

The SCOOP

Newsletter of the Claymont,
Delaware Lions Club
May 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,

I can't believe it's already May. It's wonderful to see the arrival of nice weather and to spend more time outdoors with friends and family.

Our Program Chair, Lion Frazier Van Velsor, arranged for the Claymont Fire Company to demonstrate the LUCAS chest compression device. This presentation highlighted how the device benefits patients and enables first responders to perform their duties more efficiently. The Claymont Lions Club contributed funds to help purchase this life-saving equipment, and it was inspiring to see the direct result of our fundraising efforts. Thank you also to PCC Don LeCates for providing an update on the Delaware Lions Foundation (DLF) and the positive impact DLF continues to have on our club's service work.

Congratulations to the Pancake Committee Co-chairs, Lions Bob Hershberger and George Ozer, as well as all the Lions who participated and helped make our last Pancake Breakfast of the Lion Year a tremendous success.

Our Preschool Vision Screening Chair, Lion Bill Gerety, and his committee were busy at the end of April conducting a vision screening. This important effort makes a significant difference in the lives of the children we serve.

The White Cane Fundraiser has just concluded. Congratulations to Lion Frazier and everyone who took part in this very successful fundraiser.

I am looking forward to our May dinner meetings, where we will celebrate our Bigger Award Scholarship recipients at our first dinner meeting and our Outstanding Students Scholarship recipients at the second dinner meeting. It is always inspiring to witness the accomplishments of these students during their high school years. I'm also looking forward to the MD 22 Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, this month.

Thank you for all that you do!

Happy Mother's Day to All the Moms, and Happy Memorial Day!

KL Carol



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY LIONS

Happy Birthday to the following Lions born in May:



5/05 Christine Baker	5/11 Dave Ruth
5/12 Steve Hallsted	5/12 Sylvia Reid
5/13 Gail Williams	5/16 Julian Calder
5/20 Gail Krebs	5/20 Sol Robles
5/25 Adrienne Viguera	5/27 Elaine Hallsted
5/30 Christine Griswold	

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.



MAY & 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.

May 13, 2026	Vo-Tech Scholarship Night
May 27, 2026	College Scholarship Night
June 10, 2026	Alzheimer Foundation
June 24, 2026	Installation of 2026-2027 Officers

A NIGHT OF SERVICE AND CELEBRATION



*Humanitarian Award Recipient,
Carolyn Lewis, DG Gail Krebs, and
King Lion Carol LeCates*

The Claymont Lions Club April 8th dinner meeting was a meaningful evening of recognition, leadership, and inspiration as members and guests gathered to honor service and elect officers for the 2026–2027 Lion year.

The highlight of the evening was celebrating Carolyn Lewis as the 2026 Humanitarian Award recipient. Introduced by PCC Don

LeCates, Carolyn was recognized for over 25 years of dedicated service. Although not a member of the Claymont Lions Club, Carolyn has volunteered tirelessly and consistently alongside Claymont Lions for many years—supporting pancake breakfasts and White Cane Days and always stepping in wherever help is needed. Her additional service includes volunteering with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, contributing her time at Bellevue State Park, supporting Samaritan's Purse, and giving generously to organizations



*L to R: Lion Kim Robbins, Carolyn
Lewis, and PCC Don LeCates*

such as Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Wounded Veterans, and the American Heart Association. Her unwavering commitment to service truly makes her deserve this honor.

Service awards were also presented to outstanding members:

- **Ted Reiver Fellow** – Lion Andy Shackelford
- **Melvin Jones Fellows** – Lions Betty Lou Chiffons, Beverly Chiffons, and Bob Schlosberg



L to R: PCC Don LeCates and Lion Andy Shackelford



L to R: Lion Lee Bird, Lion Bob Schlosberg, and PCT Dick Gackenbach



L to R: Lion Lee Bird, Lions Beverly and Betty Lou, and PCT Dick Gackenbach

The program concluded with remarks from Vice District Governor Esosa Iriowen of the Dover Lions Club, who shared priorities for the coming year, including membership growth, retention, and leadership development. He also recognized Claymont Lions Amanda Scarborough (Zone Chair) and Lisa MB Johnson (District Bulletin Editor) for their roles on his team.

An inspiring evening celebrating service, leadership, and the continued impact of Lions in our community.



MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Claymont Lions Club Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of PCC Don & King Lion Carol LeCates.

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.



POWERING LIFESAVING INNOVATION: LIONS SUPPORT THE LUCAS DEVICE

The April 22, 2026 dinner meeting brought members up close to a powerful example of service in action at the Claymont Fire Company.

