



DAMASCUS LION'S TALE



March 2009

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The President's Message

GOOD BYE February, HELLO March. Did the ground hog see his shadow? Is spring on its way? or will there be six more weeks of winter?... Whatever the weather, you can count on Lions serving. Plans are in the works for several activities coming soon. It's time for the Lions road clean-up crew on March 14. Contact Lion John Holpuch to help make a clean sweep in the neighborhood. The lions In-House Auction is on March 17, Lion Marcia Holpuch is our committee chairperson, let her know that you want to donate, an item/or send a donation now, sign up to help. "It's a Fun Night." Our Pancake Breakfast is on March 21. See Lion Joy Schwab for Tickets. Plan to attend and help out. Also send an item for the Bake/Craft Table. Good food and Great buys.



At our Valentines meeting on February 3, Lions Joy and Warren Schwab were voted the Club "Sweetheart couple," a trophy was presented by King Lion saying, "One love shared by two." {see photo}. Thanks for your devotion to the Lions Club and to each other. All Lions received a box of candy. Valentines were also sent to remember our Lion Nick Holpuch, who is away, serving his country. "HAPPY VALENTINES DAY to All.



Sharing a PROUD MOMENT ... A letter was received from the Presidential Inaugural Committee thanking the Damascus Lions for keeping the spirit of unity and service alive, signed "THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO," President Barack Obama.

Shared by Two

Black History Month was recognized at our February dinner meeting with guest speaker, Mr. Warren Flemming, who is a longtime resident of Damascus and is currently a commissioner for the Historic Commission of Montgomery County. Mr. Flemming informed us about the heritage of African Americans in the past. Thank you, Warren, for sharing your stories and information.

Prospective Member meeting night held on February 17 started with dinner and a Welcome to everyone from King Lion, with help of Lions Happy King and IPP Gary Rogers wearing lion's masks and giving out small bags of

mixed fruits, KL Eloise told of the symbol that the different fruits represented, The last one being a bunch of grapes, pointing out, become a Lion and "Be ONE on the bunch."

Following was Business reports and updates ahead.

More in the Month of February on the 17... We enjoyed a program given by IPP Lion Gary Rogers. Gary is the Membership chairperson this year and had a Prospective Members outline prepared on "WHY LIONS, and WHAT Lions are all about. He asked around the room for lions to express their thoughts on the reasons they joined and what benefits are offered ... among the comments were new friends, fellowship, serving, giving back to community and the joy of helping others, but mostly the PEOPLE, as Lions "WE SERVE"

Thank you lion Gary for this informative and informational program, reminding everyone of How "We Serve" encouraging us to invite someone to join, all you have to do is "JUST ASK," you might be surprised of the answer....so step up NOW, and sponsor a NEW member TODAY!

I would also like to apologize to Lion Wayne Marr for missing his name on the list of helpers with the recent NBC 4 event report? Thanks you also. please forgive KL.

Looking forward to the activities ahead, I ask that you mark your calendars and be involved, be a part of the bunch, it's a Fruitful experience. "Together we can make it happen"

President King Lion Eloise Woodfield

Road Gang

By Lion Marcia Holpuch

Our stretch of Rte. 27 is looking pretty ragged. Let's get out and clean it up before the poison ivy activates! Sat. March 14th, meet at McDonald's at 7:45 and we'll get started at 8:00. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. We won't go out if it's raining or less than 40 degrees. Bags & pickers will be provided. Many hands make light work!! This usually takes us less than 2 hours to complete.

