



Damascus
MD

LION'S TALE



June 2025

WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG

VOLUME 75 – NUMBER 11

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The President's Message



The month of June brings beautiful flowers, weddings, and the start of Summer on June 20th with the Summer Solstice (Northern Hemisphere). There will be plenty of daylight to help inspire, "We Serve."

In May 2025, there was White Cane fundraising April 30th through May 2nd; the Multiple District 22 Convention May 1st through 4th; a Blood Drive on May 2nd; the Shred Fest event on May 3rd; Youth Recognition Night on May 20th; and our last activity of the month, Road Cleanup on May 24th.

We begin June 2025 with our last dinner meeting at Wesley Grove UMC for Lions Year 2024-2025 on June 3rd. An opportunity to have fun while participating in an event to raise funds will not occur June 13th and 14th at the Give a Hoot Comedy Club as previously scheduled, but will occur in the Fall 2025. We finish the month with the Lions Club of Damascus 80th Installation Night on June 17th, 6:30 PM at the Montgomery Country Club in Laytonsville.

Happy Father's Day!

KL Charlie

MAY EVENTS

WHITE CANE DAYS- May 2025

Spring 2025 Damascus White Cane Days

Damascus Lions: Congratulations! Our Safeway storefront White Cane fundraising this Spring brought to our Club \$1,988.33, for a shift average of \$73.64. Though these are not records, they are excellent numbers. **Absolutely every shift was important to our total.** We had 25 dedicated Damascus Lions performing storefront collections across 27 shifts. We had 3 shifts unattended on Wednesday; otherwise, everyone remembered their shift. Our Storefront total includes a check received in the mail from Sue Seabold, wife of former member Charlie Seabold. At our recent Damascus Shredfest, we collected an additional \$1,768.53. Our grand total was \$3,756.86! Thank you, Storefront Lions; and thank you, Joe Howerton and your Damascus Shredfest! Oh, and our new signs worked just fine! Thank you, Signs! Our Damascus Safeway has a new manager. His name is Dave. As always, whenever you have a chance at Safeway, please commend Dave and his staff for allowing us to do our White Cane Fundraiser at their store.

Think the word: "Lion" in front of all names in this article! As always, special thanks go to our White Cane committee members who served as both Managers of the Day and as money counters: Del Mayhew and Tom Jackson. Additional money counters were Bobbie Warfield and Lion Partner Bonnie Mayhew.

Special Recognitions:

Over-\$100-in-OneShift Awards go to: Joan Paseur, Ray Molesworth, and John Washington.

The Burt Lahr Courage Award goes to Chris Fletcher for her very successful solicitation tactics during the Shredfest.

Storefront Lions:

Here is the list of 25 Damascus Lions who gave of their valuable time for one or more storefront collection shifts (multiple shifts in parentheses): Aghamalian, Alapati, Bambous, Fletcher, Gladhill, Gosnell, Grysavage(2!), C. Hertel, T. Hertel, G. Hibbard, V. Hibbard, Howerton, Inglefield, Ippolito, Mayhew, Molesworth(2!), Oliverio, Paseur, Smarte, Snapp, C. Stone, Ch. Stone, Suddath, Washington, and Woodfield. Thank you, one and all!

Lion Wayne Marr

BLOOD DRIVE –May 2

The Damascus Lions Club hosted their seventh and final blood drive for year 2024-2025 on Friday May 2nd, 2025.

I would like to thank our Lion volunteers Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Paseur for always supporting the ARC blood program in Damascus. They help set up the hall along with the ARC team members. Chairs, tables, cooler and whatever is needed. They work the canteen to make sure all blood donors are feeling well enough to drive away. They schedule the donors for our next drive. They cleanup the hall and get the ARC out in an expeditious way. Lion Chris supported me with removing the sign as well. A big THANK YOU to these two extraordinary Charlie's Angel's!!

We collected 38 units of blood for the American Red Cross at Damascus United Methodist Church.

We had 45 people presented, 2 were first time donors. Let me tell you that Lion Joan was able to give blood with a good Iron count:) Congrats!!

This puts our total units for 2024-2025 = 284 Units of blood collected.

Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2025-2026 year will be Friday July 11th, 2025.

This drive will be at the Damascus American Legion Post 171. This will be our first blood drive for 2025-2026 year. We are in need of new donors please ask a relative, friend or neighbors!!

Our next blood drives for 2025- 2026 are 9/5, 11/7. Lion Charlie Hertel

SHRED FEST – May 4

Our 8th annual Damascus Shred Fest was a success.

