



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIV, Issue III  
March 2017



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## How do you spell "Resounding Success?"

### **S-W-E-E-T-H-E-A-R-T-S B-R-U-N-C-H.**

On February 12, as a "thank you" to our wives and ladies, the Damascus crew descended on Saz's Restaurant on State Street and celebrated Valentine's Day.

All in all, 34 people showed up and laid waste to a wonderful buffet of roast beef, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, fruit, and anything you wanted to order from the menu, including omelets, pancakes, French toast, and burgers.

There were couples who brought children along. How refreshing it is to see wee ones at an event; and we are expecting to see even more families participate in other Damascus family events in the coming months.

Thank you to all who were able to come out, and especially thank you to our wives and ladies who let us come out and play Freemason at Damascus 290. Without their tolerance and patience, we would not be able to do what we do as Masons.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

14th – Stated Meeting

21st – Degree Practice and  
Posting Work

(note: no meal this night)

26th – Spring Break Tailgate  
Lake Masonic Center, 2:30 p.m.  
(See pg. 5 for details)

28th – Master Mason Degree

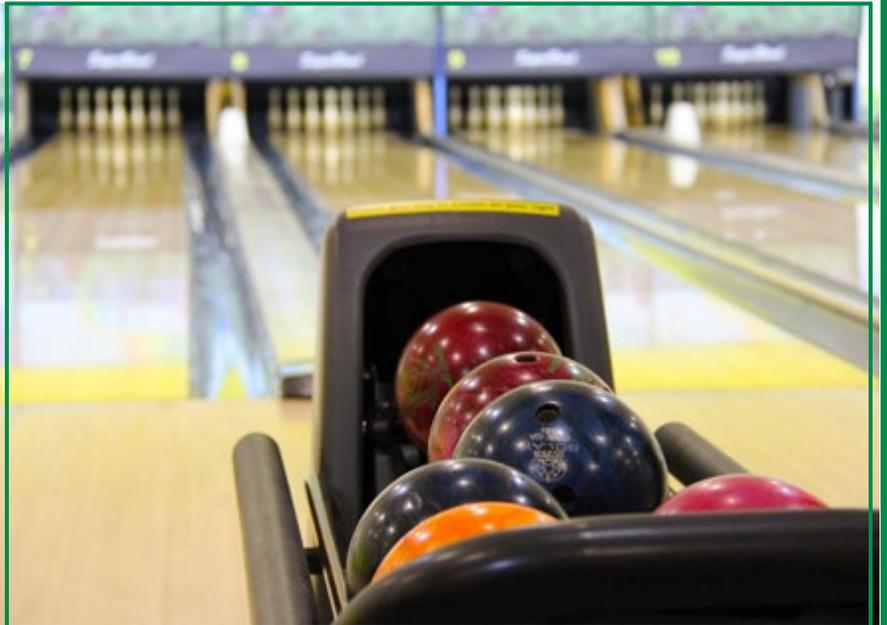
### April

11th – Stated Meeting

30th – Bowling Showdown  
Classic Lanes on Howell  
Ave, 1:00 pm

### May

28th – Master's Board Dinner  
More details to come



# BOWLING SHOWDOWN

## APRIL 30TH AT 1 PM

**Bowling challenge between  
Damascus, Job's Daughters  
and Doric DeMolay**

**Pizza and soda provided**

**Classic Lanes Oak Creek  
7501 S Howell Ave  
Oak Creek, WI 53154**

**RSVP by April 24th  
to Bro. Nathan at 414-405-6383 or  
senior.deacon@dl290.org**

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

## Travel into Foreign Countries

Consider if you will – the days before online meetings, Facetime, GoToMeeting, and other computer meeting applications. Travel for sales people was a must. Busy airports, cramped schedules, and fast food were the staples and mainstay of most companies that sold goods. Travel was an integral part of exposing their goods to prospective buyers and staying in business.

The good news for companies who sell goods today is that more ways and methods to sell goods exist through the World Wide Web, social media, and other electronic means. Meetings no longer require travel into foreign countries, states, or even counties. Fire up Facebook Live, or GoToMeeting and *voilà* – you are now face to face with no travel required with the same – if not more – effectiveness of being face to face.

Electronic meetings – while great for companies selling their goods, or meeting to discuss any and all manner of business – do not work for Freemasonry.

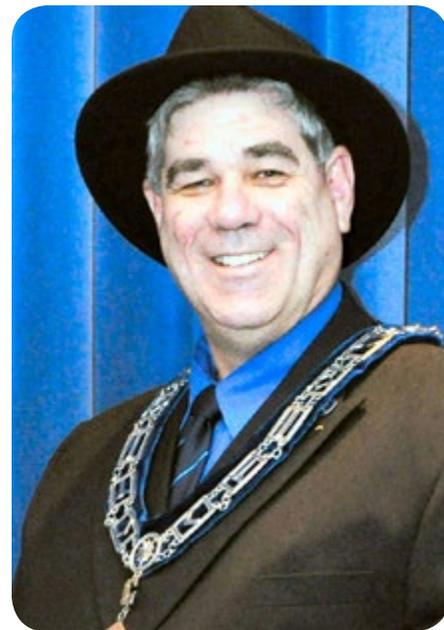
We forge and cement our Masonic bonds by actually getting into a vehicle and, yes, “travel to foreign countries” (or in this case other Lodges on their meeting nights). Our Grand Lodge encourages wholeheartedly the travel and fellowship between Lodges, so much so that visiting “foreign

countries” is a major part of the Grand Lodge Excellence Award.

