



# The Masonic News



## Grand Master's Edict #1

**Most Worshipful Grand Master James A. Carlton**

To: All members of all subordinate Masonic Lodges in Nebraska

Acting under my authority as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, I do hereby decree that all Edicts issued by M.W.B. Ron Stites in 2020 are no longer in effect. This Edict concerning in-person gatherings is effective immediately until amended or the 2022 Grand Master is installed.

The passage of time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has shown rapidly changing

governmental health mandates and guidelines are now focused on the pandemic conditions in individual municipalities or counties. I therefore delegate the decision to conduct in-person meetings of all types to each Worshipful Master.

Prior to ANY in-person gathering of your lodge, your obligations include:

Identify state, municipal, county, or federal governmental health directives which encompass your locality concerning indoor gatherings such as

social distancing, masking, sanitizing, or related countermeasures. Determine if your Lodge can comply with all directives. If you cannot, you are directed to inform your Lodge brethren no in-person gatherings shall occur.

If your Lodge can comply with ALL health governmental health directives described above, in-person gatherings may be conducted.

Fraternally,

James A. Carlton  
Grand Master



### DUES ARE DUE

Dues for all Nebraska Masonic Lodges for 2021 are due Jan. 1. Send payment to your Lodge Secretary. Members with unpaid dues are delinquent as of December 31. Suspension by Grand Lodge comes April 30. Suspension in Blue Lodge also means suspension in Eastern Star, York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine.

Look at your dues card. If it does not say 2021, send payment today to your Secretary.

Eastern Star dues are also due Jan. 1. Send dues to your Chapter Secretary. Unpaid members will become delinquent Oct. 1, with suspension Dec. 31.

## Temple Chapter #271

**Tiffany Westerholt**

“My heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect our world and make it a better place - police, firefighters and members of our armed forces.” -Sidney Sheldon

Temple Chapter braved the cold and managed to have a regular business meeting on February 1, before Lincoln got lots of snow. Worthy Matron Carolyn Plants opened the meeting by reading an essay about encouraging young adults to respect the military and ways that it can be done.

We were reminded that dues are due so if you haven't been reminded, here is your friendly reminder!

Sister Cindy Kehling PM gave her Worthy Matron year end report which was comprised of a lot of great ideas and then unfortunate cancellations due to the pandemic. However, one bit of old news that wasn't reported before now, is that Sister Cindy

presented Sister Rita Schwarz with her 50-year pin in late November along with some flowers and a gift. Sister Rita was thrilled even though due to safety precautions sister Cindy wasn't able to see her. We can't wait until we can visit our members in person again.

After reading her year end report, Sister Cindy received a standing ovation from her chapter for all the hard work and for all she did during the challenging year. She was then presented with her Past Matron card and Past Matron pin from the junior outgoing Past Matron, Sister Tiffany Westerholt. Despite some of the missed opportunities, Sister Tiffany reminded her with an anonymous quote that, “It is in the darkest times that we see the brightest stars.”

In other business, Temple Chapter decided that we would again sell coffee from the Coffee Roaster here in Lincoln

so be sure to get your orders ready for later this year!

At the meeting more members received the Challenge Coins and another request was presented to the members: find a veteran, military member or first responder and present them with the coin and thank them for their service. So, members are encouraged to share their coins and thank the many members of our military and first responding services for all the hard work they do.

The meeting was then closed in regular form and although we miss our coffee and treats for after the meeting, we are just thankful we get to at least gather in person even if a little bit apart. We will see what March brings and we hope you all stay safe and warm.

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**NEXT MASONIC NEWS BOARD MEETING:**  
Monday, Feb. 22  
5:30 PM  
1635 L St.

# The Masonic News

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## Electa Chapter #8

Michael Lagueux



It's February 10, 2021, at 9:00 PM and like the great line in the movie Dances With Wolves, Starring Kevin Costner where he is contemplating someone who has died on the prairie. I'm sure my editor is asking the same question of me... "Now why don't he write?" Normally I would be on my third or fourth revision of the article I intend to send to him, but somehow I have been having a great deal of trouble this month writing. I can't blame it on COVID, I have had the first shot in the two shot series. As much as I would like to I can't blame it on the snow either. There is something deep down in my soul that is wondering what is happening within our society right now. Why is there such contention, hostility, toward people we do not even know right now? We have watched as people in positions of high responsibility act like undisciplined children; watched all summer, and even now, as people have destroyed property, taken lives, and single-mindedly proclaimed their cause as "just" to the detriment of society. Friends, we have to change this unchecked indifference to the basic rights and feelings of others. We can do this but it will take each of us working together. The adage of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a

tooth, although biblical, gets us nothing but a lot of blind, toothless people!

If you have never read the "I Have A Dream" speech by Reverend King, you should. I do not necessarily agree with everything this man did or said, but at the end of the day we, I, could agree to disagree and walk away as a member of the human race trying to find a middle ground in which we can build a better future. There is a time for every purpose under heaven and we need to draw down on the divisiveness and unwillingness to compromise for a better outcome...if for no other reason that the generations who will follow us. Even as I say that I realize there are elected leaders in Washington D.C. who can't seem to remember that the entire reason they were elected to the positions they currently hold is to represent the people who sent them to the Nation's Capital in the first place. They seem to be more interested in "political theatre," getting their 15 minutes of fame, than actually working for the good of the many. Compromise...seems to be the new four letter word in our society, especially at the governmental level.

