

The SCOOP

Newsletter of the Claymont, Delaware
Lions Club

December 2025



PROVIDING 87 YEARS OF SERVICE-TO-OTHERS IN THE CLAYMONT AREA

**Carol LeCates, President
Dick Gackenbach, Treasurer**

**Lee Bird, Secretary
Lisa MB Johnson, SCOOP Editor**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Hello Fellow Lions:

I hope everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with those who meant the most to you.

December is another busy month. Our tree sale started on November 28th, and from what I've heard, we're off to a great start. When working at trees, I always enjoy seeing the families who come to buy trees – they take family photos, and the kids are so excited to help pick out their tree, and the little ones love getting a coloring book. Please be sure to take several shifts. The money we raised will help many people in need. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our tree sale a success so far.

Our annual Christmas parade is December 6th. The parade is a community event that everyone looks forward to watching. Please come out and help if you can and keep your fingers crossed so that we have good weather!

We also inducted a new member in November, Lion Jacqeline Hayman-Carter. Her sponsor is First VP Nolan Lewis. When you see Lion Jacqeline, please be sure to make her feel welcome.

Don't forget to sign up for the Holiday Party on December 17th. It's a great night where we have dinner, socialize and do some fun activities during the holidays.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

KL Carol

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER LIONS

Happy Birthday to the following Lions born in December:



12/10	Deborah Maybroda	12/14	Monique Williams-Johns
12/15	Shirly Ibrahimovic	12/17	William Gerety
12/20	Carol LeCates	12/27	Beverly Chiffons
12/29	Randy Keim	12/29	Dominic Gatta

Those Lions whose birthdays fall in a month of the meeting are reminded to bring a wrapped gift for auction at the first dinner meeting in that month. If your birthday falls during non-meeting months, Lions are asked to bring a wrapped gift to the next dinner meeting. Monies collected from this activity are deposited in the club Administrative Account and used to support member activities and club financial needs.

DECEMBER & JANUARY DINNER MEETINGS

Dinner meetings will be held at Duffer's Mills (1600 Naaman's Creek Road, Garnet Valley, PA) on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from September through June (unless changed by Board action). The meetings will begin at 5:30 PM with a social hour. Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM. The cost of dinner is **\$30 per person (Including tax & tip)**.

To make dinner reservations, please **email Program Chair, Lion Frazier Van Velsor at cdlcactivities@gmail.com.** **Reservations are due by 10 a.m. the Friday before each dinner meeting.**

If any Lion or guest has dietary restrictions, they may order directly from the Duffer's Mill menu. Please be sure to inform Lion Frazier when making your reservation that you will be ordering off the menu. **If you decide to attend after the final headcount has been submitted to Duffer's, you are still welcome to join; however, ordering from the regular menu will be your only option.**

Also, Lion Frazier has a great list of speakers scheduled for our upcoming dinner meetings. The following speakers are scheduled for **December & January:**

December 3, 2025 – Sojourner's Place

December 17, 2025 – Holiday Party (\$40)

RSVPs and payments are due before December 10th – we will not be collecting at the door the night of the event. PLEASE SEND PAYMENT TO TREASURER DICK GACKENBACH BY DECEMBER 15th to 3704 Pimlico Place Garnet Valley PA 19060. Checks should be made payable to the Claymont Lions Club.

January 14, 2026 - Peace Poster Presentation

January 28, 2026 – District Governor & Cabinet

DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Claymont Lions Club **Board of Directors** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025** at **7:00 p.m.** at the home of Lions Bob & Fran Herschberger, 303 Tranquility Way, Middletown, DE.

Remember that all club members are invited to attend Board meetings where the official business of the club is conducted. Those present may participate in meeting dialogue. Only Board members vote on items requiring Board action.

DONATIONS FOR CLAYMONT COMMUNITY CENTER FOOD CLOSET

Claymont Lions are encouraged to bring food items for the Claymont Community Center Food Closet the first meeting of each month. Among the items to be donated are:

Peanut Butter/Jelly	Macaroni & Cheese/Rice	Canned Tuna/Chicken
Pancake Mix/Syrup	Pasta & Sauce	Canned Vegetables/Fruit
Cereal/Oatmeal	Canned Soup/Juices	Canned Beans

With the holidays approaching, please remember to bring items needed for holiday dinners: Gravy, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Stuffing & Rolls. Contact Lion Tom McDonough for more information.

