



Spring: The Season of New Beginnings



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is the season in which the natural world revitalizes and reinvigorates after the cold winter months. The days get longer, the sun shines, plants grow and birds chirp. Here at The Nebraska Masonic Home, the season of new beginnings is sprouting.

I have looked forward to this article of The Cornerstone coming to life and going to print! The Nebraska Masonic Home has been busy with projects, and this newsletter is packed with information about all of them!

First, The Nebraska Masonic Home is proud to announce that we now offer Independent Living apartments to Masons and their eligible female relatives and O.E.S. ladies beginning May 1, 2025. Enclosed you will find an insert that shows the apartment layout options and the amenities.

Second, you will find a flyer for an Open House here at The Home on May 10, 2025. Please join us for an afternoon of discovering information about The Home and the appendant Masonic bodies. I am excited to note, we are inviting the public to join us for this Open House.

Third, I want to personally invite you to our annual fireworks show on June 27, 2025. We look forward to seeing you at this ever-expanding fireworks display.

Fourth, The Nebraska Masonic Home is in the process of offering Adult Day Services to Masons and their eligible female relatives and female O.E.S. Members. This will be a service that is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. for an hourly rate. You can utilize this service daily or just on occasion. We are here to support you and your loved ones and hope to begin offering this service May 1, 2025. We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

Sincerely,

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

Please join us at dusk on Friday, June 27, 2025,
at The Nebraska Masonic Home for
our annual Fireworks Show!



THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME

THE
CORNERSTONE

VOL. 31 NO. 1 SPRING 2025

CALENDAR

MAY 1 SENIOR CENTER FOR
BINGO & LUNCH OUTING

MAY 5 CINCO DE MAYO HAPPY
HOUR

MAY 9 MOTHER'S DAY PARTY

MAY 10 OPEN HOUSE

JUNE 13 FATHER'S DAY PARTY

JUNE 27 4TH OF JULY &
FIREWORKS

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org



The Big Chill 2



What a glorious time of year. Winter is over, the trees are budding, and the grass is beginning to turn green. Spring is in the air.

Thank you for your outstanding support of our **Big Chill project**. Let me update you - **we have raised approximately \$230,000** and have a new lower bid for **\$800,000**. Honestly, we still have a long way to go. We can pay for the entire project if every Mason and Eastern Star member in Nebraska donates \$80. This amount does not sound like much when you break it down like that. The reality is that **we need your support** for this project today.

Your support of The Nebraska Masonic Home is genuinely appreciated. You are an amazing group of people.

Our new goal is to raise \$570,000 to finish the purchase of this project. I know this is huge, but it is attainable with an \$80 donation from each of you.



For those of you who do not know about **The Big Chill** let me give you a little bit of information. We have an industrial chiller that must be replaced. This piece of equipment **cools 80% of our building**. Without this industrial chiller we cannot maintain the temperature required to keep our residents safe from the heat of the Nebraska summer. And as we have seen this year already, the feverish temperatures do not always wait until summer.

We need your help!!!! In the next 3 months, I would like to see every Mason and Eastern Star member in the state of Nebraska contribute \$80 to this project. Please, help us meet this goal so we aren't forced to draw down The Foundation's endowment account.



Today is a wonderful day to become a donor. **The Nebraska Masonic Home is one of the greatest benefits of being a Mason or Eastern Star member in the state of Nebraska.**

If you have supported us before, thank you for making it possible to operate this jewel of masonry in the state of Nebraska. My hope is that if you have not donated before, you will **choose to become a first-time donor today** and send us \$80 or more. Your support will allow The Nebraska Masonic Home to continue the outstanding service we provide for our Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends.

Thank you for your amazing support. Have a fantastic 2025!!!

Sincerely,

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

***Chiller donations will be used to replace the chiller. If donations exceed the goal, donations will be directed to the general fund.

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



COMING SOON!

Estate Planning Seminars

First Time Donors Lunch
and Tour

Caring Club Event

Meet our Resident June Nielsen . . .

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

June Nielsen was born in Windsor, Colorado, to Glenn and Esther Smith. They were a farm family with three girls and a boy. June attended school in a one-room country school through sixth grade. It was then on to a bigger school in Windsor, Colorado, where she graduated in 1956. Education was important to June, so she attended Colorado State University and graduated in 1960 with a major in Business Administration. Her first job was teaching high school business classes in Fort Lipton, Colorado, from 1960 to 1965.

June's friends decided it was time for her to do some dating, so they set her up on a blind date with Jens Nielsen. This tall handsome man was a first generation American, his family immigrated to the U.S. from Denmark and had settled in Oberlin, Kansas. The blind date went well . . . June and Jens were married in 1965 and started their new life together in Englewood, Colorado, where June was the school librarian at North Glenn High School for two years. Jens had a job at the Englewood Co-op until 1967 when they moved to Sidney, Nebraska, where he worked for another Co-op.

