

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



January 2026

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The President's Message

We are officially in Winter Season 2025-2026. The first day of Winter occurred with the passing of the Winter Solstice on December 21, 2025. The cold weather is here. December 2025 was busy, as usual for this time of year. 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 Tess and Carolyn, planned and operated a fantastic evening of games, best costumes, and good cheer. The Holiday Giving Project efforts started in early December and ramped up from December 17th-20th resulting in a meaningful, joyous Holiday for 28 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 2026 with our next Blood Drive on January 9th at the Damascus UMC. The Holiday Wreaths in Damascus will be removed in early January; weather permitting. On January 17th several Lions will help with removal of wreaths in support of Wreaths Across America. We end January activities with a Road Cleanup on the 24th.

Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year!

KL Charlie

DECEMBER EVENTS

Senior Party- December 4

Damascus Lions Club Members Celebrate Damascus Senior Center attendees' birthdays.

Under the leadership of Lion Sue Suddath, 6 members of Damascus Lions Club played several games with the approximately 45-50 seniors present, served over 75 pieces of delicious home baked cakes, 2 tubs of ice cream, beverages, and said goodbye to the seniors, sending them away with thoughtfully put together and season worthy gift bags. The entire afternoon's events were well received and much appreciated by all, as it was quite apparent by their glowing smiles and joyful words of appreciation.

Lion Vahé Aghamalian

The following Damascus Lions Club Members (left to right pictured below) were present: Sue Suddath, Ray Molesworth, Chris Fletcher, Vahé Aghamalian, Eloise Woodfield, and Mary Frances Gosnell.



The Lions certainly warmed up the cold, winter day on December 4th at the Damascus Rec Center! Eloise, Mary Frances, Chris, Vahe, and Ray helped me to bring smiles to the faces of about 50 seniors for the annual holiday birthday party. The seniors enjoyed games, crafts, and of course delicious homemade refreshments! As they left with their treat bags, it was obvious that our seniors had a great time. It's just another example of the Lions having fun while serving their community! Thanks for all of the help!

Lion Sue Suddath

Holiday Party- December 16

The Damascus Lions Club knows how to have fun and celebrate the holidays! Both the Lion mascot and the Grinch showed up to entertain the attendees.



More fun was had with the creative games that Lion Tessie brought to the evening spreading more good cheer.

KL Charlie presented Lion Bobbie Warfield with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest honor recognizing exceptional humanitarian service and dedication. In addition, KL Charlie also announced that Lion Bob Snap was selected to receive the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship for repeat recognition (his 2nd one). Congratulations go to these lions who are pictured receiving their awards!



And the Holiday cheer continued when Lions Tammy and Charlie Hertel explained the meaning of the Lion Albert's jar. It was passed around and the amount totaled 914 dollars!

Lion Jon Inglefield

Baltimore National Cemetery De-Wreathing January 17

Our fifth annual Wreaths Across America DE-WREATHING exercise is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2026. 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. Another method, when working individually, is to use a D-handled rake or plastic snow shovel to drag the wreaths. You need to provide your own poles/tools. I'll be in touch again regarding car pools as we get close to Jan 17. In the meantime, please let me know now 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

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Lions, Tradesmen Motorcycle Club, Partners-In-Service, family and friends rallied together on Saturday, Dec. 20, to complete another Holiday Giving Project serving family members of 25 families in the Damascus area. This project is one of the Damascus Lions long time Service Projects beginning in 1946.

Lion Ray Molesworth coordinated the Food Drives in four area schools that encompassed two Leo Clubs. DVFD Ladies Auxiliary collected non-perishable foods for the project at their Holiday Dinner Party. Lions had a Food Drive at their Holiday Meeting in lieu of exchanging gifts. Thank

you, Leos, students, Ladies Auxiliary and guests and the Damascus Lions for your generosity. All the Food Drives were enough to pack 2 boxes of nonperishable food for 25 families with the remaining items donated to Damascus HELP. Lion Chris Fletcher profiled the 25 families verifying the address, phone number and number in family plus the sizes of clothing for the children. Partner-in-Service Jennifer Molesworth along with Lions Eloise and Mary Frances were the clothes shoppers – an outfit for each of the 44 children at a cost of \$ 785.00 According to Kohl's receipt, we saved \$587 with the help of Kohl's Cash! Thrifty Shoppers! We purchased \$50 Kohl's Gift Cards for the 16 teens. Many Lions and Partners-in-Service helped with many facets of the project during the last two months. We truly missed Lion Del and Bonnie Mayhew's involvement this year although their thoughts were with us every step of the way!

Lions arrived Wednesday Night, the 17th to sort food and get a count of how many items are in each category – the final count was over 4.000. 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 for each family. The Goldstein family homemade cookie packages added tasty as well as well adorned package to the delivery.

Lions Ray Molesworth and Peter Grysavage 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 many quality toys as well as cash at their annual Toy Run which was donated for each child and family. Each child received one to two toys plus a family game or book. In addition, the Tradesmen made a substantial monetary donation. The Tradesmen members were a welcomed help with loading and delivery on Saturday. They have been our partners-in-service for over 15 years. We truly cherish this partnership with the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club.

We had 10 teams consisting of 24 Lions plus 18 family members, Tradesmen and friends to deliver to the 25 families Saturday morning.

Maryland 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. Maryland Virginia Tractor generously offers this space for our project during December. Thank you, to the MV Tractor, Lion Tess and employees!

The cost of the project is tallying up at \$5,150.00. Lion Bob Snapp mailed letters to local businesses for donations and Lions Patsy McKenzie and Nanda Alapati solicited local merchants as well. Lion Bob passed "Albert's Jar" around to members at the Holiday Party meeting. Contributions continue to come in - in answer to the mailing and contacts. An estimated value of the project is upwards to \$15,600.

At our January 20th 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



Two youngest (hearted) lions in the Club!

Time to Celebrate

January Birthdays:

Bob Williams 1/13
Ben Lewis 1/29

Partners in Service

None

January Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

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

Fri., Jan 9- 10am-3:30pm - Blood Drive United Methodist Church to help contact Lion Charlie Hertel chtelco@aol.com

Wed., Jan 14- 7:00pm, Board meeting @ Gladhill's

Sat, Jan 17 –9:00am Wreaths Across America – DeWreathing, to help contact Lion Wayne Marr waynemarr@comcast.net

Tues., Jan 20 - 6:45pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Sat. Jan 24 - 9:00am, Road Cleanup for more information contact Lion Tony at daniel8barry@gmail.com



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Senior Party, Holiday Giving & Christmas Party Pictures

