

The SCOOP

Newsletter of the Claymont, Delaware
Lions Club

February 2026



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:

It's hard to believe that we're already into the month of February. January started out with the Melvin Jones Breakfast, where we celebrated the birthday of Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs International. His personal code was "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else". The members of the Claymont Lions certainly live up to this motto. The Claymont club was well represented with 12 members attending the breakfast.

At our first meeting in January, we had the Peace Poster winners and their families. It's amazing how talented the young artists are who submitted posters. Thanks to Peace Poster Co-chairs, Bill and Drayton Gerety, and their committee, for the great job they did working with the schools to get the posters and presenting the awards to these very deserving students. As part of the dinner meeting, we also had Brandywine School District Superintendent Lisa Lawson, who is a member of our club, discuss the Redding Consortium. I'm sure everyone in attendance found the information she presented very informative.

We were honored to have District Governor Gail Krebs and her Cabinet for the official DG visit at the January 28th dinner meeting. DG Gail spoke about some of the accomplishments of our club and updated us on what was happening at Lions International.

Congratulations to PDG Daniel Marney Elkins who was endorsed by 22D and MD22 to run for International Director from MD22 on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Claymont Lions had

seven delegates who drove to Annapolis to vote at the Special Convention.

Our second Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th. The Pancake Committee has been working hard behind the scenes. Please do what you can to help make the breakfast a successful fundraiser.

Hopefully, this cold spell will end soon, but in the meantime, please be safe and try to stay warm.

Thank you for all you do.
Yours In Lionism
KL Carol

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY LIONS

Happy Birthday to the following Lions born in February:



2/01 Greg Stillwell

2/25 George Ozer

2/29 Don LeCates

Those Lions whose birthdays fall in the 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.

FEBRUARY & MARCH DINNER MEETINGS

Meeting Location: Duffer’s Mills (1600 Naaman’s Creek Road, Garnet Valley, PA). Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost for dinner is \$30 (including tax and tip).

If any Lion or their guest has a dietary restriction, please let Lion Frazier know when you make your reservation so that he can arrange for a special meal that will meet your dietary needs.

Program Chair, Lion Frazier Van Velsor, has scheduled the following speakers for our upcoming dinner meetings. The following speakers are scheduled in February and March.

February 11, 2026

Delaware Special Olympics - Lion Barbara Spence & Athlete

February 25, 2026

Brandywine School District – Communications Officer, Bill O’Hanlon

March 11, 2026

Former Scholarship Recipient – Abby Spor (Dick’s Granddaughter)

March 25 2026

Charter Night

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next **Claymont Lions Club Board of Directors** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Lions Lee & Anita Bird (11 Bellemeade Place, Wilmington).

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.

FEBRUARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The club's second **Pancake Day** of the Lion year is scheduled for **Saturday, February 7th** at the **Claymont Fire Hall** on Philadelphia Pike. **Volunteers** are requested to join us at the Fire Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6th to help set-up.

Tickets are \$7 each and were distributed at the January Dinner Meeting. Tickets for children will be \$3 at the door. If you have not received your tickets, please contact Lion Fran.

Members of the community look forward to our club's Pancake Breakfast. Please plan to attend and cover as many shifts as possible to help make this Pancake Breakfast fundraiser a success.

PANCAKE DAY BAKE TABLE - CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Our Pancake Breakfast wouldn't be complete without the ever-popular **Bake Table**, filled with delicious treats generously donated by our talented Lions and supporters. If you love to bake, we invite you to bring a homemade goodie to share when you come to help—or when you stop by to enjoy breakfast! Your baked donations add extra sweetness to the morning and help make this event a favorite year after year.

LIONS HONOR YOUNG ARTISTS at JANUARY 14, 2026 DINNER MEETING –



Left to right: Lion Bill Gerety, Peace Poster Chair, Adrienne Chapman Runner up, Lion Drayton Gerety, Peace Poster Co-Chair, and King Lion Carol LeCates

Each year, the Lions International Peace Poster Contest invites students to express their vision of peace through art. The theme for the 2025–2026 contest, “Together As One,”



Left to right: Lion Bill Gerety, Peace Poster Chair, Winner Samantha DuRoss, Lion Drayton Gerety, Peace Poster Co-Chair, and King Lion Carol LeCates

encouraged young artists to reflect unity, cooperation, and hope through original artwork.

On Wednesday, January 14, the Claymont Lions Club proudly hosted its Annual Peace Poster Awards Dinner, honoring this year's student participants and their families. Although their instructor, Ms. Julie Navickas of Talley Middle School, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, her impact was evident in the students' exceptional work.

Runner-up honors were awarded to Ms. Adrienne Chapman, who received a memorial plaque and a \$50 award for her thoughtful interpretation of the theme. She was joined by her parents, Nichole and Matt.

