



DAMASCUS
290
F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

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Damascus Installs 2018 Full Officer Corps

by Worshipful Master Brian "Bert" Bertram

On December 16, 2017, a full corps of officers were installed by the MWPGM Don Hensiak, with assistance from the Grand Orator Pat Cholka; Sean Schult, P.M.; Brad Bingheim, P.M. of Lake Lodge 189; and Matthew Wright, P.M.

The Installation was a success with the sidelines crowded with guests and Damascus members, officers and their families in attendance. Job's Daughters presented the Living Cross, and Doric Chapter of DeMolay performed the

Ceremony of Lights. As in true Damascus form, a wide array of food was served after the Installation. Our officers' ladies were presented with a flower from their guys, and Worshipful Master Bert presented the ladies with a flower also, as a token of his appreciation for letting the guys "come out and play."

Outgoing 2017 Worshipful Master, Mike Fairbanks, performed a public opening of the Lodge,

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

9th – Stated Meeting

Dinner at 6pm; Meeting at 7pm

23rd – Fellowcraft Degree
Practice (all officers)

Pizza at 6pm; Practice to follow

February

6th – Social Night

11th – Sweethearts' Brunch

Details on pg. 7

13th – Stated Meeting

Dinner at 6pm; Meeting at 7pm

27th – Fellowcraft Degree

Dinner at 6pm; Degree at 7pm

May

22nd – Knife & Fork Degree

More details coming soon

Installation (cont'd)

and in true form, spoke some remarks. Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24 presented the flag and MWPGM Hensiak provided our public guests with some background and education on Freemasonry.

We, as your officers, are looking forward to an eventful year,

and are excited to get down to business. We have a lot planned for our members, their families and ladies, so keep an eye out for snail mail, email, and social media notifications of what's happening in our Lodge.

See you in Lodge!



The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Brian Bertram

Happy New Year to all the members, family and friends of Damascus Lodge! I hope your holiday season was filled with joy and memories that last a lifetime. May the new year be blessed with all you wish for, and good health and happiness fill your days.

I am Brian Bertram and I am humbled and excited to be your Worshipful Master for 2018. Years ago, I said to many in Lodge that I had no intent to ever going through the chairs to be in the position I am in now. Now, here I am, ready and eager to serve the Lodge in, what I hope to be, an exciting year.

My first order in this article is to thank Worshipful Brother Mike Fairbanks for presiding over a very enjoyable, productive and successful 2017. I have very big shoes to fill, and my heartfelt thanks to him for leading the Lodge — although it is a bit overwhelming to me knowing the work that has been accomplished in the past, and the work that needs to be accomplished in the new year.

I would also like to thank Worshipful Brother Sr. Deacon Nate Butts, and Brother Sr. Warden Matt Hanchek for all of the work above and beyond the call they have done for the Lodge. Although Bro. Hanchek has moved to California, we will miss him and all of his family.

To our newest officers, Brothers Edel Alayon, Brian Waszak, and Craig Leonhardt: My sincere appreciation to you for stepping up to fulfill your officer roles. Hopefully this year will be filled with many educational and fond memories as you continue your Masonic Journey.

And finally, thank you to all of the 2018 officers of Damascus for their continued support and work they have done, and continue to do. Each of you has played a pivotal role in the success of Damascus, and I truly look forward to working with each of you.

We have a great year planned, and hopefully it will all fall into place. With the assistance of the great corps of officers we have, I have



Brian Bertram
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org

no doubt it will be memorable. Stay tuned for the event announcements, Facebook posts, emails and snail mail throughout the year. We are going to have a fun time in Lodge at our member, family activities and community outreach projects! If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come on down: be here and be square!

As always, I am here for you, our members! Feel free to contact me at any time.

Introductions



My name is **Craig Leonhardt**, and I am an IT guy by trade, a gamer by choice, and a Mason by drive and determination. I will be the **Junior Steward** for DL290 this year, and am looking forward to helping any way that I am able.

I enjoy spending time with my wife Peg, my daughter Morgan, and my white fuzzball dog, Boo.

Morgan is in Job's Daughters in Bethel #6 and loves it there. So that keeps us pretty busy, too. But I wouldn't change it for anything.

I strive to become a better person by being a Mason, and look to help others in and out of Lodge in the process. I enjoy the ritual work. I enjoy the brotherhood, and I also enjoy doing good for others.

So if you haven't been to Lodge in a while, stop by and I will share some insight and probably a funny story or two. It would be nice to meet more brothers at Lodge.



I am **Brian Waszak**, and I'll be Damascus Lodge's **Senior Steward** for 2018. My Masonic Journey began in 2016, and I had the pleasure of not only becoming a member of DL290, but also meeting and becoming friends and family with the members of our Lodge.

I have been married to my wife Tanya for 13 years. We do not have any children, unless you count our animals. In my spare time I like to play video games, build model tanks, and paint miniatures for war gaming. I'm looking forward to what 2018 has in store for me, and I still have a lot to learn on my Masonic Journey.



My name is **Nathan Butts**, and I've been elected DL290's **Junior Warden** for 2018 – and for the second time! I have been a Mason since 2008 and served as Worshipful Master in 2016.

As Junior Warden, I will do my best to feed the Lodge well before every meal. I will work to have meals posted in the Google calendar in advance so that members can check to see what's for dinner before our meetings.

My wife Kimberly and I have been married for eight and a half years.

