



DAMASCUS
290
 F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

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Installation

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

On December 19th, the officer core for the 2016 Masonic year was installed in proper form. We look forward to a great year with the leadership that has been elected and appointed. I am sure they will all do a great job.

Many thanks to the installing officers Mick Olson, P.M.; Pat Cholka, Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin; Brad Bingheim, P.M., Lake Lodge

No. 189; Matt Wright, P.M.; and Jan Talaga, District Deputy Grand Master, District 12. What a great bunch of guys. Also, many thanks to the Job's Daughters Bethel 6, Doric DeMolay, and Josh Armstrong for being part of the installation, helping out as needed, and taking pictures. My thanks to everyone who attended and enjoyed the day with us.

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

12th – Stated Meeting

26th – Special Meeting

EA degree

February

9th – Stated Meeting

14th – Sweethearts Brunch

Silver Spring Country Club

RSVP by February 7th

23rd – Social Meeting

March

5th – Admirals Hockey

RSVP by February 15th

May

31st – Knife and Fork Degree

Installation 2016 (cont'd)



Past Master Curt Campagna was presented with a very special apron to commemorate his third time as Worshipful Master as well as his chosen Past Master's apron.



Sweethearts Brunch

February 14th

11am • Silver Spring Country Club

Cost is \$25. Ladies free.

RSVP by February 7

to WM Nathan Butts

414-405-6383 • nb290@wi.rr.com

The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

And so starts a new year at Damascus Lodge. New officers have been installed, new plans for the year laid out, and we look forward to see where the Lodge goes over the next year. The holidays are moving past, and we return to the Lodge excited for the new Year, hopefully rested. I want to take a moment and thank all the officers from last year. Their wisdom and guidance has kept the Lodge moving forward, kept members working together, growing the Lodge in a manner that it will continue to sustain and improve itself and the members within it. For that, thank you.

The Lodge and its officer core have met several times to plan the year, work out and address things that need to be handled, and build a stronger group as a result. Everyone has different ideas and plans, but as we met and worked together, we are incorporating many of everyone's ideas into one plan for the Lodge. An ongoing plan of growth and prosperity. We will continue to meet and adjust this plan as we see fit to ensure all Brethren are growing with us.

This year we plan to be more active in and for the community, not to make a name for ourselves,

but to make us a little more visible to those who have the same moral compass as we do. Perhaps those who might find a home in our Lodge and just do not know it yet. With our actions we will improve the community, building stronger ties to family and friends. We will be helping feed families by being involved in setting up and getting them the food they need; working charity events to help others in need; and having our own public free meal for veterans and the local community.

We will still be doing most of the friends and family events we have done in the past and will continue to do them to keep our loved ones involved in the things we do. I am looking forward to the year and the joy and happiness we can spread as a Lodge to everyone around us with the work we do. I look forward to seeing you in and around the Lodge.



Nathan Butts
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org



Bells Were Ringing

On December 5th, Damascus members met to do our annual event of bell ringing for the Salvation Army. This year we invited the members of Doric DeMolay to join us in this event, which was well-attended. As a group we raised \$340 that day, and as a Lodge, we chose to match those funds and make a donation to the Salvation Army. The principal officers were in attendance when the check was presented on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all who assisted in the bell ringing, working to help a great cause.



At our December meeting, we had a visit from our Area Administrator, Brother Charles H. Boelkow, Jr. This was also Worshipful Master Curt Campagna's last meeting. He came wearing a very festive Master's top hat (including lights).

Echoes from the West

by Bro. Michael Fairbanks, Senior Warden

With the December 19th installation of our new Worshipful Master, we see the end of an excellent year with Worshipful Bro. Curt Campagna. As is always expected of our Masters and Lodge, Bro. Curt planned and executed a great year for our Lodge, and at the same time, juggled many other responsibilities.

To all past Masters and three-time Worshipful Masters — Brothers Dale Graeven, Mick Olsen, and now Curt Campagna — Damascus Lodge extends a most heartfelt “thank you” for the tremendous effort and for keeping the Lodge on track.

I know that our new Worshipful Master, Nathan Butts, has a great year planned. With the help of all of Brothers within the Lodge, regardless of position, I’m looking down the road toward an exceptional year with lots of family and Lodge events that will act to draw us closer as a family.

With that being said, please keep in mind that it will take all of us attending Lodge meetings when possible and participating in as many events as we can in order to make this a Damascus success. Lodges in our district have set their goals and bars by the high bar we have set.

