



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

March 10, 2025.

### Program

Lion Charlie Childers introduced our speaker, Ms. Elena Caudle with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD). Accompanying Elena was her own therapy dog, Jake, and Ms. Paula Kretzchmar, also a member of ATD, along with her therapy dog.



**This dog can give you therapy, whether you want it or not. Lion Charlie Childers backs his chair up as Ms. Elena Caudle talks about therapy dogs. Lion Charlie's wife, Cindy, is in the background and was a visitor, tonight.**

When Elena first got up to speak, her dog thought it was time for therapy and arose to start greeting our Club members. He was very persuasive and friendly but settled down as Elena called him back. Elena, who is a dog trainer, met Paula about 24 years ago at one of her training classes and became associated with ATD, thereafter. Both she and Paula are certified through ATD, which requires several hours of testing for both dogs and their owners. She had talked about therapy dogs to the Club several years ago when her Uncles, Lions Tom & Jerry Caudle were in the Club. Her first ventures into dog therapy work involved visits to local nursing homes.

Ms. Caudle explained that “therapy dogs” do not require the higher level of training that “service dogs” are required to have. Therapy dogs teams provide therapy in many settings, including, but not limited to, airports, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehab facilities, mental health institutions, schools, hospitals, cancer centers, hospice facilities, college campuses, and can also provide therapy in patients’ homes.

However, they are not allowed to ride on public transportation such as airlines, although “service dogs” are allowed in such places. ATD provides testing, certification, registration, support, and insurance for members who volunteer with their dogs in animal-assisted activities. Its objective is to form a network of caring individuals and their special dogs who are willing to share smiles and joy with people, young and old alike. ATD looks for well-mannered, well-behaved dogs that enjoy meeting people. Although ATD does not require specific training, it does require that the dogs with their owners pass a number of temperament tests. Generally, a good therapy dog should be at least one year old, be friendly with people and other animals, obey their handler by following simple commands, and not continually pull on the leash or jump on others. All dogs evaluated for ATD’s certification must be up-to-date on vaccines and have a negative fecal exam in the last year.

In order to become a certified therapy dog member, the dog owner must agree to a background check; find a volunteer tester/observer and pass testing; download, complete, and submit paperwork and fees; after notice of acceptance, start visits. Registration is \$35 annually with an initial \$20 fee for the background check. The background check provides the facilities visited with a sense of



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

comfort that volunteers have been properly screened. Background checks prior to testing will also help to keep insurance premiums low and keep yearly fees low. You can go to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs web site for more information.

Everyone had a dog-gone good time with a most interesting and informative program from Elena and her “good boy,” Jake, tonight.



Lion President, Ms. Elena Caudle, and our canine therapy guests.

### Other Business

Lion Carey Thompson stated that everything appears to be a “go” for the Fish & Ham Dinner. He again reminded Chairs/Co-Chairs to contact all members of their teams to solidify schedules and work out any conflicts. If work shortfalls develop, let Lion Carey know so that he can help with working issues, if needed. This event will happen in about a week on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Alabama Lion Sight Mobile Clinic Schedule is March 25, April 24, and June 25. Lion help needed on those days at Good Samaritan Clinic.

Lion President Chris Brooks shared Lions’ years-of-service anniversary for the following

Lions: Barry Willingham – 14 years, Dave Gratz – 14, and Quinn Jackson – 1. Lion Chris also announced that our own Lion Craig Gadow was elected as District 34-A Governor this past weekend at the District Convention and that Lion Barry Willingham was awarded the Lions International President’s Award. Lion Craig will begin his term as Governor in July.

President Lion Chris Brooks stated that Lion Ron Seybold asks for continued prayers as he battles cancer and back surgery and that Lion Javon Daniel is at home dealing with heart concerns, saying that surgery is not his best option at this time. Lion Don Scott fell and hurt his back a couple of weeks ago and is recovering at home.

Lion Charlie Childers reported that our Fair Queen, Miss Avery Gerstman, participated in the Miss Alabama Teen contest this past weekend. Although she was not one of the top finishers, she did walk away with a \$20,000 University scholarship.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

March 17: Formal Pinning ceremony for new Lions. New club member inductees, and their sponsors, are requested to wear “coat and tie”.

March 21: Prep for Fish & Ham Dinner at CMS cafeteria at 3:30-630PM.

March 22: Fish and Ham Dinner. 7:30AM - 7:00PM.

March 24: Election for Club’s Board of Directors. See page 5 for sample ballot.

April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: Lions helping park cars for Blooming Festival at St. Bernard’s, 7:30AM to 6:00PM.



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May 10: Shred-a-Thon is May 10th at the Hobby Lobby parking lot.

See page 4 for Club Committee Assignments

See page 5 for sample BOD ballot for voting at our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **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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## Cullman Lions Club

### Committee Assignments for FY 2024-2025

<b>President Chris Brooks</b>							
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Char</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>
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
<b>1st VP Delane Ray</b>							
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Char</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member</b>			
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					
<b>2nd VP Jeff Lawson</b>							
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Char</b>					
Area Lion's Liason	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee	Frank Odell				
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
<b>3rd VP David Wiggins</b>							
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Char</b>					
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	Richard Gurley	Steve Murphree	Raymond Williams	Ginger Hogeland	



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**Cullman Lions Club**



**Sample Ballot for the \*March 24<sup>th</sup>\* Election of the 2025-2026 Board of Directors**



### President

- Lion Delane Ray (I)
- Lion Wendell Copeland

### 1st Vice President

- Lion Jeff Lawson (I)
- Lion Doug Doggett

### 2nd Vice President

- Lion David Wiggins (I)
- Lion Jeff Wren

### 3rd Vice President

- Lion Craig Gadow (I)
- Lion Jason Tielking

### Secretary

- Lion Scott Starosta (I)
- Lion Raymond Williams

### Treasurer

- Lion Don Smith (I)
- Lion Andrew Manning

### Lion Tamer

- Lion Charlie Powell (I)
- Lion Terry Slaten

### Tail Twister

- Lion Richard White (I)
- Lion Doug Spradlin

### Director

*\* Vote for two \**

- Lion Cleve Green
- Lion Freddie Osborne
- Lion Milford Parrish
- Lion Steve Rodgers (I)

### Membership Committee

- Lion David Bussman
- Lion George Krigbaum

