



DAMASCUS
290
F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

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The Results Are In!

Gentlemen – YOUR ENGINES WERE PLUGGED IN! And the main attraction – The DL290 Open Slot Car Race – was held on March 31. And as promised, the results are in.

It was a long, grueling 45 minutes of racing. A long night indeed for the Brethren of Damascus 290 to stand and pull the engine trigger – the most exercise that a lot of us have had in a year. There were crashes, spinouts, and a lot of hustling by the track stewards to ensure said wrecked cars were put back on the track and into the race.

Only one restart was required when the Junior Warden forgot to list one of the participants into the computer for entry. Actually, it was a disguised, horrid conspiracy entered into with all members of the Lodge and by the Junior Warden to derail the Graeven family plan of double winners in consecutive years.

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The Results Are In (cont'd)

With Paul Graeven in the lead, a restart was required to add the missing participant. Look, I know the fellas personally and will have a word with them. There were no other mishaps, restarts or injuries, other than the occasional finger being run over by a zealous racing sojourner anxious to get to the finish line. After the proper amount of teasing and abuse over the whining was handed out to the complainer, the race would continue.

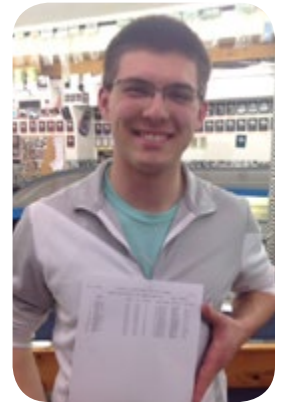
Prior to the race, Worshipful Bro. Dale was caught attempting to climb into his slot car. A photo was taken: look closely and you can see his right foot raised in the sneaky attempt; until he noticed the camera, and his progress toward getting into the car was thwarted. Not being able to catch him at the right moment, his secret and the secret of Worshipful Bro. Sean – who was too busy shooting photos to make his attempt – will remain a secret.



Given the strenuous nature of pulling the trigger on the engine gun, we were all hungry and thirsty after

the race. Post-race activities were held at Filippo's Italian Restaurant where all racers, including our potential candidates Paul Graeven and John Ellis, were refreshed with lots of pizza, soda, and water.

Who won? After the restart and all attempts to otherwise sideline and derail the plot by Worshipful Bro. Dale and our soon to be Bro. Paul, Paul overcame the plotting and undermining attempts to keep him out of the winners circle. He prevailed and took first place. Second place was ... okay, third place was ... really? Who remembers the winner of the silver and bronze medals anyway?



Congratulations to Paul Graeven, and thank you one and all for coming out to race. The fellowship, camaraderie, and refreshment are a vital part of our Lodge and fraternity. I can't think of a better group of guys to be related to and to be a part of.

The Master's Message

by Curt Campagna, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the West!

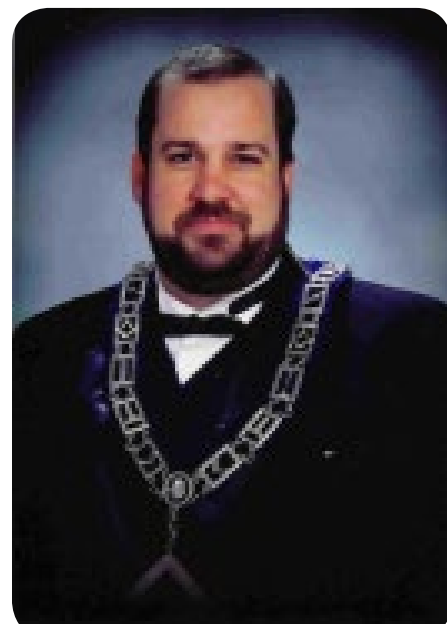
So many great things happening in Damascus Lodge right now with fun activities, great work, and some amazing FOOD! We just got a new petition and a number more are on their way. We have a bunch of degree work on the horizon, including an EA in May and at least one MM and two FCs. In April we had our movie night and the Knife and Fork Degree (limited tickets), and we are supporting Lake Lodge in their Spaghetti Dinner. Also in May, we are going bowling and hope to see Brother Flintstone rolling those rocks. Remember Brothers that the movie night and the bowling event are stag events that are opportunities to invite prospective members.

