

Damascus

MD

LION'S TALE



December 2025

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The President's Message



The colorful leaves have been falling from the trees with the help of some high winds. There will be plenty of leaf raking to help burn the calories consumed at Thanksgiving dinner. The cool weather is fast approaching as we move toward the Holiday season of caring and giving. November 2025 started with our Fall Pancake Breakfast at the Damascus UMC on November 1st. We held a festive dinner meeting on November

4th with Halloween costumes and activities, including selection of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the Lions Peace Poster Contest. This was followed by a Blood Drive on November 7th at the Damascus American Legion. The Tradesman Motorcycle Club (MC) Toy Drive was held at the Izaak Walton League Facility in Damascus on November 8th. On November 15th we returned to Valley Park Dr for Road Cleanup. Several club members attended the LVRF 2025 Rally at Johns Hopkins Hospital on November 22nd. Hanging of the Wreaths on Damascus Light Poles was conducted on November 28th.

The main activity for December 2025, the Holiday Giving Project (HGP), serving 28 families, started the previous month with the Tradesmen MC Run for Toys. The HGP also includes the Lion Holiday Shoppers working their exceptional discount skills shopping for clothes at Kohl's on December 3rd. The Holiday Party dinner meeting on December 16th will be similar to last year. In lieu of bringing a gift for exchange with other club members, please bring nonperishable foods to help support the HGP. Our HGP activities serving the community heat-up December 17th-20th with team assignments, contacting families, sorting canned foods, packing boxes (food and gifts), delivering the boxes to families, transporting excess food to the HELP closet, and clean-up.

Have Festive Cheer in the Holidays and a Happy New Year!
KL Charlie

OCTOBER EVENTS

Rec or Treat – October 25

What a wonderful day! The first annual Rec or Treat day at the Damascus Recreation Center. Damascus Lions were invited to participate and we gave away candy, bubbles and pretzels to over 100 kids in Halloween costumes. Lion Mary Frances Gosnell and Lion Eloise Woodfield dressed for the occasion as a Good Witch and Woody from Toy Story. Also to welcome visitors at the table was a skeleton and ghosts with music and bubbles blowing in the air. Everyone enjoyed this first time event and look forward to next year "HAPPY HALLOWEEN"!



NOVEMBER EVENTS

Lions Celebrate Halloween



Antique Picture of Ice Cream Dipping

Lion Bob Snapp presented Lions Tammy and Charlie Hertel with a photo of Montgomery County's Dairy Barn. Lion Bob bought this from an antique store. See image to the right ->

Blood Drives 2025-2026

The Damascus Lions Club hosted their third blood drive for year 2025-2026 on Friday November 7th, 2025 at the Damascus American Legion Hall. I would like to thank our Lions who volunteered Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Passeur for always supporting the ARC blood program in Damascus. We 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. We cleanup the hall and get the ARC out and on their way!! Lion Chris carries the banner in her car, and we set it up for every drive for exposure. Thank you to Lion Joan for rolling up her sleeve and donating a pint of blood!! We collected 58 units of blood for the American Red Cross at Damascus American Legion Hall. This was a record number for this facility. Keith with the legion and his staff do a wonderful job!!

Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2025-2026 year will be Friday January 9th, 2026. This drive will be at the Damascus United Methodist Church. This will be our fourth blood drive for 2025-2026 year.

We are in need of new donors please ask a relative, friend or neighbors!!

These are the next confirmed blood drives for 2025-2026.

Friday March 6th, 2026 - Damascus United Methodist Church

Friday May 1st, 2026 - Damascus United Methodist Church

Lion Charlie Hertel



Road Cleanup – Nov 15

It's getting cold, but our team came out and really "cleaned up" for our November Road Cleanup. We collected enough trash to fill a 60-gallon bag! This was our last road cleanup of 2025, our next road cleanup will be January XX, 2026. Thank you to Lions Bob Ippolito, Charlie Hertel, Peter Grysavege, and Wayne Marr for braving the start of the cold season!

