

**By-Laws  
of  
Great Lights Lodge No.181 A. F.&A. M.  
Decorah, Iowa 52101**

**Section 1.**

All by-laws heretofore adopted by this lodge are hereby repealed.

**Section 2.**

The warrant of this lodge is a charter, granted on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1866, by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Iowa.

**Section 3.**

Stated communications of this lodge shall be held in the Masonic Hall at 106 ½ West Water Street.

**Section 4.**

Stated communications shall be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 o'clock P.M. local time.

**Section 5.**

The order of business at the stated communications shall be:

1. Reading of the minutes of the last stated meeting and all intervening communications.
2. Any unfinished business.
3. Reading communications and the action thereon.

4. Examinations as to proficiency.
5. Reports from the committees on petitions.
6. Balloting.
7. Reception of petitions.
8. Reports from the standing and special committees.
9. Bills of account.
10. New business
11. Work.
12. Closing.

**Section 6.**

There shall be a Charity Committee which shall consist of the Master, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden. The Worshipful Master shall appoint an Almoner to have custody of all funds which are made available by voluntary contributions. These funds shall be used by the Almoner, under the direction of the committee, for the relief of cases of need. The Worshipful Master shall establish committees in accordance with Grand Lodge stipulations and appoint members to the committees. In addition, the Worshipful Master may also establish committees where needed at his discretion and appoint members to said committees.

**Section 7.**

At the time of the annual installation the Master shall appoint a committee of Finance consisting of three members. The duty of this committee shall be to examine the books, vouchers, and accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees and to make a detailed report thereon to the lodge at the January meeting. The committee shall also examine and audit all bills, accounts, and claims that may be presented to the lodge for payment and report upon the same in writing.

**Section 8.**

There shall be a Board of Trustees, consisting of the Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. The duties of the Trustees shall be such as are prescribed in the Code.

**Section 9.**

The Secretary and Treasurer shall receive annual compensation as determined by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 10.**

The fee for the Three Degrees shall be determined by the Board of Trustees with input from the members.

### Section 11.

The annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Trustees to which the Grand Lodge dues shall be added. Both shall be due and payable annually in advance on the first day of January, and all dues become delinquent six months after they are due and payable. When a brother becomes a member after the first day of July of any year, the dues for that year shall be one-half the annual dues.

### Section 12.

The Masonic Code will govern all questions that may be raised that are not governed by these by-laws.

### Section 13.

Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a majority vote of the members with prior notice.

Based on By-Laws Adopted May 10, 1943, as amended August 9, 1943, revised and adopted November 13, 2006.

Approved as voted and passed on April 10, 2023.

By-Laws Committee:  
Bob Larson, Chairman  
Dave Dunlavy  
Roger Hamilton

## A Brief History Of Masonry in Decorah

Decorah Lodge Nr 98 A.F. & A.M.  
Chartered **June 3, 1857**

Decorah Lodge Nr 98 A.F. & A.M.  
Charter Revoked **June 7, 1861**

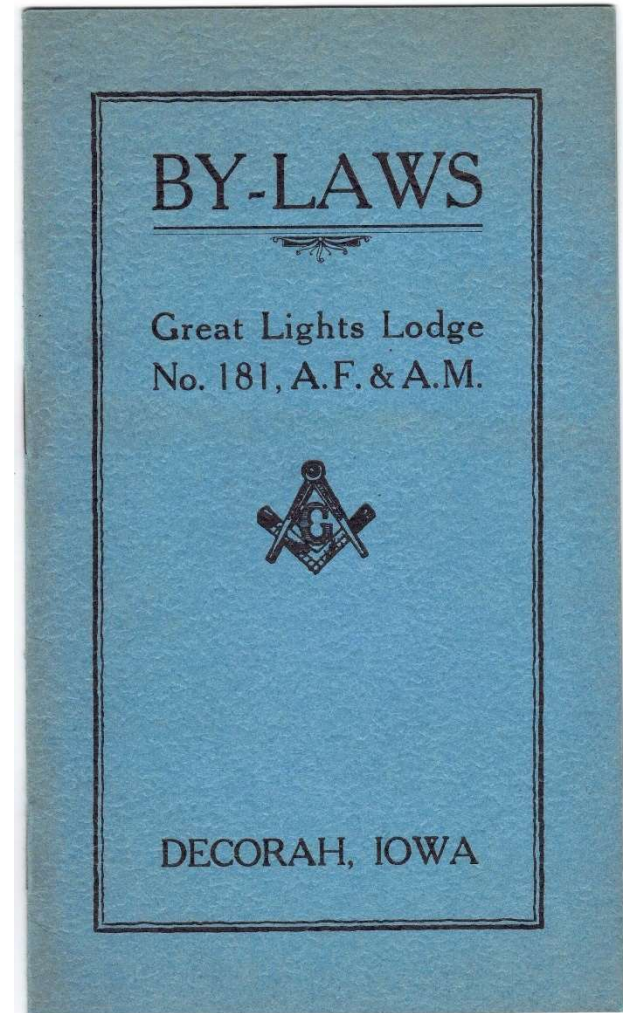
Great Lights Lodge Nr 181 A.F. & A.M.  
Chartered **June 6, 1866** with 43 members

The largest membership was **June 6, 1941** when there were 138 members.

The current Lodge building at 106 ½ West Water Street in Decorah was purchased in 1920.

We are fortunate to have had several **District Lecturers** as members of Great Lights Lodge Nr 181 since the mid-1950s. They are:

**Arnold Digre**  
**Roy Winger**  
**Henry Glover**  
**Richard A. Duff**  
**Thomas D. Raulerson**  
**Eric Sommermeyer**  
**Michael E. Root**



Revised April 10, 2023

Bylaws Committee:  
Bob Larson, Chairman  
Dave Dunlavy  
Roger Hamilton