Wow, I have been on my

soapbox for a couple of paragraphs now and although I feel better, it does no good unless we begin putting civility into action. It's worth a try.

We did not meet on the first weekend of this month for our business meeting. It wasn't the restrictions of social distancing, the necessity of wearing masks to prevent the spread of the disease, not even the necessity of minimal human contact. It was something much more benign than the pandemic we are now going through... it was snow! Lots of snow. After just experiencing over a foot of snow we were beset with another 3+ inches, followed by another...well we weren't sure yet. It hadn't stopped snowing yet when Worthy Matron Ilah called everyone to tell them she was canceling the meeting for the safety of all of our members. An extremely wise decision considering how slick the street were and the already deepening snow. I watched it snow out of the picture windows on the front of our house and remembered when I was a kid. Shoveling was "fun" back then, my joints would later remind me I'm not still a kid! As I watched, I couldn't help but marvel at the beauty and silence it brought with it.

I would like to thank all of the volunteer workers from Electa Chapter #8 who diligently prepare food for the volunteer workers on the building at 1635 L Street. While there is a lot that

remains to be done, a lot has already been completed and Electa's support has meant a great deal. Please thank those who work for our Temple when you see them. They are easy to spot...they usually work on Saturdays and any time they can get away for a couple hours to make small projects move forward. They have taken their own time, talent, and treasure to make a difference. After all, how do you eat an elephant? Yep, one bite at a time!

I have had several people call me after last month's article wanting to know, "What's up with the fox picture?" A few months ago I found myself with a short article and no relevant pictures to submit. So, I decided to submit some of the wildlife pictures I take when I travel around...the fox was one of those. (S)he was out in my yard on Christmas day and I couldn't resist getting the picture you saw. Our editor was kind enough to put the fox in for me. We have a lot of foxes in our neighborhood, and I have even seen a coyote and doe in the neighborhood lately. It seems that more wildlife is coming to populated areas seeking easy food supplies. Squirrels, rabbits, and people leaving food for birds during the winter make easy hunting for

predators right now. While amazing to look at, please remember they are not pets...use caution when walking out of your houses. I will submit a couple more pictures not related to Star activities, to our editor for consideration this month.

During the past month our Chapter social chair has sent out a few cards to our members due to injuries or illness. A card was sent to Marian Walters who is recovering from a fall, Susan Petzoldt is also recovering from a fall. A thinking of you card was sent to Shona Klusman. We hope this printing finds them on the road to full recovery.

I hope that you find some beauty around you this month that restores your optimism and outlook. Until next month I wish for all of you good health, good thoughts, and peace in your life. May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.



## Lincoln Lodge #19

Bruce Anderson

I hope all those who went to Grand Lodge last week have recovered. It was different and a little exciting. More on those events later.

January found our Lodge having installation of new officers and two degrees. The new officers were reported in last month's issue. Mr. Antonio Soto the brother of Gerado Soto took his Entered Apprentice degree to start on his Masonic journey. He wanted to join his brother in the Lodge before his brother was deployed. Many Brothers found themselves in new positions for the degree and all did a very good job. Jr. Past Master WM Will Folsom conferred the degree assisted by MWB Reg Kuhn, PGM as Senior Warden, and new Junior Warden David Nolte. Dave Nolte and Jason Bennett gave the questions and answers. Great job.



ANTONIO SOTO'S  
ENTERED  
APPRENTICE DEGREE

Later in the month the Fellowcraft Degree was conferred on Brother Billy Johnson. MWB Reg Kuhn, PGM was in the East with, PM Virgil Meints in the West and David Nolte in the South. The questions and answers were done by Dave Nolte and WB Virgil Meints. The stair lecture was given by MWB David Watts, PGM.



BILLY JOHNSON'S  
FELLOWCRAFT  
DEGREE

Again, all brothers did a great job.

I mentioned earlier that Grand Lodge was different this year. When I first arrived and went to register, I was amazed how quiet the hallway outside the meeting rooms was. I then realized that there were no vendors, just a few brothers. Inside the Lodge room the only business was several reports and then the election of officers, all the big items and resolutions were going to be discussed on Saturday morning. I had planned to stay Friday night anyway. The dinner was great, and it was good to see the awards to the deserving lodges and individual Brothers.

Afterwards I went back to my room and began to debate whether to stay the night or leave as there was snow in the forecast. I stayed and woke up to about 5 inches of snow and wound up staying

Saturday night as well. The resolutions went as predicted. The big resolution about proficiency ended up as a 50%-50% tie for and against. Overall, it was a good Grand Lodge session and I came away with some new ideas.

We talk about our reason for being a Mason, "Friendship, Morality and Brotherly love". Our new master is incorporating these ideas in his plan for the 2021 year. As to friendship, he wants us to reach out to those Brothers who have not been to a meeting in a while and get them back to lodge and if not, find out why they have not come and what can we as a lodge do better. He wants to build that friendship that we have and make it stronger. If you know a Brother who has not been to Lodge for a while invite him to come and offer to pick him up. We don't bite and we will make every effort to make his night

enjoyable and perhaps a habit.

As to morality, need I say more. Our country has suffered in this respect and we as Masons can help to change this problem by changing our way of doing things and help our fellow Americans to regain the moral fibers of our country.

Brotherly love is going out of our way to help our fellow man. Last year Lodge 19 collected funds to help with a local community center to provide lunches for children for a month. We are looking to a community service project like this year and we need your help at identifying and funding this project. We also need to reach out to our fellow brothers who need a hand. Just let the Lodge know about problems a brother may be having. Communicate with the Lodge and we will communicate back to you.

