Nebraska City; Plattsmouth #6, Plattsmouth; Springfield #112, Springfield	
<b>District #2</b>	
<b>Augustine S. Scolaro, 3, 801 5th St. N., Bellevue 68005-4303, 402-733-6249</b> .....	<b>Emeritus</b>
Capitol #3, Omaha; Covert #11, Omaha; Florence #281, Omaha; John J. Mercer #290, Omaha; Mizpah #302, Omaha	
<b>District #3</b>	
<b>Halsey D. Phillips, 325, 2801 Mars Cir., Bellevue 68005, 402-291-6496</b> .....	<b>1993</b>
Bee Hive #184, Omaha; George W. Lininger #268, Omaha; Centennial #326, Omaha; Shiloh #327, Omaha; Miloma #328, Omaha	
<b>District #4</b>	
<b>Brian K. Sandall, 21, 1063 N 17th Ave., Blair 68008-1234, 402-426-4890</b> .....	<b>2010</b>
Washington #21, Blair; Tekamah #31, Tekamah; Oakland #91, Oakland; Landmark #222, Herman; George Armstrong #241, Craig	
<b>District #5</b>	
<b>Ronald D. Grass, 31, 420 N. 13th, Tekamah 68061, 402-374-2689</b> .....	<b>1990</b>
Omadi #5, So. Sioux City; Jordan #27, West Point; Northern Light #41, Stanton; Wisner #114, Wisner; Magnolia #220, Emerson; Olive Branch #274, Walthill	
<b>District #6</b>	
<b>To Be Appointed</b>	
Corinthian #83, Wakefield; Wayne #120, Wayne; Laurel #248, Laurel	
<b>District #7</b>	
<b>Lloyd F. Vrtiska, 23, RR 1 Box 99, Table Rock 68447-9756, 402-839-2955</b> .....	<b>1988</b>
Falls City #9, Falls City; Pawnee #23, Pawnee City	
<b>District #8</b>	
<b>John C. Sierks, 4, 64708 730 Rd., Brownville 68321-6007, 402-825-6061</b> .....	<b>1969</b>
Nemaha Valley #4, Brownville; Peru #14, Peru	
<b>District #9</b>	
<b>Edward W. Nolte, 39, 4702 Windcrest Dr., Papillion 68133-4767, 402-592-0184</b> .....	<b>2010</b>
Wahoo #59, Wahoo; Waterloo #102, Elkhorn; Comet #229, Ceresco; Victory #310, Valley	

**NAME** **APPOINTED**

**District #10**

**Steven A. Green, 54, 2635 S. 12th St., Lincoln 68502-3515, 402-477-9055.....1988**  
Lincoln #19, Lincoln; Blue River #30, Milford; Lancaster #54, Lincoln; East Lincoln #210, Lincoln; Hickman #256, Lincoln; Cotner #297, Lincoln

**District #11**

**Suman Vallabhbai, 314, 6200 Eureka Dr., Lincoln 68516-3467, 402-420-7616.....2004**  
Mt. Moriah #57, Syracuse; Euclid #97, Weeping Water; Highland #194, Cortland; George Washington #250, Lincoln; Union #287, Palmyra; Craftsmen #314, Lincoln

**District #13**

**To Be Appointed**  
Beatrice #26, Beatrice; Fairbury #35, Fairbury; Barneston #165, Barneston

**District #14**

**To Be Appointed**  
Garfield #95, O'Neill; Atkinson #164, Atkinson

**District #15**

**Randall L. Hart, 222 & 31, 412 S 12th St., Tekamah 68061-1444, 402-374-1278 .....2008**  
Mosaic #55, Norfolk; Albion #78, Albion; Cedar River #89, Fullerton; Newman Grove #305, Newman Grove

**District #16**

**To be Appointed**  
Plainview #204, Plainview; Wausa #251, Wausa; Diamond #291, Orchard

**District #17**

**Roger A. Deininger, 317, 1319 W. 11th, Hastings 68901-3702, 402-462-8146.....1998**  
Ashlar #33, Grand Island; Lone Tree #36, Central City; Keystone #62, Phillips; Aurora #68, Aurora; Cement #211, Wood River; Friendship #239, Chapman; Cairo #324, Cairo

**District #18**

**Arthur S. Dye, 317, 910 N. Jefferson Ave., Hastings 68901-3727, 402-463-2015.....1964**  
Harvard #44, Harvard; Hastings #50, Hastings; Charity #53, Red Cloud; St. Paul #82, St. Paul; Guide Rock #128, Guide Rock; Franklin #264, Franklin; Mid-West #317, Hastings

**District #21**

**Wayne E. Beatty, 126, 12429 P Rd., Stromsburg 68666-5060, 402-764-3950.....1984**  
Fidelity #51, David City; York #56, York; Stromsburg #126, Stromsburg; Solar #134, Clarks; Lebanon #323, Columbus

**District #24**

**Delmar A. Jones, 46 & 65, PO Box 1005, Kearney 68848-1005, 308-237-9234 .....1992**  
Rob Morris #46, Kearney; Thistle #61, Lexington; Osceola #65, Osceola; Jachin #146, Holdrege; Elwood #167, Elwood

**District #25**

**Philip E. Darby, Jr., 61, 1801 Plum Creek Ln., Lexington 68850, 308-324-4548.....2006**  
McCook #135, McCook; Bartley #228, Bartley; Monument #293, Arapahoe

**District #26**

**Arthur J. Ferguson, 221, PO Box 776, Wood Lake 69221-0776, 402-967-3361 .....1979**  
Long Pine #136, Long Pine; Minnekadusa #192, Valentine; Wood Lake #221, Wood Lake; Silver Cord #224, Ainsworth

<b>NAME</b>	<b>APPOINTED</b>
<b>District #27</b>	
<b>Bill Lichtenberger, 207, 42634 Callaway Rd, Callaway 68825-2547, 308-836-4492</b> .....	<b>2003</b>
Ord #103, Ord; Porter #106, Loup City; Custer #148, Broken Bow; Blazing Star #200, Burwell; Parian #207, Callaway	
<b>District #28</b>	
<b>Jack D. Nichols, 265, 702 W. 15th St., Scottsbluff 69361-2906, 308-635-0404</b> .....	<b>2000</b>
Alliance #183, Alliance; Zion #234, Hyannis; Robert W. Furnas #265, Scottsbluff; Camp Clarke #285, Bridgeport	
<b>District #29</b>	
<b>Leslie A. Evert, 195, 508 N. Ash St., Gordon 69343-1348, 308-282-0214</b> .....	<b>1984</b>
Samaritan #158, Chadron; Arcana #195, Gordon	
<b>District #30</b>	
<b>Richard H. Cooper, 263, 706 E. Webster #16, Morrill 69358-2415, 308-247-2238</b> .....	<b>1996</b>
Scotts Bluff #201, Gering; Mitchell #263, Mitchell	
<b>District #31</b>	
<b>Kenneth G. Fleming, 75, 2449 Queen Dr., Sidney 69162-2623, 308 254-2387</b> .....	<b>2008</b>
Frank Welch #75, Sidney; Golden Fleece #205, Chappell; Oshkosh #286, Oshkosh; James L. Eatmon #294, Kimball	
<b>District #32</b>	
<b>Roger L. Shillington, 180, 71562 Avenue 343, Max 69037-4411, 308-423-2547</b> .....	<b>1976</b>
Robert Burns #173, Stratton; Justice #180, Benkelman; Purity #198, Imperial	
<b>District #33</b>	
<b>Glenn R. Mulholland, 32, 3020 S. Willow St., North Platte 69101, 308-532-0270</b> .....	<b>2005</b>
Platte Valley #32, North Platte; Ogalalla #159, Ogalalla; Wallace #279, Wallace; Seneca #284, Thedford	
<b>District #34</b>	
<b>Frank Veverka, 15, 1525 E. 5th St., Fremont 68025-5342, 402-721-9529</b> .....	<b>2005</b>
Fremont #15, Fremont; Acacia #34, Schuyler; Hiram #52, Arlington; Hooper #72, Hooper; North Bend #119, North Bend; Scribner #132, Scribner	
<b>District #35</b>	
<b>James R. Taylor, 327, 11335 Fowler Ave., Omaha 68164-2220, 402-493-2854</b> .....	<b>2002</b>
Nebraska #1, Omaha; Solomon #10, Fort Calhoun; Papillion #39, Papillion; Omaha #288, Omaha; Bellevue #325, Bellevue	
<b>District #36</b>	
<b>Carl C. Plants, 54, 6124 NW 6th St., Lincoln 68521-3701, 402-477-9464</b> .....	<b>2001</b>
Crete #37, Crete; Blue Valley #64, Wilber; Bennett #94, Lincoln; North Star #227, Lincoln; Liberty #300, Lincoln; College View #320, Lincoln; Tabula Rasa #332, Lincoln	
<b>District #37</b>	
<b>Albert A. Wise, 79, 824 H St., Geneva 68361-2025, 402-759-3869</b> .....	<b>1992</b>
Oliver #38, Seward; Friend #73, Friend; Geneva #79, Geneva; Utica #96, Utica	
<b>District #38</b>	
<b>Dean Papenhagen, 50, 2904 Lakeview Cv., Hastings 68901-2510, 402-462-8540</b> .....	<b>2003</b>
Hebron #43, Hebron; Nelson #77, Nelson; Superior #121, Superior; Lily #154, Davenport	

**DEPUTY GRAND CUSTODIANS EMERITI**

- Glenn W. Binder, 23 ..... 62120 Hwy 8, Pawnee City 68420-3102
- Richard L. Mauch, 224 & 136 ..... PO Box 10, Bassett 68714-0010
- Ralph McNulty, 61 ..... 1203 Buffalo Bend #16, Lexington 68850-1550
- A. W. Clark, 33 ..... 219 W. 15th, Grand Island 68801-2521
- Eugene C. Sibley, 314 ..... 1320 Silver Ridge Rd., Lincoln 68510-5131
- Richard W. Linnemeyer, 135 ..... 1103 W. 2nd St., McCook 69001-2514
- Augustine S. Scolaro, 3 ..... 801 5th Street N., Bellevue 68005-4303
- Vincent Rosenberger, 183 ..... 2421 Peterson Ct., Apt 104, Alliance 69301-4401
- Kenneth G. Fleming, 75 ..... 2449 Queen Dr., Sidney 69162-2623
- Michael G. Birnstihl, 314 ..... 5811 Dobsons Rd., Lincoln 68516-3721
- Harold W. Noble, 325 ..... 2504 Sidney St., Bellevue 68005-4020
- Harold Mueksch, 132 ..... 404 5th St., Scribner 68057-3057
- James E. Cornish, 31 ..... 520 Co Rd 24, Tekamah 68061-5056
- Grand Custodian Emeritus

**DEPUTY GRAND CUSTODIAN APPRENTICES**

- Patrick S. Andrew, 4 (8) ..... 1202 8th St., Auburn 68305-1116, 402-297-8478
- Bruce A. Baker, 317 (18) ..... 2510 S Deer Trl., Hastings 68901-7497, 402-462-8170
- Alvin O. Benemerito, 136 (26) ..... PO Box 38, Long Pine 69217-0038, 402-273-3164
- Monte R. Bloyd, 50, 211 (38) ..... 45632 Kilgore Rd., Gibbon 68840-4005, 402-462-6192
- John Brommer, 1&302 (35) ..... 16451 Madison St., Omaha 68135-6353, 402-896-0772
- Jerry Caha, 229 (9) ..... PO Box 353, Ceresco 68017-0353, 402-665-2275
- Gene A. Geise, 102 (9) ..... 1300 Ave D, Plattsmouth 68048-1055, 402-850-7526
- Robert Hoagland 46&146 (24) ..... 2701 Grand Ave. #66, Kearney 68847, 308-237-9255
- Anthony T. Johnson, 268 (3) ..... 2613 Alberta Ave., Bellevue 68147-2466, 402-232-5306
- Stephen Kennedy, 4 (8) ..... 73086 646 Ave., Brownville 68321-6025, 402-274-5111
- David A. Kipp, 281 (2) ..... 2565 Mary St., Omaha 681112-3215, 402-346-0832
- Ernest Lehmkuhler, 32 (33) ..... 9301 Canal Rd., N. Platte 69101-9478, 308-532-2889
- Kevin R. Lindly, 148 (27) ..... 819 S 10th Ave., Broken Bow 68822, 308-880-1081
- Donald E. Loos, 265 (28) ..... 2665 Monument Valley Rd., Scottsbluff 69361, 308-632-6761
- Kent D. Priest, 32 (33) ..... 820 Hackberry Rd., North Platte 69101-6811, 308-534-5459
- Butch Schuler, II, 285 (28) ..... 7526 Rd 74, Bridgeport 69336, 308-279-0592
- Larry M. Smith, 102 (9) ..... PO Box 43, Elkhorn 68022-0043, 402-650-9365
- Donald L. Veskerna, 59 (9) ..... 756 N Walnut St., Wahoo 68066-1671, 402-443-5036

(Number in parenthesis denotes for which District they are acting as Apprentice)

**MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY RECORD**

	Initiated		On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012		Passed		On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012		Membership Dec. 31, 2011		Raisings	Affiliations	Dual or Plural Membership	Reinstated	Consolidated	Other Causes	TOTAL GAIN	Demitted	Deaths	Suspended	Withdrew	Termination of Dual	Other Causes	TOTAL LOSS	TOTAL NET LOSS/GAIN	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012	
1 - Nebraska	9	1	8	1	162	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	2	5	0	0	0	8	3	165	
2 - Western Star	0	2	0	1	139	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	3	0	0	0	10	-9	130	
3 - Capitol	12	0	12	0	82	12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	6	4	0	0	0	10	3	85	
4 - Nemaha Valley	0	0	1	0	56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	-5	51	
5 - Omadi	2	0	2	1	134	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	8	-5	129	
6 - Plattsmouth	20	1	19	3	289	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	6	2	0	1	0	9	12	301	
9 - Falls City	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	-1	42	
10 - Solomon	3	0	3	2	74	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	-2	72	
11 - Covert	10	0	10	0	455	10	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	18	1	14	19	0	2	0	36	-18	437	
14 - Peru	3	1	2	0	27	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	30	
15 - Fremont	0	0	0	0	208	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	1	9	12	0	1	0	23	-15	193	
19 - Lincoln	4	1	6	3	152	4	1	0	4	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	1	0	1	0	11	-2	150	
21 - Washington	1	0	2	0	59	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	-3	56	
23 - Pawnee	2	1	2	1	133	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	0	0	7	-6	127	
26 - Beatrice	1	0	1	1	153	1	1	0	1	41	0	44	2	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	32	185	
27 - Jordan	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
30 - Blue River	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	-3	34	
31 - Tekamah	0	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	-3	116	
32 - Platte Valley	3	0	3	0	203	3	1	2	4	0	0	10	1	7	4	0	10	1	7	4	0	0	0	12	-2	201	
33 - Ashlar	11	2	9	2	142	9	1	0	3	0	0	13	0	5	9	0	13	0	5	9	0	0	0	14	-1	141	
34 - Acacia	1	0	1	0	63	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	63	
35 - Fairbury	1	1	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	-5	46	
36 - Lone Tree	1	1	1	1	29	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	7	-5	24	
37 - Crete	0	0	0	0	54	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	4	-2	52	
38 - Oliver	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	7	0	0	0	9	-7	36	
39 - Papillion	8	2	7	3	209	5	0	0	4	0	0	9	2	6	9	0	9	2	6	9	0	2	0	19	-10	199	
41 - Northern Light	1	0	1	1	30	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	-1	29	
43 - Hebron	3	0	3	3	41	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	41	
44 - Harvard	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
46 - Rob Morris	1	1	0	2	207	2	2	1	3	0	0	8	0	9	8	0	8	0	9	8	0	0	0	17	-9	198	
50 - Hastings	4	0	3	0	146	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	1	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	5	-1	145	
51 - Fidelity	0	0	0	1	72	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	5	5	9	0	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	19	-15	57	
52 - Hiram	2	0	2	0	29	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	30	
53 - Charity	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	-3	21	
54 - Lancaster	5	3	6	4	333	5	0	2	3	0	0	10	0	7	43	0	10	0	7	43	0	1	0	51	-41	292	
55 - Mosaic	1	1	0	1	98	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	4	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	-2	96	
56 - York	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	0	9	-8	79	
57 - Mt Moriah	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	44	
59 - Wahoo	1	0	1	0	61	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-1	60	
61 - Thistle	1	1	0	0	131	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	8	0	2	0	8	0	1	0	9	-7	124	
62 - Keystone	2	1	1	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-2	35	
64 - Blue Valley	1	0	1	1	58	1	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	2	8	0	4	0	2	8	0	0	0	10	-6	52	
65 - Osceola	5	4	1	1	84	0	3	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	5	0	4	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	-2	82	
68 - Aurora	1	0	1	0	29	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	-1	28	
72 - Hooper	1	0	1	0	49	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	49	
73 - Friend	2	0	2	0	45	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	47	
75 - Frank Welch	2	0	2	2	113	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	3	6	0	3	0	3	6	0	2	0	11	-8	105	
77 - Nelson	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	41	42	-42	0

**MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY RECORD**

	Initiated	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012	Passed	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012	Membership Dec. 31, 2011	Raisings	Affiliations	Dual or Plural Membership	Reinstated	Consolidated	Other Causes	TOTAL GAIN	Demitted	Deaths	Suspended	Withdrew	Termination of Dual	Other Causes	TOTAL LOSS	TOTAL NET LOSS/GAIN	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012
78 - Albion	1	0	1	0	39	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-1	38
79 - Geneva	2	0	2	0	118	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	118
82 - St Paul	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-2	35
83 - Corinthian	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
89 - Cedar River	0	0	0	2	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	-3	22
91 - Oakland	1	1	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-1	41
94 - Bennett	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-1	35
95 - Garfield	1	0	1	1	52	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	-2	50
96 - Utica	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	-3	24
97 - Euclid	1	0	1	0	80	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	81
102 - Waterloo	6	1	5	0	97	7	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	2	0	1	0	4	4	101
103 - Ord	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	18	19	-19	0
104 - Wymore	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	41	-41	0
106 - Porter	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-2	52
112 - Springfield	21	4	19	1	295	20	0	0	7	0	0	27	1	2	28	0	1	0	32	-5	290
114 - Wisner	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	-2	27
119 - North Bend	1	0	1	0	85	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	88
120 - Wayne	2	0	2	0	89	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	91
121 - Superior	1	0	1	1	39	0	0	0	0	41	0	41	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	38	77
126 - Stromsburg	0	0	0	1	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	-3	70
128 - Guide Rock	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-2	30
132 - Scribner	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
134 - Solar	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
135 - McCook	1	0	1	2	138	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	5	-3	135
136 - Long Pine	0	2	0	0	34	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	35	35
146 - Jachin	1	2	0	0	111	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	1	2	7	0	1	0	11	-8	103
148 - Custer	1	2	0	0	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	-5	89
154 - Lily	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	20
158 - Samaritan	1	0	2	0	72	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	-1	71
159 - Ogalalla	1	1	0	0	67	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1	68
164 - Atkinson	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	30
165 - Barneston	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	17
167 - Elwood	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	25
173 - Robert Burns	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	25
180 - Justice	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	29
183 - Alliance	5	3	2	1	132	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	5	4	0	1	0	10	-7	125
184 - Bee Hive	2	0	2	0	136	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	-3	133
192 - Minnekadusa	2	0	1	0	40	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	41
194 - Highland	1	0	2	0	39	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	39
195 - Arcana	5	1	5	2	85	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	7	0	0	0	8	-3	82
198 - Purity	0	0	0	1	35	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	36
200 - Blazing Star	0	0	0	1	32	1	0	1	0	18	0	20	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	18	50
201 - Scotts Bluff	1	0	1	0	68	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	68
204 - Plainview	0	1	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
205 - Golden Fleece	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	44
207 - Parian	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	-1	20
210 - East Lincoln	9	5	6	0	237	6	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	11	6	0	0	0	17	-10	227
211 - Cement	1	0	1	0	52	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	52
220 - Magnolia	4	0	4	0	26	6	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	34

**MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY RECORD**

	Initiated	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012	Passed	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012	Membership Dec. 31, 2011	Raisings	Affiliations	Dual or Plural Membership	Reinstated	Consolidated	Other Causes	TOTAL GAIN	Demitted	Deaths	Suspended	Withdrew	Termination of Dual	Other Causes	TOTAL LOSS	TOTAL NET LOSS/GAIN	On Rolls Dec. 31, 2012
221 - Wood Lake	3	0	3	3	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	7	-7	61
222 - Landmark	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
224 - Silver Cord	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	-4	55
227 - North Star	2	5	1	0	122	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	8	-7	115
228 - Bartley	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	51
229 - Comet	0	0	0	0	124	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	8	0	0	0	12	-11	113
234 - Zion	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	41
239 - Friendship	1	2	1	0	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	20
241 - G Armstrong	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
248 - Laurel	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	26
250 - G Washington	1	0	1	0	50	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	52
251 - Wausa	0	1	0	0	80	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	5	-4	76
256 - Hickman	8	1	8	0	194	8	2	2	4	0	0	16	0	3	9	0	0	0	12	4	198
263 - Mitchell	0	1	0	0	91	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	5	6	0	0	0	11	-9	82
264 - Franklin	1	1	1	1	56	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	-1	55
265 - R W Fumas	3	1	2	0	75	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	76
268 - G W Lininger	11	0	11	0	217	12	1	0	4	0	0	17	1	5	5	0	0	0	11	6	223
274 - Olive Branch	2	1	2	0	65	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	67
279 - Wallace	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	37
281 - Florence	2	4	0	0	107	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	-3	104
284 - Seneca	1	0	1	1	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	-1	26
285 - Camp Clarke	1	0	1	1	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	-4	68
286 - Oshkosh	1	0	2	0	28	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	29
287 - Union	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	-4	30
288 - Omaha	7	0	7	0	66	7	0	0	5	0	0	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	9	75
290 - John J Mercer	10	1	10	1	396	10	2	1	3	0	0	16	0	27	11	0	0	0	38	-22	374
291 - Diamond	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	36
293 - Monument	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-2	31
294 - James Eatmon	1	0	1	0	55	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	-3	52
297 - Cotner	2	3	2	2	204	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	4	6	0	0	0	11	-8	196
300 - Liberty	10	4	8	3	232	6	1	1	1	0	0	9	0	10	7	0	0	0	17	-8	224
302 - Mizpah	6	0	6	0	284	7	1	3	27	0	0	38	1	3	29	0	1	0	34	4	288
305 - Newman Grove	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5	-5	23
310 - Victory	3	0	3	1	66	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	-1	65
314 - Craftsmen	1	0	1	1	194	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	-1	193
317 - Mid-West	2	3	3	5	187	1	0	0	3	0	0	4	4	8	4	0	2	0	18	-14	173
320 - College View	3	1	3	0	57	3	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	59
323 - Lebanon	1	0	1	0	102	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	-2	100
324 - Cairo	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
325 - Bellevue	21	3	18	3	218	15	0	1	3	0	0	19	2	5	15	0	1	0	23	-4	214
326 - Centennial	1	0	1	0	109	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	6	1	0	0	0	9	-7	102
327 - Shiloh	4	1	4	0	160	5	0	0	1	0	0	6	2	3	10	0	1	0	16	-10	150
328 - Miloma	3	2	3	0	154	3	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	2	6	0	0	0	8	-3	151
332 - Tabula Rasa	0	1	0	1	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	-1	15
	309	83	279	71	12270	272	28	36	140	100	0	576	39	388	391	1	31	101	951	-375	11895

**Historical Records  
and Information**

of

# **Grand Lodge**

**A.:F.: & A.:M.:  
of Nebraska**



**Kearney, Nebraska  
February 1-2, 2013**

## PAST GRAND MASTERS

YEAR	SERVED	NAME	LODGE	IF DECEASED, DATE OF DEATH
1st	1857-58-59	Robert C. Jordan	3	Jan. 9, 1899
2nd	1860-61-62	George Armstrong	3	Nov. 12, 1896
3rd	1863-64	Daniel H. Wheeler	6	Nov. 27, 1912
4th	1865-66	Robert W. Furnas	4	June 1, 1905
5th	1867-68	Orsamus H. Irish	5	Jan. 27, 1883
6th	1869-70	Harry P. Deuel	11	Nov. 23, 1914
7th	1871-72	William E. Hill	2	Dec. 29, 1917
8th	1873	Martin Dunham	3	Feb. 18, 1915
9th	1874	Frank Welch	27	Sept. 4, 1878
10th	1875	Alfred G. Hastings	19	July 10, 1894
11th	1876	George H. Thummel	33	Feb. 5, 1932
12th	1877	George W. Lininger	3	June 8, 1907
13th	1878	Edward K. Valentine	27	April 11, 1916
14th	1879	Rolland H. Oakley	19	Feb. 2, 1904
15th	1880	James A. Tulleys	53	Jan. 31, 1901
16th	1881	James R. Cain, Sr.	9	Nov. 24, 1920
17th	1882	Edwin F. Warren	2	July 9, 1923
18th	1883	Samuel W. Hayes	55	Nov. 15, 1913
19th	1884	John Jay Wemple	50	May 28, 1943
20th	1885	Manoah B. Reese	59	Sept. 18, 1917
21st	1886	Charles K. Coutant	11	Aug. 23, 1910
22nd	1887	Milton J. Hull	67	Sept. 18, 1923
23rd	1888	George B. France	56	Aug. 16, 1914
24th	1889	John J. Mercer	4	Feb. 25, 1915
25th	1890	Robert E. French	46	Feb. 16, 1947
26th	1891	Bradmer D. Slaughter	89	May 8, 1909
27th	1892	Samuel P. Davidson	17	Dec. 8, 1928
28th	1893	James P.A. Black	76	Nov. 12, 1918
29th	1894	John A. Ehrhardt	41	Nov. 1, 1925
30th	1895	Henry H. Wilson	19	June 28, 1941
31st	1896	Charles J. Phelps	34	Aug. 24, 1915
32nd	1897	John B. Dinsmore	49	Oct. 6, 1915
33rd	1898	Frank H. O. Young	207	Dec. 24, 1917
34th	1899	William W. Keysor	25	Aug. 17, 1922
35th	1900	Albert W. Crites	158	Aug. 23, 1915
36th	1901	Robert E. Evans	5	July 9, 1925
37th	1902	Nathaniel M. Ayers	93	Nov. 19, 1913
38th	1903	Frank E. Bullard	32	Jan. 31, 1933
39th	1904	Charles E. Burnham	55	May 29, 1933
40th	1905	Melville R. Hopewell	31	May 2, 1911
41st	1906	Zuingle M. Baird	155	Dec. 17, 1916
42nd	1907	Ornan J. King	54	Dec. 26, 1927
43rd	1908	William A. DeBord	3	May 17, 1916
44th	1909	Michael Dowling	119	May 5, 1921
45th	1910	Harry A. Cheney	100	June 27, 1948
46th	1911	Henry Gibbons	46	Aug. 22, 1923
47th	1912	James R. Cain, Jr.	105	Sept. 3, 1950

