



Date August 1st, 2025

Master's Message

The improvements to the parking lot look great. If you haven't yet seen them in person please stop by the lodge and take a look. The AV upgrades have not yet been started. Double EA is coming up on August 5th. Everyone has been doing great with all the practices. Along with 8/12 stated will be Suit Jacket with shorts night, 9/7 is the family Zoo trip \$5 for those 13 and up, if interested please email Nolan at [nolan@damascus290.org](#). Summer has been going crazy fast this year. For those that are interested in the trip next year please reach out to Mike. See the flyer below.

See you in Lodge,

Jake Harycki



Meet your Officers

This Month is Treasurer Matt Schmidt



My name is Matthew Schmidt, I grew up in Greendale and graduated from Greendale HS in 1985. I married my high school sweetheart Bobbie in 1992. I joined Lake Lodge in 1997, as my uncle Gary Parker and my father in law Sam Seidita were members. I became a plural member at Damascus lodge in 2019 and served as treasurer since 2020. Bobbie and I have three adult children, Vincent (30), Amanda (28) and Joshua (25), luckily they all live within thirty minutes, so we see them frequently. We also have a 6-year old grandson Dominic, whom we spoil every chance we get. I am in the twilight of my career, having spent ten years as a union electrician, nine years as an electrical project manager, and ten years as an industrial humidification service manager. I am currently working as a water treater and thoroughly enjoy my flexible schedule. Anyone who knows me, knows that my favorite hobby is metal detecting. I started a club about 7 years ago, and we have 20 -25 members (Jake H and Curt C join us) who meet monthly to show off their goods. I also enjoy hiking, with over 850 miles completed on the Ice Age Trail. If you haven't met me, please say hello!

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

Damascus Zoo Trip

Sunday September 7th

\$5 For Adults (13 and Up)

Kids 12 and Under Are Free!

1 Parking Pass per Family

Email nrswendr@gmail.com

or

Text **(414)-550-1387**

by **August 12th!**

Meet by the Giraffes at 2pm for a photo!



**A MASON'S
GO TO THE
FAIRE!**

**SEE YOU
THERE!**

LIKE & SHARE

Ahoy, mateys! Lake Lodge 189 & Tripoli Jolly Badgers beckon you to join us at the Pirate Weekend at the Bristol Renaissance Faire. Don your finest pirate garb and join us for a treasure trove of fun and excitement. Arrr, don't miss out on the most pirate-tastic event of the season!

AUGUST 2, 2025

Buy Tickets Online at <https://renfair.com/bristol/> or at Menards
Bristol Ren Faire: 12550 120th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53142

Bag Toss **Lodge vs Lodge** **Tournament**

Tuesday, August 26

6:00pm

2 person Teams

Each team must be from same Lodge to compete for the Tournament trophy. Lodge can have as many teams as they want. South Shore, Lake, And Damascus. Who's the best at putting in the hole. Standard Bag Toss rules.

RSVP to Jake Harycki by August 12th

Jharycki@gmail.com 414-517-1450



Sideline Scribbles

By Michael Fairbanks

“The Cement of Brotherly Love”

As Mason's we may take time away from work and from Masonry but as Mason's our conduct and character should never go on vacation. Our behavior and conduct are always in view of our Brethren, their families, and the public in general.

The cement of the Operative Mason is composed of several components and chemicals to bind stone and brick, so too is the cement of brotherly love composed of many moral principles that bind Masonic brethren. Respect and harmony being important parts of the components that makes up our cement.

We meet and greet each other on the street with the utmost respect and the highest regard for each other as Masons. We are especially polite and courteous to each other when in public at a Lodge function and with our ladies. In short, we meet on the Level.

Masons are first to lend a hand or assist someone in trouble or someone who just needs a bit of help maneuvering around an obstacle, especially brother Masons as it is part of our commitment to each other and we do so with the utmost respect and brotherly love toward each other. We act by the Plumb.

When in Lodge, we at Damascus #290 are courteous and respectful toward each other at all times. This is also the time when we are most likely to let slip an untimely or discordant remark borne out of frustration, however it is usually quickly overlooked and we move on with business as usual and we leave Lodge for home in Harmony. We part upon the Square.

As we bring new Masons into our family fold, we need to be ever vigilant that we do not let discordant passions or the occasional bad remark creep into our association with each other especially when we are involved with new prospects, candidates, and new Master Masons. If we allow ourselves the indulgence of snide or malicious comments aimed at slapping or slighting a brother, the cement of brotherly love crumbles.

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

Finally, we have a great and wonderful Lodge, one that I am so very proud to be a part of. We work hard, we play hard and practice Freemasonry as it should be practiced; with respect and brotherly love. It is my hope for the future that we continue to grow and have the bonds of brotherhood and friendship be continued and expanded.

If you haven't been to Lodge lately, come back and see what we are doing. Come for a meal before the meeting and catch up on the happenings and doings. For those who have been able to come to Lodge – Keep coming, be there AND be Square

Damascus #290 meets at 6:00 p.m. on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Lodge Birthdays

August

Paul Graeven 8/14, Bernard C. Baumgardner 8/21,
Sean R. Schult 8/24, Nathan Butts 8/28.

September

Paul Peacock 9/4, Michael A. Corso 9/5, Gregory P. Neal 9/7,
Pete Czechorski 9/8
Jacob C. Harycki 9/16, Kirby A. Timm 9/19, Fernando Topete
9/19, Jon S. Syverson 9/21
Michael B. Meyer 9/26, Brian J. Waszak 9/29



Upcoming Dates

August 5 Double EA degree. Dinner at 6pm Degree at 645pm

Aug 12 Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. (Suit Jacket and Shorts)

Aug 26 Lodge vs. Lodge Cornhole tournament. 6pm Dinner. Bags fly at 7pm. (see flyer on pg. 2)

Sept 7 Damascus Zoo Trip (see flyer on pg. 2)

Sept 9 Stated Meeting.. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. (Back to formal lodge attire)



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 in the Community



(Pictured) Officer Edwards, K9 Rocket, Bro. Dale, Bro. Craig and WM Jake.



JW Brian gets some love from Rocket

On July 8th, Damascus Lodge had a special visit from South Milwaukee Police Department. Officer Edwards and K9 Officer Rocket gave a small presentation and a question and answer session to the brethren and then received a \$500 donation to the canine dept. Rocket was "off duty" and therefore was more than happy to give our hugs to anyone that came over to say "Hi." Officer Rocket is a narcotics K9 and valuable team member for SMPD. Thanks to Officer Edwards for his presentation and great information!



Remember!

September through July

Lodge Dress Code:

Jacket and Tie

Summer months are casual, not year round please.

Expiration Date: 00/00/00





Damascus goes to Washington D.C.



George Washington Masonic Memorial

May 1st through May 4th, 2026

Exact times TBD

You and a guest are invited to come with Damascus Lodge to visit our capitol as we tour the George Washington Masonic Memorial and Arlington Cemetery in Alexandria Va. Open to the first 30 people (1 mason and 1 guest or 2 masons to a hotel room). RSVP's **MUST** be made by email (kilteddad17@yahoo.com) for time stamping purposes. Trip includes: Transportation to and from airport, flight, hotel stay and tour costs. 1 welcome meal will be provided. Cost for this trip is \$300 per person. **RSVP due by Sept. 1st and deposit of \$150/person due at Nov. 11th** stated meeting.

SPONSORED BY DAMASCUS LODGE NO. 290 WI. F.&A.M.