



Thankful for the why.....



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

THE CORNERSTONE

VOL. 30 NO. 3 WINTER 2024

CALENDAR

- NOV. 26 FESTIVAL OF TREES OUTING

- DEC. 2 SHRINE CHANTERS

- DEC. 10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SCENIC DRIVE

- DEC. 16 CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

- DEC. 22 AMERICAN LEGION SANTA & MRS. CLAUS VISIT

- DEC. 31 NEW YEAR'S HAPPY HOUR

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org

To our residents, you are the reason why. Why we have a job, why we have a Home, why we have parties, why we have a community here, and why we have a purpose.

To our families, without your compassion and support and trusting us to care for your loved one, we wouldn't have a why. Thank you.

To our staff, words cannot describe the appreciation, value, and talent that I see in each one of you. Thank you for being on this journey here at the Home.

To our Board of Trustees & Directors, thank you. You went from a governing Board that visited four times a year, to a Board that wants to be involved. You became a Board that is supportive, caring, trusting and always up to the challenge.

I also hope that you take a moment to reflect on the why. Why, The Nebraska Masonic Home is a place to live and a community for Masons and an employer that values their employees.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.



Sincerely,

April Johnston
Executive Director
402-296-7303
ajohnston@nemh.net

Million Dollar Deal



HELP!!!!!!!

We need to raise \$1 Million in 3 months.

There is a huge need looming before us . . . **our industrial chiller must be replaced!!!** I know most people hear words like industrial chiller and think of a refrigerator in a kitchen. This is far from that . . . this piece of equipment helps cool 80% of our building. We have two units. One that we installed in 1962 and can no longer get parts for, and one that needs a complete overhaul. This unit would cost more to repair than replace.

This piece of equipment does the heavy lifting when it comes to cooling our building. **It is the heart and soul of our cooling system.**

According to April Johnston, our Executive Director, **“There is a state and federal regulation for temperature control. As a facility, we have to keep temperatures between 71 and 81 degrees in common areas. If we cannot control the temperature, we will have to consider ways to keep the residents comfortable, one of those being, relocating our residents to another facility.”** None of us want to contemplate this possibility.

This is a **huge project** as far as cost and timing are concerned. We have 3 months to raise \$1 million for this project. I wish there was more time, but there is not. This unit must be up and running before the spring heat arrives. The last thing we want to do is to relocate our residents due to uncontrolled temperatures in the building.

This equipment needs to be purchased, shipped, installed and assessed before the spring heat sets in. It will be no small task to get an industrial chiller installed.

I know we all want the absolute best for our Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends at The Nebraska Masonic Home. So many of our requests for donations are smaller and more aesthetic in nature compared to this request. **This, however, is a 100% need not a want.** This need is not something we can just let slide by . . . the residents now and in the future deserve to be comfortable.

If ever there was a time to show your support, now is the time. I hope you will dig deep into your pockets for this project. We need \$1 million in donations. **Any gift large or small will help.** The need is huge.

Thank you for your amazing support. I look forward to hearing from each one of you.

May you have a fantastic Holiday Season, and may 2025 be the best year yet!

Sincerely,

Steven R. Barchus
Foundation Director
402-296-7334
sbarchus@nemh.net



Donations can be made online at:
TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org/ways-to-give.

COMING SOON!
Chiller/Air Conditioner

Meet our Resident Cliff Clemons

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Clifford Clemons was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Art and Margaret Clemons. He and his sister Anne were raised in Cincinnati. Cliff attended high school there and then attended Wabash Men's College, one of only three remaining all-men's liberal arts colleges in the country. During his junior year he transferred to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, which is also a top national liberal arts college; but, this time it was a co-ed institution.

Cliff took the same professional pathway as his father . . . after college graduation he went to work for the family insurance business. This is when Cliff met Mary Jane. They soon married and began their family. Sons Mitch and Tom kept Mary Jane on her toes. Cliff fondly described her as lovely, sweet, and resourceful. She was a great cook, excellent homemaker, and an efficient family manager who could keep Cliff in line.

