



Damascus
MD

LION'S TALE



February 2024

WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG

VOLUME 74 – NUMBER 7

email damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Damascus Lions Club 2023-2024 Officers

President:

Charlie Stone

candcstone@comcast.net

1st V. President:

Carol Stone

candcstone@comcast.net

2nd V. President:

Vahe Aghamalian

vaghamalian@aol.com

3rd V. President:

Julie Sain

juliesaind@gmail.com

Secretary:

Barbara Barry

damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary:

Ray Molesworth

rmolesworth03@gmail.com

Foundation Treasurer:

Mary Frances Gosnell

mgosnelldamascuslions@gmail.com

Club Treasurer:

Vahe Aghamalian

vaghamalian@aol.com

Membership:

Sue Suddath

301-253-3434

Editor:

Barbara Barry

barrybar24@gmail.com

The President's Message



The weather in January 2024 reminds us of past Winters. We had two snow storms only a few days apart; and many days of temperatures below freezing. Hopefully, February 2024 will be milder. We began January 2024 with the cancellation of our January 2nd meeting. On January 5th we had our first

Blood Drive of 2024 at the Damascus American Legion. During breaks in the weather, the Lions Wreaths in Damascus were removed from the light poles. On January 13th several Lions drove to Loudon Park Cemetery to participate in the Wreaths Across America – DeWreathing. Our meeting on January 16th was planned to have three members of the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club in attendance so that we could properly thank them for their continued, significant contributions to help make our Holiday Giving Project a success. However, we had to cancel the meeting for safety concerns associated with snow and ice. We are planning to have them at a future meeting. The scheduled Road Cleanup on Jan 20th was also cancelled due to the weather. Hopefully, February 2024 will have better weather unless Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and we will have six more weeks of winter weather. On February 6th PDG Paul Hawkins, our guest speaker will discuss the creation of Connor's Kits (Eagle Scout Project). These are kits containing items for students having Type 1 Diabetes. On February 14th the Lions Board Meeting will be held in the Dinner Hall of the Damascus United Methodist Church. On February 23rd there will be a Blood Drive at the Damascus High School.

Happy Valentine's Day!

KL Charlie

JANUARY EVENTS

BLOOD DRIVE 2024- January 5

The Damascus Lions Club hosted our fourth blood drive for year 2023-2024 at the American Legion Hall on Friday January 5th, 2024. We collected 42 units of blood for the American Red Cross.

This puts our total units for 2023-2024 = 154 Units.

I would like to thank Lion Joan Paseur, Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Sue Suddath 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 the Damascus American Legion Post 171 along with some of our upcoming events as we worked along side the American Legion Staff.

Also a special thanks to my Son in law Ivo for helping set up and break down the drive and working with our Lions and the American Legion Staff as well. A big thank you to the Damascus American Legion for hosting this drive, Rodger K. Martin, PhD COL (ret), MS. Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2023-2024 year will be Friday February 23, 2024. This drive will be at the Damascus High School Small Gym from 8am to 1pm. We are in need of new donors. Please ask a relative, friend or neighbor!!

Final Blood Drives for 2023-2024 are: Friday March 1st, 2024 and Friday May 3rd, 2024. These two drives will be held at the Damascus United Methodist Church.

Lion Charlie Hertel

HOLIDAY BASKETS

Sure was disappointing that Mother Nature wasn't kind to us for our January meeting - but better safe than sorry! Therefore, I will recap the project and if I am repeating something that I had already written, just remember, this is a project that can be told many times and still keeps its warmth!

The Damascus Lions Holiday Basket project went off without a hitch only because you, Damascus Lions, your families, friends, employees of Gladhills and the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club worked to make it happen. All hands were on the slopes with sleighs ready to glide on Saturday morning, Dec. 23. Only

there wasn't any snow to help us glide along – but that was ok, we had our work cut out for us. Ten teams delivered food, toys, towels, clothing and more to 35 families. All was complete by 11 am. Santa was greeted by children as well as parents with big smiles and hugs. Especially the little girl with her bike – she was so excited! Santa is portrayed by Gladhill Parts Manager Gary Hilton while his wife, Barbara goes as Mrs. Santa, takes pictures and keeps him looking good.

