

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



January 2025

WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG

VOLUME 75 – NUMBER 6

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The President's Message



We are officially in Winter Season 2024-2025. The first day of Winter occurred with the passing of the Winter Solstice on December 21, 2024. The cold weather is here. As a famous song states, "Baby, it's cold outside." Be sure to bundle up. December 2024 was a busy time. Our December 3rd meeting had a presentation by Secretary Barbara

regarding New Member Orientation, Part One. On December 7th we supported Santa visiting at Gladhill Brothers Tractor. The December 17th dinner meeting was special this year for two reasons. First, in lieu of a gift exchange, members brought cans of food for families in need. Second, the program committee, Lions Mary Frances and Eloise, planned and operated a fantastic evening of live music and good cheer. It was one for the books. The Holiday Giving Project efforts from December 18th-21st resulted in a meaningful, joyous Holiday for 35 families. This is a huge undertaking and is successful because of hard work and dedication. Thank you, Lions and Tradesmen MC members.

We begin January 2025 with our next Blood Drive on January 3rd at the Damascus UMC. Our meeting on January 7th will have New Member Orientation, Part Two. The Holiday Wreaths in town will be removed in early January. The meeting on January 21st will have several members of the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club in attendance so that we can properly thank them for their continued, significant contributions to help make our Holiday Giving Project a success. January activities typically end with a Road Cleanup depending on the weather. Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year!
KL Charlie

DECEMBER EVENTS

Albert's Jar

For those Lions who are unfamiliar with "Albert's Jar" this is an explanation.

Damascus Lions had a long time member by the name of Albert Warfield. He was one of a kind! He always promoted harmony, laughter, and merriment not only in the club, but in his personal life. Back when we started the "Holiday Giving Project" Lion Albert created this gallon jar and would go to many business establishments in Damascus soliciting donations. He would not leave the business until they make a donation by putting money or a check in his jar. Unfortunately, Lion Albert passed away in 2008 at the age of 94. We lost a great Lion, and the community lost a legend. We have retained his collection jar and use it during the holidays to collect donations from our Lions...thus "Lion Albert's Jar".

Lion Bob Snapp

Baltimore National Cemetery De-Wreathing January 18

Our fourth annual Wreaths Across America DE-WREATHING exercise is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025. Several of you from the Damascus Lions Club have supported this service project in past years.

We carpool to the Baltimore National Cemetery (45 min), arriving a little before 10:00 AM and we join other volunteers from other local organizations. We grab the wreaths from the military tombstones, walk them to a cemetery side-road, and toss them into waiting trucks. It just takes about an hour. Sounds easy? Actually, it's quite tough work; able-bodied Lions only, please.

There are many acceptable ways to gather up the

wreaths, but a popular and productive method is to work in two-person teams, spear about a dozen wreaths at a time onto a pole, or two poles, and walk the pole(s) horizontally to the trucks. (See the picture below demonstrating this suggested method). Another method, when working individually, is to use a D-handled rake or plastic snow shovel to drag the wreaths.

We have to provide our own poles/tools.

I'll be in touch again as we get close to Jan 18. In the meantime, please let me know now/soon if you are "in" for joining in this civic volunteer project (email: waynemarr@aol.com; text: 301-237-3034). The more volunteers, the better for all of us. Thanks very much!

Lion Wayne Marr

Senior Party- December 5

December 5 got us in the Christmas spirit as we joined seniors at the library for a party. We made Christmas bookmarks, sang holiday songs and played fun games. Lions Ray Molesworth, Mary Frances Gosnell, Joan Passeur, Chris Fletcher, Susan Smarte, Eloise Woodfield and myself enjoyed giving the seniors a good time. Cake and ice cream were served to all.

Lion Sue Suddath



Food Collections for 2024

This year the Lions Club of Damascus continued a long-standing tradition of partnering with local middle and high schools to collect food for families in need of help during the holiday season. The Damascus Lions will distribute food to thirty-five families in the Damascus, Clarksburg, and Laytonville area as an essential part of the Damascus Lions Club holiday basket project. Each family will receive a generous box of canned and packaged goods. The Lions will deliver all excess food to the Damascus Help food closet.

During November, John T. Baker Middle School Student Government (SGA) sponsored the food collection at Baker MS under the supervision of Angela Blankenship, SGA Sponsor. Lion Rob Hyman, and the Damascus High School Leo Club lead the food collection effort at Damascus High School.

Clarksburg High School (CHS), Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, sponsored by Lion Kim Moore conducted a food drive at CHS in December. The Rocky Hill Middle School SGA held a food drive during December at Rocky Hill. The Rocky Hill SGA sponsor is Ashley M. Thorsten who was instrumental in making the food drive a success.

On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, Damascus Lions along with family members and friends sorted the food for distribution. The Damascus Lions Club stored, sorted, and distributed the food from Virginia Maryland Tractor, (formerly Gladhill Brothers). A special thank you goes to Virginia Maryland Tractor and Lion Tessie Gladhill for the use of their facility.