Lion Andrew Oliverio



LVRF RALLEY DAY

Saturday, November. 22, at the Wilmer Institute at John's Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore was the annual Lion's Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) Rally Day. I accompanied Lion Wayne, who is a trustee of LVRF. The Rally Day was an educational opportunity as well as nice event to be around like-minded people sharing excitement for the roots of the Lions historically helping to support people with low vision.



Today, Wilmer accomplished their goal to raise \$1 million after several years of raising campaign funds! The funds are to endow fellowships for clinical trainee fellows in low vision research.

I attach some pictures from today, one having Wayne in front of a sign on their wall that reminds the public that a portion of the hospital clinic is supported by efforts of the Maryland/Delaware/DC multi-district Lions Clubs.

I also want to point to the attached picture I took of one of the historical photos on display.



The gist of language affixed to the picture was: Pictured with Helen Keller in 1956, Dr. Arnell Patz, eye researcher/ clinician, is recognized for discovering the link between high oxygen levels in hospital ICU incubators causing blindness in premature infants; thereby preventing future cases of such blindness. He along with Dr. V. Everett Kinsay received the NIH Lasker Award in 1956 for research into the causes and prevention of infant blindness.

The Patz award is an important Lions award given nowadays to Lions honorees, including at our recent Charter Night, when Lion Del Mayhew received the Arnold Patz LVRF award for his many years' efforts of aiding vision in the Damascus community with eyeglass donation pickups, etc.!

It was a good day to be there at the event! My wish is for DLC to continue to participate in this worthwhile Lions endeavor to help the community of low vision patients!

Lion Jon Inglefield

TRADESMEN MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN

Among a parking lot full of "two wheelers", one was greeted with riders parking all kinds of vehicles but making sure the Lions had priority parking spaces. A sight to be seen with all the colorfully customized two wheelers!

One was greeted by the Tradesmen with a welcoming committee of club officers and the ambiance of toys already shared. Three tables

were completely covered as well as on the floor of quality and useful toys for all ages! What an act of kindness and sincere love!

The Tradesmen served a scrumptious buffet along with the music from the youth, "Let There Be Rock" Band!

Members of the Club plan to be on hand to help with delivery to our families on Saturday, Dec. 20. Lions, you are encouraged to share our gratitude to them for their generous outpouring love to families in our community.

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell



Visitations for Lions Year 2025-2026

Visitations are required for this year's District Governor's Club Achievement Award. A visit should be reported if you attend a meeting, fundraiser, or social event at any other Lions Club. If you make a visitation at another Lions club please let Lion Ray Molesworth know by email, jrmolesworth03@gmail.com. The information needed is the date, name of the club visited and the names of the Damascus Lions making the visitation.

Lion Ray Molesworth

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

This is a Service Giving Project of our Damascus Lions Club since the beginnings – 80 years ago. Of course, the dynamics have changed thru the years but the service, the outreach, the hope that this project gives our community is unmeasured – unmeasured in time, in energy and in dynamics. Helping others to enjoy the Holiday Season a little bit better!

We have signed up for 28 families this year for our Holiday Project – 60 children, 77 adults!

We put the project into motion on November 8 at the Izaak Walton League with the Tradesmen Motorcycle

Club. They had a great response to their annual Toy Run with lots of quality toys and cash.

Lion Bob will pass around "Albert's Jar" at the next 2 dinner meetings. As Lion Albert would say, "Don't be bashful, empty your pockets for the jar that benefits others".

We will purchase an outfit for each of the children and Gift Cards for the teens. Each family will receive a gift card for perishable foods.

Lion Ray Molesworth has coordinated the Food Drives with the area schools for non-perishable foods. He and Lion Peter Grysavage have collected a great harvest from 3 schools. The fourth is having their food drive in December. And our December 16th dinner meeting will be a Member Food Drive. Bring a non-perishable food and place it in Lion Peter's pickup truck. We will have Signup sheets available again at the December 2nd Dinner Meeting for Delivery Teams and for sorting food on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm. We need YOU!

