

The Nebraska Masonic Home

Sands through **The Hour-Glass**



About

THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

We are a continuing care retirement community located near historical downtown Plattsmouth.

Our Home has been successfully serving Masons and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters for 115 years.

We offer

**Independent Living,
Assisted Living,
24 - Hour Nursing Care
and Alzheimer's/
Dementia Care.**

We invite

you to come for a personal tour of our beautiful Home. All Lodges and Chapters are welcome to hold a meeting here at The Home and come for a tour. Please contact Chris Abbott, Admissions Coordinator at 402-296-7302 or cabbott@nemh.net

The Nebraska Masonic Home
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Vol. 23 No. 2 • June 2018

Make our Home your next Home

The Nebraska Masonic Home opened its doors to the first residents on September 1, 1903. Throughout the next 115 years many changes were made as The Home continued to grow. As always, Masons have taken great pride in supporting The Home and its mission to care for their own.

Today, The Masonic Home is a Continuing Care Retirement Community with 29 Independent Apartments, 20 Assisted Living Center Rooms, 58 beds on the Nursing Care Floor and 14 Private Rooms in our Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Unit.

Knowing there is a full continuum of care to accommodate changing healthcare needs is a comfort to residents and family members alike.

The Home serves three delicious homemade meals a day to all residents and can provide for special dietary menu requests. The many activities at The Home and trips to surrounding communities keep our residents active. Other amenities offered include: church services, walking paths, salon, exercise room, housekeeping and laundry services, library, computers, billiard room and much more.

A Mason in good standing and meeting The Home's admission criteria is eligible to apply for admission as well as his wife, widow, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother or granddaughter . . . what a wonderful gift to the ladies in his family. I encourage you to request a copy of the Admission Rules and share it with all the ladies in your family that may be eligible now or in the future.

We must continue to look to the future so that our long-standing tradition of excellence in healthcare is here for many years to come. I thank every Mason, Eastern Star member, and friend of The Home for making The Nebraska Masonic Home a part of your giving plan.

Please call anytime for admission information, a tour, or to schedule a lodge or chapter visit. We will be glad to assist you.



Mary Russell
Executive Director

Meet John Richart . . . the man from Shellsburg, Iowa



September 23, 1945

John Richart was born in 1927 to Fred and Hazel and grew up in the Shellsburg and Vinton Iowa area along with his sister Lois. The Richarts can trace their family back to 1679 in rural Asberg, Germany. Twenty-one years later the father of this line traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to the colonies. Through the

years their name went through some changes . . . Reichart, Richards, and finally they settled on Richart in 1779.

While attending Vinton-Shellsburg High School, John met the love of his life, Norma Brewer, from Vinton, Iowa. John said, "My courtship with Norma might not have happened if she hadn't quit dating her former boyfriend who was my best friend during high school. Norma was way out of my class with me being a farm boy and her a city girl with much more sophistication than me."

After high school, John went to work for the Green Giant Canning factory. He remembers the long hours at the factory. John said, "I decided most anything in life was better than that, so I started college (University of Iowa) in 1944. My college years were interrupted with marriage (1945), military service in the Air Corps, and two babies."

John was drafted into the Army. His military time took him to Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and California. During this time he would hitchhike to Vinton, Iowa to see Norma every 2-3 months. Once he even made the trip from as far as San Francisco. After his time in the service he returned to the University of Iowa and graduated with a BA in Business Administration.

That new diploma earned John a visit from a recruiter at Northwestern Bell based in Omaha, Nebraska. Soon after there was a new addition to the family . . . now there were Elaine, Fred, and Ellen. John first worked in the Des Moines, Iowa, offices and then was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska, where he stayed until his retirement in 1983. John really enjoyed being the District Manager of five states at Northwestern Bell . . . "I got to be the boss

and people who worked for me got to do whatever they wanted – which was to do a good job."

John has friends from many avenues of his life. He spent many hours at Shiloh Lodge No. 327, Tangier Shrine, and Omaha Scottish Rite all located in Omaha, Nebraska. Norma and John were very social and loved to bowl (John even had a 287 game!), golf, dance and travel with friends and family.

Following retirement, they moved to Bella Vista, Arkansas. One of the grandchildren remembers this: "I've



John, Norma, Elaine, Ellen & Fred

always admired the way Grandpa owns the room. Going to church with him in Arkansas gave me a glimpse into his softer side. There wasn't one person he didn't greet, shake hands with or tease. Everyone had a story about John Richart,

and I always felt pride in that. It's a legacy you can't buy or ask for, you have to work for it.

John and Norma left their retirement paradise and returned to Nebraska to be closer to family when Norma's health concerns were obvious. After a stay in Omaha, John felt that a move to The Masonic Home was a smart decision for both of them in 2015. Norma would get the best nursing care, and he would be under the same roof and be able to enjoy independent apartment living. John visited Norma every day until she passed away just last year; he never had to leave The Masonic Home. She was a beautiful lady as well as amazing, and John feels so very blessed to have spent 72 wonderful years together.

John is an active and independent member of The Masonic Home family. His love of life for family is apparent . . . he lives his life with a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone he meets. We are so fortunate that the man from Shellsburg, Iowa, found his way to Plattsmouth, Nebraska.



John at "Old Course" St. Andrews, Scotland

The Nebraska Masonic Home

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Dear Friends,

Emergency Exit – It's hard to believe it has been almost 20 years from the design and opening of the Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Unit at The Nebraska Masonic Home. This is a beautiful wing of our facility and one of the crown jewels of The Home.

During a recent State Fire Marshal inspection, we were notified that this wing of our facility now requires an additional emergency exit or egress to evacuate our residents and staff to the street.

Like so many surprises, this kind of expense cannot be planned for. This project includes modifications to the existing courtyard fence to encompass a gate that is wired to our fire alarm and security systems, dirt work, drainage work to accommodate a new sidewalk from the courtyard to the city sidewalk, electrical work and some landscaping. The cost from start to finish will add up to approximately \$30,000.

The safety of our residents and employees is paramount. Work has already begun and will be completed soon. We would appreciate anything you can do to help us out with this project.

Time and time again you have answered the call to help, aid, and assist The Nebraska Masonic Home. I hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Barchus

Steven R. Barchus
Foundation Director



P.S. I want to thank all of you who have served this great country or are serving currently. Celebrate this great country on July 4th and keep it close to your heart every day of the year. Thank you for your service.





Caring Club funds are used to help pay for the excellent care given to our residents. With your help we can make sure these residents and those who follow are well cared for.

If you haven't already done so, make your donation now!


Yearly Caring Club memberships are available at two levels of giving:

- 1) Caring Club Gifts of \$250 or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with a date plate for each consecutive year of membership.
- 2) Caring Club Gifts of \$500 or more will be acknowledged with the above plaque and an invitation to the annual Donor Recognition Event which will be held on Sunday, September 23, 2018.

2018 Caring Club Recognition includes those gifts received from September 1, 2017 thru August 31, 2018.

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!
www.thenebraskamasonichome.org

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



"I support The Nebraska Masonic Home financially, not only because of the great services they provide to our elderly but also because they have not forgotten their Masonic heritage."
 —Chuck V. Sederstrom, Jr.
Omaha, NE

HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME



Address Changes
 Please contact The Foundation Office
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Thank You



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