## George Washington Lodge #250

Mark Poston

The Brethren of George Washington Lodge 250 met for their regular monthly meeting on February 2, 2021. It was good to see a nice turnout for the meeting and all business was conducted in a timely manner. We were able to devote a considerable amount of time discussing the upcoming legislative agenda for the Annual Communication of Nebraska Grand Lodge. Much to our sorrow, we also noted that the Groundhog saw his shadow and we must endure 6 more weeks of winter!

### Drive-Thru Dinners Are Starting!!

By the time you receive this communication, our first "Drive-Thru" Creamed Chicken and Hot Beef Sandwich Dinner will be history but don't despair: Mark your

calendars for March 13, 2021 and April 10, 2021 (the second Saturday of each month). These dinners feature a choice of a Creamed Chicken Dinner or Hot Roast Beef Sandwich. Sides are: Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Carrots and Celery and Beef Gravy for the Roast Beef Sandwiches. The dinners are available at the Havelock Masonic Center/4430 N. 70th Street from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$8.00 per meal.

If you are looking for a delicious hot meal and a night away from the kitchen, just Drive Up and Honk!! When you drive up and honk, someone will come to your car and take your order and payment. You will get your meal in a "to go" box and it will be brought right to your car!

It doesn't get easier than that! We look forward to seeing you at our next drive-thru dinner!

### Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Worshipful Master John Kirby represented our Lodge at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on February 4th - February 6th at the Younces Conference Center in Kearney. With Covid restrictions in place, Grand Lodge had a different feel this year but was just as enjoyable! It's always nice see old friends and become acquainted with new Brethren.

We want to say "thank you" to Past Grand Master Ronald D. Stites for leading our Lodges through a very difficult and challenging year. His leadership was greatly

appreciated. We also want to send our congratulations to Most Worshipful Grand Master James A. Carlton of Bellevue and his 2021 Grand Lodge Officers. Most Worshipful Grand Master Carlton was installed as the 155th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

### George Washington Trivia

George Washington was born at his family's plantation on Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22, 1732, to Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. He was an extraordinary figure in American history and unusually tall at 6' 3", however, Washington was known as just an ordinary man. He loved cricket and fox-hunting, moved gracefully around

a ballroom, was a Freemason, and was an astute observer of the darker side of human nature. His favorite foods were pineapples, Brazil nuts (hence the missing teeth from cracking the shells) and Saturday dinners of salt cod. He possessed a wry sense of humor and, like his wife Martha, tried to resist the vanities of public life.

In closing, I would like to leave you with these words of John Boswell..."Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour". Wishing all of you the opportunity to enjoy the slower and peaceful pace that the winter season brings.

# Grand Order Of The Eastern Star

Karan Birdsall



The public health challenges of 2020 and now into 2021 have prompted the Grand Chapter of Nebraska to develop a new method for their 2021 Schools of Instruction for our subordinate chapters all across Nebraska. On Saturday February 20th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Nebraska’s Chapters of Eastern Star will gather together with the Board of District Grand Supervisors, Grand Officers and District Grand Supervisors to share a jurisdiction wide School of Instruction. Any member of any chapter can attend the virtual School of Instruction. Please RSVP to the WGM at [kmtbirdsall@windstream.net](mailto:kmtbirdsall@windstream.net) or text (402) 499-9697 to RSVP and then receive the access codes to this

ZOOM interactive event. The following Saturday, February 27th again from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm will be a workshop for secretaries, treasurers, and audit committees. This interactive Zoom event will provide communication and information on our business processes and the jobs of these members. Any member of any chapter can attend the virtual workshop. Please RSVP to the Grand Secretary ([nebraskaoes@msn.com](mailto:nebraskaoes@msn.com)) and then receive the access codes to this ZOOM interactive event.

Each chapter has received a School of Instruction notebook filled with communications, words to ponder and share, information, and instructions. It is our hope this notebook and its contents will

benefit chapters all year long and increase our awareness and effectiveness.



Together we will move forward into our new normal and stay encouraged and engaged with our Order, its mission, vision and values. Please respond if you want to join this events designed for the participation of Eastern Star members all across Nebraska.



Plans are being developed and we will gather for the 2021 Session of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney in May. The itinerary for the Session will not be our traditional line up yet provide for our business and forward momentum into the new normal we see on the horizon. We invite you for a low risk and socially distanced modified schedule of the two day session. Nebraska members of Eastern Star and our

Nebraska Masonic Family organizations and Nebraska friends are invited to attend. If you have not yet received preregistration information and forms, please contact the Grand Chapter office by email at: [nebraskaoes@msn.com](mailto:nebraskaoes@msn.com). Installation of the 2021-2022 Grand Officers will be on Wednesday May 12 at 5:00pm. Hope to see many of you there as we enter the Grand Chapter of Nebraska bubble in the Younes Center!



