



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume X, Issue 3

December 2013



## ELECTIONS

At the very well attended November Stated Meeting, elections were held for the 2014 Officer Corps. Congratulations to those elected and appointed to serve Damascus Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year: WM, Mick Olson, PM; SW, Curt Campagna, PM; JW, Steve Manthey; Treasurer, Dale A. Graeven, PM; Secretary, Mike Meyer, PM; Chaplain, Don Okray; SD, Paul Peacock; JD, Nate Butts; SS, Scott Fairbanks; JS, Brian Bertram; Counselor, Pat Militzer, PM; Tiler, Dale R. Graeven, PM. Nathan Butts will join Pat Militzer, PM and Matt Wright, PM as Trustees.

We wish all these Brethren good luck and much success in the upcoming year. But the Officers remind us that while they will do their best to serve Damascus, to be truly successful we need the participation of our membership. We hope to see everyone at our meetings and events. As we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and brotherly love, so do we strengthen our Lodge.

## INSTALLATION

The installation of officers who will serve Damascus Lodge for 2014 will be held at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Lake Masonic Center. Desserts will be served following the installation ceremony. Please come and support your new Corps of Officers.

## LOTS

Our 'Social Night' on January 28, 2014 will be devoted to Lodge Officer Training. This will be the first training session of the year and will focus on 'Officer Duties and Expectations', the 2014 Lodge Calendar, and 'Lodge Events and Planning'. Lodge Officers are expected to attend. All interested in becoming Lodge Officers are encouraged to attend and all Master Masons are welcome to attend.

Brother Bert will be serving his world famous chili at 6:00 pm. Training begins at 7:00 pm. Bring note pads, pens and appetites.

## LETS LEARN

On January 29, 2014 our very own W. Bro. Matt Wright will be conducting his first School of Instruction as District Lecturer for District 12. This is a great opportunity for us to learn from 'The Master' as well as show our support for Matt in his new 'job'. Officers are expected to attend and all Master Masons are welcome. Dinner will be available for \$10.00 for those wishing to partake. Dinner is at 6:00 pm with the meeting at 7:00 pm. All this is happening at Tripoli Shrine Center, Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Join us for an informational evening of fellowship.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Election & Installation*
-  *A Past Master's Musings*
-  *2014 Lodge Events*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*
-  *Sweethearts Brunch*
-  *Lots of Learning*
-  *60Yrs in Freemasonry*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2013 -2014

Date	Event	Date	Event
Dec 11	Installation	Aug	Renaissance Faire (TBA) (F)
Dec 7	Bell Ringing	Sep 4	Lake Masonic Center Picnic
Dec 15	Christmas Carol - @West Bend Lodge	Sep 23	DL 290 Slot Car Race
Jan 28	Officers planning session (6:30 pm)	Oct 12	Past Master's Dinner**(TBA)
Jan 29	School of Instruction: Tripoli	Oct 26	Halloween Party (F&F)
Feb 2	Sweethearts Brunch** (11:00 am)	Nov ?	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night
Feb 25	Movie Night (Invite Lake Lodge)	Dec	Jingle Bus ? (TBA) (F)
Mar 23	Black & Blue Ball (3:00 pm) (F&F)	Dec 9	Lodge Christmas Party – Toys for Tots
Mar 28(?)	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night	TBA	Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream)(F)
Apr 29	District 12 Meeting		(F) denotes family event
Jun 1	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (F&F)		** Spouses/Partners Invited
Jun 6&7	Grand Lodge		(F&F) family and friends invited
Jun 30	Knife & Fork Degree	Jun 13	Bethel No. 6 Installation
Jul	Chinooks Baseball Game (TBA) (F)	Jun 28	Doric Chapter Installation

### LODGE TRAINING - OCTOBER 2013



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## MUSINGS OF A PAST MASTER

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Congratulations to our newly elected Worshipful Master, Charles “Mick” Olson. We are looking forward to your third term as Master of Damascus Lodge #290.

During our Lodge elections held recently, I couldn't help but think back to when I was first elected Worshipful Master of my Lodge. I remember on installation day, sitting in the Master's chair alone in the Lodge room and being nearly overwhelmed with the enormity of being Master as I looked out at the seats on the Lodge floor. And at the same time, I was so excited at the prospect of setting and achieving goals – both for the good of the craft and personal goals.

While sitting in that empty Lodge room in “the Chair”, I knew was going to need all the help I could get – so in keeping with my Entered Apprentice charge and knowing full well I was going to lean on those around me I invoked the blessing of Deity with words I'll never forget; “God, what have I done? Please be with me and don't let me fall during this year”.

