



DAMASCUS
290
F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

Volume XIV, Issue VII
July 2017



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High School Scholarship Awarded

Sr. Warden Brian Bertram presented a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving student at Bay View High School. The presentation was special to Bro. Bert, as Bay View High School is his alma mater, and he first stepped foot into this school 35 years ago.





UPCOMING EVENTS

July

16th – Mini Golf Challenge

Moorland Road Golf Center,

3:00 p.m.

See signup details on this page

August

13th – Summer Picnic

Wilson Park, Picnic Area #1

1:00 p.m.

See signup details on page 5



IT'S TIME FOR THE DAMASCUS 290 MINI GOLF OPEN

July 16th at 3:00 pm
\$5 per person

Kids 17 & under FREE!

**Damascus, Jobies, DeMolay,
and family welcome.**



**Moorland Road Golf
Center**

5900 S Moorland Rd
New Berlin, WI 53151

Armeli's
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

**With Pizza Party to
Follow**

at Armeli's,
16201 W National Ave
New Berlin, WI 53151

RSVP by July 11th
to Bro. Jacob Harycki at (414) 517-1450
or junior.deacon@dl290.org

The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

Are you a Traveling Man?

Have you ever been asked if you were a "Traveling Man?" What does it mean to be a Traveling Man, and where did the term originate? I challenge my Damascus Brethren to research and bring the answer to Lodge.

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin took place during the first weekend of June. The meeting's purpose is to conduct the business of the Grand Lodge – including the election and appointment of the men who will be overseeing the affairs of Wisconsin Masons.

It is also a time when Lodge Brothers have the opportunity to get away and eat ice cream, meet Brethren from throughout the Wisconsin, eat ice cream, renew bonds with each other outside of Grand Lodge Proceedings, eat ice cream, discuss Lodge business, eat ice cream, feel sorry for those who have lactose intolerance or cannot eat ice cream, and finally, to eat ice cream.

This year, Bros. Brian Bertram, Matt Hanchek, Nate Butts, Mick Olson, Pat Militzer, Curt Campagna and I attended the proceedings (ice cream) and, as usual, caught up on happenings

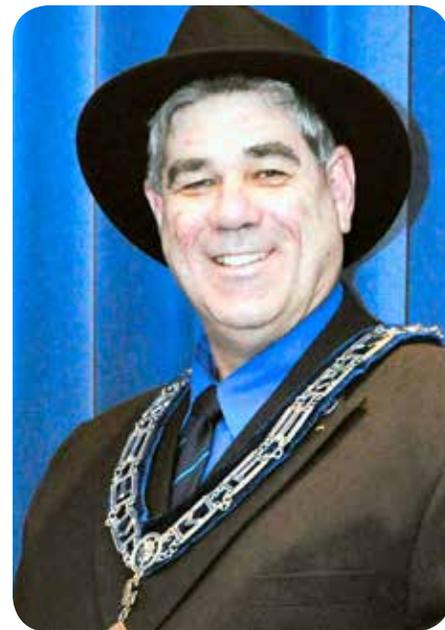
around Damascus with the normal and usual banter. Yea, and we attended the Grand Lodge Annual Communications as well.

Damascus Lodge has, in the past, been a traveling lodge. We had an active GOAT (Gavel Operational Assault Team) coordinator and team that organized Brethren, and traveled to capture the traveling gavel. It was not unusual to show up to a Lodge with 8, 9, or even 12 Damascus brothers and bring the gavel home, only to turn around a few days later to deliver it to another Lodge. It was also a way to involve our new Brother Master Masons.

These were opportunities as well: to carpool and have discussions related to Lodge business, plan events, have a bit of camaraderie over dinner out, and ice cream.

In recent years, we have allowed the traveling aspect to slip away. A lot of the closeness and camaraderie we've built has faded because we have been so focused on Lodge business, putting together events, and not taking time for each other, which traveling so conveniently provided.

