



### The President's Message

Happy Holidays  
Damascus Lions!



I can't believe we have only one month left of 2015. Our wood stove running and it is beginning to feel a lot like winter! December is always a busy month for everyone, but it is especially busy in the Barry house. We have 3 birthdays, Elizabeth is December 14, and Tony & Victoria are December 17! (Plus we have a niece in Ireland also born on December 17). December is also probably the busiest month for the Damascus Lions Club. Our holiday basket program requires many Lion hours. The many tasks include shopping, collecting food from local schools and organizations, sorting food, packing boxes, wrapping presents and delivering the finished product to people in our area. I really enjoy the Saturday before Christmas when deliver the holiday items to people in the community. The Lions gather, eat yummy warm cinnamon rolls, perhaps visit with Santa, and load up our many gifts in to our vehicles. We usually wish each other a Merry Christmas and exchange hugs and handshakes. It feels great to belong to such a caring organization!

Don't forget our Christmas party on December 15 at the Damascus United Methodist Church. Please bring a gift for our gift swap. Hopefully we'll have a visit from Santa and maybe that Green Fellow!

The New Year will be here before we know it. Our NBC 4 Health Fitness Expo is early this year on January 9 & 10. We usually sign up for the first shift on Saturday, January 9. Most of us take the metro to DC, work for a few hours, then go out to lunch as a group. It is a fun day and another way to spread the word of Lions. See Lion Jerry Mallack if you can attend.

If you have any ideas for guest speakers please share them with me or Lion Marcia. Perhaps there is a topic of concern you would love to hear more about at a Lions meeting.

The Holiday season is usually when we think of family and friends - Please also remember to Appreciate, Believe in and Care for your fellow Lions.

Happy Holidays!

KL Barbara

### High Clean-up

By Chain Gang Boss Tony Barry

On Saturday morning, November 7, 2015, seven (7) members of the Damascus Lions club participated in a trash cleanup of Valley Park Drive. The Lions Club recently "Adopted" the one mile stretch of road between Ridge Road (Rte. 27) and Woodfield Road (Rte. 124) as part of the Montgomery County Adopt A Road (AAR) program. Montgomery County will be posting signs on our adopted roadway in the near future and the signs will identify the DAMASCUS LIONS CLUB as being responsible for the roadway. Part of our responsibility is to perform a road cleanup six (6) times per year, and to report to the county after each cleanup, identifying how many volunteers we had and how much trash we picked up. The AAR chair, Lion Tony, has sent the report to the county informing them that we picked up three (3) large garbage bags of trash. The following lions participated in the event on Saturday morning; Lion Daniel A. (Tony) Barry (AAR Chairman), King Lion Barbara Barry, Lion Tom Jackson, Lion Bob Snapp, Lion Wayne Marr, Lion Joe Howerton, and Lion Warren Schwab .

Our next scheduled road cleanup will happen early in the New Year, weather permitting.

### The New Bench

Picture Courtesy Lion Chris Fletcher

This is a new bench that we purchased, in front of Rite Aid.



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**Lion's Tale**

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**Upcoming Events**

Dec 3 - Senior Party @ Senior Center  
Dec 13 - Board Meeting @ Gladhill Bros  
Dec 15 - Christmas Party @Damascus UMC  
Dec 16 - 19 - Holiday Giving Project @ Damascus UMC

**Birthdays**

Lions:

Dec. 5 - Martin Carr  
Dec. 15 - Helen Boyer  
Dec. 17 - Tony Barry  
Dec. 21 - Jack Poole  
Dec. 29 - Del Mayhew

Partners-in-Service:

Dec. 20 – Joe Wyatt

**Anniversaries:** (None known)

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
10 Nov 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:0 pm by King Lion (KL) Barbara Barry.

Attendees: B. Barry, T. Barry, C. Fletcher, T. Gladhill, M. Gosnell, G. Hibbard, M. Holpuch, T. Jackson,

P. McKenzie, R. Molesworth, J. Sain, J. Schwab, W. Schwab, M. Thornett, J. Washington

The minutes of the Sept. & Oct. meetings were approved. Club Treasurer Report: Approved. Foundation Treasurer Report: Approved.

