

Date June 1st, 2025

Master's Message

By Worshipful Master Jake

Thank you everyone for reaching out about the parking lot. I enjoyed the emails from guys that we don't normally see in Lodge. Don't forget that June stated meeting is Hawaiian shirt night. For those that are not coming to the 120th dinner, Damascus's birthday is June 14th. Congratulations to everyone that made it possible, past and present. We will be having 2 EA degrees coming up on June 24th. Degree Practices will be 5/27, 6/17. Cigar Night will be 5/27 before degree practice.



See you in Lodge,
Jake Harycki

Meet your Officers

This Month is SD Greg Neal



Brother Gregory Neal here. I am the Senior Steward for 2025. I'm approaching my third year as a member of Damascus Lodge #290. Freemason was introduced to me in 1988. However, life did not permit me the time to commit. When it came around to me, a second time, in 2022, I decided to take the pledge. My hobbies include cooking, traveling, and enjoying time with my family and friends. I'm currently attempting to perfect my green thumb in the garden I built in my backyard. I also am a part of the Hotshots. It's taking me two years to get the

hang of it I strive to maintain an active and balanced lifestyle. I served in the US Army 10 active, and 12 reserve years, retiring in 2009. I worked as a lineman at AT&T for 22 years, retiring at the end of 2022. I am a substitute custodian for the Oak Creek Franklin Joint School District. I look forward to further commitment to the lodge and its brothers.

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
Nolan Swendrowski
- Junior Deacon
Winston Herman
- Senior Steward
Greg Neal
- Junior Steward
Eric Vesel
- Tiler
Larry Chadderdon PM
- Chaplain
Byron Borck PM
- Councilor
Butts PM

Nate



On May 1st we picked up our onions the lodge had bought and took them out to the Muskego food pantry. The ladies were so excited to have us back again this year. Submitted by WM Jake.

Broken Column Outdoor MM Degree

Saturday, July 12th
Coffee/Carbs 8:30AM
Degree 9:00AM
Three Pillars Campus



Held In Memory of Tom Tourville and others
whom we have lost

Volunteers Needed to Staff The Degree
Paul.Tourville@WIMasons.org
Call or text 414-659-5205

RSVPs appreciated for Planning of Carbs

 A promotional poster for "Freemasonry At WI State Fair". The poster features a collage of farm animals (sheep, cow, pig, chicken) and fresh produce (peaches, tomatoes, onions). The text includes the Wisconsin Freemasonry logo, the event dates "July 31--Aug 10", and a call for volunteers. It lists benefits for volunteers: Fair Admission, WI Freemasonry Polo, Free Parking, and a \$15 Food Voucher. The poster also provides a sign-up link and contact email.

Wisconsin FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry At WI State Fair

July 31--Aug 10

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Need Three Volunteers/Shift
Shifts 10AM-4PM & 4PM-9PM

Volunteers Receive

- * Fair Admission
- * WI Freemasonry Polo
- * Free Parking
- * \$15 Food Voucher

Sign up via link in body of this post

Any Questions paul.tourville@wimasons.org





DAMASCUS LODGE 290 F.&A.M.
120TH ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

Limited to Lodge members, their spouses,
or significant others

RSVP to Brother Brian Bertram

No later than May 30, 2025

bsbert290@att.net or 414-491-0805

————— 14th —————
JUNE 2025 5:00PM
—————

St. Francis Brewery

3825 S. Kinnickinnic Av, St. Francis WI

Limited to 50 Attendees!!

RSVP Early!

\$20.00 per person/ payable day of event

hand selected menu

cash bar available

"Sideline Scribbles"

Michael Fairbanks
Damascus Lodge #290

"The Lodge Experience" Pt 1.

Earlier this year, I received an email from W.B. Bill Shelley sharing a well written paper explaining "The Lodge Experience". Written by Bro.Daniel D. Hrisko, this paper describes an educational point of view of Freemasonry from one who has many years under his belt as a Mason, and it sums up the basics of what to expect during Lodge meetings and Degrees.

Due to the length of the paper, it will be presented in two parts. A huge "Thank you" to W.B. Shelley in passing this along.

And now, "The Lodge Experience" part two

The Master of the Lodge has the responsibility to conduct meetings that meet several requirements and expectations. At the most basic level is the administrative expectations of the Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Expectations regarding the number of meetings, required activities, and other administrative rules must be met. These are generally of little interest to most in the room, and yet they are a necessary part of lodge operation and require periodic attention. If this is all the Master considers when planning the meetings of the Lodge, he will then miss many opportunities to create a moving Masonic experience regardless of the business before the lodge.

