



Damascus
MD

LION'S TALE



November 2026

WWW.DAMASCUSLIONS.ORG

VOLUME 77 – NUMBER 4

email damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Damascus Lions Club 2026-2027 Officers

President:

Nanda Alapati

nalapati@aol.com

1st V. President:

Bob Ippolito

robertipp@gmail.com

2nd V. President:

Susan Smarte

ssmarte@gmail.com

3rd V. President:

Chris Fletcher

chriswfletcher@verizon.net

Secretary/Editor:

Barbara Barry

damascus.lions.club@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary:

Ray Molesworth

jrmolesworth03@gmail.com

Foundation Treasurer:

Jon Inglefield

Ingle004@outlook.com

Club Treasurer:

Joe Howerton

joehowertonsales@gmail.com

Membership:

Chris Fletcher

chriswfletcher@verizon.net

The President's Message



Wow! What an event-filled month we just had. October started with a Shred Fest (thanks Lions Joe & Chris for spearheading this) followed two days later with our Columbus/ Indigenous Day golf tournament (with much thanks to Lions Charlie and Tammy Hertel for all their leg work and Lions Joe and Jon for their administrative contributions). The third week of the month saw our

White Cane days at Safeway, with Lions Wayne Marr and Tom Jackson keeping us all organized. And we concluded the month's fundraising with Lion Joan and her crew making the Pancake Breakfast happen. And let's not forget Charter Night during which DG Courtney McAlmont came and installed our newest member Lion Irma Montero.

Thankfully, November will give us a breather (the upcoming blood drive and road clean-up notwithstanding) before the December holiday season.

In September, I went to the Rockville Lions dinner meeting and in October I went to the Laytonsville Lions dinner meeting. I wanted to see how other clubs run their meetings, what events/fundraisers they have, etc. Among other things, Rockville Lions collect food for the Montgomery college food pantry to support students; and as a fundraiser, they hold "Train Day" at the Rockville Community Center where they set up model trains and seek donations. The Laytonsville Lions sponsor a Halloween night for kids at the Volunteer Fire Department; and as a fundraiser they sell boxes of Indian River Citrus Fruit – taking orders and delivering to people's homes. At a future meeting, we should discuss new ideas to further serve our community and get the word out as to what the Damascus Lions do.

KI Nanda

OCTOBER EVENTS

ShredFest- October 10

Our 6th Annual Clarksburg Shred Fest saw significant increases in traffic and donations. We served 105 vehicles and received \$1,025 in donations toward our White Cane Drive for Sight Conservation. Seven Lions along with one partner in service assisted our vendor *Clean Cut Shredding* to securely shred and recycle 3,680 pounds of paper. We also collected hundreds of batteries for environmentally safe recycling through Critical Power, a Mount Airy company that sells backup power solutions. We thank Wesbanco for being a long-time partner covering the cost of the truck for our shred events and Cedarbrook Community Church for providing their parking lot. We could not provide this service to the community without their support.

Lion Joe Howerton



Golf Tournament -October 12

It was a cool morning but not cold. We had 64 players signed up to play our 23rd Annual Lions Club Golf Tournament at Glade Valley but because of the 5" hurricane rain on the Sunday before, it was cart path only so we had 59 golfers play. Several still paid even though they couldn't play. It turned out to be a partly sunny 65 degree fall day. Our day starts early arriving at Glade Valley at 6 am to set up for the tournament. We had players pay with credit card using our square account. Along with the cost of registration, we also sell mulligan's and raffle tickets for 50/50. Golfers get 2 drink tickets to use throughout the day and a raffle ticket for door prizes. We also gave out a golf shoe bag donated by Lion Charlie Hertel with the Lions logo and

some snacks with an inspirational message for all the golfers.

The playing of the National Anthem at 9am gets us off to a roaring start! What a wonderful day together. We had a great lunch with chicken, beans, macaroni salad and dessert. I would like to thank the following Lions who worked very hard to make this event a huge success; Lion Bob Snapp who brought donuts. He also brought the signs that Lee Hertel put out this year. Lions Chris, Joe, Jon and Tammy all worked the registration area.

Chris and Tammy prepared the back of the club house for the golf participants to eat, gather their winnings, and have a chance to win the prizes after the golf is completed.

