

December 1st, 2025

Master's Message

Hope everyone is enjoyed there Thanksgiving and time with their family. Congratulations to all the hunters that got something. For those that came out on Damascus Festival of Trees Night, I think everyone had a great time. A huge thank you to all the margarita mamas for great job with the tree. For those who missed it, it was everything squish mellow. Thank you again for all your hard work.

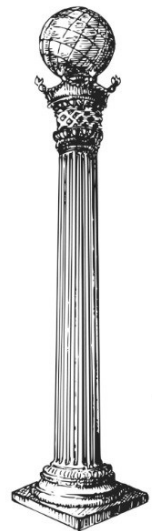
Congratulations to Mike and the new elected officers for the new year. It is going to be a great year. Lots of new ideas and events. See everyone at installation January 10th. It was a pleasure be your WM for this year. I tried to make lodge fun. Time fly's when you're having fun. Thank you to each one of you guys for making this happen and making fun.

Have a great Christmas.

Jake Harycki PM



Degree Work!



On Nov. 4th, Mr. Sean Paczesny was initiated. SW Mike stepped into the east to confer. Our latest EA's were there as well to watch (Bro. Jim and Mark). A big shout out to Bro. Josh Armstrong, WBro. Bruno and WBro. Fairbanks with helping with the lectures and charge. Well done to all our brothers!

2025 Lodge Officers

- Worshipful Master
Jake Harycki PM
- Senior Warden
Mike Cornell
- Junior Warden
Dom Cavalco
(pro-tem)
- Treasurer
Matt Schmidt
- Secretary
Mike Meyer 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
Nate Butts PM

Toys for Tots Schedule
With Hays Lodge

- 12/02 Second Toy Buy 4-6pm
 Fleet Farm Germantown
- 12/04 Third Toy Buy 4-6pm
 Fleet Farm Germantown
- 12/10 Toy Presentation to the Marine Corps
 4pm
 Marine Corps Reserve Center
 2401 S Lincoln Memorial Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53207
Attire is Masonic polo or business casual.
NO weapons are allowed on the premises.
This includes no concealed carry



Wisconsin
FREEMASONRY

BE THE GOOD IN THE WORLD

Masonic Day of Light

Saturday February 7, 2026

Tripoli Shrine Center

Contact dd12@wimasons.org to register.

DAMASCUS LODGE

Presents

Wine and Chocolate

With our Ladies

Come spend your Valentines Day with your sweetheart

At our first Wine and Chocolate pairing event for our

Ladies of Damascus. Here you will try different wines from around the world

As well as chocolates.

DATE: FEBRUARY 14TH AT 7PM

LOCATION: LAKE MASONIC CENTER

COST: LADIES ARE FREE, BROTHERS ARE \$10

Sample 5-6 different wines and Chocolates



You're Invited

January 10th @ 12pm (luncheon and
ceremony to follow)

Damascus Lodge 290 121st Annual Installation of Officers

LAKE MASONIC CENTER
1235 E. Howard Ave, Milwaukee Wi.

Please RSVP w/ Worshipful Master Elect: Michael Cornell
email: kilteddad17@yahoo.com text: (414) 231-1224



December is here and summer has passed; fall is at its end. Congratulations go out to our newest Master elect – one Brother Michael Cornell. Like George W. Bush and his second term – I don't know of anyone who voted for Brother Mike. <snicker>

Congrats also goes out to Worshipful Brother Jake. As he completes his second sitting as Worshipful Master I look back over 2025 and the progress and improvement made is nothing short of "OUTSTANDING". A huge "Thank You" to Worshipful Brother Jake for a Grand Canyon size of a year.

The many events planned, were events that were interesting, fun, and fairly well attended. If you were unable to attend Lodge or the events, the only thing missing, as Worshipful Brother Mick Olson always said – "was YOU".

Our elections having concluded, officers will take their new positions once installed. I can only plead with you to take your new office seriously. If you have not already learned your new position, then work hard to learn it. If memorization is required, then memorize. Should you have questions or need help, reach out to someone. We have many, many past Masters just sitting on the sidelines who are willing to take the time to answer questions or meet somewhere and go over anything you have questions about.

Brother Junior Deacon, you have many duties. You are in essence the backup for our Tiler in that you answer at the inner door of the Lodge. You are charged with preparing the candidates, including the Junior Deacon's address to that candidate prior to his first admission into our Lodge. You are to assist the Senior Deacon in ensuring the candidate is properly clothed, and from there introduce the candidate to the Lodge.

Other duties include being the messenger within the Lodge for the Senior Warden and helping the Senior Deacon prepare the Lodge for meetings and degrees when not attending to the candidates. When all of this is finished and while not an official duty of the Junior Warden, it doesn't hurt to ask if the Junior Warden and Stewards need help in the kitchen.