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Upcoming Events

Mar. 3 – Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove UMC
Mar. 10 – Board meeting at Damascus Rec. Center
Mar. 16 – Blood Drive at DVFD
Mar. 17 Dinner meeting/auction/spouse night at Wesley Grove UMC
Mar. 26 – Branch meeting/Refreshments at Cedarbrook Church
Apr. 7 – Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove Ch.
Apr. 14 – Board Meeting at the Dam. Rec. Ctr.
Apr. 18 – Big Band Dance at the Legion
Apr. 21 – Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove Ch.
Apr. 22-25 – White Cane Days
Apr. 23 – Branch Meeting/Refreshments at Cedarbrook Church
May 1-3: Clarksburg White Cane Days
May 5 – Dinner meeting at Damascus UMC
May 12 – Board Meeting at the Dam. Rec. Ctr.
May 19 – Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove Ch.
May 28 – Branch Meeting/Refreshments at Cedarbrook Church

Birthdays

Lions:

Mar. 1 – Bobbie Warfield
Mar. 7 - Dave Davidson
Mar. 10 – George Hibbard
Mar. 10 - Butch Purdum
Mar. 13 – Leslee Poole
Mar. 24 – Gary Rogers
Mar. 28 - Jack Peters

Partners-in-Service

Mar. 19 - Sue Phillips

Anniversaries

Mar. 12 – Bobbie and John Warfield
Mar. 14 - Tom and Jonnie Jackson
Mar. 17 - Tom and Betty Van Vliet
Mar. 30 - Jack and Frann Peters

News about Members

Update on Lion Airman Nick Holpuch

Basic Military Training (BMT) on Friday, Jan. 2nd in the first class to complete the newly revamped Air Force training program ("boot camp" to us civilians). The new program is an 8 week program instead of the former 6 weeks. He was in a graduating class of 726 Airmen and was one of 24 Honor Graduates. It was easy to see the confidence he gained during training and the respect he was paid by his classmates. In addition to attaining Honor Graduate, he also received a ribbon for Marksmanship with an M-16. His unit was part of the field band for his class, so he was even able to play a tuba. Charlie & I attended the graduation ceremonies at Lackland AFB in San Antonio and it was wonderful to see him again. We even got him to chew his food by the end of our visit.

In addition to being the first group to complete the new 8 week training program, his class was also the first to experience the new field training program known by the fitting acronym, "BEAST." Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training is a week-long experience meant to be a full-scale simulation of the sights, sounds, smells and challenges of a deployment both physically and emotionally. It takes place off-base at a remote 80 acre annex location. The 700 trainees are split into 4 zones, each consisting of 3 groups functioning as units. Nick was assigned a Zone Leadership role. (Continued on page 4.)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 10, 2009

Lions in attendance were KL Eloise Woodfield, Secretary Thomas Woodfield, Joy Schwab, Sue Suddath, Treas. Mike Thornett, Mary Frances Gosnell, Tom Jackson, Marcia Holpuch, Roy Stanley, Treas. Bill Mahylis and Ray Molesworth.

Secretary's Report; approved as published in Feb Lion's Tale

Treasurer's Report; Club – dues paid to 22-C and Lions International, report approved

Foundation – good shape at present; “with today's economy, need to stay on top”, report approved

Old Business;

Big Band Dance update- 220 letters have been sent out to possible guests, notice to 22-C news to E-mail to District Lions, KL Eloise reported Lion Gary Bellison of Tom & Rays' Restaurant will place notice of Dance on their tables after St Patrick's Day

Camp Merrick Meeting- Lion Marcia reports that Camp Mgr laid off at present due to small donations for Camp Merrick. Camp finances very low. Expensive to keep facility open all year. Summer camper dates are starting to fill now.

New Business

District is asking for nominations for “Bull Throwers Award” and “Honor Roll” for convention. MD 22-C Convention – get your reservations in for hotel, activities signup to come.

“Everyday Hero” nomination will be voted on at the next meeting. Award given to Lion from each club at 22C Dinner

Celebrate Damascus – Flyer was made available to board members

KL Eloise talked with Lion Helen Boyer, who will support Lions with location for Flea Market spaces

New Clarksburg High School Leo Club charter has arrived and will be presented on Feb 26, 2009 at Clarksburg Branch meeting. Local business gave a donation to give Leo officer pins and advisor pins.

LCOF meeting- KL and Lion Tuck attended, they report that LCOF has few finances. District is planning a Walk for combined Camp Merrick and LCOF on April 18. Banner patch to clubs that participate.

