



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume V, Issue 2

March 2008



## WHAT A MONTH !!!

Damascus Lodge had a very busy February, with many Lodge events and a lot of great degree work.

The month started out in celebration with our Sweethearts, taking them to a fine brunch at the Pieces of Eight. We don't think anyone left hungry.

At the first stated meeting, we had a dedicated bunch of officers open and conduct the business of the lodge, with snow and sickness reluctantly keeping a couple of officers from attending.

Then we visited the Tripoli Shrine Circus and had a great time. Many wonderful memories and some photos came out of that weekend.

As if that was not enough, on February 26th three Fellowcrafts successfully passed their FC degree examinations. Brother Michael Fairbanks was then raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Then on leap day, February 29th, we conferred our second Master Mason degree, in three day, on Brother Sean Schult.

The degree team members did a wonderful job conferring both degrees.

Thank You Brothers !



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *What a Month!!*
-  *New Master Masons*
-  *Echo's in the West*
-  *A Word from your Officers*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*

## NEW MASTER MASONS!!



Brother Michael Fairbanks



Brother Sean Schult



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## ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Brothers,

Enough snow yet? I want to thank all of my Brothers who have been helping around the Lodge since I have been working snow duty, for it feels like the last ten years. I hope to be back in action very soon.

I think by now I have written many times about the attitudes I have observed in the Fraternity. View points have been changing and new leaders have been taking their places. I find new officers bringing fresh energy along with a zeal for learning about the Fraternity in all of the Masonic bodies.

One of the issues I hope not to find in our Fraternity, which has appeared in the past, is the “member with too much ego”. This attitude has had some in our Fraternity serving with a arrogant demeanor. Using their position for personal gain, or a false feeling of importance because of a title (you should try to emulate your title, not to be defined by it) has had a destructive affect. As Brothers, we are taught to see each other as equals, and no one voice should be any less important than that of anyone else. I am inspired by those I have met who seem to “get it.” In one of my other organizations I needed a task done. Without any hesitation I had volunteers who offered to take this task on. When I receive a text on my phone that stated that the job was done, I wrote back a thanks, and added that “he rocked”. He wrote back: “no, we rock”. I smiled, and realized that he was right. This correction reflects what the Fraternity is really about.

These Masonic bodies are not defined by their officers, but by all of the good men who make them up. Let us serve with humility and do our best to honor the position we sit in. When it comes down to it we should just be defined as Masons.

**Brothers just a reminder - “We Rock!!”**

**Brother Curt A. Campagna**

# MARCH 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	<b>11</b>	12	13	14	15
<b>16</b>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	<b>25</b>	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3/11 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge.
- 3/16 - Scottish Rite - Feast of Paschal Lamb - 3pm - Open to the Public - A Remembrance of those who have passed.
- 3/25 - Social Meeting - 6pm Dinner , 7pm Movie Night - Baseball Theme - Wear your Baseball Jersey!!
- 4/27 - BoneCrushers - See ad in this TrestleBoard

## MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations on the Anniversary of your having been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Your love for our Fraternity is made apparent by the cheerful continuation of your long-standing association with it.

Visit Lodge when degrees are being conferred — you just may be reminded of the way you felt when you were initiated, passed, and raised.

### March

Bernard Strachota - 3/11/1966 - 42 years

Kyle Olson - 3/13/2007 - 1 year

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

We wish you a very Happy Birthday and many more to come. In our hearts we raise a glass and make a toast, "To your continued long life!"

