



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 11

December 2012



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our newest Master Mason, Scott Fairbanks. Scott was raised on November 27th, by his dear old Dad, our Counselor - Past Master Michael "Suga" Fairbanks. PM Suga is so very proud of his son, as is the entire Lodge. With the dedication, passion and love for the craft that Scott – who we affectionately call "Suga Cube" – has already shown, we believe Scott has a tremendous Masonic career ahead of him.

Congratulations are also in order to the new Officers of the Lodge that were elected during the November Stated Meeting. Congratulations to Sean Schult, Worshipful Master Elect for 2013. Along with Sean, congratulations to Tom Stachoviak for being elected Senior Warden, Steve Manthey – Junior Warden, Dale A. Graeven – Treasurer, Michael Meyer – Secretary and Matthew Wright – Trustee.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation of Damascus Lodge Officers for 2013 will be held on Sunday, December 16th. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5pm, a prime rib dinner will follow at 6pm and the Installation ceremony will start promptly at 7pm. This is an open installation, so family and guests are welcome; however, please rsvp Sean Schult at sean@flashfiresystems.com if you plan to attend so an accurate head count for dinner can be properly planned for.

BELL RINGING IN ACTION



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Installation*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *A Brother in Distress*
-  *Bell Ringing*
-  *Lodge Elections*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 2nd – Ye Olde Christmas Feaste – 5 pm.
 December 8th – Bell Ringing at Whitnall Pick N' Save. Ringing starts at 9am.
 December 8th – Lake Lodge Installation of Officers, Installation starts at 7 pm.
 December 11th – Stated Meeting, Toys-for-Tots night, dinner starts at 6pm.
 December 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!

MASONIC MILESTONES

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ALEXANDER MAVROS – 63 years | GEORGE J. KORKOS – 51 years |
| JOHN KUHN – 62 years | JAMES E. SCHNEIDER – 43 years |
| BERNIE C. BAUMGARDNER – 61 years | KELLY S. BROWN – 25 years |
| CHARLES L. VEIT – 60 years | |

Congratulations Brothers!!!!

A BROTHER IN DISTRESS

Why does Freemasonry exist? This is the first question we are asked to answer during our examinations in each of the three degrees in Blue Lodge. We all know it exists for three primary reasons, but I would like to take a close look at the reason of “assisting those suffering unfortunate circumstances”. Every one of us has stood before the Worshipful Master in the east poor and in destitution. It was impressed upon us to always be willing to help out and contribute to the relief of someone in a similar circumstance, more especially a brother Master Mason.

Recently a brother from our Lodge found himself in distress and in need of assistance from brothers who are members of a lodge half way across the country in Brookneal, Virginia. He sent an e-mail to the Secretary of Staunton River Lodge #155 with the subject heading of “A Brother in Distress”. In that letter he explained that he had some family issues that needed to be resolved in Brookneal and was in need of some council and/or assistance. He also mentioned that he was a Brother Mason in good standing from Wisconsin with no ties to their lodge or Freemasonry in Virginia. Well, the secretary, Bro. Richard Holt wrote back to our brother with his phone numbers so he can contact him with more information. In closing of his letter Bro. Richard told him “I’m looking forward to hearing from you and assisting your family as best we can.”

After many phone conversations, Brother Richard was able to organize a relief party to assist our brother in his time of need. Four brothers; Bros. Bob Meeks, Norwood Shorter, Marshal Crews and Bruce Hunt, all showed up to meet our brother and assist him in any way they could, some of them even taking the day off of work to do it. Five brothers came to the assistance of a distant brother of whom they did not know. The only knowledge they had was that he was a fellow brother Mason in distress.

All of us have our own views of what Freemasonry means to us and the direction in which we would like to see our lodge go. Some of us feel it is important to adhere to the very letter of our bylaws, some feel the solemnity of degree work should be kept at all times, some believe that a lodge ought to dress accordingly while meeting, and some believe it is important to have a plaque showing how many Lodge Excellence Award Points were awarded to our lodge. While all these beliefs are important, and by no means do I intend to debate as to whether one or another is more important, I feel they are all minor details in comparison to one of the true reasons why Freemasonry exists, “to assist those suffering unfortunate circumstances”. I would like to think that our Lodge would answer a call like this from a distant brother in the same manner. We could be the classiest dressed lodge that adheres perfectly to all rules and regulations with the top degree team and have as many LEA Points as dollars in the national debt, but if we fail to answer the call of one distressed brother Mason, then we truly miss one of the main reasons why Freemasonry exists.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our brothers of Staunton River Lodge #155 A.F. &A.M. for assisting our brother in his time of need, and assure them that if at any time they may be in need of assistance, they can count on their brothers at Damascus Lodge #290 F. &A.M. - Tom Stachowiak - Jr. Warden

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



I've read many trestleboards throughout my Masonic career and I've noticed that the December issue usually starts out in the same manner no matter which Lodge Trestleboard you are reading (except for the Grand Lodge of course). Most of the December issues start out with "It's hard to believe this is my last announcement." Before I served as Master, I never really paid much attention to those words, but now I have a complete understanding. The old saying of "Time flies when you're having fun" has never resonated so deeply until now....my final Trestleboard.

I've been told by a few Brothers that 2012 was a pretty good year for Damascus. Of course my reply is always "Well, I hope so", but truth be told every time I hear a Brother say that, it warms my heart. Of course, if I were to tell any of them that, they would think I was getting mushy and "sentimental" with them and the ribbing I would receive would be like a hail storm.

Reflecting on 2012, I have to agree with my Brothers, this was a pretty good year. I am so grateful for the Corps of Officers that were serving with me this year! Despite a few hiccups here and there (we are only human), all of them did an outstanding job.

I have learned so much serving as Worshipful Master – more than I could ever put in words. Serving as Master I have run through a gamut of emotions. The dynamics of our Lodge can be intense, exciting and sometimes, even sad and all of which experienced in one Stated Meeting. The pride I have felt for my Lodge, for my Brothers has known no boundaries and I wouldn't have traded this year for anything.

I would like to offer a special thanks to all the Past Masters that were there when I needed them; whether it was help with policies or regulations with the Lodge or Wisconsin Freemasonry or if I just needed someone to listen, they were there for me and I'm truly thankful so many of them are still active in the Lodge. Thanks to all the dedicated Brothers who filled in needed areas when we needed them at a moment's notice, who helped out in the kitchen when we were short handed and most of all, for just being there – for attending the meetings, the events and the degrees. Brother Loren Salsman sent me a story about members of the Lodge being like embers that glow in a fire. When one ember is removed, it glows momentarily, but eventually becomes cold. However, as soon as the cold ember is reunited with the glowing embers, the fire is rekindled and the light shines ever so bright. I think of that story every time I see my Damascus Lodge Brothers – alone we glow for only so long, but together we're a Damascus sized fire!

I hope everyone has a wonderful, joyous and safe holiday season and very happy New Year. I also charge any of you, who are reading this and haven't been to a Lodge meeting, an event or a degree for some time to make a New Year's resolution for yourself and come see what you are missing at your Lodge. That's how my Masonic fire was rekindled and I have enjoyed every moment of it thus far.

Matthew Wright
Worshipful Master



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

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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

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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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Junior Steward Paul Peacock
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

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