



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIV, Issue II  
 February 2017



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## Installation 2017

Installation day, December 17, 2016, saw good things from the installing officers and Job's Daughters, who performed the Living Cross as part of the installation ceremonies. Their work and dedication is remarkable, and their performance was appreciated by all who attended.

After installation, we had a great Mexican meal catered by

Samano's in Cudahy. Worshipful Brother John Chadderdon is our Chaplain for the ensuing Masonic year and will be installed at our next stated meeting. The Stewards' chairs need occupants, and we are working on those chairs.

With installation of officers and the first officers meeting behind us, we are looking forward to a good year with many events.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **February**

7th – Postings or  
Degree/Practice

12th – Sweethearts Brunch  
Saz's on State, 11 a.m.

12th – Chili Cook-off  
Lakefront Brewery  
(Damascus participating)

14th – Stated Meeting

28th – Officers  
Training Night

### **March**

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



We installed the following officers:

#### **Worshipful Master**

Michael Fairbanks

#### **Senior Warden**

Brian Bertram

#### **Junior Warden**

Matt Hanchek

#### **Secretary**

Pat Militzer

#### **Treasurer**

Dale Graeven  
Senior Deacon

#### **Senior Deacon**

Nathan Butts

#### **Junior Deacon**

Jake Harycki

#### **Tiler**

Larry Chadderdon

#### **Counselor**

Sean Schult

#### **Assistant Counselor**

Nathan Butts

# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

## The Cement of Brotherly Love

February is now in full swing, and our new officers have a "step up" night due to the Worshipful Master's "vacation," whereby he and W. Bro. Mick Olson are traveling into foreign countries, working and eating our way through Master's wages. As Masons, we may take time away from work and from Masonry, but as Masons, our conduct and character should never go on vacation.

The cement of the Operative Mason is composed of several components and chemicals to bind stone and brick. So, too, is the cement of brotherly love composed of many moral principles that bind Masonic brethren. Respect and harmony are important parts of the components that makes up our cement.

We meet and greet each other on the street with the utmost respect and the highest regard for each other as Masons. We are especially polite and courteous to each other when in public at a Lodge function and with our ladies. In short, we meet on the Level.

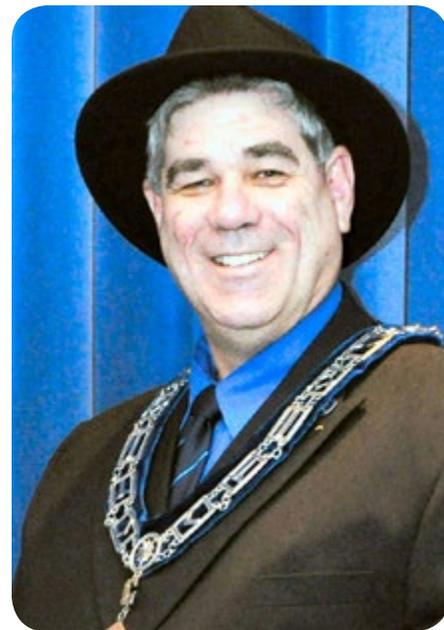
Masons are first to lend a hand or assist someone in trouble or someone who just needs a bit of help maneuvering around

an obstacle, especially brother Masons, as it is part of our commitment to each other. We do so with the utmost respect and brotherly love toward each other. We act by the Plumb.

When in Lodge, we at Damascus #290 are courteous and respectful toward each other at all times. This is also the time when we are most likely to let slip an untimely or discordant remark borne out of frustration; however, it is usually quickly overlooked, and we move on with business as usual. We leave Lodge for home in harmony. We part upon the Square.

As we bring new Masons into our family fold, we need to be ever vigilant that we do not let discordant passions or the occasional bad remark creep into our association with each other, especially when we are involved with new prospects, candidates, and new Master Masons. If we allow ourselves the indulgence of snide or malicious comments aimed at slapping or slighting a brother, the cement of brotherly love crumbles.

Finally, we have a great and wonderful Lodge, one that I am so very proud to be a part of. We work hard, we play hard, and practice Freemasonry as it should be practiced: with respect



Michael Fairbanks, P.M.  
Worshipful Master  
worshipful.master@dl290.org

and brotherly love. It is my hope for the future that we continue to grow, and have the bonds of brotherhood and friendship continue and expand.

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.

Damascus #290 meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

## Get to Know: Nathan Butts

Senior Deacon

I am Nathan Butts, this year's Senior Deacon, and the newest Past Master of Damascus Lodge. I started my Masonic journey in 2008, brought in by our current Worshipful Master, Michael Fairbanks. I asked him about the symbols on his suspenders at work one day, and the rest is history. I have really enjoyed my time as a Mason: all the history, all the ritual work, and all the friendships and fellowship I have experienced. Learning degree parts, performing in degrees, and conferring degrees has been an awesome and humbling experience for me. It is a great feeling to bring a new brother into the fraternity, and I have really enjoyed that. Being Master of the Lodge has been a fantastic

experience. Being able to lead our Lodge was a great responsibility, and I am very proud to have been in that position.

Masonry also brought my wife Kimberly into my life permanently as Brother Don O'Kray married us shortly after my Masonic journey started. She puts up with me being out of the house doing Masonic stuff all the time. It really made me feel good to have that additional tie to my life and family. I'm proud to have two bachelor's degrees and an associate's degree. I have not served in the military, but would if called to do so. In my work life, I hang my hat as a network administrator for my company's local office, where Mike is our local database administrator. I

keep his servers working so he can make the system purr like a kitten.

The Masonic code fell right into my wheelhouse as something I was already doing: helping people, fixing problems, and making the world a better place one day at a time. Masonry just gave me more people around me who like to do similar things, and as a group, we are a much stronger team helping and making a bigger impact.

I look forward to every meeting, every event, and every visitation I do to all the bodies surrounding this great fraternity. I look forward to being the Senior Deacon this year and hope to see you all at Lodge!

## Get to Know: Jacob Harycki

Junior Deacon

Hello, my name is Jacob Harycki, and I am currently serving the Lodge as Junior Deacon. I started my journey in the Masonic family in 2004 when I became a member of Doric Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Since receiving my majority in DeMolay, I have been serving Doric Chapter as a member of their advisory council, and am currently serving them as Chapter Dad. I was honored

to join the member of Damascus Lodge in 2014.

I recently graduated from MATC with a degree in Business and Weld Technologies. I plan on continuing my education by attending UW-Milwaukee and perusing an engineering degree. In my free time I enjoy assisting with Boy Scouts, hunting and fishing.

As I begin to become more involved in the Lodge, I look forward to learning more about masonry and the Lodge. I am excited about the experiences that this new role will bring to me. I look forward to getting to know everyone better and working with you all over the next term.

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