



DAMASCUS LION'S TALE



February 2011

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The President's Message

It is better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.
- Elizabeth Kenny



Are you a lion? Or are you a sheep? One of the most appealing aspects of the Damascus Lions when I joined back in '99, was how there was a new president every year throughout the history of the club. They took turns. Most everyone took a turn. It was a concept that really appealed to the kindergartener in me. Some of them were probably great at it and some may not have been very memorable. But it looked like everyone took a turn. I really liked that. Now that I've been here for a dozen years, that's no longer the case. The Nominating Committee has been busy for the past month talking to many members about serving in a leadership role with the club for the upcoming year. If you listen carefully, perhaps you can hear "No" echoing throughout town. And I wonder why. I still think we're one of the best groups of people around. I value the friendships I have made within the club and the wonderful things we do within the community.

We hear lots of reasons why you can't serve as a club leader. I was just a toddler when JFK made his famous speech in which he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." And I say the same about our club. To some of the reasons not to serve, I cannot hear you. I work. During my last term as King Lion, I also had kids. I still have those kids, but they no longer live at home. What about ewe? Have we become the Damascus Sheep Club? We need Lions to step up and accept positions for next year. For myself, I have agreed to take the position of Immediate Past President. I can promise you that it's not all that hard to serve the club. There's an amazing web of people available to lend a hand either physically, mentally or emotionally. If you aren't confident of your ability, this month is the Regional Leadership Institute in Emmitsburg from the 18th to the 20th where you can benefit from training from some of the best leaders in the region. If no one is willing to take their turn to serve in a leadership capacity, we have to seriously consider the future of our club. I will admit that it takes more time to be a leader than a follower, but it's hardly all-consuming. Feel free to contact anyone on the committee to let them know it's time for you to take a turn. The committee includes the past 5 presidents, Lions Ken

Phillips, Gary Rogers, Eloise Woodfield, Mary Frances Gosnell and myself.

I'm going to slide my soapbox back under the bed now and turn to other important news in the club. A nice size group represented Damascus at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo on the 15th of the month. See the article for a recap of the day's events. Thanks to Lion Jerry Mallack for coordinating the group.

For the first time in over a decade, we had a blood drive without our #1 Blood Hound, Lion Charlie Hertel. And to make things even more interesting, we used a different collecting agent, Inova Blood Services instead of the American Red Cross. All things considered, it was a successful day with 56 units collected. We will continue with Inova doing our collections for now. The room was calm and donors were in and out in about an hour. We really need more help to make phone calls and to staff the reception table and canteen during the day. Our next two drives are scheduled for March 28th and May 23rd. We thank Lion Charlie for his 13 years of dedicated service to the blood drive and all he has done to make this one of our consistent community projects. Thanks, too, to Lion Ken Cook who is taking the lead of future drives. Thanks also go to Lions John Washington, Charlie Holpuch, Mary Frances Gosnell, Bill & Helen Mahylis, Chris Fletcher, Virginia Hertel, Warren & Joy Schwab, Tom Jackson, Roy Stanley, Ray Molesworth, Mike & Kathy Thornett, Cheryl Wyatt, Leslee Poole and Tammy Hertel for their assistance with the drive.

We are also on the look-out for a new spring fundraiser for the club. The Big Band Dance seems to have run its course. Participation is down dramatically and it can no longer realistically be called a fundraiser. We are open to any ideas you may have.

Our in-house auction is coming up March 15th. Start collecting your treasures and saving your nickels. The auction is a fun night and we will need your contributions.

The weather has not been too friendly this winter, though not really as memorable as last year. We've traded feet of snow for really cold. We had to cancel our second meeting last month and this week is looking like it could go either way depending on the temperature. I hope you are staying warm, safe and healthy so we can see you at the next meeting.

Yours in Service,
King Lion Marcia

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P.O. Box 267
Damascus, MD 20872-2250



President: Marcia Holpuch
holpuch@verizon.net
301-253-6240

Editor: Tom Jackson 301-253-6316
wtjackson@alumni.unc.edu

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Damascus Lions Web Site:
<http://www.damascuslions.org>

Lions Information: (202) LIONS22

Upcoming Events

Feb. 1 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church
Feb. 7 Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros
Feb. 15 Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church

Mar 1 – Dinner Mtg - Prospective Member Night @
Wesley Grove UM Church
Mar 8 – Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros.
Mar 15 – Dinner Meeting - In-House Auction @ Wesley
Grove UM Church
Mar 19 – Pancake Breakfast @ Damascus UM Church
Mar 28 – Blood Drive @ DVFD Activities Center

