



**DAMASCUS**  
**290**  
F. & A.M.

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XII, Issue VIII  
August 2015



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## Degree Work

On June 23, Damascus Lodge welcomed two Fellow Crafts, Brothers Mike Corso and David Menke.

Michael Fairbanks conferred the degrees, and the degree team put on excellent work. It was a wonderful night and the new Fellow Crafts loved the degree.

We're busy doing degree work and would love to see you at Lodge for the upcoming MM and EA degrees.



Watch *The Trestleboard* and emails for the degree nights, and come out for the fellowship as we continue to grow our membership. We are conferring an MM degree on August 25.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August

11th – Scholarship Recipients

Dinner

Dinner at 6 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

Dress code: Jacket and Tie

15th – District Meeting

(tentative)

23rd – Mini Golf

River Falls Family Fun Center

RSVP to Mike Fairbanks

25th – Master Mason Degree

### September

13th – 110th Anniversary

Tripoli Shrine Center

Social at 5 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

RSVP online by Sept. 7 at noon

Damascus Lodge No. 290

# 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

You are invited to help us celebrate our 110th Anniversary and honor the Past Masters of Damascus Lodge who have guided us.

*"Love one another with brotherly affection.  
Outdo one another in showing honor."  
(Romans 12:10 ESV)*

We look forward to honoring our Past, Present and Future. In celebration and fellowship we will be hosting a dinner on:



**September 13th, 2015**  
at the Tripoli Shrine Center



5 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)  
featuring a Barbershop Quartet

6 p.m. Dinner

After Dinner A Program with guest speaker  
M.W. Grand Secretary  
Michael A. DeWolf, PGM

**\$25 per Attendee**

Past Masters and any widows of Damascus Lodge  
are free to attend.

Register online by noon on September 7 at:  
<http://dl290.brownpapertickets.com>



# The Master's Message

by Curt Campagna, Worshipful Master

Greetings:

***\*Freemasonry is  
a way of life\****

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania states:

*A Way of Life - Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance toward evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another, and above all reverence and love for God.*

Freemasonry is many things, but, most of all: **Freemasonry is a way of life.**

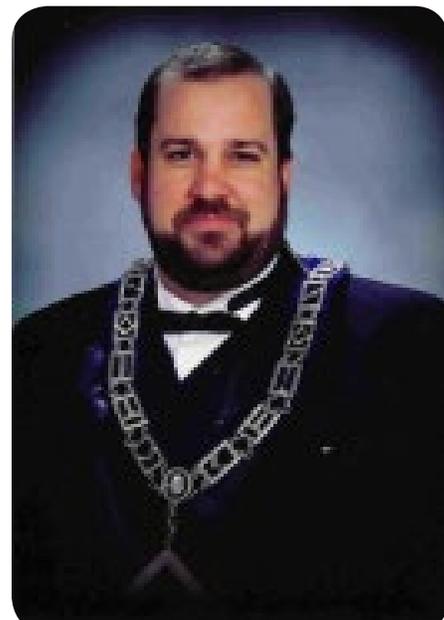
Some of us found Masonry early in our lives, and others late in life. Each story is unique in the draw that led the Brother to find the craft. The bottom line is, when we took that first step, our lives changed forever.

So is the Lodge changing, with fluctuations in membership, makeup and numbers. The things that stay the same are our core values and moral principles that are taught with a goal to be a better organization striving to serve its membership better.

This is not the organization that you join for a year or two. Masonry changes, and so shall the members. Masonry changes one's way of life in making a good man and making him better by the rich tapestry of teachings that are taught to the man.

As we think back to that event of being raised in our Home Lodge, we understand the honor that our Brothers gave to us in taking the time and energy that produced our Masonic journey up to that time. Our Home Lodge always fill us with sentimental thoughts and memories. As life sometimes directs us in different directions; some have had to move away from their Home Lodge, maybe for work, or love, or just because we found a better place to live. If Damascus is your Home Lodge, we will always leave a light on for you, no matter where you live.

If we are not your Lodge and yet your Home Lodge is far away, you are always welcome to our family. A family is what visitors have always commented about this Lodge. On your travels in life's road map remember that you always have a home waiting for you in your Home Lodge of Damascus.



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

# What Makes a Man a Mason

by Kirby Timm, Chaplain

In every Entered Apprentice degree, there is one important question that's asked which I'd like to talk about. It isn't one that's asked to the candidate, but instead to a fellow Mason.

The question, I'm speaking of is "How shall I know you to be a Mason?" The answer to this question is, of course, "This dues card here, in my wallet. That's how you know me to be a Mason." Well, that was a quick and easy discussion!

Wait, what do you mean, "No, that's not right?" Are you sure? You're telling me that being a Mason requires MORE than just paying my dues every year? That doesn't sound right at all! Let us consult "the Googles," for "the Googles" knows all and is willing to tell you, assuming you ask nicely. According to several sites, a Mason is one that is a member of the Freemason fraternity. See, so this dues card IS what makes me a Mason! I told you so! Boom, easy short article!

Hmmm? What do you mean it's more than just being a member of the fraternity? While "technically" being a member of the fraternity does make one a Mason, there is more to it. I was trying to describe this more intangible element of Freemasonry when the big G smiled upon me. I wish I was more eloquent with words and could easily describe the "more" that there is to being a Mason; however, I couldn't put it any better than George H. Free did in his poem, "What Makes a Mason."

What makes you a Mason, O brother of mine?  
It isn't the dueguard, nor is it the sign,  
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast,  
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed,

It isn't the step, nor the token, nor grip,  
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,  
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word,  
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.