Brethren, let's kick start the traveling again. I know we are all very, very busy; however, I think we can bring the closeness



Michael Fairbanks, P.M.
Worshipful Master
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and comradery back if we can get back to traveling. We can travel to McKinley Lodge and hand out rations of Brotherly Love to W. Bro. John Wachman. C'mon Brethren, everyone likes to hand out rations of Brotherly Love to W. Bro. Wachman.

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come back and see what we are doing. You will like what you see. For those who have been coming, keep coming and keep up the great work!

Damascus Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Be there AND be square.

My Thoughts on the Importance of Our Lodge Meetings

By Bro. Brian Bertram, Senior Warden

At our last meeting in May, we met for a social session on the State of the Lodge. Members in attendance discussed how the Lodge can increase attendance at meetings, as well as other topics to improve our Lodge for the current year and years to follow. We, as a Lodge, are doing a lot right, but we also need improvement in some areas. After reviewing the notes from that meeting, a few thoughts came to me.

At our regular business meetings, we discuss many different topics, none of which are not pertinent to our continued strive to make Damascus 290 the best it can be. I know, sometimes the meeting can be drawn out, but rest assured, we do our best to make the meeting as short as possible while making sure to complete our work at hand. Our meetings are serious, but we also laugh and have a good time, just to keep things interesting. And we mustn't forget our awesome dinners provided by our Lodge at 6pm on meeting nights!

As members, YOU have a say in our business. Without our

members, our Lodge would be just a Lodge in name only. I have seen our numbers at meetings dwindling over the years, which is concerning to me and our officers. I would be ecstatic to see the amount of members on the sidelines that we enjoyed just a few years ago. EVERY MEMBER is an integral part of the health and working of our Lodge.



We have some great activities planned for our Lodge, for members, family, and prospective members and guests throughout the year, but we also need your input at meetings for new and fresh ideas for Damascus to be one of the best Lodges around.

Sooo, with that being said, at

the writing of this article, we are halfway through our Masonic year. We still have a lot of work to do, along with great activities planned.

We have implemented an email to be sent out to our members in-between our meetings to recap the previous meeting, upcoming youth and Lodge events, a partial agenda for our next meeting, or anything else that may need a repeat. We hope that, with these emails, we can spark more interest in our Lodge meetings and activities. As with any new idea, if you have any way to improve the new emails, or have suggestions for the Lodge in general, feel free to contact me. My email is in the Trestleboard every month. The officers of DL290 are here for you!

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come on back, and see the great work we are doing in our Lodge AND our community! We would love to see you again!

If you have been to Lodge lately, THANK YOU, and hope to see you back!

“If you build it, they will come.”

By Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

Okay, so a day out at Kapco Park to watch the Lakeshore Chinooks play baseball isn't exactly a day on the field of dreams, but Father's Day was a good day for baseball.

Weather was clear with a slight breeze, and for dads – brats were free. Some of us had a good nap in the warm sunlight, while others of us bantered back and forth. Gill the mascot was in great form as he moved around the field delighting the kids and entertaining the adults.

It was wonderful to see Gill interacting with our retired and older members of the armed forces. Gill's job is to entertain and make baseball games fun at Kapco Park during lulls between innings or during time outs.

As per usual, Damascus Lodge was well received and treated very well by the Lakeshore Chinooks. We were even mentioned over the loudspeaker. The free brats tasted just as good as the ones that cost money, and the soda ice cold.

I think the game started on time. I'm not 100% certain, but the game was well played and contested, and I think the Chinooks took it on the chin and lost. I know we had a wonderful day out with Brothers and friends.



DAMASCUS 290 SUMMER PICNIC

August 13th @ 1 pm
Wilson Park, Picnic Area #1

Bring a dish to pass!

Sign up with Matt Hanchek
junior.warden@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

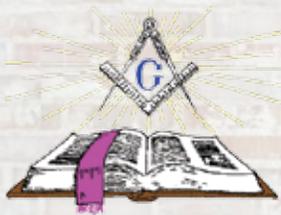
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2017)
414-852-4838

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*