A shout out to Lion Chris, Lion Joan and Lion Carolyn for getting the terrific donations from all of the businesses in town. Almost every golfer walked away with something. I want to thank Lion Wayne for bringing golfers and his dozens of golf balls for door prizes. A big Thank you to Lion Tammy and Chris for setting up and riding around to make sure the players were keeping up their pace. I want to thank Bob



Snapp who ran the putting contest. Who could say No to Bob?

Almost all golfers tried the contest. We would like to thank our Pro golfer Linda Wang for coming out and challenging all of the golfers on hole 13. Only 2 guys beat her; Lee Hertel and Carl Vail. We would like to thank all the players who participated, the

generous sponsors (some are Lions), local businesses and our partners in service. We even had personalized signs made for our sponsors by Lion Pat McKenzie and family!!

Thank You to all who supported this wonderful event. A special thanks to Lion Joe Howerton for marketing this event on-line and for simplifying registration and payments!! The outcome of this event allows the Damascus Lions Club to give back 100% of the proceeds from the golf tournament towards the community. Our profit wasdrum roll please \$6584.32

Thank You to all for making this a big success and for your continued support of the Damascus Lions Club Golf Tournament. There are more pics on page 7. Lion Charlie & Lion Tammy Hertel

81th CHARTER NIGHT- October 20

The Damascus Lions Club celebrated 81 years of service to our community at our Annual Charter Night held at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, October 20. We were honored to have two dignitaries from the District: District Governor Courtney McAlmont and First Vice District Governor Cornelly McAlmont. The evening began with a moment of silence and a memorial service for Lion Mary Frances Gosnell.



The District Governor announced the names of the Damascus Lions who hit major membership milestones, they are: Lion John Ampiah-Addison 10 years, Lion Roy Stanley 20 years, Lion Charlie Holpuch 25 years, Lion Tess Gladhill 25 years, Lion Bob Breiner 35 years, Lion Tom Jackson 40 years and Lion Jack Peters 45 years! DG Courtney also assisted Lion Chris with the induction of new member Irma Montero. DG Courtney spoke of how well District 22-C is doing in terms of membership growth and the number of service projects performed by all of the clubs. He also



encouraged all Lions to attend the 2027 International Convention in July.

The District Governor, KL Nanda, Lion Ray Molesworth and Lion Bob Snapp made the following Presentations:
Lion Eloise Woodfield received the Melvin Jones award.

Lion Bob Williams

received the Emerson Slacum Community Service Award.

Lion of the Year was presented to Lion Peter Grysavage.

Lion of the Years was presented to Lions Charlie and Carol Stone.

Lion Tess presented Lion Bob Williams with a Special Recognition Award.

The Charter Night celebration was a huge success. We had great food and fellowship. Thanks to Lion Patsy McKenzie for organizing the event.

Lion Barbara Barry

(See more pics on page 6)

Fall 2026 Damascus White Cane Days

Our Safeway storefront fundraising this past month brought to our Club \$1,349.45 in cash, for a shift average of \$53.98. **Absolutely every shift was important to our total.** We had 20 dedicated Damascus Lions performing storefront collections across 25 shifts during October 14-16. We had 5 shifts unattended. As always, whenever you have a chance at Safeway, please commend Manager Dave Mott and his staff for allowing us to do our Fundraiser at their store. Think the word: "Lion" in front of all names in this article!

Our recent Clarksburg Shredfest collected \$1,035 cash & checks. Combine the Shredfest with the Storefront Collections, and our foundation account increased by \$2,384.45. All these monetary amounts do NOT INCLUDE any QR-Code contributors we may have had. I was not able to get a final QR-Code count in time for this Lions Tale. Thank you, all Storefront Lions; and thank you, Shredfest manager Joe Howerton and Shredfest donation solicitor Chris Fletcher!



Special thanks go to Tom Jackson, our Wednesday Manager of the Day; and to our money counters: Susan Smarte, Tom Jackson, Bob Ippolito, and Leslie Ippolito.

Special Recognitions:

Over-\$100-in-OneShift Awards go to: Susan Smarte (\$137) and Bob Ippolito (\$132). The Safeway West 10 AM shift was a good shift to have, evidently.

The Burt Lahr Courage Award goes to Irma Montero, for soliciting for the first time in front of the store where she worked for so many years!

Storefront Lions:

Here are the 20 Damascus Lions who gave of their valuable time for one or more storefront collection shifts (multiple shifts in parentheses): Alapati(2!), Bambous, Fletcher(2!), Gladhill, Grysavage(2!), C. Hertel, Howerton, Inglefield, Ippolito(2!), Mackay, B. Marr, Marschall, Montero, Paseur(2!), Ryan, Shepard, Smarte, Snapp, Suddath, and Woodfield. Thank you, one and all!

