



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIII, Issue IV  
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## Chili Cook-off for a Cause

by Bro. Curt Campagna

At the direction of our Worshipful Master Nathan Butts, the Damascus Lodge Cooking Team (The Master Chefs) participated in the Engine House 19 Benefit Chili Cook-off held at the Milwaukee Lakefront Brewery. This is the first time the cooking team has entered a non-Masonic food competition. The goals were to get public exposure while doing charitable endeavors.

We might not have won the medal this time, but we showed the good works of Masonry in Wisconsin. We also had a blast working as a team from a Lodge that we are so proud to be members of: Damascus Lodge #290.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## April

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

12th – Stated Meeting

18th – Officers' Meeting

26th – MM Degree

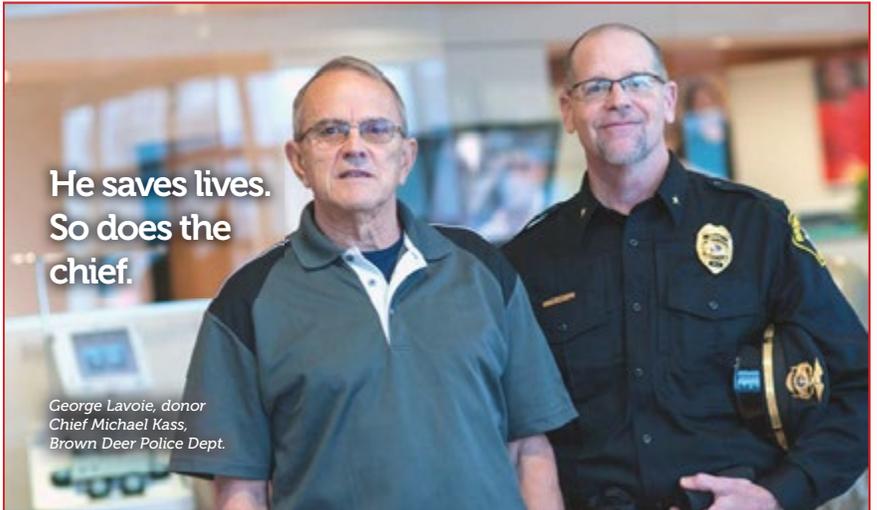
28th – Community Outreach Spaghetti Dinner with Lake Lodge – Lake Masonic Center

## May

31st – Knife and Fork Degree

## June

25th – Chinooks Baseball Game Family Outing



Save the day. Donate blood.



## Lake Lodge 189 Blood Drive

At Lake Masonic Center, 1235 East Howard Ave.

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**



*All attempting donors will receive a pass for up to four people to Mt. Olympus Water Park in Wisconsin Dells.*

Sign up at [www.bcw.edu/LL189](http://www.bcw.edu/LL189) or call BloodCenter at 877-232-4376.

**Appointments encouraged. Open to the public.**

[www.bcw.edu/blood](http://www.bcw.edu/blood)

  Please bring a photo ID with your birth date



**If you can volunteer to help out with the event,  
contact Mike Zvara, Lake Lodge  
([mzvara@lakemasoniccenter.org](mailto:mzvara@lakemasoniccenter.org))**

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

Greetings Brethren,

April brings us into full swing of the movement to get the Lodge more visible in the community. We got it rolling in March with the chili cook-off at Lakefront Brewery. We will continue to make the Lodge more visible to the community at large with a blood drive on April 9th, and a community meal serving spaghetti on April 28th. For both events, we will be working with Lake Lodge #189 to raise Masonic awareness in the community and improve our communities, following our obligations. Check your calendars, and see if you can come out and join us: enjoy both the friendship and brotherly love, as well as meet new people, and let those less-informed learn more about us. Being out in the community feeding those around us, raising money for those in need, and helping others – it's what we do, it's what makes us who we are and leads us on the paths we have all chosen to be on.

