Trestleboard

November 1st,, 2026

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master
Mike Cornell

Senior Warden
Dominic 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.

As we all get ready to sit down for that customary Thanksgiving dinner in a few weeks, I look back at my years of membership in this fraternity. It's been decades since I was initiated. The one thing that sticks with over the years and that I am thankful for; I have a sense of belonging. I know that at least once a month, I'm going to see some of my best friends. Usually more than once. I belong to something that is bigger than myself, centuries old and yet more relevant today than at its beginning. We men have gotten away from communing with other men as a whole in our culture. But my brothers know as well as I do that we NEED this fellowship. It makes us better men in our communities and families. I am thankful and proud of what Masonry does and has done for me and many like me.

Till we see you again my brother…

WM Mike





Welcome to our newest brother! Mr. Rick Pfeiffer was initiated an Entered Apprentice on October 27th, 2026. The degree was the 4th conferred in Damascus this year and in regular fashion, it was performed in outstanding fashion. A big thank you to WB Josh Armstrong for his help with the degree. As the year wraps up, we look forward to next years degrees! Pictured from left to right : Bro. Winston Hermann, WB Josh Armstrong of Lake Lodge No. 189, Bro. Dominic Calvalco SW, WB Larry Chadderdon, Bro. Mike Cornell WM, Bro. Josh Ellett (acting JD), WB Mike Fairbanks, EA Rick Pfeiffer, Bro. Chris Balke (acting JS), WB Byron Borck Chaplain, Bro. Rich Pfeiffer of Randolph Lodge No. 1268 Texas A.F.A.M., EA Andrew Gordan, Bro. Nolen Swendrowski JW, WM Michael Meyer, Bro. Leland Schams of West Allis No. 291 and Bro. Greg Neal SS.


Made with AI
A CHRISTMAS STORY
THE MUSICAL
Sunday Matinee
BRUNCH 11:00 AM
SHOW 1:15 PM
Sunday, November 8th, 2026
Arrive at 10:30
$20 FOR BROTHERS
Ladies Free
RSVP MATT


Tripoli Shrine
Feztival of Trees
Damascus Lodge Visit
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
6:00 PM
MENU:
Baked Chicken
Pork Tenderloin
Mashed Potatoes
Corn
Space is Limited
$5 Buffet Dinner & Admission per person
Raffle Ticket Vouchers are available
RSVP to WB Curt Camagna by Nov 15th,
Tripoli Shrine, 3000 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53208


GET READY!
ONLY 85 DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS!
Damascus Lodge #290
Presents
SUPPORT THE SALVATION ARMY
RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN
THE SALVATION ARMY
Lodge brothers are manning kettles at
LOCAL PICK N SAVE • ST FRANCIS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026
(8 AM - 4 PM)
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!
Contact Brother Rich Cummings to sign up for your shift.
HURRY, SLOTS ARE GOING FAST!
RSVP: Bro. Rich Cummings •
Campaign Kickoff: Nov 13, 2026 • Ends: Dec 24, 2026
LOCAL IMPACT: OAK CREEK FACILITY
Aiming to raise $100,000.00 • 100% of funds stay LOCAL
• Local Food Pantry • Pathway to Hope Program (Financial Help)
• Christmas Toy Shop • Paid Social Worker
• Local Senior Center • Senior Living Facility
Fostering Hope in Our Community this Christmas Season


Look What's Happening!



HISTORIC MILSESTONE FOR DAMAMCUS LODGE #290

Our Lodge recently observed a significant milestone. Two of our brothers observed their thirty-year anniversary as Masons. Brother Mathew Schmidt and Brother Curt Campagna observed their special day at the October Stated meeting. Both Brothers are still very active in the operation of our lodge. Their contributions to the success of the Lodge and the Brotherhood they share with the other members of the Lodge are greatly appreciated. Submitted by Bro. Rich Cummings



Well the 2026 **Hiram's Hotshots** team season has come to an end with Brother Eric securing the top high score for the 3rd year in a row with an average of 17.60 targets out of 25 per round and 353 target hit out of a possible 500 total. Brother Eric bring home the coveted Hiram's Hotshots trophy to be in our display case, a certificate from Boxhorn gun club, and a small trophy to add to his personal collection.
2nd place was Brother Bert with an average og 16.90 targets hit out of 25 per round 338 target hot out of a possible 500..
3rd place was Brother Cornell with an average of 16.40 targets out of 25 per round and 328 hit out of 500.
4th place was Brother Gerry with and average of 15.90 per round and a total of 318 targets hit total.
Overall the team came in 5th place within out classification. We had a few drawbacks. But we had a great time as usual.
Here's looking forward to next season! Submitted by WB Brian Bertram

DAMASCUS LODGE #290 CONTRIBUTES TO DISTRICT 12 TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

Damascus Lodge will again join District 12 and the Hays Lodge in supporting the 2026 Toys for Tots charity champaign. In addition to a financial contribution, the Lodge will have a collection box in the common area of our building and will assist in the purchase and distribution of the toys this year. Pictured above is Worshipful Master Michael Cornell along with District Representative John Pettigrew and Hays Lodge members Regan Schultz and Karl Cleppe.

