



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

# The TrestleBoard

*Making Good Men Better*

Volume XIV, Issue XII  
 December 2017



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## Awards Night

by Bro. Curt Campagna, P.M.

What a night! In pure Damascus form, the Brothers, along with their ladies, broke bread together at the dinner table. The food was very good, and we thank the Job's Daughters Bethel #6 for serving and cleaning up. We also thank all of the Bethel's adult leadership for their dedication. We were honored to have a special visitor join us. Our first Worshipful Master and Past Grand Master, William Perry, showed up in spirit form to enlighten us on how and why we formed this Lodge. We were told what makes

a Damascus man, and how it takes all of us working together to make a Lodge successful. We then had a number of Brothers receive anniversary certificates, and for special milestones, they received cards. Brother Brian Bertram (Worshipful Master-Elect) was our emcee for the evening and talked a little about his upcoming year. We celebrated the past and looked to the future. For those who could not travel, the officers vowed to hand-deliver those awards. It was a very good night for Damascus Lodge.

*(Continued on next page)*

 **UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**December**

**10th – Christmas Gathering**

Bring your Toys for Tots!

Lake Masonic Center, 4 p.m.

Full details on pg. 4

**16th – Installation**

Lake Masonic Center, 3:30 pm

**12th – Stated Meeting**



# The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

## Where Would I Be?

In the past several years, and given the number of fraternal organizations I (and a number of other Brothers) are involved in, the number of nights that some of us are actually home in any given week number exactly one. Sometimes zero. October and November have seen a very welcomed slowdown to events and meetings, providing a badly needed break for the lot of us.

Walking out the door sometimes though, I think to myself, "Here we go, yet another meeting." Most of the time I look forward to getting to Lodge and being with the guys I know, love, and trust. Guys who you would think were upset with you if they didn't throw a mild verbal jab your way as you walk into the building. Then there are those times when the day at work has been particularly difficult, or some other situation arises that needs attention, and I really just want to stay home and put my head in the sand.

"Time to stiffen the upper lip and go to the meeting. Man, where would I be and what might I be doing if I weren't going to this meeting?"

As soon as I am through the doors at the Lodge, the day's weight and burdens disappear for the next two or three hours. I always look forward

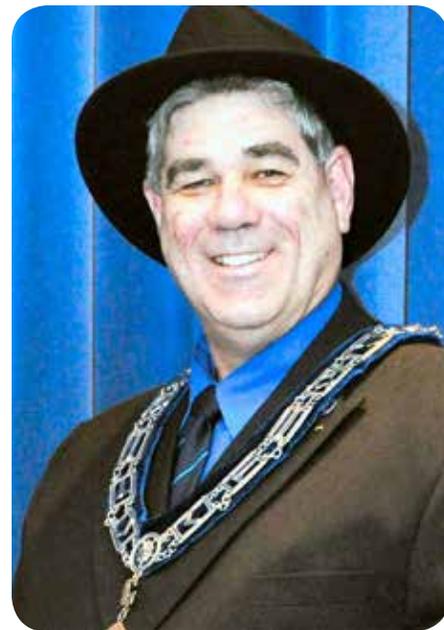
to dinner, which is supposed to start promptly at 6 p.m., but almost always starts on "Fairbanks time," rather than "on time". W. Bro. Nate is such a kidder.

Aside from the usual friendship, camaraderie, and verbal jabs (otherwise known as Brotherly Love), the business of the Lodge goes into high gear. Plans are discussed, past events are reported on, charities are discussed and funded, while education and learning to be a Mason all happen during our meetings.

Post-meeting usually sees a quick gathering and more "Brotherly Love" strewn about prior to our departure for home, where I would have been had it not been for the meeting.

"Where would I be" had I not come to the meeting? I would have been home watching TV or playing computer games and not been a part of our Lodge functions. I would have been home and not been a part of our events or charities. I would have been home and not accomplished anything productive for our community, society overall, or for the Lodge.

Brethren, if you have not attended Lodge in a while, I urge you – deeply and sincerely – to come back. Be a part of the planning. Be a part of improving society overall and our communities by participating in



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the charity discussions. Be a part of improving our Lodge by being in attendance and lending your ideas and suggestions to the meetings.

Bro. Brian Bertram has been elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing Masonic year. We know he will have an excellent year and a lot will be accomplished. Come back to Lodge and throw your support behind the progressing and new officers.

If you come to Lodge, if you lend your support to the Lodge in general, I am certain that you will not ask yourself "Where would I be?"

# DAMASCUS LODGE 290 MEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2017

TIME: 

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

PLACE: 



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**  
bsbert290@att.net or 414-486-0806  
by December 4th, 2017



# Thank You

by Worshipful Master Michael Fairbanks, P.M.

“Hey, Hey”, “Wow”, “Holy Mackerel”, “Magnificent”, “Wonderful”, “Really?”...

Actually, words do not exist, nor are there enough of them to say *thank you* to my line officers and all who jumped in to help this past year.

To Bert, Matt, Nate, and Jake: You guys were totally awesome this year and basically left me with no worries. Your meticulous planning of monthly Lodge events and dinners are just one of the reasons for a successful year at Damascus Lodge #290.

W. Bro. Nate: *Thank you* for always being there, making suggestions, making sure I remembered things, and volunteering to fill in when a hole opened up. Month after month you seemed to be Johnny on the spot – picking up food, setting up, tearing

down and asking, “Hey, did you remember to ...” You stepped in as the “Assistant” Councilor to help new E.A. and F.C. brothers along. For all that, *thank you*.

Bro. Edell and Bro. Brian W.: *Thank you* for stepping up and filling the Steward roles. We look forward to your progression in Lodge.

W. Bro. Pat and W. Bro. Dale: *Thank you* for always being at Lodge fully prepared and having answers to any and all questions. Agendas and Minutes are always ready, and Trustee and Financial reports ready and complete for the meetings. The Lodge and I deeply appreciate all the work you do.

W. Bro. Mick: Every meeting, you were in the kitchen, cleaning up, setting up and tearing down. You have filled in for officers when they were sick or otherwise

unable to attend meetings. Your advice and company on more than a few long rides about the Wisconsin countryside on the way to other Masonic functions – as per usual – proved to be absolutely invaluable. A couple of times you threw the B.S. flag. Your honesty and willingness to whisper good council, hard to hear or not, has taught and helped me, not only to lead, but also to follow. From you sir, I have learned many fine points of being a Master Mason and what it means to be a Master Mason.

Finally, and most importantly, *thank you* to the Brethren who attended Damascus Lodge meetings, events, and took part in discussions. Your regular attendance and participation in all things Damascus has been, and is always, invaluable. Without you, the Lodge could not in any way be successful.

## 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*