



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue X

October 2014



REV'N IT !

On September 23rd the Brethren of Damascus Lodge No. 290 again ventured to the hallowed grounds of Lucky Bob's Raceway for the 7th running of the DL290 Slot Car Race! It was Lucky number 7 and it was time for the Worshipful Master to WIN! But the other Brethren in attendance had other ideas about that.

We began the night as we always do, bragging and trash talking, trying to get into each other's heads. Little did we know, there was nothing in there anyway. When the green flag dropped it was each man for himself. If "rubbin' is racin'" then we were doing a whole lot o' racin', because many of the cars spent more time off the track than on it. I guess we're all better at off road racing.

After the hard fought battle was won and the checkered flag flew, the brethren retired for a victory banquet of pizza and soda. The only sound louder than the roar of the engines was the grumbling of the bellies, but those were quickly quieted and gave way to the tones of hearty laughter and brotherhood.

Thanks to all who attended this Damascus Lodge tradition. If you missed it, don't worry. Next year is your year to take home the checkered flag.

MORE ICE, PLEASE

On August 26th the Officers and several members of DL290 gathered at Lake Masonic Center for Lodge Officer Training. Two days before the training, the attendees were informed to bring swim trunks, t-shirts, and buckets as we would be taking the 'ALS Ice Bucket Challenge'. As the time came to gather, each arrived with towel and bucket, ready to take up the gauntlet and call out some of our dear friends.

After a great dinner, the ice filled buckets were prepared and we retired to the parking lot. A quick talk through to let the ice cool the water even more, and we were ready. With camera rolling we took the dump! And it was COLD!! We then called out our Brothers at Lake Lodge, P.G.M. Mike DeWolf, Bethel No. 6 and Doric Chapter DeMolay. If you haven't seen the video yet, it's on the Lodge facebook page. (Like us!!)

We will be sending our donation to ALS research in the name of our dear Lady Sheila. If Bethel No. 6 and Doric Chapter take the challenge, we'll send donations in their name as well. Come on kids, time to get wet!

A quick towel off and change, and we got to business training the future officers of the Lodge to prepare for their term in the East. And I have no doubt that our Officer Corp IS prepared and will do a marvelous job as they take leadership of our Lodge and lead us into the next era. I can't wait to see them in action and what good works our Lodge will do in the future.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Lodge Training / Ice Bucket*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Halloween*
-  *Past Masters Dinner*
-  *DL 290 Racing*

CHOICES

The choice to become a Freemason, in my opinion is a personal endeavor. I say an endeavor because as a freemason, one is continuing to learn. Learn about the craft and yourself.

An individual chooses to become a Mason for various reasons. They may have family traditions, a child in a Masonic youth group, or a need for fulfillment in a social environment. But whatever the reason, one needs to choose wisely. One needs to choose to become a Mason from the heart.

I felt the need to join the craft because of a void left in my life when I was no longer medically able to continue in my career. I needed to enter a group of people with similar morals, ideas, personalities, visions, and most of all I needed a group that was a joy to belong to. Damascus lodge fit that bill. After researching a few lodges, their membership, meeting places, and activities, I found that Damascus was the lodge for me.

Of course, with my daughter being a Jobie and my wife being the Bethel Guardian, one might think that it would be a matter of time before I petitioned a lodge. That was the case in the end, but believe me, I had to find the right fit, for me in the lodge and as such, for the lodge to accept me. I needed someplace to call my Masonic "home". I found that Damascus guys were to become my best friends. The guys have become my mentors, advisors, traveling buds, and all around, on my "a" list of people to be with. With the guys, myself and my family have gotten to know many other spouses and children of the members, and have kindled friendships with them also.

I guess what I am saying is that as Tuesday lodge night rolls around twice a month, I don't say "I have to go to Lodge tonight". I say instead "I have lodge tonight, time with the guys". The longer I am involved with the lodge, the kinder, compassionate, understanding examples are set forth by our members. I truly believe that as Masons, we live by our teachings, stand with our obligations and truly set a positive example as citizens. Remember all, we take on obligation as Masons, and must abide by that obligation, in or outside the Blue Lodge walls. Always act as Masons, set the example. One will become a better man, and our fraternity will grow because of it.

On a separate note; please RSVP to me (bsbert290@att.net) by October 12th for the Halloween Party. As usual, it will be a Howling good time! See the flyer in the trestle board, and we'll see YOU and your family at the Party.

Have a safe Halloween and enjoy the fall weather!

Brian Bertram
Sr. Steward

SAVE THE HO, HO, HO!

Mark your calendars now for the DL290 Family Christmas Party, December 14, 2014 at Lake Masonic Center. We're planning Christmas dinner with lots of fun and games. Bring the kids or be one yourself. Watch for more details in the next Trestleboard.

LIKE US !

Just a reminder for all you techies on facebook....so are we!! DL290 has our very own facebook page. Check in to find out the latest Lodge news, see what's for dinner, or just see some pics of our latest escapades. Whatever you need to know about Damascus Lodge, you'll find it on our page. Just search for our group page, Damascus Lodge #290 F&AM and request to join. One of our administrators will grant you access, and you're in! Simply knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Just don't break your monitor screen....

Also, if you are not receiving the TrestleBoard via Email and would like to, contact Bro. Secretary, and have him update your lodge contact information, including your new email address! Then you will receive the TrestleBoard via email!!