Apr 5 – Dinner Mtg – New Member Induction @ Wesley
Grove UM Church
Apr 12 – Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros.
Apr 16 – 22C Night @ Greater Waldorf Jaycees Ctr
Apr 19 – Dinner Meeting @ Wesley Grove UM Church

Birthdays

Lions:

Feb. 16 – Ruth Johnson
Feb. 21 - Ray Sicotte

Partners-in-Service

Feb. 10 - Sue Poole
Feb. 23 - Gail Davidson

Anniversaries

Feb. 15 – Su and Shyue Huang
Feb. 17 - Kathy and Mike Thornett
Feb. 20 - Mary and Jim Belcher

News about Members

Corrections to email addresses in the roster book:

Jim Belcher - jim_mary7007@verizon.net
Bernie Duplan - bernie.duplan@verizon.net
Mary Frances Gosnell grangosnell1674@yahoo.com
Bob Newlin - bobnewlin@comcast.net
Lee Sellers - jleesellers@aol.com

Five Rules For Men To Follow To A Happy Life:

1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up, and has a job.
2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust, and doesn't lie to you.
4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you.
5. It's very, very important that these four women do not know each other.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

At the board meeting on January 11, there were not enough in attendance to have a quorum, so no business could be conducted. Those in attendance reviewed the December board meeting minutes and found no corrections were needed. They also received the treasurers' reports and no issues were noted.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of additional letters for the community signs. This motion was subsequently approved by a vote by board members conducted by email.

NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo

By King Lion Marcia

On Saturday, the 15th of January, 10 Lions represented Damascus at the District 22-C Mobile Health Unit at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo at the Convention Center in DC. Lions Mike Thornett, Gary Rogers, Barbara & Tony Barry, Charlie & Carol Stone, Charlie Hertel, Mary Frances Gosnell, Chris Fletcher, Marcia Holpuch worked the 9-11:00 shift at the Expo. Partner-in-service Helen Mahylis joined us for the expedition as she wanted to attend the expo.

Lion Tony donned the lion costume and roamed the exhibit floor with his lovely assistant, Lion Barbara. Lion Barbara was spied on the exhibit floor with a hula hoop. Photos will be published soon. Lions Mary Frances and Chris set up the check-in area, creating a system that helped track the number of visitors to the booth. Lion Carol learned to operate the preschool vision camera and the rest of us helped with questions and assisting attendees through the various screening stations. Our booth area was joined with Washington Hospital for glaucoma screening. By the time we left the hall, over 60 screenings had been done.

We walked down the street to Chinatown and enjoyed a shared lunch at the New Big Wong restaurant. We had a great table with a lazy-susan center that did a great job to facilitate sharing 4 Chinese dishes among the group. Full and glad to have taken part in the expo, we jumped on the metro and headed back home. Not a bad way to spend a chilly Saturday morning. Thanks to all who attended and also to Lion Jerry Mallack who coordinated the event.

Holiday Basket Fund Donors

By Lion Bob Snapp

A large number of businesses and civic organizations made significant donations to our holiday basket fund. These organizations contributed a great deal of money to the cause. Businesses included Rhodes Construction, Ned's Hair Connection, Dovetail Printing, Damascus Community Bank, L. W. Moxley Backhoe Service, Up County Realty, Gladhill Bros. Tractor, L. Franklin Easterday Inc., Damascus Hair Stylist, Huang Distributors, Tom & Ray's Restaurant, Charles Stanley and Son, Red Rooster, A&B Luck Plumbing, B&D Auto Parts, and E. C. Gary Richard Investments. The local civic organizations were the Damascus American Legion, Family Garden Club and the Tradesman Motor Cycle Club. If you see any of these, be sure to tell them how much we appreciate their support.

Additionally, eight anonymous individuals contributed to the success of our campaign.

Community Sign Committee

By Lion Tom Jackson

The annual meeting of the Community Sign organizations met on Jan. 22 to allocate time slots for the sign for the upcoming year. In addition to the Lions, the other organizations are the American Legion, the Izaak Walton League, the Friends of the Library and the Damascus Heritage Society.

We did not fare as well as we have in the past. The movement of the blood drives caused some conflicts with other organizations. Never-the-less, we can advertise all but one blood drive, although only for 2 days (the Sunday before and the Monday of). The November Blood drive will not be advertised. Usually we can advertise 2 or 3 of them for a week.

We got the week of the spring pancake breakfast and the week before (Oct 2-8) for the fall event.

We will advertise the golf tournament in May (8-14).

And I got a week in April for the Big Band Dance (10-16) even though we don't know when it is. I hope that's before it actually occurs.

Several weeks are currently unassigned if we should need them. Apr 24-30, June 19-25, July 17-23 and 24-30, Aug 14-20, Sept 25-Oct 1, and Oct 16-22 and 23-29. However, these may be requested by other organizations also.