



The Masonic News



www.MasonicNews.org

April 2020

Grand Master's Edict

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald D. Stites

To: All members of all subordinate Masonic Lodges in Nebraska,

In keeping with the State of Emergency that has been declared both federally and in the State of Nebraska and acting under my authority as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, I do hereby order all lodge activities, including but not limited to all Regular and Special Communications of subordinate lodges, ritual practice, fund raising, and

social events be canceled until May 1, 2020.

This edict will be reviewed regularly. If the state of emergency is lifted or recommendations of State or Federal change, this edict will be revisited and updated as required.

I am confident this situation in time will resolve itself and I would ask that you keep in touch with those that are elderly and/or have health issues

that place them at higher risk for exposure. Reach out to them and let them know that you are there for them. I would further request that you continue to pray for those afflicted, their families and caregivers, those treating the afflicted, and the local, state, and federal leaders.

As circumstances dictate, you will receive notice to you as soon as any changes in these policies are required. Please also

note that the Grand Lodge/ Grand OES office is closed until further notice. For more information, please contact Michelle.

Fraternally yours,

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master

Supplemental Update #1

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald D. Stites

Since the Grand Master's Edict was disseminated, I have received questions concerning lodge operations. While the Edict did not provide specific guidance concerning lodge operations, the following supplemental information should address most of those aspects.

Monthly Reports: Continue to submit by the 10th of month.

Suspensions and reports of suspensions: Remain due June 10th at the latest. The membership retention committee should continue

to contact those who have not remitted their dues.

Payment of Grand Lodge per capita and assessments: Remain due no later than April 10th.

Payment of bills: If a lodge has a budget there is no need for approval of recurring bills. If a lodge does not have a budget or there are non-recurring bills then coordination and agreement between the Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary to pay the bills is authorized. Bills paid will be recorded on the

minutes of the next regular communication.

Building use by other non-Masonic organizations: Remind the users of the 10 person limitation ordered by Governor Ricketts. If the organization still wants to meet, the Master and/or the temple board (if there is one) will make the decision for the use of the building.

Further, it is recommended that a periodic check of the building and grounds be accomplished. These are interesting times where the information and

local, state, and federal directives are changing at times hourly. There is no way that every contingency can be addressed in an edict. To that end I would encourage a common sense approach to your lodge's specific question/ issue.

Fraternally,

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master

Supplemental Update #2

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald D. Stites

The Masonic Funeral Service is an important and appropriate ceremony. The Masonic Funeral Service is intended to bring comfort and solace to family and friends of the departed brother. It is a dignified token of respect and fraternal affection to his memory.

Therefore, as an exception to my March 16, 2020 Edict, a Masonic Funeral Service may be conducted for a departed Brother. This exception is only for the Masonic Funeral Service and does not apply to the Masonic Memorial Service.

Further, for this exception the following is order to be adhered to:

One, but no more than three Master Masons, may perform or actively participate as a Mason in the Masonic Funeral Service.

All Masons will maintain the recommended social distancing separation recommendations of the CDC.

All Masons will adhere to the local, County, State, and Federal directives related to COVID19.

All Masons will adhere to the policies of the funeral

home prior to, during, and after the Service.

Fraternally yours,

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master

In This Issue

Grand Lodge Information	Page 1
Electa Chapter #8	Page 2
Liberty Lodge #300	Page 3
Lincoln Lodge #19	Page 3
North Star Lodge #227	Page 3
Lancaster Lodge #54	Page 4
College View Lodge #320	Page 4
Grand OES	Page 5
Tales From The North (Dakota)	Page 5
Myrtle Chapter #94	Page 6
Columbia Chapter #275	Page 6
Electa Chapter #8	Page 6
65 Year Pin	Page 6
Sesostris Shrine	Page 6
Trestleboard	Page 7
Masonic Band Camp	Page 8
Masonic Delivery Service	Page 8
Grand Master's Message	Page 8



Get your copy of the Masonic News in full color at:

www.MasonicNews.org

The Masonic News

USPS-332-880

Volume 151 · April 2020 · No. 4

Published Monthly · Lincoln, Nebraska
By The Masonic News Inc., 1635 L St. 68508

Adam Thayer, Editor
Sue Stroud, Business Manager
Reuben Rieke, Marketing Manager

Send all correspondence to:
The Masonic News 1635 L Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
News/Editorial/Mailing List Attn: Adam Thayer
or via email to: editor@masonicnews.org
Advertising/Subscriptions Attn: Sue Stroud

Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Masonic News, 1635 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

The Masonic News has been publishing news of the Lincoln Masonic Community since 1921.



Drone photography / video

- Real estate
- Commercial
- Agriculture
- Advertising

FAA PART 107 Remote Pilot Certification
Licensed and insured

www.markdahmke.photography
402-475-3150 mark@dahmke.com

The Masonic News Inc. was founded in 1921.
The subscriber base of The Masonic News is around 2500.
The Masonic News has been online since October, 2006, at www.masonicnews.org

SPECIAL TUXEDO PACKAGE PRICING IS AVAILABLE



TTTUX.COM

Address Corrections?
Ad Rate Information?
E-Mail Notifications?
masonicnews@gmail.com

Electa Chapter #8

Michael Lagueux

Coronavirus! I would venture to say that you cannot turn on a television, read a newspaper, or listen to the radio without listening to some new statistic about the COVID-19 virus. Many of us have had this experience before... maybe not to this level, the pandemic level, but certainly some fear of the unknown.

I remember the "childhood" illnesses when parents would take their children to measles and chickenpox parties. The theory was once they had it the kids couldn't get it again. I remember the dark days of polio. Another disease that took its toll on people's mental state as well as those who actually got that terrible debilitating disease. I remember things like iron lungs, and precautions taken much like the "social distancing" we are experiencing now.