The family loved to travel to Somers Point, New Jersey, every summer as Mary Jane had a lot of relatives in the area. They went on other family vacations and visited Hawaii, Tahiti, Bahamas, and Barbados where Cliff who was an avid golfer and had a hole in one! Cliff's favorite trip was to wine country in Napa Valley, California. During retirement Cliff and Mary Jane enjoyed their second home in Fort Lauderdale.

Cliff's father-in-law was instrumental in getting him to make the commitment to join Mariemont Lodge No. 707 of Mariemont, Ohio. This was about the time Cliff's father passed away and Cliff was trying to balance the family insurance business, family life, and studying to become a Mason. Now that Cliff looks back on his Masonic history of 65 years, he knows those hard times and going through the chairs in lodge were all worth it. Cliff is also a long-time member of the Scottish Rite.

What brought Cliff and his extensive golf ball collection to Nebraska this summer? After the death of his wife at their home in Florida, Cliff knew he needed and wanted to be close to family. His son Mitch who is retired from Union Pacific



Railroad lives in La Vista, Nebraska, and encouraged Cliff to make the move to Plattsmouth. Cliff was impressed with the continuum of care at The Nebraska Masonic Home and wanted to live in a place where he shared common interests with the other residents.

In September Cliff's family was here from New York, Florida, and Nebraska to help him celebrate his 90th birthday. They are all pleased that Cliff choose to make the move to The Nebraska Masonic Home. Cliff enjoys the friendships he has made here, and it is a comfort to his family that he is not so far away.

Cliff encourages you not to wait forever to make up your mind about making a move . . . it is the right thing to do for you and your family. Call Chris Abbott, the Admissions Coordinator at The Nebraska Masonic Home . . . she will gladly help you to determine eligibility for Masons, their female relatives, and members of the Order of Eastern Star and then lead you step-by-step through the admission process. Make your retirement years an enjoyable time . . . make the move now to The Nebraska Masonic Home.

OUR VISION

The Nebraska 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



Letha Pullman
July



Melissa Borck
September





A Place to LIVE!

COMING SOON in 2025 . . .

Independent Living Apartments

- 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartments
- 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartments

More details in January

Call our Admissions Coordinator, Chris Abbott to:

*Check your eligibility, schedule a tour,
be notified when apartments are ready
for occupancy.*

The Nebraska Masonic Home offers a
continuum of care . . . now is the time to
start planning!

Call today 402-296-7302



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



THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME

YOU ARE AWESOME

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

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org



Faith Leeds
July



Matt Alexen
August



Chris Halagarda
October

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.

Fall. A season of giving and celebration. Residents enjoyed the Cass County Fair, the Harvest Festival, birthday celebrations, giving inspirational advice during Assisted Living week and celebrating an amazing donation of a brand new wheelchair accessible van. Thank you to our anonymous donor. We appreciate your generosity and support.

**VIEW ACTIVITIES
ON OUR WEBSITE:**



A PLACE TO GIVE.

Estate Planning Seminars

Come join us to discover how estate planning will benefit you, your family, and your Masonic charities.

Put one of these dates on your calendar now!

Dec. 4th - 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Tangier Shrine Center, Omaha, NE

Feb. 7th - Afternoon Breakout session
Grand Lodge Kearney, NE

Feb. 18th - 6:30-8:30 pm
Sesostris Shrine Center, Lincoln, NE

Mar. 22nd - 6:30-8:30 pm
Platte Valley Lodge #32, North Platte, NE

Contact Steven Barchus with questions 402-296-7334

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Cynthia McLaughlin *Franklin, IN*

I support The Nebraska Masonic Home because of the excellent care that my mother, Betty McLaughlin, received when she was a resident. I never had to worry that she wasn't safe or being cared for in the most loving and professional manner possible. The employees also cared for me over the years by understanding my needs and going above and beyond to support me.



Contacts:



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THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME



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THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME
FOUNDATION



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THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

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