



DAMASCUS
290
 F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

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Master Masons Degree

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

Congratulations to Bro. Brian Waszak who, on March 28th, became our newest Master Mason. This is the third step of Bro. Brian's Masonic Journey. Let's all keep in mind that every Mason's masonic journey starts and ends at the same place; the paths which we trod from start to end are many and what is important is that we continue to learn and build on what we've learned in these first three steps.

Congratulations also to the Lodge Officers in conferring an excellent degree upon our newly made Brother. Your hard work and dedication not only paid off, but it shows. My personal "thank you" to Bro. Brian and the Lodge Officers for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the extra night out.

We look forward to seeing Bro. Brian in Lodge.





UPCOMING EVENTS

April

11th – Stated Meeting

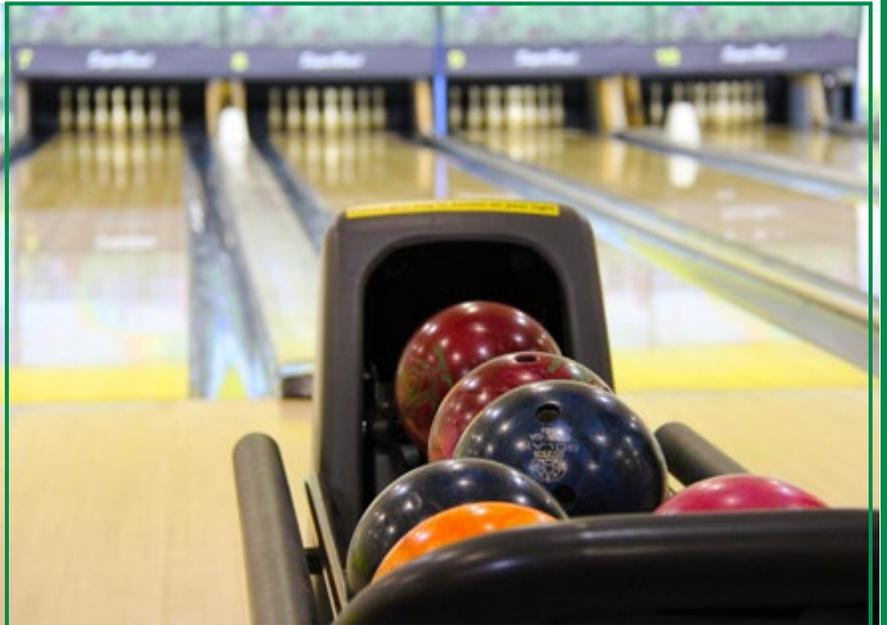
25th – Fellowcraft Degree
For Craig

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

May

9th – Stated Meeting

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.

Our Real Goals

We Brethren of Damascus Lodge #290 are legendary for our culinary skills and subsequent eating habits. From the wonderful meals provided this year by our Junior Warden, Bro. Matt Hanchek, to our Chili specialists, Brothers Kevin Hart and Curt Campagna. Grandmasters have yelled our motto as we entered the room at Grand Lodge Annual Communications. Nervous and sweating Junior Wardens announce that refreshments are available after the meeting – and the word “FOOD??? FOOD???” echoes around the Lodge from every Damascus Brother while repeating our motto. But, our real goal is Friendship.

As a Lodge, we are very fortunate to have Brethren who know and understand the meaning of being a Mason. They are there at nearly every meeting or event. Many of us show up for traveling to other Lodges for the goal of visiting, helping with a degree, or capturing that ever-elusive gavel, and poking fun at our rivals at Henry L. Palmer, who give it out as good as we give it to them. Our real goal is Brotherly Love.

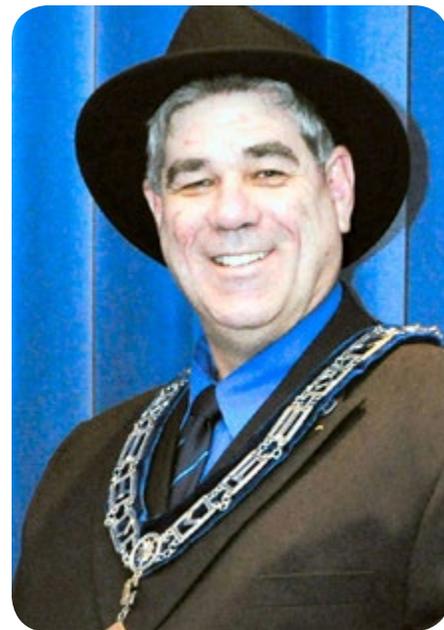
Masons, as a whole are generous. Whenever a Brother is in need of

aid or help, our goal is to be there to lend the support our Brother needs. On many, many occasions, Brothers have been spotted reaching into their own pockets and giving relief to a person standing on a corner, homeless and holding a sign begging for some form of help, regardless of how small. At any given time it's not unusual or out of the ordinary for a Mason to find a friend or Brother in bad or “destitute” circumstances and contribute to his relief. Our real goal is Relief.

Children can be challenging, especially when you watch them break something and then listen to them deny it. How many times have you caught them blaming a sibling, pet, or neighbor for a misdeed? Their goal of course, is to not have to face the consequences of their actions. Your goal as a parent is to teach them not to lie, but to be truthful. Our real goal is Truth.

The goal of this article is really rather simple, and as you read through, you very likely noticed a pattern.

As a Lodge of Masons, and as individual Masons, our goals have been and should be – “Friendship, Brotherly Love, Relief, and



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

Truth.” In short, our real goal is Freemasonry.

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come back and see what we are doing. For those that have been able to make it, thank you and keep it coming.

Damascus Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Be there AND be square.

Master Chefs: 2017 Chili Cook-off

by Bro. Curt Campagna

The Damascus Lodge #290 "Master Chefs" cooking team competed again at the Lakefront Brewery & Engine House 19 Chili Cook-off on February 12th. We had a great time and worked hard, but we did not take any awards this year. We did enjoy the fellowship and again shared Masonry, one spoonful at a time.



Conducting Candidates

by Bro. Nathan Butts, Senior Deacon

One of the most exciting things to do as Senior Deacon is conduct candidates for degree work.

At least I think so. Being the one to lead them around the Lodge, make them feel at ease during the degree process, and ensure they are in good hands: that's my job.

In every degree, the candidate is presented to the Lodge. Members want to see that the candidate is in order for the degree, and it's my job to present all candidates to members.

Keeping the candidate comfortable during the degree is also my job. I need to make sure the Junior Deacon did his job correctly in preparing the candidate for the degree, as well and resolve any issues.

It feels good to be the one leading candidates for degrees, making them feel at ease during the process and guiding them through it. Frankly it's the best job in the Lodge. I get the most enjoyment out of the role of Senior Deacon. I have the most interaction with the candidate, and doing a good job means he gets real enjoyment out

of the whole thing. Conducting the candidate is an awesome experience for both the candidate and myself, and it's an honor to be able to do the work.

My interaction with the officers of the Lodge make sure the candidate gets a great degree and enjoys himself.

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



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

1235 East Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone: 414-297-9193

Website: www.dl290.org

Email: worshipful.master@dl290.org

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