

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



June 2024

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The President's Message



The month of June brings beautiful flowers, weddings, and the start of Summer on June 20th with the Summer Solstice (Northern Hemisphere). There will be plenty of daylight to help inspire,

“We Serve.”

In May, we had White Cane, May 1st through May 3rd; a Blood Drive on May 3rd; our Shred Fest event on May 4th; the Youth Celebration night on May 21st; and our last activity of the month, Road Cleanup on May 25th.

We begin June 2024 with the Damascus Placemaking Initiative on June 3rd from 7pm to 9pm at the Damascus HS. Our last dinner meeting at Wesley Grove UMC for Lions Year 2023-2024 will be June 4th. An opportunity to have fun while participating in an event to raise funds will occur on June 14th and 15th, 8pm at the Give a Hoot Comedy Club. We finish the month with Installation Night on June 18th, 6:30pm at the Montgomery Country Club in Laytonsville.

Happy Father's Day!

KL Charlie

MAY EVENTS

WHITE CANE DAYS- May 2024

Damascus Lions: Congratulations! At Safeway East and West during the three days of October 18-20, 2023 (27 shifts), we received \$1,920.92, for a shift average of \$68.11. Though these are not records, they are excellent numbers. **Absolutely every shift was important to our total.** We had twenty-six dedicated Damascus Lions performing storefront collections across 30 shifts. On May 4th, at our Damascus Shred Fest, Lion Chris Fletcher used a White Cane sign and bucket to collect \$1,414.53. Our grand total was \$3,335.45! Thank you, Storefront Lions; and thank you, Shredfest!

Think the word: "Lion" in front of all names in this article! As always, special thanks go to our White Cane committee members who served as both Managers of the Day and as money counters: Del Mayhew and Tom Jackson. Additional money counters were Bobbie Marr and Lion Partner Bonnie Mayhew.

Special Recognitions:

Four **Over-\$100-in-One-Shift Awards** go to: Bob Ippolito (on Thursday); and Bob & Colleen Newlin, Warren Schwab and Ray Molesworth (all on Friday). And let's recognize Chris Fletcher again for her fantastic work at the Shredfest, as always!

Storefront Lions:

Here is the list of Damascus Lions who gave of their valuable time for one or more storefront collection shifts (multiple shifts in parentheses): Aghamalian, Alapati(2!), Bambous, Fletcher(2!), Gosnell, C. Hertel(2!), T. Hertel, Hibbard, Howerton, Inglefield, Ippolito(2!), Mackay, Marshall, Molesworth(2!), B. Newlin, C. Newlin, Passeur(2!), Peters, W. Schwab, Smarte, Snapp, C. Stone, Ch. Stone, Suddath, and Woodfield. Thank you, one and all storefront Lions! Lion Wayne Marr

BLOOD DRIVE –May 3

The Damascus Lions Club hosted our seventh and final blood drive for year 2023-2024 at the Damascus United Methodist Church on Friday May 3rd, 2024. We collected 43 units of blood for the American Red Cross.

This puts our total units for 2023-2024 to 264 Units Collected. We would like to thank the Damascus

United Methodist Church for opening up their hall for this blood drive and for their continued support of ARC and Damascus Lions Blood Program.

I would like to thank Lion Joan Passeur and Lion Chris Fletcher for helping work the blood drive. We set up and broke down the hall, put up signage, helped donors sign up for future drives, worked the canteen and spoke to our donors about Lionism and some of our upcoming events as we worked along side the Damascus United Methodist volunteers and ARC staff. I was not able to attend the drive and felt that the Lions Club would know how to handle the drive just fine!!

Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2024-2025 year will be Friday July 12th, 2024. This drive will be at the American Legion Hall in Damascus.

Congratulations to Lion Chris on her award for always talking about joining us as LIONS, her support to me along with the Damascus Lions Blood Program and for her always supporting every event the Lions are involved in 😊.

Our schedule for 2024-2025 is as follows:

Friday July 12th, 2024 at the Damascus American Legion Hall.

Friday September 6th, 2024 at the Damascus American Legion Hall.

Friday November 1st, 2024 at the Damascus American Legion Hall.

Friday January 3rd, 2025 at the Damascus United Methodist Church.

*Friday March 2025 at the Damascus United Methodist Church (No Confirmed Date Yet).

*Friday May 2025 at the Damascus United Methodist Church (No Confirmed Date Yet).

Lion Charlie Hertel

SHRED FEST – May 4

Another Shredfest, another rainy day! The weather does not seem to deter the Lions from having a successful Shredfest! This year we also added battery recycling which was very successful, as we collected and properly disposed of over 1000 batteries. To summarize, we served 148 vehicles, raised \$1,414.53 for Lions White Cane Drive, and shredded and recycled 4,820 lbs of paper.

