

Date February 1st, 2025

2025 Lodge Officers

- **Worshipful Master**
Jake Harycki PM
- **Senior Warden**
Mike Cornell
- **Junior Warden**
Brian Bertram PM
- **Treasurer**
Matt Schmidt
- **Secretary**
Mike Myers PM
- **Senior Deacon**
Noloan Swendrowski
- **Junior Deacon**
Winston Herman
- **Senior Steward**
Greg Neal
- **Junior Steward**
Eric Vesel
- **Tiler**
Larry Chadderdon PM
- **Chaplain**
Byron Borck PM
- **Councilor**
Nate Butts PM

Thank you to everyone who attended the installation. I believe everyone had a great time! For those who made it to the January stated meeting, I'm glad the cold didn't keep you away. I thought we got a lot accomplished during the quick meeting. The officer planning is coming up on 1/28. Don't forget to invite your significant others to this meeting. Dinner will be at 6pm and the meeting at 6:40pm. We will be going over the calendar of events for the rest of the year and I will be asking for the officer to take the lead on an event this next year.

The February 11th stated meeting will feature a Bourbon/Whiskey exchange. If you're interested, please bring a bottle of your choice with no set limit. We will draw names starting at 6:40pm. Bring what you feel is appropriate. I will bring some extra bottles, so no one can feel beguiled or bamboozled.

Sign-up for Night at the Movies will take place at the February stated meeting, where all details will be provided. The movie will be "Captain America: Brave New World." We will meet at the Marcus South Shore Cinema movie theater, not the lodge. "No Ticket!" Dr Jones.

If you're interested in Sportsman Night, the cost is \$150 for each Damascus attendee. This covers early entry, door prize, apps, drinks, dinner, and the raffle package.

Upcoming dates: 1/28 officer meeting with significant others, 2/11: Stated meeting with Bourbon/Whiskey exchange and dinner at 6pm, 2/25: Night at the Movies, 3/11: Stated meeting with dinner at 6pm, 3/21: Sportsman's Night, 3/25: Game Night/Open with dinner at 6pm

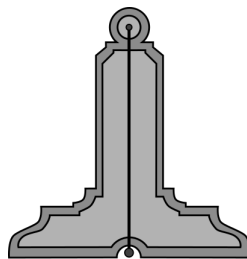
See you in Lodge,

Jake Harycki



Meet your Officers

This Month is SW Mike Cornell



Michael A Cornell
Senior Warden

Initiated 2006, Passed 2007 and Raised 2008 in West Allis Lodge 291
Mount Moriah Lodge 51 in Williston, North Dakota 2015-2019
Became a member of Damascus 290 in 2020
Appendant Bodies membership
West Allis Chapter #84 Royal Arch Masons
Kilbourn Council #9, Royal & Select Masters
Ivanhoe Commandery #24, Knights Templar

In 2005 I was a member of a bagpipe band. I had been for a year or so at that time when I noticed some of the "guys" that were in the group were a little different than the others. Something about their character that set them apart. By all accounts two good guys with nothing really in common other than that band. Then I noticed their rings. I asked them about what it (square and compass) meant. They pulled me aside and explained what it represented and the also the fact that they had been waiting for me to ask! A few months later, they both signed my petition and almost 20 years later, here I am.



I hope this article finds everyone healthy and happy.

I've been asked to put together another article, and I hope this one has a meaning for you.

I am so happy to see our Masonic Trestle Board being published again with articles and photos from events so we can share the Damascus story with all our members both near and far. My topic I'd like to write upon this month is the concept title of a "Damascus Man". We all come from different perspectives, and mine has been part of masonry and this Lodge for many years. I remember when the lodge used to meet in Greenfield, and sadly very few men that were active in those days are still alive. So, I have seen many changes at Damascus Lodge in our membership, our priorities, and our structure. I find there are certain things that have defined this Lodge and what we have stood for. Every Lodge has an identity they are known for. That is the beautiful thing about the diversities of Lodges, especially in a metropolitan area like Milwaukee, each has quirky differences.

So, in my opinion and observation, I have found that Damascus Lodge has a tradition of always having great pride in the quality of our degree work. By being confident in our ability to do exceptional degree work, we also learn to have fun and enjoy being with each other. Do you know that we used to use slide shows in our degree presentations? Brother Pat Militzer PM helped in digitizing all these slides, which almost every Lodge in the State now uses. Brother Mick Olson PM put together an amazing Officers Training Program that was used to develop some of the Grand Lodges training programs. We have been innovators and developers in Wisconsin Masonry for many years. But we always knew that through hard work, and having fun, we were fulfilling our Masonic responsibilities. Every visiting Grand Master or Grand Lodge Officer who witnessed our degree work or just attended a Lodge meeting would all say the same thing. "Damascus Lodge gets it, you do amazing degree work, but you also know what Brotherhood means. This is what Masonry is all about."

