

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



December 2024

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The President's Message



The colorful leaves have been falling from the trees with the help of sporadic winds. Rake, and rake some more to build the mound of leaves for collection; and help burn the calories consumed at Thanksgiving dinner. The cool weather is invigorating, as we move toward the Holiday season of caring and giving. November 2024 started with a Blood Drive on November 1st at the American Legion. The Tradesman

Motorcycle Club (MC) Toy Drive at Vanessa's in Taylorsville was held on November 9th. Five Lions attended to show support for another successful effort by the Tradesmen MC. On November 16th we returned to Valley Park Dr. for Road Cleanup. Preschool Vision & Hearing Screenings were performed on November 19th. Then on November 25th, the Lion Holiday Shoppers went clothes shopping at Kohls as part of the Holiday Giving Project. Hanging of the Wreaths on the Damascus Light Poles was conducted on November 29th. December 2024 begins with a special program, New Member Orientation presented by Lion Secretary Barbara Barry at our December 3rd meeting. On December 7th, we have Cookies with Santa at Gladhill Brothers. The main activity for December, the Holiday Giving Project (HGP), serving 35 families, started the previous month with the Tradesmen MC Run for Toys and Lions shopping for clothes. The Holiday Party dinner meeting on December 17th will be different this year. In lieu of bringing a gift for exchange with other club members, please bring nonperishable foods to help support the HGP. Our HGP activities serving the community heat-up December 18th-21st with team assignments, contacting families, sorting canned foods, packing boxes (food and gifts), delivering the boxes to families, transporting excess food to the HELP closet, and clean-up.

Have Festive Cheer in the Holidays and a Happy New Year!
KL Charlie

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Blood Drive - November 1

The Damascus Lions Club hosted their third blood drive for year 2024-2025 at the American Legion Hall on Friday November 1. We collected 39 units of blood for the American Red Cross. Year to date that is 134 units. I would like to thank Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Paseur for their continued support of our local blood drives. They both helped set up and prepare the hall for the drive. They worked the canteen and spoke to the donors about Lionism and some of our upcoming events as we worked alongside the American Legion Staff. We also have seen several Lions come into support the Lions Blood Drives by rolling up their sleeves. Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2024-2025 year will be Friday January 3rd, 2025. This drive will be at Damascus United Methodist Church. As well as the drives for March and May 2025.
Lion Charlie Hertel

Nov 5 Dinner Meeting Speakers

Our November 5 dinner meeting was a busy one. We had Lion Kelley Randolph from LCOF and LCIF. Lion Charlie Spadone from Camp Merrick and Lion Lois Barb from Leader Dog with her Puppy "Slade". These 4 District 22-C Foundation presentations fulfil one of the four requirements for the District 22-C Governor's Award.



More pictures on page 5.

Road Cleanup – Nov 16

On Saturday November 16, ten Lions, and our son John, performed a road cleanup of our adopted road, Valley Park Drive. The only thing exciting was a garbage can! I want to thank the following: Lion Nanda Alapati, Lion Kim Moore, Lion Joe Howerton,

Lion Carol Stone, Lion Charlie Stone, our Son John, Lion Andrew Oliverio, Lion Peter Grysavage, Lion Ray Molesworth, and Lion Barbara Barry.
Lion Tony Barry



PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING –

Nov 19

A request was passed along to our club from Lion Mary Dehart of LCOF to conduct a Preschool Vision Screening at the Optimal Learning Center in Germantown. I want to thank Lions Sue Suddath and Joan Paseur for joining me to conduct the screenings. There were 15 children screened; 8 children passed, 2 being referred and 5 were unable to screen.

Lion Chris Fletcher

Peace Poster Contest Winners

At our November 5 dinner meeting Lions voted for their favorite top 3 Peace Posters. All of the posters were from Hallie Wells Middle School. The winners, their families, and their art teacher came to our November 19 meeting. In addition to creating their peace poster, they were required to write an essay about Peace. Lion Tammy did an excellent job of recognizing these students and reading their essays. The students received a certificate and a cash award.



Guest Speaker Helps Hurricane Victims

Jill Shumaker, our speaker on November 19, is a Damascus community member who talked about donating to the recent hurricane victims. She has traveled to the Carolinas several times with trucks full of necessary supplies for the victims of hurricane Milton. The Lions donated a check to go towards the cost of shipping donations.



HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

This is a Service Giving Project of our Damascus Lions Club since the beginnings – 79 years ago. Of course the dynamics have changed thru the years, but the service, the outreach, the hope that this project gives our community is unmeasured – unmeasured in time, in energy and in dynamics. Helping others to enjoy the Holiday Season!

We have signed up for 35 families this year for our Holiday Project – 109 children, 84 adults!

We put the project into motion on November 6 at Vanessa's Grill, Taylorsville, with the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club. They had a great response with lots of quality toys and cash.