Though these are essential, desirable, fine,  
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.  
That you to your sworn obligation are true-  
"Tis, that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.

Secure in your heart you must safeguard your trust,  
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,  
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,  
Be chaste in thought, in your word and deed,

Support him who falters, with hope banish fear,  
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.  
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,  
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,  
The gavel to vices with courage apply;  
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,  
On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come;

The book of your faith be the rule and the guide,  
The compass your passions shut safely inside;  
The stone which the Architect placed in your care  
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square,

And then you will meet with approval divine,  
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

**"What Makes a Mason"**  
– George H. Free (MM)

# By the Plumb

by Michael Fairbanks, Junior Warden

## Travel into Foreign Lands

I often find myself going through my journals and refreshing my memory with my journeys to Ireland and of the many fine and wonderful Masons it has been my honor to meet. The privilege of attending Lodge in beautiful buildings that are older than our country and being in fellowship with our Brothers, surrounded by the pictures and history of the Lodge, is beyond description. It is only when you step into an Irish Lodge while in Ireland can you fully appreciate our history as a worldwide Masonic fraternity.

Our brothers in Ireland take Masonry very seriously. Dress is business; dark suit or dark matching slacks, shirt and tie, polished shoes, white gloves and dark jacket. No one enters into an open Lodge with anything less. To see an Irish 3rd (Master) degree conferred by Masons that have been in the Fraternity for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years and even longer is to see a conferral done to near perfection. And that "does not get any better than this."

Want a history lesson in Masonry? Ask Brothers Ivan McCartney, Bob Arnott, Colin McGarrity, Ted Hayes, or Francis Craig, whom you would most certainly meet should you ever appear in any Lodge around Belfast. At least one of them is going to be in that Lodge. You will be entranced and awash with invaluable Masonic knowledge and history.

Seeing the results of a Brother Mason's hard labor is indeed refreshing and makes one proud to be a Mason. Arthur's Square Masonic Center in Belfast City Center (downtown) is a prime example of a Masonic Labor of Love. The effort that Brother Ron Wilson put forth in the restoration of the building to keep it open for the Masonic Fraternities is really nothing short of Herculean. The before and after photos are astonishing.

Of course, when one travels to Ireland, the travels are not all work and no play. Giant's Causeway, the Coast Road and the ever-present view of Scotland over the Irish Sea, and trips around Lough Neigh and Strangford Lough are breathtaking anytime of the

year. The legends and lore of Finn McCool abound all through Ireland, and the residents are not bashful about telling their versions of the Irish Giant that saved Ireland from the most dire of calamities and invasions, to being scared sockless of his wife. My favorite is how Giant's Causeway and Lough Neigh came to be at the hands of Finn.

And if you happen to be awake around the break of dawn and are lucky enough, Ye might be spottin' a wee Leprechaun or two. Just be careful where you toss the dirty mop and dish water.

**See you at the  
next meeting.  
Be there AND be  
square.**

## On the Level

by Nathan Butts, Senior Warden

Every time we open Lodge, I remind all members what my duties are and what all our duties are. As such I want to focus on helping, lending aid, and being charitable.

This month I asked our Worshipful Master to allow me to form a committee for charity work. I have formed this committee. It consists of Mike Fairbanks, Brian Bertram, and myself. We are going to be researching and planning charity events for any and all of us to attend for several reasons.

One reason is to get us out in the public view doing the charity work we speak and accomplish every year. We provide funds every year to charities, children via scholarships, toys, cash, etc.; but we do not make ourselves publicly visible as we should.

We sell ourselves and the fraternity by the work we do, how we are obligated to act, and the public should see us that way. This will promote us more than anything else. People will recognize us for who we are; they can and will feel the need to ask about us and find interest in becoming one of us.

This will be the main focus of the committee, to find events, public events, which we can participate in as a group and work hard to promote ourselves while maintaining true to ourselves. We will be looking at helping host events, or at least being active, supportive participants, or helping in the background, wherever the need may arise.

Events like separating food, packing, or delivering food for the Hunger Task Force, helping out at charity fundraising events, sponsoring events, participating in charity cook-offs, and more.

If anyone knows of events, please send to [nb290@wi.rr.com](mailto:nb290@wi.rr.com). If we all work together, we can achieve anything and our numbers will multiply like rabbits.





**Coming Sunday Aug. 23, 2015  
2:30 P.M.**

**Bring the whole family!**

**Join the Damascus Lodge family as we spend the afternoon with the Masters, the missing links... Yea, the missing link Masters - anyway, join them ON the links!!**

**River Falls Family Fun Center**

**5401 W. Layton Avenue, Greenfield**

**Mini Golf, Pizza, Fellowship, Fun**

**then:**

**It'll be pizza time at:**

**Organ Piper Pizza**

**4353 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St. Greenfield**

**\$10.00 for Members and Family**

**\$20.00 for Guests**

**Contact Bro. Mike at**

**414.397.0330**

**[mfairbanks@wi.rr.com](mailto:mfairbanks@wi.rr.com)**





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

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

**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**

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#### **Worshipful Master**

Curt A. Campagna, P. M.  
[worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto:worshipful.master@dl290.org)

#### **Treasurer**

Dale A. Graeven, P. M.  
[treasurer@dl290.org](mailto:treasurer@dl290.org)

#### **Senior Warden**

Nathan Butts  
[senior.warden@dl290.org](mailto:senior.warden@dl290.org)

#### **Secretary**

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.  
[secretary@dl290.org](mailto:secretary@dl290.org)

#### **Junior Warden**

Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.  
[junior.warden@dl290.org](mailto: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.