First Prize was awarded to Ms. Samantha DuRoss, who received a plaque and a \$100 award. Samantha's poster also won the District-22D contest and missed the Multi-District Award by just one vote. District Governor Gail Krebs presented Samantha with an additional \$100 check in recognition of her District win. Samantha attended with her parents, Robin and Ken, and her brother, AJ.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of youth creativity, family support, and the enduring message of peace shared through art.

Also included was Brandywine School District Superintendent Lisa Lawson, a member of our club, who provided an overview of the Redding Consortium project. The initiative explores consolidating Brandywine, Red Clay, Colonial, and Christina School Districts into a single district serving approximately 50,000 students, with Brandywine representing about 10,000. The discussion highlighted the complexity of the proposal, including potential impacts on communities, labor, students, property taxes, and operational logistics.

A MEMORABLE NIGHT WITH OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR



The January 28th dinner meeting featured the official visitation of District Governor Gail Krebs and her Cabinet. DG Gail shared district updates and recognized the Claymont Lions Club's strong legacy and impact, noting the club's 88 years of service and its sponsorship of the Bellefonte Lions Club, chartered in 2018 and is still active today.

Using data from the Lions Portal, she commended Claymont for serving 8,182 people this year, contributing 929 volunteer hours, and donating more than \$13,700. Claymont was also recognized for its signature Pancake Breakfasts, Christmas tree sales, and consistent reporting to Lions International.

DG Gail highlighted her theme, "*Together We Will Grow and Serve,*" and outlined key goals, including encouraging each club to achieve a net membership gain of two. She

reviewed Lions International’s designated service weeks focusing on Mental Health Awareness, Hunger, and the Environment.

Additional updates included Global Service Team efforts, LCIF giving, and the work of the Delaware Lions Foundation, which continues to support club projects through grants. Claymont has requested foundation grants for the Knollwood basketball court and the Claymont Christmas Parade. The evening concluded with anticipation for Multiple District 22 hosting the 2027 Lions International Convention in Washington, D.C. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the convention, they may reach out to DG Gail directly for more information.



Lion Keith Guzma



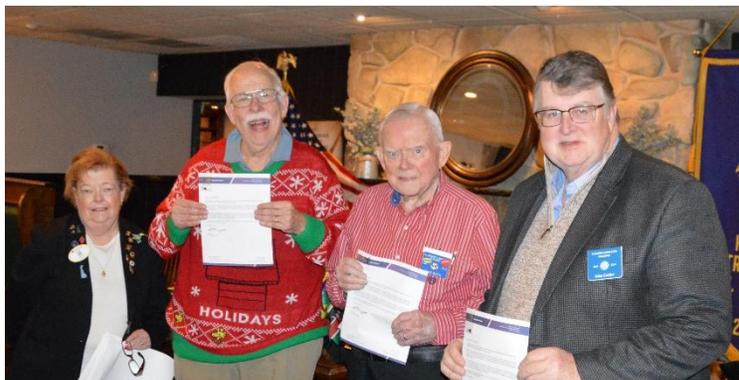
Left to right: Lion Dick Gackenbach, Cabinet Treasurer Gina Daniels and DG Gail Krebs



Left to right: King Lion Carol LeCates, Cabinet Secretary Helen Friend, and Club Secretary Lee Bird



Left to right: Lions Anita Bird and Kirt Krebs



Left to right: DG Gail Krebs, Lions George Reed, Dave Ruth, and John Cartier



Left to right: Lion Dick Gackenbach, DG Gail Krebs, and Lion Lee Bird



MILITARY & VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

The Claymont Lions Club Veterans Affairs Committee is excited to host its 2nd resource fair for military veterans! Please help spread the word to your veteran family and friends! The event will take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A flyer is attached. For more information, please reach out to Lion Nolan Lewis at nlewis2939@yahoo.com or Lion Dick Gackenbach at rgacker@aol.com.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual who has distinguished themselves through unusual service in work-related or volunteer activity within the service area of the Claymont Lions Club. Nominations for the Award are made by Claymont Lions Club members. If you know of an individual who meets the criteria for this Award, please complete the application below and provide the necessary supporting detail. All applications must be received by February 28, 2026.

Committee members are Kim Robbins (Chair), PCT Dick Gackenbach (Co-Chair), First DG Gail Krebs, Nolan Lewis, Bill Moser, and George Ozer. The application is located at the bottom of the newsletter.

DELAWARE LIONS FOUNDATION (DLF) BREAKFAST

The Delaware Lions Foundation's annual breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 21st, at 9:15 a.m. at the Modern Maturity Center. The cost is \$25 per person. We will be registering as a club, and Lion Lee Bird asked for your RSVP by February 16, 2026, if you plan to attend. Please remember to send your \$25 payment to Lion Dick Gackenbach before the event. Further details about this event may be viewed in the December District Bulletin.

