

**Damascus**

MD

# LION'S TALE



October 2020

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## **The President's Message**



Based on our prospective member night meeting on September 15, 2020, I was extremely pleased with the membership slides that were put together by our membership Chair, Barbara Barry. Although, we did not have any prospective members show up at the meeting, we did have several

members speak about why they had joined Lions, which would have been enlightening for all. During the meeting we decided we would go out to the community with Barbara's PowerPoint slides. We met in the Weis back parking lot at 10:15am. We visited a few businesses to ask if there is anything the Damascus Lion's Club can do to be of service to them. That was the key. If they asked what we do, we showed them a slide or two. We provided them a business card. Our overall goal was to provide community service. If we are lucky, we may even gain a club member in our endeavor. I hope for the best. We had our Lion's gear on and smiles on our faces. We plan to do it again. It was a learning experience for all. I would like to increase our attendance at past meetings from 17-18 to 25-30. I'm really hoping we can do that.

I wish to share our International President's message which also is very applicable to our Damascus Community and Lion's Club.

*Dear Lion,  
When we serve, it's more than an act of kindness. It's personal. Your dedication enriches the lives of the people you know and strengthens the relationships you share. You are more than a volunteer—you are an essential part of your community. And that connection matters more than ever.*

*As you continue to serve safely, it's so important to focus on building your relationship with the community. Our mission is to serve, but our service inspires and empowers those around us to take action. And when we are united, we have the strength to face new challenges and solve the issues that matter to us most*

*Regards,  
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi  
International President*

I give a shout out to Lauren Holbrook who reached out to the youth of our Lions Camp Merrick, to discuss what having “diabetes” means to them.

Lions are on a role. We attended Lions Zone meeting twice. Zone chair, Roderick Harris has a number of pins our club can purchase for \$3.00 each.

1. Montreal pin
2. Wash, DC pin

Don't forget about Charter night on October 6, 2020. We will have Past International President, Clem Kusiak, Past International Director, Joe Gaffigan, District Governor Ruth Moses, and Zone Chair Roderick Harris as well as others attending. Let's set a good impression to others in the district. Damascus Lions club has worked very hard to make this a good celebration beginning our 75th year. Damascus Lions Club is roaring again!!

QL Carol



## Diabetes Discussion with Lions Camp Merrick Staff

On Saturday, September 26th. President Carol Stone and I had a zoom discussion with some of the staff from Lions Camp Merrick. Lions Camp Merrick is a Lions run camp that serves the deaf, blind and diabetic communities. It is situated in Nanjemoy, Md right along the Potomac River.

During our discussion the camp staff shared their daily routines and how they live their lives as Type 1 diabetics. Even though their everyday routines were different the common thread was how every decision they made in the day revolved around their diabetes management. It is estimated that the average person makes around 35,000 decisions everyday. A diabetic person makes an extra 180-200 decisions in a day.

The camp staff expressed that they test or check their blood glucose levels up to 8-10 times a day along with giving insulin through shots or an insulin pump. The constant topic that arose through the conversation was there are a lot of extra decisions and preparations needed to carry out their day. This included making sure they had extra insulin or pump supplies and enough food or drink to prepare for low blood glucose attacks.

One of the main concerns that came through our discussion today was the cost of diabetes supplies. The average, out of pocket, cost of diabetes per person is around \$11,000 per year. Many of the staff are still under their parent's insurance plan and one

of their biggest fears is how are they going to be able to pay for their supplies on their own when they turn 25 or 26.

These concerns from the staff only highlighted the importance of programs like Lions Camp Merrick. Every one of them expressed how their lives improved after attending the summer camp either as campers or counselors. They all expressed how important it was for them to meet people who had a shared experience.

From the discussion it was found that diabetes is a huge issue within the United States with the markup of diabetes supplies being around 300%.

### *How can Lions Clubs help?*

A few of the staff expressed that the Lions could help by sponsorships to camps like Lions Camp Merrick. We also discussed possible diabetes conventions or more opportunities throughout the year to get together as a community to discuss issues, connect and socialize. In addition, the idea of more fundraising for camps like Lions Camp Merrick came up and raising awareness about the struggles diabetic people face.

It was a wonderful opportunity to speak to the Lions Camp Merrick staff and hear their views on how Lions Clubs have helped them overcome some difficult times.

Lion Lauren Holbrook

### **QL's Poem for October**

Falling leaves of color is what comes natural this time of year.