People in general like to be a part of something. They like to be active and productive. Most do not know how to become involved in the community or how to become a member of a fraternity; not just Freemasonry, but any fraternity in general. Masonry is a door to community involvement and productivity.

When good men see what we as a Lodge are doing, and when our members are in Lodge, participating in meetings and events, the bonds of brotherhood and friendship only become stronger, and we become closer as a family. Then we can bring good

men in as new members, men who look at us and say, “that looks like fun,” or “I would like to be a part of that.”

Brethren, if you haven’t been to Lodge in a while, come back and see what is happening. Only when you attend Lodge can you receive the full benefit of “Friendship and Brotherly Love.” Come for the meal at 6:00 p.m. every second and fourth Tuesdays and reconnect, and attend the meetings if you would like. Find out for yourself what we are doing.

For those who have been in Lodge, keep it coming.

And as always – be there AND be square.

Brother Mike Fairbanks (Sugar Lump)
showing off the new Lodge Aprons.





LET'S WATCH SOME HOCKEY!

MARCH 5TH

7PM • BMO HARRIS BRADLEY CENTER

TICKETS WILL BE AT WILL CALL

ADULTS \$10 • CHILDREN 16 OR UNDER \$5 • GUESTS \$20

RSVP TO BRO. JASON WILLIAMS

414-333-8163 • JUNIOR.DEACON@DL290.ORG

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UPS IS FEBRUARY 15TH.

Traveling Man

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Junior Warden

As many of my Lodge brothers are aware, I have been traveling quite extensively to other Lodges in our district since mid-September. My travels have taken me to 16 of the 17 Lodges in our district thus far, and I have one more Lodge to visit this January to accomplish my quest. Needless to say, my travels have been laborious and time consuming, but well worth the effort in getting to know my other local brothers; filling into various officer chairs in their Lodges during stated meetings, as well as degrees, when asked; and experiencing the genuine brotherhood offered by all the Lodges I visited. The networking possibilities of my adventures have been priceless.

I had the honor of attending Silas Sheppard Lodge and listened to their research, education and Masonic enlightenment. I found it to be very thought-provoking and useful in my own Masonic journey, as well as advantageous in our own Lodge. I would encourage anyone to attend their meeting to take part in their program. I should note that Silas Sheppard only meets quarterly, so plan ahead if you plan to go.

By far my favorite lodge visited was Aurora Lodge #30. They meet in the Silver Spring Masonic Center and have very low number, signifying that it was just the 30th Lodge chartered in Wisconsin, established in December 1850. Unfortunately their stated meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month (7:00 p.m.), and their social meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month (7:00 p.m.), making it difficult to visit them since Damascus meets on the same evening.

Even though I don't speak in the old German language that the meeting is spoken in, I was able to follow along with a little prompting by Worshipful Master Adolf Meinhardt, and a little pre-meeting education given to me by Senior Warden Helmut Godejohann (and my ever-keen attention to the proceedings taking place). It doesn't matter if you speak, or even understand, the German language. Freemasonry is universal, and being so, you can follow along with the opening and closing. I found the French rite that the Lodge follows beautiful (especially since it is in ole German dialect) and different

at the same time. There are differences between the rite we follow, so if you plan to visit, do a little research on the French rite.

The biggest obstacle I found was wearing a hat. Everyone in the meeting wears a hat. The Worshipful Master and elected officers wear top hats, and other officers wear bowlers. Sideliners wear hats also, but remember to bring your own – no ball caps.

Aurora Lodge includes member names such as Pabst, Usinger, Schlitz, as well as other prominent Milwaukeeans. Their traditions run deep. They are proudly displayed, not only in ritual, but in their dress appearance also. Long tuxedo coats were worn by the elected officers. So if you know anyone that speaks German, let them know about this Lodge – their membership needs boosting.

In closing, in my travels I have seen familiar faces, made new friends, networked and learned many things, Masonic-related and not. If you have the time, get out and visit! It's well worth the effort!

2016 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Nathan Butts
worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden

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

Junior Warden

Brian Bertram
junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.
secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Michael Meyer, P.M.

Senior Deacon Matt Hanchek

Junior Deacon Jason Williams

Senior Steward Don O'Kray

Junior Steward Chris Balke

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.

Lodge Trustees

Matthew Wright, P.M. (2016)
414-254-5677

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2017)
414-852-4838

Matt Hanchek (2018)
414-418-8229

Sick and Visitation Chairperson

Michael Fairbanks, P.M.
414-397-0330
senior.warden@dl290.org

Master's Board

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



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