

Damascus



MD

# LION'S TALE



February 2025

[WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG](http://WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG)

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## The President's Message



On January 13, 2025 we lost a dear friend and great Lion, Mike Thornett. Our hearts go out to Kathy and the Thornett family.

The weather in January 2025 reminded us of past Winters. We had two snow storms only a few days apart; and many days of temperatures below freezing. Hopefully, February 2025 will be milder.

We began January 2025 with our

Blood Drive on January 3rd at the Damascus UMC. Our meeting scheduled for January 7th was cancelled due to snow. On January 12th and 13th, the Lions Wreaths in Damascus were removed from the light poles by several Lions. On January 18th several Lions carpoled to Baltimore National Cemetery to participate in the Wreaths Across America DeWreathing. Our meeting on January 21st was 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. The scheduled Road Cleanup on Jan 25th was also cancelled due to the weather.

Hopefully, February 2025 will have better weather unless Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, and we will have six more weeks of winter weather. We start February with our rescheduled Road Cleanup on February 1st. Our February 4th meeting will have Part 2 of New Member Orientation. The Program Committee has planned a festive evening for our February 18th meeting. There will be a Blood Drive at the Damascus High School on February 21st.

Happy Valentine's Day!

KL Charlie

## **JANUARY EVENTS**

### **BLOOD DRIVE 2024- January 5**

#### **Blood Drives 2024-2025**

The Damascus Lions Club hosted our fourth blood drive for year 2024-2025 at the Damascus United Methodist Church on Friday January 3rd, 2025.

We collected 37 units of blood for the American Red Cross. Year to date that is 171 units.

I would like to thank Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Passeur for their continued support of our local blood drives. They helped with set up, break down and worked the canteen. They engaged the donors about Lionism and some of our upcoming events as we worked alongside Jane Clarke with the DUMC. The DUMC has supported the Lions and the ARC for over 20 years. We also have seen several Lions come into support the Lions Blood Drives by rolling up their sleeves. The blood donors received a long sleeve T-shirt that we passed out in the canteen.

Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2024-2025 year will be Friday March 7th, 2025. This drive will be at the Damascus United Methodist Church.

\*Friday February 21st, 2025 Damascus High School  
Friday, March 7th, 2025

Friday, May 2nd, 2025

\*We are also hosting a Blood Drive at Damascus High School on Friday February 21st, 2025 from 8am to 1pm. Just students donating here.

We are always in need of new donors Please ask a relative, friend or neighbor!!

Lion Charlie Hertel

### **Canned and Packaged 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

### **UNWREATHING A MILITARY CEMETARY- January 18**

Lions Tony Barry, Barbara Barry, Bob Ippolito, Wayne Marr and Lion family member John Barry, joined with many other volunteers (I'm guessing 70 or 80) on Saturday, January 18, at the Baltimore National Cemetery, to remove thousands of holiday wreaths from military tombstones (placed there by the Wreaths Across America program). With so many volunteers, it was just a one-hour effort; but it is quite a strenuous task to drag 8-10 wreaths at a time, through the snow, across the cemetery to awaiting trucks. This was our fourth year for this service project. The accompanying photo includes the aforementioned five Lions: and it includes eight neighbors of mine who I cajoled into participating with us! This project always leaves its participants with an awesome good feeling of accomplishment.

Lion Wayne Marr

(Picture on page 3)



*DeWreathing at Baltimore National Cemetery*

## Upcoming Events:

### Lions Club of Damascus Membership

The Board approved Lion Irlande Heartly as our newest member in November 2024. Lion Irlande will be installed at a future Lions Club meeting. Irlande lives in Clarksburg with her husband Craig Heartley. She expressed an interest in Lionism to Lion Chris Fletcher who is Irlande’s sponsor. Irlande is a self-employed Notary Agent. Her contact information is (240) 838-4468 or irlande.heartley@gmail.com. Please greet and welcome Irlande to the Damascus Lions Club.

The following Damascus Lions achieved another year of community service.

Lion	Date Joined	Years of Service
Ray Molesworth	December 1982	42
*Bob Newlin	February 1983	41
Tammy Hertel	December 1997	27
Charlie Hertel	December 1997	27
John Washington	January 1999	25
Tess Gladhill	February 2002	22
Chris Fletcher	February 2006	19
Roy Stanley	January 2007	18

\*Lion Bob Newlin has 41 years of continuous service after rejoining the Damascus Lions Club in February 1983. Lion Bob was an active member from October 1970 until May 1980 when he moved to Washington State. Bob has a total of 52 years of service.

Lion Ray Molesworth

## 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 Michael J. Thornett Unique Achievement Scholarship is based on a 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 receive/due date for the applications is April 10.

The criteria and applications are the Damascus Lions web site and in the CHS and DHS Career Centers.

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

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

## ROAD CLEANUP- February 1

On Saturday February 1, six Lions, and our son John, performed a road cleanup of our adopted road, Valley Park Drive. Lion Bob and John started the clean up on the short piece of Route 27 before the turn to Valley Park, where they found tons of trash. Lion Bob resurrected an animal carrier from the woods. Thank goodness it was empty! I want to thank the following: Lion Bob Ippolito, Lion Peter Grysavage, Lion Wayne Marr, Lion Ray Molesworth, our Son John and Lion Barbara Barry.

Lion Tony Barry



## DINNER MEETING PROGRAMS

The Programs planned for the upcoming Dinner Meetings:

Since the January 21 meeting was cancelled, we will invite the Tradesmen Motorcycle members to join us for another meeting later.

February 4 – New Member Orientation presented by Lion Barbara Barry is a continuation from the December New Member Orientation program - learn more about what happens behind the scenes with the Damascus Lions. New Members are encouraged to attend. This is a required program for all new members.

February 18 – Game Night please bring you favorite table game (Checkers, Cards, Monopoly, Scrabble, Dominoes or your favorite), form your teams and take time out to relax. Bring your favorite snack! Yes, RELAX, wear your Pajamas or your lounging wear! A FUN NIGHT! FURIOUS RIVALRY!

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

## Upcoming Events

**February 4**– 6:45 pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

**February 12**– 7 pm, Board Meeting  
Gladhill/Maryland Tractor

**February 18** – 6: 45 pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

**February 21** – 8 am, Blood Drive at Damascus HS for more information contact Lion Charlie Hertel  
[chtelco@aol.com](mailto:chtelco@aol.com)

## Time to Celebrate

### February Birthdays:

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

\*Significant Birthday

### Partners in Service

Amy MacKay (Ken)	2/8
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### February Anniversaries:

None

### Lion's Tale

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Damascus Lions Web Site:

<http://www.damascuslions.org>

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