The Lions always appreciate Wesbanco's support of our community charitable events.

Lion Joe Howerton



ROAD CLEANUP- May 25

On Saturday May 25, ten members of the Damascus Lions Club performed a road cleanup of our adopted road Valley Park Drive. We collected 3 large bags of garbage. The grass on the north side of the road was too tall to walk through, otherwise there would have been way more trash. Therefore we need to call the county to have them mow it. Nothing interesting to report...just trash. I want to thank the following Lions; Chris Fletcher, Andrew Oliverio, Bob Ippolito, Ray Molesworth, Carol & Charlie Stone, Sena and Bethel Dzobo, and Barbara Barry.

Lion Tony Barry



YOUTH NIGHT – May 21

The Lions Club of Damascus celebrated its annual Youth Recognition Night at the Damascus United Methodist Church on May 21. We decided to simplify it this year. Our guests arrived by 7:30 and joined us for some homemade desserts. Cub Scout Pack 438 presented the Flags. KL Charlie offered a warm welcoming address. Lion Kevin did an outstanding job

as keynote speaker. Lions Tammy and Carolyn did an excellent job of running the show! Cash donations were given to the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Damascus 4H, Clarksburg 4H, Damascus Post Prom Committee and Clarksburg Post Prom Committee. The focus this year was on safety and each school provided an overview of how they are committed to safety at their school. A representative from two of our Leo Clubs was on hand to receive the Leo of the Year award.

The elementary schools (ES) participating were Cedar Grove ES, Clarksburg ES, Clearspring ES, Damascus ES, Rockwell ES, and Snowden Farms. Students from John T. Baker MS also attended.

Community members as well as Lions thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many said “see you again next year”!

(See more pictures on page 7)





2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Vernon R. Simpson Scholarships were presented to the recipients Awards Ceremony at Clarksburg and Damascus High Schools. The scholarships are for \$2,000 each for tuition.

They were presented to –

Audrey Kreider, CHS - plans to attend Salisbury University seeking a degree in Criminology.

Carrie Gottesman, DHS - plans to attend Salisbury University with her major being undeclared.

Sophia Iorio, DHS - plans to attend University of Delaware seeking a major in Business. Sophia has been President of our DHS Leo Club for the past 3 years.

The Michael J. Thornett Unique Achievement Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 was presented to

Addison Reed, DHS – plans to attend U of MD seeking a degree in medicine.

Sydney Chumas, DHS – plans to attend Susquehanna University seeking a degree in Biochemistry.

Connor Esposito, CHS – plans to attend University of Maryland seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

The Unique scholarship is for a graduating student living in the Damascus School Cluster who is attending a 2 or 4 year school or vocational school and who have attempted to overcome a unique challenge presented to them.

The Damascus Lions Club Scholarship Program began in 2000 from a Lion Michael Thornett suggestion that the Lions Club needed to spread Lionism awareness into education along with the Leo Clubs. Since that time, Damascus Lions have invested \$129,000 in scholarships to 111 students in the Damascus/Clarksburg School Cluster.

The Unique Achievement Scholarship originated in 2016. The funds were from the Damascus Lions Education College Loan program started in 1986 in honor of a longtime Lion and Treasurer, Lion Basil Burdette, by Lion Burdette's employer, Damascus Motor Co. The loan program continued to be funded from time to time by Damascus Motors. Upon closing down the program in 2015 with all the loans being paid in full, the monies were set aside for the Unique Achievement Scholarship Program. The scholarship was renamed in 2022 to the Michael J. Thornett Unique Achievement Scholarship. Since its beginning, the Scholarship has invested \$27,000 in 24 students who plan to attend a school of higher learning or trade school.

NOTE OF INTEREST

Connor Esposito's application reflected on him being involved with Mountain Biking Team, School Lacrosse Team, A Swim Team as well as tinkering with engines. On his way to school one March morning, he was T-boned by a fully loaded dump truck. Connor spent the next two weeks in ICU undergoing seven surgeries and constant nursing care. The Physical and Mental Trauma that Connor has struggled thru has given him time to reflect. At the time of his applying for the Unique Achievement Scholarship, Connor was confined to a wheel chair. He writes "I know I have a long road ahead of me, but I am grateful to even be on that road."

On May 9, when I announced the scholarship recipients, CONNOR PROUDLY WALKED ON STAGE! Needless to say, I wept! What a determined young man!

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

Years of Continuous Service Recognition

Sixteen members of the Damascus Lion Club have completed another year of continuous service to their community for a total of 340 years of service to Lionism. These Lions are commended for their commitment to their community and to Lions Clubs International. Lion Jack Peters tops the list with 42 years of community service. Lion Jack has been the Assistant Lion Tamer for many years but is best known for his service to the Medical Equipment Loan Closet. Lion Jack seems to be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer requests for medical equipment. He has delivered hospital beds to persons in need in Montgomery County and surrounding counties. In addition to making deliveries, Lion Jack picks up equipment that is being returned or donated to the club. The Damascus Lions Club continues to receive donations of medical equipment and monetary donations because of the efforts of Lion Jack and the Medical Equipment Loan Closet committee.

