

March 1st, 2026

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Mike Cornell

Senior Warden

Dom Cavalco

Junior Warden

Nolen Swendrowski

Senior Deacon

Winston Hermann

Junior Deacon

Eric Vesel

Senior Steward

Greg Neal

Junior Steward

Kelly Clingaman

Secretary

Michael B. Meyer PM

Treasurer

Jake Harycki PM

Chaplain

Byron Borck PM

Counselor

Nate Butts PM

Tiler

Larry Chadderdon PM

Master's Message

Greetings from the East!

Hope you are all well. As spring approaches, I look forward to warmer weather as well as getting together for fellowship in the outside air. We had a successful Ladies Event on Valentines Day (see article below) and this month, Damascus will be visiting the Milwaukee Admirals (see flyer on pg. 2). In the months to come, we will have more events and chances to connect. If you have been to lodge recently, you may have noticed a growing number of seats filled on the sidelines. My goal is by the end of the year, to fill our seats with members, visitors and new brothers! It's a lofty goal I know. How do we do this? By getting out...visiting other lodges, getting involved in community projects and plain old "talkin' up" our lodge. Our new brothers need encouragement from our older members that in the end; their hard work to be proficient in their degrees is worth it. **Because it is!** Give them a call and offer support. Give our members whom we haven't seen in a while a ring, invite them back to lodge! Tell other brothers from different lodges they should come visit! Our success is through you my brother and what you want to put in. Hope to see you all soon at a meeting or an event. 'Till then my brother....

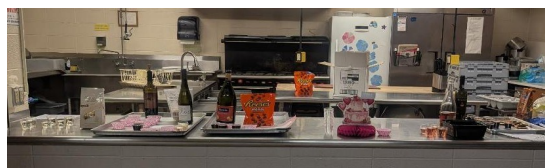


WM Mike

DAMASCUS'S LADIES EVENT

Wine and Chocolate Pairing

On Valentine's Day, the brethren had an opportunity to thank our ladies for all that they do in our lives. Is there a better way to say "I love you" other than chocolate and wine? The guests had a chance to taste multiple wines from around the world; Germany, Greece, Italy and the US. They were paired with different chocolates; salted caramel, milk, dark and white, each with qualities to enhance the flavors of each. Brothers took turns serving and narrating the pairings while the ladies were able to sit back and enjoy. When all was said and done...6 different courses were served and enjoyed thoroughly by all in attendance. In the end the Stella Rosan with white chocolate truffle won best in show! A special thanks goes to WM's lady Lea, for planning the night!





Admirals game

UWM PANTHER ARENA
RSVP TO BR WINSTON HERMANN

\$15 PER PERSON
5:30 PM
21, MARCH, 2026

Open to family!



Damascus DC Trip



Pre-trip Meeting

April 21st
7:00pm



At Lake Masonic Center

For those who are attending the DC Trip in May. Come meet our travel agent and trip director

Dawn Makowski from Throttle Travel.



She will go over trip information, cover the itinerary as well as answer questions you may have pertaining to the trip.

If there is a balance owed for the trip, it will be due this meeting.

(make checks payable to Damascus No 290)



Past Masters Dinner

When: Tuesday, April 28th • 7:00 PM
Where: The Steakout
6300 Industrial Loop, Greendale

Cost: Past Masters FREE
Members are \$30



RSVP: Dominic Cavalco
414-477-0360 (call or text)

Reservations close on April 20th



Sideline Scribbles
Michael L. Fairbanks PM
"Is It Too Early?"

Having just gone through installation in January, is it too early to look back at this past Masonic Year and reflect? Perhaps it is too early to look forward to the ensuing Masonic Year.

For once, I am going to put the women in our lives first and say: "THANK YOU!" to the women for supporting us and letting us come to Lodge. It is with your blessings and support that we as Masons can meet and do the work (interpretation – have fun) we so enjoy doing.

Our Lodge Officers were elected in November of last year and I look forward to the advancement of those Officers, and the keys turned over to one whom I know will carry forth the traditions of Damascus Lodge #290.

As Master in 2011 and again in 2017, I struggled with many things and as the Supreme Architect would have it; I had the benefit of many Past Masters guarding and guiding me through. My Line Officers those years were outstanding and provided invaluable advice and effort. With the help of the Past Masters and Line Officers, the Lodge got through without too many problems. My forever gratitude to all of them for keeping me from drowning.

How fortunate I was to have the support and dedication of everyone. I created a calendar of events, and everyone else ran with it. During both years, I was like a little league quarter back with Gale Sayers, Walter Payton, and Jimmy Brown in the backfield at the same time. All I had to do was hand the calendar off to Bert, Matt, Nate, Dale, Jake, or Mick and the event was an automatic success. I wish our new Worshipful Master, Michael Cornell a core of Officers and Brothers that will support him as mine supported me.