Your participation is the solution. Our Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont has a need and you can address it. When new children arrive at the home, often they come with very little in the way of basic items such as toiletries, warm clothes and other items that

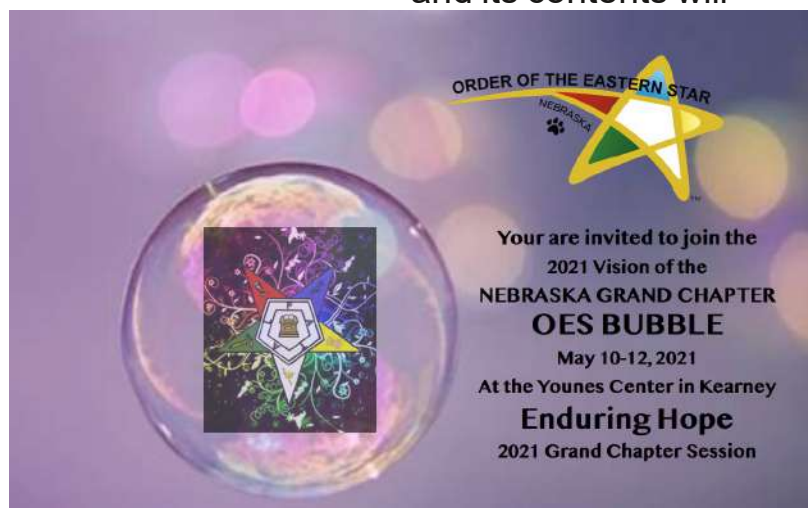
they need to settle in to our community and feel welcome.

We have created a Welcome Kit that each child is given upon arrival that consists of a duffle bag filled with those basic items they need to get off to a good start. By using the link below, you will be taken to an Amazon Wish list of items we need to make up the Welcome Kit bags. Choose the item or items you want to purchase, and choose a size or color if needed by going to the item description.

IMPORTANT: Make sure you use the Ron Giesselmann address when checking out so that the item(s) will be shipped directly to the Children’s Home.

Thank you so much for supporting this important effort.

Link to Wish List: <https://amzn.to/39CFmQs>



Help us provide Welcome Kits



When new children arrive at the home, often they come with very little in the way of basic items such as toiletries, warm clothes and other items that they need to settle in to our community and feel welcome.

## Lancaster Lodge #54

Adam Thayer

January brought a slow start to the year for Lancaster Lodge, as restrictions due to COVID and increasingly angry weather continues to keep us from being able to meet on a regular basis. As I write this, I’m sitting in a hotel room in Kearney, keeping one eye on a nasty snowfall and wondering again why we continue to hold Annual Communication

in the worst weather month of the year.

Having said that, WM Matt has a packed calendar for this year, including many events that will involve all of the local Masonic community and bring different lodges and chapters together. We look forward to being able to catch up with all of you again!

In the short term, we’ll be knocking out our final proficiency in late March, so be sure to keep your phone handy for when WB David calls to fill spots! We’re hoping to involve as many people as possible, since we’ve seen a few too many proficiencies where a few brothers are sitting in most of the chairs.

To close out, I’d like to paraphrase a great anonymous poem I found. Until next month!

**Winter In Nebraska**  
It’s winter in Nebraska  
And the gentle breezes blow.  
Seventy miles an hour  
At thirty-five below.

Oh how I love Nebraska  
When the snow’s up to your butt

You take a breath of winter air  
and your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, weather here is wonderful  
So I guess I’ll hang around  
I could never leave Nebraska  
‘Cause I’m frozen to the ground.

## Martha Washington Chapter #153

Betty Kirby

First, a reminder that we are having our Drive-Up Winter Dinners the second Saturday of February, March and April. You just need to drive in our parking lot, honk your horn and someone will be out to take your order for a Creamed Chicken over Homemade Biscuit dinner or a Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Dinner. Both with vegetables and relishes. All for only \$8.00. This is a good alternative to get away from the usual drive-through meals you may be eating!

We had our business meeting on Feb. 4 observing the COVID 19 protocol outlined by the WGM. All annual reports were given by those respective officers. Other business was dispensed with in an orderly fashion by our

Worthy Matron, Sis. Sue Hedges.

We have an interesting addition to our history case in the Lodge room. When preparing for the estate sale of Sis. Paula Beezley, scrapbooks were located that dated back to the 1930's compiled by Anna Gilman. Although very fragile, we took the time to look back and see what wonderful O.E.S. memories were in those books. Among the highlights were the progressive Martha and George Washington Dinners and an article regarding Grand Chapter where over 2000 were in attendance. Very impressive!

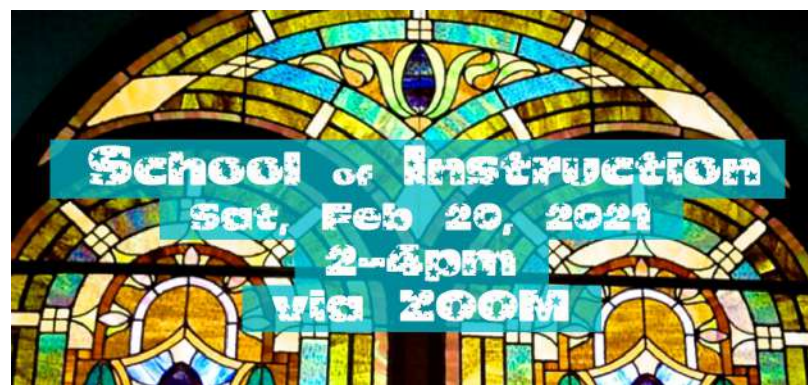
Our February birthday wishes are extended to Sis. Arlayne Orthengren (Feb. 14),

Elbert Marshall (15), Kristy Williams, Albert Fisher, Kelsey Larsen (all the 21st), Julie Fowler (23) and Janice Nitz (27). May you have many more very happy birthdays!