There were many successes and a few falls during my year as Master. We had good times; we had our ups and downs but no matter what the discussion, no matter the outcome, no matter that we didn't always agree on something, we always came away with a plan, shook hands, smiled, called and treated each other as brother. So many mistakes I made, and to this day, I have as yet to hear the immortal words of “I told you so” from any of the Brethren.

I experienced the truths that only Freemasonry can teach – I learned to be patient, compassionate, and humble. I learned very quickly that a good leader is one who leans on those around him and asks for help when needed. In short, I learned how to make decisions and I learned how to lead.

The memories of my year as Worshipful Master flooded back and as I thought about what perhaps was one of the best years of my life, I looked over at my son whom I initiated, passed, and raised. I thought how easy it would be to become envious of my own son – just starting his Masonic Journey with so much ahead of him. I know someday, he too will sit in the Masters chair.

From the time I walked through the door at Damascus Lodge #290, I met men who were Masons, who became valued and cherished advisors; advisors who mentored and taught. New forever bonds were formed with men who could put you on the verge of tears with a few words and who, at their passing; you closed a door and shed those tears.

In our Entered Apprentice degree we learn at one point that we might have been led out of the Lodge “without seeing the form thereof”. What a shame it would have been had I not had the privilege of becoming a Mason. Forever bonds would never have been formed, and a large part of my life would be missing without my ever knowing the form thereof.

As Entered Apprentices, part of the “Charge” given us is that “attendance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited”. Indeed, attendance in any of the appendant bodies where you are a member is earnestly solicited and encouraged.

There are those times when we come home from the job tired and having to face life's problems. It's easy then to not want to come to a meeting. But I submit to you that these are the times when Masonic refreshment is most fruitful and most needed. These are the times when a story or kind words from a Mason with 40, 50, or 60 years of Masonic life are most welcomed. These are the times when a zinger from a close brother is needed to bring a smile and melt a bit of stress away.

As one of many, many Past Masters of Damascus Lodge #290, I heartily and earnestly solicit your attendance at our meetings. Reconnect with Brethren whom you have not seen for a while, catch up on the happenings and doings. One can reap real benefits of Masonry and there are a lot of benefits, but one should attend our stated meetings to reap those benefits.

By Michael Fairbanks, PM



*You're Invited !!*

*Damascus Lodge's Annual  
Sweetheart's Brunch*

*Sunday, February 2, 2014*

*11:00 am*

The Silver Spring Country Club  
N56W21318 Silver Spring Dr,  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin



Ladies of the Lodge will be our guests. The cost for all others is \$25.00

R.S.V.P. Brother Paul Peacock by **January 28<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Phone 1-414-617-5341 or [imnphx2@yahoo.com](mailto:imnphx2@yahoo.com)



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Gift of the Season

As I sit here and start a week of holiday vacation, I see all the ads for the big ticket items retailers think we need to give, in order to be good gifters. Then I think of what this wonderful holiday season should mean to us in the depths of our heart. The two ideas are far apart. The example of true gifting is to give to others, of ourselves, with no need to be compensated or rewarded. The gift of a smile to a stranger or the donation of food to a homeless shelter, the gift of a donation at the blood center for someone really in need. Those are the gifts of our self that might truly bring hope and joy to our world.

Our advertisement for true holiday gifting might be the example of a simple fisher of men, who had no budget to draw from, but gave to us all the greatest gift we have ever received, even though he asks no exorbitant fee, wants no splashy publicity for the good he did.

So consider that random act of kindness, that smile and hello to someone we don't know or wouldn't normally greet. Consider the assistance to a charity or shelter to give some less fortunate family a warm meal. Think outside the box, maybe take the time to make a true donation of yourself, as I plan to go to the blood center and give platelets. I found that one donation can help three people suffering from cancer, or trauma, or accident. If everyone reading this could do one act of true giving imagine what we as the family of Damascus 290 could accomplish in this season of giving.

One last thought for this season. Take a moment, look at the gifts bestowed on us, not because we deserve them, but because of the goodness of that simple fisher of men who has seen the possibility in all of us, and thank him from the bottom of your heart. Can we follow his example and make this season of giving one to truly be proud of our actions.

May the Blessings of the true spirit of giving fill all our hearts and may you all, enjoy this upcoming holiday season, from myself and my family to each of you. You are a blessing in our world.