One of the goals I have set forth for Damascus No. 290 this year is to increase the number of visits to other Lodges. Those of us who have visited other Lodges in the past, either as a group or an individual, have met and formed new bonds with Brethren that will last a lifetime. We have met and bonded with Brethren whom we know we can trust, Brethren who will do anything to ensure that another brother is not suffering – murder and treason excluded of course. With that said, bring your calendars to Lodge and watch your email as we progress through this year for opportunities to visit.

In some cases, who knows, you may even be asked to take part in a degree. Perhaps you might see an old friend whom you haven't seen in a while. Maybe... just maybe you will get in a good natured jab and one right back. Dinner and/or a snack are almost always at the forefront.

The first two weeks of February saw Worshipful Brother Mick Olson and myself in Ireland visiting. We visited Temple 51 where I am a member. As in every Lodge I have ever been in as a visitor, whether here at home or in Ireland, the reception and welcome has always been warm, friendly, and I have always been treated as a long-lost brother. Could this be the “Master's Wage?” Even the very first time



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Worshipful Master  
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I appeared at Temple 51, I was welcomed and treated so well that I'm sure the Queen of England would have been envious of my reception.

Ours is a worldwide Fraternity. No matter where you visit, find the Square and Compasses and you will always be welcomed in, fed, and cared for. Always keep in mind when traveling: “seek and you shall find; knock and it will be opened unto you.”

If you haven't been to Lodge lately, come back and see what we are doing. Come for a meal before the meeting and catch up on the happenings and doings. For those who have been able to come to Lodge – keep coming, be there AND be Square.

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# What induced me to become a Master Mason?

Bro. Matt Hancheck, Junior Warden

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Not that I long ago, I began my Masonic Journey, without being entirely sure what I was in search of or why.

Right out of college, I almost exclusively dedicated my time on my career, making it my sole focus to the detriment of everything else. I moved frequently to gain experience and take advantage of new opportunities. Once I felt I had my career on track, I began focusing on my life outside of work, had the good fortune of meeting my wife, and poured my energy into starting a family. It became my new passion, and I was blessed with two amazing children, and dedicated myself to them.

While I'd never been happier with the decisions that lead my life to this point, a few years back I noticed that something was missing. I was so obsessively focused on my passion for my career and family,

that I completely ignored any sort of fellowship for over a decade. My life was out of balance. I had a collection of acquaintances, but few friends. I had purpose, and goals driving me, but I wouldn't allow myself to stop and enjoy the great life that was going on around me. I was looking to get involved with something to fill that void, but didn't know what, and wouldn't allow anything to interfere with my obligations to my career and family.

I shared these thoughts with my wife and, at her suggestion, with my father-in-law, who is a Mason in rural Minnesota. He shared some of the great things that his Lodge did within their community, but also some of the values it taught him, and how it had forged deeper bonds with his friends. I decided to do some reading on the subject and check it out for myself.

Through my own research, I learned more about the values and history of the institution. I saw an opportunity to fill that social void in my life, without compromising the things that I had been so focused on previously, and I was intrigued enough to reach out to the Lodge that I now call home. I learned not only to subdue my discordant passions, but to balance the things that were correctly priorities in my life. I not only found the fellowship and sense of belonging that I had been missing, but also an extension of family.

With the renewed balance in my life, the strengthening of my faith and values, and help of my Brothers, I am better able to support my family and enjoy the fruits of my labor. My Master's wages are truly greater than I could ever have hoped for.

DAMASCUS Lodge No. 290

# SPRING BREAK BASEBALL PARTY

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**  
**Lake Lodge – 2:30 pm**  
**Free**

**WEAR YOUR FAVORITE BASEBALL JERSEY!**

Kick back and enjoy an afternoon of traditional baseball stadium-type food, activities and fellowship!

“The Sandlot” will be playing on the big screen.



Please RSVP to Brother Bert no  
 later than **March 19.**

**414-486-0806**  
**seniorwarden@dl290.org**

## 2017 Lodge Officers

### Worshipful Master

Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.  
worshipful.master@dl290.org

### Senior Warden

Brian Bertram  
senior.warden@dl290.org

### Junior Warden

Matt Hanchek  
junior.warden@dl290.org

### Treasurer

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

### Secretary

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

Chaplain John Chadderdon, P.M.

Senior Deacon Nathan Butts, P.M.

Junior Deacon Jacob Harycki

Senior Steward (vacant)

Junior Steward (vacant)

Counselor Sean Schult, P.M.

Assistant Counselor

Nathan Butts, P.M.

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.

Degree Director Mick Olson, P.M.

### Lodge Trustees

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

Matt Hanchek (2018)  
414-418-8229

Nathan Butts (2019)  
414-405-6383

### Sick and Visitation Chairperson

Brian Bertram  
414-486-0806  
senior.warden@dl290.org



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