



# Summer Vibes



## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lush green lawns, colorful pots of flowers and relaxing in shade or poolside means summer is officially here. The sun is shining brightly and dreams of vacations with family and friends will soon be a reality. Let's reflect on the months that got us here.

In January, we welcomed Lacie Kennedy, Registered Nurse as our Director of Nursing and Lucian Cecil Smith and Matthew Ellis to our Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. Many thanks are extended to Phil Lorenzen and Dan Loring for their years of service to our Boards.



Lacie Kennedy



Cecil Smith



Matt Ellis

In February the long-awaited Portico and Lorenzen Welcome Center officially opened. Long gone are the boring green walls and cracked and missing tiles are a thing of the past.

March was full of activities for the residents. We had animals from Wildlife Encounters visit, musical performances with Dennell Danner and Billy Troy, a Wii bowling tournament, St. Patrick's Day celebration with the luck of the Irish and green beer, outings to Platte River State Park and Ameristar Casino. The Plattsmouth Police Department held a training at The Home. The Easter bunny made a surprise visit and left behind some golden eggs.

April, May, and June we set our sights on summer with several flower planting parties and brushing away the remnants of fall in the gardens and on the grounds. We were preparing to enjoy some summer vibes.

The big project of this year, will begin a five-year project, to update our heating and cooling system from steam and pneumatics to a more user-friendly and eco-friendly heating and air system.

Residents, staff, and Board of The Nebraska Masonic Home wish each of you days of relaxation . . . we hope you enjoy many summer vibes.

**APRIL JOHNSTON**  
*APRIL JOHNSTON*  
Executive Director

Phone: 402-296-7303  
Email: [ajohnston@nemh.net](mailto:ajohnston@nemh.net)



## THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

### HOURLASS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 30 NO. 2 SUMMER 2024

## CALENDAR

JULY 25 MUSIC WITH BILL CHRASTIL

AUG. 7-10 CASS COUNTY FAIR

AUG. 18 BINGO AND ICE CREAM WITH NARCISSUS OES

SEPT 1 HARVEST FESTIVAL

OCT. TBA PHS PEP RALLY

OCT. 6 CARING CLUB DINNER

OCT. 25 HOWL-O-WEEN PET COSTUME PARADE



# Memory makeover



## LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Wow, another amazing year of your support for **The Nebraska Masonic Home**.

Here it is July 2024, and I am reflecting on another amazing year made possible by you, our faithful donors, to The Nebraska Masonic Home.

It has been almost seven years since I walked through these doors as the Foundation Director, and this place has become a passion for me. It is because of **your incredible support** that we can operate The Home to the lofty standards our residents have come to expect.

In 2000 we opened our Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Center that we now know as Memory Care. If you have seen our Memory Care, you know how beautiful it is. But time marches on and the furnishings now look used and tired . . . they need to be replaced or upgraded.

Yes, you guessed it. It is time for a **Memory Care makeover**.

Back in 2021 you helped us replace some of the common area furniture. Since then, it has become apparent we need additional improvements in this area . . . blinds, dining tables, additional living room furniture, and a big screen television.

Our goal is to raise **\$30,000** (funds more than \$30,000 will go to our general fund) to upgrade the Memory Care Unit so it is once again the vibrant care center it should be. Memory Care surroundings and activities are essential to those with Alzheimer's and Dementia. This makeover is vital to the care experience necessary for our Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends.

The staff caring for our family and friends who live in this part of our community are amazing. Don't you think our family, friends and staff deserve to live and work in the nicest facility with the best surroundings possible?

This could be **the most important project of the year**. Help us today. Help us make this a success by donating today. You are the reason for so many successes at The Nebraska Masonic Home. Please support us today and be a part of another fabulous transformation.

**Thank you for your continued support. You are appreciated.**

**STEVEN R. BARCHUS**  
Foundation Director

Phone: 402-296-7334

Email: [sbarchus@nemh.net](mailto:sbarchus@nemh.net)

**COMING SOON!**

Chapel  
Game Room  
Hultman Day Room



# Meet Joann Torrens



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Joann Torrens is a lady that exudes happiness and shares her smile with anyone she meets. She is a positive person and is a joy to be around. She spreads a joyful exuberance wherever she goes.

