



Great Lights Lodge #181
Monday, April 10th, 2006
April Stated Meeting -7:30pm at the Lodge building

Greetings, Brethren!

Greet our newest Master Mason, Karl Jacobsen! Brother Jacobsen received his third degree at our lodge on Monday, March 27. If you don't know Brother Karl, you should, as he is a good man who originated in Decorah, saw the world, and is now home as the Administrator at the Barthell Eastern Star Home here.

In the three months of this year we have had three lodge meetings, a Building Association Meeting, a Masonic Funeral Service, three degrees, and five degree rehearsals. A very few of our most worthy members have attended all 13 functions, some one or two of them, some three or four, a few five or more, and several who have not attended ANY. There were 29 Masons attending and taking active roles in Brother Karl's Third Degree, and only 11 of them were from our lodge. Visiting brethren who helped us came from Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Nora Springs, Rockford, Independence, Lawler, Hampton, Elkader, West Union, Fayette, and Postville. Brethren, the time is coming when we will not be able to do our own work --even with the lots of help we need from other lodges--unless some of us place the lodge above the bottom rung on our priority ladders. It is really embarrassing for us to have to have visitors help us open our own lodge due to excessive absences of our officers. Our obligations say that we should not put the Lodge above God, our neighbors, our family or ourselves, and that is exactly right. However, we can find time for what we value.

For those of you not at Brother Karl's Third on Monday night, we mentioned that there will be a First Degree rehearsal on Sunday, April 2 at 1:00 at the Lodge. The practice is for Jon Sommermeyer's 1st^o on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00p.m. Jon is the brother of our second newest member here, Brother Eric Sommermeyer, who has been a truly dedicated Brother in his just three months with us, attending almost all of the 13 functions we have had, plus helping West Union with a third degree.

We received two new petitions at our March meeting, too, so we will soon begin another round of degrees as we help assist these new candidates become Brothers among us.

Please extend yourself a little and help us out. We have appreciated the support of the faithful few who have attended our rehearsals and who have done excellent work in our degrees! We appreciate the support of those who attend and offer moral support to the workers in --and the recipients of--our degrees. If we could just increase our participation and commitment just a little it would alleviate the burden on the few.

Our next Lodge Meeting is Monday, April 10 at 7:30 as always. Our Senior Warden Tim Felton will be sitting in the East for that meeting. Please come and show him your support, as I know he would appreciate your help with ritual as well as with other chores. He would probably appreciate a volunteer for refreshments.

Fraternally,
Tom Raulerson, WM

