

December 2020

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The President's Message

"The only blind person at Christmas-time, is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

Helen Keller

From November's

- Road Cleanup
- Make-a-Wish
- Blood Drive
- Coats and Cans
- Skate Park
- Wreath Hanging

to December our busiest time of year...**your** service brings joy!!!



Have a Merry Christmas!

QL Carol's Poem for December

During Christmas time and in Advent,
Let us not worry how our money was spent.
God is with us always.
Wrap all your gifts within his care.
Do not worry yourself, there is time to spare.
God is with us always.
Whether it is night or whether it is day,
We'll have a blast and some time for play.
God is with us always.
If you feel you need more time to think,
Something will come to mind before you blink.
God is with us always.
String up the Christmas lights for all to see,
The beauty that is within our Christmas Tree.
God is with us always.
Be sure to love your neighbors as yourselves,
Don't you worry about the Elf on the Shelf.
God is with us always.

Bake some cookies and have some fun,
 The pounds will come off before spring comes.
God is with us always.
 Rest when you can and dream if you dare,
 Nothing shines brighter the showing you care.
God is with us always.
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Selfishness makes Christmas a burden; love makes it a delight. Unknown

As we prepare for the blessed time of Christmas, remember our upcoming meeting times,

- Dec 1, Zoom dinner meeting
- Dec 9th Board Zoom meeting
- Dec 15th, Holiday Gathering in the Barry's driveway, bring mask, chair and \$5
 - Cheer and snacks
 - Pizza
 - Smore's by firepit

QL Carol

Lions Golf Tournament- Oct 19

This was not an easy Lions year to do much of anything except go outside and play golf. That being said, we decided that due to the Covid-19 Virus and how it has affected so many lives, families and our club, that our Damascus Lions Club still needed to have a fund raiser with our Holiday Project just around



the corner. We had to cancel the scheduled tournament from the original date of Monday June 1st because of the Virus and Maryland courses being closed. Fall is a beautiful time to golf but we had to dodge Hurricane Delta and reschedule

the golf tournament from Monday October 12th to the 19th. It turned out to be a very good decision. We had 50 players in the field for the Damascus Lions Club 17th Annual Golf Tournament at Glade Valley Golf Course. We got started early around 7 am setting up for checking in the golfers for a 9 am shotgun start. I would like to thank all the players who participated, generous sponsors and Lions who supported the golf tournament both financially and with their time on the day of the tournament. The first place team shot a 60 and everyone went home a winner. Lion Chris made this possible with gift cards for all and along with 10 dozen golf balls donated by Lions Wayne and Bobbie. We even had personalized signs made for our sponsors by partner in service Mary McKenzie. Lion

Bob Snapp for mentoring me over the years so that this tournament remains a success and Lion Tammy for all her hard work before, during and after this tournament. Love You!! The success of this event allows the Damascus Lions Club to give back 100% of the proceeds from the golf tournament towards the community. We raised \$6,270.00. Thank You to all for making this a big success and for your continued support of the Damascus Lions Club Golf Tournament.

Lion Charlie Hertel

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Blood Drive - November 5

The Damascus Lions had their first blood drive of 2021 at the Damascus Grace Fellowship Seventh Day Adventist Church on Thursday November 5th, 2021 for year 2020- 2021. We collected 35 units of blood for the American Red Cross. This is the first time we have had a blood drive here at this church. This is our new blood drive facility for years to come. With some sad news we would like to thank partner in service Cathy Heinbaugh and the Damascus United Methodist Church for their commitment and dedication to the Damascus Lions Club blood program for 10 Years and for her effort to collect 1,204 units of blood. She tried hard to make every drive successful. She and her husband Jeff are purchasing a second home in TN and plan to start splitting their time between family and trying to figure out how to be hands-on grandparents as much as possible. I would like to thank Lion Tammy and Lion Sue for helping work the canteen. Our next blood drives are on Thursday and Friday January 7th and 8th 2021 from 10am to 4pm.

Lion Charlie Hertel

Cans & Coats Drive – Nov 14

The Damascus Lions Club held our first Cans & Coats drive on November 14. Lions Chris Fletcher and Barbara Barry put their heads together to come up with a way to serve our community in these unusual times, especially since the local schools would not be doing a canned food drive. The Cans & Coats Drive was a success! We collected about 20 large garbage bags (42 gallon) full of new or gently used coats in all sizes including women's, men's, girls and boys. Approximately 420 cans of food was also collected. I want to thank the following Lions for their help; Lion Tammy Hertel, Lion Sue Suddath, Lion Wayne Marr,

Lion Vahe Aghamalian, Lion Ray Molesworth, and a special thanks to Lion Chris Fletcher and QL Carol & Charlie Stone. I also want to thank our Damascus High School Leos, Landis Bernota, Sydney Witmer & Emily Lanham. Another special thanks to our friend of the Lions, Susan Hilton 2021 Ms. Montgomery County Maryland Ms. United Agriculture.

I also need to thank to the following Lions for stopping by and giving us some donations: Lions Bob Newlin & partner in service Colleen, Lion Jenny Redifer, Lion Mary Frances Gosnell, Lion Patsy McKenzie & Lion Marcia Holpuch.

We were able to donate most of the coats to Damascus Help and the Clarksburg Closet.

(See pictures on page 6)

Lion Barbara Barry

White Cane– Nov 14

White Cane at the Coats & Cans Collection!

Every penny counts, as we all say. \$131.64 is what we collected for White Cane at our Coat & Can event on Saturday, November 14. Thank you, Charlie Stone and Vahe Aghamalian for helping me with the collection.

