



DAMASCUS
290
F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

Volume XII, Issue X
October 2015



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110th Anniversary

On September 13, 36 members of Damascus Lodge, including wives and Grand Lodge officers, met for a great night of historical remembrance and to honor past Lodge masters. A social hour started the festivities with a barber shop quartet singing for the entertainment of all, along with a bar for members to get a beverage to enjoy while socializing. Chaplain Kirby Timm led us in prayer to open the event, knowing it may be his last time to do so, as he is relocating to Tennessee before the end of the month. Several toasts

were given during the meal, and after the fine meal, past masters were asked to rise and speak about the year or years they had served to reflect on how the Lodge has grown and changed. Recognition awards were presented to Michael Meyer, P.M. and Mick Olson, P.M., for sitting as Lodge's Worshipful Master three times. Kirby closed the event with another fantastic prayer. All attendees received gifts from the Lodge for attending the event. Everyone had a great time and it was a very successful event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

8th – Grand Master Visit

Lake Lodge, 7pm

RSVP to WM for headcount
by the 5th of October;
must attend if you can.

13th – Masters Board; Halloween costume meeting

24th – Wisconsin Masonic College

Lake Lodge

See the Masonic Journal or the
Grand Lodge website for more
info

25th – Halloween Party

Lake Lodge, 4 pm

Full details on Pg. 4

RSVP to Brother Brian Bertram
by Oct. 17

27th – Entered Apprentice Degree

110th Anniversary (cont'd)



110th Anniversary in pictures, from top to bottom:

Curt Campagna and Kirby Timm; Michael Meyer, P.M. receives an award for being Worshipful Master three times; Mick Olson, P.M. also receives an appreciation award for being Worshipful Master three times.

The Master's Message

by Curt Campagna, Worshipful Master



October.

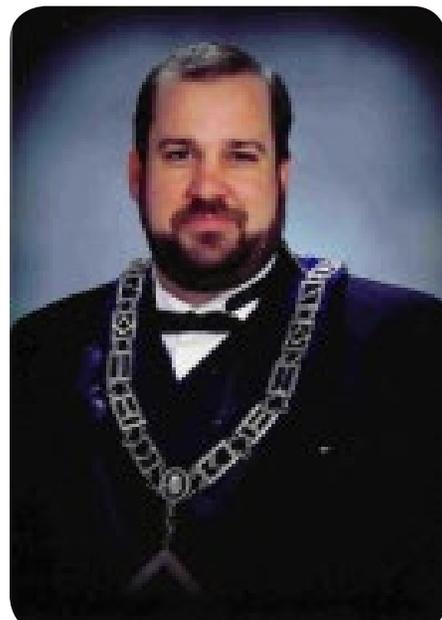
I just love this time of year, with the smells of pumpkin and spiced apples. The color from the trees and the foliage seems to paint our environment. Cooler nights and harvest moons, fire pits and hot apple cider.

Speaking of fall, I would love to see as many of my Brothers as possible for an amazing family party at the Lodge. October 25th is the date, and we need to know by the 17th how many are attending so we can anticipate numbers.

Please don't wait till the 17th; you know you want to go, so sign up early. Make sure you see the flyer included in this publication. This is also a GREAT way of introducing a prospective family to all the membership, so get the word out.

Because of the two Degrees being performed at the end of the month, we will report on both of them with pictures in the November edition.

I would like to thank the amazing Brothers from Lake Lodge for their support and delivering the Traveling Gavel to us. We are also going in with Lake Lodge and buying two display cases so we can properly display some of our fascinating Damascus history.



Curt Campagna, P.M.
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org



DAMASCUS LODGE 290 FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

4 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 2015

AT LAKE LODGE



Bring the whole family for

**Dinner: "Ghoul-ash" (elbow mac and spaghetti meat sauce)
Assorted goulish and creepy dinner treats**

in lodge trick or treat

**The LEGENDARY scavenger hunt
games for young goblins and older ones too
halloween arts and crafts
Plenty of photo ops**

**Family Appropriate Costumes optional but encouraged
for all, you may even win a prize!**

**Cost is \$5 per person, \$10 per family,
Under 12-free**

Contact Brother Brian Bertram at 414-486-0806 or bsbert290@att.net

**Please RSVP No later than
October 17, 2015**

Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!

On the Level

by Nathan Butts, Senior Warden

This month I thought I would take a little time to focus on just that, time. As Entered Apprentices we are taught to use the Twenty-Four Inch Gage, which teaches us to divide our time, leaving adequate time for work, family and service of Deity.

We, as Masons, tend to over extend ourselves, biting off more than we can chew, there are many reason for this, we like what do as fraternity, we like to help and be part of things when we can. When this happens sometimes important things or even little things may fall off the radar and get missed.

Things like time spend with family, friends and other members of lodge or the fraternity as a whole, Communication and planning are key for us to keep it all

together, otherwise things can come up short as we pursue things related to Masonry and/or helping others.

I encourage you to be mindful, and think, *"if I do this am I missing something else,"* before you say yes. When you make a commitment, make sure you communicate that commitment to those that it will affect, you family, work or lodge if appropriate. Make sure you plan the right amount of time, so you can enjoy the event and not rushing around at the last minute. With proper planning you can make sure you are not cutting out other equally important facets of your life.

