



Great Lights Lodge #181
Monday, October 9th, 2006

Greetings, Brethren!

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION as there is lots to report here that happened in September and more that will occur in October:

1. At Grand Lodge dues were voted to increase by \$10.00, so we will need to revise our bylaws at our October meeting to include that raise in our dues. Consider this your official notification to be present and vote. Other legislation will be discussed at our October meeting.

2. We have a celebrity in our midst! The following was given to me to include in this mailing: "Brethren, I would like to thank all the Brothers of Great Lights Lodge for the help and support you have given me over the years. This makes it possible for me to receive the T.S. Parvin Award which was presented to me at Grand Lodge on September 16. It was an evening that I will never forget. I will cherish it forever. I would especially like to thank Brother Garland Morse who nominated me for this award. I would also like to thank Brother Tom Raulerson who, through his mischievous and slick methods, got me to Grand Lodge without giving it away. I thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart. Fraternally, Don Davis" YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT NO MORE THAN ONE MASON IN IOWA CAN RECEIVE THE PARVIN AWARD IN A GIVEN YEAR. IT IS AWARDED ON THE BASIS OF OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TO ONE'S OWN LODGE AND TO THE FRATERNITY AS A WHOLE. We all should congratulate Brother Don!

3. We also picked up another nice award showing we are gaining in membership, and that is the **PLUS ONE** award given to lodges who showed an increase in membership during the year.

4. We hope to have some 1st degree dates firmed up by our October meeting. Please volunteer to take a role in the degrees, as we can use your support.

5. You should also thank Brothers Dave Dunlavy, Eric Sommermeyer and Karl Jacobsen for initiating a website for our own lodge. It is new, but more updating will be forthcoming. The site is: <http://www.decorahmasons.org>

6. Our November meeting is important for several reasons, but two of the most important are: a. Members who have not paid their 2006 dues will be dropped from the membership rolls as "Suspended for Nonpayment of Dues." At present we have five brothers who are in jeopardy of losing their membership. Several brothers at our last meeting committed themselves to contacting these brethren personally; and b. Election of officers. As at last years meeting, the ballots will be secret and written. Consider well who you wish to have as your officers. Consider ability, consider commitment, consider dependability. All our members are good men, but the leaders need to have certain abilities, must be dependable, and must be committed to fulfill their duties in the lodge. PLEASE THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP BEFORE THE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

7. Of note: Brother Clark Mikkelsen, currently being treated for cancer, reminded us at the September meeting to be thinking of what we wish to do about recognizing the Widows this year, as he will be unable to work with that effort. Please think about that, too.

8. Brother Don Davis will not be at our October meeting as he is scheduled for surgery that day.

Thanks again for all the work that you have put into our Lodge and Masonry through the years. Without it we would not be able to appreciate our Gentle Craft. Fraternally, Tom Raulerson, W.M.