48th.....	1913	Alpha Morgan.....	148	April 17, 1924
49th.....	1914	Thomas M. Davis.....	93	Aug. 12, 1919
50th.....	1915	Samuel S. Whiting.....	54	Aug. 11, 1931
51st.....	1916	Andrew H. Viele.....	55	May 9, 1941
52nd.....	1917	Frederic L. Temple.....	61	Aug. 13, 1944
53rd.....	1918	Ambrose C. Epperson.....	139	Mar. 16, 1944
54th.....	1919	John J. Tooley.....	258	July 31, 1934
55th.....	1920	Joseph B. Fradenburg.....	3	June 14, 1950
56th.....	1921	Lewis E. Smith.....	136	July 10, 1965
57th.....	1922	Edward M. Wellman.....	1	Aug. 31, 1922
58th.....	1923	Charles A. Chappell.....	127	Nov. 21, 1971
59th.....	1924	Robert R. Dickson.....	95	June 18, 1941
60th.....	1925	John Wright.....	19	Oct. 29, 1936
61st.....	1926	Edwin D. Crites.....	158	Nov. 7, 1953
62nd.....	1927	Albert R. Davis.....	120	Mar. 7, 1929
63rd.....	1928	Frank H. Woodland.....	25	Oct. 23, 1940
64th.....	1929	Ira C. Freet.....	56	Oct. 13, 1944
65th.....	1930	Orville A. Andrews.....	19	Oct. 16, 1936
66th.....	1931	John R. Tapster.....	119	Mar. 21, 1954
67th.....	1932	Edwin B. Johnston.....	33	Feb. 11, 1933
68th.....	1933	Ralph O. Canaday.....	50	Oct. 7, 1970
69th.....	1933	Archie M. Smith.....	203	May 8, 1950
70th.....	1934	Virgil R. Johnson.....	26	Aug. 7, 1956
71st.....	1935	William C. Ramsey.....	268	May 19, 1938
72nd.....	1936	Chancellor A. Phillips.....	150	Sept. 12, 1968
73rd.....	1937	William A. Robertson.....	6	July 3, 1944
74th.....	1938	Walter R. Raecke.....	36	April 9, 1960
75th.....	1939	William J. Breckenridge.....	317	Nov. 16, 1951
76th.....	1940	Earl J. Lee.....	15	Dec. 15, 1963
77th.....	1941	Edward F. Carter.....	201	Dec. 21, 1981
78th.....	1942	George A. Kurk.....	54	May 4, 1977
79th.....	1943	William B. Wanner.....	9	June 13, 1975
80th.....	1944-45	William C. Schaper.....	148	Feb. 12, 1977
81st.....	1946	Benjamin F. Eyre.....	1	Aug. 12, 1993
82nd.....	1947	Edward Huwaldt.....	318	Feb. 14, 1977
83rd.....	1948	Elmer E. Magee.....	227	Mar. 19, 1975
Honorary.....	1949	Roscoe Pound.....	54	July -, 1964
84th.....	1949	Ernest S. Schiefelbein.....	59	April 20, 1959
85th.....	1950	John S. Hedelund.....	268	Jan. 30, 1962
86th.....	1951	Thomas J. Aron.....	37	Dec. 22, 1993
87th.....	1952	Edward M. Knight.....	183	Mar. 3, 1983
88th.....	1953	Fay Smith.....	198	Oct. 2, 1968
89th.....	1954	Charles F. Adams.....	68	April 17, 1980
90th.....	1955	Herbert T. White.....	11	Oct. 12, 1975
91st.....	1956	Merle M. Hale.....	54	Feb. 23, 1988
92nd.....	1957	Roy I. Babbitt.....	295	Feb. 13, 1971
93rd.....	1958	John E. Beaver.....	253	Sept. 20, 1965
94th.....	1959	Joseph C. Tye.....	46	Feb. 14, 1989
95th.....	1960	John F. Futcher.....	302	July 11, 1984
96th.....	1961	Herbert A. Ronin.....	210	Nov. 4, 1997
97th.....	1962	Ernest O. Van Wey.....	32	July 16, 2005
98th.....	1963	Ralph M. Carhart.....	120	Nov. 10, 1965
99th.....	1964	Harry A. Spencer.....	184, 227	Aug. 9, 2007

100th.....	1965.....	Louis V. Sylvester.....	281.....	Dec.	4, 1997
101st.....	1966.....	Lewis R. Ricketts.....	19.....	July	14, 1990
Honorary.....	1966.....	Carl R. Greisen.....	32.....	June	28, 1995
102nd.....	1967.....	John A. Bottorf.....	49.....	Feb.	21, 1984
103rd.....	1968.....	Norris W. Lallman.....	72.....	Nov.	1, 1984
104th.....	1969.....	Hugh W. Eisenhart.....	228.....	June	16, 1995
105th.....	1970.....	John H. Brown.....	1.....	Feb.	2, 1978
106th.....	1971.....	Russell L. Fickes.....	33.....	April	18, 1989
107th.....	1972.....	Howard J. Hunter.....	59.....	May	6, 1975
108th.....	1973.....	Frank J. Mattoon.....	75.....	July	4, 1997
109th.....	1974.....	Donald R. Swanson.....	54.....		
110th.....	1975.....	Harold Hultman.....	39.....	April	3, 2005
111th.....	1976.....	T. Leo Stines.....	36, 323.....	Feb.	26, 1994
112th.....	1977.....	Alfred B. Saum.....	46.....	Oct.	11, 1980
113th.....	1978.....	Jack H. Hendrix.....	174.....	Nov.	25, 2006
114th.....	1979.....	Warren D. Lichty, Jr.....	314.....	May	23, 2012
115th.....	1980.....	Byron C. Jenkins.....	325.....	Sept.	12, 2000
116th.....	1981.....	Harold C. Wurdeman.....	323.....	June	21, 1985
117th.....	1982.....	Paul R. Pierce.....	50.....	July	31, 1999
118th.....	1983.....	Bevin B. Bump.....	158.....	Dec.	30, 2010
119th.....	1984-85.....	Robert A. Metcalf.....	210.....	Nov.	22, 2002
120th.....	1986.....	Charles W. Amidon.....	281, 327.....		
121st.....	1987.....	Wayne G. Lueningborg.....	32, 39.....	May	12, 2008
122nd.....	1988.....	Paul R. Eveland.....	119.....		
123rd.....	1989.....	Thomas W. Tye.....	46.....		
124th.....	1990.....	John M. McHenry.....	19.....		
125th.....	1991.....	James N. DeMoss.....	325.....		
126th.....	1992.....	James L. "Sonny" Eatmon.....	294.....	Aug.	28, 1999
127th.....	1993.....	Donald L. Pohlman.....	41.....		
128th.....	1994.....	Steven F. Mattoon.....	75.....		
129th.....	1995.....	Jerry L. Rittenburg.....	210, 64.....	Jan.	26, 2007
130th.....	1996.....	V. Kaye Ramsey.....	290, 317.....		
131st.....	1997.....	Kenneth G. Fleming.....	75.....		
132nd.....	1998.....	Don E. Rasmussen.....	82, 135.....		
133rd.....	1999.....	Dwight E. Smith.....	205.....		
134th.....	2000.....	James F. Brown, Jr.....	54.....		
135th.....	2001.....	Philip A. Lorenzen.....	10, 327, 1.....		
136th.....	2002.....	Michael E. Jones.....	51, 173.....		
137th.....	2003.....	Kenneth D. Beebe.....	119.....		
138th.....	2004.....	Les Seiler.....	317.....		
139th.....	2005.....	Ivan A. Vrtiska.....	327.....		
140th.....	2006.....	Scott J. Krieger, Sr.....	317, 332, 33.....		
141st.....	2007.....	Dean Skokan.....	15.....		
142nd.....	2008.....	Reginald S. Kuhn.....	134, 19, 332.....		
143rd.....	2009.....	Russell G. Reno.....	183, 297, 332.....		
144th.....	2010.....	John T. Parsons.....	268.....		
145th.....	2011.....	Bruce A. Baker.....	317.....		

**PAST GRAND SECRETARIES**

- George Armstrong ..... September 23, 1857 To June 2, 1858
- Robert W. Furnas ..... June 2, 1858 To June 4, 1862
- Robert C. Jordan ..... June 4, 1862 To June 24, 1863
- Stephen D. Bangs ..... June 24, 1863 To June 24, 1865
- J. Newton Wise ..... June 24, 1865 To October 27, 1869
- Robert W. Furnas ..... October 27, 1869 To June 21, 1872
- William R. Bowen ..... June 21, 1872 To May 6, 1899
- Francis E. White ..... June 9, 1899 To June 11, 1925
- Lewis E. Smith ..... June 11, 1925 To June 6, 1946
- Carl R. Greisen ..... June 7, 1946 To June 6, 1968
- Robert W. Cook ..... June 6, 1968 To April 5, 1969
- Norris W. Lallman ..... June 4, 1969 To June 13, 1981
- Ralph W. Gerry ..... June 13, 1981 To June 15, 1985
- Paul R. Pierce ..... June 15, 1985 To December 6, 1986
- Edward M. Cummings ..... December 6, 1986 To May 1987
- Albert T. Reddish ..... May 1987 To September 1989
- Don E. Rasmussen ..... September 1989 To November 1992
- Virgil L. Tubach ..... November 1992 to August 1995
- Reginald S. Kuhn ..... August 1995 to October 2003
- Bruce A. Watkins ..... October 2003 to February 2012
- Deceased

**PAST GRAND CUSTODIANS**

- Lee P. Gillette, 2 ..... 1882-1883, 1887-1894
- Benjamin F. Rawalt, 84 ..... 1884-1887
- James A. Tulleys, 53 ..... 1894-1900
- Robert E. French, 46 ..... 1901-1927
- Lute M. Savage, 3 ..... 1927-1948
- Raymond C. Cook, 6 ..... 1948-1965
- Robert W. Cook, 33 ..... 1965-1967
- Ralph W. Gerry, 281 ..... 1968-1981
- Mannie O. Hansen, 1 ..... 1981-1984
- T. Leo Stines, 36 ..... 1984-1985
- Jerry L. Rittenburg, 210 & 64 ..... 1985-1990
- Augustine S. Scolaro, 3 ..... 1990-2000
- Gerald D. Verbeek, 15 ..... 2000-2009
- Scott J. Krieger, Sr. .... 2009-2012
- Emeritus

**GRAND LECTURERS**

George Armstrong, 3 .....	1858, 1859, 1866
Lee P. Gillette, 2 .....	1860, 1861, 1881
Sylvester S. Redfield, 2 .....	1862
E.C. Adams, 6 .....	1863
Henry Brown, 2 .....	1864
William E. Hill, 2 .....	1865, 1866, 1868, 1874 to 1877
Byron Reed, 3 .....	1867
Charles T. Whitmore, 11 .....	1869 to 1871
Charles F. Catlin, 11 .....	1871 (Acting)
George H. Thummel, 33 .....	1872, 1873
Hiram C. Rider, 37 .....	1877 to 1880

**The Roll of Deputy Grand Custodians  
And Date of Appointment**

The first reference providing for an "Assistant Custodian" was made in 1869. In 1870, the Committee on Work recommended the establishment of five districts and the appointment of an equal number of brethren. These, together with the Grand Lecturer, were to constitute a "Board of Custodians" to serve for five years. From that time until now, there have been appointed assistant custodians. It is the purpose here to list all that have, at any time, served the Grand Lodge. They are listed in terms of first appointment. The number following each name represents the lodge of which each was, or is, a member.

Daniel H. Wheeler, 6 .....	1870
John Reed, 2 .....	1871
Robert W. Furnas, 4 .....	1871
D. F. Powell, 3 .....	1871
A. Atkinson, 3 .....	1871
H. O. Hanna, 9 .....	1872
Milton E. Pinney, 2 .....	1873
William B. Wharton, 12 .....	1875
Edward K. Valentine, 27 .....	1875
Newton R. Persinger, 36 .....	1876
David K. Hume, 3 .....	1876
Hiram C. Rider, 37 .....	1876
Frederick N. Dick, 32 .....	1876
George W. Lininger, 3 .....	1877
L. S. Moe, 15 .....	1877
Roland H. Oakley, 19 .....	1877
James R. Cain, 9 .....	1877
Albert K. Marsh, 49 .....	1877
Jess T. Davis, 21 .....	1877
Charles H. Willard, 21 .....	1878
Samuel W. Hayes, 55 .....	1879
Marshall Smith, 2 .....	1879
James McNaughton, 4 .....	1879
Joseph H. McConnel, 32 .....	1879
Edward F. Thorp, 2 .....	1879
George W. Mowrey, 50 .....	1880
Charles A. Holmes, 17 .....	1880

Note: From 1880 until 1910, there were no recorded appointments of brethren to serve as assistants to the Grand Custodian. In 1910, Brother Robert E. French did hold special meetings to examine and instruct brethren who were willing to become "assistant" in the work. Thirteen brethren were nominated and approved for appointment as assistants. After 1917, these brethren were generally referred to as "assistant custodians." In 1925, the designation was "Deputy Custodian." The following brethren appeared in the records as "Assistant Custodians," or, at times, as "Deputy Custodians."

- John J. Mercer, 3 .....1910
- Samuel S. Whiting, 54.....1910
- Walter W. Wells, 192.....1910
- Ensign J. Rix, 55.....1910
- James D. Phillips, 93.....1910
- Frederick L. Wolff, 135.....1910
- Ernest H. James, 1 .....1910
- Fred A. Howe, 119 .....1910
- Robert B. Walker, 170 .....1912
- Frank W. Farrand, 36 .....1913
- Ira C. Freet, 56 .....1913
- Benjamin Wood, 210.....1913
- Edward M. Wellman, 1.....1913
- Charles A. Eyre, 268.....1913
- Robert A. Armstrong, 32 .....1913
- Levi Pringle, 276.....1913
- Earl M. Bolen, 130.....1914
- Frank L. Haycock, 207 .....1914
- George A. Stevens, 158.....1914
- Harry M. Jones, 46 .....1916
- Levi D. Phipps, 31 .....1916
- Alfred G. Hunt, 33.....1916
- Harry L. F. Proffitt, 50 .....1916
- Barclay M. Hickman, 38 .....1916
- Orville A. Andrews, 50 .....1917
- Andrew H. Viele, 55.....1917
- Maro C. Shipherd, 15 .....1920
- Jesse Lowther, 219 .....1920
- Franklin C. Tym, 25.....1920
- Lute M. Savage, 3.....1920
- Frank M. Johnson, 188 .....1920
- Lamont L. Stephens, 106 .....1922
- Frances S. Robey, 19 .....1922
- John B. Lichtenwallner, 275.....1923
- Harry R. Belville, 146.....1923
- George R. Patterson, 136 .....1923
- William J. Birkoffer, 249.....1923
- D. Horace Schall, 307.....1923
- Stanley P. Bostwick, 3.....1924
- William D. Edson, 53.....1926
- Francis B. Rodwell, 224.....1926
- Edwin H. Gerhart, 305.....1926
- William McCormack, 268.....1926
- Harry L. Mantor, 306 .....1927
- John R. Easley, 49 .....1927
- L. Donald Huston, 65 .....1928
- Elmer Surber, 95 .....1928

• John M. Bennett, 19 .....	1928
• Earl Barnett, 146 .....	1929
• Jonathan Frye, 1 .....	1929
• Ernest R. Reynolds, 124 .....	1930
• Osborne P. Simon, 174 .....	1930
• Doc L. Redfern, 300 .....	1930
• Austin F. Whitmire, 306 .....	1931
• Henning C. Johnson, 171 .....	1930
• Carroll C. Raymer, 164 .....	1932
• Ward B. Schrack, 46 .....	1933
• Byron S. Peterson, 25 .....	1933
• Raymond C. Cook, 6 .....	1933
• Ray B. Bottorf, 33 .....	1933
• Wallace E. Linn, 1 .....	1934
• Jesse P. Entriiken, 295 .....	1934
• Harrold D. Weddel, 208 .....	1937
• Cecil C. Gates, 227 .....	1938
• Fred G. Christensen, 33 .....	1938
• Ross Van Sickle, 184 .....	1938
• S. William Beck, 43 .....	1940
• Stanley B. Fryar, 139 .....	1940
• Roy S. Planck, 15 .....	1940
• Buren P. Wells, 315 .....	1940
• Clarence G. McNamee, 55 .....	1941
• F. Ray Dilts, 83 .....	1942
• Ernest C. Purdy, 195 .....	1942
• Lewis E. Baker, 135 .....	1943
• Howard E. Bradstreet, 261 .....	1943
• George S. Schwab, 49 .....	1946
• Louis V. Sylvester, 281 .....	1946
• Irving S. Johnson, 148 .....	1946
• LaVerne A. Walker, 55 .....	1946
• Ernest E. James, 1 .....	1946
• Frank A. Anderson, 17 .....	1949
• Robert W. Cook, 33 .....	1949
• Paul D. Fleming, 293 .....	1949
• Charles M. Frederick, 136 .....	1949
• Sylvester Shumard, 227 .....	1949
• Ralph M. Carhart, 120 .....	1950
• Morris V. Balcom, 46 .....	1950
• William F. Flicklinger, 56 .....	1951
• Forest A. Lape, 183 .....	1951
• Delbert H. Pinkerton, 314 .....	1954
• Harold M. Wilkerson, 54 .....	1954
• Willard I. Lewis, Jr., 9 .....	1955
• Clifford D. Webster, 75 .....	1956
• Matthias E. Mael, 173 .....	1956
• Frank H. Smith, 301 .....	1957
• Ward V. Whitaker, 310 .....	1957
• Richard L. Ely, 128 .....	1957
• Asa J. Farnham, 106 .....	1958
• Robert B. Conrad, 125 .....	1958
• Winston C. Swanson, 120 .....	1958
• Lyle A. Van Arsdol, 210 .....	1959
• Edmund D. Shaw, 195 .....	1959