Thank you for the confidence you have in me to be a Lodge officer. I am looking forward to the upcoming year of attending all of our Lodge and youth events.

Introductions (cont'd)



Greetings, Brethren! For any of you who don't already know me, I'm **Mick Olson** and will be your **Senior Warden** for DL290 for the ensuing Masonic year. I was raised May 19, 1983, and belong to several appendant bodies. I served as our Lodge as Master in 2008, 2009 and 2014.

My wife Jewel has been a fixture in Lodge and is part of those mischief makers that call themselves the "Margarita Mamas" (more about them in a later issue). My son Kyle was raised in Masonry, both as a child and as a candidate, and is a member of our Lodge, though he now lives in California.

I look forward to working with W.M. Bert and the other officers of Damascus Lodge to give you another great year of Masonry. If I can be of any assistance, or if you'd like to discuss anything, please don't hesitate to drop me a note or give me a call. I look forward to sitting with you in Lodge and seeing you at our many great functions planned for 2018. See you in Lodge!

The Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Curt Campagna, P.M.

Introductions ... well, let me start by saying I'm a timid, quiet, and shy guy (said no one who ever met me). If you have been active or visited our Lodge in the past 20 or some years, I am guessing you probably know or have met me. I am a firm believer in putting in what you get out. I get so much from my Lodge experience with friendships, love of helping in charitable endeavors, and seeing potential in others and our Lodge. I have never asked or aspired to any Masonic title or position, but have been willing to help the craft in any way I can. Consequently, I have served Damascus Lodge

as a Worshipful Master (three times), an Area Administrator, and have served the Grand Lodge as the Grand Chaplain. I also am a member and have served in leadership roles in the Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shrine. This year I have been asked – and accepted – the role of Chaplain. As in the past, I will be writing articles every month entitled the "Chaplains Corner." My intentions are not to be preachy, but to hopefully inspire others. If ever you have needs to just talk to a Brother, I have been – and will always be – available. Till next time – God bless.



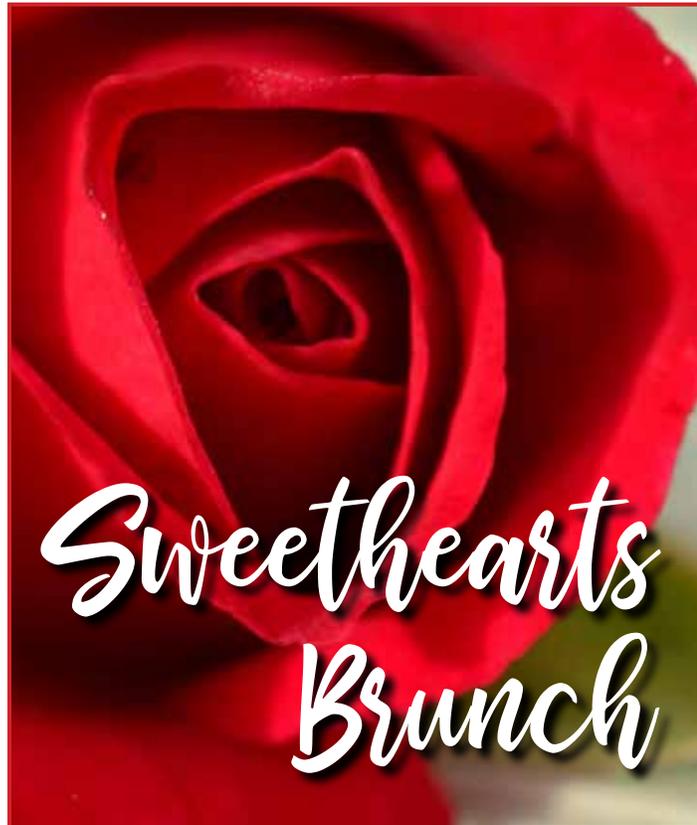
Christmas Spirit

by Senior Warden Nathan Butts, P.M.

Santa descended upon Lake Lodge for a special night as Damascus Lodge had our annual Christmas party. Forty-two Lodge family members were in attendance. The kids wrote letters to Santa, who surprised them with early Christmas gifts and return letters. We all enjoyed the white elephant swap, and all who attended ate an excellent, catered meal. It was a great event, and the kids are looking forward to next year already!



Christmas Spirit (cont'd)



Sweethearts Brunch

*Sunday,
February 11th - Noon*

Saz's on State
(Remodeled since last year)

5539 W State St
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Cost is \$20.
(Ladies free)

Rsvp to Bro. Nathan Butts
junior.warden@dl290.Org
414-405-6383

Sign up by February 1st.
Limit of 54 people.

2018 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Brian "Bert" Bertram
worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden

Charles "Mick" Olson, P.M.
senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden

Nathan Butts, P.M.
junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Chaplain Curt Campagna, P.M.

Senior Deacon Edel Alyon

Junior Deacon Jacob Harycki

Senior Steward Brian Waszak

Junior Steward Craig Leonhardt

Counselor Mike Fairbanks, P.M.

Asst. Counselor Nathan Butts, P.M.

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.

Degree Director Mick Olson, P.M.

Lodge Trustees

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2018)
414-852-4838

Nathan Butts, P.M. (2019)
414-405-6383

Brian Waszak (2020)
414-405-1946

Sick and Visitation Chairperson

Charles "Mick" Olson, P.M.
414-397-3076
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*The Real Secret of Freemasonry –
Making Good Men Better*