I encourage all the brethren to take some time and reflect on what we do each day, and think, "Is there anything I am missing or not doing, that I can do better, do more of, to improve the people around me or my

neighborhood around me?" I know we all do good things out there, but I would like all of you to take the "pay it forward" attitude for a day. Be the start of it. Doesn't have to be today or tomorrow, but an opportunity will arise. When you see it, seize it, and be all you can be for that moment. It will be an amazing feeling, and you will smile, be happy and make someone else's day the same. They can take that and pass it along. Before long everyone around you can be that way. Feed off of it, grow from it. Improve yourself in your daily life and in Masonry because of it.



Nathan Butts  
Worshipful Master  
worshipful.master@d1290.org

Lake Lodge/Damascus Lodge

## Spaghetti Dinner

**Thursday, April 28th**

Open to the public.

**\$10.00 per person (Ages 12+)**

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.



**Volunteers needed!**

Contact Mike Fairbanks  
senior.warden@d1290.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

## *Lê Menu*

Ze Bacon Wrapped Filet via  
all de trimmings, desserts,  
and beverages (including  
a fine 'Bovine Wine')

## *Guest Speaker*

Robert Johnson  
from "Whence Came You" and  
Masonic Roundtable Podcasts  
[www.wcypodcast.com](http://www.wcypodcast.com)

**\$33.00 - First Timers (including a Pin and Card)**

**\$28.00 - Alumni**

Open to all MM, FC and EA if properly vouched for

**Seating is limited, so reserve your seat today!!**

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

**Proceeds go to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

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

# Echoes from the West

by Bro. Michael Fairbanks, Senior Warden

## Out of the Mouth of Babes

One motto that you see posted on most Lodge websites, and even on the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin's site, is "We take good men and make them better."

Not very long ago as I was running out of the door to one of the half-dozen or so Lodge meetings scheduled for that week, my eight-year-old grandson asked, "Grampa, what do you do at all those Mason things?" Without giving much thought to the answer and being in a hurry, I threw out the standard, "We take good men and make them better," to which he matter-of-factly said, "That must hurt, Grampa." Then I asked him why he thought that it would hurt. He simply said he thought putting someone in a machine to make them better would hurt. It was time to sit down to explain a few things, and needless to say, I was even later to Lodge that night than my normal and usual Masonic tardiness.

Our Masonic journey began the moment we asked a Mason, "What is a Mason?" At some point, we showed up at a Lodge function or on a meeting night to meet the guys, maybe have dinner. With the start of our journey, now having taken a foot hold and on solid ground, we looked at the men of Lodge and knew them to be good men. We then filled out a petition and handed it to a Mason so that

we could be possibly become a part of this Masonic community.

Our journey continued when our answer was returned after knocking on the door, and we, for the first time ever, entered into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. We learned a new life lesson with each degree, or if it had been learned already, it was reinforced with each degree.

The longer we hung around Lodge, the more interested we became in being a part of the degrees and the ritual. For some of us, this was the first step to building a confidence and self-esteem that had been lacking or non-existent. Then at some point, we may have been (or will be) asked to become an officer of the Lodge, and ascend through the chairs; as you ascended, your refusal to be the guy that let everyone down drove you to work harder.

Eventually, most of us become Worshipful Master. Only when our year as Worshipful Master is complete do some of us look back and see where we were and where we are. Only then do you realize how much you have improved as a man because of the work required being Worshipful Master; and as before, you see how your refusal to be the guy that let everyone down drove you to work harder. Only then do you realize that

the improvements made have extended into your personal and professional life, as well as to all those around you.

And when that one person who comes to you and says, "You have changed, and none of it bad" do you fully realize that with the help and support of all your brethren — when all of their suggestions and discussions, the instructive tongue to the attentive ear has been listened to — that indeed this fraternity takes a good man and makes him better.

