

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



January 2024

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The President's Message



We are officially in the Winter Season with the passing of the Winter Solstice 2023 on December 21st.

December 2023 continued our active community service. On December 2nd we hung Wreaths on

Damascus Light Poles; and conducted vision pre-screening while Santa was visiting at Gladhill Brothers Tractor. On December 10th, over 25 folks had lunch at Stoner's on the Square restaurant in Mercersburg, PA prior to attending the Star Theatre Holiday Show, matinee. The Holiday Giving Project efforts from December 14th-23rd resulted in a meaningful, joyous Holiday for 36 families. Thank you, Lions and Tradesmen MC members.

We begin January 2024 with the cancellation of our January 2nd meeting. On January 5th we will have our first Blood Drive at the Damascus American Legion from 7:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Our meeting on January 16th will have three members of the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club in attendance so that we can thank them for their continued, significant contributions to help make our Holiday Giving Project a success.

Best wishers for a safe and Happy New Year!

KL Charlie

DECEMBER EVENTS

Food Collections for 2023

This year the Lions Club of Damascus continued a long-standing tradition of partnering with local middle and high schools to collect food for families in need in the Damascus, Clarksburg and Laytonsville area. The Damascus Lions will distribute food to 35 families in the Damascus, Clarksburg and Laytonsville area as an essential part of the Damascus Lions Club holiday basket project. Each family will receive a generous box of canned and packaged goods. The Lions will deliver all excess food to the Damascus Help food closet.

During November John T. Baker Middle School Student Government (SGA) sponsored the food collection at Baker MS under the supervision of Angela Blankenship, SGA Sponsor. Lion Rob Hyman, Damascus High School Leo Club sponsor lead the food collection effort at Damascus High School. All food was picked up by Lions and stored, sorted and distributed from Gladhill Bros Tractor Mart. Gladhill Bros donated space in their facility to store the food.

Clarksburg High School (CHS) Leo Club conducted a food drive at CHS in December. The Leo Club is sponsored by the Damascus Lions Club. Lion Kim Moore is the sponsor of the CHS Leo Club. The Rocky Hill Middle School SGA held a food drive during December at Rocky Hill. The Rocky Hill SGA sponsor is Jessica Foley who was instrumental in making the food drive a success. The food from CHS and Rocky Hill was taken to Gladhill Bros. On Wednesday, December 20, the Damascus Lions along with family members and friends sorted the food and prepared boxes for distribution.

Lion Ray Moleworth

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Many Lions rallied to complete another Holiday Giving Project serving 160 family members in 35 families in the Damascus Clarksburg area.

Lion Ray Molesworth coordinated the Food Drives in four area schools. See Lion Rays article in this Lions Tale. We had enough for 35 families plus 3 small boxes for a family that the Barry's became aware of having difficulties. We purchased cereal, peanut butter, peas and cookie mix to round out the shortage in those areas. Many Lions offered graciously to bring food on Thursday which is a bit late as the teams start packing for their families Thursday and we need to know how many items for each family. Should anyone like to make a monetary donation, give it to Lion Bob Snapp payable to the Damascus Lions Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Going forward, we should have a meeting set aside and publicized in advance for a Lion Food Drive for the project as well as an assigned storage place.

Lion Chris Fletcher profiled the 35 families verifying the address, phone number and number in family plus the sizes of clothing for the children. Lion Joan Paseur worked with the greeting cards, labeling and addressing them, safely wrapping the can openers and packaging the teen Gift Cards. Partners-in-Service Bonnie Mayhew and Jennifer Molesworth along with Lions Chris, Joan and Eloise were the clothes shoppers – an outfit for each of the 60 children at a cost of \$925! According to Kohl's receipt, we saved \$1,400! Thrifty Shoppers!