**Treasury Summary:**

	<u>Club</u>	<u>Foundation</u>
Income	1989	3589
Expenses	2474	2530
Net	-485	1059

The payment for our work at the Ice Cream Barn at the Montgomery County Fair has been received by the King Lion in the amount of approx. \$2,400. It will be presented at a regular meeting to our project Chair.

Another thank you was received by a winner of the fair. Dues continue to dribble in.

Lion Julie was finally able to make contact with Damascus Community Bank and reports that they are excited to partner with us for a community shred event in the spring. It will be held at Damascus United Methodist Church utilizing the drive-through area to keep traffic flowing well. We will hand out information on the Lions. The bank has agreed to fund the expense of the truck. A mutually agreeable date will be set for late April or early May.

In the matter of help for Gaithersburg Elementary School children needing glasses, we agreed to provide funding for 2 children.

Lion George reported that the White Cane drive results exceeded \$2,200 this year. All shifts were filled for the first time in many drives. It was one of the best drives in a long time, but not a record. We have yet to reach the \$2,300 mark.

We voted to contribute \$750 to the community Thanksgiving meal. Their attendance has been down.

Lion Mary Frances reported on the Holiday basket program as follows: She has met with the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club and seen their amazing contributions of toys for this year. The toys can no longer be stored at her home, but she has located an adequate space for them. We will be serving 30 families in the area this year consisting of 59 adults and 82 children. We will not be doing Christmas stockings, but we will continue with collections of hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks to include in the "baskets." An attempt has been made to contact all families already, with 19 accomplished and further follow-up needed for the remaining 11. A letter will be sent to all Lions to make a donation for the fund this year in lieu of

previous donations of goods for the stockings and shopping for the toys. Collections will still be done in town and the jar will still be passed around at the meetings for monetary contributions.

Lion Mike reported that the tax return for FY15 (ended 6/30/2015) is due on 11/15/15 and an extension will be requested. The return will be finished and reviewed at the board meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcia Holpuch, Secretary

## **The Lions will take the Christmas wreaths down in Fall 2015 Damascus White Cane Days**

By Lion Wayne Marr Chair

Damascus Lions: Congratulations! We raised \$2,210.26 last month during our Fall White Cane fundraiser. Twenty-nine dedicated Damascus Lions performed storefront collections over thirty-eight two-hour shifts. Every one of those Damascus Lions is to be commended for their sacrifice. Please visualize the word "Lion" in front of every name in this article. Otherwise, in order to pay the fines I would have to cancel my cable television and go back to rabbit ears.

### **Special Recognitions:**

- Five **Over-\$100-in-One-Shift Club** recognitions go to:

- **Woody Ward**, who collected \$152.00 at CVS on Friday afternoon;
- **George Hibbard**, who collected \$107.15 at Tom & Rays on Saturday morning;
- **Barbara Barry**, who collected \$107.15 at Safeway on Thursday afternoon;
- **Julie Sain**, who collected \$103.20 also at Safeway on Thursday afternoon; and
- **Warren & Joy Schwab**, who collected \$101.70 at Safeway on Thursday afternoon.

- Ten Lions worked multiple shifts (indicated with a "(2!)" or "(3!)" following their names below). Some of these "extra shifty" Lions brought in over \$100 total when you sum up all their shifts. Were it not for Lions working multiple shifts, we would have collected about \$580 less.

- The **Bert Lahr Special Award for Most Courageous Lion** goes to **Carol Stone, Charlie Stone, and Ronnie Poland** because, at the Lions meeting on the evening before the fundraiser began, they added their names multiple times to the schedule so that all schedule shifts were filled. This was the first time in my memory that we filled all shifts on the schedule!

Here is the total list of Damascus Lions who gave of their time for one or more storefront collection shifts (multiple shifts in parentheses): B. Barry, Burlas(3!), K. Cook(3!), Fletcher(2!), Gill(2!), Gladhill, Gosnell, C. Hertel, T. Hertel, Hibbard(2!), C. Holpuch, M. Holpuch, Howarton, Jackson, Mallack, Molesworth, Newlin, Peters, Poland(2!), Sain, J. Schwab, W. Schwab, Snapp, Suddath, C. Stone(2!), Ch. Stone(2!), Thornett, Ward(2!), Washington. As always, special thanks go to our committee members who served as Managers of the Day and/or Money Counters: Ken Phillips, Del Mayhew, Tom Jackson, George Hibbard, and Vi Hibbard (Lion Spouse!).