Once the work is complete, you still need to learn the Senior Deacon's position if you plan to advance in the progressive officers line. At the same time, you should be training the Senior Steward for the following year.

Brother Senior Deacon, your duties are just as many only a bit more involved. You have perhaps the most important job in the Lodge during the degree. Taking the candidate after he has been introduced and conducting him during his degree is one of the highest honor's one can have. "Follow your conductor and fear no danger" instills trust and confidence that you have his back. If you have not already done so, learn your duties, memorize the ritual including the constitutional questions, and always be ready to assist the candidate in any need they have.

In addition to caring for the candidate, you are the messenger for the Worshipful Master inside Lodge. While training the Junior Deacon to take your chair, your other duties include preparing the Lodge for meetings and degrees, preparing the candidate prior to his degrees, introducing and caring for visiting Brethren, and when you are done with all of this; learn the Junior Warden's position if you are planning to advance the following year.

Freemasonry is one of those things in life where you get back what you put into it. It takes dedication, commitment, and a lot of work. I could not possibly put into the craft in 100 lifetimes what the craft has given me in 20 years.

Next month, it's all about the Wardens.

Brethren, if you have not been to Lodge for a while, come back on a second or fourth Tuesday and see the new and exciting things our Officers and the Lodge have planned and are doing. Good things are happening.

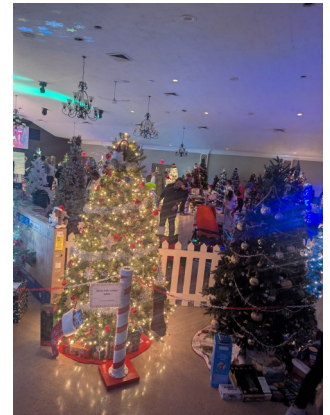
For those of us who are regular attenders, keep coming and supporting our officers. Officers, keep up the great work and as usual, be there and be square.

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Festival of Trees 2025

On November 25th, Damascus visited Tripoli shrine for their annual Festival of Trees. Dinner was served up in the billiard room and then we descended into the ball room. The decorated trees and presents were highlighted by Bro. Fernando's light and sound show for the event. A big shout out to the "Margaritta Mammias" for coordinating the tree decoration and gifts. Their "Squishmallows" tree was quite impressive.



Lodge Birthdays

December

Tom Tinney 12/17, Eric Vesel 12/20 and

Kelly Brown 12/27

January

Time Bauer 1/5, Mike Clinnin 1/6,

John A. Kosidowski 1/17, Jim Schneider 1/26



Upcoming Dates

December 9th, Stated Meeting (dinner at 6pm, Gavel drops at 7pm) **Bad Holiday Attire**

January 10th, **Officer Installation** (Officers report at 1100am) Lunch at Noon, ceremony at 1pm.

January 13th, Stated Meeting (dinner at 6pm, Gavel drops at 7pm)

January 27th Officer (planning) meeting at Lake Masonic Center 6pm Dinner, meeting to follow. **All officers and Trustees are requested.**



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.

Past Master's Corner

"Enjoy the Ride"

I have had the honor and privilege of sitting as Master of Damascus twice.

My first go at Master was in 2011. The officers held their first meeting at a teahouse in Waukesha where we discussed the duties of each officer of the Lodge and assigned events to officers for planning. Our host gave a presentation on the various teas of the world and their histories. It was a planning meeting that we had done a couple of times before and one that we looked forward too. That meeting plotted the course for the year 2011.

My second go was 2017. We held the officers meeting at the Lodge, but the goals and discussions were pretty much the same. Plot the course for the year for Damascus 290.

During both years, there were ups and downs, and there were successes and failures. Out of it all I discovered that while I was the supposed "Leader", I needed the advice and help of the Past Masters, my officers, and my Brothers on the sidelines. With their advice and guidance things got done and I had but to ask for the help.

For any new Master, whether he be from Damascus or any other Lodge – understand that you are not the Lone Ranger. Your Brothers are here to help you, to answer any questions you may have. Past Masters are going to give you advice, if you ask for it, on any situation you may encounter. Remember, these guys have been through it already. Build that two way trust with your officers by listening and taking advice from them.

Your Senior Warden should have the Lodge set up for each meeting and your Junior Warden along with his Stewards should be attending to dinner for the Craft.

As Master of the Lodge, greet your Brethren as they come in the door and welcome everyone that comes in. Give each Brother your attentive ear. During dinner, ask each table how they find the food and visit for just a bit.

Follow your plan for the year, lead the Lodge with fair and sensible decisions, and do not be afraid to reach out to your Brethren with questions and I promise that as Worshipful Master you will have a fun and rewarding year.

Enjoy the ride !!

Michael L. Fairbanks