- Harry N. Ahl, 112 .....1959
- Alfred R. Kenover, 148 .....1960
- Lloyd I. Edwards, 110 .....1960
- T. Leo Stines, 36, 323 .....1960
- Erwin J. Imig, 38 .....1960
- Sebert A. Stover, 281 .....1960
- Stanley E. Brunton, 222 .....1961
- Glenn W. Binder, 23 .....1961
- Richard L. Wait, 19 .....1962
- Gordon Chard, 240 .....1962
- Harold A. Tilton, 291 .....1962
- Stuart A. Johnson, 177 .....1964
- Arthur S. Dye, 317 .....1964
- W. Upton Dawson, 135 .....1964
- Donald R. Davis, 164 .....1964
- Ralph I. Berry, 256 .....1965
- Carl A. Johnson, 183 .....1965
- Robert W. Boon, 33 .....1965
- Augustus W. Clark, 33 .....1965
- Alton S. Mote, 183 .....1965
- Ralph W. Gerry, 281, 302 .....1965
- Arnold F. Mains, 15 .....1965
- Nelson W. Rittenburg, 210 .....1965
- Harold J. Oehlerking, 159 .....1966
- Gwynne L. Neubauer, 258 .....1966
- Ward L. McGlashan, 180 .....1966
- Curtis J. Griess, 49 .....1966
- Walter Brown, 1 .....1967
- John C. Nelson, 250 .....1967
- Mervin E. Ransom, Sr., 65 .....1967
- Donald A. Kyckelhahn, 210 .....1967
- Howard G. Whitmore, 81 .....1967
- Frank R. Harris, 77 .....1967
- Gerald V. Inslee, 158 .....1968
- John C. Sierks, 4 .....1969
- Paul D. Jacobsen, 148 .....1969
- David O. Kipling, 281 .....1970
- Herman O. Hansen, 3 .....1970
- D. Wayne Erickson, 146 .....1970
- Walter S. Cork, 75 .....1970
- Richard L. Mauch, 224, 136 .....1971
- O. Wayne Thompson, 201 .....1971
- John A. Brandt, 26 .....1971
- Dale E. Kube, 55 .....1971
- Robert E. Kyes, 36 .....1972
- Mannie O. Hansen, 1 .....1973
- Richard O. Cowles, 174 .....1975
- Jens P. Nielsen, 121 .....1975
- Ralph E. McNulty, 61 .....1975
- Don L. McCoy, 11 .....1975
- Everett K. Dappen, 265 .....1975
- Alfred V. Peltzer, 148 .....1975
- Roger L. Shillington, 180 .....1976
- James E. Cornish, 31 .....1976
- Ben D. Fussell, 79 .....1976
- Victor D. Hunt, 62 .....1976

• Lynn Doty, 251 .....	1977
• Marvin R. Weber, 204 .....	1977
• W. Dale Page, 15.....	1977
• Harry L. Saum, 308.....	1979
• DeVern A. Engberg, 26.....	1979
• Michael L. Peterson, 227, 37.....	1979
• Albert W. Watsek, 23.....	1979
• Douglas A. Thomas, 183.....	1979
• Arthur J. Ferguson, 221.....	1979
• Leslie G. Weber, 204.....	1979
• Kenneth G. Fleming, 75.....	1980
• Augustine S. Scolaro, 3.....	1981
• David E. Menck, 15.....	1982
• Vincent Rosenberger, 183.....	1982
• Justin F. Fauss, 55.....	1982
• Augustus W. Clark, 33.....	1982
• Wayne E. Beatty, 126.....	1982
• Kenneth G. Fleming, 75.....	1984
• Eugene C. Sibley, 314.....	1984
• Leslie Evert, 195.....	1985
• William Fogle, 135.....	1985
• Roscoe Malick, 297.....	1985
• R. Winton Wilson, 199.....	1985
• Robert E. Kyes, 36.....	1985
• W. Dale Page, 15.....	1985
• Gordon E. Richards, 75.....	1986
• Harold Noble, 325.....	1987
• Deon D. Eberly, 314.....	1988
• Steven A. Green, 54.....	1988
• Steven K. Jones, 265, 263.....	1988
• Lloyd Vrtiska, 23.....	1988
• Robert M. Littrell, 77.....	1989
• Roy L. Smith, 6.....	1989
• Daniel E. Spearow, 26.....	1989
• LeRoy Crye, 328.....	1990
• Ronald D. Grass, 31.....	1990
• Scott J. Krieger, Sr., 317.....	1990
• Richard W. Linnemeyer, 135.....	1990
• Keith B. Leibhart, 148.....	1990
• Gordon L. Carley, 75.....	1990
• Gerald D. Verbeek, 15.....	1990
• Herbert M. Chambers, Sr., 288.....	1991
• Delmar Jones, 46, 65.....	1992
• Don L. Jelinek, 54.....	1992
• Albert Wise, 79.....	1992
• Halsey D. Phillips, 325.....	1993
• John M. Weidner, Sr., 75, 33.....	1993
• Rodney L. Samp, 159.....	1994
• Robert L. Carter, 314.....	1995
• Richard H. Cooper, 263.....	1996
• Thomas R. Reed, 5.....	1996
• Monte K. Olmstead, 290.....	1997
• Michael G. Birnstihl, 314.....	1997
• Roger A. Deininger, 317.....	1998
• Kenneth G. Fleming, 75.....	1998

Bruce A. Watkins, 300.....	1999
Jack D. Nichols, 265, 285.....	2000
Harold C. Mueksch, 132, 72.....	2000
Carl C. Plants, 54.....	2001
• Joseph D. Chrisman, 279.....	2002
Ashley H. Story, 314, 146.....	2002
James R. Taylor, 327.....	2002
Dean Papenhagen, 50.....	2003
R. William Lichtenberger, 207, 148.....	2003
• Gordon L. Carley, 75.....	2003
Suman Vallabhbai, 314.....	2004
Daniel L. Scarborough, 79.....	2005
Frank Veverka, 15.....	2005
Glenn R. Mulholland, 32, 284.....	2005
Philip E. Darby, Jr., 61.....	2006
Randall L. Hart, 22, 31.....	2008
W. Keith Neisler, 1, 302.....	2009
Edward W. Nolte, 39.....	2009
Brian K. Sandall, 21.....	2010
• Deceased	

**Grand Lodge of Nebraska  
ROCK MAUL AWARD**

Presented at each Grand Lodge Communication to a lodge deemed to be the most outstanding lodge that year by the Grand Master (award is dated year presented, for work in previous year).

1981	Geneva Lodge	No. 79	Geneva
1982	Shiloh Lodge	No. 327	Omaha
1983	Culbertson Lodge	No. 174	Culbertson
1984	Scotts Bluff Lodge	No. 201	Gering
1984	Fremont Lodge	No. 15	Fremont
1985	Comet Lodge	No. 229	Ceresco
1985	Hickman Lodge	No. 256	Hickman
1986	Springfield Lodge	No. 112	Springfield
1987	Platte Valley Lodge	No. 32	North Platte
1989	Lancaster Lodge	No. 54	Lincoln
1990	Geneva Lodge	No. 79	Geneva
1991	Corinthian Lodge	No. 83	Wakefield
1992	Fremont Lodge	No. 15	Fremont
1993	Bartley Lodge	No. 228	Bartley
1994	North Star Lodge	No. 227	Lincoln
1995	North Bend Lodge	No. 119	North Bend
1997	Plattsmouth Lodge	No. 6	Plattsmouth
1998	Craftsmen Lodge	No. 314	Lincoln
1999	Hastings Lodge	No. 50	Hastings
2000	North Bend Lodge	No. 119	North Bend
2001	Papillion Lodge	No. 39	Papillion
2002	Geneva Lodge	No. 79	Geneva
2003	Osceola Lodge	No. 65	Osceola
2004	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
2005	Liberty Lodge	No. 300	Lincoln
2006	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
2007	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln

Large	2008	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
Small	2008	Hooper Lodge	No. 72	Hooper
Large	2009	Plattsmouth Lodge	No. 6	Plattsmouth
Small	2009	Omadi Lodge	No. 5	South Sioux City
Large	2010	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
Small	2010	Custer Lodge	No. 148	Broken Bow
Large	2011	Lancaster Lodge	No. 54	Lincoln
Small	2011	Franklin Lodge	No. 264	Franklin
Large	2012	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
Small	2012	Custer Lodge	No. 148	Broken Bow
Large	2013	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
Small	2013	Geneva Lodge	No. 79	Geneva

### Grand Lodge of Nebraska GOLD PAN AWARD

Presented at each Grand Lodge Communication to a lodge deemed to have made the greatest contribution or most improvement towards Masonry that year by the Grand Master.

1987	Fremont Lodge	No. 15	Fremont
1989	Hickman Lodge	No. 256	Lincoln
1990	Crescent Lodge	No. 143	Primrose
1991	Mosaic Lodge	No. 55	Norfolk
1992	Frank Welch Lodge	No. 75	Sidney
1993	North Bend Lodge	No. 119	North Bend
1994	Hooper Lodge	No. 72	Hooper
1995	Wood Lake Lodge	No. 221	Wood Lake
1996	Frank Welch Lodge	No. 75	Sidney
1997	Beatrice Lodge	No. 26	Beatrice
1998	Mid-West Lodge	No. 317	Hastings
1999	Robert W. Furnas	No. 265	Scottsbluff
2000	Beatrice Lodge	No. 26	Beatrice
2001	Wallace Lodge	No. 279	Wallace
2002	Blue Valley Lodge	No. 64	Wilber
2003	Cotner Lodge	No. 297	Lincoln
2004	Camp Clarke Lodge	No. 285	Bridgeport
2005	North Bend Lodge	No. 119	North Bend
2006	Hastings Lodge	No. 50	Hastings
2007	Olive Branch Lodge	No. 274	Walthill
2008	North Bend Lodge	No. 119	North Bend
2009	Robert W. Furnas Lodge	No. 265	Scottsbluff
2010	Robert W. Furnas Lodge	No. 265	Scottsbluff
2011	Plattsmouth Lodge	No. 6	Plattsmouth
2012	Custer Lodge	No. 148	Broken Bow
2013	Not Awarded		

**Grand Lodge of Nebraska  
GRAND MASTER'S HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

Presented during the year to not more than two honorees.

This award is presented to publicly honor an individual who has been an outstanding citizen, as well as an outstanding Mason. It is necessary that he has been a Master Mason for thirty years, and has been active in at least three of five designated activities in his community.

1989	Henry Rood	Wahoo No. 59	Wahoo
1989	Thomas Lutey	Kimball No. 294	Kimball
1990	W. Neil Colerick	Alliance No. 183	Alliance
1990	James Fegley	Omadi No. 5	South Sioux City
1991	Lloyd I. Edwards	Pomegranate No. 110	Ashland
1991	Wayne H. Hardy	Custer No. 148	Broken Bow
1992	Ralph E. Jones	Robert Burns No. 173	Stratton
1993	Christian F. Dahmke	Charity No. 51	David City
1994	Walter E. Truex	Mosaic No. 55	Norfolk
1994	Elsworth L. Abbott	Falls City No. 9	Falls City
1995	Harry A. Spencer	North Star No. 227	Lincoln
1996	Ben D. Fussell	Geneva No. 79	Geneva
1997	Ralph Townsend	Scotts Bluff No. 201	Gering
1997	Willard Rouze	Purity No. 198	Imperial
1998	Lowell C. Johnson	North Bend No. 119	North Bend
1998	Marvin M. Fink	Hastings No. 50	Hastings
1999	Dale E. Olson	Oakland No. 91	Oakland
1999	Norris L. Rusmisell	Rob Morris No. 46	Kearney
2000	Richard Brasel	John J. Mercer No. 290	Omaha
2000	Charles Spohr	Euclid No. 97	Weeping Water
2001	John Dick	Fremont No. 15	Fremont
2001	Loral Johnson	Purity No. 198	Imperial
2002	Robert A. Merchant	Wayne No. 120	Wayne
2002	Arthur S. Dye	Mid-West No. 317	Hastings
2003	Floyd P. Vrtiska	Table Rock No. 108	Table Rock
2003	Warren K. Urbom	Craftsmen No. 314	Lincoln
2004	Harold J. Daub, Jr.	Nebraska No. 1	Omaha
2004	Richard L. Ely	Guide Rock No. 128	Guide Rock
2005	Roger R. Wehrbein	Plattsmouth No. 6	Plattsmouth
2005	Marvin H. Kraus	Friend No. 73	Friend
2008	V.K. "Tony" Vrana	Oliver No. 38	Seward
2008	Sanford H. "Sam" Nelson	East Lincoln No. 210	Lincoln
2009	G. Charles Thone	Lincoln No. 19	Lincoln
2010	Wesley H. Turtscher	Papillion No. 39	Papillion
2010	Delbert D. Weber	George W. Lininger No. 268	Omaha
2012	Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr.	Mizpah No. 302	Omaha
2012	Jay H. Speck	Plattsmouth No. 6	Plattsmouth