I guess my point to all this rambling is that we have seen situations like this before... even right here in our State of Nebraska. The Spanish Flu of 1918 killed many people, but the indomitable spirit of the American people persevered, as it will see us through this. I have seen brilliant young people entering our colleges and universities over the last few years and can tell you they will overcome what we face now and what we will face in the future. Folks, we are in good hands and God is with us, what have we to fear?

As of the writing of this article all meetings of Masonry and all appendant bodies have been put on hold for the foreseeable future until we can get a handle on this pandemic that is sweeping our nation... but the spirit of Masonry is now stronger than ever. We are still

giving relief through the continuing efforts of the blue barrel program at the Temple. True, donations have been slowed and are generally down during these times partly due to not knowing what needs to be done. But people are still being helped through the efforts of Masonry and OES.

There are several programs at the Grand Lodge level that are helping people get the supplies of material and basic necessities they need. People are still caring for those that maintain our buildings, and our Brothers and Sisters who might be in need. Workers for our organizations are being cared for and fed, and the work of the craft is being continued, slowly, carefully, and steady.

We are not going to get through this unscathed...

one or more of us will know someone who will be affected by our current situation. BUT! You knew that was coming, right? We have each other, we are still communicating with each other in ways not possible 2 decades ago, we have access to knowledge at the speed of light, and we have our faith. What have we really to fear?

Faith, my Brothers and Sisters is what we have... our faith in God the Father and each other. We will get through this and we will come out stronger for being forged in the fires of uncertainty. Know that you are not alone in this time and circumstance we are living through.

The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Electa, and the officers and members would like you to know they are lifting you up in their thoughts and

prayers during these days and weeks we have already endured and urge you to find something that you can hold onto, something that would bring joy to your lives.

I urge you to read that book you haven't had time to, watch the movie you have been wanting to, rekindle an old love affair with "spaghetti" westerns! Most of all... know you are not in this alone. Call that friend you have been meaning to touch base with, wave to your neighbor... it all matters to someone. Hope, Faith, and Charity... sound familiar?

For those of you who have not read Psalm 23 for some time, go back and read it again. Hope will be renewed, Faith will be strengthened, and Charity will be evident to sustain us. God bless and keep you all well.

Nebraska Masonic Blood Drive Challenge

LINCOLN VS OMAHA!

WHO BLEEDS THE MOST FOR THE CRAFT?

Due to the Covid-19 Crisis, the Community Blood Bank system is in urgent need of Blood

In April, cancelled blood drives in Lincoln and Omaha alone will account for 1,500 pints of needed blood that cannot be collected!

Now is the time for the Craft to step up and support our communities by donating blood!

Take the Challenge and let's see who bleeds more for the Craft, Lincoln or Omaha!



LIFE SAVING NUMBERS
1 blood donation can help save the lives of up to 3 people
Every 2 seconds someone needs blood



Lincoln vs Omaha Blood Drive Challenge Rules

Make your donation at one of the 4 Nebraska Community Blood Bank locations
100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln
4900 N. 26th Street, Lincoln
1631 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln
12100 Pacific Street, Omaha

Make an appointment online to donate by going to www.nccb.org or by calling 877-486-9414.

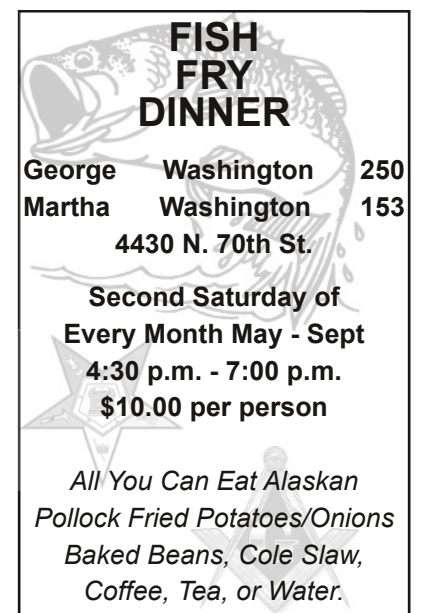
When donating ask for a "Count Me In" card. Fill it out with your name and Lodge name and number. The Blood Bank will take the card and record the information.

Members of your Lodge, their family and friends are eligible to participate. Have them also fill out a "Count Me In" card!

Stauffer's Cafe & Pie Shoppe

5600 South 48th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516
402.423.2206

Mon to Fri: 6 AM - 8 PM
Sat: 6 AM - 2 PM
Sun: Closed



FISH FRY DINNER

George	Washington	250
Martha	Washington	153

4430 N. 70th St.
Second Saturday of Every Month May - Sept
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
\$10.00 per person

All You Can Eat Alaskan
Pollock Fried Potatoes/Onions
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw,
Coffee, Tea, or Water.

Liberty Lodge #300

Lynn Friesen

Wow, what a difference a month can make. It feels as if we are all in a state of suspended animation waiting to return to some sense of normalcy.

Thinking through what to write for the coming month I was at a loss. Writing about upcoming events was a possibility, but not knowing if those events would still be held left too many unknowns. So I decided to ask our Brothers what they've been doing to keep busy which I got numerous replies.

Working remotely from home. Getting several projects done around the house. Going for walks each day through the neighborhood. Spring cleaning the house and getting yard projects done. Spending time with the family playing games. Following a few Brothers on Facebook they've been spending time enjoying their hobbies (target practice and riding motorcycle) Even though the time has felt like we have all been isolated

from each other, reading through the list of things Brothers have been doing is encouraging. Taking time to enjoy the simple things in life. How many times do we go for walks through the neighborhood and miss the opportunity to enjoy the scenery? Listen to the sounds of nature or just be at peace with the here and now. Take the time to spend quality time with family. Or just be able to enjoy those things that bring us peace from the normal monotony in our busy schedules.