Time flies by, family and friends should come first, kids grow up fast, and any day can be anyone's last, make sure they all know you love them and want

to be with them. With whatever time you have left, can be used for your Masonic pursuits.

If you are starting to feel pulled in every direction all the time and overwhelmed, there are some tools to help you manage your time, whether you use a high tech solution like a online calendar, a day planner or pocket calendar. Choose the tool that makes sense for you, but make sure you remember to use it. Consult it while you make your plans. These tools allow you to properly manage your time and commitments, so when you answer that call and someone asking if you are available, you can answer and not be concerned that you might have forgotten something.

Let these modern day tools help you manage your 24-inch gauge.



Three Pillars Rustic Rumble

Some of the Brothers attended the Three Pillars Rustic Rumble event on Saturday, September 12th. This event was for motorcyclists, but two-wheel vehicles were invited too. We were lucky to see P.M. Sean Schult have the honor of escorting his mother for a residence ride.

By the Plumb

by Michael Fairbanks, Junior Warden

Hidden Treasure and other Masonic Secrets

Conspiracy theories abound all around our craft. Hidden treasures, hidden cities, rituals and rites of passage, even world domination are but a few “secrets” we Masons are purported to hide from prying eyes and the outside world. While I generally have fun with people when they ask me “Do you guys really own the Federal Treasury?” by saying “Of course we do, and that is why I live in a two-room shack with holes in the roof, no windows, and drive a ’58 Buick with no floor boards and an engine that belches enough smoke to conceal the car and be reported as a UFO.” I will now add even more confusion to an already suspecting world by revealing the secrets of “A” Master Mason.

Nicolas Cage followed clues worldwide to find the secrets of A Master Mason. Countless hours (one and a half hours on television to be precise) were spent uncovering clues and traveling the globe in the National Treasure films before he found the secrets of A Master Mason, became the hero, and won the girl. Noah Wyle also spent countless hours (one and a half hours, as did Nicolas Cage) to find a mysterious Masonic artifact for the Library. He became a Master Mason when a guardian of the artifact noticed

a medallion imprinted with the Square and Compasses given to him by his mother. The guardian of course immediately proclaimed Noah Wyle to “now be a Masonic Brother and Master Mason.” If it were only that easy, right? In the end, he finds the secrets of A Master Mason, becomes the hero, and wins the girl.

Since most of us are either married or have girlfriends, I would not recommend winning the girl, as I’m sure that would be very heavily frowned upon and likely not good for our health. However, let’s give a little thought to hidden treasures, hidden cities, rituals and rites of passage.

It is said that once in every lifetime, and if you are lucky enough, a friend comes along that is a true friend. One who has and always will be there when you need a shoulder, someone who will stick up for you even when you are wrong, and give council although you do not want to hear it. A friend is one who strives to improve himself in all aspects of life and then challenges you to keep up. My best friend Phil would step in front of a train for me if he thought I needed it, and of course that train track goes both ways.

Whoever coined the phrase “once in a lifetime a friend comes along” was not a Mason, nor could he have known about Freemasonry. If they had known anything at all about “the craft,” then they would have included “unless you are a Mason” in the phrase. They would have known that making good men better would only be the entryway into a hidden world of societal improvement. They would have known the hidden treasures of self-esteem and confidence is really more than feeling good about flipping 14 cents of change into the Salvation Army kettle at Christmas time. They would have known that the rituals and rites of passage are nothing more than a play or skit to further embed the lessons of friendship and brotherly love.

With the help and support of the Lodge, new Masons begin a journey of improvement. Moreover, once began, the journey takes a direction of its own and that journey becomes a never ending but enjoyable path of improvement. Each Mason’s secret may be different in how he improves himself, and how he arrives at being a better man. His approach to a better life is what builds his secret.

(Continued on next page)

By the Plumb (cont'd)

My secret is that, while I have improved myself as a man, I have met and now have many "Phils," all Masonic brothers who would travel both ways on that two-way track to help me improve and provide help in any situation. When we as Damascus Brethren meet, the tenants of brotherly love, friendship, and respect hang in the air like a heavy fall fog on the ocean coastline. Hearing long time Brothers talk about their journeys and how their lives have improved only serves to drive me to put forth my best effort in everything I do.

As a Mason, my hidden treasures are all of you, my Brethren; my hidden cities are all of the Lodges that are available for me to attend and be in friendship and brotherly love; my rite of passage is any respect given me from my brothers. And there you have it: The secrets of ... A... Master Mason.

The world is full of Master Masons who have their own secrets as to how they arrived at and improved themselves as men through Masonry. What is your secret as A Master Mason? Here's a challenge: Write a short article for the November Trestleboard explaining YOUR secret.



Keeping History Alive

A historical event back in 1956 captured a portrait of U.S. Masons in Alexandria, Virginia, on the cover of *Life* Magazine.

Madison, Wisconsin, had the pleasure and distinction of hosting the North American Conference of Grand Master/Grand Secretaries from February 21-23, 2015.



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

1235 East Howard
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone:
414-297-9193

Website:
www.dl290.org

Email:
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

Worshipful Master

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

Treasurer

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

Senior Warden

Nathan Butts
senior.warden@dl290.org

Secretary

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.
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.