



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIII, Issue X  
 October 2016



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## Tuesday, Tuesday, Tuesday

2016 DL290 Race Results by Bro. Dale Graeven, Treasurer

The 11th Annual DL290 Slot Car Races were held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, and the results show a trend: younger members are making strides.

This year we had 15 entries, but two dropped before the technical inspection (suspicious characters, I presume). With 13 drivers, it should be mentioned that some showed there was practicing involved, and some were just naturals.

We had a few rookie drivers, so the pit crew was kept extremely busy with car replacements, and cars leaving the track for various reasons. Looks like some pit crew training needs to take place, or the crew did say additional pit crew members would have come in handy. They did mention some type of food incentive, but we will have to wait and see about that.

*(Continued on next page)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

8th – Wisconsin Freemason's  
Day, Pancake Breakfast at Lake  
Masonic Center  
9 a.m. – Noon

11th – Stated Meeting

23rd – Halloween Party  
Lake Lodge, 4 p.m.

25th – EA Degree for Craig L.

### November

8th – Stated Meeting  
and Elections

22nd – Movie Night

### December

13th – Stated Meeting



The races pushed the tension level to the extreme, with some previous winners giving and receiving some trash talk to no avail. They just don't have it in them like they used to. Some tried to change the rules by requesting the fastest lap would win the event, instead of total number of laps. That was reviewed by the organizer and denied. It was the total number of laps, like we have had since the beginning.

The winner is Entered Apprentice Paul Graeven, with a total number of 112 laps: winner for the third year in a row.

After the races, the Lodge did as we always do when we meet: we eat. The consumption of pizzas and garlic bread settled many appetites, and a good time was had by all.

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

How is your Masonic journey going?

I ask that because I want you to think about what made you decide to become a Mason. What have you learned? How are you using the things you learned to further yourself, better yourself, and better the people around you? Masonry is a lifelong journey, and just like life, it is full of ups and downs. Many curveballs will get tossed your way, and what we learn helps us make the best of these times, and get the hit we need when we need it.

We all had different reasons for joining: friendship, fellowship, family, filling some void in our lives, desire to help others, etc. Whatever that reason is, you made it. You made the choice to do things differently and help the world around you more than you already do.

But where are you now? How has it helped you? How are things with your brothers from Lodge? Have you been to Lodge lately to see the work we are doing, the things we are promoting, or how we are volunteering to help others in the community?

The Lodge is active, busy growing

and thriving, giving us a larger base of men to work with to do more things for the Lodge, community, and society overall. We all have busy lives, but if you can stop into Lodge, you'll see the work and fun we are doing and having. And you'll be able to enjoy the fellowship you have come to know, and enjoy hanging out with the members of this great Lodge.

We just finished our annual slot car races, and as October comes, we have degree work, as we will be bringing another new member into the Lodge. Before that, we will be helping out at a community day on October 8th, doing a pancake dinner with all the bodies that meet in our building. The event is free to the public, so bring the family and have a great meal. Our Halloween party is also upon us, and it's a great time for friends and family to come to Lodge and enjoy a great time. We have a lot going on and we will be busy doing lots of things, so stop down and say hi.

See you at Lodge,

Nate



Nathan Butts  
Worshipful Master  
worshipful.master@d1290.org

# DAMASCUS LODGE 290

## FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY



4 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

AT LAKE LODGE



**Bring the whole family for**

**Dinner: "Ghoul-ash" (elbow mac and spaghetti meat sauce)  
Assorted goulash 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](mailto:bsbert290@att.net)

**Please rsvp no later than October 16, 2016**

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

# Echoes from the West

by Bro. Michael Fairbanks, Senior Warden

## What influenced you to become a Master Mason?

By August of this year, I was really looking forward to dropping everything and getting into Northern Ireland for my annual visit with family. January is much later than usual for my visit, which means that Lodges and Chapters are in full swing with their business and events. My Brother/cousin has a series of meetings for us to attend.