June brings us Grand Communications in Madison where Masons from across the state meet to represent their respective Lodges. Our June stated meeting will be a Hawaiian shirt night with shorts. Come in your favorite Hawaiian look!

Also, we will be attending The Lakeshore Chinooks game in June (info coming soon). The Lakeshore Chinooks are a collegiate, summer baseball team in Mequon, and the game is a wonderful family friendly event.

Another one to put on your schedule is September 27 when we will be celebrating our 110th anniversary of our Lodge. This evening's event will be held at The Tripoli Shrine Center with dinner and entertainment, along with a program to follow. This lavish evening will be one to remember! Details will be released soon.

This is just touching the surface on all that is going on in your Lodge. Remember, the best way to get the most out of your Masonic life is to participate. Your Lodge is always here for you, and we love to hear from those who can't make it to our meetings. As a Lodge team, we will continue to help you grow, and provide events and activities for all. God Bless.



Curt Campagna, PM
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

May

12th – Stated Communication

Dinner at 6 pm

Lodge at 7 pm

Dress Code: business casual

20th – Presentation
of scholarships at
the high schools
More details coming

21st – Bowling Social

6:30 pm

JB's (4040 S 27th St., Milw.)

RSVP by May 12th

26th – EA Degree

Dress Code: formal

June

5th-6th – Grand
Sessions in Madison

14th – Chinooks

Baseball Game

5:00 pm game time

RSVP by June 1st



Yabba Dabba Do!!! Time to go bowling on May 21!

The Lodge invites you to a stag bowling event:

**Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm
at the new JB's at
4040 S 27th St. in Milwaukee**

Cost is only \$5, or free for a prospective member. Or
just come out to watch and be a part of the fun!

Please register by **May 12** so we can figure how many
lanes to get for the evening. Contact Brother Dale (the
original Fred Flintstone) at treasurer@dl290.org.



WANTED

**Good men who have a belief in
God and are of good character.**

We do not make "bad men into good men." Freemasonry stresses honor, personal responsibility and personal integrity. This distinction is critical, so we look to you to invite the quality of men we are looking for.

So, if you know one of these men with good character that you can vouch for, invite him to one of our friends' events or talk to our counselor!



Are They Just Words?

It is so easy when giving *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the flag to just dribble the words out that we learned in grade school so long ago. We are so used to saying those words that they almost seem robotic.

Next time that you get a chance to perform *The Pledge of Allegiance*, I ask that you take in each word and truly take your time and think about those words you are saying.

Remember that this is a pledge to that flag and to the country we reside in. These words are ones that people have fought and died for. I think one of the greatest explanations was taught to us from Brother Red Skelton way back in 1969 on his weekly show. If you have not seen this performance, you can search for "Red Skelton Pledge of Allegiance" on YouTube. It is well worth a view.

How many of us have done the same thing when singing the *Star-Spangled Banner*? We all at one time fall into routine, but I am sure all those who served in war take each of these patriotic songs and *The Pledge of Allegiance* very seriously.

Let us never forget the sacrifices or the blood that have been given for our ability to say those words. They are not just words: they are part of an ideal. A gift and right to all free people. One nation under God.



New Lodge Gear

Greetings from the East!

We are getting some shirts made, and possibly hats, with our Lodge info and the Square and Compass put on them. These will be considered Lodge shirts and can be worn whenever we are attending appropriate events, or if you just want to go styling! We will announce when we will be putting in a group order, and we will then also include any other clothing you might want to order. Info will be coming out soon with costs, dates, and order instructions.

By the Plumb: A Junior Warden's Thoughts

"Diamonds in the Rough"

By Michael Fairbanks
Junior Warden



A Past Master of Damascus once described friends. He said, "A good friend is one who will come in the middle of the night and bail you out of jail. Your best friend will look at you with a grin and ask 'Man, we really messed up this time, didn't we?'"

My best friend and I would always take the blame for each other. This would frustrate our parents, and invariably we would wind up sitting on the couch waiting for dad to come home. My dad would come in the house, spot Phil and I on the couch, and with a knowing look, roll his eyes as if to say, "now what??"

Mum and dad would exchange pleasantries, have a wee conversation about things during the day, not mentioning either Phil or myself. Then, as the

pleasantries came to an end and their conversation would die off, my mum would very calmly add, "Kill those two." Without asking the reason for our death sentences, dad would take us into the orchards just out of hearing range and within eyesight of our mums. There he would ask why we were in trouble, then stomp around, shake his finger, kick a little dirt in the air and laugh as hard as I have ever seen anyone laugh about whatever event propelled Phil and I into his line of fire.

