



## The President's Message

January 1, 2011

Dear Fellow Lions,

Happy New Year!! It's 1-1-11. Clearly a new start. I hope that you have all enjoyed the holidays with friends and family. 2010 certainly ended with unusually warm weather. A nice close to a busy and successful year. We capped off the year with our last big project of 2010 with the holiday baskets. There are so many of you to thank. From the Leos and students with their can drive, the schleppers, the sorters, the packers, the shoppers, the wrappers, the riders, the donors, the collectors and the deliverers to the clean-up crew. The holidays bring out the best in us as we work together to serve our community. Lion Mary Frances has the logistics so well planned, we just have to show up and do our part. Thanks to her and all the Lions who turned out to help. We also had a few prospective members join us and that is encouraging as we continue to reach out and be present in Damascus and Clarksburg. Receiving the bonus gifts and donation from the motorcycle club was a wonderful surprise. We were able to find needy families for most everything we received. We are blessed.



Lion Sue Suddath was joined by several other club members way back in the beginning of December for the birthday party at the Senior Center. Our activities with them are so special, both to the Seniors as well as to the members who plan and hold the birthday parties. It's funny how you can't really give without receiving, too. Our thanks to Lion Sue and the rest of the "Birthday Gang."

We only have a couple of activities on the books for this month ~ and they both fall on the Martin Luther King weekend. First up is the NBC 4 Health & Fitness Expo on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We have taken a slot to work the mobile health unit bus on the morning of January 15<sup>th</sup>. We will go to the convention center on the Metro and get everything set up and going as the expo begins. If you would like to take part in this, just let Lion Jerry Warfield know. It's a fun morning and if we have enough hands, you will have an opportunity to make a lap around the expo and see some of the many interesting and informative displays.

Our second activity is the blood drive, on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. After much frustration with the American Red Cross, we are trying a different blood collection group, INOVA Blood Services. INOVA is the blood provider to Bethesda Navy Medical, Walter Reed, Montgomery General and many other hospitals in our area. Additionally, they participate in nation-wide critical need emergencies, providing blood to areas in crisis. We need to show INOVA that we are a major blood drive, so if you are a donor, please log onto their web site and book yourself an appointment. The page is at <https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/> and you can pass this on to your friends and family. It would be wonderful to have all our appointments booked in advance. INOVA will accept walk-in donors as space/time is available to process them. We will need Lions to make calls to our former donors to let them know about the changes and encourage them to donate at this drive.

What an exciting year we have ahead of us!!

Yours in Service,

King Lion Marcia

## NBC 4 Health and Fitness Expo

By Lion Jerry Mallack

The annual Health and Fitness Expo will be held the weekend of Jan. 15 at the Washington Convention Center. We will staff our usual shift on Saturday, 1/15, from 9:00–11:00am. After meeting in the DHS parking lot across from Weis between 7:00 and 7:15, we'll carpool to the Shady Grove Metro.

The services we offer at our booth are hearing, vision, glaucoma and pre-school vision screening. So far ten people have signed up to staff the booth.

After our shift, we'll go to Chinatown for lunch.

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### **Upcoming Events**

Jan. 4 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church  
Jan. 11 Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros  
Jan. 15 & 16 NBC 4 Health & Fitness Expo  
Jan. 17 Blood Drive @ DVFD Activity Center  
Jan. 18 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church  
Feb. 1 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church  
Feb. 7 Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros  
Feb. 15 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church

### **Birthdays**

#### **Lions:**

Jan. 6 - Bob Newlin  
Jan. 13 – Bob Williams  
Jan. 19 - Fran Burlas  
Jan. 20 – Dee Reichmeider  
Jan. 26 – Ray Walton  
Jan. 29 – Benjamin Lewis  
Jan. 30 – Pat Miller

#### **Partners-in-Service:**

None known.

#### **Anniversaries**

None known.

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### **A Special Christmas Story**

A friend of mine, who works for First National Bank in North Carolina, related this story to me: “First Citizens associates across the country were invited in December to submit stories about the favorite gift they were going to give this season, and the best ones were published on our internal newsletter.

“Some of them were for “things,” one person had managed to get a couple of tickets and accommodations to the next Kentucky Derby for her parents who are avid horse lovers. One associate plans to spend a night at a homeless shelter, working to serve food to the needy.

“One of them, however, wasn't even about a gift the banker was planning to give. That person volunteers at a Christmas tree sales lot which uses the profits to help children with cancer. They have a "burn barrel" on the lot to help folks ward off the cold. Numerous homeless folks from the area will come and warm themselves around that barrel. One of the homeless thanked the folks at the tree sales lot for letting the locals warm themselves around the fire. He then asked the associate what they did with the money they raised. After hearing the answer, the homeless person left only to return a couple of hours later with 80 cents to give to the cause, money he had collected from other homeless.”

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 21, 2010

King Lion Marcia Holpuch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Lions Bill Mahylis, Warren Schwab, Joy Schwab, Tony Barry, Barbara Barry, Mike Thornett, Tess Gladhill, Martin Carr, Mary Frances Gosnell and George Hibbard.

The minutes of the November 2010 board meeting were published in the November "Lions Tale". With no exceptions or additions the minutes were approved as published.