Even those that are decluttering or Spring cleaning have an opportunity to use the situation as a way to help others. The Alpha Unit of the Sesostris Shrine is gathering items for their garage sale fundraiser to benefit The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont and The Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. They are accepting any items they can sell. If you have any small items such as kitchen wares, collectibles, furniture or a bunch

of stuff you don't know what to do with let them help to figure out if they can sell it.

Also, if you have any gently used, serviceable suitcases, large tote bags or backpacks you would be willing to donate, they would be happy to accept them and deliver them to the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children. As the kids age out of the system they leave, and if they don't have suitcases or bags for their possessions they have to use black trash bags. Amazing how something as simple as a suitcase can make a difference. If you have anything for the garage sale or bags to donate please contact Steve Busboom @ 402-560-3582.

Why would I write about something for an appendant body instead of our own lodge? Well it is simple. We are all in this together. If Brothers are spending the time to declutter, clean and have items to donate why not put them to good use for a good cause. We may feel isolated, but even in our

isolation we can help those in need.

Several of the members of Liberty Lodge have signed up to volunteer to participate in the Grand Lodge's program to assist in picking up and delivering food to Brothers and Widows that are unable to get out.

There are also a bunch of Brothers that are participating in a Masonic Toast at 9pm every night to band together and not forget those within our Fraternity. As mentioned before, we are all in this together and are not alone. A Brother posted the following on the Liberty Lodge Facebook page.

The Mason's Toast Under the Time of the Pandemic
Author Unknown

Our Lodges are closed, our labors are dark.
No Tyler by the entrance door we hark.
The brethren are absent some absent forever.

Sorry to part and to meet them again never.

Tis Nine o'clock here or Nine o'clock there.
We toast to absent brethren here and there.
Whether them who aid, the poor and distressed
We wish them the best in these times recessed.

Until then, my brethren, your safety we entreat.
Until then, my brethren, again hoping to meet.

To the absent brethren!

To keep connected with Brothers from our Lodge join the Liberty Lodge #300 AF&AM Lincoln, NE Facebook page. There have been numerous posts about Masonic podcasts, Masonic roundtables, Lodge events and some comic relief.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person really soon.

Lincoln Lodge #19

Bruce Anderson

As the COVID-19 virus is preventing Lodge 19 from meeting I don't have much for news. As soon as we are again able to meet, we will get business and degrees going in full force. I do know that work is being done on our raising money for a local charity. I don't have all the details currently, but we are well on our way to help this group meet its goals of feeding children in the area.

To keep you informed on Masonic items I thought a little Masonic education would help. Thanks to the 3 Volume set of Mackey's Encyclopedia, I found four items I thought would be of interest.

SHEKEL - in the Mark Master's Degree, in the Chapter of Royal Arch, it is said that the value of a Mark is "a Jewish half-shekel of silver, or twenty-five cents in the currency of this country." The shekel of silver was a weight of great antiquity among

the Jews, its value being about a half-dollar. In the time of Solomon, as well as long before and long after, until the Babylonish exile, the Hebrews had no regularly stamped money, but generally used in traffic a currency which consisted of uncoined shekels, which they weighed out to one another. The earliest specimens of the coined shekel which we know are of the coinage of Simon Maccabeus, issued about the year 144 B.C. Of these, we generally find on the obverse the sacred pot of manna, with the inscription, Shekel Israel, kin the old Samaritan character; on the reverse, the rod of Aaron, having three buds, with the inscription, Ierushalem Kadoshah or Jerusalem the Holy, in a similar character.

In many degrees a sword is used for various purposes. In the Commandry all the Sir Knights carry swords.

TILER'S SWORD - in modern times the implement used by the Tiler is a sword of the ordinary form. This is incorrect. Formerly, and indeed up to a comparatively recent period, the Tiler's sword was wavy in shape, and so made in allusion to the "flaming sword which was placed in the East of the garden of Eden, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life." It was of course without a scabbard, because the Tiler's sword should ever be drawn and ready for the defense of his post.

The Taunton Lodge in 1850 buried Brother Davey, their Tiler, and at the conclusion of the Church burial service, the Provincial Grand Secretary broke his wand and the Worshipful Mast broke the sword of the deceased Tiler, casting the same into the grave with the customary exclamation on such occasions, "Alas, our Brother."

WAYFARING MAN - A term used in the legend of the Third Degree to denote the person meant near the port of Joppa by certain persons sent out on a search by King Solomon. The part of the legend which introduces the Wayfaring Man, and his interview with the Fellowcrafts was probably introduced into the American system by Webb or found by him in the older ceremonies practiced in the United States. It is not in the old English instructions of the eighteenth century, more is the circumstance detailed in the present English lecture. A wayfaring man is defined by Phillips as "one accustomed to travel on the road." The expression is becoming obsolete in ordinary language, but it is preserved in Scripture - "he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city" (Judges six, 17) and in Freemasonry, both of which still retain many words long since disused elsewhere.

One more interesting tidbit I found at the end of the encyclopedia.

ZUNI INDIANS - a tribe inhabiting New Mexico, whose mystic services have attracted the attention of Masonic scholars in consequence of their similarity to those in vogue by the Masonic fraternity. Those Indians have a formal religious initiation, in which the supplicant kneels at the altar to take his vows, after being received upon the point to an instrument of torture to the flesh. Among their forms and ceremonies are facing the East, Circumambulation, tests of endurance, and being peculiarly clothed. Incense is burned, and the sun worshiped at its rising.

We hope to see all Brothers soon and hope all keep well.

