



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 10, 2026

Program

Lion Sean Schofield introduces Melissa Betts Executive Director and Jonathan Creekmore Supportive Services Manager with the Link of Cullman County.



Lion President Jeff Lawson and Lion Sean Schofield flank Ms. Melissa Betts and Janathan Creekmore, our speakers tonight.

Our speakers began their presentation stating the motto of the Link, “Where Neighbors Become Family,” and its mission is “To Love our neighbors by building connections to community, resources, relationships, and opportunities that strengthen families and transform lives.”

The Link supports folks across the spectrum ranging from food insecurity, housing assistance and basic needs to training. It is one of three recognized Family Resource Centers in North Alabama. The Link works not only to meet immediate needs but assist individuals and families to achieve long term stability. The first introduction to The Link’s services is usually via participation with the Food Pantry. After being greeted and checked in a Link volunteer works with the individual or family in selecting the required

food items. It is through this process that the volunteer can become aware of additional needs. The Pantry receives donations from multiple sources in Cullman. Dollar General, Walmart, Warehouse Discount Grocery, Panera Bread and Starbucks all contribute excess or expiring products to the Link. These donations bring the average cost down to an astonishing \$2.42 per visit for each family. In the last year 3,118 individual and family visits were made with \$ 534,000 worth of food distributed.

Within our community, many children, youth, and adults face barriers to educational success due to limited academic support, interrupted schooling, and lack of access to enriching learning opportunities. The Link’s Educational Enrichment Program provides personalized mentoring, targeted tutoring for K-12 students and adult learners, and engaging summering camps – all of which supports lifelong learning, family engagement, and community growth. Also its Family Foundations is a collection of educational classes and support services designed to strengthen caregivers and promote stability within the home; this is especially important for those navigating complex or high-stress caregiving roles.

Supportive Services walk alongside individuals and families during times of crisis, including a Housing Program with connections to community resources, and financial assistance when available. Laundry and shower services are available at designated times throughout the week to help meet basic needs with dignity.



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Since 2013, The Link has become a trusted place where neighbors can find practical help and genuine support. In late 2025, it took the next step forward by becoming a Family Resource Center, strengthening its commitment to be a hub for connection, stability, and long-term growth for individuals and families across our region.

Several of our Lions are active volunteers with The Link. I recall that Lions Sean & Melissa Schofield and Lion Craig Gadow have encouraged us to participate in Link activities; Lion Brian Spaeth is listed as a Board Member at Large on their website; and several more have visited and helped on occasion.

The Link is located at 708 9th St. SE here in Cullman

Other Business

Lion President Jeff Lawson announced the 3 names of applicants for recruitment: Tony Hadwin, Joe Martin and Chris Rowe. He also announced years-of-service anniversaries for Lions Don Smith – 15 years and George Krigbaum – 11 years.

With the Fair coming up is a couple of months, Lion Scott Starosta will be taking orders for the yellow Lions t-shirt. Get with him for size & short or long sleeve preference.

Daughter of deceased Lion Tim Scott is now a new Lion. This young lady has been a very familiar face at many of our projects throughout her youth, serving alongside Lion Tim.



New Lion Arleigh Scott

We had a half-dozen or so Lions participate in the Holly Pond's Pan Cake Breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 16th. See photo, below.



Upcoming Programs and Events.

Aug 17: TBA.

Aug 24: : Ms. Kelsey Scott, spokes-person from Hope's Horses will be our speaker.

TBA: Dr. David Tyree from Animal Health Services will discuss cattle testing and other services provided by his organization.



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TBA: Spokes-person from Master Gardners will discuss wildflowers and plans for use of the new greenhouse just completed.

Sep 26: Fair Parade. Details to follow.

Oct. 15 through 24: Cullman County Fair.

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 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).