

# The SCOOP

Newsletter of the Claymont, Delaware Lions Club

March 2026



**PROVIDING 88 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:

February was certainly a cold and snowy month. We haven't had weather like this in a long time. Fortunately, the cold weather didn't stop the Claymont Lions Club from doing what we do best – serving.

Our Club was able to help the 85 residents of Harmony at Kent Senior Living Facility in Dover who were displaced and moved to Harmony Hockessin due to a broken water pipe. The club was able to help by providing medical equipment and donating money to buy supplies. Thanks to DG Gail and Lion Kirt Krebs for coordinating this effort.

The club had a very successful second Pancake Breakfast on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Co-Chairs Lions Bob Hershberger and George Ozer and the Pancake Committee for their hard work in planning the breakfast. Thanks also to Lion Fran Hershberger for overseeing the bake table. The breakfast wouldn't have been a success without all of the Lions who showed up to help.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the club was honored to have Lion Barbara Spence and the Special Olympics athlete who shared his experience. On February 25<sup>th</sup> Dr. William O'Hanlon, Communications Officer for Brandywine School District, brought us up to date on what is happening at the Brandywine School District. Thanks to Lion Frazier VanVelsor for the great job he does getting us speakers.

Welcome to the two new members who were inducted as members of our club in February, Lions Dominic and Rita Ferri.

Our Club had a great turnout for the Delaware Lions Foundation (DLF) Breakfast. There were 17 Claymont Lions who attended the DLF breakfast on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Modern Maturity Center.

The District has two upcoming events – Leader Dogs for the Blind on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Mid-Winter Social honoring DG Gail on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please consider signing up for these events.

Thank you for all you do!  
Yours in Lionism  
KL Carol

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH LIONS

*Happy Birthday to the following Lions born in March:*



3/06 Allison David	3/14 Keith Guzma
3/14 George Reid	3/15 Kimberly Lowden
3/20 Drayton Gerety	

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 month, 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.

### MARCH & APRIL 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 March and April.

<b><u>March 11, 2026</u></b>	Former Scholarship Recipient – Abby Spor (Dick's granddaughter)
<b><u>March 25, 2026</u></b>	Claymont Lions Club Charter Night
<b><u>April 8, 2026</u></b>	Humanitarian Award Night

## MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next **Claymont Lions Club Board of Directors** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Weldin House (300 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington). **There is another meeting being held there at the same time. Please carpool since parking spaces are limited.**

**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.



## SPREADING CARE THROUGH HYGIENE KITS

The Claymont Lions Club is proud to share the success of our recent community service project providing essential hygiene kits to our neighbors in need!

- **22 large hygiene kits** — totaling an incredible **33 pounds of essential hygiene products** — were delivered to the Claymont Community Center Marketplace and Garden.
- **25 smaller hygiene kits** — totaling **over 20 pounds of hygiene products** — were delivered to the Knollwood Community Center. Lion Sol Robles and her amazing outreach team will personally hand-deliver the Knollwood hygiene bags door-to-door as part of their outreach initiative, ensuring these much-needed essentials reach individuals and families who need them most.

A heartfelt THANK YOU, from committee co-chairs Betty Lou & Bev Chiffons to everyone who generously donated hygiene products and made this impactful project possible. And special appreciation to King Lion Carol for creating the individual labels for each bag — your thoughtful touch made each one extra special!

We are excited, grateful, and proud to serve our community in such a meaningful way. Together, we truly make a difference!



## CLAYMONT LIONS PACK 1,780 PAIRS OF HOPE

With energy and purpose, the Claymont Lions Club recently gathered, under the leadership of Committee Chair Matt Yoder, to take part in a meaningful hands-on service project — carefully sorting and boxing up an incredible 1,780 pairs of eyeglasses for those in need.

Each pair represents more than clearer vision. It means greater independence, improved learning, better job opportunities, and a brighter future for someone who may not otherwise have access to proper eye care.

The room was filled with teamwork and Lion spirit as members worked side by side to prepare the glasses for distribution. It was a powerful reminder of how even simple acts, when multiplied, create lasting impact.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and heart to make this project such a tremendous success. Because of you, thousands of eyes will see the world more clearly — and that is something to celebrate.



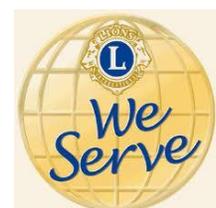
February truly demonstrated the heart of Lionism — service, leadership, growth, and community impact.