TIME

As the Master of a Lodge you have many duties. Most of them are widely known to all; ritual work, governing the Lodge, seeing to the everyday business of the Lodge, writing articles. What many members don't realize is the time commitment that must be made by the Master. To be the Master of a Lodge requires a daily commitment of time. Some days can only take minutes, while others may take several hours.

Don't get me wrong, you don't have to put in all the hours of preparation and studying, but if you wish to be an effective leader, time is the price you must pay. From preparing an agenda for the next meeting to overseeing the planning of events, it all takes time. While you are hopefully not doing all the work yourself, you need to be in touch with those who have been assigned certain tasks to assure they are on schedule and have all the resources they require to achieve their goal. As I've suggested in our Lodge Officer Training Sessions, each day the officers of the Lodge should be asking themselves what they need to do for the Lodge. A daily check of your calendars and planners is necessary. Check on those deadlines and make sure you have met the timeline for the task you have been assigned.

To many members it appears everything in the Lodge seems to magically happen. They arrive and the meal is prepared. They enter the Lodge Room and all is in readiness. And then they go home. While behind the scenes Brethren are at the Lodge hours before the start of dinner, preparing food and setting up the Lodge Room. Officers are having meetings to make sure all the business is properly attended to. Last minute changes need to be addressed. Then...just like at Disney World, the guests arrive and it all happens, apparently without effort. Then, after the meeting, the officers again swing into action, storing the paraphernalia, cleaning the kitchen, and making the necessary preparations to assure all will be in readiness to begin the cycle yet again.

I'm very proud of our Officer's. They have made great strides in working as a team to assure all is in readiness. While most are fairly new to the craft, all have overcome their lack of experience by sheer dedication to their duties. This is all that can be asked, and I thank you all.

This year has been marked by significant progress, but not without a few bumps along the way. Our Lodge functions in many ways; we are a business, and a club, and perhaps most importantly a family. As with any family, there will be moments of disharmony. At these times the Master must take on the role of 'parent' and make decisions based on the good of the Lodge. It may not always be perceived in that manner, but that is the goal.

I'd like to thank all who have given me counsel and support as we've met some of these challenges. It is always comforting to have others you can trust to discuss issues that arise and hear their perspective. Men whom you can call on, who will give their time to assist you in your deliberations.

So, you see, the greatest asset we have, the most important gift we can give, is our time. Thank you for giving yours.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson,
Worshipful Master

**As in days of long ago, when Lodges met in
Public Houses and Breweries...
Join Damascus No. 290 as we
Honor our Past Masters at...**



**SAINT
FRANCIS
BREWING CO.**

*St. Francis Brewing Company
3825 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., St. Francis*

**Sunday October 12, 2014
Social hour; 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm**

Cost: \$24.00

All Damascus Lodge Past Masters are our guests.

***Dinner choices: Kolsch Sirlain, BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Salmon, or
Chicken Fettucine Alfredo***

***RSVP to Bro. Dan O'Kray at 414-379-1079
Deadline: October 3, 2014***



ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE



DL 290 - RACEWAY DREAMS



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER "Lessons from a Brother"

This year we've faced a number of challenges as a lodge, stumbled at times, and enjoyed great triumphs at others. As successful as this year has been for our lodge, during times of challenge, it can be difficult to maintain a perspective that sustains our faith in ourselves, our aspirations, and our ideals. To that end, I thought it would be fitting to share some quotes from one of our most famous brothers, Theodore Roosevelt, who experienced all of the extreme highs and lows that come with attempting to accomplish great things.

"Believe you can, and you are halfway there."

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble you wouldn't sit for a month."

"Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind. Great actions speak to all mankind."

"It behooves everyman to remember that the work of a critic is of altogether secondary importance, and that in the end progress is accomplished by the man who does things."

The key that I've drawn from these comments is that we've invested ourselves in a worthy cause and set ourselves to task in seeing our goals achieved. With our actions and our faith and support for, and accountability to each other, we'll overcome any temporary setbacks and obstacles.

Bro. Matt Hanchek
Lodge Chaplain



Save The Date!

Damascus Lodge
Family Christmas Party
December 14, 2014

***Join us for a Christmas Feast,
Games and Family Fun.***

DAMASCUS LODGE 290 FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

4 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

AT LAKE LODGE



Bring the whole family for

**Dinner: "Ghoul-ash" (elbow mac and spaghetti meat sauce)
Assorted goulish and creepy dinner treats**

in lodge trick or treat

**The LEGENDARY scavenger hunt
games for young goblins and older ones too
halloween arts and crafts
Plenty of photo ops**

**Family Appropriate Costumes optional but encouraged
for all, you may even win a prize!**

**Cost is \$5 per person, \$10 per family,
Under 12-free**

Contact Brother Brian Bertram at 414-486-0806 or bsbert290@att.net

to rsvp

by October 12, 2014

Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!



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

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MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

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Website: www.dl290.org
Email: worshipful.master@dl290.org

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

THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804
Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015) 414-254-5677
Nathan Butts (2016) 414-727-9772

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt Campagna 414-698-8874

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.

2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M. worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
Curt Campagna, P.M. senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden
Nathan Butts junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. treasurer@dl290.org

Secretary
Michael B. Meyer, P.M. secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Matthew Hanchek
Junior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Steward Don O'Kray
Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock
Senior Steward Brian Bertram
Tiler Louis Montgomery, P.M.