Submitted by Bro. Rich Cummings

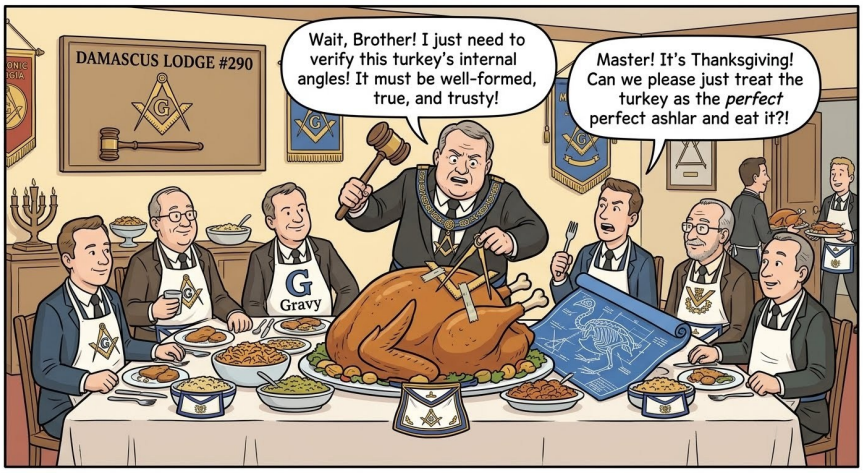


BEGIN U.



By Bro.s Dom and Mike





Lodge Birthdays

November

James P. Szczewski 11/01
Kyle C. Olson 11/08
W. Stephen L. Montgomery 11/06

December

Tom Tinney 12/17
Eric L. Vesel 12/20
Kelly S. Brown 12/27



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 11th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. **Officer Elections!**

Nov. 24th Lodge visit to Feztival of Trees. See flyer on pg. 2.

Dec. 8th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm ***Lodge Awards!***



If you have any questions, edits and or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact WB 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 .

“Know when to stop”



Many years ago, I visited my now wife for the first time. It was on a Sunday in October of 1989 and football season was in full swing. Having just relocated from Denver, Colorado I was looking forward to a relaxing afternoon hopefully watching John Elway and the Denver Broncos play. As my now wife was inviting me in and welcoming me to her home, I was informed that her television “does not get football”.

Bummer. Ok, I could live with that since the likely hood that Denver Broncos would be televised in the Detroit/Chicago market would not happen, I wasn’t all that devastated and took this as the sign that I needed to stop yearning to witness football combat on television.

Eventually Sandy and I married and blended two families, and the television remained broken where football was concerned, until……
1998 on Thanksgiving day. I had long stopped watching football and actually found other, productive things to do on Sunday afternoons.

My In-Laws had traveled from Michigan to help us move into a new house. As we were moving into this new house on Layton Avenue in Cudahy, and being lifelong Packer fans, my in-laws wanted to watch and listen to the Packers play. My wife, on that very day, caught Packer Fever. That was the year, the Packers ended their Championship drought of some 30 plus years.

My wife can talk football with the best of the analysts today, and I still find other productive things to do on Sunday afternoons. Here again, because she is as knowledgeable about football as she is, way more than I am – I know when not to compete, in other words, I know when to stop.

There have been times in the past and still today when talking with my wife, I do not know when to stop because I just know my point of view is the right point of view. I try to curb this flaw during the winter months because as we all know; the dog house can get pretty cold.

In Freemasonry, there is one “secret” that many of us tend to either ignore or forget. That “secret” is the super duper Masonic word of “NO”. Or it seems to be a super duper secret word and it impedes our ability to know when to stop.

Many times new members are initiated, passed, and raised and are eager to be active and be involved. This is great, absolutely wonderful. The problem is, we often times do not or forget to say “NO”. We do not know when to stop.

Before you know it, 5 years have passed and we are volunteering for everything in Lodge, have joined several appendant bodies and volunteering for everything in those bodies. We do not say “No”, not knowing when to stop. In addition, we might have been nominated and accepted positions in Grand Officer Lines and are out of the house and away from our families 5, 6, and even every night of the week at times. We do not know when to stop.

Brethren, we need to learn when to stop, when to slow down, and when to put the pedal to the metal. My belief is that Freemasonry, as important as it is to our society, communities, and us as men – should never take up so much of us that we either burn out, or other aspects of our lives suffer.

Your Masonic Journey is not a sprint; it is a marathon. All things will come in due time and there is no need to be the Master or the Grand Poohbah of all things in Freemasonry in 7 or 8 years. Know when to stop !!!

-Michael Fairbanks