## **EVENT DATE CHANGE!!!!**

### **MILITARY & VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR**

The Claymont Lions Club Veterans Affairs Committee is excited to host its 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 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](mailto:nlewis2939@yahoo.com) or Lion Dick Gackenbach at [rgacker@aol.com](mailto:rgacker@aol.com).



**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

**Nominations for Club Officers and Board Members for 2026-2028**

The following are the nominations from the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Meeting will be March 11, 2026. Nominations from the floor can only be made with the nominee's consent.

**Elections for officers will be held April 8, 2026**

- |                                      |                          |                        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>President</u>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nolan S. Lewis         |
| <u>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Donald F. LeCates      |
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Frances E. Hershberger |

- |                                      |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President</u> |                          | <b><u>ONLY VOTE FOR ONE (1)</u></b> |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anita L. Bird                       |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lisa MB Johnson                     |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | James T. Walton                     |

- |                        |                          |                       |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Secretary</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Leland T. Bird        |
| <u>Asst. Secretary</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amanda L. Scarborough |

- |                        |                          |                       |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Treasurer</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Richard S. Gackenbach |
| <u>Asst. Treasurer</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Frazier S. VanVelsor  |

- |                           |                                     |                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Tail Twister</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Thomas L. McDonough       |
| <u>Asst. Tail Twister</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Robert J. Hershberger Jr. |

- |                         |                          |                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Lion Tamer</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | John R. Keim Jr. |
| <u>Asst. Lion Tamer</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | George E. Ozer   |

- |                             |                          |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Immediate Past Pres.</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carol M. LeCates |
| <u>Director (2027)</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anita L. Bird    |
| <u>Director (2027)</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Duncan J. Calder |

- |                         |                          |                                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Directors (2028)</u> |                          | <b><u>ONLY VOTE FOR TWO (2)</u></b> |
|                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kirt A. Krebs                       |
|                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Deborah Mabrota                     |
|                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keith M. Guzma                      |

## FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February was a busy and inspiring month for the Claymont Lions Club, filled with meaningful speakers, important updates, and exciting milestones.

### *FEBRUARY 11, 2026*

#### *Special Olympics Spotlight*

At our February 11th Dinner Meeting, we were honored to welcome Lion Barbara Spence along with a Delaware Special Olympics athlete who shared firsthand experiences participating in Special Olympics. Their heartfelt remarks reminded us of the power of inclusion, perseverance, and community support. It was an inspiring evening that truly reflected the Lions' commitment to service.



L to R: Special Olympics Presenters Student Athlete, Barbara Spence, and King Lion, Carol LeCates



L to R: Lion Matt Yoder and new Lion Dom Ferri. Matt is Dom's sponsor.

### *FEBRUARY 25, 2026*

#### *Strong Schools, Strong Communities*

At our February 25th Dinner Meeting, we welcomed Bill O'Hanlon, Communications Officer for the Brandywine School District. Bill highlighted impressive student and district achievements and proudly noted that Brandywine is home to the **Delaware State Teacher of the Year, Delaware State Principal of the Year, and Delaware State Assistant Principal of the Year** — an extraordinary accomplishment that speaks volumes about the district's leadership and educational excellence.



L to R: Bill O'Hanlan with King Lion Carol

He also shared exciting news that the new “Bush School” will be built on the former Brandywine Country Club property.

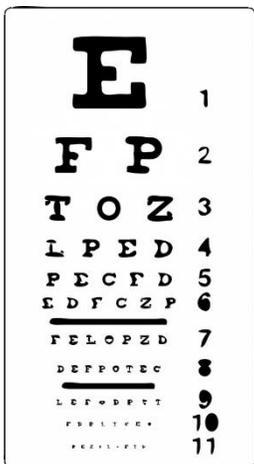
Additionally, he addressed the district’s position regarding the Redding Consortium and the proposed redistricting plan to consolidate school districts in New Castle County. His central message resonated strongly: “*Strong Schools Build Strong Communities.*” He emphasized that communities thrive when schools remain community-based and closely connected to the families they serve.

***New Member Induction***

February was also a special month for membership growth. The Club proudly inducted new member, Rita Ferri, wife of Lion Dominic Ferri, who was inducted at the February 11th meeting. In a meaningful moment, Lion Dom had the honor of pinning Lion Rita — and proudly received his first sponsor pin.