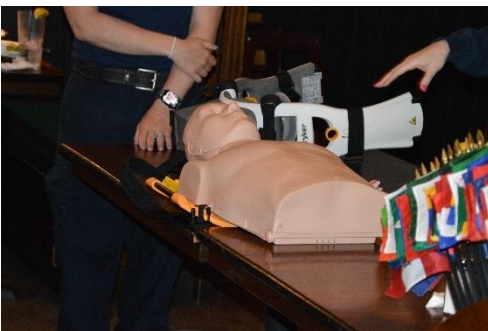


Fire Company representatives delivered an engaging and eye-opening demonstration of the LUCAS Chest Compression System – a state-of-the-art, battery-powered device designed to deliver consistent, high-quality chest compressions during cardiac emergencies. Unlike manual CPR, the LUCAS device provides uninterrupted compressions at the optimal depth and rate, helping improve blood circulation to vital organs when every second counts.

Members learned how this innovative technology not only increases a patient's chances of survival but also allows first responders to focus on other critical, life-saving tasks during emergencies. In high-pressure situations, the device reduces physical strain on responders while maintaining precision and efficiency.

What made the evening especially meaningful was knowing that the Claymont Lions Club played a role in making this possible. Through dedicated fundraising efforts, the Club helped support the purchase of this life-saving equipment—turning service into real, measurable impact for the community.

It was an inspiring reminder that when Lions serve, lives are truly saved.



Bright Futures Begin with Clear Vision

On April 29th, the Claymont Lions Club conducted a preschool vision screening at Little Folks Too, helping ensure young learners are set up for success.

A total of 14 children were screened, with 3 referrals identified for follow-up care—an important step in catching vision issues early when they can make the greatest impact.

Led by Preschool Vision Screening Chair Lion Bill Gerety and his dedicated committee, this effort reflects the Lions' ongoing commitment to serving the community. Their work continues to make a meaningful difference—one child, one screening, and one brighter future at a time.



L to R: Lion Lorraine Santow and Lion Betty Lou Chiffons, Krystal Pugh, Owner and Director of Little Folks Too, and Lions Bill and Drayton Gerety



Flipping for a Cause: Another Pancake Breakfast Success!

The last Pancake Breakfast for the year was held on April 18th at the Claymont Fire Company, and was another delicious success! This beloved community tradition brought out 435 guests for great food, fellowship, and service.

The 50/50 raffle added even more excitement to the morning, with winners generously giving back a portion of their winnings—a true reflection of the giving spirit that defines our community.

A heartfelt thank you to all who volunteered, contributed, and attended. Special appreciation goes to Pancake Chairs Bob and George for their outstanding leadership in making the event run so smoothly. If you still have ticket money to submit, please forward it to Lion Dick.

Save the Dates for Our Next Pancake Breakfasts:

- October 24, 2026
- February 27, 2027
- April 17, 2027

We can't wait to see you at the next one—come hungry and ready to support a great cause!

LIONS CLUB ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ!!

Join the Claymont Lions Club for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

DATE: August 5, 2026

(Rain Date: August 6)

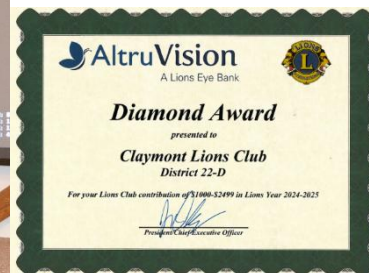
LOCATION: Fox Point State Park

More details coming soon—we hope to see you there!



CLAYMONT LIONS ATTEND ALTRUVISION SIGHT NIGHT

👁️ **Lions Sight Night: Restoring Vision, Changing Lives** 👁️



*L to R: Lions Amanda Scarborough, King Lion Carol LeCates, Kirt Krebs, Lisa MB Johnson, PDG Don LeCates, Glenn Willians, and Gail Williams
Seated L to R: DG Gail Krebs and Lion Fran Hershberger & Lions Duncan Posing down front!*

Members of the Claymont Lions Club joined fellow Lions on April 30th for an inspiring evening at the Modern Maturity Center for the AltruVision – A Lions Eye Bank Delaware *Sight Night* Program. Founded in 1957 by local Lions Clubs, AltruVision has transformed lives across Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey—providing more than 53,000 cornea transplants and supporting approximately 1,400 surgeries each year. Attendees gained valuable insight into the importance of corneal donation, learning that the cornea—the clear front surface of the eye—is the most commonly transplanted tissue. Even more remarkable: anyone can be a donor, regardless of age, vision, or blood type, and there is currently no waiting list for corneas in the United States.