### March

Byron Borck - 3/1

Dale A. Graeven - 3/11

Elwyn Hart - 3/8

J. Todd Roseman - 3/11

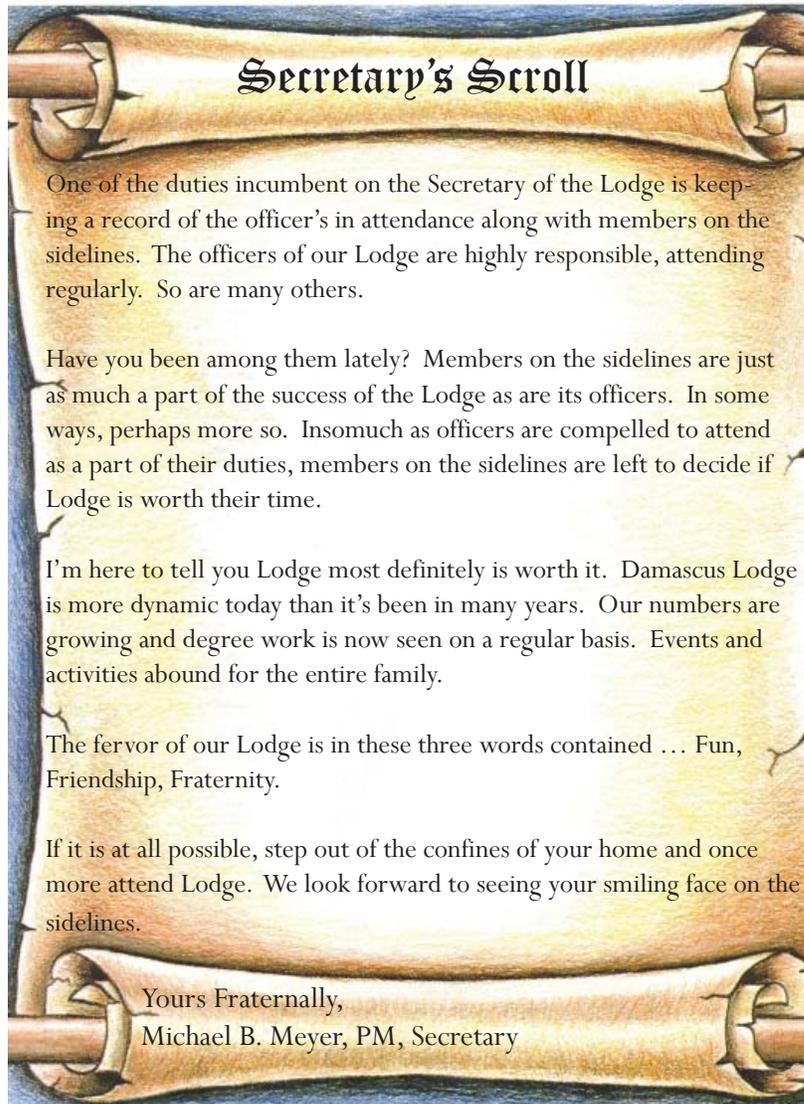
Stephen Braley - 3/11

Jeffrey J. Chadderdon - 3/31



"Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and Morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great Nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence"

George Washington  
President of the United States - Farewell Address



## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

National Treasure



Worshipful Master  
Mick Olson

With yet another hugely successful “National Treasure” movie upon us, and the History Channel and Discovery Channel running “Secrets of the Masons” it begs the question, “Why?”

Why is everyone so caught up in the “mysterious masons”? Can it be that the mere thought of some secret society, once led by men named Washington, Franklin and Pike can be an inspiration to so many? Does the mention of the Knights Templar evoke thoughts of chivalry and bravery so lacking in today’s society?

And let’s not forget the treasure!! What is this wonderful treasure that we, as Masons have been entrusted to protect? Precious metals? Rare gemstones? Ancient texts? Many of my friends, knowing of my Masonic affiliation jokingly ask me when I get my share of the treasure. Good question!!



Perhaps at the very beginning of our Masonic journey, in the Entered Apprentice Degree, we receive one of Masonry’s greatest treasures. During our very first walk around the lodge room we hear, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

To dwell together in unity. All living as one. Aiding and assisting each other, regardless of race or creed. Truly caring for and about each other. Treating all men as brothers. One of Masonry’s most basic tenants. But certainly no secret! Perhaps Mason’s are just more committed to setting and living this example. Perhaps that is our treasure for which today’s society is so thirsty.

Brethren, let’s share our treasure with the rest of the world. Let’s set the example and show them the true riches of our fraternity.

February was a great month! We visited our “Daughters” of Bethel No. 6, shared a wonderful meal with our “Sweethearts” and journeyed to “The Greatest Show on Earth.” It was wonderful to see you all there.

Congratulations to our newest Master Masons, Brothers Mike Fairbanks and Sean Schult. Many thanks to our fine degree team and Brother Mike for his tutelage. Well done Brothers!

As we march on into 2008, we continue the true work of the Lodge, to make Master Masons. At our stated meeting we will have Brother Frank Mayer, District Lecturer, there to instruct us in the second section of the Master Mason degree. This is a wonderful opportunity given to us to polish and smooth our rough edges. Check the calendar for practice dates and times. We need your help!

See you at Lodge!

Fraternally,

Mick Olson  
Worshipful Master

## 2007 LODGE OFFICERS

### Worshipful Master

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### Junior Steward

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### Degree Director

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"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love.

He who seeks to draw masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed.

The wages of a mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a mason. "

Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)

### Current Event Schedule for 2008

Date	Event
Mar 16	Scottish Rite - Feast of Paschal Lamb - 3pm - Open to the Public
TBA	Master's Board Dinner (TBA)
Apr 27	Boncrushers Arena Football Game (3:30 pm) (Family Event)
May 1,2,3	Scottish Rite - Spring Reunion
Jun 6&7	Grand Lodge
TBA	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (Family Event)
Aug 2	Renaissance Faire (TBA) (Family Event)
Oct 19	Past Master's Dinner**(TBA)
Dec 7	Ye Olde Christmas Feast 5:00 pm (Family Event)
Dec 9	Lodge Christmas Party – “Toys 4 Tots” Toy Drive

### FROM THE DEGREE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Wow! What a couple of months. January and February at Damascus saw the conferring of seven degrees – 1 EA, 3 FC's, and 3 MM's. Moreover, the quality of the work has been just as impressive. Our Lodge is on a roll and the ride is fantastic.