Lion Ray Moleworth

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Lions, Tradesmen Motorcycle Club, Partners-In-Service, family and friends rallied together on Saturday, Dec. 21, to complete another Holiday Giving Project serving family members of 35 families in the Damascus Clarksburg area. This

project is one of the Damascus Lions Service Projects beginning in 1946.

Lion Ray Molesworth coordinated the Food Drives in four area schools. See Lion Rays article in this Lions Tale. Lions had a Food Drive at their Holiday Meeting in lieu of exchanging gifts. Thank you Lions for your generosity. Both Food Drives were enough to pack 2 boxes of nonperishable food for 35 families. We had about 70 items left which were donated to Damascus HELP.

Lion Chris Fletcher profiled the 35 families verifying the address, phone number and number in family plus the sizes of clothing for the children. Lion Joan Paseur worked with the greeting cards, labeling and addressing them, safely wrapping the can openers and packaging the dental supplies. Partners-in-Service Bonnie Mayhew and Jennifer Molesworth along with Lions Chris, Joan, Sue and Eloise were the clothes shoppers – an outfit for each of the 76 children at a cost of \$ 1,035! According to Kohl's receipt, we saved \$1,555 with the help of Kohl's Cash! Thrifty Shoppers! We purchased \$50 Kohl's Gift Cards for the 33 teens. Many Lions and Partners-in-Service helped with many facets of the project during the last two months.

Lions arrived Wednesday Night to sort the foods and get a count of how many items are in each category – the final count was over 2000. The Holiday Fund purchased two bath towels for each family. A box of candy canes was donated by a previous Safeway employee, Erma, the apples by Butler's Orchard and the toothbrushes by Damacus Dental. The Goldstein family homemade cookie packages were greatly missed this year! The Goldsteins were unable to produce their packages this year due to illness. They were very disappointed but realized what was best. Lions Del Mayhew and Ray Molesworth were on duty to help with many aspects of the Project over the past two months as well as Tess and her employees.

The Tradesmen Motorcycle Club collected toys and cash at their annual Toy Run which was donated for each child and family. Each child received one to two toys and a family game or book. In addition, the Tradesmen made a

substantial monetary donation. Seven of the Tradesmen helped with loading and delivery on Saturday. The Tradesmen have been our partners-in-service for over 15 years. The Ladies Auxiliary to the DVFD, donated approximately 75 toys. In lieu of their gift exchange at their Holiday Party, they brought toys for our families. Thanks to both the Tradesmen and the Ladies Auxiliary. We had 11 teams consisting of 22 Lions plus 15 family members, Tradesmen and friends to deliver to the 35 families Saturday morning. Virginia Tractor, formerly Gladhills Tractor, employees were on board to help with the project all through the week as well as moving food pallets to the vehicles of food to respective Team vehicles. Lion Gary Hilton portrayed Santa delivering with two teams to families of nine. Susan Hilton was the photographer. Lion Tess' employees will get a soup and sandwich Appreciation Lunch in January. Lion Tess Gladhill generously offers this space for our project during December. Thank you, Lion Tess and employees! The cost of the project is tallying up at \$7,200. Lion Bob Snapp mailed letters to local businesses for donations and at present his total is \$2,100 including "Albert's Jar" which was passed around to members at two meetings. Contributions continue to come in answer to Lion Bob's mailings. An estimated value of the project is upwards to \$16,200. At our January 21st Dinner Meeting, we will invite the Tradesmen for their participation in our Lions work of serving our community. We will learn about the mission of the Tradesmen and their involvement in our Service Project! Lions, a sincere thank you to all of you for your participation in the Holiday Giving Project. It takes several months of planning and working as well as many hands and bodies to bring this Project to fruition of serving the needs of our community! Thank You! HAPPY NEW YEAR! Lion Mary Frances Gosnell
(See more pictures on page 6)



Time to Celebrate

January Birthdays:

Bob Newlin 1/6
Bob Williams 1/13
Ben Lewis 1/29 *
*Significant Birthday

Partners in Service

None

January Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

Fri., Jan 3- 10am-3:30pm - Blood Drive United Methodist Church to help contact Lion Charlie Hertel chtelco@aol.com

Tues., Jan 7 - 6:45pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Wed., Jan 15- 7:00pm, Board meeting @ Gladhill's

Sat, Jan 18 –9:00am Wreaths Across America – DeWreathing, to help contact Lion Wayne Marr waynemarr@comcast.net

Tues., Jan 21 - 6:45pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Sat. Jan 25 - 9:00am, Road Cleanup for more information contact Lion Tony at daniel8barry@gmail.com



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Monthly publication
of The Lions Club of Damascus
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Holiday Giving & Christmas Party Pictures