Lion Joy reported that Pancake Breakfast does not make as much as it should, need to make more, all Lions asked to sell & buy tickets.

Zone meeting Wed, Feb 18, three to attend from club, KL Eloise, Lions Tuck and Mike Thornett.

District 22-C Advisory Meeting on March 28 at Camp Merrick Lions Tuck, Dave Davidson, and Mike Thornett to attend.

SVOSH optometric service from Tenn. requests donation- declined

Scholarships- were discussed and more information will be coming. (Lion Barbara Barry has scholarship forms for interested students.)

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Lion Thomas
“Tuck” Woodfield

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

The Damascus Lions Club Foundation has Scholarships available for graduating seniors of Damascus High School and Clarksburg High School.

The R. Vernon Simpson Scholarships began in 2000 awarding three \$500 Scholarships. R. Vernon Simpson was Vice Principal and teacher of Damascus High School and the John T. Baker Middle School is named after his father-in-law. Lion Ray (as we knew him in the Lions) was an energetic, creative and respected individual, whether he was at school or at the Lions or working for his church.

The R. Vernon Simpson Scholarship will be awarded to seniors of Damascus High School and/or Clarksburg High School as selected from the applications submitted. The applications will be judged based on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, citizenship, school activities, work experience and community activities. The student must be in the upper 50% of the class and be attending an accredited college as a full-time student. The Scholarship Committee will present their recommendations for scholarships from the applications received to the Board of Directors of the Damascus Lions Club for approval. The scholarships awarded are for \$1000 each. Scholarship applications

are due April 1, 2009 to Lion Mary Frances Gosnell, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

Applications for the Scholarships can be obtained from the Leo Advisors from their respective school or the Career Center at the school. Lion Mary Frances Gosnell also has applications.

Update (cont.)

Given his background and previous leadership training in both scouts and as drum major at DHS, he had his zone encampment fully set up and functioning, beginning their field exercises by the end of the first day.

The other 3 zones were not as successful. Consequently, Nick was called into the Command tent on Tuesday afternoon to be quizzed on the success of his zone. By the end of the week, he had been asked for a report and analysis of the field experience as well as his critique of the manuals and training materials provided. He submitted his 30 page report the following Monday. His comments ranged from errors in the manual to recommendations regarding hydration and a lot of information to assist with the scheduling of the activities that need to be completed and how to make sure everyone knows where they need to be and when. At graduation, we were aware that his report was still sitting on his MTI's desk. (there's a point to this... you have to keep reading) "Boot Camp" officially ended at midnight on Jan. 4th. At 12:01 am on the 5, they were out of the dorms and on the sidewalk. By 1 am he was loaded in a bus to Biloxi, Mississippi where his first technical training school is located at Keesler AFB. This first school is basic electronics but is required no matter what you may (think) you already know. He finishes this school this week and will be transferring to Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, TX on Wednesday for his advanced electronics course where he will learn the specifics about the navigation and communication systems of the B-2 bomber, his ship of choice. He attained Top Grad honors at this school and kept himself busy by volunteering as a student tutor. As a bonus, he had all 4 wisdom teeth removed on the 23rd of January.

The military is a "people mill" and every week there are new airmen arriving from Lackland (where all BMT is conducted). This week, one of his buddies from boot camp was talking with a newly arrived airman, sharing their experiences at BMT. Amazingly, Nick's name came up in the conversation - and it was brought up by the new airman as he was telling about his BEAST week. The Air

Force has reprinted the field training manual used for BEAST week... and Nick's name appears on the cover!! Nick would love to see a copy of this, as he never got any type of feedback from his report last seen at graduation collecting dust on a desk. His comments have made a difference for every airman going through training.

He assures me that mail is still very special and much appreciated. It's also no longer limited to paper only. I sent him a cheesecake his first week and last week he got caramel brownies, so anything you want to send him is fine. He will be located at Sheppard until early July. He has requested German, Japan and Tampa as his top choices for his first duty assignment. He probably won't know where he'll be going until late June. I will distribute his new address as soon as I have it.

