



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

THE CORNERSTONE

VOL. 32 NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2026

CALENDAR

March 19CPR Class

March 20 Scottish Rite Fish Fry
and Organ Program

April 9Lunch & Casino outing

April 25 Wheels the Clown
& Friends

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org

Here's to 2026!

In December 2025, The Home decided to try something new for the Holiday Season. The Home decorates 30 Christmas trees. That is a lot of tinsel, lights and décor. We decided to share the joy of Holiday decorating and asked for sponsors to decorate the Christmas trees. I am happy to report we had 25 Christmas trees sponsored! We look forward to seeing you in December 2026!



In January 2026, The Nebraska Masonic Home held its annual Board of Trustees meeting. The Nebraska Masonic Home welcomes the following Master Masons to the Board of Trustees:

Brett R. Bennett, President
Richard 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

In January, a postcard went out to all Master Masons wishing them a Happy New Year and a little blur about sponsoring an Activity Program. Here at The Home, the fun never stops. We celebrate national days, birthdays and holidays. We enjoy crafts, baking, games, musical events, BINGO, outings to the zoo, the casino, baseball games, and everyone's favorite – restaurants.

In February, I attended Nebraska's Grand Lodge Annual Communication. At Annual Communication, I shared the facility census. On February 6, 2026, census was 54. I also shared that the 2025 capital projects were the Industrial Chiller replacement and the remodel of the fourth-floor apartments to independent living. The Home now offers 13 Independent Living apartments ranging from studios to two bedroom, two-bathroom apartments.

2026 will be the year of Did you know? The Home will continue to focus on innovative marketing ideas and share updates and changes that have occurred at The Home...remember The Home has been around for 123 years, a lot has happened during that time. The Cornerstone will be a quarterly publishing, and our Facebook page will be a place to see updates, ideas and the fun.

Lastly, the big project for 2026 will be (fingers crossed) townhomes built to the South of The Home. The Home hopes to have the townhomes move in ready in the Fall of 2026.

If you are interested in having a speaker come to your Lodge, Chapter, Masonic group, or organization, please contact me or Steve Barchus, Foundation Director of The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation. We want to share our passion for The Home and The Foundation with you either through joint or individual programs about The Home and The Foundation.

April Johnston

April Johnston, RN
Executive Director

Phone: 402-296-7303
Email: ajohnston@nemh.net



THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME
FOUNDATION



Steve Barchus

Foundation Director

Phone: 402-296-7334

Email: sbarchus@nemh.net



Amanda Sampino

Donor Relations

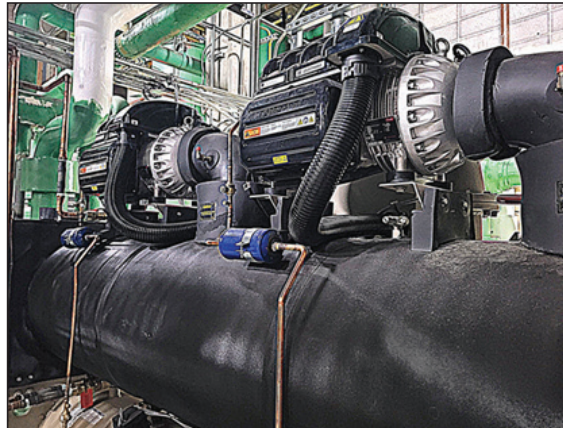
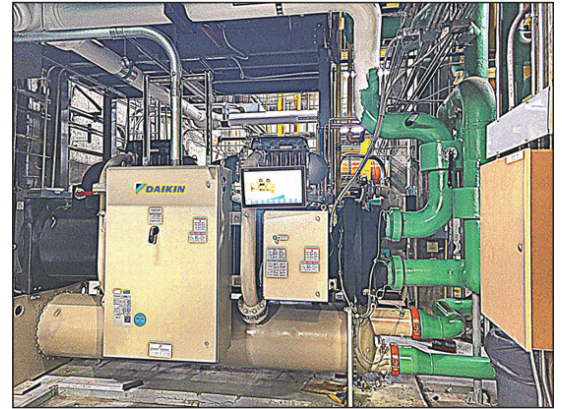
Phone: 402-296-7336

Email: asampino@nemh.net

The Big Chill-Project Is Done!!!!