North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

GREETINGS PRISONERS! If my monthly missal seems contrived or a little forced, you can attribute it to being confined. Of course, I'm in the same boat as the rest of you.

Since every Lodge is on hiatus for an undetermined time, this is unprecedented for most of us. Although we may not care for the intrusion in our lives, the present pandemic dictates prudent and drastic measures. It would be foolhardy to ignore the warnings and I will not enumerate the groups of the population that are at a greater risk. I will leave that to the various media outlets and talking heads. I will leave it to them to spread the hype and paranoia. It is amazing to listen to political hacks who know

better than men and women of science. There will need to be a scientific solution rather than a political solution.

My wife and I have been self-isolating for the last month and plan to continue until the "all clear" horn goes off. Since we aren't of the prepper mind set, naturally the toilet paper situation was worry-some. Relief was shortly at hand when the new phone books arrived the next day and out of the generosity of my neighbor Ben's heart, he brought over his old phone books to add to our paper supply. That solved that problem. I was planning on a drive out to our farm at Silver Creek to gather corn cobs out of the field. Since the corn variety our farming partner uses

produces a white cob, I felt that would be a good indicator of the effectivity of it's use. Unfortunately, his combine breaks the cob into shorter pieces thereby making a secure purchase doubtful and risky.

I have been venturing out to get groceries and supplies at off peak times using prudent measures such as masks and germicidal wipes. Knock on wood. We also started ordering supplies on line which is new to me. I'd rather pick my own onions and potatoes but so far, the order pickers have been doing a good job. We have been doing a great deal of reading. I have been purchasing e-books at a rate of 2 to 3 a week and digesting them at that rate.

When this health crisis is over half of us are going to come out of this as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem. I used to spin the toilet paper like I was on wheel of fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator. With Easter coming up on Sunday, I still haven't decided where to go----The living room or the basement. I don't think anyone expected when we changed the clocks from Daylight Savings time to Standard time we would actually go into The Twilight Zone. I'm wondering if after the quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life find me or will I need to find them. My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that

when I pee, it cleans the toilet. This morning I saw the neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I went back into my house, told my dog..... we had a good laugh about that. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyardia.. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.

Saw a classified ad the other day: Single Man with toilet paper seeks a woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Well till next month! If all goes well maybe some "normal will return."

Lancaster Lodge #54

Adam Thayer

I'm quite certain that by now we're all sick of reading about what is currently going on in the world, so I'm going to spend this time focusing on some of the great things that our lodge has been able to accomplish over the past month.

One project that our Worshipful Master has taken on is helping to reduce student lunch debt at our local schools. Right at a time that many parents are finding themselves unemployed, it was reported that total school lunch debt in Lincoln had reached \$80,000! While we are unable to completely eliminate the current debt, we definitely made a difference for elementary students at

three schools by zeroing out their balances. We strongly encourage others in the Masonic community to contact the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools to see how you too can help out! This is an easy, and relatively inexpensive way that all of our lodges can give back to our community, and in the process spread the name of Freemasonry to people who would not otherwise be exposed to it!

By now, you have read about the Masonic Delivery Service elsewhere in this issue; the last I heard, we have more volunteers than people who need help, so please don't hesitate to utilize this wonderful service!

Finally, and most importantly, I would remind you that no matter what is happening, if you need assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. My contact information, as well as that of WM Zier, is on the trestleboard page each month, and we are here to help and support each other!



College View Lodge #320

Paul Hadley

Perhaps you noticed the article in the spring edition of Nebraska Mason about Brother William Jennings Bryan, famed orator, U.S. Congressman, presidential candidate and Secretary of State? This member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19 was internationally known, but there are lots of other Masons with Nebraska ties who made important achievements in the worlds of politics, business, sports and entertainment.

MWB John Parsons' 150 Famous Masons celebrated the 150th anniversary of Nebraska Grand Lodge in a big way. His 2007 book includes biographies of brothers who have Nebraska ties, such as President Gerald Ford, who was born in Omaha, and Medal of Honor recipient, Nebraska legislator and Wild West Show entertainer William "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Many Masons in the book have connections to Lincoln. Here are some of them:

POLITICIANS

Besides Bryan, a lot of notable members of local Lodges served in public office.

Victor Anderson (1902-1962) was a Havelock native who served in the Nebraska Unicameral, was Mayor of Lincoln and from 1955-1959 was Nebraska's governor. Anderson belonged to George Washington Lodge No. 250, the Lincoln Scottish Rite and Sesostris Shrine.

Charles Dietrich (1853-1924) was born in Illinois. He was elected governor in 1900 but resigned and was elected to the U.S. Senate and served until 1905. Dietrich was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and was a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner.

J. James Exon (1921-2005) was born in South Dakota and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He moved to Lincoln and became active in politics. He was governor from 1971-1979, when he began a three-term stint as a U.S. Senator. Exon was a 50-year member of

Lincoln Lodge No 19, a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

Charles Thone (1924-2018) was born in Hartington and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After graduating from the University of Nebraska, he set up a law practice. Thone was a U.S. Congressman from 1971-1979, when he was elected governor. Thone belonged to Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

MILITARY HEROES

Paul Adams (1920-2013) was born in Greenville, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Adams was an original Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilot in World War II. This career officer eventually was assigned to the Lincoln Air Base as Deputy Base Commander. When he retired from the military in 1963, he taught industrial arts at Lincoln High School. He received a Congressional Bronze Medal in 2007, and in 2008 the Adams Elementary School was named after him. Adams belonged to Lebanon Lodge No. 3, Prince Hall Affiliation.

