

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



May 1st, 2026

Master's Message

Greetings from the East! Hope your spring has been the start of growth in you and your lodge. Lots of happenings in 290! We have been receiving petitions and have at least one posting coming up which means degree(s) are in the future! We will keep you all updated with dates as they come up with hopes to see the sidelines filled! We have a Past Master's Dinner at the end of this month as well as a lodge trip to our nation's capital in May. After the trip, a presentation will be made to present as a Masonic education to anyone who would like to receive it. We look forward to seeing you all this year in lodge. Stop by on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for our stated meetings but come hungry; we'd love to share our dinner with you at 6pm. We'd love to see you.

Till then my brother....

WM Mike



Laurence Baird

Damascus Lodge enjoyed a visit from two brothers from South Shore Lodge #3 at our stated meeting on April 14, 2026.

Pictured are Brother Robert Miksch (left), Worshipful Master Michael Cornell of Damascus #290, and Eric Markusen.

The two Brothers broke the seal on their new Masonic passports and made Damascus the first stop on their quest to visit all Lodges in District 12.

Submitted by Bro. Rich Cummings



★ INVITING ALL ST. FRANCIS FIRST RESPONDERS! ★
(Police, Fire, EMS)

COOK OUT & THANK YOU CELEBRATION



★ **THANK YOU, ST. RESPONDERS!** ★
★ We want to say **THANK YOU** for all you do ★
★ to protect and care for our community! ★
Join us for Food, Fellowship, and Fun
as we honor your dedicated service!

DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 28th
TIME: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
LOCATION: LAKE MASONIC CENTER
ADDRESS: 1235 E HOWARD AVE,
ST. FRANCIS, WI



ALL FIRST RESPONDERS WELCOME!
Free Food, Drinks!
Host: Damascus Lodge No. 290. We are grateful for your service!

Damascus Lodge No. 290

UNION GROVE RENAISSANCE FEAST

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Union Grove Masonic Center 1021- 11th Avenue, Union Grove, Wisconsin

The Tournament Fields & Medieval Market

4:00 pm the fun commences with outdoor Lawn Croquet and bocce games (weather permitting), the opening of the silent auctions, basket raffles and sale of trinkets and the sale of beverages, including wine and beer (cash bar)

The Mystical Magician

4:15 pm a wondrous performance by the mysterious Ioanovich the Impossiblist

The Feast Commencement

5:30 pm a magnificent delight composed of fried chicken, pork loin, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes & gravy, dinner rolls and apple pie

The Traveling Minstrels

6:30 p.m. a most magical performance by the world traveling group BOUNDING MAN

The Costume Pageant

7:30 p.m. The fairest of the faire costumes are judged and the revelries conclude afterward

\$35 /Ticket --- Only 60 Tickets Available!



Edelweiss

BRUNCH CRUISE

Sunday, June 28

10:30 - 1:00

Meet at 10:30 at 205 N Highland Ave



Coffee and water included, cash bar

Menu to Follow

\$25 per person

RSVP and payment to Matt Schmidt
262-498-7109




Sideline Scribbles
Michael Fairbanks

“Influence”

I get the biggest laugh out of celebrity and sport figure interviews when the interviewer asks “And who was the one person that influenced you the most in your climb to stardom?” I laugh out loud with a loud, fake, and exaggerated guffaw then go into a diatribe on influencers and at what point in your life they entered or left.

I do not believe that in most people’s lives there is just one influencer. My wife, finally tiring of the diatribe that started about 20 years ago, began using “the look” and I figure out that “now” probably isn’t a good time to go into the “influencer” diatribe for the millionth time with her around.

In one’s life, and at any point in time there can be and usually are multiple influencers. I remember my mum and dad being the ones with the most influence on me. My older sister had somewhat of an influence with the immortal words of “I’m TELLING”.

Entering kindergarten my influencers increased. I now had peers to coerce me and teachers to correct any misdeed and this in addition to a phone call to my mum and dad. I couldn’t quite figure out how to influence my mum that I was an angel and it was my friends that got me into trouble and the teachers were just picking on me.

By the time I arrived at High School, I had gone through multiple “the one influencer”’s. Elementary, Junior High School teachers, baseball, hockey, and football coaches. During elementary school the “one” influencer was Mrs. Knight, Mr. Church, or Mrs. Ruth who were the most patient and kind teachers. Always at the ready with some lesson on kindness and forgiveness.

Then in Junior High, and depending upon the day, and class we were attending, or what sport we were playing the “one” influencer could be Mrs. Kroncke, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Alderich, Mr. Baney, Mr. Cole, Mr. Cook, Mr. Love, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Baker, or Mrs. Baker. All of them most respected and beloved by everyone. All them being influencers during this time in our lives. And of course, there was mum, dad, and big sis waiting at home for even more influence.