**EXISTING LODGES**

Roll of Existing Nebraska Lodges, with Locations, Dates Created and Chartered

LODGE		TOWN	COUNTY	CREATED	CHARTERED
Nebraska	No 1	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	February ,1855	Oct. 3,1855 •1
Western Star	No 2	Nebraska City .....	Otoe .....	May 10,1855	May 28,1856 •2
Capitol	No 3	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	January 9,1857	June 3,1857 •3
• Formed Grand Lodge of Nebraska September 23, 1857 • Chartered by <sup>1</sup> Illinois, <sup>2</sup> Missouri, <sup>3</sup> Iowa					
Nemaha Valley	No 4	Brownville .....	Nemaha .....	December 15,1857	June 2,1858
Omadi	No 5	So. Sioux City .....	Dakota .....	January 18,1858	June 2,1858
Plattsmouth	No 6	Plattsmouth .....	Cass .....	January 18,1858	June 2,1858
Falls City	No 9	Falls City .....	Richardson .....	October 4,1864	June 23,1865
Solomon	No 10	Fort Calhoun .....	Washington .....	August 15,1865	June 22,1866
Covert	No 11	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	July 24,1865	June 22,1866
Peru	No 14	Peru .....	Nemaha .....	May 23,1867	June 19,1867
Fremont	No 15	Fremont .....	Dodge .....	July 3,1866	June 20,1867
Lincoln	No 19	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	May 4,1868	June 25,1868
Washington	No 21	Blair .....	Washington .....	February 24,1868	June 25,1868
Pawnee	No 23	Pawnee City .....	Pawnee .....	January 4,1869	Oct. 28,1869
Beatrice	No 26	Beatrice .....	Gage .....	March 23,1870	June 22,1870
Jordan	No 27	West Point .....	Cuming .....	December 25,1869	June 23,1870
Blue River	No 30	Milford .....	Seward .....	April 25,1870	June 23,1870
Tekamah	No 31	Tekamah .....	Burt .....	August 19,1869	June 23,1870
Platte Valley	No 32	North Platte .....	Lincoln .....	January 15,1870	June 23,1870
Ashlar	No 33	Grand Island .....	Hall .....	August 11,1870	June 22,1871
Acacia	No 34	Schuyler .....	Colfax .....	July 18,1870	June 19,1872
Fairbury	No 35	Fairbury .....	Jefferson .....	June 30,1871	June 19,1872
Lone Tree	No 36	Central City .....	Merrick .....	August 9,1871	June 19,1872
Crete	No 37	Crete .....	Saline .....	January 8,1872	June 19,1872
Oliver	No 38	Seward .....	Seward .....	July 25,1871	June 18,1873
Papillion	No 39	Papillion .....	Sarpy .....	November 18,1872	June 18,1873
Northern Light	No 41	Stanton .....	Stanton .....	January 20,1873	June 18,1873
Hebron	No 43	Hebron .....	Thayer .....	March 10,1873	June 18,1873
Harvard	No 44	Harvard .....	Clay .....	March 25,1873	June 18,1873
Rob Morris	No 46	Kearney .....	Buffalo .....	February 21,1873	June 26,1874
Hastings	No 50	Hastings .....	Adams .....	January 3,1874	June 26,1874
Fidelity	No 51	David City .....	Butler .....	January 18, 1874	June 26,1874
Hiram	No 52	Arlington .....	Washington .....	February 26,1874	June 26,1874
Charity	No 53	Red Cloud .....	Webster .....	March 2,1874	June 26,1874
Lancaster	No 54	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	April 20,1874	June 26,1874
Mosaic	No 55	Norfolk .....	Madison .....	October 1,1874	June 23,1875
York	No 56	York .....	York .....	October 1,1874	June 23,1875
Mt. Moriah	No 57	Syracuse .....	Otoe .....	November 7,1874	June 23,1875
Wahoo	No 59	Wahoo .....	Saunders .....	January 20,1875	June 23,1875
Thistle	No 61	Lexington .....	Dawson .....	May 8,1875	June 21,1876
Keystone	No 62	Phillips .....	Hamilton .....	January 1,1876	June 21,1876
Blue Valley	No 64	Wilber .....	Saline .....	October 6,1876	June 20,1877
Osceola	No 65	Osceola .....	Polk .....	November 23,1876	June 20,1877
Aurora	No 68	Aurora .....	Hamilton .....	February 10,1876	June 19,1878

**EXISTING LODGES**

Roll of Existing Nebraska Lodges, with Locations, Dates Created and Chartered

LODGE		TOWN	COUNTY	CREATED	CHARTERED
Hooper	No 72	Hooper.....	Dodge.....	March 19,1878	June 25,1879
Friend	No 73	Friend.....	Saline .....	May 4,1878	June 25,1879
Frank Welch	No 75	Sidney.....	Cheyenne.....	December 26,1878	June 25,1879
Albion	No 78	Albion.....	Boone.....	August 1,1879	June 23,1880
Geneva	No 79	Geneva.....	Fillmore .....	November 24,1879	June 23,1880
St. Paul	No 82	St. Paul.....	Howard.....	April 15,1880	June 22,1881
Corinthian	No 83	Wakefield.....	Dixon.....	April 22,1880	June 22,1881
Cedar River	No 89	Fullerton.....	Nance.....	January 19,1882	June 20,1882
Oakland	No 91	Oakland.....	Burt.....	February 7,1882	June 19,1883
Bennett	No 94	Lincoln.....	Lancaster.....	May 5,1882	June 19,1883
Garfield	No 95	O'Neill.....	Holt.....	June 28,1882	June 19,1883
Utica	No 96	Utica.....	Seward.....	July 14,1882	June 19,1883
Euclid	No 97	Weeping Water.....	Cass.....	July 21,1882	June 19,1883
Waterloo	No 102	Elkhorn.....	Douglas.....	September 7,1882	June 19,1883
Porter	No 106	Loup City.....	Sherman.....	December 9,1882	June 19,1883
Springfield	No 112	Springfield.....	Sarpy.....	March 30,1883	June 19,1883
Wisner	No 114	Wisner.....	Cuming.....	February 12,1883	June 24,1884
North Bend	No 119	North Bend.....	Dodge.....	September 5,1883	June 24,1884
Wayne	No 120	Wayne.....	Wayne.....	September 26,1883	June 24,1884
Superior	No 121	Superior.....	Nuckolls.....	November 22,1883	June 24,1884
Stromsburg	No 126	Stromsburg.....	Polk.....	January 16,1884	June 24,1884
Guide Rock	No 128	Guide Rock.....	Webster.....	January 28,1884	June 24,1884
Scribner	No 132	Scribner.....	Dodge.....	July 9,1884	June 24,1885
Solar	No 134	Clarks.....	Merrick.....	August 8,1884	June 24,1885
McCook	No 135	McCook.....	Red Willow.....	October 6,1884	June 24,1885
Long Pine	No 136	Long Pine.....	Brown.....	October 6,1884	June 24,1885
Jachin	No 146	Holdrege.....	Phelps.....	July 13,1885	June 17,1886
Custer	No 148	Broken Bow.....	Custer.....	August 10,1885	June 17,1886
Lily	No 154	Davenport.....	Thayer.....	November 28,1885	June 17,1886
Samaritan	No 158	Chadron.....	Dawes.....	March 17,1886	June 16,1887
Ogalalla	No 159	Ogalalla.....	Keith.....	August 14,1886	June 16,1887
Atkinson	No 164	Atkinson.....	Holt.....	August 19,1886	June 21,1888
Barneston	No 165	Barneston.....	Gage.....	August 20,1886	June 21,1888
Elwood	No 167	Elwood.....	Gosper.....	June 21,1887	June 21,1888
Robert Burns	No 173	Stratton.....	Hitchcock.....	November 15,1887	June 21,1888
Justice	No 180	Benkelman.....	Dundy.....	October 8,1888	June 20,1889
Alliance	No 183	Alliance.....	Box Butte.....	January 18,1889	June 20,1889
Bee Hive	No 184	Omaha.....	Douglas.....	January 22,1889	June 20,1889
Minnekadusa	No 192	Valentine.....	Cherry.....	August 15,1889	June 20,1890
Highland	No 194	Cortland.....	Gage.....	September 21,1889	June 20,1890
Arcana	No 195	Gordon.....	Sheridan.....	October 17,1889	June 20,1890
Purity	No 198	Imperial.....	Chase.....	December 24,1889	June 20,1890
Blazing Star	No 200	Burwell.....	Garfield.....	August 5,1890	June 18,1891
Scotts Bluff	No 201	Gering.....	Scotts Bluff.....	August 8,1890	June 18,1891
Plainview	No 204	Plainview.....	Pierce.....	September 1,1890	June 18,1891
Golden Fleece	No 205	Chappell.....	Deuel.....	September 2,1890	June 18,1891

**EXISTING LODGES**

Roll of Existing Nebraska Lodges, with Locations, Dates Created and Chartered

LODGE		TOWN	COUNTY	CREATED	CHARTERED
Parian	No 207	Callaway .....	Custer.....	January 31,1891	June 18,1891
East Lincoln	No 210	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	November 5,1891	June 16,1892
Cement	No 211	Wood River .....	Hall .....	November 27,1891	June 16,1892
Magnolia	No 220	Emerson .....	Dixon .....	January 21,1893	June 15,1893
Wood Lake	No 221	Wood Lake .....	Cherry .....	September 22,1892	June 21,1894
Landmark	No 222	Herman .....	Washington ....	March 1,1893	June 21,1894
Silver Cord	No 224	Ainsworth.....	Brown .....	October 17,1893	June 21,1894
North Star	No 227	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	July 28,1894	June 13,1895
Bartley	No 228	Bartley.....	Red Willow ....	November 23,1894	June 13,1895
Comet	No 229	Ceresco .....	Saunders.....	December 5,1894	June 13,1895
Zion	No 234	Hyannis.....	Grant .....	July 19,1895	June 10,1896
Friendship	No 239	Chapman.....	Merrick .....	October 7,1895	June 10,1896
Geo. Armstrong	No 241	Craig .....	Burt.....	August 1,1895	June 17,1897
Laurel	No 248	Laurel.....	Cedar .....	February 12,1900	June 7,1900
Geo. Washington	No 250	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	June 20,1900	June 6,1901
Wausa	No 251	Wausa.....	Knox .....	November 18,1900	June 6,1901
Hickman	No 256	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	December 7,1903	June 9,1904
Mitchell	No 263	Mitchell.....	Scotts Bluff ....	July 5,1906	June 5,1907
Franklin	No 264	Franklin .....	Franklin .....	June 11,1907	June 10,1908
Robert W. Furnas	No 265	Scottsbluff.....	Scotts Bluff ....	June 21,1907	June 10,1908
Geo. W. Lininger	No 268	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	February 26,1908	June 10,1908
Olive Branch	No 274	Walthill .....	Thurston.....	September 20,1909	June 8,1910
Wallace	No 279	Wallace .....	Lincoln.....	February 25,1911	June 4,1912
Florence	No 281	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	January 17,1913	June 4,1913
Seneca	No 284	Thedford .....	Thomas .....	September 29,1913	June 9,1914
Camp Clarke	No 285	Bridgeport.....	Morrill .....	October 16,1913	June 9,1914
Oshkosh	No 286	Oshkosh.....	Garden .....	November 25,1913	June 9,1914
Union	No 287	Palmyra.....	Otoe .....	December 15,1913	June 8,1915
Omaha	No 288	Omaha.....	Douglas .....	March 24,1914	June 8,1915
John J. Mercer	No 290	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	November 21,1914	June 8,1915
Diamond	No 291	Orchard.....	Antelope.....	November 23,1914	June 8,1915
Monument	No 293	Arapahoe.....	Furnas .....	December 18,1914	June 8,1915
Kimball	No 294	Kimball.....	Kimball .....	June 10,1915	June 7,1916
Cotner	No 297	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	June 15,1917	June 5,1918
Liberty	No 300	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	January 10,1918	June 5,1918
Mizpah	No 302	Omaha .....	Douglas .....	November 12,1918	June 4,1919
Newman Grove	No 305	Newman Grove.....	Madison.....	January 14,1920	June 9,1920
Victory	No 310	Valley.....	Douglas .....	December 27,1920	June 8,1921
Craftsmen	No 314	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	March 22,1922	June 5,1923
Mid-West	No 317	Hastings.....	Adams .....	January 8,1925	June 10,1925
College View	No 320	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	July 1,1927	June 6,1928
Lebanon	No 323	Columbus .....	Platte .....	November 14,1928	June 5,1929
Cairo	No 324	Cairo .....	Hall .....	January 16,1936	June 1937
Bellevue	No 325	Bellevue.....	Sarpy .....	March 5,1955	June 8,1955
Centennial	No 326	Omaha.....	Douglas .....	November 26,1955	June 6,1956
Shiloh	No 327	Omaha.....	Douglas .....	September 3,1965	June 10,1966

**EXISTING LODGES**

Roll of *Existing* Nebraska Lodges, with Locations, Dates Created and Chartered

LODGE		TOWN	COUNTY	CREATED		CHARTERED	
Miloma	No 328	Omaha.....	Douglas .....	January	19,1972	June	28,1972
Saints John Educ.	No 331			December	27, 2000	February	2, 2002
Tabula Rasa	No 332	Lincoln .....	Lancaster .....	July	24, 2006	February	3, 2007