NOVEMBER 5th DINNER MEETING REVIEW

The Christmas Tree Co-chair, Lion Dick Gackenbach, shared a timeline for setting up the tree stand, the delivery of trees, and information about unloading the trees safely. The committee also asked that all able-bodied members work at least 5 shifts. The Tree Committee is looking forward to a very successful tree sale and hope that you will help to make the event a success. This is our largest fundraiser each year and we need every member to help make this a successful event.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST



*Winning Artwork by 8th grader,
Samantha DuRoss!!*

At the November 5, 2025 Claymont Lions Dinner Meeting, members reviewed and voted on two entries submitted for this year's Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The theme for 2025 is "Together As One." Under the guidance of Talley Middle School art teacher Ms. Julie Navickas, who has supported students in this program for several years, two exceptional

posters were created. Adrienne Chapman, a 7th grader, was named Runner-Up, and 8th grader Samantha DuRoss was selected as the Claymont Lions Club winner.



Runner-up Artwork by 7th grader, Adrienne Chapman

Samantha's poster was forwarded to the district level, and we are pleased to share that the judges have chosen her work to represent **District 22D** at the **Multiple-District contest on December 7**. She will compete against entries from the four other districts across Maryland and Washington, D.C., with the winner advancing to the national competition. Last year, Claymont's entry won the district and came very close to earning the Multi-District title.

In addition to the **\$100 prize** awarded by the Claymont Lions Club, Samantha will also receive a cash award from the district for her recent victory.

We are extremely proud of Samantha and know her school and community are as well. The Peace Poster presentation is anticipated for our first dinner meeting on **January 14, 2026**.

NOVEMBER 19th DINNER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our guest speaker at the November 19th dinner meeting was Ms. Hannah Cesner of Zoe Ministries, Inc. Zoe Ministries is a Delaware-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting girls affected by or at risk of sex trafficking. Their work includes community education, prevention programs, and trauma-informed services for survivors. Zoe Ministries is also developing "Hannah's House," a long-term residential therapeutic home for female minors ages 12–17, which will be the first of its kind in Delaware.

Hannah delivered a thought-provoking presentation on human trafficking in Delaware, including key information about state laws and current legislation.

Another highlight of the evening was welcoming our newest member, Jacqueline Haymen-Carter! She was proudly sponsored by Lion Nolan Lewis, and we are excited to have her energy and enthusiasm added to our club. Lion Haymen-Carter was inducted by PCC Don Lion LeCates.



*Lion Nolan Lewis and newly inducted
Lion Jacqueline Haymen-Carter*



*King Lion Carol LeCates with Hannah
Cesner of Zoe Ministries*

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE



Claymont Lions Club members setting up the Christmas Tree stand and

The Christmas Tree Committee Chairs would like to thank all those who helped to setup for the tree sale. We especially thank all of our volunteers that helped unload. Please don't forget to sign up for shifts with Lion Mandy at alscar52@gmail.com. Each able-bodied Lion is requested to serve 5 shifts if possible.

Remember this is our largest fundraiser which allows us to invest in our community.

The 81st Annual Christmas Tree Project began the Sunday before Thanksgiving with the receipt of trees from Clark's Christmas Tree Farm in Cochranville, Pennsylvania.

Preparations for tree sales were underway - from unloading trees, to setting up signs we appreciate all of the volunteers who came to help that day!!! We could not have done this without you!





LET'S SELL SOME TREES!!!

SERVICE IN ACTION - LIONS LEE & DON BUILD WHEELCHAIR RAMP

Wheelchair ramps are more than just structures—they are lifelines. For individuals with mobility challenges, a ramp provides freedom, safety, and the independence to enter and exit their home without fear or struggle. It can mean the difference between isolation and participation, allowing families to care for loved ones with dignity and ease.

In November, Lions **Lee Bird** and **Don LeCates** truly embodied the spirit of service when they stepped up to build a wheelchair ramp for a family in need. Answering the call without hesitation, they put in the hard work, tools in hand and hearts fully committed, to ensure the family could safely access their home.

Their dedication is a powerful reminder of how a simple act of service can transform daily life for someone facing mobility barriers. We are grateful for their sweat equity, teamwork, and compassion—and proud to recognize their outstanding contribution to our community.



STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS



Lions Randy Keim and Nolan Lewis presented the Club's donation check to Judy Travis, Project Founder and Coordinator for Stockings for Soldiers, on December 1, 2025.

Stockings for Soldiers is a beloved Delaware-based volunteer project that began in 2004 with the mission of sending personalized holiday stockings to U.S. troops serving overseas. What started as a small effort to bring comfort and encouragement to a handful of deployed service members has grown into a large community-driven initiative involving thousands of volunteers and supporters each year.