Many Lions came Wednesday Night to sort the foods and get a count of how many items are in each category – the final count was approximately 1600 items in 24 categories. The Holiday Fund purchased two bath towels for each family. A box of candy canes was donated by a previous Safeway employee, Erma, the Oreo cookies by a customer of Gladhills, the apples by Butler's Orchard and the toothbrushes by Damacus Dental. An anonymous donor gave a box of Ertyl trucks and cars to be placed in the family packages. The Goldstein family donated homemade cookie packages for each family dressed in Holiday wrappings! The Goldstein's have made this their Christmas Family Project for upwards to 20 years! Lions Del Mayhew and Ray Molesworth were on duty to help with many aspects of the Project over the past two months. Lion Sue Suddath was a standby to help on Thursday.

The Tradesmen Motorcycle Club collected toys and cash at their annual Toy Run which was donated for each child and family. Each child received one to two toys and a family game or book. Two bikes and a scooter were also in the collection. In addition, the Tradesmen made a substantial monetary donation. Each teen received a gift card from Kohl's in lieu of clothing plus a basketball and jewelry. Seven of the Tradesmen helped with loading and delivery on Saturday. The Tradesmen have been our partners-in-service for approximately 15 years.

We had 11 teams consisting of 24 Lions plus 16 family members and friends to deliver to the 35 families Saturday morning. Gladhill Tractor employees were on board to help with the project all through the week as well as moving food pallets to the vehicles of food to respective Team vehicles. Gladhill employee, Gary Hilton and his family, portrayed Santa and Mrs. Claus delivering with two teams. Gladhill employees will get a soup and sandwich Appreciation Lunch in January. Lion Tess Gladhill generously offers this space for our project during December. Thank you, Lion Tess and employees!



The cost of the project is tallying up at \$7,300. Lion Bob Snapp has been canvassing the town for donations and at present his total is \$4,100 including "Albert's Jar" which was passed around to members at one meeting. Next year, we plan to have the jar passed at two meetings as not all Lions were in attendance at the collection meeting. An estimated value of the project is upwards to \$15,000. At our January 16 Dinner Meeting, we will invite the Tradesmen and Santa in honor of their participation in our Lions work of serving our community. We will discuss the project and learn about the mission of the Tradesmen.

A sincere thank you to all of you for your participation in the Holiday Giving Project. It takes many hands and

bodies to bring this Project to fruition of serving the needs of our community! Happy New Year!

Mary Frances Gosnell

(More pictures on page 5)

Wreaths Across America - DeWreathing

Our third annual Wreaths Across America DE-WREATHING exercise is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2024. A few of you from the Damascus Lions Club have participated as volunteers in 2022 and/or 2023.

We carpool to Loudon Park Cemetery (45 min), arriving about 9:00 AM and we join other volunteers from my neighborhood and other local organizations. We grab the wreaths from the military tombstones, walk them to a cemetery side-road, and toss them into waiting trucks. Sounds easy? IT'S NOT. It's quite tough work. The more volunteers, the more likely we can finish in an hour and crawl back to our cars for the return ride home.

There are many acceptable ways to gather up the wreaths, but a popular and productive method is to work in two-person teams, spear about a dozen wreaths at a time onto a pole, or two poles, and walk the pole(s) horizontally to the trucks. (See the 2023 picture below demonstrating this suggested method).

We have to provide our own poles. Handles from brooms, shovels, etc work fine.

I'll be in touch with all volunteers as we get close to Jan 13. In the meantime, please let me know now/soon if you are "in" for joining in this civic volunteer project. Let me know at (M) 301-237-3034 or waynemarr@aol.com Thanks very much!

Lion Wayne Marr



Time to Celebrate

January Birthdays:

Bob Newlin	1/6 *
Bob Williams	1/13
Ben Lewis	1/29

*Significant Birthday

Partners in Service

None

January Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

Fri., Jan 5- 10am-3:30pm - Blood Drive @ American Legion Hall in Damascus, to help contact Lion Charlie Hertel chtelco@aol.com

Wed., Jan 10- 7:00pm, Board meeting @ Gladhill's

Sat, Jan 13 –9:00am Wreaths Across America – DeWreathing, to help contact Lion Wayne Marr waynemarr@comcast.net

Tues., Jan 16 - 6:45pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Sat. Jan 20 - 9:00am, Road Cleanup for more information contact Lion Tony at daniel8barry@gmail.com



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Holiday Giving Pictures