As I lay in bed at night, I could hear my mum and dad whispering and giggling. I could never quite make out what was being said, but I knew without a doubt the discussion centered on Phil and I, just from hearing my mum tell my dad, "Well, I suppose they're just diamonds in the rough." In their later years, both mums would admit outright that they knew what our dads were doing and cackle like old hens like they had pulled one over on us.

Having landed at Damascus 290 in September of 2007, I never dreamed that I would see the same type of loyalty and friendship as Phil and I had growing up and have today. Never had I thought it possible that a group of people

could bond as the members of Damascus have bonded. As I sit for the second time in the Junior Warden's chair, I would stand in an orchard with any of my Brethren and them with me. I see this also with the young women of Job's Daughters and the young men of DeMolay.

I see fellowship, friendship, and love for each other in both groups. How refreshing it is to see this group of youngsters bond and encircle each other. During my installation as Worshipful Master in January of 2011, my five-year-old granddaughter was taken in by the Daughters, and off they went. She would tell me later, in great detail, everything the Daughters had done for and with her. She told us all about her new "friends." What a great testament to the parents and their dedication to this group of young women and how they are being raised.

The young men of DeMolay work as hard as the Job's Daughters: carefully and somewhat shyly going about their Lodge work and rituals; planning and executing events. They support each other while learning and building their self-esteem. Accepting new initiates as friends and brothers, making them feel the warmth, welcome, and security

of friendship. One young man whom I noticed in 2010 would barely speak above a whisper. In the year which followed, that same young man would come to stand and make his voice heard; his level of confidence and self-esteem were clearly visible. This group of young men would gladly stand in an orchard with each other, and as with the Daughters, are a true testament to the hard work and parental dedication to raising their young men.

These groups instill a confidence and pride which propel them into the world of success as they grow and mature into societal functioning adults. If I were a betting man, I would wager that the educational and career success

of individuals of our youth groups is higher than that of individuals who did not have the privilege of membership.

Damascus Lodge is, once again, making a concerted effort to bolster and recognize our youth groups. We have made contributions to the Job's Daughters and will be making contributions to the Doric Chapter of DeMolay as well. We as a Lodge need to step up and give them as much support as possible. The old adage of "these children are our future" now, more than ever, aptly applies, and one day they will be Masons and Stars. They, as Masons, will remember who was there for them, and they in turn will be there to support their Lodges and youth groups.

Given the support of the very Masons they are destined to become, they will polish themselves and each other, they will no longer be "diamonds in the rough," but each will become a sparkling diamond of hope, charity, and relief.

The Job's Daughters meet every first and third Friday. The Doric Chapter of DeMolay meets every second and fourth Thursday. Contact Bros. Campagna, Dale A. Graeven, Brian Bertram, or mom's Campagna, Graeven and Bertram for details. My brothers – be there AND be square.

Go Fish!

Join us for an evening of hot dogs, peanuts, cracker jack and ... baseball!

**Only \$5.00 per
person**

**Kids 17 & Under
FREE!**

Kapco Park
Concordia University
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Mequon, WI

RSVP to Bro. Nate at
414-405-6383
by June 1st, 8:00 am



**June 14, 2015
@ 5:00 pm**



Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. & A. M.

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**The Real Secret of
Freemasonry – Making
Good Men Better**

Lodge Trustees

Matthew Wright, P. M. (2015)
414-254-5677

Nathan Butts (2016)
414-727-9772

Dale A. Graeven (2017)
414-852-4838

Sick And Visitation Chairperson

Nathan Butts
414-727-9772

Master's Board

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board President Mick Olson and Master's Board Secretary Brian Bertram would like to remind you to keep an eye out for new candidates for the Lodge.

2015 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Curt A. Campagna, P. M.
worshipful.master@dl290.org

Treasurer

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

Senior Warden

Nathan Butts
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Secretary

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secretary@dl290.org

Junior Warden

Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.
junior.warden@dl290.org

Chaplain Kirby Timm

Senior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Deacon Brian Bertram
Senior Steward Matthew Hanchek
Junior Steward Don O'Kray
Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.