So, out of the mouth of babes, when your eight-year-old grandson says, "You're a good man, Grampa," do you fully realize how valuable Freemasonry is by taking a man — good or not in my case — and making him better. That, Brethren, is the moment when you realize, if it were not for those who were in attendance and practicing the perseverance of every commendable virtue, that you as a man would not have been able to improve. As a Mason, well, if not for your Brethren, you would still be asking "What is a Mason?"

Damascus Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Dinner is always at 6:00 pm, with dessert of course. Brother Bert prepares excellent fare for our meals and fellowship.

Be there AND be square.

## A New Season for the Trap Team

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Junior Warden



Damascus' own trap shooting team, Hiram's Hotshots, is ready to kick off a new season! The team consists of Bros. Brian Bertram, Bob Bertram, Paul and Dale Graeven, Mike Fairbanks and W.M. Nathan Butts. The league runs 20 weeks starting Tuesday, April 14. After the Cudahy gun

club was forced to close, we found a new club: Boxhorn Sportsman's Club in Muskego. The new club will be more challenging, as there will inevitably be more teams for competition. On the up-side, the team will not be shooting over the lake anymore, thus the wind should not play a factor as it did at Cudahy. Hopefully this should increase our scores!

Watch the Damascus Facebook page for when we will be at the club. Come out to watch and support us, or you can shoot with us. Ammo, gun rentals and fees would be at your own cost. The club also has a very nice pub with good food, so after the shoot, stop in and have lunch with us.

The club's address is S90 W13960 Boxhorn Drive in Muskego, located four miles south of Hwy 100 off of Forest Home Avenue. If you want more information, contact Jr. Warden Brian Bertram at [bsbert290@att.net](mailto:bsbert290@att.net) or 414-486-0806. Information on the club can be found at [www.boxhorngunclub.com/club](http://www.boxhorngunclub.com/club).

Hope to see ya there!



## Damascus Cheers the Admirals to Victory

by Bro. Matthew Hanchek, Senior Deacon

On March 5th, 25 Damascus Lodge family members and guests descended on the BMO Harris Bradley Center and cheered the Milwaukee Admirals to an overtime victory over their conference rivals, the Chicago Wolves. It was a perfect night for hockey, and everyone enjoyed a great game, good food and wonderful fellowship.



# Guarding Against Cowans!

by Bro. Matthew Hanchek, Senior Deacon

In Masonry we seem to love using old, outdated, and strange words. One of my favorites is "cowan." When I was relatively new to Masonry, I'd never heard the term before, and ultimately had to ask what it meant. Regardless, I immediately understood that being a cowan was clearly not a good thing, even if the term was unfamiliar.

By most accounts, cowan is purely a Masonic term used to describe an intruder. In Webster's dictionary, it is defined as "one who is not a Freemason; especially one who would pretend to intrude upon its secrets." In other sources, it's

loosely recognized as a Masonic term for a poser or fake. In virtually all cases, the term alludes to a person's lack of character or integrity, poor intentions, or general unworthiness to participate in the mysteries of our great fraternity.

One of the great joys of a gathering of Masons is instantly knowing the quality of people you are surrounding yourself with. Men of all backgrounds joined by a common thread of having laudable character. A setting where you can place your trust in a brother without ever having to question one's motives or sincerity. A place

of brotherly love and harmony. A sanctuary. A support system. A caring family.

It's true, we as Masons are ever vigilant when protecting our secrets and ceremonies from the uninitiated, and to that end, we take great care in verifying the quality of a man before allowing admission to our order. Of equal importance, at least in my mind, is keeping the sanctity of our home.

No matter what definition you choose, one thing is immediately clear: Nobody likes a cowan. Thankfully, we maintain a place blissfully free of them. See you there.

## MM Degree

On March 22nd Damascus raised Scott Hrdlicka to the sublime degree of Master Mason. His mentor to enter this journey, Mick Olson, conferred the degree. Everyone did a great job, and it was a great night of work and fun.



# 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

Counselor Sean Schult, P.M.

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, 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.



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

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Phone: 414-297-9193

Website: [www.dl290.org](http://www.dl290.org)

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

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