



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VIII, Issue 10

November 2011



A NEW BROTHER

Our Damascus Family is pleased to welcome a new Brother, Jason A. Sliwa who was initiated as Entered Apprentice on October 25th. We are pleased to have this new Brother and know he will be a great addition to our Lodge.

Congratulations to our Degree Team for their usual outstanding work. But did you notice there were some new members on the degree team? We are lucky to have several new Master Masons who have learned some of the lectures and are helping us confer our degrees. Thanks to Brother Paul and Brother Jason for their outstanding effort and work.

LODGE ELECTIONS AND AWARDS NIGHT

At our November 8th meeting we will be holding elections for the 2011 Lodge Officers. Come to cast your vote for our future leaders and show your support. Who knows, you may even be elected!

Also on November 8th, Damascus will be presenting awards to our Brethren who have reached Masonic Milestones or have given exemplary service to our Lodge. Please come and help thank these Brethren for their Masonic Service. They have labored hard in our quarries.

BAH HUMBUG!

On Sunday, December 11th the Damascus family will be visiting the offices of Scrooge and Marley for a wonderful afternoon of Christmas celebration. Bring your family to enjoy a Christmas Tradition at 'A Christmas Carol' at the Milwaukee PAC.

Our day will begin at 2:00 pm with a late lunch. We will then drive our own cars to the PAC for the 4:30 performance. See the flyer in this edition.

Lodge members and their immediate families are invited. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Call WM Mike at for reservations before November 8th. No reservations will be accepted after this date!

BE A DING-A-LING!

Damascus Lodge is continuing our tradition of Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Whittall Pick N' Save. Check you calendar for Saturday, December 10th. We have time slots available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact Brother Nathan Butts, 414-727-9772 to sign up.

We'll be outside again this year, so dress appropriately. Please join us in supporting this most worthy cause.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Christmas Carol*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Lodge Elections*
-  *Bell Ringing*
-  *Senior Warden's Plum*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 11/08 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge, Awards and Elections
- 11/22 - Special Commication - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 11/24 - Thanksgiving - Happy Thanksgiving!!
- 12/10 - Bell Ringing- 9am-4pm Whitnall Pick and Save.
- 12/11 - Christmas Carol - 4:30pm at the PAC
- 12/13 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 12/17 - Lodge Installation of Officers, 3pm

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S PLUM

There's been some discussion in the Lodge lately about the term "volunteer" and how it is associated with the brothers who are, or who want to become an Officer(s) of the lodge. Dictionary.com defines volunteer as: "a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking." There's a key word in that definition that totally identifies a person who is or has the potential to become an Officer – service.

There's also been some discussion in the Lodge lately about the levels of commitment of the Officers at the Lodge. Merriam-Webster lists a few definitions, but the one I like most is: "The state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled (as in a commitment to a cause)". As you can tell, I like definitions. I'm a firm believer that definitions make a good foundation for any discussion or debate. For instance, I have been asked several times by my Brothers at the Lodge if I have ever been "committed" – and this whole time I thought they were asking about my commitment level, but this was not the case.....

Anyway, back to commitment levels; some Brothers may think that there are different levels of commitment associated with the different positions you hold as an Officer. I can see that. But maybe this is the wrong way to think? Maybe we should be correlating the different positions an Officer holds to the different levels of service they are willing to volunteer. Don't get me wrong Brothers; there is nothing wrong with either way of thinking. A Brother who is committed to the Lodge and Lodge events, but...doesn't really want to serve – or maybe can't physically serve – is just as wonderful and as important to any Lodge as a Brother who will serve. I want to make that perfectly clear Brothers – both are vitally important! At Damascus we are blessed (Thank you GAOTU!!) with Brothers who are committed to coming to every meeting they can AND with Brothers who are willing to serve, and some of them aren't even Officers! For example, a few weeks ago a few of our EA's and FC's stepped up and helped out in the kitchen after the meal. In addition to them we have some newly raised MM's that are already taking parts in the ritual. In my book, that not only showed the integrity of these young men, but it shows these young men may be willing to continue to serve the Lodge as Officers in the Lodge someday. Actually Brothers, there's my answer right there. We as Officers, and those who intend to become Officers, must always remember to unite the two together. A Brother who is a committed Officer, who attends all the meetings and events, but lets his service slip (which can happen because of work commitments or what have you), that will adversely affect the entire Lodge. As Officers, we must remember to unite our commitment and service together for the betterment of our Lodge.

