

The SCOOP

Newsletter of the Claymont, Delaware Lions Club
June 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:

I can't believe I'm writing my final newsletter for *The Scoop*. It has truly been my privilege to serve as your President, and I want to thank each of you for giving me this opportunity.

In May, we celebrated some remarkable young people. On May 13, we honored our Bigger Vo-Tech students, and on May 27th, we recognized our Outstanding Students at our dinner meeting. My sincere thanks to Lion Randy Keim and the Vo-Tech Committee, and to Lion Amanda Scarborough and the Outstanding Students Committee, for their thoughtful work in selecting the award recipients. I continue to be amazed by these students — not only by their academic achievements, but also by their dedication to service. They are well-deserving honorees, and their accomplishments throughout high school are truly impressive.

May was full of meaningful activity:

- The Pre-School Vision Screening Committee completed eye screenings
- Medical equipment was both delivered and picked up
- A specialized wheelchair was purchased for a community member in need
- Hygiene kits were delivered to the Knollwood Community Center
- Food was picked up for the Claymont Community Center
- Contributions were made to the Lions Vision Research Foundation and DFRC Blue-Gold
- Lion Randy Keim continued his support of the Seaman's Center
- PCT Dick Gackenbach and his committee continued work on the new sign at the Claymont Fire Company Sub-Station
- And the list could go on and on...

Our club was proud to have one of our own members, DG Gail Krebs, serve as District Governor this Lion Year. She served our District well.

The Claymont Lions Club runs like a well-oiled machine because each of you steps up, takes responsibility, and serves with heart. I can't express how much I appreciate your dedication. You make our community — and our world — a better place. You truly exemplify the Lion's Motto "We Serve".

I wish incoming president, Lion Nolan Lewis, and the officers and members all the best in the 2026-2027 Lion Year. Hope you have a great year.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President.

Yours in Lionism,
King Lion Carol



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE LIONS

Happy Birthday to the following Lions born in June:



6/06 Josh Coupe

6/08 Lorraine Santow

6/29 Sandy Pierson

6/06 Nadine Ferguson

6/26 Fran Hershberger

6/30 Tom McDonough

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 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.

CLAYMONT LIONS CLUB – ANNUAL DUES NOTICE - 2026-2027

Claymont Lions Annual Dues Invoices were distributed to all members attending recent dinner meetings. All other invoices were mailed. Dues payments of \$70 are due by July 1, 2026. The Board has approved a late payment penalty of \$10 per month for dues not paid in full by September 1st. Please contact Treasurer, Dick Gackebach, at 484-840-2949 for further information. All payments should be given to Lion Dick and may be mailed to him at 3704 Pimlico Place, Garnet Valley, PA 19060. Please remember to make checks payable to Claymont Lions Club.

JUNE 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 April and May.

June 10, 2026 Alzheimer Foundation

June 24, 2026 Installation of 2026-2027 Officers



JUNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Claymont Lions Club Board of Directors meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** and will be held at PCT Lee & Lion Anita Birds' home at 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 but only Board members vote on items requiring Board action.

Note: Although we do not have dinner meetings, club business continues, and Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of July and August. Locations to be announced.

🎓 CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CLAYMONT LIONS AWARD VO-TECH SCHOLARSHIPS!

The May 13th Dinner Meeting was dedicated to recognizing the outstanding achievements of two exceptional vocational-technical students as the Claymont Lions proudly presented our annual Vo-Tech Scholarships.

Led by Lion Randy Keim, the Scholarship Committee awarded \$4,000 scholarships to two remarkable graduating seniors from Delcastle Technical High School whose academic excellence, leadership, and future potential impressed the selection committee.



L to R: Scholarship recipient Mokshith, Delcastle Guidance Counselor Shannon Beck, and Scholarship recipient Julissa

Mokshith Bharadwaj graduated with an outstanding 4.22 GPA. He plans to attend the University of Delaware, where he will pursue a degree in Cyber Security Engineering.