The evening, a program started by Lion Jim Minnich in 2000, was both educational and deeply moving. Guest speaker Ted Fiala shared the heartfelt story of his late wife, Marlene, whose legacy lives on through organ donation. Following her passing in 2023, two individuals received the gift of sight through her corneas, while many others benefited from tissue donations—an extraordinary testament to her generosity and compassion.

The program also included recognition of outstanding Lions through awards such as 100% Club honors, Diamond, Ambassador, Sight Seeker, Gene Polgar Fellowships, and Silver Awards. In a proud moment, it was also shared that the dedicated staff of AltruVision has now formed their own Lions Club—continuing the mission of service in a powerful new way.

An unforgettable evening of learning, reflection, and inspiration—reminding us all that through service and generosity, Lions truly help others see a brighter world.



GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY: WHITE CANE DAYS EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS!

This year's White Cane Days campaign not only met expectations—it surpassed them. After a slow start on Thursday, donations surged, bringing in an impressive \$3,050 over three days—exceeding the \$2,500 goal by 22%!

We were fortunate to enjoy beautiful weather, but the real difference came from our generous community supporters and dedicated volunteers. As Lion Tom McDonough often reminds us, *“Without our supporters, we can't do what we do”*—and this year proved just how true that is.

A heartfelt thank you to our valued partners: Branmar ACME, Dunkin', Branmar Action Hardware, and Food Lion for hosting us.

Success is always powered by people—26 Lions stepped up to volunteer, many covering multiple shifts and going above and beyond to ensure every collection point was staffed and every donation counted. THANK YOU Lions Randy Keim, Lee Bird, Jim Dooley, Lorraine Wirt, Kim Robbins, Sandy Pierson, Duncan Calder, Keith Guzma, Bill Cole, and Andy Shackleford. Lions Bob Schlosberg, George Ozer, and Lee Bird had double duty i.e. filling a shift or two and collecting donations after each shift. Lion Bill Gerety also collected donations after each shift. Let's also not forget those Lions who were able to fill one shift including Lions Christine Baker, KL Carol LeCates, Lorraine Santow, Christine Griswold, Domenic Ferri, Deb Maybroda, Beverly Chiffons, Fran Hershberger, Bob Hershberger, April Lindsey and awesome Tom McDonough.



Special appreciation goes to Treasurer Lion Dick Gackenbach for managing the tally, and to our 2026 Humanitarian Award recipient, Carolyn Lewis, who generously filled an outstanding seven shifts!



White Cane Days is more than a fundraiser—it's a reflection of service, teamwork, and the strong connection between Lions and the community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this campaign a resounding success!

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- 22-D Convention & Elections May 14-17, 2026
- DLF Board Meeting – Grotto's Dover - May 26, 2026
- Officer Training (DE Forum) – Delaware State – June 6, 2026
- Special Olympics Summer Game – June 12-13, 2026
- Opening Eyes – June 12-13, 2026

FUN FROM THE LIONS DEN

WHAT TYPE OF LION ARE YOU?



Courtesy of the Greater Greenfield Lions Club (Greenfield, Wisconsin). They have a wonderful Facebook presence, and I have a bunch of these I plan to share throughout the year!!!



Club officer elections were held at our April 8, 2026 Dinner Meeting. Congratulations to our 2026–2027 Officers and Board—wishing you a successful term!

Election Results Club Officers and Board Members for 2026-2027

President	Nolan S. Lewis
1 st Vice President	Donald F. LeCates
2 nd Vice President	Frances E. Hershberger
3 rd Vice President	Lisa MB Johnson
Secretary	Leland T. Bird
Asst. Secretary	Amanda L. Scarborough
Treasurer	Richard S. Gackenbach
Asst. Treasurer	Frazier S. VanVelsor
Tail Twister	Thomas L. McDonough
Asst. Tail Twister	Robert J. Hershberger Jr.
Lion Tamer	John R. Keim Jr.
Asst. Lion Tamer	George E. Ozer
Immediate Past Pres.	Carol M. LeCates
Director 1yr (2027)	Anita L. Bird
Director 1yr (2027)	Duncan J. Calder
Director 2yr (2028)	Debbie Maybroda
Director 2yr (2028)	Keith M. Guzma



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 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

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:

Friday, May 29, 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.