We are wishing the best for Bro. Albert Fisher who will be having heart surgery on February 12. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Bonnie Sierks who lost a very dear friend this past week. Sis. Julie Fowler asked that we keep Bro. Steve Hasse' family in our prayers. Bro. Steve was Julie's Worthy Patron when she served as Worthy Matron for Lincoln Chapter #148.

A final word for our members reminding them of School of Instruction on February 20 from 2-4 p.m. If you wish to participate, you

must RSVP to the Worthy Grand Matron (kmtbirdsall@windstream.net) or call 402-499-9697.



## North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

The February Business Meeting was opened in the Master's Degree with prayer at 7:30. WB Steven Flader presented the Masonic Education titled "Geometry Has Symbols Too." A rather interesting presentation. A discussion regarding a new renter for the South retail area of our 1st floor was held. The area was rented to the party that has the North half. So that is good and there will be no interruption in income. The Grand Lodge proposed changes to their Bylaws and member suggested changes were also discussed.

### Building Fund Donation

I forgot to mention in last month's news, a very nice anonymous donation to the Lodge Building Fund was received. That was very much appreciated. That same Member has been very generous over the years. Thank You!

### Past Masters Apron

Also last month, a Past Masters Apron was presented to WM Bruce Watkins for his service as Master of our Lodge in the year 2020.

That pretty much covers our business and news that is fit to print. If anyone has anything they want me to add to the monthly epistle, let me know. Till Next Month!



### F FLEMING FAMILY FOUNDATION

Fleming Family Foundation – Established in 2007 – Home of the Joe Meehan Scholarship Fund  
 We provide scholarship dollars to young men & women wanting to Move Beyond Status Quo Leadership – Priority goes to those who are active in DeMolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters – Eligibility to Freshmans, Sophomores & Juniors. Email Randy Fleming – auctioneer32@msn.com for application form – 402-210-4885 – 222 Main St, PO Box 410, Springfield, NE 68059  
 Deadline April 1st

# Starcraft Chapter #307

## Terri Sherman

Hello friends. Starcraft Chapter held their installation on January 20. Installed were Worthy Matron Sis. Bridget Anderson and Worthy Patron Bro. Dennis Brydl. Most all officers stayed in their places since we really didn't have a year last year. In our annual report we noted that we lost 8 members last year and gained 2 new members.

We held our regular February meeting on the

3rd. It was cold and snowy but 9 of us were in attendance.

Good and Welfare: Sis. Marcia Michaelson is home now and recovering from foot surgery. Sis. Rochelle Epp had back surgery and Sis. Kristen Swisher had foot surgery and is home recovering. Sis. Kristen Swisher's daughter Halley is having trouble with her eyes not tracking. She is doing physical therapy called

vision tracking to get them working together again. Bro. Jim Banister fell on the ice. He broke some ribs and cracked his neck. He is at home recovering. Bro. Sis. Bridget Anderson was in a car accident but is fine and she has started a liver study up in Omaha. We were saddened to learn that P.P. Bro. Steve Haase passed away this month.

We celebrated as Sis. Bev Ryba was presented her

50 year pin at the meeting. She was initiated into Plead Chapter No. 99 in Madison NE on March 13, 1970. She affiliated with Starcraft Chapter in February 2, 2000. So glad to have her part of our chapter.

We hope everyone had a nice Christmas even if it wasn't with a house full of relatives.

February Birthdays  
February 5 Dee Coad  
February 10 Betty Hotchkiss  
February 11 Janell Cain  
February 18 Janeen Petersen  
February 26 Barbara Frolich

## What Would You Say You Do Here?

### Darin A. Lahners, Midnight Freemason

Office Space is a 1999 American black comedy film written and directed by Mike Judge. It satirizes the work-life of a typical mid-to-late-1990s software company, focusing on a handful of individuals weary of their jobs. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office\\_Space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_Space)). One of the scenes in Office Space has a pair of consultants, Bob Slydell and Bob Porter (known in the movie as the Bobs) who are brought in to interview the employees in order to help the company downsize. Bob Slydell, played by John C. McGinley, famously asks one of the employees, Tom Smykowski who is played by Richard Riehle, "What would you say you do here?"

Imagine if you will that Freemasonry was the corporation in Office Space instead of the fictional Initech. Imagine that you were called before the "Bobs", and Bob Slydell posed that now-famous question at you, "What would you say you do here?" What would your response be? I believe that each individual Freemason would answer that question differently. Some of you might give the old tried and true answer: "We take good men and we make them better." Others might answer: "We make new Freemasons". Others might not even know how to answer the question. Others might have a completely different answer.

Still, others might be more forthright answering, like the character of Peter in Office Space. Peter, who is played by Ron Livingston, when interviewed by the "Bobs", confesses that he lacks the motivation to do a good job.

PETER  
The thing is, Bob, it's not that I'm lazy. It's just that I just don't care.

BOB PORTER  
Don't, don't care?

PETER  
It's a problem of motivation, all right? Now, if I work my butt-off and Initech ships a few extra units, I don't see another dime. So where's the motivation? And here's another thing, Bob. I have eight different bosses right now!

BOB SLYDELL  
I beg your pardon?

PETER  
Eight bosses.

BOB SLYDELL  
Eight?

PETER  
Eight, bob. So that means when I make a mistake, I have eight different people coming by to tell me about it. That's my real motivation - is not to be hassled. That and the fear of losing my job, but y'know, Bob, it will only make someone work hard enough to not get fired.