The project's purpose is simple yet profoundly meaningful: to remind our deployed men and women that they are appreciated, supported, and never forgotten during the holiday season. Each stocking is carefully filled with snacks, toiletries, notes of gratitude, and small gifts donated by community members of all ages. Over the years, Stockings for Soldiers has shipped tens of thousands of stockings around the world, spreading hope and holiday cheer to those far from home.

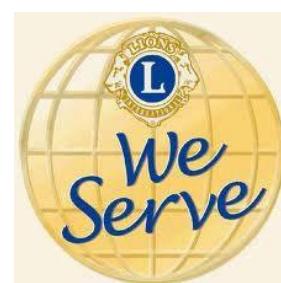
Our Club is proud to support this impactful mission and to help brighten the holidays for the brave individuals who serve our country.

ANNUAL MELVIN JONES BREAKFAST

The Melvin Jones Breakfast, which honors the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2025 9am at the Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Ave, Dover, DE. Cost is \$26.00. This event is open to all Lions, Leos and guests. Club Secretary, Lion Lee Bird, will be taking reservations by email or in person until January 1, 2026. Please send your check to Lion Dick Gackenbach, if you plan to attend as there will be one form and payment sent for all club members planning to attend.

DELAWARE LIONS FOUNDATION (DLF) BREAKFAST

Save the Date - The Delaware Lions Foundation annual breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 21st, at 9 a.m. More details to follow...



SPECIAL SESSION OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION

Special Session during the Mid-Winter Conference on **January 31, 2026** at the Annapolis Elks, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater MD. Voting will be held from 9 am to 1 pm. This Special Session is called for the sole and limited purpose of considering the endorsement of a candidate for International Director of Lions Clubs International. No other business shall be conducted at this session.

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- Melvin Jones Breakfast for LCIF – January 10, 2026
- 3rd Cabinet Meeting – Modern Maturity Center – January 29, 2026
- Mid-Winter Conference – Annapolis, MD – January 31, 2026
- Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics – February 1, 2026
- Delaware Lions Foundation Breakfast – February 21, 2026



CHECK PAYMENTS

When writing checks for dues, meals, or other club events, please make them **payable to the Claymont Lions Club** unless instructed otherwise.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Lion Kirt requests that anyone in the club who needs to contact him regarding medical equipment to please contact him at 302-477-1271. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES ARE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!!

That's correct.... **MONEY** in **YOUR** pocket! The Board has approved an incentive program geared at growing our club's membership while earning rewards for sponsors. Sponsors of new members will receive a \$25 gift card upon induction of their new member during this 2025-2026 Lion year. Then, at the end of the 2025-2026 Lion Year, a \$50 gift card will be offered to the one club member that sponsors the newest members (which has to be more than one new member). If there is more than one member who has sponsored the same number of most new members, then both/all of those sponsors will be offered a \$50 gift card. Let the competition begin and our new members roll in!

SCOOP NEWSLETTER

*If you have information or a suggestion for the Scoop, please send the information to me by the last day of each month. **PLEASE REFERENCE “SCOOP” in the subject of any email to make sure that information is not overlooked.***

EMPTY INK CARTRIDGES BENEFIT CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE FUN

PCS Gail & Lion Kirt are collecting empty computer Ink Cartridges. Please save your cartridges and contact them to arrange dropping them off. The cash we receive from recycled cartridges is deposited into the Club's administrative account. This is also being done as a recycling project for the District Activities Contest.



CAN TABS

PCS Gail & Lion Kirt are collecting can tabs for Tender Hearts, Inc. Tender Hearts is a 501c3 organization whose mission is to support medically fragile children in order to help provide them with a better quality of life. Please save can tabs and contact Lions Gail and Kirt for drop off. They will make sure that the tabs are delivered to Tender Hearts.



SCOOP DEADLINE:

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 Submit all information to Bulletin Editor at TYLISAJ@aol.com.

PLEASE REFERENCE “SCOOP” in The subject of any mail to make sure that information is not overlooked.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIONS DEN

EMAIL ETIQUETTE REMINDER

**PLEASE USE “REPLY ALL”
SPARINGLY...**



Just a friendly reminder — please avoid using “Reply All” unless your response is intended for the entire group. If your message is meant for one person, please reply directly to that individual.

Thank you for helping keep everyone's inbox manageable!

**Wishing you and your family
a safe and happy holiday season
and all the best in 2026!**