Julissa Segura-Maldonado graduated with a 4.20 GPA. She plans to continue her education at the University of Delaware, pursuing studies in Engineering and Nursing.

Both students distinguished themselves through their impressive academic records, ranking 4th & 5th in their class of 276 students (it was kept secret who earned which honor 😊), resumes, and letters of recommendation, demonstrating the dedication and determination that will undoubtedly serve them well in the future.

The evening became even more special when both scholarship recipients completed membership applications and will soon become the newest members of the Claymont Lions Club! We are thrilled to welcome these talented young leaders into our Lions family and look forward to supporting their continued growth and service.

Congratulations, Mokshith and Julissa! Your hard work, perseverance, dedication to service to your community, and academic achievements have earned this well-deserved recognition, and we can't wait to see all that you accomplish in the years ahead.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize several Lions for their exceptional dedication and contributions. Immediate Past President Lion Keith Guzma was presented with the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, one of the highest honors in Lionism, in recognition of his outstanding service and leadership.

In addition, King Lion Carol LeCates and Lion Lisa MB Johnson received Delaware Lions Foundation (DLF) Membership Upgrades from District Governor Gail Krebs in appreciation of their service and commitment as members of her district team throughout the year.

From investing in the future through scholarships to honoring excellence in service, it was truly a memorable evening celebrating the best of what it means to be a Lion!



Del Castle HS Scholar, Mokshith, with Bigger Scholarship Committee member, Lion John Cartier



Del Castle HS Scholar, Julissa (middle), with Bigger Scholarship Committee Member, Lion Lisa MB Johnson, and Committee Chair, Lion Randy Keim



IPP Keith Guzma and PCC Don LeCates posing for a photo after Lion Keith was presented with the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award!



L to R: Lion Lisa, DG Gail, and King Lion Carol



CLAYMONT LIONS HELP FAMILIES

FOCUS ON HEALTHY VISION!

On May 20, the Claymont Lions Club partnered with the Bellefonte Lions Club and the Division for the Visually Impaired to support Healthy Family Vision Night at the Delaware Children's Museum in celebration of Healthy Vision Month.

The event provided families with health education, community resources, museum activities, and free vision screenings. Lions volunteers conducted four eye screenings, resulting in two referrals for additional eye care services. One individual was identified as needing assistance with an eye exam and eyeglasses.

A special highlight of the evening was a visit from guide dog puppies in training, which delighted children and adults alike.

The event also generated interest from two organizations seeking future childcare vision screenings, creating new opportunities for Lions service.

Representing Claymont Lions were Lions Nolan Lewis, Lisa MB Johnson, Lorraine Santow, and Deb Maybroda. Lion Nick Imburgia represented the Bellefonte Lions Club. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make this event a success as we continue supporting vision health in our communities.





CELEBRATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: CLAYMONT LIONS AWARD OUTSTANDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Claymont Lions Club proudly dedicated its May 27th Dinner Meeting to recognizing three of this year's four Outstanding Student Award recipients. With an impressive pool of highly accomplished applicants, the Outstanding Student Committee faced the difficult task of selecting just four students to receive a \$2,000 scholarship toward their college education.

This year's honorees represent the very best of academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

Luca Anerino, a graduate of Archmere Academy with an outstanding 4.09 GPA, plans to attend either Saint Joseph's University or Wake Forest University. Luca will major in Finance and Accounting with the goal of helping individuals and families make sound financial decisions and build stronger futures.

Gavin Jefferson, a graduate of Wilmington Friends School with a remarkable 4.02 GPA, plans to attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy. His career goal is to earn his Mariner Credentials and become a River Pilot at the Port of Wilmington, guiding vessels safely through our region's waterways.

Michael Walsh, a graduate of Salesianum High School with a 3.58 GPA, plans to attend Washington College, where he will pursue his dream of becoming a history teacher and coach, inspiring future generations both in the classroom and on the field.