We learned that it is one thing to ask for donations while we are helping the donor (Shredfest); and quite another thing to expect donations while the donor is helping us (providing coats and cans). But we enjoyed our time there and Every Penny Counts!

Lion Wayne Marr



Skate Park Renovation– Nov 21

We conducted a very successful renovation of the Damascus Rec Center Skate Park on Saturday November 21. We had 6 members of the Damascus High School LEOS club, 7 members of the Damascus Lions club and one “friend” of the club in attendance.

We demolished and removed 2 skate ramps that were weathered and beyond repair and posed safety concerns and we painted all of the other ramps and equipment and performed repairs as well as replacement of vent covers that were damaged. We also dismantled one of the ramps which will be rebuilt by Lion Tony in the coming weeks and returned to service at the skate park when completed.

A huge thank you to the following people for lending assistance with this project:

Queen Lion Carol Stone, Lion Barbara Barry, Lion Vahe Aghamalian, Lion Bob Snapp, Lion Joe Howerton and “Friend” of the club Ben Howerton, Lion Wayne Marr, LEO President Emily Lanham, LEO Sophia Witt, LEO Tabby Holt, LEO MacKenzie Jablonski, LEO Anna Sledic, and LEO Adriana Salguera. The light rain early in the morning only caused us a slight delay on the project and as we were wrapping up the effort we had 2 skate boarders show us their skills and express their appreciation for what we had done.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in making this event successful. (See pictures on page 7)

Lion Tony Barry

Holiday Wreaths – Nov 27

Lions Light Up Damascus on Black Friday

On Friday Nov 27, the Lions Club of Damascus continued a 30+ year tradition by hanging the Christmas wreaths on the lamp posts throughout Damascus. I was pleased to see so many Lions and friends participate in this festive event. We gathered at the Damascus

McDonalds at 9am on Friday morning and after a brief “how to” clinic given by Lion Tony Barry, they split up into teams and began hanging the wreaths. The weather

cooperated nicely this year. The temperature was about 55 and the wind was calm. The super turn out of people made short work of the task of hanging 46 wreaths on the light poles in town. A special thanks to Lion Mary Frances for loaning us Santa hats to adorn our heads! I also want to thank Lions Joe Howerton, Wayne Marr, QL Carol Stone, Charlie Stone, Ray Molesworth, Barbara Barry, Bob Snapp, Mark Searles, & wife Susanna, Jack Peters, Vaha Aghamalian and niece Victoria Aghamalian, Charlie Hertel, Chris



Fletcher, and Leo Advisor Kimberly Moore and her daughter. The friends of the Lions who helped were Nick Doan, Victoria Barry, fiancé Joe McCarthy and Elizabeth Barry. (More pictures on page 8)
Lion Tony Barry



Attention Committee Chairpersons

please send an email to Lion Tom Jackson (wjackson@alumni.UNC.edu) or call Tom (240-308-0084) with dates for any events for next year. He will reserve the community signs to advertise the event. Even if you only hope the event will take place, let him know.

Peace Poster

Here are the winners of the 2020 Peace Poster Contest. They are all Rocky Hill students.
First place winner is Julia Lyonga, her poster will be sent to International.
2nd Brandon Hoang
3rd Isabella ma
4th Suzi Sonya

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Despite the Covid restrictions, the Lion Holiday Giving Project is moving along but in a different direction. We hope to be make a difference to those in our community that seek assistance.
Our Club agreed to take 25 families of 4 to 6 family members. Upon receiving information that Faith

Connections had 44 more families that had not been adopted, we increased our numbers to 30 families. The increase of 5 additional families was approved in an unusual manner as it was presented in a committee report at a “dinner” meeting and, you, took time to approve it!

Faith Connections had 415 families to service in our area. They have the most sponsors that they have ever had – some 86 unique sponsors/organizations have said yes to sponsoring families this year. Our Damascus Lions project will take on a different approach - we will miss the camaraderie of collecting food drives from the schools, the clothes shopping spree, the surprise in the air as to what the Lions can purchase, the sorting the canned foods, packing it in the family boxes, the Tradesmen Toy Drive, sorting the toys, the packing up the sleighs and delivering to the doorstep and, AH YES the early rise on Saturday morning to bake the sticky buns for the Santa Elves as they depart to delivery their gifts. We will miss the whole atmosphere as it sets the Christmas mode for our Holidays!

The families have received a letter stating that the Damascus Lions will be sending them GIFT cards for food and clothes by Certified Mail. We emphasized in that letter that they must sign for the Gift Card letter that will be sent approximately December 15.

Thank you to all of you for your input and your wish that we could have celebrated the project in a more normal way. Looking forward to next year!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell



Here's a Christmas picture from the past, can you guess who they are?

RockyHill Leo Club New Officers

If you see the following students, please congratulate them on their new position in the Rocky Hill Middle School Leos;
Lauren Keister - President
Kaitlyn Hoang - Vice President

Time to Celebrate

December Birthdays:

Martin Carr	12/5
Bob Breiner	12/5
Mark Searles	12/13
Tony Barry	12/17
Del Mayhew	12/29

*Significant Birthday

Partners in Service

Tom Marley (Julie)	12/12
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December Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

December 1 – Dinner meeting, via Zoom

December 9 - Board Meeting via Zoom

December 12- Road clean up, for more information contact Lion Tony Barry daniel8bary@gmail.com

December 15 – “Holiday Party” Pizza, spirits & S’mores by bon fire at the Barry’s house.



Lion's Tale

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Damascus Lions Web Site:

<http://www.damascuslions.org>

[Damascus Lions Facebook](#)

<http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions>

Cans & Coats Pictures





Skate Park Pictures



Wreath Hanging Pictures