What would Peter say to the Bobs about Freemasonry? I'd imagine the conversation going something like this:

PETER  
The thing is, Bob, it's not that I'm lazy. It's just that I just don't care.

BOB PORTER  
Don't, don't care?

PETER  
It's a problem of motivation, all right? Now, if I show up to a meeting, there's a good chance that I'm going to spend all of the stated meeting listening to the other guys complain. I'm

getting absolutely nothing from the Stated Meeting. There's no education, no festive board, nothing to entice me. Somewhere's the motivation to attend? And here's another thing, Bob. We have eight different Past Masters right now!

BOB SLYDELL  
I beg your pardon?

PETER  
Eight Past Masters.

BOB SLYDELL  
Eight?

PETER  
Eight, bob. So that means when I make a mistake with my ritual or floor work, I have eight different people coming by to tell me about it after the meeting. That's my real motivation - is not to be hassled. That and the fear of being publically embarrassed, but y'know, Bob, it will only make someone not want to come back to a meeting.

I'm being facetious, but unfortunately, the answer I gave above is based on personal experience. To the attentive ear, the question that Bob Slydell asks Tom sounds similar to one that is asked while opening on the First Degree. "What came you here to do?" The answer given is: "To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry." That answer is very telling. How does someone learn something? You either learn by trial and error, by observation, or you are taught; meaning you are educated.

Freemasonry further reinforces the idea of education being important in the Fellowcraft degree when the candidate is taught about the winding staircase consisting of three, five, and seven steps. The Three

steps alluding to the three degrees that each lodge confers, along with the three principal officers of the lodge, the Five Steps alluding to the Five orders of architecture along with the five human sense, and the Seven steps alluding to the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences, one of which, Geometry, Masonry is founded on. I dare say that Education takes a major place in the Three Degrees. In each degree, the candidate is taught about the working tools, the meanings behind our symbols, how to wear their apron, the due guard and signs, even the tokens and pass by which they can identify themselves as a Freemason.

It makes me wonder why education takes a backseat in our Stated Meetings? Why is education not prioritized more by our Lodges? If we are supposed to be improving ourselves in Masonry, then doesn't that allude to an ongoing process of educating ourselves? When we are told to make use of the common gavel for the more glorious purpose of divesting our hearts and consciences of the vices and superfluidities of life, thereby fitting our minds as living stones, for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; are we not being told to undergo a process of self-improvement? While divesting your heart and conscience of the vices and superfluidities of life sounds a lot like subduing one's passions, doesn't it also go hand in hand with improving yourself in Masonry? Is it not part of one's self-improvement to learn new skills? How does one fit their mind to be a living stone without educating it?

How would you answer Bob Slydell? One of the beautiful things about Freemasonry is that it holds a different meaning for each of us. Therefore, we each will give a different answer to Bob Slydell. It's also somewhat worrisome. As Freemasonry finds itself competing for its member's attention with numerous outside distractions like Social Media, Streaming services, Sports, and other community organizations, shouldn't we want to prioritize one of the main things that Freemasonry should be doing for the majority of its members? If we are to improve ourselves in Masonry, then Masonry needs to be educating its membership on how to do so. Otherwise, we're not improving ourselves, we're settling for stagnation. I'd suggest that the next time that you hear someone grip, groan, or moan about you daring to suggest that Education be a part of our meetings, you remind them of that line from the First degree, and then ask them like Bob Slydell would: "What would you say you do here?"

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 Lincoln, NE 68508-2315

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1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 William Folsom, WM 420-2141  
 wwfolson15@wabash.edu  
 Bruce Anderson, Sec. 435-0974  
 job60@ix.netcom.com  
 1st Tues. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### Lancaster Lodge 54

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Matt Zier, W.M. 531-800-4650  
 matthew.zier@gmail.com  
 Adam Thayer, Sec. 314-6310  
 adam.thayer@gmail.com  
 1st Fri. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

#### East Lincoln Lodge 210

2700 S St. 68503 476-2412  
 Jeff Buhrman, W.M. 703-732-4765  
 jeff.buhrman@hotmail.com  
 Thomas Michaelson, Sec., 423-1984  
 901 Starview Lane 68512  
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### North Star Lodge 227

2610 N. 48th St. 68504 466-2236  
 Bruce Watkins, W.M. 470-7773  
 5440 Shady Creek Ct #2, 68516  
 Steve Wetzel, Sec. 488-8198  
 1518 Skyline Dr, 68506  
 swetzel849@aol.com  
 1518 Skyline Drive 68506  
 1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### George Washington Lodge 250

4430 N. 70th St. 68507  
 John Kirby, W.M. 450-9900  
 4501 Eagle Ridge Rd, 68516  
 Dan Brunson, Sec.-Treas. 432-2099  
 1st Tue. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### Hickman Lodge 256

4641 Cooper Ave., 68506  
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

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1542 No. 65th St. 68505 413-1332  
 1st Mon. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### Liberty Lodge 300

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Justin Williamson, WM 613-4444  
 justin@justinwilliamson.net  
 Brent Myers, Sec. 770-0901  
 brent@legacystings.com  
 1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

#### Craftsmen Lodge 314

2645 B St. 68502 475-2820  
 1st Tues. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

#### College View Lodge 320

4641 Cooper Ave. 68506  
 1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

#### Tabula Rasa Lodge 332

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 3rd Tue. Reg. Communication 6:00 p.m.

