



DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 1

January 2012



CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Officers of Damascus Lodge for 2012 were installed on Saturday, December 8th, 2011. It was a fine ceremony conducted by Worshipful Brother Robert Strader, District Deputy of District 12, F&AM Wisconsin. Special thanks to W.Bro. Strader, the entire Installation team – Dale A. Graeven, Pat Militzer, Don O’Kray and Mike Clinnin who was especially helpful as a last minute fill in. Also, special thanks go to all the family, friends and loved ones that attended. The entire Lodge seems to be excited about the upcoming year and we certainly hope it will be fun and joyful.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Installation of Officers*
-  *Master’s Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor’s Corner*
-  *Sweatheart’s Dinner*
-  *By the Plum*

TOYS-FOR-TOTS

The Brothers of Damascus have done it again. We collected 25 toys and \$101 in cash for the Marines Toys-for-Tots program. One brother even brought a brand new bicycle for a lucky child. What a wonderful response to such an awesome program. When you think about the selfless tasks performed by the Marines, protecting our freedoms everyday and collecting toys for deserving children during their free time at Christmas, somehow the term “Jar Head” just doesn’t fit in that equation.

HELLO SWEETHEART

On February 12th, the annual Sweetheart Brunch for the Ladies of Damascus will be held at the Packing House Restaurant on Layton Ave at 10 am. Ladies of course are our guests, the fellahs of course have to pay. Details to follow. Please contact Bro. Sean Schult at 414-469-0305 if you are interested in attending.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 01/10 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Opens
- 01/12 - School of Instruction - West Allis Massonic Center, 7pm
- 01/24 - EA Degree or Social Meeting
- 01/30 - District 12 Winter Meeting

BY THE PLUM

Worshipful Master Matthew asked that a few of us brethren contribute to the Trestle Board by taking a crack at writing a few articles. Many of you know that I like to travel to other Lodges and since one of my new duties as Junior Warden is to act as liaison between our Lodge and the youth groups, I will use this opportunity to keep everyone up to date on events by the Jobies, DeMolay, and other Lodges. I will make an attempt to inform you of upcoming events as well as report on events that are attended. I am also hoping I will be able to persuade many of you to join me in these travels.

This January I plan on attending the installations of Job's Daughters, Bethel No. 6 and the Doric Chapter of DeMolay. The DeMolay installation is at 7:00 pm on Saturday Jan. 7 at West Allis Masonic Center. The Jobie installation is Friday, January 13th at 7:30 pm at Lake Masonic Center. Hopefully there will be a strong showing of Masons in support of our youth.

Also coming up this January, Lake Lodge is holding their annual Robert Burns Table Lodge at Lake Masonic Center on January 19th at 7:00 pm. If you're looking for some good Haggis and great fellowship, you won't want to miss this.

I look forward to attending more youth and Masonic events this year and I'm also looking forward to reporting on them, as well as the fellowship with my brothers. I will see you on the road.

Tom Stachowiak
Junior Warden

MASONIC MILESTONES

Paul Schmidt - 60 years	David Hartl - 4 years
William Metzen - 44 years	Steve Manthey - 3 years
Chris Wuehr - 12 years	Jeffrey Giese - 3 years

OURS EARS ARE RINGING

A special thank you goes out to Alice and all the Brothers who rang their hearts out to help the Salvation Army. Another thanks to Bro. Fairbanks for not getting the crew kicked out into the cold. The little red bucket was stuffed to the brim by the end of the day and we all had a great time.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brothers of Damascus, I am so deeply humbled to be elected to serve as Worshipful Master for 2012. During the Installation of Officers on December 17th I must admit, I heard the same conversation happen a few different times and it made me chuckle each time I heard it. "Who was elected Worshipful Master this year?" "The program says Matthew Wright." "Matthew who? Who's that??" I also grin when I recollect passing by one or two of these groups, because it was then I'd hear the whisper, "I think that's him there..." Since it's always good to learn from our experiences, I will take my cues from the Installation and seize this opportunity to tell you a little about myself.

I was born in Minnesota, but don't hold that against me. After graduating from high school in 1990, I enlisted in the US Army. My first duty station was in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, followed by tours in Germany and different areas in the States.

It was while serving in Germany that I became interested in Freemasonry. In 1993 I was raised a Master Mason in a military Prince Hall Affiliated Lodge under the jurisdiction of Washington state. Unfortunately, soon after I was raised I was transferred to Texas. I continued to travel for a little while in Texas, but again I was transferred and my masonic career took a hiatus...for 14 years.

