



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 11

December 2009



CONGRATULATIONS!

At our November 10th meeting Bro. Larry Chadderdon was elected to serve Damascus Lodge as our Worshipful Master for 2010. Bro. Lloyd Wilson was elected Senior Warden and Bro. Mike Fairbanks, Junior Warden. We are pleased to have such fine men leading us next year.

Also elected were: Bro. Louis Montgomery, Treasurer; Bro. Mike Meyer, Secretary; and Bro. Jon Syverson, Trustee. Appointed officers are: Bro. Sean Schult, Senior Deacon; Bro. Jon Syverson, Junior Deacon; Bro. Matthew Wright, Senior Steward; Bro. Nathan Butts, Junior Steward; Bro. Don O’Kray, Chaplain; Bro. Dale R. Graeven, Tiler; and Bro. Mick Olson, Counselor.

Congratulations to all of the new officers! We’re looking forward to a great year!!

DAMASCUS LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

At our December 8th meeting we will be celebrating Christmas together. We will start with a traditional Christmas feast at 6:00 pm followed by our stated meeting at 7:00 pm. Please wear your Christmas favorites: your favorite Christmas tie; your favorite Christmas sweatshirt; or even your favorite Christmas pajamas and slippers. Don your gay apparel and come to celebrate with your brothers!

Please bring an unwrapped toy or a cash donation for the Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots drive. This is a very worthwhile cause and considering the present economy, this may be a year of great demand. Please remember those less fortunate than ourselves during this Holiday Season. We hope to see you on December 8th!!




ANOTHER TRAVELING MAN

Be sure to congratulate Brother Steve Manthey for being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Once again the Damascus Lodge Degree Team did an excellent job in giving Bro. Steve a degree to be remembered. Thank you to all who participated and attended. Your support is greatly appreciated.

INSTALLATION

The Installation of Damascus Lodge Officers for 2010 will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3:00 pm. This is an open installation, family and guests are welcome. There will be a light meal served following the installation.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Lodge Election Results*
-  *Lodge Calendar*
-  *Traveling Man*
-  *Echo’s from the West*
-  *Master’s Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Lodge Photos*
-  *Installation*

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DECEMBER 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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	31		

- 12/6 - Ye Olde Christmas Feast
- See Page 4
- 12/8 - Stated Meeting - Dinner
6pm, Lodge 7pm.
- 12/11 - West Allis Lodge Installation - 7pm.
- 12/12 - Daylight Lodge Installation
- 11am @ West Allis Lodge
- 12/12 - Lake Lodge Installation
- 7pm
- 12/19 - Bell Ringing - Got your
time reserved yet?
- 12/22 - Dark, as in NO meeting.
- 1/10 - Damascus Lodge Installation
- 3pm

2009 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Charles "Mick" Olson (Jewel)
618 Clark Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172

worshipful.master@dl290.org
C 414-397-3076

Senior Warden

Larry Chadderdon
6409 W. Beloit, West Allis, WI 53219

senior.warden@dl290.org
H 414-935-2708
C 414-897-2277

Junior Warden

Lloyd A. Wilson
3571 S. 34th Street, Greenfield, WI 53221-1122

junior.warden@dl290.org
H 414-315-0136

Treasurer

Louis W. Montgomery, P.M. (Marian)
8545 W. Beloit Rd, Apt 3005, West Allis, WI 53227

treasurer@dl290.org
H 414-541-3087

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 Donald O'Kray

Junior Deacon Sean Schult

Junior Steward Dennis McNulty

Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Michael Fairbanks

Senior Steward Jon Syverson

Counselor Curt Campagna, P.M.

Degree Director Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

The End



Worshipful Master
Mick Olson

Brethren,

I can hardly believe it has been two years since I became the Master of Damascus Lodge. The time has gone so fast. We have accomplished so much together, these past two years. We have much to be proud of.

We have brought in more new members these past two years than we have seen in a very long time. Our fraternity is alive and well! Now that the "Me" generation is giving way, many good men are seeking something more than material objects. Our craft is as relevant today as it has ever been.

Our Lodge is benefiting greatly from this increased awareness of inner self. Not only are we gaining new members, but they are active members. Men who have joined for a purpose. Men who understand what Masonry is about and who want to be involved. To them, I say thank you for joining us. I could not be more proud of you and our Lodge.

I look back on all the successful outings we have had, not just for our members, but for our ladies and families as well. Masonry does take some time away from our families, but we have made the effort to assure our families benefit from our membership. Whether a rose for our Ladies at the 'Sweetheart Brunch', or the smiles on the faces of our youth at the Mustangs game, Circus, Mini Golf and Luau, we have lived up to our mantra that family should and must be our first priority.

To all who helped plan and attended these outings, thank you for your help and support.

I am very pleased as I look at our corps of officers. A short time ago we were 'recycling' our officers. Today we can boast that we have a full line of officers who plan to progress and be our leaders of tomorrow. They have worked hard these past two years, learning and working to promote our craft and our Lodge. From learning ritual parts to visiting our sister lodges, they have given countless hours to our Lodge and our craft. I wish to express my gratitude for their dedication. Damascus Lodge has a very bright future!

