



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 26, 2024

Program

President Lion Chris Brooks introduced our speaker, our own 1st Vice-District Governor Lion Craig Gadow.



Lion Craig Gadow talks about his trip to the Leader Dogs for the Blind Center, as Lion Brooks appears to doze off.

Before his main subject, Lion Craig touched on some of the accomplishments of the first Lions District Cabinet meeting in which Lion Barry Willingham was announced as its new Treasurer. Business was managed in short order. The District's next meeting will be in Scottsboro. Lion Craig also announced that the very large \$\$ anticipated grant from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) had final approval for the North Alabama Agriplex. This grant matched funds from our Club as well as from individuals from our Club, out of their own pockets.

When Lion Craig visited the Leader Dog for the Blind Center, near Detroit, Michigan, he expected to just see dogs in training. However, most of this center involves training blind people to function after losing their sight. He told the

story of two gentlemen who had lost their eyesight and were on the verge of suicide because they felt totally lost and useless as human beings. One of them told that he went to the Center for a week and learned to use a white cane, getting his confidence back. He was told that he was a candidate for getting a dog and to come back in 30 days. He then trained using a leader dog and has one today. These dogs are incredibly intelligent, able to learn to tell people by name after one meeting, to respond to practically any situation to keep their owner safe, and to be a helpmate in day-to-day living. Whenever these dogs are wearing a leash, they are leader dogs; when they take the leash off, they are pets. The way that the Center gets dogs to become Leader Dogs is by getting volunteers to train puppies for about 8 months and teach them basic skills, such as sit and stay. Then these young dogs are taken back to the Center to begin their Leader Dog training. Lion Craig said it was hard to get initial trainers because people get attached to the dogs and then they have to bring the dogs back; then they have to start over again with a new puppy. One group of citizens that has been a good source of initial trainers has been people in prison. This has been a win-win-win for the dogs, the prisoners, and the Center.

The Center was actually started by Lions. It costs around \$100,000 for each trained leader dog, which is provided free to qualifying clients. The Center's funding comes from grants, Lions Clubs, estate wills, but is not tied to anything State or Federal. He stated that 1.3M people in the US are legally blind and 75,000 people become blind or visually impaired each year. The Leader Dog Center's mission is "to empower people who are blind and mentally impaired with long life skills for safe and



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independent daily traveling.” It trains teens, starting at age 16, and adults. It runs a 1-week summer camp for teens. It will fly a client to its location, provide room and board for a week, and evaluate the client as a future recipient of a leader dog – all for free. It teaches clients, one-on-one, to use stairs, sidewalks, cross streets, and to walk on a trail and different terrain. This training really gives them greatly improved independence. Lion Craig brought with him a check from our Club which will covers all costs for one individual for one week’s training at the Center.

Lion Craig also had a slide show and a movie about the Leader Dog Center. He provided a very interesting and emotionally moving presentation. He did say that his trip was eye-opening.



Good turn-out tonight for Lion Craig’s presentation.

Other Business

Lion President Brooks got a phone call from Lion Ron Seybolt who reported that he has been in much pain this week due to his recently diagnosed stomach cancer. Keep him in your prayers. Lion Steve Murphree reported that Lion

Wendell Copeland and had covid. It was also reported that Lion Javon Daniel’s wife has covid.

Tail Twister Richard Gurley had Lions Riley Smith and Dwayne Wilson come forward to compete for prizes, competing by answering questions about Labor Day, which became a National holiday in 1894. Lion Dwayne performed better, but both Lions received a nominal award of candy.

Lion Jerry Smith reported that the Good Samaritan Clinic would be sponsoring a fund-raising campaign dinner on Sept. 26th at Cotton Creek and will be providing a table for the Lions. The meal will include steak and shrimp followed by a live auction. If you wish to go, respond by Sept. 12th to President Lion Chris Brooks. Lion Brooks added that our Club is a Platinum Sponsor, and we have a Lions’ table for the event (8 seats, likely more) will be available for free to our Club; he says that he will have a Good Samaritan flyer with a QR code to allow you to reserve a spot. We also received a thank-you note from the Clinic.

Lion Chris read an invitation from the Farm-City organization which is having a Proclamation Breakfast at Alabama Farm Credit on October 12 to which Lions are invited. And Lion Chris also noted that he has tickets for the annual Farm-City Banquet on November 21st at Loft 212.

Lion Delane Ray’s brother, Danny, was a guest with us tonight.

Lion Frank Odell announced the start of a new series of round-table classes for new Lions, which provides insight, explaining the working of our Club. Lion Steve Murphree was to be the main speaker, discussing special Club functions.



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President Lion Brooks announced years of service anniversaries for the following Lions: Declan Yearwood –1, Steve Rodgers – 2, Delane Ray – 4, Gorden Boyd – 31, Steve Murphree – 32 years.