- We Served 123 vehicles
- Recycled 5,040 lbs of paper
- Recycled nearly 100 lbs of batteries
- and collected \$1,768.53 in donations for our White Cane drive!

All of the money collected will go to provide vision services to those in need in our community.

Did you know that a Lion was responsible for the universally adopted white cane with red tip used by the visually impaired? Our efforts to help the visually impaired dates back to 1925 when Helen Keller challenged Lions to take it on as one of our many services to the community.

Thanks to our volunteers, Damascus United Methodist Church, Critical Power, Inc and WesBanco for helping make this event possible and to Clean Cut Shredding for always doing a great job.

Lion Joe Howerton



ROAD CLEANUP- May 24

On Saturday May 24, six members of the Damascus Lions Club and our son John performed a road cleanup of our adopted road Valley Park Drive. We collected only 1 large bag of garbage. The grass on the north side of the road was too tall to walk through, otherwise there would have been way more trash. Therefore, we need to call the county to have them mow it. Nothing interesting to report...just trash, and a turtle!



I want to thank the following Lions; Wayne Marr, Bob Ippolito, Peter Grysavage, Ray Molesworth, Andrew Oliverio, and John Barry.

Lion Tony Barry



YOUTH NIGHT – May 20

The Damascus Lions Club of Damascus celebrated its annual Youth Recognition Night at the Damascus United Methodist Church on May 20. We followed the format of last year's successful youth night by having our guests arrive by 7:30 and serving them some

homemade desserts baked by Lion Sue Suddath. KL Charlie offered a warm welcoming address followed by Cub Scout Pack 438 presenting the Flags. Our keynote speaker was the new principal at Baker middle school, Samuel Levine who did an outstanding job.

Cash donations were given to the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Damascus 4H, Damascus Livestock 4-H and Clarksburg Helping Hands 4H. Lion Rob Hyman presented the Leo of the Year award to two Leos from Damascus High School. The elementary schools (ES) participating were Cedar Grove ES, Clarksburg ES, Clearspring ES, Rockwell ES, and Snowden Farms. Students from John T. Baker MS also attended. Lion Mary Frances presented the Vernon R. Simpson and Michael J. Thornett scholarships. One recipient spoke of his appreciation and ended it with a great big hug for Lion Mary Frances.

Our District Governor Rodrick Harris spoke for a few minutes and one of the highlights of the night was DG Rodrick presenting the Certificate of Appreciation from the International President to Lion Chris Fletcher! Congratulations Lion Chris. Lions Tammy and Mary Frances did an excellent job of organizing and running the show!

Community members as well as Lions thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many said "see you again next year"! (See more pictures on page 6)



Members of the local Girl Scouts

2025-26 Roster Book

The roster book is being updated for the 25-26 Lions year. Please review your entry and send any updates to wtjackson@alumni.unc.edu. If your entry does not have a picture, or if you want to update your picture, please send me a selfie so I can put it in the book. Also, Secretary Barbara needs dates and events for the July – December calendar.

2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

DAMASCUS LIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships were announced at the Schools Awards Night and at the Damascus Lions Youth Recognition Night:

Vernon R. Simpson Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 were awarded to

Magan Leiberson	Damascus High School
Addison Wetzel	Clarksburg High School
Ava Koudio	Clarksburg High School

Michael J. Thornett Unique Achievement Scholarship in the amount of \$1500

Layla Shepard	Damascus High School
Noah Smith	Clarksburg High School
Dylan Levine	Clarksburg High School

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 CONVENTION

The Wisp at McHenry Maryland, on the Deep Creek Lake, was the host to the Multiple 22 Convention May 1 – 4, 2025. Attendance was the lowest in the last 50 years – 286. Ironically, the District with the most Lions attending was District D - Delaware – The District traveling the longest distance. Delaware Lions are dedicated Lions.

Election of Officers resulted in Lion Lois Barb as District 22-C Governor, 1st Vice District Governor Lion Courtney McAlmont. There were three Lions Nominated for 2nd VDG, however none qualified. Thus District 22-C has no 3rd VDG.