In her youth, June belonged to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, an organization of which she is very passionate. She even went as far as to tell Jens that he had to become a Mason when they had a girl. June is a Past Worthy Advisor and was given the Grand Cross of Color for outstanding service.

June and Jens had a wonderful relationship. They were always kind to and supportive of each other. Together they raised three children -- Erik, Sharon and Kurt. When Sharon came along, Jens joined James L. Eatmon Lodge in Kimball. June was not kidding! He was truly committed to Masonry and presided at all of the funeral services; June served as secretary of Truth Chapter O.E.S. in Kimball for 39 years. The two of them loved the people and camaraderie in their Masonic organizations and their church and were very active in both. They were a busy family!

Together they made one final move to Kimball, Nebraska, where they raised their children. June was a substitute teacher for 39 years at the high school in Kimball. Since there wasn't a



Rainbow Assembly in Kimball, she became involved with Job's Daughters International and served as Bethel Guardian and Grand Guardian of Nebraska. Her role as Bethel Guardian involved some traveling; she went as far as Vancouver, British Columbia, in Canada. June really loved working with the girls . . . she encouraged leadership development, strong speaking skills, and guided them to plan and execute effective and interesting activities. She remembers fondly how amazing it was to watch the girls mature into strong, independent women.

June's life changed in 2001 when Jens passed from cancer. The upkeep of a seven-bedroom home was too much when coupled with some health issues, so June sold the house and moved to Ogallala to be closer to her daughter. Then she moved to Hastings to an assisted living facility where she fell and broke her ankle and ended up in Harvard at a rehab facility. It took June a bit, but June finally came to The Nebraska Masonic Home where she belongs and where she is blessed to once again be surrounded by her Masonic family.

June encourages you to take a less roundabout path than she took to The Masonic Home and call Chris Abbott, Admissions Coordinator, here at The Nebraska Masonic Home to find out about the wonderful continuum of care that makes The Masonic Home so special. You will be glad you did.

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



Jacob Packard
January



Carole Meisinger



Carl Edgell
March

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.

Blackout bingos for bingo bucks, dubble bubble gum for national gum day, birthday party celebrations, the luck of the Irish happy hour and frozen margaritas while playing trivia were just a few of the moments of what makes The Nebraska Masonic Home A Place to Live!

**VIEW ACTIVITIES
ON OUR WEBSITE:**





A Place to LIVE!

Who is Eligible?

A Master Mason in good standing in Nebraska and other jurisdictions.

A Master Mason's wife or widow, mother, stepmother, sister, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, great granddaughter, or mother-in-law.

A female member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Nebraska and other jurisdictions.

The Nebraska Masonic Home is a private, non-profit continuing care retirement community providing independent living, assisted living, long term care and memory care.

Call today for more information and to schedule a tour. 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



Stacey Stonerock-
Horvath
December



Chris Abbott
January



Dylan Knopke
February



Alisha Davis
March

A PLACE TO GIVE.

Free Estate Planning Seminars

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

Sesostris Shrine Center

Date: May 1, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: 1050 Saltillo Rd., Roca, NE 68430

RSVP by April 17th

Tangier Shrine Center

Date: May 21, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: 2823 S. 84th St., Omaha, NE 68124

RSVP by May 8th

Contact Steven R. Barchus

(402) 296-7334

sbarchus@nemh.net

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dale and Paula Lueders

Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Masonic Home has been very important to me as long as I have been a Nebraska Mason. My wife Paula and I have known a number of Masonic families that have been at the home and the care and staff are outstanding. So, Paula and I are very proud to be able to continue to make donations to The Nebraska Masonic Home to make it the premier retirement home for our Masonic fraternity.



Contacts:



April Johnston, *Executive Director*

Phone: 402-296-7303

Email: ajohnston@nemh.net



Chris Abbott, *Admissions Coordinator*

Phone: 402-296-7302

Email: cabbott@nemh.net



Steven Barchus, *Foundation Director*

Phone: 402-296-7334

Email: sbarchus@nemh.net



Lisa Davis, *Marketing Coordinator*

Phone: 402-296-7336

Email: ldavis@nemh.net



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

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*

Carl J. Diamond

Matthew D. Ellis

David A. Emry

Michael D. Gray

Schadd D. Gray

Jason P. Jensen

David L. Knutson

Reginald S. Kuhn

Dale G. Lueders

Joe D. McBride

THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick D. Myers, *President*

Reginald S. Kuhn, *Vice President*

L. Cecil Smith, *Secretary*

David A. Emry, *Treasurer*

Brett R. Bennett

Jeffrey M. Coleman

Carl J. Diamond

Matthew D. Ellis

Michael D. Gray

Schadd D. Gray

Jason P. Jensen

David L. Knutson

Dale G. Lueders

Joe D. McBride

Ronald A. Nielsen

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org