Thursday and Friday, December 18 and 19 from noon to 5 pm will be the time for teams to pack their food for their assigned families. We will have fellow Lions available to pack food for the Teams that are unable to do so during the afternoon. I would appreciate knowing what teams would like assistance in packing their food boxes. A large vehicle or truck is helpful for Delivery Teams. Teams will be assigned 2-3 families for delivery. Teams will have 1-2 food boxes, bag of toys and another bag of clothes. Tradesmen Motorcycle members will be on site Saturday morning, the 20th, to help with loading and delivering. This is a great opportunity to express to them our gratitude for partnering with us!

The Project will take place at Virginia Maryland Tractor - formerly Gladhill Tractor, Route 27 and 80.

**Our Schedule to put the project together is –
December 17 6:30 pm - Sorting the canned foods at Maryland Virginia Tractor.**

December 18 - 19 – Noon to 5 pm. Teams pack food boxes for families. We can use help with a variety of chores.

December 20 8:45 AM – Teams deliver the food and gifts to their families. Teams will congregate around 7:30 for coffee and buns!

Thanks Damascus Lions for taking the time to faithfully and joyfully serve the families of our Damascus Community!

"WE SERVE"

Lion Mary Frances Gosnell

Holiday Wreaths – Nov 28

Lions Light Up Damascus

On Friday November 28, 2025 the Lions club of Damascus continued a 37 year tradition by hanging the Christmas wreaths on the lamp posts throughout Damascus. 11 lions and 2 friends of Lions 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 4 teams and began hanging the wreaths.

This year the lions Club purchased 17 new wreaths to replace the old and worn-out wreaths that served the Lions Club for at least 30 years. The new wreaths and bows looked spectacular. The project took about 2 hours. The weather was cold and the wind was howling but the dedicated lions suffered through and completed the job for the betterment and enjoyment of our community.

Lions Joe Howerton, Tony Barry, Ray Molesworth, Barbara Barry, Vahe Aghamalian, Nanda Alapati, Bob Ippilito, Andrew Oliverio, Peter Grysavage, Ray Molesworth, Wayne Marr and Kim Moore made short work of the 40 lamp posts and the team had completed the project by 10:30am. The friends of the Lions who helped were Nick Doan and John Barry. A special word of thanks to Lion Charlie Hertel who loaned his three step ladders to the Lions club for the execution of the project.

The Lions will take the Christmas wreaths down in early January.

Lion Tony Barry



Years of Service Recognition

The following Damascus Lions have reached another milestone in their continuous years of service to the Damascus community.

Lion	Join Date	Years of Service
Del Mayhew	November 2000	25
Carol Stone	November 2000	25
Charlie Stone	November 2000	25
Ray Molesworth	December 1982	43
Tammy Hertel	December 1997	28
Charlie Hertel	December 1997	28
Kim Moore	December 2021	4

Lion Kim Moore was the Leo Club Sponsor at Clarksburg High School several years before she became an active Lion. Please congratulate these Damascus Lion for their years of service.

Time to Celebrate

December Birthdays:

Bob Breiner	12/5
Tony Barry	12/17
Susan Smarte	12/18
Del Mayhew	12/29

Partners in Service

Tom Marley (Julie Sain)	12/12
Barbara Hilton (Gary)	12/13

December Anniversaries:

Jon & Kathryn Inglefield	12/29 (33 yrs)
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Upcoming Events

December 2 – Dinner meeting, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm

December 6 - 10am-1pm, Cookies with Santa @ Gladhill Brothers/ Maryland Tractor

December 10 -Board Meeting, Gladhill Brothers/ Maryland Tractor 7 pm

December 17- 20 – Holiday Baskets, Gladhill Brothers/ Maryland Tractor

December 16 – Holiday Party, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm



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