The club financial report for November 2010 was presented by Lion Tony Barry. The November 2010 financial report for the Damascus Lions Club Foundation was presented by Lion Mike Thornett. The financial reports were approved as presented.

Lion George Hibbard presented the annual audit reports for the Damascus Lions Club Foundation and the Damascus Lions Club. The audits did not reveal any problems with the financial books and records of the club. The audits were approved as presented.

King Lion Holpuch announced that the Red Cross has been dropped as the club's blood collection agency. INOVA Blood Services has been selected as the replacement agency for future blood drives. INOVA provides blood services in Montgomery County.

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell reported that the club provided holiday food and gift baskets to 30 area families.

The board approved an expenditure of \$175 for the purchase of an advertisement in the 22C night publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Lion Ray Molesworth, Secretary

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in January to start forming up a Slate of Officers for the Lions Club year 2011-2012.

The Lions Years is from July 1 through June 30 of the ensuing year.

The Nominating Committee consists of the five most recent Past Presidents; they being Lions Eloise Woodfield, Ken Phillips, Gary Rogers, Marcia Holpuch and Mary Frances Gosnell. We will present the Slate to the membership at the March 1 Club Membership Meeting

and will be voted upon at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Club Membership Meeting.

Members should be giving some thought as to how you can serve the club to the best of your ability which is a phrase from the Installation Oath. A member of the nominating Committee will be in contact with you in filling the Officer Positions for the Club and the Foundation jointly. Should you want to volunteer for any position, any member of the committee will be glad to accept your offer.

Leadership is a duty that seems to be one that frightens many of us. Let I remind you that, it takes a membership to keep our great Damascus Lions in the forefront and that membership should do the work. We need a conductor!! There is one thing our membership does know how to do and that is to work together to make a project happen.

### **PERFORMANCE OF THE DLC ORCHESTRA**

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

While asking for a Holiday Giving Project report at the Board Meeting, King Lion referred to the Conductor of the project – That made me think?? Train Conductor, Electrical Conductor. Orchestra Conductor – just wondering how she assessed the project! Whatever kind of Conductor she was talking about, it cannot do it alone! It takes the WHOLE orchestra to make our Holiday Giving Project happen. Just like the preparation for an orchestra, we set out our music and everyone follows the notes. Then we set to practice the notes individually. We learn during the practice that we have a lot of work to do to make the performance a good one! And so for 8 weeks we continue to toot our horns, clean our reeds, beat out the rhythm and pluck the strings. And when we come together, we wet the reeds of the woodwinds, gently blend the tones of the brass, pull the rhythm together with the percussion and then let the strings tie everything up! And when the performance is being presented, the applause comes from within; for it has been an "ORCHESTRA OF LIONS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS" who has given their ALL to help make a holiday season for many families in our area a bit more tolerable! The Damascus Lions Club makes a tremendous ORCHESTRA! Congratulations for an awesome performance!

### **HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT**

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

Thirty families consisting of 90 children and 50 adults received a visit from the Christmas Elves via our Lions members, their families and friends. The whole project

was pieced together by 8 weeks of coordinating our efforts into making it successful. Purchasing an outfit for each child; Lions individually buying toys for each child; sorting the gifts from the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club for each child; packing a stocking filled with necessities for each child; “shopping” at our store of foods donated through the school food drives for each family; packing the fresh produce and breads for each family; wrapping the clothes for each child and sorting them into family bags for each family; filling the bags with towels and wash clothes and a throw for each family; purchasing the perishables; selecting a homemade card made by the Leos of Baker Middle School for each family; receiving the boxes of cookies from the Goldstein family; delivering 3-4 boxes of food, 2 -3 bags of gifts to each family; Businesses, Friends and Lions sharing their donations to the Holiday Fund; then sharing 2 truckloads of non-perishable foods with the HELP Closet; You, your families, your friends, the Leos – all of you made this happen. It takes a membership working together to make such a caring and loving project come to fruition.

A sincere THANK YOU to all of you!

### **Blood Drive Changes**

From Lion Charlie Hertel

Due to the many, many, many issues we have had with the American Red Cross, we have decided to use a different blood collection group for our next blood drive on Martin Luther King Day on January 17th. This was a decision made after much deliberation and with great anguish. We have had a long-standing relationship with the Red Cross, but we have lost 20% of our donors and it is our duty to change what we can. We used to collect over 100 pints of blood at each drive, and now we barely make 80, and sometimes, not even that. We can't change the Red Cross. We can bring in a different group to collect blood. We have to make it a better experience.

Therefore, with our January drive, we will be working with Inova Blood Services. Inova supplies blood to many hospitals here in Montgomery County as well as other surrounding counties. We will accept walk-in donors as space/time is available to process them. Inova has an appointment system much like the Red Cross. If you are a donor, please register for an appointment as soon as you can. It is my hope that we can get all the allotted appointments filled by the end of the year and that Inova will increase their staff for our drive for that day and we can again top the 100 unit collection. We will have call sheets available at the January meeting (January 4th at

Wesley Grove, 6:45pm) to inform our past donors of the change.

Lion Ken Cook will be working with me to make this an amazing way to start the new year. Let's show Inova how much the people of Damascus want to give!!