Matthew Wright
Senior Warden

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

“The Serious Side of Masonry”



Our predecessors, those men who have come before us as Master Masons, built upon the foundation of the tenets of Freemasonry and not only pointed the way to the fraternity for those seeking to become better men, but extended and expanded the path into a road making our Masonic journey less difficult to travel by encouraging future generations to work hard, and to sprinkle in a little fun.

Throughout this past year, Damascus Lodge has planned and executed fun and exciting events and outings. The events and outings are mere opportunities for us to extend our fellowship with each other and to include our families. It's an opportunity for us to let our hair down and to see each other in a light other than our Lodge light.

In Lodge we conduct our business, plan our relief and charity efforts, pay our bills, and in general ensure the continued smooth operation of the Lodge. Many of our Brethren step up and accept assignments to coordinate and run events while other Brethren volunteer to collect information and execute Lodge projects, and at the same time other Brethren are stepping up to take assignments to interview petitioners.

The result of our work is obvious. Damascus Lodge continues to grow; both in members and in strength. The men petitioning to become Masons recognize the Masonic Fraternity as an organization in which to invest themselves, and an organization that is not a constant drain to their wallets. They usually see our work in some sort of charitable light or have heard about us because of a community event the Lodge is involved in. Their interest is piqued when they discover that we support each other as Brothers and rally around each other during difficult times.

And then there are the Lodge dinners and outings where we are quick to invite a prospective petitioner. When they see us having fun and enjoying fellowship, the yearning to belong and be a part of a fun, hard working group kicks in and then it is full steam ahead to becoming a member, or rather a Brother.

My year as Worshipful Master is coming to an end at light speed. Prior to becoming the Worshipful Master of Damascus Lodge #290 I saw the serious side of our Craft and I knew there was a lot of work being done. It was not until I took the chair in the East that I truly saw all the work being done, and how many of you were doing the work. To say that my year has been easy because of you and the seriousness with which you have tackled our Masonic duties would be an understatement.

It is your commitment to fun, duty and service that makes Freemasonry attractive to men who are looking for more in life and finding it through our Fraternity.

My Brothers – Be there AND be square.
Bro. Michael Fairbanks - Worshipful Master



Join us as we celebrate
A Traditional Christmas with

'A Christmas Carol'

Sunday December 11, 2012

4:30 P.M.



Milwaukee P.A.C.
929 N. Water St., Milwaukee

Luncheon at 2:00 pm
Location to be Announced.

Adults \$15.00
Children \$10.00

For Damascus members and their immediate family.

Reserve your tickets with W.M. Mike at
414-397-0330



Before November 8, 2011 !!

No late reservations will be accepted!

EVENT PICTURES



Newest Entered Apprentice
and the Past Masters Dinner.





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

1235 EAST HOWARD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

Phone: 414-297-9193
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. (2011) 414-469-9804
Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Mathew Wright 414-254-5677

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.

2011 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks (Sandra) 2169 W. St. Johns Way, Oak Creek, WI 53154	worshipful.master@dl290.org H 414-304-0260 C 414-397-0330
Senior Warden Matthew Wright 6138 W. Fairview Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53213	senior.warden@dl290.org H 414-778-0532 C 414-254-5677
Junior Warden Sean Schult 5184 S Guerin Pass, New Berlin, WI 53151	junior.warden@dl290.org H 414-324-2910 C 414-469-0305
Treasurer Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (Sondra) 9380 S. Carol Ct., Oak Creek, WI 53154	treasurer@dl290.org H 414-764-8187 C 414-852-4838
Secretary Michael B. Meyer, P.M. (Deborah) 13060 W. National Ave., New Berlin, WI 53151	secretary@dl290.org C 262-853-5631 H 262-821-4495
Chaplain Brian Bertram Junior Deacon Tom Stachowiak Junior Steward Pete Czechorski Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.	Senior Deacon Nathan Butts Senior Steward Steve Manthey Counselor Mick Olson, P.M. Degree Director Michael B. Meyer, P.M.