Please congratulate the following listed Lions for their service to Lionism.

Lion	Date Joined Lions	Years of Service
Lion Jack Peters	June 1982	42
Lion Tom Jackson	April 1987	37
Lion Robert Breiner*	May 1991	33
Lion Wayne Marr	June 1991	33
Lion Tony Allen	April 1998	26
Lion Dale Ryan	April 2000	24
Lion Charlie Holpuch	April 2002	22
Lion Bobbie Marr	June 2003	21
Lion Ben Lewis	April 2005	19
Lion George Hibbard	April 2006	18
Lion Jennifer Cano	April 2008	16
Lion Bob Williams	April 2008	16
Lion Julie Sain	April 2011	13
Lion Suresh Malhotra	June 2013	11
Lion Vahe Aghamalian	April 2019	6
Lion Bob Ippolito	May 2021	3

*Lion Bob Breiner transferred to the Damascus Lions Club from District 22A and has a total of 33 years of service to Lionism.

Lion Ray Molesworth, Assistant Secretary



Memorial Day at the American Legion Post 171

Lions Chris Fletcher, Sue Suddath, Mary Frances Gosnell and Eloise Woodfield attended the annual Memorial Day Observances at the Damascus American Legion Post. Memorial Day is not just picnics and barbeques, but a day to memorialize all those who have given their lives throughout the long history of war in the US. It is a distinguished day to remember the military personnel whom we have lost.

2024-25 Roster Book

The roster book is being updated for the 24-25 Lions year. Please review your entry and send any updates to wtjackson@alumni.unc.edu. If your entry does not have a picture, or if you want to update your picture, please send me a selfie so I can put it in the book. Also, Secretary Barbara needs dates and events for the July – December calendar.

District 22C Club Leadership Forum

The district is excited to offer two opportunities for Leadership training in District 22C. The first is a forum on "Navigating the New Lions Portal" on June 8, 2024. The second is a forum on "Making Your Club Visible" on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

They welcome anyone who would like to expand their knowledge and skills.

To register and receive a zoom link contact District 22C GLT Dee Hawkins Dee22C@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Time to Celebrate

June Birthdays:

Charlie Hertel	6/16
Jenn Cano	6/17
Vahe Aghamalian	6/26
Eloise Woodfield	6/28

Partners in Service

Bonnie Mayhew (Del)	6/19
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June Anniversaries:

Bob & Colleen Newlin	6/16 (6 yrs)
Ken Mackay & Amy Young	6/18 (1 yr)
Kim & Graham Moore	6/29 (17 yrs)

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<http://www.damascuslions.org>
[Damascus Lions Facebook](#)
<http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions>

June 4 – Dinner meeting, at Wesley Grove
6:45pm.

June 12- Board Meeting / Gladhill Bros

June 18 – Damascus Lions Installation Night
at Montgomery Country Club, Laytonsville MD
for more information contact Lion Bob Snapp at
301-788-6701

Looking WAY Ahead

July 2 – Dinner meeting at Damascus Vol. Fire Dept.

July 12 – 13: Damascus Days! Parade on Friday July
12, for more information contact Lion Tess
general@gladhillbrothers.com

July 13: Flea Market for more information contact
Lion Chris ChrisChrisWFletcher@verizon.net

July 16: Dinner meeting at Lion Nanda's.

August 13 – Ice Cream Dipping, All day at the
Montgomery County Fair grounds. For more info
contact Lion Tammy Hertel
Tammy_Hertel@mcpsmd.org

Welcome Two New Lions to the Club

The membership committee under the leadership of Lion Chris recommended two new members to the board at the May 2024 board meeting. The board unanimously approved both applications. Both new Lions have expressed a genuine interest in becoming an active member of the Lions Club during their attendance at Lions Club meetings and service projects.

Lion Peter Grysavage lives in Damascus with Barbara, his spouse and partner in service. Lion Peter is a Registered Nurse. Lion Chris is Peter's sponsor.

Lion Andrew Oliverio is employed as a Biomedical Equipment Technician and lives in Damascus. At age 31, Lion Andrew is bringing needed youth to the club. Lion Andrew is single and looking forward to serving as a member of the Damascus Lions Club. Lion Chris sponsored Lion Andrew.

Past District Governor Gary Burdette will install Lions Andrew and Peter at Installation Night. Please step up and introduce yourself to these new Lions and offer your insight on Lionism to these new members.

Submitted by: Lion Ray Molesworth

Pictures from Youth Night