MID-WINTER SOCIAL

You and your guests are warmly invited to join us for a fun and relaxed evening as we honor District Governor Gail Krebs. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21st, at 5:00 p.m. at the Felton Fire Hall. This is a fun-filled evening with great food, many door prizes, 50/50 drawing, a DJ, and a silent auction. It's a great chance to honor our District Governor Gail and socialize with many Lions and guests. Dress is casual.

The cost is \$38.00 per person. Lee is collecting the reservations for the Midwinter Social and money goes to Dick.

HOLD THE DATE!

LEADER DOG FOR THE BLIND PROGRAM

The Leader Dog for the Blind Program is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Modern Maturity Center (1121 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE 19904). Additional Details forthcoming.



UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- Delaware Lions Foundation Breakfast – Modern Maturity Center - February 21, 2026
- Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics – Rehoboth Beach - March 1, 2026
- Leader Dog Dinner – Modern Maturity Center - March 19, 2026
- Mid-Winter Social – Felton Fire Hall - March 21, 2026

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

for Club Officers and Board Members for 2026-2027

The Nominations Committee is happy to announce the opportunity for Lions to consider serving in a Club Leadership capacity for the 2026-2027 Lion Year.

As outlined in our bylaws, Article VII, Sections A, B, and D, nominations must be completed in March with a subsequent notice posted. Per our Club's procedure, nominations are posted in the March SCOOP, and the formal nominations meeting is held during the March Dinner Meeting.

Deadline for nominations will be Friday, February 20, 2026. If you are interested in being a nominee, please contact Club Nominations Chairman Lion Keith Guzma at guzminia@yahoo.com. Voting will take place at the first April Dinner Meeting. **The positions available are Director (2), and 3rd Vice President.**

MESSAGE FROM THE LIONS DEN



Happy belated birthday wishes to recently inducted Lion, Jackie Hayman-Carter. Her birthday was January 6th.

Congratulations to Lion Keith Guzma, who was presented with a Presidential Certificate by District Governor Gail Krebs at the January 29, 2026 Cabinet Meeting.





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 most 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 FUND

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.



***NEXT SCOOP DEADLINE:
Saturday, February 28, 2026***

***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.***

Happy 
Valentine’s Day!

CLAYMONT LIONS CLUB HUMANITARIAN AWARD APPLICATION

The Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual who has distinguished themselves through unusual service in work-related or volunteer activity within the service area of the Claymont Lions Club. Nominations for the Award are made by Claymont Lions Club members. If you know of an individual who meets the criteria for this Award, please complete the application below and provide the necessary supporting detail. All applications must be received by the February 28, 2026. Please remember Lions are not eligible for this award.

Committee members are Kim Robbins (Chair), PCT Dick Gackenbach (Co-Chair), First DG Gail Krebs, Nolan Lewis, Bill Moser, and George Ozer.

Organization _____

Individual's Name _____

Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____

On a separate sheet of paper please identify activities/involvements which support your recommendation of this individual for consideration as the 2026 Humanitarian Award recipient. Please provide sufficient information so your candidate may receive full consideration as the committee evaluates all who are recommended.

Applications and supporting documents must be returned to Kim Robbins, 1517 Rockland Rd., Unit #202, Wilmington, DE 19803 or by email at kim.robb202@comcast.net on or before February 28, 2026.

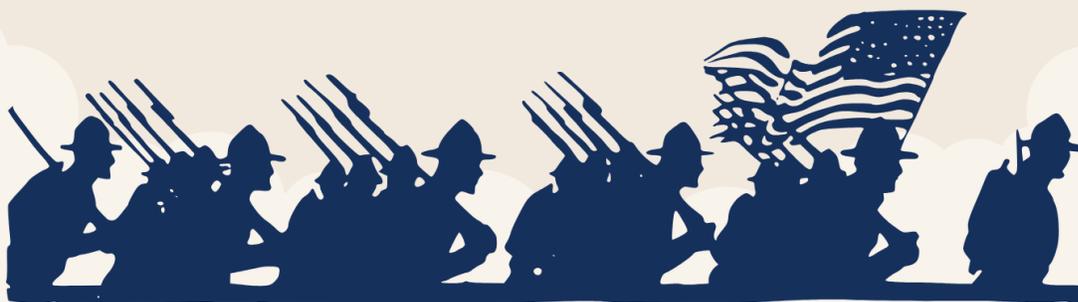




MILITARY & VETERANS

RESOURCE FAIR

MARCH 28, 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM



SPONSORED BY THE CLAYMONT LIONS CLUB

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1120 DARLEY RD. WILMINGTON, DE 19810

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Many groups will be in attendance.

Please contact Lion Nolan Lewis for more information 302-345-6911