Robert Copsey (1896-1987) was an aviation pioneer who was born in Broken Bow. He was an Army flight instructor during World War I and was among the first pilots to fly airmail routes in the 1920s. Copsey retired as a U.S. Air Force major general and was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

John Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Missouri and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This Spanish-American War veteran earned a degree at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, where he taught ROTC. He led the American expedition into Mexico in 1916 and the next year was given command of all American armies in World War I. In the 1920s he was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Pershing was a 60-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19 and belonged to the Lincoln York Rite Bodies, was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

SPORTS FIGURES

Dana Bible (1891-1980) was a World War I pilot in France and became a legendary football coach at LSU, Texas A&M (where he began the "Twelfth Man" tradition), the University of Nebraska and Texas, where he served as athletic director for many years. His teams won 14 conference championships, and during his eight years at Nebraska, the Huskers lost only three conference games. He was raised as a Mason in Tennessee but was a member of the York Rite Bodies of Lincoln.

R.C. "Bobby" Reynolds (1931-1985) was born in Grand Island and was a college football star at the University of Nebraska. His records for total rushing yards and touchdowns stood for decades and he was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984. Reynolds was in the insurance business and belonged to Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

Clarence Swanson (1898-1970) was born in Wakefield and was an All-American football player for the University of Nebraska in 1921. This member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 is in the College Football Hall of Fame.

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

Herbert Gooch (1878-1963) was born in Chicago and moved to Lincoln in 1904 to establish a grain brokerage business. During his career, he was president of Gooch Milling, Gooch Food Products, Lincoln Mills and the Star Publishing Company. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and belonged to the Sesostris Shrine in Lincoln.

T.O. Haas (1915-2002) was born in Lincoln and served in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He established his first tire business in 1947, and T.O. Haas Tires grew into a major business enterprise. He belonged to Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

Samuel McKelvie (1881-1956) was born in Fairfield and attended the University of Nebraska. He published the Omaha Bee newspaper and later was editor of the Nebraska Farmer. McKelvie served in the Nebraska Legislature, then was lieutenant governor from 1913-1915 and governor from 1919-1923. He was a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

Nathan Roscoe Pound (1870-1964) was born in Lincoln and earned a law degree and PhD from the University of Nebraska. He was a renowned botanist before devoting his passion to the law. He was dean of the UNL Law School and during his career served on the faculties of several other universities, most notably as dean of the Harvard Law School from 1916-1936. This nationally known authority on jurisprudence was Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Joseph Seacrest (1895-1978) was born in Lincoln. This newspaper publisher and broadcaster served as vice president of the Lincoln Journal Star Company and president of KFAB, as well as director of Bankers Life Insurance Company. Seacrest was a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

Theodore Sick (1897-1978) was born in Fontenelle. During his career, Sick worked his way from clerk to president of Security Mutual Life Insurance Company in Lincoln. He belonged to Lancaster Lodge No. 54, the Lincoln Scottish Rite and Sesostris Shrine.

Warren Urbom (1925-2017) was born in Arapahoe and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After graduating from the Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan, he practiced law in Lincoln and in 1970 was appointed federal judge for the District of Nebraska. Urbom was an instructor at the UNL College of Law from 1979-1990. He

belonged to Craftsmen Lodge No. 314 and is a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

John Vermaas was born in Lincoln in 1937. He began his career as a carpenter's assistant and eventually established Vermaas Construction Company in 1960. This Past National President of the Homebuilders Association Board is a member of Hickman Lodge No. 256. He's also a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, Past Potentate of Sesostris Shrine and Past Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America.

P. Jerome Warner (1927-1997) was born near Waverly and earned a degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska, where he also played football. Warner was elected to the Nebraska Unicameral in 1962 and served as a state legislator until his death in 1997. He was known for efforts to improve the state highway and education systems. Warner belonged to Lancaster Lodge No. 54 and was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

Howard Wilson (1894-1958) was born in Lincoln. He was president of Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska, served on the Board of the American Red Cross and was a trustee of the National Society for Crippled Children. Wilson belonged to Lincoln Lodge No. 19 and was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Lincoln York Rite Bodies and Sesostris Shrine.

We all may not reach the heights of these Brothers, but all of us can leave a mark! What will be your contribution to your community and to your Lodge?

Grand OES

Karan Birdsall

Through the month of April our Chapters of Eastern Star in Nebraska have been directed to refrain from gathering, meeting and hosting events. While this is not an easy request, we are so grateful for the faithfulness of our members in following this request. Social distancing is impacting the spread of Covid-19. This is an act of love and service to protect each other and our communities. One day at a time we are making a difference in our public health.

We send this request to our chapters for the month of May as well. Chapters' stated and special meetings are to be canceled for the month of May. No gatherings or events are to take place. Please pay your recurring bills and those items defined in your chapter budget and bylaws. Manage as best you can while maintaining safe public health practices.

Scholarships are being awarded. Please complete your Chapter's process with the Grand Chapter office. Our students need us now, more than ever. Please award and present in a public health aware manner, yet include as much joy, celebration, and publicity as possible. We are eager to be aware of your successes and our generosity to our youth. Our Masonic Youth groups will each have a recipient of a Grand Chapter Scholarship as well and these will be announced and awarded with the same desire for public health safety blended with celebration.

How are we communicating with our members? It is such a joy to receive a call, card, message and communication. Let us encourage our members and reach out to lift burdens as

public safety allows. Be creative and expand your ability to love and serve. Maintain rich relationships maybe even utilizing a new form of communication.