## **HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT**

By Lion Mary Frances Gosnell, Chair

The Holiday Giving Project is upon us and we have just two weeks to put it all together! We will deliver food, clothes, toys and gifts to 29 families consisting of 82 children and 59 adults on Saturday, December 21. You will find a TimeLine for the project in this newsletter. I suggest you print it and put it on your family bulletin board so that you will readily know how the project is moving and when you need to provide your assistance. We will have sign-up sheets at the meeting December 1 for helping with sorting, wrapping and building a delivery team. We need 10 teams.

The Tradesmen Motorcycle Club have delivered the toys! What an outpouring of love as there are 3 bicycles, scooters, balls, dolls, trucks, games - you name it, we have it!! The toys have been sorted and are ready for each family. Lions are asked to bring mittens, hats, gloves and socks to the Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 15. We will "warm" a tree with them that evening reflecting our eagerness to keep our recipients warm. The children range from 6 months to 18 years old and we would like to have enough gloves, hats and socks to warm the adults as well.

Bob Newlin is organizing the school food drives, the NRC Food Drive, and the pickup and delivery of the items to the church on Wednesday, December 16. That evening, December 16 at 7:30, we will set up the tables and food signs and then sort the collection of food from the schools and NRC. Thursday, we need wrappers for the clothing and sorting them into their family bags. Friday, we will continue to pack the items up for Saturday delivery.

For those who signed up for a Delivery Team, your family names and information will be sent to you by email before December 12, This will give the team time to contact the family and to locate them. Teams who have signed up to deliver the food and gifts will have Thursday and Friday from 1 pm to 5 pm to pack their food for their respective families. Should a team not be available during

those hours, please let me know and we can have the Leos pack your food for you. And Lions, as you meet and greet your families to whom you are delivering, remember, Poverty it not always visible!

Look for the sign-up sheet on each table tonight as we get ready for another heartwarming project! Looking forward to working with everyone. Send an email to me if you have any questions! mgosnelladamascuslions@gmail.com

### 2015 HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT TIMELINE

- Dec. 1 - Sign-up Sheet to volunteer for Delivery Teams and other duties.
- Dec. 2 - Shop for children's clothes
- Dec. 15 - Bring Mittens, stockings and hats for children to Holiday Party
- Dec. 15 - Pickup foods from the schools. Lion Bob Newlin will coordinate
- Dec. 16 at 7:30pm - Sort canned goods at Damascus U M Church
- Dec. 17 1 pm – 5 pm - Teams pack food boxes for families; Wrap Children's clothing at Damascus U M Church
- Dec. 18 1 pm – 5 pm Teams pack food boxes for families; Lions pack up all other items for delivery at Damascus UMC
- Dec. 19 8am - Delivery Teams pack food boxes into their sleighs at DUMC and deliver to families
- Dec. 19 9:30 am - Clean up and move surplus food to Help Food Closet

### Hanging the Christmas Wreaths

By Lion Tony Barry.

On Friday Nov 27, 2015 the Lions club of Damascus continued a 25 year tradition by hanging the Christmas wreaths on the lamp posts throughout Damascus. Nine lions and four friends of Lions gathered at the Damascus Tom and Ray's at 9am on Friday morning and after a hearty breakfast donated by Lion Gary Bellison of Tom and Rays and a brief "how to" clinic given by Lion Tony Barry, they split up into 4 teams and began hanging the wreaths.

The hard work of Lions Del Mayhew, Warren Schwab, Tony Barry, Bob Snapp, Chris Fletcher, Ray Molesworth, Joe Howerton and King Lion Barbara made short work of the 40 lamp posts and the team had completed the project by 11:00am. The friends of the Lions who helped were John Barry, Ryan Muse, CJ Muise and Nick Doan.

A special word of thanks to Lion Charlie Hertel who loaned his three step ladders to the Lions club for the

execution of the project. Thanks also to Lion Gary Bellison of Tom & Rays who donated breakfast to all who helped hang the wreaths.