I look forward to seeing us getting back to doing great Degree work and then enjoying the benefits of Brotherhood. To the core this lodge is not about egos but being part of a special band of guys who always put Masonry as a priority in their lives. We also have seen potential in what the future holds. The Members have always really cared about each other and their families. We enjoyed traveling together to other Lodges and other Masonic events. I would like to see us get back to traveling, so everyone knows how we take the pound sign seriously.

We also should all be proud to say we also started many different social groups, such as our shooting club, our cooking club and even a role-play club. In short, we always enjoyed working hard, and had fun being goofy with many laughs.

Being a Damascus man also involves integrity, an understanding that we're all different with our quirks and yet melted together as friends and brothers. When we disagreed, we would talk it out with respect and understanding. None of us are perfect but would try our best to look out for each other first. It was always an honor to be a Damascus Man and held a responsibility especially if serving as an officer.

So, as we start a new year, we must again define what means to be a "Damascus Man". With new officers, we look forward to seeing which direction our officers take us. I am looking forward to seeing us bringing in some more degree work with new Brothers, and all the good work that we're able to do while also having fun. When I spoke at our last anniversary event, I explained that we joke about Damascus' weight, and how we like to eat. As I passed out the Damascus Lodge pizza cutters, I explained it isn't the food we eat, but the company we hold at our dinner tables. We are a family and each of us should be proud to be and strive to be a Damascus Man.

Peace
Brother Curt Campagna PM

2025 Lodge Officers Installation



On January 7th, your 2025 Lodge Officers were installed. A big thank you to our Installing Officers Worshipful Bro.'s Dale Graven, Jeremy Koss, Mike Fairbanks, Mick Olson and Craig Leonhardt. The night was well attended by friends and family.

At the stated meeting on January 14th, PM Craig Leonhardt was presented his Past Master Certificate by WM Jake Har- ycki. Damascus Lodge would like to thank PM Craig for his service and look forward to him giving the seated master a "hard time." Just kidding. Thanks Craig.

If any brothers have photos they would like to see in the Trestle Board, please email them to by the last Tuesday of month.



Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. &A.M. 1235 East Howard Ave. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

**Next stated meeting
Is "Bourbon Exchange Night."**



For those who choose to participate, bring a bottle of bourbon, whisky or your choice to exchange with your fellow brothers after dinner.

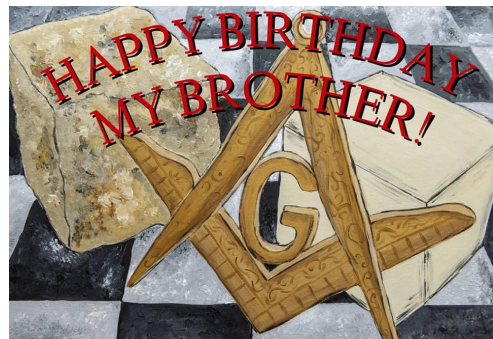
Lodge Birthdays

February

**Dominic Cavalco 2/7, Matthew Wright 2/16
Christopher Balke 2/20**

March

**Dennis D. McNulty 3/1, Byron E. Borck 3/1
Kevin P. Hart 3/9, Dale A. Graeven 3/11
J. Todd Roseman 3/11, Michael Cornell 3/16
John H. Pellman 3/16, Matthew A. Schmidt 3/21**



Upcoming Dates

February 8 Day of Light at Tripoli Shrine

February 11th, Stated meeting. Bourbon exchange.
6pm dinner and Gavel drops at 7pm.

February 25 Night at the Movies

March 11 Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel
drops at 7pm.

March 21 Sportsman's Night at Tripoli Shrine

March 25 Game Night / open



If you have any questions, edits and or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact Bro. Mike Cornell . If you have an article that you would like to see published, please have them into the WM by the 15th of the month .

Sideline Scribbles
February 2025
“Where Would I Be?”

Given the number of Fraternal Organizations that 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 1; sometimes 0.

Walking out the door sometimes though, I think to myself “Here we go, yet another meeting”. Most of the time I am looking forward to getting to Lodge and being with the guys whom 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 6:00, 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 T.V. 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 accomplished absolutely nothing 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 the charity discussions. Be a part of improving our Lodge by being in attendance and lending your ideas and suggestions to the meetings.

Worshipful Bro. Jake (I’m not even going to try to spell his last name) 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?”

Michael L. Fairbanks