Beyond their academic accomplishments, these students distinguished themselves through their commitment to serving others. Their involvement in school, community, and volunteer activities reflects the Lions' spirit of service and demonstrates a desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Each of these outstanding young men has demonstrated dedication, perseverance, leadership, and a commitment to community service. Their achievements today are just the beginning of what promises to be bright and impactful futures.

The Claymont Lions Club is honored to invest in the education and success of these exceptional students. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Luca, Gavin, and Michael and look forward to following their journeys and celebrating their future accomplishments.

A special thank-you goes to the Outstanding Student Committee and its Co-Chairs for their thoughtful work and dedication in recognizing the extraordinary talent within our community. Through programs like these, Lions continue to make a lasting difference—one student, one scholarship, and one future at a time.



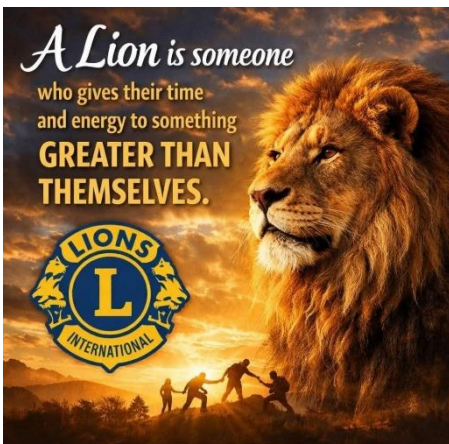
***L to R: Award recipient Gavin with
Presenter and Committee Member
Lion Dave Ruth***

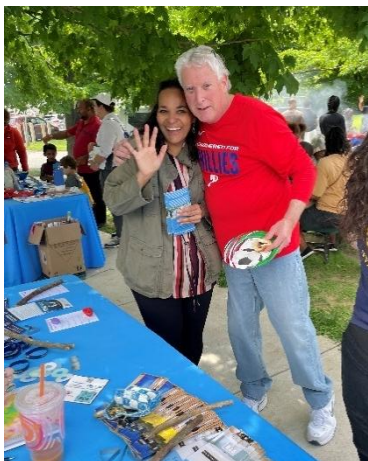


***L to R: Award recipient Luca with
Presenter and Committee Member
Lion Duncan Calder***



***L to R: Award recipient Michael with
Presenter and Committee Member
Lion Lisa MB Johnson***





HYGIENE COMMITTEE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Hygiene Committee has been busy this month working to meet a growing community need. Although obtaining donations and personal care items has become more challenging, we are grateful for everyone who continues to support this important effort.

Through donations and purchases, the committee assembled 25 hygiene kits filled with essential items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste.

At Knollwood Community Day on May 30, Lions Betty Lou and Tom distributed 15 hygiene kits within the first 30 minutes. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with residents expressing gratitude for assistance with everyday personal care items.

Special thanks to Lion Sol Robles, Lion Tom McDonough, and the Knollwood Board Members for their partnership and warm welcome. The success of this outreach effort reminds us that even small acts of service can make a big difference in our community.



LIONS CLUB ANNUAL BARBECUE AT THE PARK!!

Wednesday, August 5th, 5:30 p.m.

(Rain Date: August 6)

LOCATION: Fox Point State Park

Join us for our ANNUAL CLUB BBQ/Dinner Meeting at the picturesque Fox Point State Park, located on Lighthouse Road, Wilmington, DE. This is a State Park, so please be prepared to pay an entrance fee: \$4 for in-state; \$8 for out of state. No Fee if you have an Annual Park Pass. Additional Information is forthcoming.



CLAYMONT LIONS ROAR AT THE MD-22 CONVENTION!

The Multiple District 22 (MD-22) Convention was held May 14–17 at the beautiful Ashore Resort & Beach Club in Ocean City, Maryland, bringing Lions together for leadership, fellowship, learning, and celebration.

A highlight of the weekend was the banquet address by Past International President Douglas X. Alexander of Brooklyn, New York. As the first and only African American to serve as International President of Lions Clubs International, PIP Doug shared inspiring stories from his Lion journey and emphasized the importance of developing new leaders. His message was clear: strong clubs grow when members are engaged, empowered, and given meaningful opportunities to lead and serve.