The trip, planned for January 2017, promises to be an exciting and wonderful continuation of my Masonic journey, as I will be traveling with the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Wisconsin. Thoughts and daydreams are drifting forward to January while work slips, and the grass in my yard takes on the shape of Giant Redwoods due to the mounds of neglect I am heaping upon my chores. Some of what I am looking forward to:

**Craigantlet Lodge.** I will never forget that it was here that my Masonic journey began in July 2007 (see "Meet Your Senior Deacon" in the January 2009 Trestleboard). Here I met men who knew my family and the Masons in it. Oh, the stories that

came forth. Stories aside, it was here where my trek to becoming a better man began; indeed, I would not be half the man I am today if it were not for Freemasonry. As I reflect on the start of my Masonic journey, I realize that enough years do not exist for me to be able to give back to our gentle craft what it has given to me.

**Arthur Square Masonic Center** where Temple #51 meets. My honor and pleasure is in being a member of that wonderful Lodge. An honorary member, but a member nonetheless, entitled to all the rights and benefits of the Lodge. Due to the efforts of Ron Wilson, who was the prime driving force behind the fundraising, restoration, and renewed interest of the Arthur Square Masonic Center in Belfast, it is one of the most beautiful buildings I have been in.

To appreciate the significance of this achievement, one must see this building in before-and-after photos. Perhaps Damascus #290 can put together a contingent and take a trip to Belfast for the opportunity to appreciate this and the other beautiful Masonic centers.

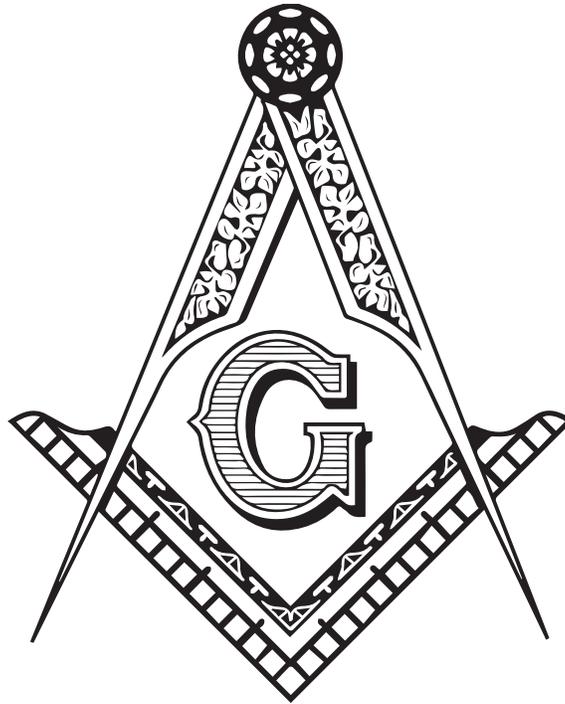
**Every Lodge has work.** There are many differences in the way work is performed between our jurisdictions; but as different as the performance of our work and ritual is, the meaning, timing, and words of the degrees are identical.

My Brothers, I could use this month's entire Trestleboard to describe the monumental and herculean effort on my part to travel into this wonderful foreign land to work with our Irish Brethren while forming new, deep, and lasting bonds and friendships. Instead, I will end here, save a few Irish adventures for next month, keep the memories of my continuing Masonic journey flowing through my mind, and ever remember that I became a Master Mason so that I might travel into foreign lands, work, and receive Master's wages.

Damascus stated meetings are every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Dinner is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

Be there AND be square.

# **Come Let Your Voice Be Heard!**



**Elections for next year will  
be held November 8th.**

# DAMASCUS LODGE 290

# MEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

DATE: **SUNDAY** **DECEMBER** **EIGHTH**

TIME: **4PM**

COST IS \$5/PERSON  
OR \$10/FAMILY

PLACE: **LAKE** **LODGE**



## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Gifts/Cookie Decorating for Children

Yankee Swap for Adults  
and kids 15 and up.

Each person wishing to participate in the  
Yankee Swap, please bring 1 wrapped,  
non gender specific gift worth \$5 or less.

**RSVP to Brother Bert at  
(414)486-0806 or [junior.warden@dl290.org](mailto:junior.warden@dl290.org)  
by December 4th, 2016**



# 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 (Vacant)

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.



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