However, if we follow the opening ritual with programs, presentations, or discussions about Freemasonry, then we build upon on the emotional intensity created by a well-executed opening ceremony. Making use of the opportunity of a receptive mind, prepared by the opening ceremony, allows the lessons to be heard, properly considered, and the benefits derived. Following the program, the meeting can then progress to the exploration of the applied aspects of Freemasonry by discussing the opportunities in the world around us, the needs of those in sickness and distress, and the opportunities to assist through the box of fraternal assistance.

Administrative requirements such as committee reports, balloting, and other activities can then follow when they are required. A review of the past meetings and the finances of the lodge can be held, if not already done outside of the meeting or at a separate business meeting, along with the schedule of upcoming activities.

By following this path, the lodge has transformed a space from an ordinary space to a sacred space focusing on the Light of Freemasonry and the study of the related principles. A well-run meeting might then transition to the *practice* of Freemasonry by service to the fraternity and to the application of Masonic principles through meeting the needs of our needy, widows, and the community. The administrative requirements are then addressed as a necessary but recognized as not being the true purpose of our meetings.

Once the administrative duties necessary to the operation of the lodge are completed, the lodge now must find a way to return its attention to the true purpose of the lodge—that being the study of Freemasonry and the training of Masons. This transition can be made in several ways. One can be in the form of a review of the events of the evening, a summary of the essential elements of the program presented, or the moral principles being applied in the activities planned in the upcoming events of the lodge. Some lodges choose to use a ceremonial "fraternal chain" or "Chain of Union" other activity to remind themselves of the tie of brotherhood which binds them together and their commitment to the practice of Masonic values. Once the focus on Fraternity has resumed, then the closing ceremony can begin.

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The closing ceremony, like the opening, represents a transition from one state to another. Just as the opening transforms the profane into the sacred, the closing returns that sacred space to its natural state, one of being a common space with no special qualities; an ordinary space within the profane world. This transition should be given the same due attention as the opening as it is no less important. It is a time to charge the brethren to go forth and practice what they have learned of Freemasonry during their time at labor in lodge and celebrate the progress they have made on their ashlar.

Thus the circle is completed. We have taken an ordinary space, transformed it into a sacred space dedicated to the practice of Freemasonry. We have left the distractions of the profane world behind us and directed our attentions to those matters of essential importance. We have felt the comforts of fraternal bonds and the joy of learning about Freemasonry as we continue our progress on our ashlar. The administrative responsibilities of the lodge have been met, and we have reminded ourselves of our true purpose in lodge, that of learning and improving ourselves in Freemasonry. We have charged ourselves with applying what we have learned in our daily lives, and have completed the circle as we closed the lodge allowing it to return to an ordinary space.

Meetings that follow this arc allow us to harness the power of human emotions to further strengthen those fraternal bonds that we have worked so diligently to forge in the rituals of initiation, passing, and raising of each brother in the room. We have also met our responsibilities as a lodge to provide the best opportunity for brothers attending every meeting of a lodge to learn to subdue our passions, and improve ourselves in Masonry. It is this process that has supported the perpetuation of our order for centuries and, when followed with diligence, will continue to support it in the coming years.

Fraternal bonds, like all relationships, require a conscious effort and the constant attention of all involved to continue to be vibrant and of benefit to anyone. Those that are neglected are doomed. Those that are attended to, maintained, and nourished will thrive and grow.

End of "The Lodge Experience" Part two.

Thank you W.B. William "Bill" Shelley for passing this paper along. For those of us who know W.B. Shelley, know him to be a member of the handful of men who not only practices Freemasonry, but lives it. For those who do not know him, you are missing out.

Paper presented in this article is was presented with permission.

Damascus Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M., dinner served at 6:00. If you have not been to Lodge in a while, come back and "experience" the fellowship and workings of Lodge.

Be there AND be square.

"A look back..."

As we are close to celebrating our 120th anniversary of chartering of our lodge, let's take a quick glance at the year 1905. That year the United States had an average life expectancy of 47 years. The average wage was 22 cents per hour, with workers earning between \$200 and \$400 annually. Additionally, the population in 1905 was approximately 83.8 million, with a population growth rate of 2.02%. The average cost of a home in the United States was around \$3,000 and only about 8% of which could be found with a telephone and 14% of these homes had a bathtub. Also, in these homes; 95% of births for this year would occur here.



