



The President's Message

Thanksgiving is my favorite celebration time of the year! No pretense – just a time to reflect on life itself and be thankful for so many different things while enjoying the holiday with family and friends. Of course, good food enters into the equation as well.



Many holidays are not celebrated worldwide and Thanksgiving is one of them. It is truly an American Holiday. I didn't stop to realize that until my Granddaughter said she had to work Thanksgiving Day and would be late for dinner. "Why?" I asked. And she explained that she worked with investments and equities worldwide, therefore had to be available for a designated time to serve all their clients. We Americans have so many blessings; so many meaningful celebrations. It is time to stop and be thankful. Now that the harvest has been reaped and preserved, the trees and plants need to take a rest from their labors and we as free citizens, we need to pause and give thanks for our forefathers for giving us our freedom and wisdom so that we might live and experience great lifestyles in this wonderful country, United States of America.

As usual the Lions have experienced another busy month. My thanks and appreciation goes to -

- Lion Charlie Hertel for another successful Blood Drive.
- Lion Tony Barry for coordinating the Hanging of the Greens. The bows and lights are new. Lion Tony also did all the refurbishing for us.
- Lion Martin Carr for coordinating the effort of sending 8500 used eye glasses to Monrovia, Liberia so others may see.
- All Lions who delivered Certificates of Appreciation to 48 businesses. 14 were presented at the Business Appreciation Night. Another way to stay connected to the business community. We asked so much from them – time to say thank you!
- The 41 Lions who assisted with Thanksgiving Basket Project for 30 families. Blessings!

What a wonderful outpouring of concern and love we have demonstrated in accomplishing these projects.

Thanks to all!

As the Christmas Season approaches and we are involved in this part of our Holiday Giving Project, I wish to express my gratitude to each of you as members of the Damascus Lions for being a team player in serving our community. As we heard at Business Appreciation Night, there are so many things you do as Lions that are behind-the-scene jobs. You just automatically perform them in the best interest of the Damascus Lions. And, I, for one, express my sincere appreciation for all you do in the name of Lions in serving our Damascus Community and surrounding areas. You are SPECIAL FOLK – EVERYDAY HEROES!

Enjoy the Holidays! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

THANKGIVING FOOD BASKETS

By Lion Mary France Gosnell

The Thanksgiving Project was completed before we could stop to think about it. We packed a turkey dinner complete with stuffing, mashed potatoes, cake mix, cranberry sauce, veggies and yams for 30 families as well as milk, bread, eggs and butter. Also were included peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, soups, Mac & Cheese and Ramen Noodles. The sorter and packers on Friday afternoon went straight to work, brushing their hands off for a job well done within 2 and half hours. The Pick-up and Delivery Haulers of the School Food Drives moved a lot of food. Ten Teams arrived at the "packing house" on Saturday morning ready to move the boxes onto their trucks and move out. Within an hour, all were traveling to their destinations. It was a tremendous team effort both days.

Noted donations were approximately 7000 items received from Rocky Hill Middle School Food Drive, 3300 items from Damascus High School (they split theirs with the Lions and Help), Homemade Pumpkin Bread from Mark and Karen Goldstein, approximately 150 food items collected by Lion Rick Kendall, dinner rolls, yams, cranberry sauce and Ramen noodles by Haung Distributing, boxes by Eagle Components and Moyer Moving and Storage and apples from Rock Hill Orchard.

Forty-one Lions worked approximately 150 hours; and the project had a cash cost outlay of \$1,037.

It was an awesome accomplishment. Those less fortunate this Thanksgiving had a great meal to look forward to as well as some lunches for the children. Thanks Lions for a great job of serving our community.

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 1: Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove UMC
Dec. 4: Senior Birthday Party at Senior Center
Dec. 8: Board Meeting at the Recreation Center
Dec. 15: Holiday Party at Damascus UMC
Dec 16 – 19: Holiday Giving Project at Damascus UMC

Jan 5: Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove UMC
Jan 12: Board Meeting at the Recreation Center
Jan 18: Blood Drive at the DVFD Activities Center
Jan 19: Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove UMC

Feb 2: Dinner Meeting - Spouse Night at Wesley Grove UMC

Feb 9: Board Meeting at the Recreation Center
Feb 16: Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove UM Church

Birthdays

Lions:

Dec. 1 - Happy King
Dec. 5 - Martin Carr
Dec. 7 - Bernie Duplan
Dec. 15 - Helen Boyer
Dec. 17 - Tony Barry
Dec. 20 - Ollie Gray
Dec. 21 - Jack Poole
Dec. 23 - Lea Hough
Dec. 29 - Del Mayhew

Partners-in-Service:

Dec. 2 - Beth Brouillard

Anniversaries

Dec. 18 - Margaret and Rodney Duvall

News about Members

Lion Joseph and wife Evelyn Hutchinson had a baby girl! Joanna Carol Hutchinson was born on November 23rd at 11:02pm and weighed 8 lbs 1 oz.

The Wreath Hanging (see page 4)



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2009

King Lion Mary Frances Gosnell called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. In attendance were Lions Mary Frances Gosnell, Charlie Stone, Ken Phillips, Mike Thornett, Tony Barry, Sue Suddath, Marcia Holpuch, Ray Molesworth, Tom Jackson, Martin Carr, Tess Gladhill, Warren Schwab, Joy Schwab, Carol Stone and Gary Rogers.

The minutes of the October board meeting were published in the October Lions Tale, which was distributed to the board. All those present read the minutes and had no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved as published.

The club financial report was presented by Lion Tony Barry. A monthly income of \$1500.64 was reported and expenditures of \$3406.87. Most of the financial activity was for charter night. The year-to-date data show a deficit of approximately \$700. The report was approved as presented.