#### Lebanon Lodge 3

Prince Hall Affiliation 430-7003  
 1630 N. 24th St. 68503-1117  
 2nd Tue. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

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#### Grand York Rite of Nebraska

Michael E. Jones 367-3342  
 Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter  
 Walter Johnson 308-532-6314  
 Most Ill. Grand Master, Grand Council  
 LaVern Work II 296-5321  
 Rite Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery  
 Dennis Newman 490-1381  
 Grand Secretary

#### Lincoln Chapter 6 R.A.M.

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Adam Thayer, High Priest 314-6310  
 333 S. 44th St, 68510  
 Tom Michaelson, Sec. 423-1984  
 901 Starview Ln, 68512  
 1st Wed.  
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.  
 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

#### Lincoln Council 4 Cryptic Masons

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Don Gray, Ill. Master ???-????8  
 Tom Michaelson, Recorder 423-1984  
 1st Wed.  
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.  
 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

#### Mount Moriah Commandery 4

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Carl Plants, Cmdr. 477-9464  
 6124 NW 6th St, 68521  
 Tom Michaelson, Recorder 423-1984  
 1st Mon.  
 Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.  
 Business meeting 7:00 p.m.

### Scottish Rite

#### Scottish Rite Temple

332 S. Centennial Mall 435-2144  
 P.O. Box 95013 68509-5013  
 Bruce Wood, Gen. Sec.  
 Edward Boone, Venerable Master  
 David Bloomquist, Wise Master  
 Dennis Hecht, Commander  
 Andy Seachord, Master of Kadosh  
 3rd Wed. Bus. Meeting 6:00 p.m.

### Shrine

#### Sesostris Temple

1050 Saltillo Rd 474-6890  
 Roca, Ne 68430  
 Dan Johnson, Potentate 450-4461  
 105 E. 6th St. 68372

#### Daughters of the Nile

Naphis Temple No. 6  
 Jennifer Olsen, Queen 840-3173  
 5930 Meadowbrook Ln 68510

### Eastern Star

#### Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Nebraska

Karan Birdsall  
 Worthy Grand Matron  
 Bruce A Baker  
 Worthy Grand Patron  
 Jan Thoman  
 Grand Secretary  
 301 N. Cotner Blvd, Suite 200  
 Lincoln NE 68505-2315  
 nebraskaoes@msn.com  
 402-937-7056  
 1-844-309-6855

#### Electa Chapter 8

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453  
 Ilah Anderson, W.M.  
 Bruce Anderson, W.P.  
 Elizabeth Benson, Sec. 310-0416  
 2019 Harwood St. 68502  
 1st Sat. Meeting 2:00 or 7:30 p.m.

#### Electa Chapter Kensington

Susie Dunn, Sec. 890-6733  
 4000 Garfield St. 68506  
 2nd Thurs. 11:00 AM

#### Past Matrons Club

Ilah Anderson, Courtesy Chair  
 Dona Y. Hurst, Sec.-Treas. 421-1108

#### Myrtle Chapter 94

2610 No. 48th St. 68504 466-2236  
 Jennifer Dierks, W.M. 660-6011  
 jennifer.dierks7@gmail.com  
 Tom Anderson, W.P. 450-1651  
 toa7777@gmail.com  
 Deb Kendle, Sec. 617-3991  
 dmkendle@gmail.com  
 2nd and 4th Tues. 7:30 p.m.

#### Myrtle Club

Connie Weir, Pres. 488-9040  
 cdweir01@gmail.com  
 Deb Kendle, V.P. 617-3991  
 dmkendle@gmail.com  
 Jeanne Bonnett, Sec 465-4817  
 fjbonnett@twc.com  
 Robyn Mason, Courtesy 484-5756  
 robynkt@gmail.com

#### Martha Washington Chapter 153

4430 N. 70th St. 68507  
 Susan Hedges, W.M. 672-8603  
 suehedgesoes@yahoo.com  
 Andy Martin, W.P. 416-9961  
 amartin6@outlook.com  
 Betty Kirby, Sec. 450-9137  
 4501 Eagle Ridge Rd. 68516  
 1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

#### Temple Chapter 271

332 S. Centennial Mall 68508 435-2144  
 Carolyn Plants, W.M. 477-9464  
 6124 NW 6th St., 68521  
 Mike Lagueux, W.P. 310-2118  
 6021 Sunrise Rd, 68510  
 Melinda Brage, Sec. 488-0837  
 620 Leavitt Ln 68510-2530  
 1st Mon. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

#### Past Matrons Club

Marilyn Jepson, President 423-6049

#### Columbia Chapter 275

1542 No. 65th St. 68505  
 Trudi Thornburg, W.M. 430-9393  
 2730 S. 154th St., Walton 68461  
 tthornburg60@gmail.com  
 John Quinn, W.P.  
 10901 O St., 68520  
 Kaylene Martin, Sec. 488-6388  
 1st Tues. Stated Meeting 7:00 p.m.

#### Columbia Chapter Kensington

Kaylene Martin, Pres. 488-6388  
 401 S. 84th St. 68510 4th Tues.

#### Past Matrons & Past Patrons Club

Trudy Thornburg, Pres. 430-2165  
 Nancy Weers, Vice-Pres. 466-3750

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2645 B St. 68502 475-2820  
 Bridget Anderson, W.M. 440-3434  
 PO Box 83966, 68501  
 Dennis Brydl, WP, 423-6982  
 2510 Kessler Blvd. 68502  
 Cora Redwine, Sec. 438-9447  
 4101 N.12th St., 68521  
 1st Wed. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

#### Capitol Chapter 320

4641 Cooper Ave., 68506  
 Cindee Atwood, W.M.  
 Jairo Cabieles, W.P. 875-1711  
 Douglas B. Johnson, Sec. 421-7006  
 4600 Birch Hollow Dr. 68516-5107  
 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.