The International Guest was Dr. Manaj Shah from Kenya. Dr. Shah served as International Director the same time Past International President Lion Clem Kusiak served. PIP Kusiak is a District 22 Lion. Ironically, Dr. Shah will be installed as International President at the 2027 LCI International Convention to be held in Washington DC, July 2-6, 2027 and PIP Kusiak is the Convention Chairman. The 2027 International Convention needs support both physically and financially. Over 2000 Guests are expected to attend. PDG Sonia Wiggins is the Chairmen of the Parade and is seeking all the help and participants she can get. There is a plea for Lions to help – from providing airport transportation, to greeting guests at different venues to assisting with all the programs as well as the parade. Damascus Lions

has supported the convention for the past two years with monetary support and has budgeted support for the coming year.

The Convention offered seminars. I attended a Service Project “Creating Hygiene Kits”. I donated personal and hygiene items for Damascus Lions. We sorted and assembled kit for those in need. This project was led by a Delaware Lion. Deep Creek Lions offered a seminar on “The Blind Can Ski”. A project the DC Lions have offered to blind youth. My Grandsons worked with this project some years ago. I also attended a seminar “Water By Women”. Experience and stories of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene initiatives that deliver clean, safe water to communities worldwide. Many other interesting seminars were offered as well.

District Meetings were held accepting the nominations of Candidates, instructing the voting procedures and the DG announcing the District Governor’s Club Achievement Award. DG announced that five Clubs in the District qualified, Damascus Lions being one of them! Appropriate honors will be awarded at the First Advisory Meeting.

Congratulations Damascus!

The final Business Session on Sunday was for election of Officers for 2025 – 26.

2026 Multiple 22 Convention will be held May 14 – 16 Ocean City, MD Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

Memorial Day at the American Legion Post 171

Lions Chris Fletcher, Tess Gladhill, and Ray Molesworth attended the annual Memorial Day Observances at the Damascus American Legion Post. Memorial Day is not just picnics and barbeques, it is a day of remembrance and mourning to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.



Time to Celebrate

June Birthdays:

Charlie Hertel	6/16
Jenn Cano	6/17*
Vahe Aghamalian	6/26
Eloise Woodfield	6/28*

*Significant Birthday

Partners in Service

Bonnie Mayhew (Del)	6/19
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June Anniversaries:

Bob & Colleen Newlin	6/16 (7 yrs)
Nanda & Amy Alapati	6/16 (37 yrs)
Ken Mackay & Amy Young	6/18 (2 yr)
Kim & Graham Moore	6/29 (18 yrs)

Years of Service Recognition

The following Damascus Lions Club members who joined the Damascus Lions Club during the months of March and April. These Lions are recognized for their commitment to community service. Join me in congratulating them on their service.

Lion	Join Date	Years of Service
Jack Peters	June 1982	43
Wayne Marr	June 1991	34
Bob Briener	May 1991	34
Bobbie Marr	June 2003	22
Suresh Malhotra	June 2013	12
Bob Ippolito	May 2021	4

The Board of Directors approved Yvette Housen as a new Lion in May 2025. PDG Gary Burdette will install Yvette as a new Lion during installation night. Lion Yvette lives in Montgomery Village. Lion Yvette's contact information is (301) 6765-9421 or yvette@housenhealth.com. Lion Chris Fletcher is Yvette's sponsor. Please introduce yourself to Lion Yvette and welcome her to the Damascus Lions Club. Submitted by: Lion Ray

Upcoming Events

June 3 – 6:45 pm, Dinner meeting, at Wesley Grove

June 11- 7 pm, Board Meeting at Maryland/Gadhill Tractor

June 17 – 6:30 pm, Damascus Lions Installation Night at Montgomery Country Club, Laytonsville MD for more information contact Lion Bob Snapp at 301-788-6701

Looking WAY Ahead

July 1 – 6:45 pm, Dinner meeting at Lions Tammy & Charlie Hertel's House- 11700 Piedmont Rd, Clarksburg

July 9 - 7 pm, Board Meeting at Maryland/Gadhill Tractor

July 11 – Blood Drive at American Legion Post 171 for more information contact Lion Charlie at ahtelco@aol.com

July 11 – 12: Damascus Days! Parade on Friday July 11, 6 pm, for more information contact Lion Barbara Barry barrybar24@gmail.com

July 12: Flea Market for more information contact Lion Chris Fletcher ChrisWFletcher@verizon.net

July 15 – 6:45 pm, Picnic at Damascus Fire Dept. Activities Center

August 12 – Ice Cream Dipping, All day at the Montgomery County Fair grounds. For more info contact Lion Tammy Hertel Tammy_Hertel@mcpsmd.org

Lion's Tale

Monthly publication
of The Lions Club of Damascus
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Pictures from Youth Night



Pictures from Memorial Day Wreath Laying