Bro. Don OKray, Chaplain for 2014

## CHIL'S CORNER



## SIXTY YEARS IN FREEMASONRY



1953

1. The first issue of TV Guide magazine hits the newsstands
2. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower inaugurated president of United States
3. Ernest Hemingway wins Pulitzer for The Old Man and the Sea
4. Joseph Stalin suffers a stroke and collapses. He dies four days later.
5. Warner Brothers premieres the first 3-D film, entitled House of Wax.
6. Wrestler Freddie Blassie coins term "Pencil neck geek"
7. John Chadderdon was Raised Master Mason
8. "Amos 'n Andy," TV Comedy, also radio from '29; last aired on CBS
9. Elvis Presley graduates from LC Humes High School in Memphis Tenn
10. Milton Berle Show premieres
11. US Supreme Court rules (7-2) baseball is a sport not a business

Did I mention that John was raised A Master Mason! It seems like a long time ago, and it was. Dale Graeven Jr. wasn't even born (I know that's hard to believe but Mick Olson remembers it). What a path John has walked, he has been a Past Master of Damascus Lodge and sat as a long time Secretary. John has also been a Past Master of Daylight Lodge and I have heard of his amazing meals he has graciously served to the Brothers. John has been involved with Eastern Star and the Youth Groups. I know I

don't have a complete list, but I do know John introduced me to Masonry and has always been a team player. I have seen his joy and pride of having his son Larry Chadderdon raised into the Lodge. John has also had long time friends such as Lou Montgomery who has been John's wingman ever since I have known him; they almost seem like Batman and Robin (not sure who is Batman and who is Robin). We all have learned a great deal about Masonry and how to be a good man and husband by John's example. We celebrate 60 years of John walking the path of Masonry.

Submitted by Curt Campagna, P.M.



## A MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings, Brethren!

No, it's not a case of DeJaVu, or a really bad dream, I really am back. And I want to thank the members of this Lodge for their confidence in giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve our beloved Damascus Lodge. I have assembled a team I am very proud of, and in whom I have the utmost confidence to lead our Lodge into the future. Except for a couple of old guys near the top, our officer line is full of very capable, committed men who will form the nexus of our Lodge leadership for years to come. With our Senior Warden, Curt, and all our Past Masters pitching in, we will do our best to give these future leaders the best training and experience in our power, to prepare them for their advancement through the chairs. It is our hope that as each of them completes his term of leadership, the Lodge members will shake his hand in thanks, and tell him, 'You were the best Master we've ever had!'

We've decided to adopt a theme this year of 'Back to Basics'. For our Lodge to advance to the next level, we need to stress communication. Communication not only serves to inform, but include. We have many members who are unable to attend our meetings, and though they are not able to be with us, I want them all to know we are thinking of them and they are a vital cog in the success of our Lodge. We need everyone's support to grow and thrive as a Lodge family.

Masonic Education will be stressed. To know our gentle craft is to love it. An understanding of our heritage and the traditions of how and why we operate as we do must be understood. Our newer members have much to learn about how we do things, and why we do them that way. But we also look to them to help us understand how we can evolve to meet their needs. How the technology of today can help us reach out to our membership and inspire them. It is our goal to build leaders ready to meet our future.

Our craft is old. Very old. I've heard it said that we are irrelevant today; out of touch; dinosaurs of ages past. I argue that never before has our craft been more relevant! In our hustle and bustle world of today, when it seems so many are focused on ME rather than WE, it is abundantly clear that the teachings of our craft are not just relevant, but desperately needed. Brotherly love, relief and truth. Temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. Lodge serves as a place where men of like mind and heart can gather for fellowship and be encouraged that they are not the only ones who hold these 'old fashioned ideas' near and dear. A place to escape the 'rat race' and competition of who can gather the most wealth. A place to encourage who best can work and best agree. We are beginning to see resurgence in men looking for a place to learn and practice these ideals. A place where a man can find fellowship and support, friendship and understanding. It is our job to let them know they can find all this, and more at Damascus Lodge.

On behalf of all of us I extend our thanks to Past Master Sean and his Corps of Officers for all their work this past year. We've done some fun things together and the year had much success for us to build on. We've learned much to help us grow.

And that will be our goal for this year. To grow in knowledge. To grow leaders. To grow brotherhood. Too grow in Masonry. Together we can achieve our goal, and grow Damascus Lodge.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson, P.M. ,Worshipful Master Elect



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)

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*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

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## 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.

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## 2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master  
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M.

[worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto:worshipful.master@dl290.org)

Senior Warden  
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Junior Warden  
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Junior Deacon Nathan Butts  
Junior Steward Brian Bertram

Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock  
Senior Steward Scott M. Fairbanks  
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.