The coolness in the air brings a second wind and brings us cheer. For youth, it is a joyous time to learn things they had not yet known of. Through Lion's Peace Poster, youth can draw their thoughts of peace and love.



It is always quite fascinating to learn from the creativity of our youth.

They will not hold back to share their thoughts on what they think is the truth.

If I could share my heart, my thoughts and my dreams in a drawing as they can.

It would be so easy to draft the future of Damascus Lions Club's ultimate plan.

It would be to increase our membership not by one or two, but even by more.

I could not be any more wrong if I came out and said by three or four.

Just think what that would mean to others is our immediate club as well as our district.

My imagination is in a whirlwind as I embrace how nice it would be, if we just tricked it.

Wouldn't it be nice to go from 57 to 61 by October 6<sup>th</sup>?

For Lion's it is a fresh time to share and give back to others while we learn more.

Through the eyes of others, we are learning things we hadn't yet heard before.

I learned a lot as we parked in the Weis back parking lot; meeting a few Lion's there.

We had new slides to show; with brochures and business cards to give out with care.

In a brisk morning stroll, we enjoyed the walk, while we reached out to our business staff.

We gave our name, they captured our faces, they now know we serve, nothing else was asked.

They were all busy doing what they do best, in business in our community, it wasn't a test.

A unique learning experience understanding the curve so we can think wisely, much better to serve.

Those who are working are on solid ground, those whom we've lost, may not go another round.

For others, it was very nice to hear they would continue to support us, they made it quite clear.

Leave me some brochures, I'll put them out on tables. Others will learn, networking is a cable.

Let's make some more items and go out again, to replenish our network and gain more friends.





## The Grandparent Scam

There's a scam that's been in existence for some time called the grandparent scam because grandparents are the typical target. Grandparents get a call that their grandchild is in trouble and needs a large amount of money, thousands, to post bail or some such. It depends on the grandparents being in such a rush to help their grandchild that they don't think the thing through. It happened to us.

In the afternoon of September 11, we got telephone call purportedly from our grandson. They had his name and they had our name. A person who sounded just like him told us that he had been in a car accident and because he panicked and drove to the next exit before calling the police, he was being charged with hit and run. He needed to post a \$24000 appearance bond, and he needed the full amount because an appearance bond was different from a bail bond. His cell phone had been confiscated by the police and he was using his one call to call us. He asked us not to contact his parents until this was all straightened out because he didn't want to worry them. He put his lawyer on who told us where to wire the money.

One suspicious thing was there was a need for secrecy at every level. Don't call the parents.

Don't call the cell. Don't tell the bank what you're wiring the money for.

We decided to talk to Lion Patsy who agreed the whole thing smelled and suggested we call our grandson's cell. She made us stop and think rather than react in panic.

The person who impersonated our grandson had sounded just like him. We called our grandson's cell, which we hadn't thought to do because it had been had allegedly been confiscated and he answered. When we asked about an accident, he told us he hadn't been in one and had not been out of his dorm room all day. Needless to say, we didn't send the money.

We had asked his lawyer to have our grandson call us when he was released, and the impersonator did. This time I knew he was a fake and listened carefully and he still sounded like our grandson. I told him that the accident must have affected him more than he let on, because when I talked to him earlier, he didn't remember the accident at all. He hung up.

There were at least 3 people involved who played their parts perfectly: the grandson impersonator, the lawyer impersonator and a woman who acted the part of the lawyer's receptionist.

Lion Tom Jackson



## Time to Celebrate

### October Birthdays:

Barbara Barry	10/4
Ray Molesworth	10/8
Lauren Holbrook	10/25
Chris Fletcher	10/26
Charlie Stone	10/30

### Partners in Service

Angie Howerton (Joe)	10/5
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### October Anniversaries:

Ray & Peggy Sicotte	10/3
Charlie & Marcia Holpuch	10/25 (40 yrs !)



## Upcoming Events

**October 6** – 6:30pm Charter Night via Zoom

**October 12**- 7:30am, Glade Valley Golf Club, Walkersville for more information contact Lion Charlie Hertel @ [chtelco@aol.com](mailto:chtelco@aol.com)

**October 14** - Board Meeting via Zoom

**October 20** – 6:45pm, Dinner meeting via Zoom - Speaker: George Kirby, VP, LCM

**October 24** – Road Clean up- for more information contact Lion Tony Barry [daniel8barry@gmail.com](mailto:daniel8barry@gmail.com)

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