



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIII, Issue III  
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## Sweethearts Brunch

On Valentine's Day, 29 members of Damascus Lodge met for a wonderful meal at Silver Spring Country Club to celebrate our wives and significant others by honoring them for all they do for us and sacrifice for us during our Masonic journeys.

We celebrate our love for them every Valentine's Day by treating them to a fine meal, and sharing a red rose with them to help them understand how much we love and cherish them in our lives. A fine meal including bacon, prime

rib, hand-crafted omelets, soups, salads, chicken, and various other wonderful foods were shared by all.

For all who attended and those who could not be with us this day, remember we love and cherish you all and always will. Thank you for all you do for us, helping make us better men, and bringing light to those around us.

Check out page two for more photos from the event!

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **March**

5th – Admirals Game  
Family Outing

8th – Stated Meeting,  
Lodge Education, Bylaw  
Changes Voting

13th – Chili Cookoff

22nd – MM Degree

## **April**

9th – Community Blood  
Drive with Lake Lodge  
Lake Masonic Center

12th – Stated Meeting

18th – Officers Meeting

26th – MM Degree

28th – Community Outreach  
Spaghetti Dinner with Lake  
Lodge – Lake Masonic Center

## **May**

31st – Knife and Fork Degree

## **June**

25th – Chinooks Baseball  
Game Family Outing

## **Sweethearts Brunch (cont'd)**





## **March 8th Meeting**

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**Discussion and  
Voting on Bylaws**

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

As March springs upon us, we find the Lodge is very active and very busy. As spring approaches, we find ourselves with cabin fever, wanting to get out and do more things. With this busy time at the Lodge comes a lot of responsibility. Officers stepping up to do their parts, learning new things, sharing their knowledge with new members, and helping nurture and grow the Lodge. But we need to be mindful when sharing our knowledge and suggesting changes. We need to make sure suggestions and information is conveyed in a positive manner, and keep to the high road. We are a team, and we are only as strong as our weakest link. As long as we support and encourage our fellow leaders and members, we weave much stronger ties and promote prosperity in the Lodge.

Before we open Lodge, it is tradition at Damascus to come together for a meal and fellowship. We form a circle and have a prayer before dinner. Why the circle and not just stand where you are? I challenge all of you to think about that and see what it means to you. In history the circle is used for defense; "circling the wagons" provided shelter to travelers and defense from outside attempts to get in.

So the circle here could mean our protective barrier to outside influence. The circle is also referred to as the never-ending line in geometry. So the circle here could also mean our never-ending bond with our brothers, securing our fellowship and brotherly love. I see our circle as the never-ending band of friends, and every time we add a new person to the circle, another link in bonds of friendship is formed or strengthened. Which again brings us back to the links as I see it: the chain that forms this brotherhood and keeps us all strong. Avoid making rash decisions, and refer back to our individual Trestleboards for guidance and additional strength: it will never lead you astray.

Let's take this strength and shelter/defense and use it to keep us strong. Let it help weather the storm of anger, hate, and misunderstanding that has brought the fraternity under attack from less informed, misguided or mislead people. Let us use this strength and keep ourselves on the high road, protect ourselves with positive influences, decisions, practices, and attitudes, and we will display these things externally. Those less-informed or



misguided will see that there is nothing to fear, nothing to hate, and nothing to grow angry over within our circle. They will see that the circle is a chain with an open link, and if worthy, they can add their own link to the chain and make the circle grow, rather than to try and break it.

Take what we teach, learn, and hold in our hearts, and the negative outside influences can be like rain bouncing off the umbrella, keeping us dry and safe, as those influences bounce off our backs never gaining access to the circle and bond we hold true to.

Nathan Butts  
 Worshipful Master  
 worshipful.master@dl290.org



**Damascus Lodge No. 290 (Being Uniquely Qualified)  
Announces the Conferral of**

*The Knife and Fork Degree*  
An enjoyable evening of food, fun and fellowship

*May 31, 2016*

**Doors open at 6 pm;  
Event starts at 7 pm**  
Lake Masonic Center  
1235 E Howard Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI

\$33.00 - First Timers (including a Pin and Card)  
Open to all MM, FC and EA if properly vouched for  
\$28.00 - Alumni  
Proceeds go to the **Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

**For more information and to get your seat at the table,  
go to: <http://knf2016.brownpapertickets.com>**

Contact Bro. Brian Bertram with questions • [bsbert290@att.net](mailto:bsbert290@att.net) • (414) 486-0806



Engine House 19 and Lakefront Brewery's

*Chili Cook-off!*

The Master Chefs of Damascus No. 290 will be bringing the heat to compete in this great event. Come out and support Brothers Curt, Kevin, Sean, and Jake – and enjoy some chili too!

**Sunday, March 13th – 2-5 pm  
Lakefront Brewery**

1872 N. Commerce St., Milwaukee, WI

Awards presented and live entertainment at 5:30

Tasting & tour tickets available at:

<https://lakefrontbrewery.thundertix.com/events/80953/performances>

**Proceeds benefit the Professional Fire Fighters  
of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation**

# Masonic Values in 2016

by Bro. Don Okray, Senior Steward

As we begin a new year, one that holds much unknown promise, we have the opportunity to exercise freedom and rights passed to us from our Founding Fathers, who were of Masonic heritage. The opportunity I recall is the privilege to vote. This is not intended to be politically motivated. I was thinking, what if we put basic Masonic values into our evaluation of the candidates?