In High School, my influencers shifted to Mr. Quade, Mrs. Strunk, Mr. French, Mr. McKee, Mr. Zigler, Mr. Wilhite, Miss Lake, Mrs. Sempert, or Miss Meyn. All teachers and coaches and all with a different influence on behavior and manners. All them always available to help a troubled student and guide them away from trouble or just be there for the student to have someone to talk with. And unlike today, none of them – not one ever gave up on a student.

As an 18 year old just out of High School on a hot day in May, I found myself standing on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island, South Carolina and as soon as Drill Instructors Severcek, Brown, and Arispbe formed platoon 399 for the first time, my “one” influencer was now the United States Marine Corps.

Marriage and children eventually became the “one” influencer. Everything in life now revolved around taking care of the family. Of course, there are still the lesser “one” influencers; In-Laws, mum, dad, big sis, influencing and advising on everything from how to properly kick a stone to how to “set your kid straight if he were mine”.

Throughout your life, is of course – your best friend. The one person in the world who wouldn’t come at 2:00 A.M. to bail you out of jail because he’s in the cell, looking at you and saying “Man, we really messed up this time”. Total and implicit influence applied here.

Then one day you decide to visit relatives in a far off land and unbeknownst to you at the time, you are about to embark on a new journey, a Masonic journey that will influence and change your life in unbelievable ways.

W. Bro. Francis J. Craig became my “one” influencer in July 2007 when he introduced me to the craft. Damascus Lodge #290 became my “one” influencer in October 2007 when I was initiated an Entered Apprentice, and since has influenced me to be successful in career, marriage, and life overall. Still today, our gentle craft of Freemasonry influences me to continue to improve as a productive part of society.

I look back and I see many, many beloved and respected influencers throughout my life. Each entering and exiting my life, influencing and preparing me for that particular time period. I cannot point to just “one” person and say that person has had the most influence on me.

If I were asked “who had the most influence on your life”, I would say, “Sit down, have I got a story for you” and start with “My mum and dad with everyone else that has come and gone, or are currently in my life. These are my biggest influencers because it is due to them and their influence that has allowed me to make the decisions to put me exactly where I need to be in life”.

Damascus Lodge meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Dinner at 6:00 P.M. and meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Be there AND be Square
Michael Fairbanks

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

"Begin U"

By Bro.s Dom and Mike



Lodge Birthdays

May

Kelly Clingaman & Curt Campagna 5/2, Mike Fairbanks & Jeff Froderman 5/4, Rich Cummings 5/19, Luis Castillo 5/27.

June

Richard Feest 6/12, Gerald Arnholt 6/18, Larry Chadderdon 6/21, Davie Gonzalez and Craig Leonhardt 6/29.

Upcoming Dates

May 1-4 Washington D.C. trip

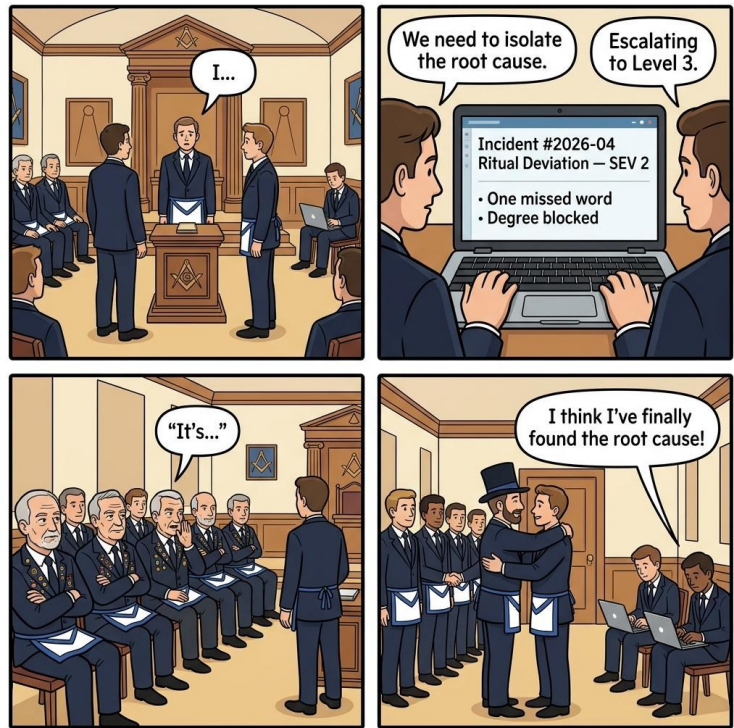
May 12th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm

May 19th EA degree practice.

May 26th EA degree practice.

June 9th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. **Hawaiian Shirt Night!**

June 28th Edelweiss Bruch Cruise (see flyer on page 2)



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.