In late 2003, after graduating from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, I moved to Milwaukee to further my education and hopefully start a new life with my soon to be new wife. The career didn't kick off like I had planned, but I don't think they ever do. I've held a few positions since graduating, but none of them compare to my current position as a Contracting Officer with the Department of Veteran Affairs. I'm treated very well and even though I know my part in providing care to our country's veterans is to say the least – minimal, I still feel extremely proud of that "little part" of providing for those who sacrificed so much for us.

My wife Catherine and I were married in May of 2004 in very quiet ceremony in the backyard of her parent's house; which ended up being truly wonderful, because it saved us a lot of money we didn't have, much of the stress planning a regular wedding was eliminated and all the family that was invited felt very comfortable and still comment on how tranquil the ceremony felt.

Since my days in Germany, I had sincerely missed the fellowship and brotherhood I experienced in Masonry and in 2009 I took what seemed a giant leap for me and did something about it. After getting in contact with the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, getting my dues in order with my PH Lodge and visiting a few Lodges around the Milwaukee area, my path led me to Damascus. When I came to Damascus my dear friend Mick Olson told me, "Coming to Damascus is like coming home after being gone for a while." For me, those words still hold true and after being initiated, passed, and raised for a second time, I couldn't be happier to be a Damascus Man.

That's about it for me, but I will say one last thing. Only the GAOTU knows what kind of Worshipful Master I'll be. I've been successful in life by being an extremely hard worker and doing my best, and I think that ethic will serve me well now. I look forward to the year ahead and the experiences that will not only bring me closer to my brothers, but also those that will help make good men better.

Matt Wright
Worshipful Master



Love is in the Air...

At

The Annual Damascus Lodge

Sweet Hearts Brunch

Sunday, February 12th, 10:00am

At The Packing House
Restaurant

3900 East Layton Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



*Ladies of the Lodge are our guests,
\$25 is the cost for all others.*

Contact Bro. Sean Schult at 414-469-0305 if you're interested.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“GIT-R-DONE”

Like my wife's birthday and Christmas every year, the new Masonic year has snuck up on me and I find myself thinking “Oh Crap, already? When did that happen?” Congratulations to our new Worshipful Master, Matt Wright who has taken over the duties of the East and now holds the reins of the Lodge. I am looking forward to a wonderful and bright year ahead as I am sure we all are.

I also want to say “Thank You” to Worshipful Brother, Mick Olson who has faithfully, tirelessly, and zealously performed the duties of Counselor for Damascus No. 290 during the past two Masonic years. Bro. Mick was always the first contact with prospective candidates, and always on top of the degrees and degree schedules, thereby assuring a smooth transition of our prospective candidate's right through their Master Mason Degrees. Thank you for your counsel to all of the Brethren of No. 290.

We as a Lodge expect that our Worshipful Master is going to lead the Lodge and take it in a direction that we Brethren agree is not only beneficial for the Lodge but a direction that will also promote harmony and growth. For the Lodge to be harmonious and grow, full support of the Worshipful Master is a requirement, regardless of who sits in the East.

Each of the eight officers has a responsibility to perform the duties assigned to the respective chair in which they sit. Separately, it may not appear that any one of the duties is important, but each duty is a vital link in the chain that is the driving force behind a fully functional and operational Lodge.

Keep in mind your Entered Apprentice Charge, “converse with well informed brethren...”. New officers; do not be afraid to ask questions; jump in and do your best; tackle your office with zeal. Use your Past Masters and long time brethren to talk with and seek advice; remember they have been here and done everything you are about to do, and most of them multiple times. Should you start to feel overwhelmed, we will be there to lend aid, support, and advice to make sure you do not become overwhelmed. Asking questions and making every attempt to perform the duties of your office is the biggest form of support you can give to the Worshipful Master.

Writing articles for the Trestleboard, helping to set up the Lodge room, helping in the kitchen and with clean up after the meetings, contributing to discussions in and out of Lodge, and assisting with anything else that might come up are all forms of support for the Worshipful Master.

Brethren, we have in the past done an excellent job of supporting our Masters. My year as your Master was beyond easy because of the support of everyone in the Lodge, for which I say thank you to all. Let's continue the support you have shown me, dive in, and “GIT-R-DONE”.

See you in Lodge. Be there and be square.

Michael Fairbanks, PM
Counselor



DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Sean Schult 414-469-0305

MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman and Master's Board Secretary would like to remind you to keep an eye out for new candidates for the Lodge.

Remember to carry a petition with you in your travels because you never know who you will meet.

If you do not have a petition or you need more, please contact any lodge officer and they will make sure you receive a couple.

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

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Chaplain Brian Bertram
Junior Deacon Pete Czechorski
Junior Steward Paul Peacock
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Steve Manthey
Senior Steward Jason Williams
Counselor Michael Fairbanks, P.M.