The foundation financial report was given by Lion Mike Thornett. An income of \$13627 and expenses of \$6801 were reported. To-date figures show a net income of approximately \$1950. The report was approved as presented.

In the secretary report, Lion Ken Phillips read a thank you note from the youth of Damascus United Methodist Church for giving breakfast to those who helped at the Pancake Breakfast. It was announced that the Laytonsville Club would be taking orders for citrus fruit.

King Lion Mary Frances and Lion Marcia Holpuch received a thank you from PDG Cal McMillan for inviting him to be a part of our charter night. Also DG Bill expressed appreciation for his invitation. Also King Lion received a thank you from the Community Fair Committee and the Frederick Keys for our support.

King Lion received an email from the mother of a Damascus student requesting financial support for her daughter to travel to Japan as a part of the People-to-People program. After some discussion it was suggested that the student be invited to a board meeting and a dinner meeting to present information on the program so the club can be more informed before supporting the effort. King Lion will follow up on this.

The pancake breakfast committee reported that the breakfast was successful despite the bad weather and lower than normal turnout. They are going to review the effort to

determine if the fall breakfast is to continue next year. There are a lot of activities in the community in the fall and the club may be better served to concentrate on the spring breakfast.

In conjunction with our efforts with LCOF eyeglass collection, Lion Martin Carr has arranged to have a large number of used eyeglasses delivered to Liberia. Martin made this connection through his mission work with the church. The eyeglass recycle center will be delivering the glasses to Martin and he is arranging shipping to Liberia.

Business Appreciation Night was a success with many positive comments from the attendees. During that meeting, the American Legion presented the club with a check for \$500.00 to be used in our holiday basket fund. Lion Marcia will write an article about the event for the Gazette.

OLD BUSINESS

PID Joe Gaffigan has written an email urging clubs to support Lions Camp Merrick. They have a new director and are making every effort to keep the camp running. The club budgeted \$600.00 support for the camp and the board directed Treasurer Mike to send our donation. The issue will be revisited later in the year to determine if we can provide more support.

NEW BUSINESS

Lion Tom Jackson announced that he needs our town sign requirements for the year 2010 by January when the committee meets. Committee chairs need to define the publicity requirements and get the information the Lion Tom.

Lion Ray Molesworth reported that he got a request from the Boy Scout Troop for a signature of support for a fundraiser they were planning. He felt that it was not the place for the club to sign this and that the Scout organization should be sponsor. The board agreed and Ray will report to the troop our decision.

Lion Mary Frances reported her spending plan for the Christmas basket program. After reviewing the plan, the board gave a vote of approval for the project spending.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Submitted by Ken Phillips, Secretary.

Glasses for Liberia

By Lion Mary France Gosnell

Shown below are Lions Del Mayhew, our Delegate to Lions Community Outreach Foundation, and Martin Carr Chairman of International Affairs for us. Lion Del is presenting one of 20 some boxes of used eyeglasses to Lion Martin for shipment to Monrovia, Liberia.

The Damascus Lions Club collects used eyeglasses in the Damascus and Clarksburg areas. The Club generally collects approximately 4000 pairs in a year. The glasses are cleaned, repaired, calibrated and sorted for use in Third World Countries at two District Recycling Centers.

Lion Martin made arrangements as a team member of a United Methodist Mission Trip for the Monrovia Lions in Liberia to have a clinic whereby Liberians could be fitted with used glasses donated to our Lions. Lions Martin and Del secured 8500 pair of ready-to-wear, boxed used eyeglasses from our recycling center to be shipped to Monrovia Liberia from the Damascus Lions Club. Thanks to the Damascus Community for helping to make it possible for another person to see!



CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

The Damascus Lions will be serving 35 families, consisting of 63 adults and 72 children for Christmas. Sign-up sheets will be available tonight at the dinner meeting. We need help in moving the canned goods on the 16th from schools and from Damascus Motors to the church as well as sorting the food at night. We also need additional teams to deliver. Wrappers and packers are another way to be of help with the Christmas project.

We still have about 25 children's names that need a gift purchased for them. Please contact Mary Frances if you would like to purchase a toy or gift for a child with a \$25 value. The Children's gifts are to be returned wrapped with the green name card loosely attached to the Lions Holiday Dinner Party on December 15.

Below is the timeline for the Christmas Project. It is a rewarding project that we all get involved in. The year the Damascus Lions was chartered, we gave Christmas gifts and food to a needy family. We have continued this community service for 64 years. Thanks Lions!

HOLIDAY BASKET 2009 TIME LINE

- Dec. 1 - Sign up sheets for duties and Delivery Teams for Christmas delivery
- Dec. 2 - Shopping Spree to purchase clothing for children
- Dec. 15 - Lions bring wrapped gifts that they purchased to the Holiday Party
- Dec. 16: Noon - Pickup Food from John T. Baker Middle School
- Dec. 16: 2 pm - Pickup Food from NRC
- Dec. 16: 2pm - Move food to DUMC
- Dec. 16: 8pm - Sort the food at DUMC
- Dec. 17: Noon to 5pm - Pack and wrap at DUMC
- Dec. 18: Noon to 5 pm - Pack at DUMC
- Dec. 19: 8am - Deliver Christmas Food and Gifts from DUMC to recipients

Putting up the Wreaths

By Lion Tom Jackson

Once again the Lions turned out to hang the Christmas Wreaths in downtown Damascus under the leadership of Lion Tony Barry. The wreaths are newly refurbished this year with new light bulbs and ribbons. Besides the picture below and on page 2, visit our website to see even more.