The Tradesmen were on Board to help the teams to load, some taking their own trucks along with the team. One bag of gifts that the teams delivered were toys that the Tradesmen had donated from their Annual Toy Run. They also made a sizeable monetary donation. The Tradesmen have been participating in our project for 14 years.

We are fortunate to have Partners-in-Service, family members and friends join us in the project. Namely, Partners-in-Service Bonnie Mayhew and Jennifer Molesworth who are on our shopping team, sort and pack toys, sort and pack clothes and stuff towels etc. into the bags for each family. We also have family members Mark Molesworth, Candice and Evo, Victoria, Victor and Juliana Aghamalian and Roger Runkles, Santa's driver.

Then we have the Goldstein Family who delivers beautifully decorated packages of homemade cookies for each family. The Labor of Love by the Goldstein can be traced back to 2003 – 20 years! Damascus Dental donates a toothbrush for each family member and Butler's Orchard donates apples for each family. Erma, who was a previous Safeway employee, donates a box of candy canes for each family while a Gladhill customer inquired about our project, he later brought in 36 boxes of cookies! And an anonymous donor brought ERTyl collectable toys to be included in the packages. And many Lions and Businesses contributed financially.

The cost of the project is \$7,000. We saved \$1,200 on clothing at Kohl's. We saved more than we spent on extra foods like peanut butter, cereal, vegetables and baking needs. We estimate the value the project to be in excess of \$15,000.!

Many, Many Thanks to all! You made a difference this Holiday Season for 35 families!

Mary Frances Gosnell, Holiday Giving Chair

UNWREATHING A MILITARY CEMETARY- January 13

These 10 hardy individuals helped “dewreath” Baltimore National Cemetery on Saturday January 13. Among them are Damascus Lions: Bob Ippolito, Jon Inglefield, Wayne Marr, Barbara Barry and Tony Barry. We joined other volunteer groups and individuals to haul over 8000 wreaths places on military headstones a month ago through the Wreaths Across America program. It was our third year doing this. It took us less than an hour, though the weather was not particularly kind (again). We are smiling in the picture because “Mission Accomplished!”

Lion Wayne Marr



Upcoming Events:

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 CONVENTION

The Multiple District 22 Lions Convention will be held April 19 thru April 21 at the Ashore Resort and Beach Club in Ocean City, MD.

The convention starts on April 18 with a Golf Tournament at Ocean Pines.

The Convention theme this year is “Changing The World”. Registration is open to all Lions, their family and friends. The convention affords attendees to meeting and networking with other Lions and Leos from around the Multiple District, the opportunity to attend enlightening seminars, to share ideas, to participate in the business of MD 22 and the districts in electing District Governors and Vice District Governors. The Multiple District covers Delaware, Maryland and DC.

Hotel Reservations must be made by March 21 to get a discounted rate. Convention Registration is due April 1.

Damascus Lions can have 5 Delegates and 3 Alternates. Sounds like a good time to visit the beach before the summer crowd arrives!

Contact Lion Mary Frances Gosnell for more information.

DAMASCUS LIONS SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS

Damascus Lions Club offers two different scholarships to the Damascus/Clarksburg School Cluster.

The eligible applicant must live in this cluster area but could be attending a school out of the cluster.

The Simpson Scholarship is based on Community Service and Leadership and is for a full time student. We offer 3 Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to be used toward tuition.

The Thornett Unique Scholarship is based on student who has overcome a circumstance or situation to get to graduation. We offer 3 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 and can be used for books, tuition or other related college expenses.

The Scholarship Recipients will be announced at the High School’s Award Night and at the Damascus Lions Youth Night.

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

Time to Celebrate

February Birthdays:

Julie Sain	2/6
Bob Ippolito	2/8
Rob Hyman	2/23
Ken Mackay	2/24

Partners in Service

Amy MacKay (Ken)	2/8
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February Anniversaries:

Mike & Kathy Thornett	2/17 (51 yrs)
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Upcoming Events

February 6– Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church

February 14– Board Meeting Gladhill Brothers 7pm

February 20 – Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church

February 23 – Blood Drive at Damascus HS



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Monthly publication
of The Lions Club of Damascus
P.O. Box 267

Damascus, MD 20872-2250

Damascus Lions Web Site:

<http://www.damascuslions.org>

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Picture from De-Wreathing