Lion Wayne Marr

LIONS AUTUMN PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Damascus Lions Club held our semi-annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 24th. We had a great turn out resulting in a profit of \$2,481.96 after all expenses were paid. 19 Lions worked at the event along with 10 members of the Damascus & Clarksburg Leos clubs. Several Lions helped with prep work on Friday. We want to THANK everyone who volunteered their time to help and we look forward to our next pancake breakfast. Members of the Rockville Lions and Laytonsville Lions clubs attended our event. More pics on page 7.

Thank you all again!

Lions Joan & Sue



Preschool Screenings and Vision, Hearing and Glaucoma Screenings and Eyeglass Sorting

October was a very busy month with Preschool Screenings. In early October, I joined Lion Mark LeRoux at Temple Beth Ami Early Childhood Education Center. This was to be a two-day screening event, but it went so quickly that we completed it in one day. 43 screening

were conducted and all children passed the vision screening but 5 were referred for hearing.

There was a 4-day screening scheduled from October 13th through 16th, to be performed at 3 different facilities of the Home Grows Childhood Development Center. This was a multi-zone activity with Damascus on Tuesday, Washington/Midtown on Wednesday and Rockville on Thursday. Friday was cancelled because we were able to complete all the screenings in 3 days. On Tuesday, we completed 25 Preschool Vision and Hearing Screening with 3 referred to vision and 2 referred for hearing.

On October 17, I joined Lion Mark again for Vision, Hearing and Glaucoma Screenings at Glen Echo Park for the Wahington DC Walk for Hearing. In this screening event, I was assisting the South Potomac Lions Club. Although this was primarily a hearing screening event with students of the audiology departments from Gallaudet University and the University of Maryland, most of the visitors to the Mobile Health Unit also wanted to be screened for vision and glaucoma. We screened 18 people of which a few were preschoolers.



Eyeglass sorting was held on October 28 at Mission BBQ as a Zone Project. There were 23 Lions, 2 children of Lions and 2 prospective members for the Rockville Club. The clubs that were represented were members from Damascus, Rockville, Monocacy, Laytonsville, Washington

Midtown and South Potomac. We even had a visit from our DG Courtney McAlmont. Lion Mark LeRoux 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, Lion Mark left with 25 boxes of eyeglasses. The sorting took about approximately 2 hours. The Damascus Lions turned in almost 2 full boxes – 412 pair of glasses and 65 glass cases. I also turned in a low vision reading device and several hearing aids and batteries and other hearing paraphernalia. Needless to say, we had a very busy evening.

During the sorting, I received a text from KL Nanda and a request from DG Courtney both requesting participation in a few upcoming screenings in the first weeks of November.

Lion Chris Fletcher

Time to Celebrate

November Birthdays:

Tess Gladhill	11/6
Dale Ryan	11/10
Tammy Hertel	11/17
Nanda Alapati	11/19
Miguel Ventura	11/23

Partners in Service

Fran Peters (Jack)	11/4
Amy Alapati (Nanda)	11/21

November Anniversaries:

Charlie & Carol Stone	11/22 (29 yrs)
Wayne & Bobbie Marr	11/30 (7 yrs)



Upcoming Events

December 1- Dinner meeting, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm

December 9- Board Meeting, 9916 Main St (Old Truist Budling) 7 pm

December 16 - 19 – Holiday Giving Project

December 15 – Holiday Party, Wesley Grove UMC, 6:45 pm

Lion's Tale

Monthly publication
of The Lions Club of Damascus
P.O. Box 267

Damascus, MD 20872-2250

Damascus Lions Web Site:

<http://www.damascuslions.org>

[Damascus Lions Facebook](#)

<http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions>

Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!



Governor Courtney Inducting new Member Irma



Lion Tess awarding a Special Award to Lion Bob Williams (not pictured)



Lion Eloise receiving the Melvin Jones Award



GG Courtney & FVDG Cornelly



Lion Peter receiving the Lion of the Year Award

Golf Tournament



Golfers Bill Hertel, Bill Gaines, Lion Charlie & Shaun Rashid



Ray and Virginia Hertel Stopping by the Golf Tournament

Pancake Breakfast



Leos and Advisor, Kim Moore working at the Pancake Breakfast