Encourage members to join the Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star Facebook page. Joy and opportunities are being featured there. It is a great way to share beyond your own walls with our Sisters and Brothers. Does your Chapter have a Facebook page? If so, please post its existence on the Nebraska page so others can join. If no, maybe it is a time for consideration of one for your Chapter. It is a tool for communication and relationship enhancement. Updates and communications are also posted on our website: <http://www.neoes.org>

Who among us can sew? A number of our members are sewing masks to share with others. We are excited to hear who all is participating and where their masks are being shared. A request has also come from Methodist Women's Hospital for headbands that include a button sewn on in the position of where the headband would cover each ear. This button becomes the spot where a mask can be attached, saving the bands from having to go behind the ear. Nurses wearing masks for 12 hours at a time get sore ears. Please consider creating and sharing these headbands as an opportunity to reach out in kindness and service.

Thank you to each and every member for your faithfulness, patience, loving kindness and determination to serve the best we can in the face of our current challenge and emergency. The Grand Officers of Nebraska Grand

Chapter of 1944 were installed and then the national condition caused the 1945 Grand Chapter Session to be canceled. These officers served until the 1946 Grand Chapter Session. Here is an interesting historical fact about that term: the WGM's report of 1946 shared that during that term more than 3500 new members were initiated into our Nebraska membership! WOW! The love and service of our members was contagious and encouraged new members to seek their own involvement with and membership in our Order. I challenge us to live and love with the same contagious energy now! May we reach out in charity, truth and loving kindness in ways that draw those around us to desire to be a part of who we are and what we do.

One last thought – I encourage each OES member in Nebraska to PAWS..... please paws (pause) at the time of your Chapter's regular stated meeting time for a moment of prayer and share our Mizpeh Benediction. Then reach out from where you are to love and serve. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead, anthropologist, recipient of the Planetary Citizen of the Year Award in 1978.

Star love and with great expectations, Karan (WGM) and Bruce (WGP)



A special thank you to all the heroes that are serving and caring for our health

care and first responder needs. You are our front line in the battle to conquer Covid-19. We are grateful for your abilities and devotion. We offer our gratitude and search for ways we can show our appreciation for your dedication to us. Pictured here is Deirdre Walsh, NICU nurse at Methodists Women's Hospital in Omaha. Deirdre is a member of Temple Chapter #271.



Individual masks being created to share with facilities and individuals.



Modeling on of the hand sewn masks created by District Grand Supervisor Gloria Guern of Papillion Chapter.



Members of David City and Columbus Chapters with District Grand Supervisor Margaret Nelson remind us of how we could gather and keep our Heads of Masonic Bodies closely engaged. This certainly is not an acceptable gathering of social distancing as we do our best to slow the spread of Covid-19.



OES STAR DOG Charlie shares love and joy while assisting in leading worship from Juniata United Methodist Church in their Sunday broadcast.

Tales From The North (Dakota)

Tyler T. Hall

Greetings from Bismarck/ Mandan, North Dakota, from Brother Tyler, a perpetual member of North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and dual member of Mandan Lodge No. 8 in Mandan, North Dakota. I bring you news and experiences from my travels from DeMolay to Masonry to other appendant bodies in Lincoln, Nebraska, to the Twin Cities of Minnesota, and finally to western North Dakota. Hope you enjoy each month as we go on a trip together in search for that which may not have been too lost.

Beware the Ides of March... Brotherly Love; Relief; and Truth...That was the message for the first few months in 2020. Now it feels that we need that more than ever.

Mid-March came as a weird phenomenon...Time Change, Full Moon, and Friday the 13th came in the same week right before the Ides of March (March 15, and quote made famous by Shakespeare's play, "Julius Caesar," in warning of Julius Caesar's death). To mark that week more significant was the spread of the novel

Coronavirus (COVID-19). No sports, no March Madness, no Spring Game - social distancing - but the world must go on. Like they say, hindsight is 2020 I suppose.

This is the time when we must come together, Brothers and Sisters! Video conferencing, deliveries to our shut-ins and those who may be most vulnerable to illness, a call or text or email or snail mail to our fellow Brothers and Sisters in Masonry, Eastern Star, DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, Rainbow for Girls... This is not a good time for us who need that social interaction

and regular Brotherly Love connections. How do we find and show the Relief we all need? The Truths of Masonic Education can be shared in those avenues of a call, text, email, snail mail, but also I encourage you to look at other webinars, podcasts, and programs also so we can learn and continue our journeys until we can commune together again.

In the past articles, I've included esoteric and masonic-related thoughts, reviews, and ideas from some movies or TV shows. Twin Peaks, Lodge 49, and more... What are some

books, stories, movies, shows that you can think of that you can apply characteristics of Masonry? How can you see Masonry and our related groups going forward and applying our principals when the world seems shut down? Remember: We and Masonry survived a world-wide cholera pandemic in the 1800's; we can certainly do the same these days in our current situation.

Lots of stories in between, but more articles yet to come...Thanks for listening.

Myrtle Chapter #94

Spring Greetings, Mighty Myrtle! We are all eagerly waiting until we can assemble again for a meeting, an activity, or just going to eat together at a Dine-Out event. Until then, we hope you are Staying Safe, Staying Healthy, & Staying Home. Medical appointments and groceries.....OK, yes some of us are doing this. Some of us even still Go To Work. Be sure to wear a mask, wash your hands

often, and use hand sanitizer (if you can).

Sisters Connie Wier PM, & Brenda Frank-Collins APM, have both been making MASKS for friends and family members.

We are proud to announce our Scholarship Winner this year: Katrina Kendle, PHQ of Bethel #5. She is a Senior at East High school who is very active in: Show Choir, Band, Archery, and Bowling. When we can get

Brenda Frank-Collins

together again, we will present her scholarship, and hear about her plans for college. Congratulations, Katrina!!

