



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 7, 2025.

Program

Our speaker tonight was Ms. Melissa Betts, Executive Director of The Link of Cullman County, who was introduced by Lion Craig Gadow, who is also a board member of the Link. Lion Craig noted that Ms. Betts is from Walker County and a graduate of the University of Alabama. She served in ministry to children for the United Methodist Church for over 20 years before being selected in her current position with the Link in early 2020. She has secured over \$3M in grant funding for the link over the last five years. Her 2 children, now grown, are graduates of Cullman City Schools. Assisting Ms. Betts with her presentation was Ms. Morgan Dinger, Donor Relations Coordinator. Ms. Betts also pointed out several other Lions, besides Lion Craig, who are or will be serving as Link board members: Jeff Lawson, Brian Spaeth, and Jerry Smith; they will serve a 3-year term.



Ms. Melissa Betts, Executive Director of the Link, with Lion Craig Gadow, seated.

One of the biggest assistances that the Link provides to young families in need is groceries. After assessment interviews, selected client families can come into the Links food pantry and select foods, similar to ordinary grocery shopping, as well as getting a dry-good package, based on family size. The Link food pantry also coordinates with other food banks in the area, such as Cullman Caring or Kids, that their clients can also visit on other days during the month. After selecting food, a volunteer will walk the client to their car and load it for them. In the first quarter this year, alone, 78,268 pounds of food was collected.

The Links housing assistance program helped 135 families in 2024. Its shower and laundry facility served 77 individuals with showers and 30 used its laundry in the first quarter.

The Links Educational Enrichment Program serves client students both in and out of schools through it in-house one on one tutoring and mentorship program. Its STEAM Enrichment Camp is a 2-week program in June, and its Kindergarten Readiness Camp will be in July.

The Link's Family Foundations program meets with parenting education, especially helping with absent fathers and warring co-parents.

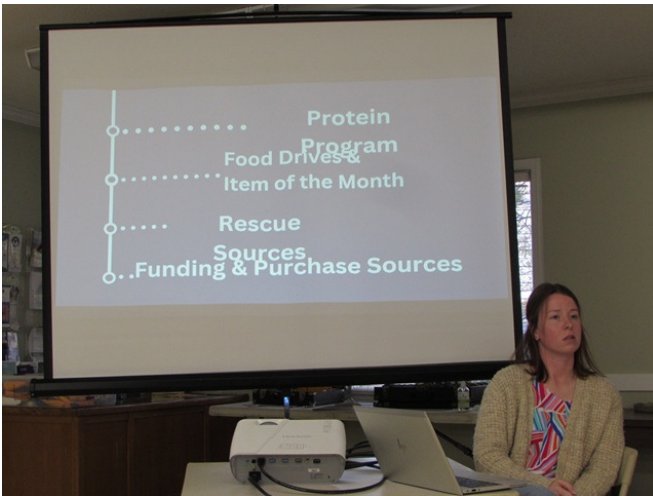
The Link's Personal Pathways continues to meet the needs of those people seeking long term growth opportunities and to break the cycle of past selves. It brings in people in need from detention centers, local sober living homes, and addiction treatment centers. In the 1st quarter it offered classes in 7 such locations.



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The Link just finished a golf tournament aimed bring in funds and spotlighting at a brighter, more literate future for its clients. It also announced a partnership with Slim Chicken that aims to aid food insecurity with an April Round-up campaign, which encourages customers to round up to the nearest dollar on their bill as a Link Contribution. The Link will be hosting 2 child abuse and neglect prevention awareness expos in the coming weeks.



Ms. Morgan Dingler, Donor Relations Coordinator, assisting with the presentation.

As anyone can understand, the Link under Ms. Betts' leadership, continues to provide many, many benefits to the less fortunate of Cullman. It is currently seeking volunteers for truck drivers for weekly food rescue trips at commercial grocery stores and restaurants for pantry pickups.

Other Business

Lion President gave an update on several Lions. Lion Gordon Boyd's nurse at his nursing home said that Lion Gordon has been in good spirits and relatively good health. Lion James Pinyan's wife, Cindy reported that Lion James was hospitalized last week with kidney problems; he is back home but still is having further testing

due. Lion Charlie Powell passed the word last week that Lion Woody Jacobs brother passed away.

Lion Sam reported on Lions assistance at St. Bernard's Blooming Festival. He said the school was very appreciative of Lions' help with at least 8 or so Lions being spotted helping with the parking there.

Lion Bill Ruehl had several announcements: First, the Alabama Lion Sight Mobile Clinic Schedule is April 24 (Thursday), and June 25. Lions help will be needed on those days at Good Samaritan Clinic. At the Fairgrounds on the 26th, the Master Gardeners will have a sale/expo; there will also be a consignment sale, and the "Touch of Truck" event will be happening this day.

Lion Carey Thompson reported that receipt and expense data from our recent Ham & Fish dinner was in, showing a nice profit; however, profits were less than last year; this was due to food costs being about \$1,400 higher and sales down about \$2,700.

Upcoming Programs and Events

April 24-25: State Lions Convention in Montgomery. Past Lions International President will be speaker.

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

July 13: Lions International Convention in Orlando.

See page 4 for Club Committee Assignments



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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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Committee Assignments for FY 2024-2025

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	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					
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	Richard Gurley	Steve Murphree	Raymond Williams	Ginger Hogeland	