And now, like all Masters before me, it is time to ride off into the sunset. Hoping you have done enough, wishing you had done a little more. But satisfied that there are great men behind you who will carry on where you have left off.

Brethren, thank you for this opportunity to serve you as Master of Damascus Lodge. It has been two of the best years of my life and has given me memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. For your brotherly love and support, I am eternally grateful. My time as Master has come to an end. I now look forward to assisting our future Masters as they continue to strive to make Damascus the best lodge in Masonry.

See you in Lodge!!



A BUNCH OF DING A-LINGS

Damascus Lodge is continuing our tradition of Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Whitnall Pick N' Save. Check your calendar for Saturday, December 19th. We have time slots available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact Brother Mike Meyer, 414-821-4495 to sign up.

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

NO MEETING DECEMBER 22, 2009

Damascus Lodge will be dark on December 22nd. Please enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends.

REMINDER: YE OLDE CHRISTMAS FEAST

Damascus Lodge will once again be celebrating Christmas together at the South Milwaukee High School Music Department's 'Ye Olde Christmas Feast' on December 6, 2009 at 5:00 pm. Tickets are sold out! We're going to have a big group and have a great time!

Be sure to arrive before 5:00 or you will miss the grand entrance! You can find a map and other information at <http://smmusic.org/Feaste.htm>. We're looking to have a Jolly Good Time!! See you there!!

DUES NOTICES ON THE WAY

Dues notices are on their way and you should be receiving them shortly. Included with the dues notice will be a form with the current information that we have for you. Please review the information and making any changes or additions and return it to the Lodge Secretary, along with your dues.

NEWEST MASTER MASON



"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)

AT THE RIGHT HAND

“What induced you to become a Master Mason?”

By August of this year, I was really looking forward to dropping everything and getting to Northern Ireland for my annual visit with family. Thoughts and daydreams began to drift forward to October while work slipped and the grass in the yard began to look like stalks of wheat due to the mounds of neglect I was heaping on my chores.

October was later than normal for my visit due to my Cousin Jenny's wedding and the fact that I had been invited to said wedding. Since my visit was in October, that also meant that Lodge and Chapters were no longer dark and another cousin had set us up for a series of meetings to attend.

Craigtlet Lodge #354. I will never forget that it was here that my Masonic journey began in July of 2007 (see “Meet Your Senior Deacon”, January 2009 Trestleboard). Here I met men who knew my family and the Masons in it. Oh the stories that came forth. Stories aside, it was here where my trek to becoming a better man began; indeed I would not be half the man I am today if it were not for Freemasonry.

Bloomfield Lodge #543 presented an MM degree as a courtesy for another Lodge. That evening three countries and four Lodges were represented. Lodges from Scotland, America, and of course Ireland were in attendance. After the degree, dinner was served and the rest of the evening was filled with songs by Scottish and Irish Masons intermingled with stories, tales of lore and love, and jokes.

At Arthur Square Masonic Center where Temple #51 meets, it was my pleasure to be introduced to Brother Ron Wilson, at a birthday party after the Stated Meeting. Brother Wilson is the prime driving force behind the fund raising, restoration, and renewed interest in the Arthur Square Masonic Center. To appreciate the significance of this achievement one must see this building in “before” and “after” photos. Perhaps we as Damascus #290 can put together a contingent and take a trip to Belfast for the opportunity to appreciate this and the other beautiful Masonic Centers.

Every Lodge has ritual work. There are many differences in the way the work is performed between our jurisdictions; but as different as the performance of our ritual is, the meaning, timing, and words of the degrees are identical.

Although my participation was minor, I was honored, privileged and then humbled to be asked to participate in three degrees in three different Lodges. NO HESITATION on my part. The degree presenters were nearly flawless in their presentations and it was humbling to witness their work. As with Damascus Lodge, the Irish Masons work and practice degree presentations very tirelessly. My Brothers, it really shows. Many warm thoughts and thank you's go out to the Lodges I attended and especially to the candidates for sharing their night with me.

For my hard work during the degrees, I was paid significant Master's wages. While not the Masonic wages we refer to in our ritual or wages of financial remuneration, the wages of new friends, new Masonic bonds, and an appreciation for living life as a Mason go far beyond any “normal” wage. Oh yea, the dinners and tea were absolutely outstanding and they were presented in the normal Damascus manner..... Good food and lots of it.

My brothers, I could use the entire Trestleboard this month to describe the monumental and herculean effort on my part to travel into this wonderful foreign land to work with our Irish Brethren while forming new, deep, and lasting bonds and friendships. Instead, I will end here, save a few Irish adventures for next month, keep the memories of my continuing Masonic journey flowing through my mind and ever remember that I became a Master Mason so that I might travel into foreign countries; work and receive Master's wages.

Michael Fairbanks - Senior Deacon



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

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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

Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2010)	414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Larry Chadderdon	414-935-2708
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MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman Patrick Militzer and Master's Board Secretary Don O'Kray 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.

HITTING THE ROAD AND SHOWING THE COLORS!!!

