



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

April 15, 2024

### Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced our speaker, tonight, Victim Services outreach advocate, Ms. Lacey Lemley. She is a graduate of West Point High School and has been on staff at Victim Services for the past two years. The mission of Victim Services is to lead Cullman County in the prevention of and recovery from domestic violence by providing shelter, crisis response, education, and advocacy.



**Lion Sam Roberts with Ms. Lacey Lemley of Victim Services.**

Ms. Lemley explained one of the main reasons that she is so dedicated to her job is due to the experiences that her aunt suffered for 20 years from an abusive husband, finally ending in her aunt's suicide. Lacey continued in explaining that the main reason women don't just leave their abusive husbands is due to fear of physical injury if they try to leave. But when Victim Services receives a call for help, it provides a police escort to one of its facilities, whose location is not revealed; each victim is initially provided with a bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom, as well as a package for personal needs.

Lacey stated that Victim Services in Cullman has 2 separate shelter locations in which violence-victim women and children can be sheltered, offering 15 beds. It is one of the largest in north-central Alabama, and they generally stay full. It has 5 office workers in a separate location, along with 6 advocates. Lacey explained that 1 in 3 women at some point in their lives experience domestic violence, and that, Nation-wide, 20,000 women send out calls for help, daily, due to that abuse.

Domestic violence can have a profound impact on victims' mental well-being. It can cause emotional trauma, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Victim Services understands these lasting effects, and it is there to offer counseling support to survivors. Its counselors provide a safe space to heal and regain control of the victims' lives – such as helping with getting a GED for non-high school graduates, teaching independence (sometimes even cooking), and establishing support groups for these women. For some women, they are starting life over -- starting with nothing -- and it sometimes may take them a couple of years to get back on their feet.

Facing legal proceedings can be overwhelming and intimidating for anyone but especially for victims of domestic violence. Fortunately, Victim Services has Court Advocates available to guide and support victims. With its Court Advocates' knowledge of the legal system and unwavering support, they can guide them through the process, provide information and resources, and ensure victims' rights are protected.



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Ms. Lemley made a great case for the importance of Victims Services in our community. For emergency shelter, victims of domestic violence can call 256-734-6100 .

### Other Business

Lion Gary Murphee remains in rehab at Woodland and is still improving and has lost weight.

Lion Jerry Smith continues recovery from his heart surgery and should be rejoining us at Club meetings in another week or so.

Lion Ron Seybold is still being treated for cancer and is back home after his recent hospital stay due to a massive infection.

After tonight Lion Tom Pfeifer will be heading back to his north land home for the summer, promising to be back in time for the Fair in October.

Lions Don Smith shared final profit accounting from the Fish & Ham, which was on par with recent years' level, with 15% shared with our Branch Lions Club.

Lion Chris Brooks presented Lion Craig Gadow with a LCI Membership Key Pin for bringing aboard 2 new members.



Lion Craig Gadow receives a LCI Membership Key Pin

Our Club's workday participation at Ivy Green on April 19<sup>th</sup> was cancelled because of our commitment to support the Truth-in Nature Rodeo on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Lion Dennis Berse, whose 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary in our Club is heading up parking. Lion David Bussman is overseeing concessions.

Lion Bill Ruehl asked for and got commitments from Lions to support the Lion Sight Mobile Truck on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Good Samaritan Clinic.

Lion Scott Starosta gave a report on last week's BOD meeting. Contributions were made to the Little Pantry (which was the subject of last week's program), the Cullman County Child Development Center, the American Legion High School donation, Brook's Place, and the Safe Kids Expo.



Lion Scott Starosta gave us a report on last week's Board of Directors (BOD) meeting.

Also, Lion President Chris Brooks summarized a BOD report from the committee he appointed to make recommendations concerning the Fair's two concession stands. One stand was making hardly any profit, and one had been running short-handed for the past couple of years. The recommendation was to just have one main concession stand, but to ask the Branch Club to help staff it with Lion David Bussman continuing



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to manage it, overall. The Branch Club would also help as it had in the past with helping to staff the gates. The Branch Club would also continue to share in the Fair's profits. Lion President Brooks was very complementary to the committee for the very detailed, fair, and logical report that it provided.

Club Officer candidates for next week's election on April 28<sup>th</sup> are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President –  
Lions Delane Ray vs. Doug Doggett

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President –  
Lions Jeff Lawson vs. Dwayne Wilson

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President –  
Lions Ricky Peek vs. Bill Ruehl

Secretary –  
Lions Scott Starosta vs. Raymond Williams

Treasurer –  
Lions Don Smith vs. Terry Slaton

Lion Tamer –  
Lions Jeff Byrd vs. George Krigbaum

Tale Twister –  
Lions Richard White vs. Richard Gurley

Membership Chairman –  
Gary Murphree (move up from Vice-Chairman for 2023-2024).

Membership Vice-Chairman –  
Lions Javon Daniel vs. Andrew Manning vs. Frank Odell (not sure these are exactly right).

Directors – (choosing two)  
Lions Steve Rogers, Claude Clay, Cleve Green, & Bill Wilt.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

April 22: Election of new Club Officers for 2024-2025.

April 24: Lion Sight Mobile Truck will pay another visit to the Good Samaritan Clinic. Lion Bill Ruehl will be needing volunteers to assist.

May 4: BBB's "Shred-a-Thon" event on May 4th. We meet at 8:30am behind Buffalo Wild Wings. Make sure to wear your vest. Biscuits will be provided for breakfast and pizza for lunch.

### 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).

**See Club committee assignments on page 4.**



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<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Burke Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Diabetes	Javon Daniel	Jason Tielking	
Fair Concessions	David Bussman		
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Jerry Bonner	
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	Frank Odell	
Membership	Gary Murphree	David Bussman	Dewayne Wilson
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Craft	Chris Robinson
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee	
<b>2nd VP Delane Ray Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Area Lion's Liason	Jerry Bonner	Craig Gadow	
Constitution & Bylaws	Bradley Williar	Champ Crocker	
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborn	David Bussman
Member Info	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz	
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson	
Youth Leo's	Jeff Lawson	Sam Roberts	
<b>3rd VP Jeff Lawson Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Tail Twister	Richard White	Richard Gurley	
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham	
	Charlie Childers		
Lions Branch Liaison	Dennis Burse	Ron Seybold	
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
Communication & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
New Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	David Bussman