



Great Lights Lodge #181
Monday, May 8th, 2006
May Stated Meeting -7:30pm at the Lodge building

Greetings, Brethren!

Spring is really here, and with it the uplift in spirits we all need! Since our last newsletter a great deal has occurred in Decorah Masonry and related Masonic bodies. In April we conferred the first two degrees on Brother Jon Sommermeyer, with his biological brother Eric serving ably as Master in both degrees! The Decorah Scottish Rite Club's Maundy Thursday Service was very well-attended, with a great meal, a touching speech by Brother Steve Riley of New Hampton, and wonderful classical guitar music played by our own Brother Eric Sommermeyer.

Even the Eastern Star got in on the action by hosting its first ever official visit for its annual school and inspection as a joint school with New Hampton Chapter with dignitaries abounding. If you couldn't find something interesting going on in Masonry in Decorah in April, then you weren't looking very hard!

Sadly we also lost one of the longest living Masonic Members, as Brother Tony Bowlus recently passed away with almost 78 years in the fraternity, and he was in Demolay six years before that! Brother Don Davis conducted a very moving Masonic service at Fjelstul's Funeral Home, attended by a dozen Brothers as well as some Sisters, too. You might not know this, but Brother Tony signed the petition for our most recently raised Master Mason, Karl Jacobsen.

At our April Meeting Senior Warden Tim Felton sat in for the Master, who was working out of town. In that meeting two petitions were voted on and approved. They were for Bernard Casterton and James Stansfield. Our wonderful year of degree work continues!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a practice for the third degree on Sunday, April 30 at 1:00 at the lodge. Don Davis will lead the practice. Eighteen year-old Andrew Reicks of the West Union Lodge will be attending, as he will perform the role of Junior Deacon in the degree. Andrew just became a Mason in November, and he and his father Luke have already attended several degrees in our lodge. The actual third degree for Jon Sommermeyer will be **THURSDAY, MAY 4 @ 6:30 P.M.**

DON DAVIS WILL BE THE DEGREE MASTER. THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO COME AND RENEW THE FUN OF WATCHING A DEGREE PERFORMED WELL, WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT BROTHERHOOD.

As of now, there are no volunteers for refreshments for those brethren willing to travel in here and help us out. Please contact Brother Don at 563-382-5434 if you could help.

May 8 is our next Lodge meeting. Brother Tim Felton will be sitting in in the East again, as I will be in GA for my Dad and Brother Mason Tom Raulerson's high risk surgery on May 3. Please offer your support to him, as well as to Brother Jon Sommermeyer on his third degree. God bless you all!

Fraternally,
Tom Raulerson, WM