In our Master Mason degree, we speak of seven moral principles,

basic to Masonic values. What if we, as Masons, used these as profiles to evaluate possible choices for our country's next leader? The first principal is friendship, which embodies truth and purity. The second, morality, reflects behavior and character. Third comes brotherly love – regarding and caring for all as equal. Fourth is the value of piety – maintaining a devotion to religious values, family, country and self. Next is fidelity – being loyal to one's spouse and deity.

Then, perseverance, the ability to realize time and patience can accomplish all. And lastly, immortality: that there is more to the life we live today.

What might happen if we overlook the fluff presented in the media and look for strong values to lead, instead of the popular presentation?

I put this forward as food for thought if we really want someone we can trust to follow.

Lake Lodge/Damascus Lodge

## Spaghetti Dinner

**Thursday, April 28th**



Open to the public – watch for more details!

## BLOOD DRIVE

Hosted by Lake Lodge 189

**Saturday, April 9th**  
**Lake Masonic Center**  
**10 am to 2 pm**

It takes about an hour to donate, and with one donation, you can save up to **three** lives.



# How and Why We Support Masonic Youth Groups

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Junior Warden

Brothers, how much do you really know about our Masonic Youth Groups? Have you been to an event other than an Installation for one of them? How and why does the Blue Lodge support them? Well maybe I can shed some light on these questions.

The following is an excerpt from the Wisconsin Masonic Handbook: Officer Duties (rev 2004). This will shed some light on our youth groups, the Junior Wardens and the Lodge's responsibility to them.

*2. A Special Message to the Junior Warden: The Masonic Code of Wisconsin (57.03B) states: "The Junior Warden of each constituent lodge shall act as liaison between his lodge and any related youth groups. He shall make periodic reports to the Junior Grand Warden and to his Worshipful Master, and keep them informed of his activities."*

The following information is a sample of the three Masonic youth groups that the Lodges can support. More information on Masonic youth groups and other youth groups can be found in Chapter 9 of the Handbook.

## DeMolay

The vitality of youth and the experience of Masonry are the two inseparable elements that have made the Order of DeMolay successful. In 1922, the Order of DeMolay came to Wisconsin. In 1961, the Grand Lodge voted to sponsor DeMolay. Today, the Grand Lodge is a member organization of the United Masonic Board for DeMolay in Wisconsin, Inc. DeMolay is for young men between the ages of 13 and 21. Furthermore, Lodges are encouraged to provide youth groups with use of their facilities free of charge.

## Job's Daughters

Job's Daughters is an organization for young ladies ages 11 to 20 who are related to or sponsored by Master Masons. This youth group places emphasis on development of character and self-confidence as well as learning leadership qualities. Its teachings are from the Book of Job from the Holy Bible.

## Rainbow for Girls

Young ladies between the ages of 12 to 20 who have been recommended by an Eastern Star member or Master Mason may petition. Its ritual teaches a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being,

the truths of the Holy Bible, to seek dignity of character, effective leadership, and cooperation with equals and service to humanity.

In those Lodges where Masonic youth organizations are presently being sponsored, there is almost universally a crying need for additional adult leadership. The Junior Warden should address himself to support to the solicitation, commitment, and development of volunteers to serve this vital element necessary to a successful youth group.

Well then, now that the formalities are understood as written and directed by our Grand Lodge, we now need to set our attention on what we, as a Lodge can do to support our youth. Every year we budget for monetary donations to Bethel #6 and Doric. We have had ice cream socials with the groups, and some of us have attended their respective Installations. I now ask you, what else can we do? Isn't money good enough?

As stated by Grand Lodge, the Junior Warden's liaison responsibility to the youth groups is "to support to the solicitation, commitment, and development of volunteers to serve this vital element necessary to a successful



youth group.” Even though we do not “sponsor” a youth group as a Lodge, we have adopted both a Bethel of Jobies and a Chapter of DeMolay. We have Master Mason’s wives, and Masons themselves who are currently on the adult advisory committees, Bethel Guardians, and numerous other committees for the groups. So why can’t we, as Master Masons, support them more?

We, as a Lodge, need to be actively engaged with the groups. Not just monetarily, but by attending any of the many functions the groups work hard to plan and execute. I have discussed with DeMolay and Jobies, adult volunteers and youth alike, about this. Many of the youth expressed how grateful they are when a Master Mason simply attends a regular meeting they hold. The Jobies have Grand Session, Grand Bethel tubing,

mystery trips, spaghetti dinners, fundraisers, leadership weekends, Jamboree, HIKE, community outreach, and friends nights, just to name a few. The DeMolay have Conclave, Winter Retreat, a "Too Bad Summer's Over: party, fundraisers, friends nights, laser tag, go-carting, slot car racing, prom, paintball, and community outreach events. These are just a few of the many great activities our youth have accomplished in a six-month term.

Okay then, my point, you ask? There are 17 Job’s Daughters active Bethels in Wisconsin, most within very reasonable driving distance from Milwaukee. There are twelve Active DeMolay Chapters in Wisconsin, three of which are between here and Burlington. Sooooo ... what are we waiting for?

Let us, as a Lodge, strive to meet our responsibility — not just monetary donations or attending their Installations — but by attending our youth group functions. I have been to many functions, and believe me, they can be very fun. Pick a chapter, pick a Bethel, and attend an event. If you decide to attend something, let the Lodge know: the more the merrier!

If you want to know about the youth groups' upcoming event calendars, contact me, and I will do my best to let you know the place and time. Or, if you want to know the DeMolay Chapters' or Jobies Bethels' locations to travel to them, I can help you with that, too.

# 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 Chadderton, P.M.

Degree Director Mick Olson, 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*