### CONSOLIDATED LODGES

CONSOLIDATED LODGE	CONSOLIDATED WITH	DATE
Joppa No. 76, Bloomington	Franklin No. 264, Franklin	October 18, 1934
Parallel No. 152, Liberty	Barneston No. 165, Barneston	January 2, 1940
Tyre No. 85, Blue Springs	Wymore No. 104, Wymore	July 7, 1941
Bradshaw No. 255, Bradshaw	Hampton No. 245, Hampton	May 21, 1942
Level No. 196, Stockville	Cambridge No. 150, Cambridge	June 4, 1942
Riverside No. 269, Belgrade	Cedar River No. 89, Fullerton	June 5, 1942
Juniata No. 42, Juniata,	Kenesaw No. 144, Kenesaw	July 15, 1942
Palmer No. 315, Palmer	St. Paul No. 82, St. Paul	October 6, 1942
Elk Creek No. 90, Elk	Tecumseh No. 17, Tecumseh	November 11, 1944
Riverton No. 63, Riverton	Franklin No. 264, Franklin	May 16, 1945
Hildreth No. 252, Hildreth	Grace No. 226, Wilcox	October 11, 1945
Hubbell No. 92, Hubbell	Hebron No. 43, Hebron	February 8, 1946
Incense No. 182, Ohioa	Jewell No. 149, Tobias	April 22, 1947
Bee No. 259, Bee	Oliver No. 38, Seward	June 13, 1947
Tuscan No. 130, Surprise	Composite No. 81, Rising City	February 9, 1963
Delta No. 230, St. Edward	Albion No. 78, Albion	January 1, 1965
Jewel No. 149, Tobias	Geneva No. 79, Geneva	September 9, 1966
Valley No. 157, Wilsonville	Beaver City No. 93, Beaver City	March 8, 1966
Ruskin No. 304, Ruskin	Nelson No. 77, Nelson	September 23, 1966
Morning Star No. 197, Gresham	Stromsburg No. 126, Stromsburg	December 9, 1967
Cornerstone No. 247, Osmond	Plainview No. 204, Plainview	December 12, 1967
Kenesaw No. 144, Kenesaw	Mid-West No. 317, Hastings	January 13, 1968
Blue Hill No. 129, Blue Hill	Mid-West No. 317, Hastings	February 9, 1968
Pioneer No. 322, Lyman	Oasis No. 271, Morrill	April 10, 1969
Compass & Square No. 212, Sumner	Thistle No. 61, Lexington	April 20, 1969
Hope No. 29, Nemaha	Nemaha Valley No. 4, Brownville	September 9, 1969
Elm Creek No. 133, Elm Creek	James A. Tulleys No. 267, Overton	March 17, 1970
Napthali No. 206, Diller	Fairbury No. 35, Fairbury	March 23, 1970
Alexandria No. 74, Alexandria	Hebron No. 43, Hebron	September 10, 1970
Pythagoras No. 156, Ewing	Diamond No. 291, Orchard	December 4, 1970
Grace No. 226, Wilcox	Jachin No. 146, Holdrege	May 11, 1971
Wolbach No. 292, Wolbach	St. Paul No. 82, St. Paul	December 23, 1971
Tyrian No. 243, Oak	Nelson No. 77, Nelson	June 9, 1972
Mystic Tie No. 166, Tilden	Trowel No. 71, Neligh	June 12, 1972
Roman Eagle No. 203, Pender	Bancroft No. 145, Bancroft	April 20, 1973
Amethyst No. 190, Stapleton	Cable No. 225, Arnold	April 20, 1973
Prudence No. 179, Beaver Crossing	Utica No. 96, Utica	April 20, 1973
Fairfield No. 84, Fairfield	Clay Center No. 139, Clay Center	January 24, 1974
Ramah No. 275, Bertrand	Elwood No. 167, Elwood	February 14, 1974
Sterling No. 70, Sterling	Tecumseh No. 17, Tecumseh	March 20, 1974
Mt. Hermon No. 231, Cook	Tecumseh No. 17, Tecumseh	March 15, 1974
Winnebago No. 309, Winnebago	Olive Branch No. 274, Walthill	December 3, 1974
Temple No. 175, Filley	Tecumseh No. 17, Tecumseh	March 26, 1975
Beemer No. 253, Beemer	Wisner No. 114, Wisner	June 17, 1975
Signet No. 193, Leigh	Northern Light No. 41, Stanton	February 20, 1976
Plumblin No. 214, Adams	Beatrice No. 26, Beatrice	October 1, 1976
Cubit No. 237, Douglas	Union No. 287, Palmyra	December 13, 1977
Bancroft No. 145, Bancroft	Olive Branch No. 274, Walthill	December 17, 1978
Litchfield No. 278, Litchfield	Mason City No. 170, Mason City	July 1, 1979

CONSOLIDATED LODGE	CONSOLIDATED WITH	DATE
Hartington No. 155, Hartington	Relief No. 219, Coleridge	August 10, 1979
Creighton No. 100, Creighton	Plainview No. 204, Plainview	May 17, 1980
Star No. 88, Decatur	Pilot No. 240, Lyons	January 22, 1981
Gladstone No. 176, Ansley	Custer No. 148, Broken Bow	November 4, 1981
Eminence No. 223, Giltner	Keystone No. 62, Phillips	October 26, 1981
Antelope No. 276, Elgin	Trowel No. 71, Neligh	January 1, 1982
Bladen No. 319, Bladen	Charity No. 53, Red Cloud	May 6, 1982
Oak Leaf No. 312, Lynch	Ornan No. 261, Spencer	April 22, 1983
Crofton No. 273, Crofton	Wausa No. 251, Wausa	April 17, 1984
Harlan No. 116, Alma	Melrose No. 60, Orleans	April 17, 1984
Hardy No. 117, Hardy	Superior No. 121, Superior	April 17, 1984
Merna No. 171, Merna	Custer No. 148, Broken Bow	April 17, 1984
Lee P. Gillette No. 272, Dunbar	Western Star No. 2, Nebraska City	January 18, 1985
Occidental No. 215, Cedar Bluffs	Fremont No. 15, Fremont	March 28, 1985
Siloam No. 147, Stuart	Atkinson No. 164, Atkinson	November 20, 1985
Ponca No. 101, Ponca	Alpha No. 316, South Siou	City, June 1986
Boaz No. 185, Danbury	McCook No. 135, McCook	September 16, 1986
Curtis No. 168, Curtis	McCook No. 135, McCook	February 15, 1986
Clay Center No. 139, Clay Center	Mid-West No. 317, Hastings	March 5, 1986
Unity No. 163, Greenwood	Pomegranate No. 110, Ashland	December 30, 1986
Gothenburg No. 249, Gothenburg	Platte Valley No. 32, North Platte	January 14, 1987
Granite No. 189, Gibbon	Cement No. 211, Wood River	April 1987
Amity No. 169, Rushville	Hay Springs No. 177, Hay Springs	May 1987
Golden Sheaf No. 202, Randolph	Plainview No. 204, Plainview	December 31, 1987
Faith No. 181, Crawford	Sioux No. 277, Harrison	December 1987
Potter No. 313, Potter	Frank Welch No. 75, Sidney	October 1988
Western No. 140, Western	DeWitt No. 111, DeWitt	December 1988
Zeredetha No. 160, Reynolds	Fairbury No. 35, Fairbury	December 1988
Right Angle No. 303, Omaha	Papillion No. 39, Papillion	December 31, 1988
Trowel No. 71, Neligh	Diamond No. 291, Orchard	January 1990
Alpha No. 316, South Sioux City	Omadi No. 5, South Sioux City	March 1, 1990
Shelton No. 99, Shelton	Cement No. 211, Wood River	April 27, 1990
Nehawka No. 246, Nehawka	Western Star No. 2, Nebraska City	June 20, 1990
Anselmo No. 258, Anselmo	Custer No. 148, Broken Bow	August 28, 1990
Globe No. 113, Madison	Mosaic No. 55, Norfolk	August 28, 1990
Harmony No. 321, Dalton	Frank Welch No. 75, Sidney	November 28, 1990
Silver No. 266, Silver	Osceola No. 65, Osceola	April 25, 1991
Cable No. 225, Arnold	Custer No. 148, Broken Bow	May 17, 1991
Grand Island No. 318, Grand Island	Ashlar No. 33, Grand Island	August 9, 1991
Orient No. 13, Rulo/Falls City	Falls City No. 9, Falls City	August 21, 1991
Rawalt No. 138, Oxford	Jachin No. 146, Holdrege	October 9, 1991
Beaver City No. 93, Beaver City	Monument No. 293, Arapahoe	January 30, 1992
Meridian No. 188, Cozad	Thistle No. 61, Lexington	February 20, 1992
Hampton No. 245, Hampton	Aurora No. 68, Aurora	February 21, 1992
Crystal No. 191, Scotia	Ord No. 103, Ord	March 10, 1992
Edgar No. 67, Edgar	Nelson No. 77, Nelson	March 10, 1992
Gavel No. 199, Carleton	Lily No. 154, Davenport	March 23, 1992
Cambridge No. 150, Cambridge	Bartley No. 228, Bartley	April 20, 1992
Mt. Zion No. 161, Shelby	Composite No. 81, Rising City	November 11, 1992
Endeavor No. 262, Indianola	Bartley No. 228, Bartley	December 3, 1992

CONSOLIDATED LODGE	CONSOLIDATED WITH	DATE
Fraternity No. 235, Winside	Wayne No. 120, Wayne	April 28, 1993
John S. Bowen No. 23, Kennard	Washington No. 21, Blair	May 4, 1993
Minatare No. 295, Minatare	Scotts Bluff No. 201, Gering	January 24, 1994
Pilot No. 240, Lyons	Tekamah No. 31, Tekamah	June 6, 1994
Bayard No. 301, Bayard	Camp Clarke No. 285, Bridgeport	September 12, 1994
Upright No. 137, Burchard	Pawnee No. 23, Pawnee City	September 6, 1995
Golden Rod No. 306, Lodgepole	Golden Fleece No. 205, Chappell	December 6, 1995
Bassett No. 254, Bassett	Silver Cord No. 224, Ainsworth	December 29, 1995
Chester No. 298, Chester	Hebron No. 43, Hebron	February 24, 1997
Ornan No. 261, Spencer	Garfield No. 95, O'Neill	February 27, 1997
Stella No. 105, Stella	Humboldt No. 40, Humboldt	April 7, 1997
Melrose No. 60, Orleans	Jachin No. 146, Holdrege	July 21, 1997
St. Johns No. 25, Omaha	John J. Mercer No. 290, Omaha	March 6, 1998
Fairmont No. 48, Fairmont	Geneva No. 79, Geneva	May 14, 1998
Ionic No. 87, Niobrara	Bloomfield No. 218, Bloomfield	November 11, 1998
Tecumseh No. 17, Tecumseh	Pawnee No. 23, Pawnee City	December 23, 1998
Sutherland No. 299, Sutherland	Platte Valley No. 32, North Platte	February 15, 1999
Gilead No. 233, Butte	Atkinson No. 164, Atkinson	March 17, 1999
Mt. Nebo No. 125, Genoa	Cedar River No. 89, Fullerton	April 7, 1999
Auburn No. 124, Auburn	Nemaha Valley No. 4, Brownville	June 23, 1999
Sioux No. 277, Harrison	Mitchell No. 263, Mitchell	December 2, 1999
James A. Tulleys No. 267, Overton	Thistle No. 61, Lexington	June 26, 2001
Perkins No. 308, Grant	Ogallala No. 159, Ogallala	December 19, 2001
Republican No. 98, Republican City	Franklin No. 264, Franklin	December 31, 2001
Mason City No. 170, Mason City	Porter No. 106, Loup City	July 16, 2004
Relief No. 219, Coleridge	Wausa No. 251, Wausa	October 29, 2004
Oasis No. 271, Morrill	Mitchell No. 263, Mitchell	December 1, 2004
Crescent No. 143, Primrose	Albion No. 78, Albion	September 27, 2005
Table Rock No. 108, Table Rock	Pawnee No. 23, Pawnee City	June 26, 2006
Culbertson No. 174, Culbertson	McCook No. 135, McCook	January 19, 2007
Palisade No. 216, Palisade	McCook No. 135, McCook	January 19, 2007
Lotus No. 289, Ravenna	Porter No. 106, Loup City	October 10, 2007
Polk No. 311, Polk	Solar No. 134, Clarks	December 14, 2007
Humboldt No. 40, Humboldt	Pawnee No. 23, Pawnee City	December 27, 2007
Evening Star No. 49, Sutton	Geneva No. 79, Geneva	August 8, 2008
Bloomfield No. 218, Bloomfield	Wausa No. 251, Wausa	October 17, 2008
DeWitt No. 111, DeWitt	Blue Valley No. 64, Wilber	March 13, 2009
Composite No. 81, Rising	Fidelity No. 51, David City	February 26, 2010
Trestle Board No. 162, Brock	Pawnee No. 23, Pawnee City	February 26, 2010
Hay Springs No. 177, Hay Springs	Arcana Lodge No. 195, Gordon	May 27, 2011
Canopy Lodge No. 209, Elmwood	Euclid Lodge No. 97, Weeping Water	June 7, 2011
Golden Rule Lodge No. 236, Allen	Corinthian Lodge No. 83, Wakefield	July 21, 2011
Pomegranate Lodge No. 110, Ashland	Comet Lodge No. 229, Ceresco	November 1, 2011
Wymore Lodge No. 104, Wymore	Beatrice Lodge No. 26, Beatrice	February 20, 2012
Nelson Lodge No. 77, Nelson	Superior Lodge No. 121, Superior	April 27, 2012
Ord Lodge No. 103, Ord	Blazing Star Lodge No. 200, Burwell	November 2, 2012

**LODGES ORGANIZED IN TERRITORIES  
OTHER THAN NEBRASKA**

Summit No. 7	Parkville, Colorado - Instituted May 6, 1861. Chartered June 5, 1861. Transferred to Grand Lodge of Colorado, August 2, 1861.
Rocky Mountain No. 8	Gold Hill, Colorado - Instituted May 21, 1861. Chartered June 5, 1861. Transferred to Grand Lodge of Colorado, August 2, 1861.
Central City, U.:D.:	Central City, Colorado - Instituted 1860 or 1861.
Bannack City, U.:D.:	Bannack City, Idaho - Instituted April 1863 or June 21, 1863.
Monitor Lodge, U.:D.:	United States Army - Instituted July 30, 1863. Became extinct prior to 1867.
Idaho Lodge, U.:D.:	Nevada City, Idaho - Instituted November 17, 1863. Became extinct June 23, 1864.
Wyoming Lodge No. 28	South Pass City, Wyoming - Instituted November 24, 1869. Chartered June 23, 1870. Transferred to Grand Lodge of Wyoming, December 15, 1874
Swisher Lodge U.:D.:	Kabul, Afghanistan – Instituted September 12, 2005 Kabul, Afghanistan – Instituted December 1, 2011

**EXTINCT LODGES**

<b>NAME AND LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE OF BECOMING EXTINCT</b>
Decatur No. 7 – Decatur.....	June 18, 1873
Columbus No. 8 – Columbus.....	June 25, 1868
Nebraska City No. 12 – Nebraska City.....	March 10, 1903
Eureka No. 16 – Arago.....	December 23, 1875
Ashland No. 18 – Ashland.....	August 17, 1881
Rock Bluff No. 20 – Rock Bluff.....	July 16, 1884
Macoy No. 22 – Plattsmouth.....	December 31, 1877
Lafayette No. 24 – Lafayette Pct. (later Grant).....	March 27, 1877
Palmyra No. 45 – Palmyra.....	November 20, 1901
Salem No. 47 – Salem.....	June 18, 1891
Lebanon No. 58 – Columbus.....	June 6, 1928
Livingstone No. 66 – Firth.....	June 5, 1907
Fortitude No. 69 – Ulysses.....	June 14, 1887
Waco No. 80 – Waco.....	January 31, 1885
Doniphan No. 86 – Doniphan.....	May 12, 1966
Steele City No. 107 – Steele City.....	August 13, 1902
Arapahoe No. 109 – Arapahoe.....	June 8, 1904
Brainard No. 115 – Brainard.....	September 5, 1903
Doric No. 118 – Dorchester.....	June 4, 1930
Jasper No. 122 – Odell.....	April 24, 1901
Indianola No. 123 – Indianola.....	June 8, 1904
Minden No. 127 – Minden.....	October 27, 2003
Ark & Anchor No. 131 – Ainsworth.....	September 2, 1890
Summit No. 141 – Johnson.....	February 5, 1900
Anchor No. 142 – North Loup.....	June 5, 1901
Square No. 151 – Valparaiso.....	October 9, 1962
Evergreen No. 153 – Pierce.....	September, 1989
Grafton No. 172 – Grafton.....	December 31, 1948
Hesperia No. 178 – Shickley.....	September 9, 1905
Plumb No. 186 – Grant.....	November 15, 1897
Israel No. 187 – Ulysses.....	December 18, 1956
Gauge No. 208 – Arcadia.....	May 29, 1965
Square & Compass No. 213 – Miller.....	June 6, 1918
Wauneta No. 217 – Wauneta.....	December 31, 1991
Ithmar No. 238 – Crab Orchard.....	February 9, 1903
Orion No. 242 – Ravenna.....	July 6, 1904
Sincerity No. 244 – Battle Creek.....	June 6, 1928
Holbrook No. 257 – Holbrook.....	June 11, 1959
Springview No. 260 – Springview.....	August 6, 1920
Huntley No. 270 – Huntley.....	June 7, 1939
Swastika No. 280 – Sargent.....	December 31, 1988
Mullen No. 282 – Mullen.....	December 17, 1998
Exeter No. 283 – Exeter.....	December 16, 1952
Cowles No. 296 – Cowles.....	December 31, 1946
William E. Hill No. 307 – Otoe.....	December 15, 1964
Roscoe Pound Lodge of Research No. 329 – Lincoln.....	September 10, 1993
St. John the Baptist Lodge of Research No. 330 – Geneva.....	June 3, 1998

**MASONIC CALENDAR**

ANCIENT CRAFT MASONS commence their era with the creation of the world, calling it ANNO LUCIS (A.:L.:) "in the year of light."