### Youth Groups

#### DeMolay

#### Lincoln Chapter

Ryan Binge, Master Councilor  
 Katie Warwick, Chapter Sweetheart  
 Brent Warwick, Chapter Dad 770-0693  
 Meetings 2nd and 4th Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
 332 Centennial Mall South  
 Please send correspondence to:  
 Brent Warwick 770-0693  
 bwarwick@inebraska.com

#### Dr. Frederick Eiche Chapter

No Master Councilor  
 No Chapter Sweetheart  
 No Chapter Dad  
 No Meetings

### Job's Daughters

#### Bethel 5

Please send all correspondence to:  
 1635 L St. 68508-2510 476-3453  
 Kristen Swisher, Guardian 202-7113  
 416 N. 19th St., Beatrice, 68310  
 Greg Prososki, ABG, 525-9243  
 21040 NW 70th St, Agnew, 68428  
 Deb Kendle, Sec. 617-3991  
 1400 N 64th St, 68505  
 Lauren Prososki, Honored Queen  
 2nd and 4th Sat. 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.  
 Dark July and August

#### Bethel 27

2610 N. 48th St.  
 Please send all correspondence to:  
 Becky Bleess, BG  
 Bethel27lincoln@gmail.com  
 Dan Chesnut, ABG  
 Bethel27abg@gmail.com  
 Marissa Roesler, Sec. 432-5184  
 7542 South St, 68506  
 roeslerms3@gmail.com  
 Elena Watts, Honored Queen  
 1st & 3rd Sun. 1:30 p.m.

#### Bethel 63

1542 No. 65th Street  
 Kristi Thornburg, Guardian 430-4533  
 8235 Northwoods Dr Apt 304 68505  
 kristi1482@hotmail.com  
 Eric Bahm, Assoc. Guardian 770-0693  
 3710 LaSalle St, 68516  
 ericdbahm@gmail.com  
 Beth Jacobson, Sec. 770-9814  
 220 West G St, Elmwood, 68349  
 laurabethjacobson@hotmail.com  
 1st and 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

### Rainbow for Girls

#### Lincoln Assembly 6

332 S. Centennial Mall (Scottish Rite)  
 Please send all correspondence to:  
 Tiffany Westerholt, Mother Advisor  
 618 W. Burt Dr. 68521 304-8238  
 Laurie Sieg, Advisory Board Chair  
 7600 Baldwin Ave 68507 464-2410  
 lauriesieg@gmail.com  
 Karli Young, Worthy Advisor  
 1st and 3rd Tues. 7:00 p.m

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 2nd Tues. Board of Directors meeting  
 Members welcome 5:00 p.m.

#### New Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation.

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 Dona Hurst, Pres. 421-1108  
 4th Weds. Board of Directors meeting  
 Members welcome 5:45 p.m.

#### Masonic Temple Assoc. of Havelock, Inc.

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 Michelle Smith, Pres.  
 Please send all correspondence to:  
 Michelle Smith, Pres.  
 601 West B St., Lincoln, Ne 68522

#### Nebraska Masonic Home

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All submissions may be edited for length and content. The Masonic News Board makes all final decisions.

## COMING EVENTS IN MASONRY

EDITOR'S NOTE: As many bodies have yet to re-open and many have closed down again, no events have been reported yet. Please contact the appropriate Masonic body leadership prior to attending any event or meeting to verify any restrictions in place.

Open with restrictions: All lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite, all York Rite chapters, councils and Commanderies, all chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Order Of The Eastern Star of Nebraska, Job's Daughters (Zoom meetings only)

Current status unknown: Shrine, all other youth groups.

## 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.

Super Bowl LV (2021)

"Gentlemen, this is a football," Brother Vince Lombardi, American Football Coach, was said to begin his legendary coaching career with the basics and fundamentals.

Early days of Football indicate that October of 1863 started the Football Association in Freemason's Arm Tavern in London where the rules and split between soccer and rugby took shape. John Elway of the Denver Broncos became a Brother of our Masonic Fraternity in South Denver Lodge No. 93 in Colorado. Glen S. "Pop" Warner, 1871-1954, was a member of Springfield Lodge No. 351 in New York; he introduced more football plays and innovations for football uniforms.

As I watched this year's Super Bowl LV the weekend prior to writing this article, I couldn't help but think of my roots as a

Husker Alumni – especially being a Giants fan, I felt like I had to find somebody to root for a little more... Yes, there is that Midwest closeness for the Chiefs, but my engineering brain needed a challenge to have more meaning with the deep details of connections.

As far as former players in each of the teams, KC Chiefs and TB Buccaneers, each team had 17 former Huskers. In addition, this year, Tampa Bay had Blackshirts Ndamukong Suh, Lavonte David, and Rookie Khalil Davis. Also, Jason Licht, Buccaneers' General Manager is from Fremont and went to my parent's alma matter, Nebraska Wesleyan University. Chad Wade has also been with the Buccaneers as an assistant strength and conditioning coach

and has helped in Nebraska as such with Husker football and women's and men's basketball teams.

Last quote from our Masonic Brother, Vince Lombardi, that summarized team sports but also everything we do together in life including Freemasonry: "Individual commitment to a group effort, which is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

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



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