

Damascus



MD

LION'S TALE



February 2026

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email damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Damascus Lions Club 2025-2026 Officers

President:

Charlie Stone

candcstone@comcast.net

1st V. President:

Nanda Alipati

nalapati@aol.com

2nd V. President:

Bob Ippolito

robertipp@gmail.com

3rd V. President:

Susan Smarte

ssmarte@gmail.com

Secretary:

Barbara Barry

damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary:

Ray Molesworth

jrmolesworth03@gmail.com

Foundation Treasurer:

Jon Inglefield

Ingle004@outlook.com

Club Treasurer:

Vahe Aghamalian

vaghamalian@aol.com

Membership:

Chris Fletcher

chriswfletcher@verizon.net

Editor:

Barbara Barry

barrybar24@gmail.com

The President's Message



The weather in January 2026 reminded us of past Winters. We had a major snow storm and many days of temperatures below freezing with negative windchill. Hopefully, February 2026 will be milder. We began January 2026 with our dinner meeting on January 6th in which Lion Vahe Aghamalian received recognition for his community service as recipient of the Lion of the Years award. Our Blood Drive on January 9th was at the

Damascus UMC. The Lions Holiday Wreaths in Damascus were removed from the light poles on January 13th and 14th by Lion Tony Barry and son John. On January 17th several Lions carpoled to Baltimore National Cemetery to participate in the Wreaths Across America DeWreathing. Our meeting on January 20th had representatives from the Tradesmen Motorcycle Club, Damascus VFD, Damascus VFD Auxiliary, and Virginia Maryland Tractor in attendance so that we could properly thank them for their continued, significant contributions to help make our Holiday Giving Project a success. Other contributors unable to attend included Damascus Dental, Butlers Orchard, and the Goldstein family. The scheduled Road Cleanup on January 24th was also cancelled due to the weather.

Hopefully, February 2026 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 dinner meeting on February 3rd. Please note that our Board meeting on February 11th will be at Wesley Grove UMC. The Program Committee has planned a festive evening for our February 17th meeting. There will be a Blood Drive at the Damascus High School on February 6th.

Happy Valentine's Day!

KL Charlie



Lion Ray presenting Lion Vahe with the Lion of the Years Award.

JANUARY EVENTS

PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING- Jan 7

A request was passed along to our club from Lion Mary Dehart of LCOF to conduct a Preschool Vision and Hearing Screenings at the Optimal Learning School in Germantown on January 7. I want to thank Lions Susan Smarte, and Joan Paseur, PDG Don Beeson from Sandy Spring and Mark LeRoux from LCOF for joining me in conducting the screenings. We were in a very small and tight room. Lion Susan and I helped with getting the children in and out of the room and with the counting of the screenings. Lion Joan conducted the vision screenings and Lion Mark, the hearing screenings. PDG Beeson was there for backup on the hearing screenings, if needed. There were 26 children screened for both vision and hearing. For vision, 22 children passed, 4 being referred; and for hearing, 22 children passed, 3 being referred and 1 was unable to screen. This is the second or third time that we have done a screening at Optimal Learning School and it looks like they want to make this an annual event. Thank you to all the Lions who helped with this important activity.

I was also asked to help the Sandy Spring Lions Club with another Preschool Vision and Hearing Screening at Shaare Torah in The Kentlands on January 22. We screened 10 children for vision, all of which passed; and 11 children for hearing, 5 passed, 1 was referred, and 5 were unable to screen. There was a total of 5 Lions present, some of which had never done the hearing screenings before. The number of screenings

done at this location was low but several of the children enrolled there had already had the screening last year.

Lion Chris Fletcher

BLOOD DRIVE 2025- January 9

The Damascus Lions Club hosted their fourth blood drive for year 2025-2026 on Friday January 9th, 2026 at the Damascus United Methodist Church. I would like to thank our Lions who volunteered Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Paseur for always supporting the ARC blood program in Damascus. Go Lions!! They help set up the hall along with the ARC team members with chairs, tables, coolers and whatever else 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 and on their way!! Lion Chris carries the banner in her car, and we set it up for every drive for exposure of our club. Lion Chris stopped by my house to have me load the metal sign to advertise the drive. TYVM!! We collected 56 units of blood for the American Red Cross at Damascus United Methodist Church. Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2025-2026 year will be Friday February 6th, 2026, this drive will be at the Damascus High School. This will be our fifth blood drive for 2025-2026 year.