Joann hails from Omaha where she was born to Mildred and Emil Kroupa. She has one sister Jeann who also lives at The Masonic Home. These ladies feel so fortunate that their father Emil was a Mason so they could make The Masonic Home their home.

Not only was Joann dedicated to her family, she was dedicated to a lifestyle surrounding horses. It all started when her dad bought a pony for the girls when they were young. Then their mother purchased another horse at an auction for \$100 . . . back then that was a lot of money. Joann rode that horse from the South Omaha Stockyard to 63rd & Shirley. That was a long stretch with only a halter and no saddle!

As a young teen Joann ventured out one day and came across a beautiful two-story home with a man napping in a hammock. Jim Foster was his name, and he gave her a tour of his property which included a barn with six stalls and six horses. Joann was ecstatic because this man allowed her to ride the horses and take care of them. His wife Ester never came around the stable; Joann didn't quite know what to think of Ester. One of the horses Joann cared for was a chestnut sired by a world champion from Kentucky. Jim encouraged Joann to get her parents to purchase this horse for her for \$2,500 . . . she knew this would never happen. A surprise was to come to Joann. When Joann turned 16, Ester invited her into her home and handed her a gift . . . it was the papers for the chestnut horse that she so loved . . . from the woman that she never really knew or so she thought! She still tears up telling that story.

Joann was working in a barn when she met yet another Jim. Little did she know that this Jim would eventually become her husband all because of a horse in a stall that needed something fixed on its tail. They went to lunch together, and it was a match made in heaven.

Jim's family was from Wahoo where they owned a little country store. While in high school, Jim worked for Henry Klosterman who owned 46 farms throughout the state and many horses were on those farms. Jim was hired to take care of the horses and stalls in Omaha. With the money he earned he purchased a six stall barn on Dodge Street. Soon he had horses coming out of his ears. Joann says Jim was a good listener, easy to get along with and honest. He was the one for Joann. They continued to see each other while she was in high school. During that time, Joann worked for a builder in Omaha and showed houses on the weekends.

After graduation from high school, Joann went on to UNO and graduated in two years. She then went to work for Northern Natural Gas. It wasn't long before Jim proposed, and the couple was married at Countryside Church. It was apartment living for a short while until their home was built where they lived for over 20 years and paid a whopping \$66 per month mortgage.

Their horse boarding business was growing, and the six stall barn on Dodge was no longer adequate. They found six acres on 108th & Rainwood and built the barn they needed. However, the money didn't extend to putting a roof on it. About that time, in walks Henry Klosterman and asked Jim to sell a couple horses for him. The commission from the sale of those horses provided them with the funds to put a roof on the barn. Once that barn was finished, Joann quit her job at Northern Natural Gas and the two of them did what they loved best - they expanded their business of boarding and showing horses full-time. They even boarded the Shrine horses.

Jim and Joann never had children of their own, but they considered all the kids that boarded their horses with them like their own. Joann feels she has lived a dream life!

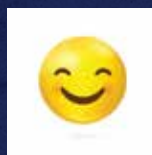
Sadly, Joann's husband Jim passed away four years ago. When the time was right, Joann decided that apartment living at The Masonic Home might just be the thing for her . . . she was right! Now she and sister Jeann live at The Masonic Home because their dad was a Mason. She said, "he is still taking care of us".

That's what Masons do . . . they take care of their own and others!

## OUR VISION

The Nebraksa Masonic Home is an innovative and growing community focused on creating and maintaining an atmosphere that reflects vitality, integrity and compassion for our residents and families

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Marie Coffelt  
March



Travis Bergsten  
April



Jennifer Settell  
May





# A Place to LIVE!

The transition to Memory Care can be a stressful process because it is often a dramatic, life changing experience for new residents who enter an unknown environment. They encounter unfamiliar faces and routines. The transition can be scary for the resident and family. Many do not know what to expect.