Comments from members have been very positive. And I wholeheartedly concur. For our Lodge to be able to confer an MM without outside assistance is remarkable. It has taken us considerable time to get here, but now that we've arrived, the view is well worth the effort.

To all involved in the degree work, I can hardly thank you enough. Some of you do the work so proficiently, that you make it appear easy. Trust me, I know the effort that goes into preparing for the conferral of any degree. And for that, I thank you.

Now, if you're sitting on the sidelines during degree work and would like to take a more active role, just let Bro. Mick Olson, WM, or myself know of your interest. Opportunities are ample for all of us to contribute.

Ritualistically speaking,  
Bro. Michael B. Meyer, PM  
Degree Director





**APRIL 27, 2008**  
**3:30 PM**

**COME AND JOIN THE DAMASCUS FAMILY AS WE  
CHEER ON MILWAUKEE'S NEW  
ARENA FOOTBALL TEAM**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!  
COME TO LODGE MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> FOR DETAILS !!**

*TRIPOLI SHRINE CIRCUS MEMORIES !!!!!*



## MEMORIES OF A MASONIC INFUSED LIFE

Looking back on my life from this point, I realize that my life has always been touched by Masonry in one form or another. Be it the fact that most of the adult members of my family were, or are involved in Masonry, or, that my siblings were involved in one or more of the associated bodies.

Looking to my Grandparents, my Father's parents were both involved with Masonry. My Grandfather Earl was a Mason, he belonged to Blue Lodge, York Rite, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite, and Shrine. Both he and my Grandmother Gladys were members of Eastern Star. My Mother's father Linton was a member of Blue Lodge.

My parents, as most of you know, are involved with Masonry as well. Dad is a member of our Lodge, as well as Daylite Lodge, and Eastern Star at West Allis Chapter. Mom is a Past Matron of West Allis Chapter of Eastern Star and was in Rainbow Girls. Both have also been involved in Jobies and Rainbow Girls.

All of my siblings have been involved with Masonic organizations as well. My older sister Lora is a Past Honored Queen of Job's Daughters Bethel 19 in Ironwood, MI, as well as having been involved in Rainbow Girls out in Montana. My brother Jeff was in DeMolay and now is a member of our Lodge. My younger sister Nancy is a Past Honored Queen of Bethel 69 and is a member of West Allis Chapter of Eastern Star.

Some of my fondest memories revolve around Masonic Temples and events. I remember back in Ironwood, MI, running around through the different areas of the Temple checking out the different rooms while dad was helping in the kitchen or doing something else. Invariably I would end up in the billiards room to play with cues and balls. I remember many a great meal in several different Temples. I would have to say one of my most enduring memories would have to be from my older sister Lora's installation as Honored Queen. At the end of Installation the girls performed the living cross. The thing that I think imprinted it into my memory was that after they had formed the cross the lights were lowered and the cross they were kneeling in front of was lit up while they sang the accompanying song.

Other memories I have are things like, the photo on my Dad's folks' desk of them at an Eastern Star installation, the small figure of a man in a tux, wearing a fez, on the dash of my Grandfather's car, going to Jobie softball games, etc.

All these things have helped me become the person I am today. A proud and improving 3rd generation Mason.



Sincerely,  
Larry Chadderdon JW

BROTHER LOU, HOPE YOU HAD A  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO  
FOR DAMASCUS !!!!



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Why do Masons say “So Mote It Be” instead of “Amen” at the close of a prayer? From where do we get the term? What is the origin of that phrase?

“So Mote It Be” are the final words in the Regius Poem. “Mote” is old English for “may”. Masons have used the phrase since the beginning of the written history of the Craft. Freemasonry includes many examples of words, now obsolete, which bring the sanctity of age and the continuity of ritual from ancient days to modern times.

“So Mote It Be” really means “So May It Be.” It was the phrase used by our ancient brethren asking God to grant their prayer. In using this phrase today, we honor our ancient brethren and renew our commitment to their example, humbly invoking the blessings of deity.

May God bless our country, our fraternity, our brethren, families and friends. “So Mote It Be”.

## TRIPOLI SHRINE CIRCUS MEMORIES





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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT  
[HTTP://WWW.DL290.ORG](http://www.dl290.org)

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*THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY*  
-  
*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER*

## LODGE TRUSTEES

Curt A. Campagna, P.M. (2008)	414-545-9235
Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt A. Campagna, P.M.	414-545-9235
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## MASTER'S BOARD

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

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

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

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## BROTHER DAVID HARTL AND DEGREE TEAM