*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

Holiday Giving Donations

We are pleased to report that we collected record-setting donations this year from Lions, area citizens and businesses. We collected \$6,294.00!. Please give the following businesses your support and a huge THANK YOU for contributing to the success of our projects.

John E. Tregoning, CPA

Ben Lewis Plumbing

A & B Luck Plumbing

PR Family Medicine

Four County Animal Hospital
 Rockhill Orchard
 Woodfield Veterinary Clinic
 Easterday-Wilson Water Service
 Windy Way Greener Solutions
 Ned's Hair Connection

Lions Bob Snapp, Patricia McKenzie & Nanda Alapati

UNWREATHING A MILITARY CEMETERY- January 17

Military Cemetery Wreath Removal

On Saturday morning, January 17, five Damascus Lions ventured over snow-covered roads to the Baltimore National Cemetery and helped remove over 5,200 wreaths placed at the military tombstones through the Wreaths Across America program. Your hardy Lions were: Tony & Barbara Barry, Bob Ippolito, Jon Inglefield, and me. You see us in this picture with six others, all neighbors of mine from New Market. This is our fifth year doing this service project, always along with many other “de-wreathers” and often during poor weather conditions. It’s hard work, but it’s done quickly. We always feel good when it’s done.
 Lion Wayne Marr



DeWreathing at Baltimore National Cemetery

ZONE PROJECT - EYEGLOSS SORTING

Eyeglass sorting was held on Jan 21 at Mission BBQ as a Zone Project. The clubs that were represented were Damascus, Rockville, Laytonsville and their branch clubs -Germantown, Sandy Spring, Tacoma Park and LCOF. The Rockville Lions had a prospective member with them. Lion Mark LeRoux for LCOF had made several stops along the way to Mission BBQ to pick up glasses from various Lions Clubs from our zone. At the end of the night, the number of boxes that Lion Mark

left with was 35; which amounted to 6700 pair of eyeglasses and 2291 cases. Plus, there was one large trash bag filled with “who knows how many glasses and cases” in it. About 20 to 25 of those boxes were sorted at Mission BBQ by 10 Lions and 1 prospective Lion in about 2½ hours. The Damascus Lions turned in almost 3 full boxes – 401 pair of glasses and 195 glass cases. I also came home with several hearing aids and batteries and other hearing paraphernalia to be turned over to Lion May Frances. Needless to say, we had a very busy evening.

I worked with Ron, the prospective member throughout the evening. He liked seeing the Lions in action. After talking to him throughout the evening, he seems really interested in joining the Lions. Unfortunately for Damascus, he would be joining the Rockville Lions.

Lion Chris Fletcher



Boxes and Boxes of Sorted Eyeglasses

Years of Service Recognition

The below listed Lions have achieved another year of community service. Please congratulate them on this significant milestone.

Lion	Join Date	Years of Service
John Washington	January 1999	27
Tess Gladhill	February 2002	24
Chris Fletcher	February 2006	20
Ray Stanley	January 2007	19
Rob Hyman	January 2022	4
Carolyn Marschall	February 2023	3
Amelia Dizon	January 2024	2

Lion Amelia Dizon transferred to the Damascus Lions Club from the Tarlac Host Lions Club in the Philippines. Lion Rob Hyman is an Honorary Member of the Club because of his position as Damascus High School Leo Sponsor. Please congratulate these Lions for their years of service.

Lion Ray Molesworth

ROAD CLEANUP- January 22

On Thursday, January 22, Lions Tony and Barbara Barry performed a quick road cleanup of our adopted road, Valley Park Drive. We then pulled some weeds, picked up trash and twigs on the South Side of Main Street. Lion Tony cancelled our Saturday, January 24 cleanup due to the very cold weather forecast. We barely got 1 bag of trash, but now Lion Tony can report it to the county.

Lion Barbara Barry



Pictures from our Holiday Giving Recognition Dinner – January 20



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

February Anniversaries:

None

Upcoming Events

February 3– 6:45 pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

February 6 – 8 am, Blood Drive at Damascus HS for more information contact Lion Charlie Hertel chtelco@aol.com

February 11– 7 pm, Board Meeting Gladhill/Maryland Tractor

February 17 – 6: 45 pm, Dinner Meeting at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church



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P.O. Box 267
Damascus, MD 20872-2250
Damascus Lions Web Site:
<http://www.damascuslions.org>
[Damascus Lions Facebook](http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions)
<http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions>