Our newest Master knows what to expect and how Lodge works. He also knows that the success of any Lodge, "more especially of ours", will be dependent upon the dedication and work of his Line Officers. The success of our events will be dependent upon participation of our membership and their families. He knows the success of the Worshipful Master depends upon the Lodge surrounding him and whispering good council during good times and not so good times. The trick? Listen to the whispers.

To W.B. Jake. I personally say "thank you" for taking a second year in the East and guiding Damascus #290 through the year. You stood toe to toe with "confusion" and brought everyone together under strict guidelines and conducted the business of the Lodge in a professional and timely manner.

Most impressive is the fact that every time adversity and confusion knocked you down; you picked yourself up – brushed yourself off and asked, "Is THAT all you got?". Future Masters will benefit from your example.

All I can say at this point in time is: "Atlas – step aside."

To W.B. Jake an old Irish saying:

Is feudur gra, sonas, athas, agus rath a bheith leat
May love, happiness, joy, and success be with you!

To W.B. Michael:

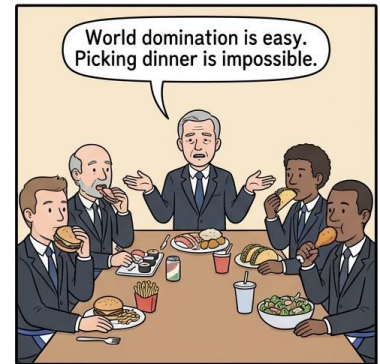
Go n-éireoidh go geal leo siúd a chuidigh leat, agus leo siúd a chabhróidh leat.
May your success be marked by those whom you have helped, and by those who will help you.

To the Brethren:

Beo na tenets of Freemasonry go bhféadfá a bheith mar sholas solais dóibh siúd ar mian leo teacht amach as an dorchadas.

Live the tenets of Freemasonry that you may be a beacon of light for those who desire to come out of the darkness.





Lodge Birthdays

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

April

Winston Hermann 4/3, Carey McIntyre and Echard
 Tetzlaff 4/6, Josh Ellett 4/18, Brian Bertram 4/27,
 Dakota Wells 4/28



Upcoming Dates

Mar. 10th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm.

Mar. 21st Admiral's Game and tour. 5:30pm (see flyer on pg. 2)

Mar. 24th Lodge of Instruction. Dinner at 6pm with instruction to follow.

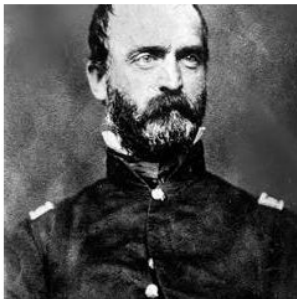
April 14th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm



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 in to the WM by the 15th of the month .

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

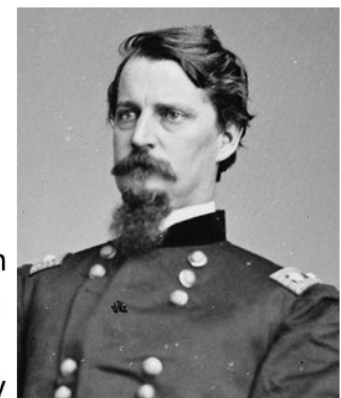
“Friend to Friend”



Major Lewis Armistead

Prior to the U.S. Civil War, Major Lewis Armistead and Captain Winfred Scott Hancock served together in the 6th US Infantry in California. They were friends and Brothers. At the onset of the war, Brother Armistead would resign his commission and join the Confederacy, whereas Brother Hancock would remain with the Union. At Gettysburg, now a brigadier general, Armistead would lead his brigade in the famous Pickett's Charge against the Union center on July 3rd. Hancock, now a major general and commander of the Union II Corps, was stationed right at the point of attack. Armistead would iconically place

his hat on his raised sword to rally his men as they approached the Union line. Shortly after breaching the line, Brother Armistead was mortally wounded. He called out for his friend, Brother Hancock, who was nearby. Unfortunately, Hancock was simultaneously injured and removed from the field. Captain Henry Bingham, Hancock's chief of staff and a Mason, attended to the fallen Armistead. Armistead entrusted to Bingham his personal belongings, including his Masonic watch and the Bible he had taken his Oath and Obligation upon; to be given to Hancock in the hope the items would be given to his wife. Armistead died shortly thereafter. Hancock, upon his recovery, delivered the items to his Brother's wife as asked. This interaction is very important in Masonry and is the basis of the [Friend to Friend Monument](#) at the National Cemetery in Gettysburg.



Captain Windfred Hancock