A.:A.:S.: RITE, same as Ancient Craft except the Jewish Chronology is used, ANNO MUNDI (A.:M.:) "in the year of the world."

ROYAL ARCH MASONS date from the year the second temple was commenced by Zerubbabel, ANNO INVENTIONIS (A.:I.:) "in the year of the discovery."

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS date from the year in which the Temple of Solomon was completed, ANNO DEPOSITIONIS (A.:Dep.:) "in the year of the deposit."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR commence their era with the organization of their Order, ANNO ORDINIS (AO) "in the year of the Order."

ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD dates from the year of the Blessing of Abraham by the High Priest Melchizedek, ANNO BENEFACIO (A.:Beo.:) "in the year of the Blessing."

**RULES FOR MASONIC DATES**

ANCIENT CRAFT	Add 4000 to the common era.	Thus, 2004 and 4000 = 6004.
A.:A.:S.: RITE	Add 3760 to the common era.	Thus, 2004 and 3760 = 5764. After September add another year.
ROYAL ARCH	Add 530 to the common era.	Thus, 2004 and 530 = 2534.
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS		Add 1000 to the common era. Thus, 2004 and 1000 = 3004.
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR		From the Christian era take 1118. Thus, 1118 from 2004 = 886.
ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD		To the Christian era, add 1913, the year of the blessing, B.C. Thus, 2004 and 1913 = 3917.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF LODGES**

\* Denotes proxy

<b>Lodge</b>	<b>Worshipful Master</b>	<b>Senior Warden</b>	<b>Junior Warden</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Nebraska #1	Thomas J Sorensen II	Matthew P Walch	Martin C McGuire	Jason E Knupp
Western Star #2	Edward L Reed			David A Wetrosky
Capitol #3	Fred R Yates	Kenneth J Bunnell		Terry M Theis*
Nemaha Valley #4			James Rendleman*	Clay W Kennedy*
Omadi #5		Kyle J Peterson*	Wayne Benson*	Chris T Knudsen*
Plattsmouth #6	Dwight D Rose*	Lee A Olson*	Lanny D Glup*	Jay H Speck
Falls City #9				
Solomon #10	Todd Lewis*	Craig Stafford*	Donald R Knight*	Philip A Lorenzen
Covert #11	Anthony L Rosterman*	Armel E MacDonald*	Gregory Hansen*	David N Silver
Peru #14	Carl O Stevenson*	David L Pease*		Ted R Groves
Fremont #15	Richard A Owston*	Grady Wells	Jimmy Peterson	Dennis L Smith
Lincoln #19	Richard O Wyatt*	John J Duling		
Washington #21				
Pawnee #23		Edward D Raper	Larry L Bradbury*	Gary H Bedea*
Beatrice #26	Lance R Brinkman			Jason M MacKichan
Jordan #27				Bill C Schroedter*
Blue River #30		Gary L Brhel		
Tekamah #31	Ronald Grass	Donald M Neary*		
Platte Valley #32	Michael D Beall	Warren Leeps	Sanford J Lawrence*	Glenn R Mulholland
Ashlar #33	Justin T Richardson	Ryan D Crouch*		Verne L Hill*
Acacia #34	Roger G Coufal			Dennis D Coufal
Fairbury #35	Kristufer M Buehler			
Lone Tree #36				Philip E Foulk
Crete #37	David A Johnson*	James A Clark		
Oliver #38		James M Stull		
Papillion #39	Paul H Kenyon	Patrick A Berry	William E Young Jr	A Carl Highman
Northern Light #41	Robert E Chilcoat	Gary D Benson		Robert Schellpeper
Hebron #43				
Harvard #44	Bruce W Schwenk			Steve E Carriker*
Rob Morris #46	Steen F Kendle	Delmar Jones	Charles Kreis	Michael J Webb
Hastings #50	Randall D Jones	Keith A Penrose	Mario Koletic*	W Glen Jorgenson
Fidelity #51	Michael E Jones	Frank H Hansen*	Rex M Rehmer*	Larry C Griffiths*
Hiram #52	James A Wiseman			Kenny Reed*
Charity #53				
Lancaster #54	Ben F Hughes	Shane T Rhian		Russell G Reno
Mosaic #55	Michael S Detchman			Rodrick R Hughes
York #56				
Mt. Moriah #57		William Jeff Walker		
Wahoo #59				
Thistle #61		James N Screws Jr	Daniel J Screws	Philip E Darby
Keystone #62	Melvin Obermeier*			Kenneth E Mahlin Jr*
Blue Valley #64	Kenneth Smisek		Michael M Hroch	
Osceola #65	Delmar A Jones	Ryan M Jones	Ricky A Jones	
Aurora #68				
Hooper #72	Andrew Hunteman	Roger L Hunteman		
Friend #73				Marvin H Kraus
Frank Welch #75	Mark L Carley	Todd M Stewart		
Albion #78	E Lee Howell	Merlin L Weber Jr	Jeffrey J Noble*	

## REPRESENTATIVES OF LODGES

\* Denotes proxy

Lodge	Worshipful Master	Senior Warden	Junior Warden	Secretary
Geneva #79	Kevin R Bonin	Bradley W Stephens	John M Jacobs*	Max H Miller*
St. Paul #82				
Corinthian #83				
Cedar River #89				
Oakland #91				
Bennett #94	Roger W Miner	Frederick E Liebers	Richard D Harris	
Garfield #95	Jeffrey W Brandt			
Utica #96	Fred O Wyant	Steven R Rhodes*		Kevin O Scheele
Euclid #97	Scott M Miller	Patrick Cunningham*	Jon P Oliver*	Matthew L Mogensen*
Waterloo #102	Rodney E Jobman		Michael J Bruning	Bradley D Petersen*
Porter #106	Lanny R Kizer*			Kenneth A Bills
Springfield #112	Gary S Unger	James M Sklenar	Loren C Moore	Aaron R Taylor
Wisner #114				
North Bend #119	Thomas J Begley, Jr	Gregory Beebe*		David G Otte*
Wayne #120				
Superior #121	Patrick C Dunn	Martin C Westen	George E Piper*	
Stromsburg #126	Kurth J DeLand*			
Guide Rock #128				
Scribner #132	David Otteman*			Donald G Havekost
Solar #134			William H Kuhn*	
McCook #135	Philip P Lyons	D Gregory Fyn		Steve G Lyne
Long Pine #136	Terry Foxworthy	Gerald E VanEvery*	Stanley L Weidner	Gary R Wolfe
Jachin #146	Robert M Hoagland	Lon C Clark	John Konczak	Bruce G Raddatz
Custer #148	Chet E Wales	George A Bundy	Douglas P Sadler*	Kevin R Lindly
Lily #154	Tregan P Albers			
Samaritan #158	Verlin C Retzlaff*			
Ogalalla #159	Charles N Frates	Philip J Armstrong*	Dennis M Hutt*	Richard L Lindauer*
Atkinson #164	CHARTER ARRESTED			
Barneston #165	CHARTER ARRESTED			
Elwood #167				Geoffrey K Bogle
Robert Burns #173		Donald E Rife		
Justice #180			Alan Shillington*	R Scott Hogeland*
Alliance #183	James Karell	Brian Jerred	Todd Rehder	Eugene Gatti
Bee Hive #184				
Minnekadusa #192				
Highland #194			Cody C Carlow	Fred E DeVries*
Arcana #195	William C Conway*	Tyler J Fisher*	George Meng	
Purity #198	Keith A Wood*	Donald F Welch*	Tom W Elder	Byron L Hust
Blazing Star #200	Christopher L	Richard Gallegos*	Nelce Martinsen	Howard R Fairbairn
Scotts Bluff #201	Edwin L Mayo*	John T Ewing*	Devin D Charles	Kelly M Sandberg*
Plainview #204		Alan L Tharnish*		Dick L Hemmingsen*
Golden Fleece #205				Dwight E Smith
Parian #207	Kent R Trumbull			
East Lincoln #210	Garen W Miller	James B Michaelson*	William D Hayes	W Scott Dodge
Cement #211				
Magnolia #220				Darrel W Olson*
Wood Lake #221				

**REPRESENTATIVES OF LODGES**

\* Denotes proxy

<b>Lodge</b>	<b>Worshipful Master</b>	<b>Senior Warden</b>	<b>Junior Warden</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Landmark #222				Randall L Hart
Silver Cord #224	Mike Hitchcock	Wilber Saner	Rod Imm*	Evan C Evans*
North Star #227	Brent R Elder	David L Sierks*	Harry A Storz	Steve B Wetzel*
Bartley #228	Lester F Webb		Marvin K Colson*	
Comet #229	Darrell Beaman			Gregory L Prososki
Zion #234	Steve A Fouse*	Josh Streiff*		John D Streiff
Friendship #239	Neil D Tyler		Trent A Tyler	
Geo. Armstrong #241				
Laurel #248	Keith J Jarvi*			Glen M Olson*
Geo. Washington #250	H John Kirby		Jeffrey W. Worrall	Donald C Eisenbarth*
Wausa #251		Richard H Lentz*		Lowell C Erickson
Hickman #256	Douglas W Johnson	Greg Vlasnik	Jeff B Eggerling	Olin D Boone
Mitchell #263				
Franklin #264			Robert G Money*	
Robert W Furnas #265	Frank R Wooden	Randall A Olson	Dennis D Dubry*	Ted B Miller III
Geo. W Lininger #268	Merle R Vermuele	Christopher S Nigro	Patrick W Watson	Ronald D Stites
Olive Branch #274		Kent L Neumann*		John S Kruse*
Wallace #279			Kenneth E Ogier*	Eric J Chrisman*
Florence #281	David L Rose	Paul D Nerz	Merl R Core	Dale E Wagner*
Seneca #284	James J Jones*			Chauncey J Linn*
Camp Clarke #285	Brent E VanPatten	Todd Eichthaler*		Edwin O Harms*
Oshkosh #286				
Union #287	Dennis Brydl			
Omaha #288	Mark D Pilley	Mark L Miller*	Wesley K Stingley*	Karl G Smith
John J Mercer #290	Cletus P Dixon	Charles J Odorizzi III*	Roger W Manley*	
Diamond #291				
Monument #293				
James L. Eatmon #294	E Josh Gillming	Robert H Maurer II*	Kevin L Sherman*	
Cotner #297	Donald Gray Jr	Jerry Pigsley	Troy Myers	Ralph J Riemann*
Liberty #300	Mark J Turner	Brent A Myers	Andrew H Seachord	Wade R. Kendle
Mizpah #302	Tyler Z Goodman	Travis R Bader	Darren S Malott*	Craig R Crawford
Newman Grove #305	Tedd A Kaufman	Danny Patzel		
Victory #310	Jeffrey B Hayden	Ryan D King*	Gregg Kava*	K Roger Dill
Craftsmen #314	Bruce L Trautwein*	Ronald E Tillman*	Byrl A Shear Jr*	
Mid-West #317	Jimmy D Brown	Tyson E Wademan	Arthur L Tellez*	Dan J Nonneman
College View #320	Byron Van Patten			Thomas O Anderson
Lebanon #323	Robert E Wilbur		David A Geringer*	
Cairo #324				Richard L. Heckman
Bellevue #325	Michael R Juhas	James W Frampton*	Lance R Molina*	David C Norton
Centennial #326	J "Dave" Heck		Michael G Horton	Philip O Edwards
Shiloh #327	David L Dawson	Michael R Brooks	Douglas A Dawson*	Matthew W Vandergriff
Miloma #328	Duane Woodman	Matthew B Schell	Don J Connot*	David J Gibbs Jr
Tabula Rasa #332	Shane Rhian	F Joe Huskey	James Stull	Dennis H Brydl

**Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska**  
**Supplemental Schedule of Unrestricted Net Assets**  
**December 31, 2012**

Description	Face Value	Carrying Value	Approximate Market Value
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - UNRESTRICTED - U.S. GOVERNMENT MONEY MARKET FUNDS		94,609	94,609
BONDS			
TRANSPORTATION, INDUSTRIAL AND MICELLANEOUS BONDS			
Alcoa Inc., 5.400%, 4-15-2021	50,000	51,380	52,040
Bunge Ltd. Fin. Corp., 8.500%, 6-15-2019	50,000	51,695	64,335
Donnelley R R & Sons Co., 5.500%, 5-15-2015	50,000	50,098	51,594
GTE Corp., 6.840%, 04-15-2018	50,000	54,285	62,599
Schering-Plough Corp., 5.300%, 12-1-2013	50,000	49,158	52,273
Southwest Airils Co., 5.750%, 12-15-2016	50,000	40,000	56,546
US West Communications, Inc., 7.125%, 11-15-2043	50,000	51,000	51,806
WM Wrigley Jr. Co., 4.650%, 07-15-2015	50,000	49,625	53,358
Total transportation, industrial and miscellaneous bonds	400,000	397,241	444,551
TOTAL BONDS	400,000	397,241	444,551