Thank you for making this huge project a success!! We have replaced our ancient chiller unit, which cools over 80% of the Home, with a top-of-the-line Daikin chiller system.

These systems reduce energy consumption by up to 40% compared to traditional chillers, reducing both our operating costs and environmental impact. They also consume less electricity for the same cooling load, which saves money every day on the cooling of the Home, and reduces indirect greenhouse gas emissions from power generation. This system delivers industry-leading efficiency and eco-friendly performance through modern technology like oil-free magnetic bearing compressors and low-GWP refrigerants. These eliminate the need for oil disposal, reduce wear-related waste, and reduce potential environmental harm caused by leakage.



As you can see this massive system has been purchased, carefully craned into the building for installation, and is ready for use when the spring heat begins to set in!

Thank you for all your amazing support with this project keeping our

residents and staff cool in the sweltering summer months... we could not do it without you!



THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME
FOUNDATION

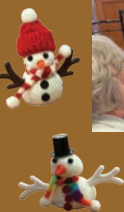
A PLACE TO LIVE.

VIEW ACTIVITIES ON OUR WEBSITE:

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.



Our residents have been making the most of these chilly winter days by staying warm, active, and connected inside! The photos on this page capture the joy and laughter from our New Year's Eve Happy Hour celebration, where friends gathered to toast to new beginnings and share in festive cheer. You'll also see snapshots from our winter craft activity, where creativity was in full swing with seasonal projects that brightened even the coldest days. And with Valentine's Day just around the corner, residents have been busy designing heartfelt valentine's spreading love and kindness throughout our community. Winter may bring frosty temperatures outside, but inside our home, warmth, friendship, and fun, fill every corner.



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

The Nebraska Masonic Home Assisted Living Apartments were designed to give our 55 plus and older adults the opportunity to live safely, happily, and independently in a community for Masons and their eligible female relatives and Order of the Eastern Star members.

There are four apartment options available, including spacious studios, and one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. The apartments all feature kitchenettes, full-sized bathrooms with safety bars along with numerous amenities including all utilities (cable, internet and phone), a common laundry room, a beauty salon, a fire-sprinkler protection system, emergency response devices and wheelchair/walker accessibility, and individual climate-controlled rooms.

The Nebraska Masonic Home takes pride in offering helpful services to the residents while encouraging them to maintain their independence. Our residents never have to worry about meal preparation. Our culinary team prepares delicious and nutritional meals three times a day and offers snacks. We also offer weekly housekeeping, apartment maintenance, and transportation services.

Assisted living apartment life is enhanced with access to the game room, exercise area, activity room (daily activities inside and outside The Home), library and solariums where residents can interact with each other, family and friends. The Plattsmouth community, Cass County and the Omaha metro area offer residents a wide array of arts, recreational, and community-based organizations and activities.

If you are ready to find out more or schedule a tour,
call 402-297-7300.

Assisted Living Apartments



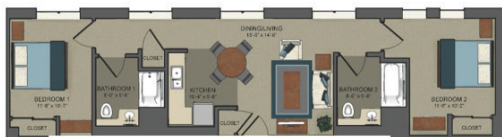
Angle / 1 Bedroom / 657 sq. ft.

LAYOUT 1 - 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT



Square / 1 Bedroom / 375 sq. ft.

LAYOUT 3 - SINGLE APARTMENT



Level / 2 Bedroom 2 Bath / 820 sq. ft.



Compass / 1 bedroom / 392 sq. ft.



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

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TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org

Meet John and Pauline Parsons . . .

John T. Parsons of Catasaugua, Pennsylvania, and Mary “Pauline” Brasher of Birmingham, Alabama, met in 1969 at a wedding. Each was there because his friend and her friend were tying the knot. It was truly the start for them . . . the precursor to a 56-year relationship that began in 1970 when they married at Pauline’s Baptist church in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama.

