



Jeff Lasswell, Worthy Chief

Grandview Lodge, Peoria Heights, IL  
Peoria Council #35

# Universal Craftsmen Council of Engineers, Inc.

May 28, 2008

Potluck 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

## Official Visits to #35

Grand Worthy President Judy Benton will make her official visit on May 28th and Grand Worthy Chief G. James Bonney will make his official visit on June 25, 2008. We would like for you to help us honor each of them.

## PEORIA LADIES #35

Greetings to you all once again! Just a note to let you know that Mary Bulen is recuperating in: Heartland Healthcare Center, Room 135, Galesburg, IL (don't know the zip) Marge McIntosh has been in the hospital, but is now home. Ellen Brown is having trouble with an eye. I hope Betty Korstad is doing well with her kemo again.

To those of you who are under the weather, God Bless You! To those of you who are not, God Bless you too!

We are gearing up for the Grand Convention. I still need recipes and we still need to be working on collecting or making things for the share booth at the Convention. This is our money-maker, ladies, so all your help is greatly appreciated. GWP Judy Benton will be with us Wednesday!!

*Linda Berry, W.P., P.C.W.P*

## Words from your Worthy Chief, Jeff Lasswell

I'd like to begin this monthly newsletter with some ramblings on my adventures as I drive back and forth from Astoria to Peoria Heights several times each month. It is a typical hour and a half drive (one way) so I prepare to leave two hours prior to the event. As I leave home, I must remember to check my gas gauge and make sure my radar detector is functioning properly. I kick the tires to make sure there is still enough air in them—then take an Aleve to relieve the knee pain I have after kicking the tires. Before pulling out of the driveway, I must stop to take inventory—do I have my cell phone? What papers or other materials do I need to take? Do I have the right color of blazer (green, blue, red or purple?). Is this the night that I need to stop on the way to pick up something for the potluck? OK...I'm finally ready to leave...But what can I do to entertain myself on the long drive? I often rehearse ritual, talk on the cell phone, look for cheaper gas prices, for policemen wanting to give out speeding tickets, count dead animals along the road (coons, deer, skunks, squirrels), and watch for "hot spots" where deer (live

ones that like to jump in front of me) have been known to gather. On a typical night, driving home after the meeting, I may see up to 15 or more deer—and it's not out of the ordinary to experience a "narrow escape" frequently. Luckily, my brakes work well & I haven't hit any this year. But there is another "cost" to this habitual commute. My mini-van consumes at least 6 gallons of fuel per average trip to Peoria and back. At \$3.89—\$4.10 per gallon—you do the math and watch my wattle shrink. I realize that the current gas prices are making it difficult for many of our members to attend, especially those on limited incomes. For one example, Al and Linda Berry travel an additional 7-80 miles (west of me), meaning they must leave at least 3 hours before the meeting time. Our appreciation should surely go out to them as they endeavor to "survive the drive" in order to fellowship with us.

Things to remember: June 25, 1008, at our stated meeting, Bro. G. James Bonney, the Grand Worthy Chief of North America will make his official visitation at Peoria Council #35, at Grand View

in Peoria Heights. There will be a potluck for him. August 4-7, 2008 is the 104th UC-CofE Grand Convention which will be held at the Country Inn & Suites by Carlson Ottawa-West 578 Terry Fox Drive, Kanata, Ontario, Canada. A standard room is \$115 and a suite is \$125. Add \$10 for each occupant over 2 in a room. There are maps from Grand View in Peoria Heights to the Hotel in Kanata, Ontario on the Grand Lodge web site <http://www.lasswell.org/ucce/gwei/htm>

For more information on any of these just call Grand Secretary Al Berry at the Berry Patch at 217-327-4288 or me at 309-338-3497.

Our future depends on new membership.

In closing, I hope you and your family will enjoy the warmer weather when it finally comes!

*Jeff Lasswell, WC*