At The Nebraska Masonic Home there is a small community known as the Memory Care. In Memory Care, you will find 14 spacious private rooms, a beauty shop, a kitchen, dining area, a secured outdoor patio and walking path, and common areas for residents, families, and guests to visit.

From the moment you arrive, residents and families are encouraged to feel at home. Staff trained in dementia care greet you and learn about the resident to help make the transition into the Memory Care community as smooth as possible. You or your loved one will spend time with the other residents and begin to develop friendships. Our low resident to staff ratio shows our dedication to delivering high-quality care that is compassionate, safe, and resident centered.

Our Memory Care services are designed to meet each resident's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.



Call us today at 402-296-7300



Chris Abbott, *Admissions Coordinator*  
Phone: 402-296-7302  
Email: cabbott@nemh.net



THE NEBRASKA  
MASONIC HOME

## YOU ARE AWESOME EMPLOYEE AWARD

402-296-7300 • 1-800-245-5812  
1300 AVENUE D, PLATTSMOUTH, NE 68048

[TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org](http://TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org)



Rhonda Wampler  
*March*



Melissa Borck  
*April*



April Johnston  
*May*



# A PLACE TO LIVE.

Activity. Defined as the quality or state of being vigorous or energetic action; natural or normal function; an active force; a pursuit in which a person is active; a form of organized, supervised, often extracurricular recreation; an organizational unit for performing a specific function.

Sunshine, shopping and good vibes.

VIEW ACTIVITIES  
ON OUR WEBSITE:





# A PLACE TO GIVE.

## 2024 Caring Club Opportunity

Looking for a way to make a difference? Become a donor to the **Caring Club!** 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 in the future are well cared for. Yearly Caring Club memberships are available at two levels of giving: **Caring Club Gifts of \$250** or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with a date plate for each consecutive year of membership. **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, October 6th this fall.**

**2024 Caring Club Recognition includes those gifts received from Sept. 1, 2023 thru Aug. 31, 2024.**

Donations can be made online at:  
[TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org/ways-to-give](https://TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org/ways-to-give).



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Cecil and Nicole Smith  
*Bellevue, NE*

We give to The Nebraska Masonic Home for a number of reasons. The following are some of the most prominent:

1. It gives us the ability to contribute to the relief of Masons and their female relatives.
2. We personally know residents at The Home.
3. We know that our donations go toward the care of residents and upkeep of their living spaces.

All donations, whether large or small amounts, make a difference and are appreciated.



## Contacts:



April Johnston, *Executive Director*  
Phone: 402-296-7303  
Email: [ajohnston@nemh.net](mailto:ajohnston@nemh.net)



Chris Abbott, *Admissions Coordinator*  
Phone: 402-296-7302  
Email: [cabbott@nemh.net](mailto:cabbott@nemh.net)



Steve Barchus, *Foundation Director*  
Phone: 402-296-7334  
Email: [sbarchus@nemh.net](mailto:sbarchus@nemh.net)



Lisa Davis, *Marketing Coordinator*  
Phone: 402-296-7336  
Email: [ldavis@nemh.net](mailto:ldavis@nemh.net)



# THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brett R. Bennett, *President*  
Rick D. Myers, *1st Vice President*  
Jeffrey M. Coleman, *2nd Vice President*  
Ron A. Nielsen, *3rd Vice President*  
L. Cecil Smith, *Secretary*  
Robert A. Carhart  
Matt D. Ellis  
David A. Emry  
Schadd D. Gray  
David L. Knutson  
Reginald S. Kuhn  
Dale G. Lueders  
Joe D. McBride  
Vandle A. Phillips  
Gary W. Radil

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick D. Myers, *President*  
Reginald S. Kuhn, *Vice President*  
L. Cecil Smith, *Secretary*  
David A. Emry, *Treasurer*  
Brett R. Bennett  
Robert A. Carhart  
Jeffrey M. Coleman  
Matt D. Ellis  
Schadd D. Gray  
David L. Knutson  
Dale G. Lueders  
Joe D. McBride  
Ron A. Nielsen  
Vandle A. Phillips  
Gary W. Radil

[TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org](https://TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org)