Worthy Matron Dehnia and Worthy Patron Greg decided to Cancel the Easter Egg Hunt and also our Dine-Out for April. We need to be sure to keep our members safe during this time of COVID-19 Social Distancing and Staying Safe. However, the MAY Dine-Out is still

being decided whether it will be able to be done via "Drive-Thru" ordering. We will keep you posted. *** Please put on your calendars the September 12th Spaghetti Feed. Stay tuned for more details.

As we go thru this life, it is more fun to do it with friends and family close. During these times of unknown health issues, and the Corona Virus which is circulating....we need to stay in contact with

them by phone calls, sending cards of encouragement, and social media connections. Please let Worthy Matron Dehnia know of anyone who may be needing a bit of connection. Also, call a friend every day, just to share a laugh, a story, or share a recipe. Take care, Stay Safe, Stay Home, and Reach Out to each other.

Columbia Chapter #275

Kaylene Martin

PM SISTER NORMA CUMMINGS



WGM Karan Birdsall announced the appointment of PM Sister Norma

Cummings to be the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Illinois in Nebraska. This is awarded through the courtesy of our WGM Sister Karan and by appointment of the WGM of Illinois. Columbia Chapter congratulates PM Sister Norma on her appointment. We thank her for her dedication and service to Columbia

Chapter and the Order of Eastern Star.

PP BROTHER FRANK DOUGHERTY



WM Trudi Thornburg and WP John Quinn had the pleasure of presenting PP Brother Frank

Dougherty with his 50 years pin and certificate. Brother Frank served as WP four times and we appreciate his dedication to Columbia Chapter. Those present for the presentation were wife PM Sister Margaret Dougherty,

daughter Sister Gail Schmidt, and PM Sister Kaylene Martin.

PRESENTATION FOR 100 YEARS

WGM Karan Birdsall presented a Certificate commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of Columbia Chapter. Columbia was chartered in 1919. We thank Grand Chapter for the recognition. The members of Columbia Chapter are proud of those who started this Chapter and were dedicated to be of service to the Order.

Electa Chapter #8



65 Year Pin

Steven Wetzel



Brother Thomas who currently lives in Bloomington, IN was mailed his 65 year pin award. Brother Thomas was raised on 10-26-1955 in North Star Lodge No. 227, Lincoln, Nebraska. In attendance that evening was his Father Brother Wilbur Thomas also a member of North Star Lodge No. 227, and his Grandfather Thomas R.

Hale. Brother Gilbert was in his senior year of Electrical Engineering at the University of Nebraska. He graduated from college in December of that year, accepting a job at Delco Radio Division of General Motors in Indiana. He worked in the semi-conductor research engineering with Delco until retirement in 1987.

Sesostris Shrine

Steve Busboom

To all Mason/Shriners, families, and widows of Sesostris Shrine Center:

Our World has been turned upside down for the time being with a lot of unknowns and uncertainties. As Mason/Shriners we need to come together and help the aging, widows and children that may need our assistance.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU NEED HELP WITH DAILY TASKS, SUCH AS PICKING UP GROCERIES, MEDICATIONS AND OTHER SUPPLIES, IF GOING OUT TO DO THESE THINGS CAUSES TOO MUCH STRESS OR IS A HEALTH RISK FOR YOU. ONLY YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR NEEDS ARE; WE'RE JUST HERE TO HELP! IF YOU NEED OUR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL STEVE OR CAROL BUSBOOM @ 402-560-3582

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN THIS RELIEF, GIVE US A CALL!!!

REMEMBER;

Freemasonry is an individual journey towards becoming a better father, husband, friend, citizen and man, supported by other men at different points on the same journey. For centuries, the Lodge itself has been the launch pad for Masonic Education, and a common ground for Brethren of different backgrounds to meet and exchange ideas, provide support and offer friendship.

Masons live by the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Brotherly Love: Caring for Each Other and Our Communities

Relief: Humbly Assist Those in Distress

Truth: Using Knowledge and Understanding to Improve Ourselves, Our Families and Our Communities.

Thank you and take care.

Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in



Masonic Band Camp

Masonic Band Camp Committee

In this time of unprecedented national and world emergency, the Masonic Band Committee has been actively monitoring developments with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic at the local, state and national levels. The Committee was hoping to see a downward shift in those affected and subsequent restrictions, however, that has not been the case.

With a new thirty-day Federal Directive of social distancing, and no guarantee that things will be open for business after that time, we have come to the very difficult decision that the Nebraska Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp must be canceled for June 2020 in Kearney.

We have delayed this decision as long as we think is possible, but after weighing all of the options, our primary concern and top

priority must be the health and safety of our students, band assistants, and chaperons. We are especially sorry to the juniors who will not have an opportunity to attend the final Masonic Band Camp of their high school career. This Camp means as much to us as it does to all of you, and it breaks our hearts to have to pause the 25-year tradition of this wonderful Camp.

For those sponsors who have already submitted scholarships, we will carry forward those scholarships to be applied to students to attend the Camp in 2021. If your organization would prefer a refund of your 2020 scholarship, please contact Michelle Fulmer at michelle@glne.org.

These are certainly trying times for society as a whole, but we are confident that, in time, the situation will resolve itself and we will be able to get back to life as we have known and enjoyed it. In the meantime, we hope that everyone will stay healthy, safe and positive. We look forward to seeing all who are eligible to attend in 2021. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Masonic Delivery Service

MWB Thomas L. Hauder

Lincoln is currently experiencing an unprecedented health emergency called Covid-19. Health officials are advising those in the at-risk group, 60 years of age or older, to limit their exposure to large groups in public.

With 60% of the Craft being 60 years of age or older, this means many of our Brothers might be at greater risk when going to the grocery store or other shopping. They may also be self-quarantining and unable to travel.

Now is the time for us to live up to our obligations and reach out to aid a Brother in distress. To that end, the Grand Master, Ron Stites, has authorized a project to create a delivery service to aid those Brothers that are at risk to go out into public.