From that time forward Pauline did some office work and was a teacher’s aid, began a family, and followed John on his 20-year military career in the USAF and then his 5-year civil service career at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. When asked about her life, Pauline smiles and, with her soft southern accent, describes what a happy and blessed life she has had with John, her two children, and their many pets.

The USAF has taken this couple to military bases in Texas, California, Arkansas, Okinawa, Nebraska, and Korea. John can trace his ancestors’ military history from the War of 1812, the American Revolution and the Civil War to the present as his daughter also continued the family’s military history as a member of the USAF.

John is a self-professed history nut, particularly military history, which began around the age of 5. Family conversations, local lore, and the occasional trip all whetted John’s historical appetite. In 2011 John published a book Travels Through History which he labeled “An Amateur Battlefield Historian’s Ramblings”. Even a non-schooled layman will enjoy the way John brings military battlefield history to life in his book. Take a look at his book sometime.

Both John and Pauline come from Masonic backgrounds. In 1975 John began his Masonic journey when he joined George W. Lininger Lodge #268 in Omaha, Nebraska. As always, Pauline was along for the ride with John. The joined Trinity Chapter #299 OES and she the Social Order



of Beauceant, supporting her Masonic Family interests and John’s, while he added York Rite and Scottish Rite memberships and activities to his Blue Lodge endeavors. It was a proud moment for them both in 2010 when John was installed as Nebraska’s 144th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska.

John reinforced his military and Masonic endeavors with memberships on the Boards of The Nebraska Masonic Home, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, Scottish Rite Cathedral Board, Fort Atkinson Historical Board, President of National Sojourners in Omaha and Okinawa, President of Sons of American Revolution, Member of American Legion, and VFW.

So, you can see why, when it came time to make the move from their long-time home in Papillion, John and Pauline chose the familiar setting of The Nebraska Masonic Home, where they are in the company of like-minded folks who cherish their Masonic backgrounds.

John and Pauline urge you to think ahead; do not wait too long to make plans for your future. As Pauline says, “You just never know when things will change, and you will need some help.” They know they made the right choice when, together, they chose The Nebraska Masonic Home as their new 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 YEAR FOR 2025



Yvonne Zarate
2025

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Stacey Stonerock
January



Matt Hullett
February



Did you know?

The Nebraska Masonic Home was incorporated on June 17, 1889. A 12-member Board of Trustees was elected and chosen to preside over the new corporation was Brother George W. Lininger of Capitol Lodge No. 3.

There were eight offers of land for a new home under consideration. Five of which were at various locations in Omaha, as well as offers from Plattsmouth, York and Valentine.

At the June 17th meeting of incorporation, 134 out of 161 votes were for Omaha to be the site of The Nebraska Masonic Home.

At the 1890 annual meeting, no decision on a site for The Home had been made and the second issue, of course, was funding. In 1888, Grand Lodge recommended to the Trustees that \$100,000 be raised before construction could begin - \$50,000 for construction and \$50,000 for an endowment fund for operations and contingencies.

In 1890, only \$25,500 had been pledged to the development of a Masonic Home. From 1890 to 1902 the idea of a Masonic Home seemed to go on hold. Even though the idea seemed to stall, the need continued to grow. As the year 1903 arrived, two key issues remained: location of the home and funding.

A gentleman named Francis White, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge since 1899 and a U.S. Marshall, lived in Plattsmouth and worked in Omaha. Francis White attended the June 5, 1903 board meeting and made an offer to the Board of Trustees that offered a solution. Francis White offered his Plattsmouth mansion, at a price under market value, to be the future Masonic Home.

At a meeting 17 days later, a unanimous vote was cast to rescind the 1889 motion to locate The Home in Omaha, and a motion was made to purchase the Francis White property in Plattsmouth for \$5,000.

The Nebraska Masonic Home opened its doors on September 1, 1903.



THE NEBRASKA
MASONIC HOME

402-296-7334 • 1-800-245-5812
1300 AVENUE D, PLATTSMOUTH, NE 68048

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org

YOU ARE AWESOME



Kathy Wiles
January



Travis Bergsten
February