L to R: New Lions Dom and Rita Ferri! Dom was inducted on February 11<sup>th</sup> and proudly sponsored Rita and pinned her at her February 25<sup>th</sup> induction. Welcome to the Pride!



***Upcoming Vision Screening Event***

Vision Screening Committee Co-Chair Bill Gerety announced an upcoming vision screening event on March 18 and 19 at the Brandywine Child Care Center, located at the Claymont Community Center. The Club expects to serve approximately 100 children as part of a larger health screening initiative that will also include dental and hearing screenings.





## SPRING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

### SAVE THE DATE – PRICE INCREASE

A heartfelt **thank you** to all the amazing volunteers who helped make the Winter Pancake Feast held in February a success! – From the Pancake Committee. Please see photos below of the fun had by all!

The next Pancake Feast of the Lion year is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Claymont Fire Hall** on Philadelphia Pike. **ADULT PRICE INCREASE!** Adult cost increases to \$8.00. No change in cost for kids under 10 – Cost will remain \$3.00.



## DELAWARE LIONS FOUNDATION (DLF) BREAKFAST

The Delaware Lions Foundation's annual breakfast was held on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Modern Maturity Center. A great time was had by all.



***CLAYMONT LIONS  
IN  
FULL FORCE!!***



PCC Don LeCates presenting District Governor Gail Krebs with a Diamond Ralph Helm Fellowship



PCC Don LeCates presenting guest speaker Kaliyah Leake with a Bronze Ralph Helm Fellowship.

Guest Speaker Kaliyah Leake and her service dog during her presentation.



# ***CLAYMONT LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 88 YEARS OF SERVICE!***

Sponsored by the Wilmington Lions Club, Claymont was Chartered on March 28, 1938

***CHARTER NIGHT***  
***Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>***

## **Join Us for an Inspiring Evening!**

We are honored to welcome **PCC Ralph Schieferstein** of the Dover Lions Club as our featured speaker for the evening. His leadership, dedication, and passion for Lionism are sure to inspire and energize us all. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history, reflect on our impact, and look ahead to the future of service.

**Dinner cost is \$40 per person**

### **MENU**

**Appetizers:** Shrimp Jammers, Bruschetta, Cocktail Franks

Garden Salad  
Lemon Pepper Salmon  
Roasted Sweet Potatoes

Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Pork Loin  
Mixed Vegetables

Coffee, Decaf or Tea

Dessert - 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake

5:30-6:30 Cocktail hour \* 6:30 Buffet Dinner \* 7:30 Program Begins

### **REMINDERS:**

- Reservations to Frazier no later than March 19, 2026 by 10:00 a.m.
- Checks made payable to the Claymont Lions Club to Dick in advance  
**NO PAYMENTS ACCEPTED CHARTER NIGHT**
- Dress Code: Dressy Casual

Come out and enjoy delicious food, great fellowship, and a memorable celebration as we honor 88 years of service to our community.

## UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- Leader Dog Dinner – Modern Maturity Center - March 19, 2026
- Mid-Winter Social – Felton Fire Hall - March 21, 2026
- AltruVision Dinner – Modern Maturity Center – April 30, 2026

## **MESSAGES FROM THE LIONS DEN**

### Member Phone number Update:

- Lion Dominic F. Gatta - 302-229-4591

### Member Email Updates:

- Lion Christine Griswold – christinegriswoldmse@gmail.com
- Domenic Ferri (New Member) – DAF9923@gmail.com
- Rita Ferri (New Member) – RLF7072@yahoo.com
- Babak Golgolab – bgolgolab@gmail.com

### **CLAYMONT CLUB HATS FOR SALE!!**

\$15 each

Please reach out to Lion Lee Bird if you are interested.





### 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 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.



## **NEXT SCOOP DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, March 31, 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.**

*We Serve — not for recognition, not for  
reward, but because service is the heartbeat  
of who we are.*

*Claymont Lions Club*



# MILITARY & VETERANS

RESOURCE FAIR

**MARCH 27, 2026**  
**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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**SPONSORED BY THE CLAYMONT LIONS CLUB**

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1120 DARLEY RD. WILMINGTON, DE 19810  
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Vets and families: Need to file a claim or enroll in VA healthcare?  
Or just need to learn more about the VA?  
If so, visit our Veterans Resource Fair.



Many groups will be in attendance.



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