## COMMON STOCKS

Shares	Description	Carrying Value	Approximate Market Value
200	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	9,183	14,862
300	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Cl B	19,634	26,910
200	Boeing Co.	9,192	15,072
400	BP PLC Spons Adr	21,952	16,656
1,168	Cemex S A B De C V Sponsor ADR New	6,835	11,528
600	Chesapeake Energy Corp.	15,014	9,972
600	Chicago Bridge & Iron	9,662	27,810
175	Compass Minerals International Inc.	14,283	13,074
500	Conagra Foods Inc.	13,110	14,750
250	ConocoPhillips Com.	4,956	14,498
400	Direct TV	13,217	20,064
300	Disney Walt Co. Com.	6,007	14,937
250	Dominion Resources Inc.	9,472	12,950
550	Forest Laboratories Inc.	15,454	19,426
500	Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Cl B	19,911	17,100
1,500	Gencorp Inc.	7,747	13,725
2,000	Investors Real Estate Trust	20,400	17,460
250	Johnson & Johnson Com.	16,035	17,525
250	Kansas City Southern	3,541	20,870
200	L-3 Communications Hldgs, Inc.	16,362	15,324
250	Laboratory Corp. of Amer. Com.	7,390	21,655
900	Leucadia National Corp.	39,274	21,411
425	Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.	4,759	20,689
200	McDonalds Corp. Com.	18,001	17,642
700	Microsoft Corp. Com	17,584	18,697
600	Peabody Energy Corp.	6,207	15,966
900	Pfizer Inc.	15,512	22,571
216	Phillips 66 Com.	2,545	11,470
400	Plum Creek Timber Co.	11,882	17,748
150	SPDR Gold Trust	15,015	24,303
675	St Joe Company	15,503	15,579
300	Texas Pacific Land Trust	8,896	16,029
700	Vodafone Group Plc	16,917	17,633
400	Vulcan Materials Co.	16,306	20,820
1,000	Yamana Gold Inc.	11,655	17,210
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS		459,413	613,936

**Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of Nebraska**  
**Supplemental Schedule of Temporarily Restricted and**  
**Permanently Restricted Net Assets**  
**December 31, 2012**

Description	Face Value	Carrying Value	Approximate Market Value
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - RESTRICTED U.S.			
GOVERNMENT MONEY MARKET FUNDS		208,001	208,001
BONDS			
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES			
U.S. Treasury Notes, 7.250%, 05-15-2016	25,000	28,117	30,695
Independence Kans Indl Dev Rev, 8.11%, 6-15-20	50,000	52,165	51,316
Total government securities	75,000	80,282	82,011
CORPORATE BONDS			
Alcoa Inc., 5.400%, 4-15-2021	50,000	51,380	52,040
Analog Devices Inc., 5.000%, 07-1-2014	25,000	26,670	26,587
Bunge Ltd Fin Corp., 8.500%, 6-15-2019	25,000	25,848	32,167
Donnelley R R & Sons Co., 5.500%, 5-15-2015	50,000	50,098	51,594
Halliburton Co., 6.750%, 02-1-2027	25,000	24,325	32,389
John Deere Cap Corp., 3.000%, 10-15-2013	50,000	50,000	50,540
Mattel Inc., 5.625%, 3-15-2013	35,000	37,380	35,344
Pitney Bowes Inc., 5.250%, 1-15-2037	50,000	51,000	51,006
Schering-Plough Corp., 5.300%, 12-1-2013	25,000	24,579	26,136
Southwest Airls Co., 5.750%, 12-15-2016	25,000	20,000	28,273
Suncor Energy Inc., 6.100%, 6-1-2018	50,000	43,799	60,991
Target Corp., 5.375%, 05-01-2017	50,000	49,112	58,856
US West Communications Inc., 7.125%, 11-15-2043	25,000	25,500	25,903
Zurich Reins Centre Hldgs., 7.125%, 10-12-2023	50,000	54,510	58,741
Total corporate bonds	535,000	534,201	590,567
TOTAL BONDS	610,000	614,483	672,578

## COMMON STOCKS

Shares	Description	Carrying Value	Approximate Market Value
550	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	31,666	40,870
500	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Cl B	31,842	44,850
450	Boeing Co.	20,683	33,912
400	BP PLC Spons Adr	22,244	16,656
2,106	Cemex S A B De C V Sponsor ADR New	12,303	20,786
600	Chesapeake Energy Corp.	15,014	9,972
1,400	Chicago Bridge & Iron	15,125	64,890
200	Compass Minerals International Inc.	16,323	14,942
850	Conagra Foods Inc.	22,287	25,075
396	ConocoPhillips	7,850	22,964
500	Direct TV	16,521	25,080
700	Disney Walt Co Com.	19,990	34,853
650	Dominion Resources Inc.	24,627	33,670
900	Forest Laboratories Inc.	25,274	31,788
1,300	Forest Oil Corp.	30,994	8,697
600	Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Cl B	23,805	20,520
4,000	Gencorp, Inc.	27,385	36,600
3,000	Investors Real Estate Trust	30,600	26,190
475	Johnson & Johnson Com.	30,447	33,297
500	Kansas City Southern	7,083	41,740
200	L-3 Communications Hldgs, Inc.	16,362	15,324
350	Laboratory Corp. of Amer. Com.	10,346	30,317
1,000	Leucadia National Corp.	39,451	23,790
825	Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.	9,222	40,161
400	McDonalds Corp Com.	36,002	35,284
1,100	Microsoft Corp. Com.	27,632	29,381
700	Peabody Energy Corp.	7,241	18,627
2,000	Pfizer Inc.	49,974	50,159
198	Phillips 66 Com.	2,333	10,514
600	Plum Creek Timber Co.	17,824	26,622
250	SPDR Gold Trust	22,809	40,505
1,100	St. Joe Company	24,078	25,388
525	Texas Pacific Land Trust	15,452	28,051
1,250	Vodafone Group Plc	31,038	31,488
650	Vulcan Materials Co.	26,445	33,832
1,700	Yamana Gold Inc.	22,221	29,257
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS		790,493	1,056,052

## Index

300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Masonry, Plans for .....	5
Address of the Grand Master .....	69
300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freemasonry in 2017 .....	81
Approval of One-Day Conferrals .....	95
Change for Troops.....	81
Child Identification Program (CHIP) .....	79
Conclusion .....	112
Cornerstones.....	86
George Washington Inaugural Bible .....	76
George Washington Inaugural Bibles Presented .....	77
Grand Lodge Committees .....	80
Grand Lodge Office Building.....	82
Grand Master's Blog.....	76
Grand Master's Humanitarian Award .....	81
Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1 .....	87
Grand Master's Recommendation No. 2 .....	89
Grand Master's Recommendation No. 3 .....	90
Grand Master's Recommendation No. 4 .....	90
Grand Master's Recommendation No. 5 .....	91
Installation.....	74
Lawsuit.....	104
Lininger Collection on Loan to Grand Lodge of Iowa .....	82
Lodge Bylaw Amendments Approved .....	92
Lodge Consolidations.....	94
Masonic All-Star Marching Band .....	78
MSA Disaster Relief .....	82
Necrology.....	86
One-Day Degrees .....	94
Other Grand Lodge Jurisdictions.....	73
Permissions, Dispensations and Orders.....	98
Preface.....	70
Rainbow, Job's Daughters and DeMolay .....	79
Reinstatements .....	103
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, Dennis E. Rix, Grand Senior Deacon.....	109
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, Joe D. McBride, Grand Senior Warden .....	106
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, John T. Maxell, Grand Junior Warden.....	107
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, Patrick D. Barger, Grand Junior Deacon 2013.....	112
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, Richard D. Myers, Grand Junior Deacon.....	111
Reports of Grand Lodge Officers, Thomas L. Hauder, Deputy Grand Master .....	105
Swisher Lodge U.D. ....	80
The Masonic Eastern-Star Home for Children and the Nebraska Masonic Home.....	80
To my Family and Children .....	71
To Nebraska's Past Grand Masters .....	71
To the Daughters of the Nile.....	72
To the Grand Lodge Office Staff.....	71
To the Grand Lodge Officers .....	71
To the Lodges.....	73
To the Love of My Life.....	70
To the Order of DeMolay.....	73
To the Order of Job's Daughters .....	73
To the Order of the Eastern Star .....	72

To the Order of the Rainbow.....	73
To the Scottish Rite.....	72
To the Shrine.....	72
To the Social Committee.....	74
To the York Rite.....	72
Trial Commissions.....	104
Visitations.....	82
Waivers of Jurisdiction.....	104
Year in Review.....	75
Afternoon Session - Friday.....	20
Certification of Authenticity.....	vii
Change for the Troops Awards.....	7
Change for the Troops, Presentation to Department of Veterans Affairs.....	8
Child Identification Program (CHIP) Award.....	27
Close of Ballot.....	38
Consolidated Lodges.....	165
Daughters of the Nile, Greetings from.....	5
Daughters of the Nile, Introduction of Representatives of.....	3
DeMolay Mason of the Year Award.....	3
DeMolay Sponsoring Body of the Year Award.....	3
DeMolay, Ceremony of Light.....	4
DeMolay, Greetings from.....	3
DeMolay, Introduction of Representatives of.....	2
<i>Deputy Grand Custodian Apprentices</i> .....	144
Deputy Grand Custodians	
Roll of and Date of Appointment.....	153
Deputy Grand Custodians Emeriti.....	144
Deputy Grand Master's Address.....	114
Election of Officers	
Close of Ballot.....	38
Opening of Ballot.....	30
Report of Ballot.....	54
Existing Lodges.....	161
Extinct Lodges.....	169
Formal Opening Session - Friday.....	12
Gold Pan Award.....	159
Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Greetings from.....	5
Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Introduction of Representatives of.....	3
Grand Custodian, Deputy Grand Custodians and their Districts.....	141
Grand Custodian, Report of the.....	127
Grand Lecturers.....	153
Grand Lodge Committees.....	137
Grand Lodge Officers.....	135
<b>Grand Master – Rex J. Moats</b> .....	ii
Grand Master's Humanitarian Award.....	160
Grand Master's Recommendations	
Recommendation No. 1.....	23
Recommendation No. 2.....	34
Recommendation No. 3.....	37
Recommendation No. 4.....	68
Recommendation No. 5.....	117
Grand Master's Recruitment Award.....	20
Grand Oration.....	8
Grand Secretary, Report of the.....	113
Historical Records and Information.....	148
James L. "Sonny" Eatmon Traveling Gavel, Presentation of the.....	116
Job's Daughters, Living Cross.....	3

Job's Daughters, Greetings from.....	3
Job's Daughters, Introduction of Representatives of.....	2
Lodge Membership Awards .....	6
Lodge Room Setup.....	5
Lodges Organized in Territories Other than Nebraska .....	168
Masonic Calendar.....	170
Masonic Charities Golf Tournament Proceeds .....	27
Masonic History of the Grand Master – Rex J. Moats.....	iii
Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Report of the.....	48
Membership Activity Record .....	145
Membership Banquet - Friday.....	27
Morning Session - Saturday.....	29
Nebraska Freemasons Child Identification Program Foundation, Report of the.....	55
Nebraska Masonic Foundation, Report of the .....	118
Nebraska Masonic Home, Report of The .....	45
Nebraska York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine, Introduction of Officers from.....	17
Necrology.....	6
Opening of Ballot.....	30
Organization Information .....	134
Past Grand Custodians.....	152
Past Grand Masters.....	135, 149
Past Grand Master's Apron and Past Grand Master's Jewel, Presentation of.....	125
Past Grand Masters, Reception of the.....	14
Past Grand Secretaries .....	152
Plus Club Certificates .....	21
Printed Reports, Approval of.....	56
Proposed Member Resolution to Absorb Dues for Military Members, Introduction of.....	31
Public Opening.....	1
Rainbow for Girls, Greetings from.....	3
Rainbow for Girls, Introduction of Representatives of.....	2
Rainbow for Girls, Rose Ceremony.....	3
Ratification of Actions of Grand Lodge Officers .....	118
Re-obligation of the Master Mason's Degree.....	13
Report of Ballot.....	54
Reports of Committees	
Awards.....	64
Business and Rules.....	13
Change for the Troops.....	66
Credentials .....	39
East Grand Master's Masonic Charities Activity .....	67
Finance Committee, Final Report of the .....	119
Finance, Preliminary .....	15
Fraternal Relations .....	53
George Washington Masonic Memorial.....	58
<b>Grand Lodge Office</b> .....	60
Grievances.....	63
Internet and Computer Technology.....	64
Jurisprudence, Final Report of the.....	130
Jurisprudence, Preliminary .....	30
Lodge Leadership.....	61
Masonic All-Star Marching Band .....	50
Masonic Education.....	57
Masonic Heritage .....	65
Masonic Relief.....	41
Membership .....	62
Nebraska Work .....	40

Public Relations .....	61
Youth .....	15
Representatives of Lodges .....	171
Resolutions, Report of Pending .....	125
Rock Maul Award .....	28, 158
Rules for Masonic Dates .....	170
Secretary of the Year Award .....	28
Social Order of the Beauceant, Greetings from .....	5
Social Order of the Beauceant, Introduction of Representatives of .....	3
Supplemental Schedule of Restricted Net Assets .....	176
Supplemental Schedule of Unrestricted Net Assets .....	174
Visiting Jurisdictions, Introduction of Officers of .....	16



The Next  
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
of the  
**GRAND LODGE**  
**A.:F.: & A.:M.:**  
**OF**  
**NEBRASKA**

Will Be Held

FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2014  
at the  
YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

**PROPOSED LIST OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS  
2013 – 2014**

<b>M.W. Thomas L. Hauder (Ann)</b> ..... 332 7718 Phares Dr, Lincoln 68516-6758 E-mail - tom@nebraskagrandmaster.com	<b>GRAND MASTER</b> Res. 402-304-0137
<b>R.W. Joe D. McBride (Lori)</b> .....224 87212 State Highway 7, Ainsworth 69210-1822 E-mail - ranchland@threeriver.net	<b>DEPUTY GRAND MASTER</b> Res. 402-387-1214 Bus. 402-387-2724
<b>R.W. John T. Maxell (Deb)</b> ..... 327, 6 15205 Drexel St, Omaha 68137-3862 E-mail - john.maxell@galarson.com	<b>GRAND SENIOR WARDEN</b> Res. 402-896-1060 Bus. 402-861-0000 x108
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<b>M.W. Reginald S. Kuhn</b> ..... 134, 19 2627 Park Ave, Lincoln 68502-4023 E-mail - rsk@mattsonricketts.com	<b>GRAND SECRETARY</b> Res. 402-438-4220 Bus. 402-475-8433
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<b>W. Bruce A. Watkins (Pat)</b> ..... 300 3711 S 57th St, Lincoln 68506-4509 E-mail - watkinsins@aol.com	<b>GRAND CUSTODIAN</b> Res. 402-489-4317
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