Our President at this time was Theodore Roosevelt and was one of our more famous brothers of the craft. One month after he became Vice President, Theodore Roosevelt was raised a Master Mason on April 24, 1901. He was a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806 of Oyster Bay, New York, and spent many years as an active and proud Freemason. Notably, Brother Roosevelt visited lodges in Africa, Europe, and South America and assisted in laying the cornerstone of the Pilgrim Memorial Monument in Provincetown, MA. He also broke ground for the Spokane, WA, Masonic Temple and, most famously, laid the cornerstone at the north gate of Yellowstone Park.

We all should take a moment to reflect on the significant advancements and changes we have made for our selves, our community and world. Who knows what it will look like in another 120 years (That's the year 2145 for my brothers who aren't great at math. Ha!)

Submitted by Bro. Mike Cornell

Damascus in the community

Back in February we had Chief Botsch of Mount Pleasant reach out about the FST program. FST is the Fire suppression Tool. They were hoping to get 1 unit. We used funds from both the Damascus Lodge Philanthropic committee, and with matching funds from Grand lodge. We were able to donate 2 units. On May 19th I delivered 2 units to Chief Botsch. He was extremely grateful for both units. Special thanks to Bobbi for being the contact person and being able to meet at the station and take Photos.

Submitted by WB Jake



Lodge Birthdays

June

Richard Feest 6/12, Gerald Arnholt 6/18, Larry Chadderdon 6/21,

Davie Gonzalez and Craig Leonhardt 6/29.

July

Richard T. Lang Jr 7/4, James J. Janczak 7/6,

Jeff Woosley 7/9 ,Basil E. Ryan 7/24,
Mick Olson and John Delakis 7/30.

Upcoming Dates

June 10 Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. (**Hawaiian shirt night!** cut off for RSVPS for Baseball game.)

June 17 EA Degree practice (all 7 officers please)

June 24 Double EA Degree conferral. Please wear black suits if possible.

July 8 Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. (**Favorite Team Jersey night**)

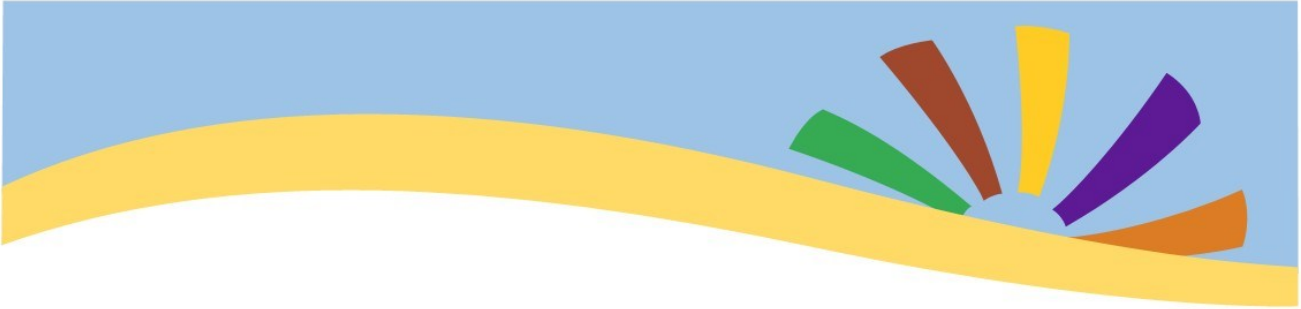
July 12 Damascus with the Milkmen Game. Pick up tickets from Bro. Mike at the front gate at Franklin Field. Pick up Tix by 5:30pm.



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 .

Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. &A.M. 1235 East Howard Ave.



Baseball with Damascus



* Come join your brothers for a evening of baseball, hotdogs and fellowship. Open to all members, their families and prospective candidates. Cost is **\$15/ticket** (prospectives are free) which includes admission, souvenir gift and all you can eat and drink (non alcoholic). Seats are in the HOP YARD.

**July 12th 2025. Ticket Pickup at 5pm.
Game at 6pm.**



**Franklin Field
7035 S. Ballpark Dr. Franklin, WI 53132 (76th and
Rawson Avenue)**

RSVP to Bro. Mike Cornell @ kilteddad17@yahoo.com or
text 414-231-1224 by June 10th.