This will be called the Masonic Delivery Service

What is it?
The Masonic Delivery Service will pick up and deliver groceries (no alcohol) or other items for those that are in the at-risk group.

Who is it for?
This service is for those that are in the at-risk group of 60+ years of age that are self-quarantining or simply do not want to risk going out in public at this time. Both Masons and non-Masons are eligible to use this service.

How can it be used?

Method #1 (preferred)
Contact the Delivery Coordinator at the number / email below. You will be assigned a volunteer who will contact you to arrange the delivery time.
Shop online at Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart or other grocery store, pay for the groceries and have them held for pick-up by your volunteer. Contact your volunteer and let them know the pick-up is ready.
The volunteer will pick up your order and deliver it to your front porch.

Method #2
Contact the Delivery Coordinator at the number / email below. You will be assigned a volunteer who will contact you and write down your shopping list (we cannot guarantee that all items will be available or a particular brand will be available. Volunteers will do their best to fulfill your list.)
You and the volunteer will set a time for delivery and the volunteer will purchase the groceries and deliver them.
You will pay the volunteer by check or cash upon delivery of the items.

How can you help?
If you or your Lodge are interested in being on the on-call roster of volunteers, please contact the Delivery Coordinator at the number / email below.

Masonic Delivery Service
Available from 9am to 9pm daily
Phone: 402-304-0137 (leave message and call back number if no answer)
Email: masonicdeliveryservice@nebraskagrandle.com

Grand Master's Message

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald D. Stites

Brotherly Love and Relief - A Call to Action

Fraternal greetings brethren,

The events surrounding us and changing our daily activities is an opportunity for Masons to put into motion the tenets of brotherly love and relief.

In this time of a national and world emergency it is appropriate that, if possible, we as Masons and good citizens reach out to our families, friends, fellow Masons, and communities. Reach out and let them know they are being thought about and ask them if there is anything you can do for them such as run errands, pick up groceries, or whatever.

To each lodge I would ask the Masters and Secretaries collaborate and develop a list of brothers and their contact information that are 60-plus years

of age and live in the area of the lodge. Then divide the list and pass a list of names and contact information to the lodge officers and have the lodge officers contact by phone their assigned brethren to let them know they are being thought of, see if there is anything they need assistance with (again errands, groceries, etc.), and reassure them that better days are ahead.

When in lodge assembled we practice brotherly love and relief and now is the perfect opportunity to practice what we talk. Reach out to the brethren, reach out to your family, reach out to your friends, reach out to those in your community and be the example of doing "that which it is right to do."

Thank you brothers for your devotion to the Craft and concern of our communities. Continue to follow the directions of the leaders

and organizations laboring to bring a solution to this pandemic crisis and stay as safe as possible.

Finally, continue to pray for the afflicted, their caregivers, first responders, leaders at all levels, and for each other.

Most sincerely and fraternally,

Ronald D. Stites

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master



Roper & Sons

Funeral Services
Now Serving Lincoln families with three convenient locations
4300 O Street - 402-476-1225
40th & Yankee Hill - 402-261-5907
148th & Hwy 6 - Waverly
roperandsons.com

Masonic News Business Directory

Real Estate/Estate/Busi. Equip./Benefit Auctioneers

Computerized Clerking - Online & Live Auction Services

Great Plains Realty Auct.-Randy Fleming CAI Auctr/Broker. 402-210-4885

http://gpsold.com auctioneer_32@msn.com 55+ years exp.

Antique & Coin Appraisals

Tom Bassett - 30 Years Experience 402-484-8143

E-mail: tkbassett@windstream.net

Avon Representatives

Susie Dunn (Electa 8) www.youravon.com/sdunn 402-484-5202

Deb Kendle (Myrtle 94) www.youravon.com/dkendle 402-617-3991

Kinsey Rowe Law Firm

Rob Kinsey, a member of Cotner Lodge 297.....402-434-9053

Estate Planning, Litigation-Corporate 3800 VerMaas Pl. Ste 100 68502

Lincoln's Local Mover: Heartland Moving

Lee Saltzgeber, Owner/Manager O: 402-466-1112 C: 402-440-8424

www.HeartlandMoving.net Heartlandmove@gmail.com 8305 N 58th Cir, Suite A 68517

Premium Companion Estate in Masonic Circle at the base of Obelisk Estate Q, Side by Side plots, current value \$4,995.00 each, selling for \$3,500.00 each. \$295 Deed Transfer Fee applies. Contact Gene Brownson at 402-423-3773 or 432-6889

YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE!

Be sure to tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in



"The Funeral Home Family & Friends Recommend"

Butherus, Maser & Love
Funeral Home

4040 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-488-0934

Hickman Location
211 E 1st Street
Hickman, NE 68372
402-792-2470

- Funeral, Memorial, and Cremation Services
- On-Site Cremation Facilities
- On-Site Reception Facilities with Kitchen
- Centrally Locate
- On-Site Chapel with Video Screen
- Monuments and Markers
- Personalized Video Tributes
- Accepts Pre-Arrangement Transfers From Other Funeral Homes
- After Services Out-Reach
- Pre-Planning Consultation with Payment Options
- Locally Owned & Operated Since 1883



Visit us at Facebook or online: bmifh.com

Locally Owned & Operated Since 1883

If you'd like to be on our email list and receive a notification that the on-line edition is available, send a message to: masonicnews@gmail.com This is a FREE service for our members!

Advertise Your Business in The Masonic News!

2,500 Monthly Subscribers
80% Local Addresses

Help reduce the subscription cost for our members!
Advertise for a year and get 1 month FREE!

Contact Sue Stroud at masonicnews@gmail.com for rate sheet.