"Luck 'O' the Irish" In-House Auction

By Lion Marsha Holpuch, Chair

Monies solicited from the **public** to advance various charitable activities **cannot** be used for internal administrative cost of our club. Each year, club **members** are asked to donate goods or services and we hold an "In-House Auction" to raise funds to cover these administrative costs. This keeps our club dues more reasonable!! Your participation in the auction is VERY important to the club.

All members are encouraged to make a donation. Here's your chance to be creative without having to wear a costume! Some examples of past donated items include: homemade baked goods, computer lessons, gift certificates, turkey dinner tickets, dinner out for two or more, airport shuttles, homemade birdhouse, use of rototiller, snow blowing service, firewood, use of trucks, beach house or condo, airplane ride, antiques, collectibles, athletic event tickets, telephone installation, auto detailing, yard work, lottery tickets, and a great evening with friends and a gourmet meal. This is also a marvelous time to unload that holiday present you just weren't quite so excited to receive. Items can be new or used condition.

Even if you will be out of town we can still sell your item for the benefit of the club. CASH DONATIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED!!!

Here's our schedule:

Mar. 3 Mtg. – Last chance to bring your offer in writing to a meeting.

Mar. 17 Mtg. - (Auction Night) Bring your goods for the sale, and please bring your spouse, too.

(Last minute items will be sold but won't appear in the handout at Auction, so please try to get your information to us so we can prepare a list of items to be sold.)

Submit this form to Marcia Holpuch 301-312-9415, or Jack Peters 301-253-2589 at March 3 meeting. Final deadline by phone or mail is March 14th to allow time to compile the auction listing. This form is also available on the website for download in Word format for emailing or as a "PDF" to hand in. Your LISTING of items can be sent to holpuch@verizon.net. Look on the website for a running listing of donations received so far. The new web design is wonderful ~ let's take advantage of it! www.damascuslions.com

NBC4 Health & Fitness Fair

By Lion Marcia Holpuch

Nine Damascus Lions snubbed the weather report for Sat. the 10th and met at DHS to help staff the LCOF mobile health unit at the DC Convention Center. Lions Carol & Charlie Stone, Wayne Marr, Ronnie Poland, Chris Fletcher, Barbara Barry, Jerry Warfield, Marcia Holpuch and new Lion Tony Barry managed to take the Metro downtown together with no mishaps. We were allowed exhibitor entrance at 8:30 and located the bus in the back corner of the room.

Lots of other activities were going on at the convention center and we had a report that Bill Cosby was in the house. But he didn't come to get his eyes or ears checked. Lion Tony sported the lion suit and walked the floor of the fair sending customers to our corner. Attendance was low at the 9 am opening, but had picked up considerably by 11. A great system was set up to ensure that visitors were served quickly and orderly.

By the time our shift ended at noon, we had screened over 60 people for vision, glaucoma and hearing. An additional screening area was set up for preschool vision screening and not included in our count. It was a fun activity and we didn't lose a single Lion!! Much thanks to those who participated and made a difference at the health fair.



**Clarksburg High School
Advisors Renee Mason & Dawn Brezovec
with King Lion Eloise Woodfield
Signing Leo Charter**



**Clarksburg High School
Student signing Leo charter
February 2009**



**CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
LEO OFFICERS & ADVISORS
KING LION ELOISE on left**

Joke, submitted by King Lion Eloise

Toward the end of Sunday service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?"

About 80% held up their hands.

The Minister then repeated his question. All responded this time, except one small elderly lady.

"Miss Joyce, are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any." She replied, smiling sweetly.

"Miss Joyce, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-eight," she replied.

"Oh, Miss. Joyce, would you please come down in front and tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years and not have an enemy in the world?"

The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down to the front and said, "I outlived the bitches."

Another Joke

Kids Are Quick

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I.'

MILLIE: I is..

TEACHER: No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'