Lion Bob will pass around "Albert's Jar" at the next 2 dinner meetings. As Lion Albert would say, "Don't be bashful, empty your pockets for the jar that benefits others".

We purchased an outfit for each of the children, 2 bath towels for each family as well as Gift Cards for the teens. Each family will receive a gift card for perishable foods.

Lion Ray Molesworth has coordinated the Food Drives with the area schools for non-perishable foods.

We will have Signup sheets available again at the December 3rd Dinner Meeting for Delivery Teams, sorting good on Wednesday, December 18, as well as prep jobs on the 19th and 20th.

We need YOU! We will have fellow Lions to pack food for Teams that are not available to pack. Please let Lion Mary Frances know if you are unable to pack your food! A large vehicle or truck is helpful for Delivery Teams. Teams will be assigned 3 – 4 families for delivery. Teams will have 2-3 food boxes, bag of

toys and another bag of clothes and gifts. Tradesmen Motorcycle members will be on site Saturday morning, the 21st, to help with loading and delivering. This is a great opportunity to express to them our gratitude for partnering with us!

The Project will take place at Gladhill Tractor, Route 27 and 80.

Our Schedule to put the project together is – December 18 6:30 pm - Sorting the canned foods at Gladhill Tractor.

December 19 - 20 – Noon to 5 pm. Teams pack food boxes for families. Gifts and Toys will be packed as well. We can use help with a variety of chores.

December 21 8:45 AM – Teams deliver the food and gifts to their families. Teams will congregate around 7:30 for coffee and buns!

Thanks Damascus Lions for taking the time to faithfully and joyfully serve the families of our Damascus/Clarksburg Communities!

'Tis The Reason For The Season!

Mary Frances Gosnell
Holiday Giving Project Chair

Holiday Wreaths – Nov 29

Lions Light Up Damascus

On Saturday Nov 29 the Lions Club of Damascus continued our tradition of hanging the Christmas wreaths on the lamp posts throughout town. 10 lions, 1 friend of the Lions, 1 Leo and 3 family members gathered at the Damascus McDonalds at 9am on Saturday morning and after a brief "how to" clinic given by Lion Tony Barry, they split up into 4 teams and began hanging the wreaths. It was a chilly morning but at least the rain and snow held off. The 4 teams completed hanging 46 wreaths in record time! Lions Andrew Oliverio, Nanda Alapati, Vahe Aghamalian, Wayne Marr, Ray Molesworth, Tony Barry, Peter Grysavage, Joe Howerton, Bob Ippolito and Barbara Barry made short work of the 46 lamp posts. A special thanks to our friend of the Lions Nick Doan, who comes all the way down from Frederick to help us out! We had our son John, daughter Elizabeth, and Ben Howerton, son of Joe Howerton, also help out. One brave Leo, Jenna Sherman, from DHS did a great job of quality control.



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.

The Lions will take the Christmas wreaths down in early January.

Lion Tony Barry



DINNER MEETING PROGRAMS

The following are the Programs planned for the upcoming Dinner Meetings:

December 3 – New Member Orientation presented by Lion Barbara Barry. Members who have become a Lion in the past few years are encouraged to attend – this is a District Requirement! We will do a follow-up in the Spring for those who cannot attend.

December 17 – Holiday Party – In lieu of bringing a gift for exchange, bring nonperishable foods to complement the Holiday Giving Project. We generally have an abundance of beans and soups. Cereals, baking mixes, juice, stuffing and gravy, peanut butter and jelly are a few of the things that may be needed! The truck will be outside the door for your donation. Let's FILL THE TRUCK!

January 7 – New Member Orientation will be continued focusing on the Damascus Club service to the community. New Members are encouraged to attend.

January 21 - Holiday Giving Appreciation Night - Tradesmen Motorcycle Club will be in attendance along with others that help make our Holiday Giving Project successful.

Lions Mary Frances Gosnell & Eloise Woodfield

Pictures from the Tradesmen

Motorcycle Jingle Bell Toy Run- Nov 9



More Pictures

Our Guest Speakers on Nov 5



Peace Poster



Wreath Hanging



Time to Celebrate

December Birthdays:

Bob Breiner	12/5
Tony Barry	12/17
Susan Smarte	12/18
Del Mayhew	12/29*

*Significant Birthday

Partners in Service

Tom Marley (Julie Sain)	12/12
Barbara Hilton (Gary)	12/13

December Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

December 3 – Dinner meeting, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm

December 7 - 10am-1pm, Cookies with Santa @ Gladhill's

December 11 -Board Meeting, Gladhill Brothers, 7 pm

December 18-21 – Holiday Baskets, Gladhill Brothers

December 17 – Holiday Party, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm – bring non perishable foods



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Damascus Lions Web Site:

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