The convention was packed with memorable events, including the golf tournament, business meetings, district luncheon, elections, and fellowship activities. One of the most moving moments was the elegant Memorial Service honoring Lions who passed away during the year. Our own Lion Brad Youtz was recognized during the Roll Call of Departed Lions. For first-time attendees, the service was both meaningful and unforgettable.

Claymont Lions were proudly represented by DG Gail Krebs, Lion Kirt Krebs, PCC Don LeCates, King Lion Carol LeCates, PCT Lee Bird, Lion Anita Bird, Lion Randy Keim, Lion Nolan Lewis, Lion Lisa MB Johnson, Lion Fran Hershberger, and Lion Bob Hershberger. A special congratulations to Lion Gail Krebs on her outstanding year as District Governor for Lions Year 2025-2026. Her leadership and dedication have made us all proud!

The countdown to next year's convention has already begun—we hope to see even more Claymont Lions there!



District Governor Gail Krebs and her Cabinet with District Governor-Elect Dr. Esosa Iriowen and his incoming Cabinet. Pictured (L–R): DG Gail Krebs, Dr. Esosa, Helen Friend, Erin Wiener, Gina Daniels, Marc Wiener, and Dan Stenchever.



Lion Lisa MB Johnson, Melvin Jones Fellow, beside a portrait of Founder, Melvin Jones

CONVENTION SHENANIGANS!



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

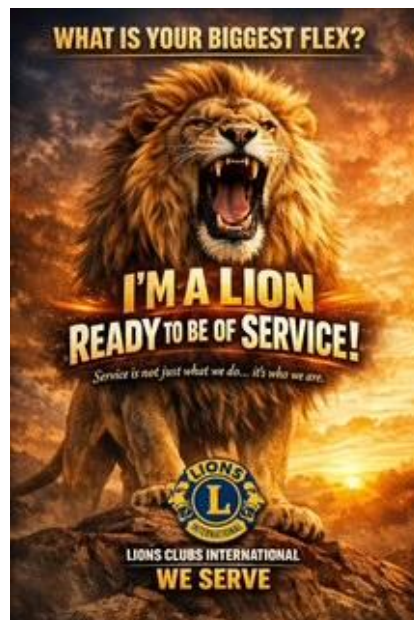
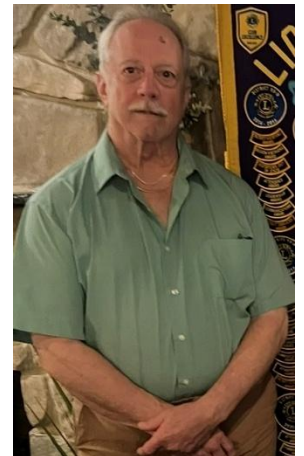
UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- Officer Training (DE Forum) – Delaware State – June 6, 2026
- Special Olympics Summer Game – June 12-13, 2026
- Opening Eyes – June 12-13, 2026

NEWS FROM THE LIONS DEN

THE LION BEHIND THE LENS IS READY FOR VISITORS!

As many of you know, our favorite photographer, **Lion Kirt**, underwent neck surgery on May 18. We're happy to report that he's feeling much better and is finally up for some company! If you'd like to stop by and brighten his day, just give DG Gail and Kirt a call at 302-477-1271 to arrange a visit. We know the man who captures so many of our memories would love to see some familiar faces!





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 members 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 FUND

PCS Gail & Lion Kirt are collecting empty computer Ink Cartridges. Please save your cartridges and contact them to arrange to drop 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

Lion Lisa, 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

Lisa, Gail and/or Kirt for drop off. We will make sure that the tabs are delivered to Tender Hearts.



NEXT SCOOP DEADLINE:

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Submit all information to Bulletin

Editor at TYLISAJ@aol.com.

PLEASE REFERENCE "SCOOP" in the subject of any email to make sure that information is not overlooked.