Upcoming Programs and Events

September 2: No meeting for Labor Day holiday.

September 9: TBD

September 26: Good Samaritan Dinner at Cotton Creek. See Lion Brooks for ticket info.

See page 4 for initial Fair Assignments and page 5 for Committee Assignments.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).



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FAIR WORK ASSIGNMENTS 2024

A AG EXHIBITS		E GATES		H PARKING	
1 Mitchell, Brad		1 Scott, Tim		1 Roberts, Samuel	
2 Murphree, Steve	+Gates	2 Willingham, Barry		2 White, Richard	
3 Krigbaum, George		3 Byrd, Jeff		3 Aker, Adam	
4 Osborne, Fred		4 Doggett, Douglas	+Ind Ex	4 Clay, Claude	
5 Spradlin, Doug		6 Earnest, Michael		5 Crocker, Champ	
6		7 Frost, Tyler Jordan		6 Duke, Kelly	
		8 Gadow, Craig		7 Fromhold, Michael	
B BARN		9 Galin, Jerry		8 Hogue, Matthew	
1 Kraft, Randy		10 Gambrill, Chad		9 Gentry, Matt	+Security
2 Smith, Riley		11 Gudger, Garlan		10 Jackson, Quin	
3 Brooks, Chris		12 Hogeland, Ginger		11 James, Patrick	
4 Ponder, Mike		13 Horton, Jimmy		12 Lawson, Jeff	+Security
5 Ray, Delane		14 Howard, James		13 Mangum, Mike	
6 Slaten, Terry		15 Jacobs, Woody		14 Manning, Andrew	
		16 Murphree, Steve	+Ag Ex	15 McSwain, Steven	
C CONCESSIONS		17 Peek, Rickey		16 Parrish, Milford	
1 Bussman, David		18 Pfeifer, Tom		17 Peacock, David	
2 Gurley, Richard		19 Rodgers, Steve		18 Ponder, Eric	
3 Cartee, Steve	+Theater	20 Scott, Don		19 Presto, Patrick	
4 Goodwin, David		21 Smith, Jerry		20 Ray, Joshua	
5 Odell, Frank		22 Sumner, Dewayne		21 Rainwater, Clark	
6 Pinion, James		23 Twilley, Dean		22 Spaeth, Brian	
7 Roden, Tyler		24 Waldrep, Bo		23 Yearwood, Declan	
8 Starosta, Scott		25 Walker, Alan			
9 Tielking, Jason		26 Wilhite, Terry		I Security	
10 Wiggins, David		27 Williams, Raymond		1 Gentry, Matt	+ Parking
11 Williams, Jeff		28 Wren, Jeffrey		2 Lawson, Jeff	+ Parking
D OFFICE		F THEATER		J INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS	
1 Bonner, Jerry	+ Mainten	1 Robinson, Chris		1 Berse, Dennis	
2 Wilt, Bill		2 Childers, Charles		2 Berse, Shannon	
3 Seybold, Ronald		3 Boozer, Bryan		3 Copeland, Wendell	
4 Smith, Don		4 Cartee, Steve	+Concessi	4 Doggett, Douglas	
5 Thompson, Carey		5 Daniel, Javon		5 Gratz, Dave	
		6 Floyd, Chad		6 Green, Cleve	
				7 Mangum, Morris	
		G MAINTENANCE		8 Murphree, Gary	
		1 Ruehl, Bill		9 Perry, Howard	
		2 Powell, Charles		10 Speakman, Lummie	
		3 Wilson, Dewayne		11 Williams, Doug	
		4 Wilt, Bill	+Office	12 Williams, James	



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Club Committee Assignments

President Chris Brooks							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Nominating	Steve Murphree	Morris Magnum	Dewayne Wilson				
Club History	Dennis Berse	Charlie Powell	Javon Daniel	Dewayne Wilson	Ron Seybold	Scott Starosta	
Explore	Jerry Bonner	David Bussman	Raymond Williams	Fred Osborne	Delane Ray	Craig Gadow	Steve Cartee
1st VP Delane Ray							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member			
Diabetes	Milford Parrish	George Krigbaum	David Peacock	Javon Daniel			
Fair Concessions	David Bussman	Richard Gurley	Judy Smith				
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Brian Spaeth	Jerry Bonner				
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	David Peacock	Jason Tielking				
Membership	George Krigbaum	Javon Daniel	Frank Odell				
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Kraft	Chris Robinson				
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	Chris Robinson				
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee					
2nd VP Jeff Lawson							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Area Lion's Liason	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee					
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
3rd VP David Wiggins							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Tail Twister	Richard Gurley	Richard White					
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham					
Branch Club Liaison	Ron Seybold	Jeff Lawson					
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
Communications & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
New- Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum					