



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

Aug 15, 2022

Program

1st Vice President Lion Chris Brooks was presiding this evening even though President Milford Parrish was in attendance. Lion Milford was still impacted from his recent Covid illness. Lion Milford did introduce our speaker, Ms. Jaidyn Quillen who is 19 years old and from Leighton, Al. She is a graduate of Colbert County High School and has attended Wallace State Community College where she studied Forensics Psychology, She now attends the University of North Alabama where she is studying Social Work.



Lion President Milford Parrish, Ms. Jaidyn Quillen, and Lion 1st Vice-President Chris Brooks.

Jaidyn may be familiar to some of us since she also has served as a hostess at Terri Pines Country Club. She is also serving as a hostess and guide at Ivy Green. In this year's annual production of The Miracle Worker, she played the part of Annie Sullivan (The Teacher). It's first production was in 1962 on Broadway, where Patty Duke played the part of Helen Keller and Ann Bancroft played the part of Annie Sullivan. The play has been performed annually at Ivy Green for 61 consecutive years, including years of the

Covid pandemic. Jaidyn has been involved with the Miracle Worker since 2014 as part of the stage Crew and Tech Crew. Her credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Charlotte's Web, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and Dorothy meets Alice and Opal.

Ms. Quillen gave us much of the background history of Helen Keller, who was rendered deaf and blind from scarlet fever who had been unable to communicate with anyone until Annie Sullivan volunteered to be her teacher and companion. Annie also had a very rough childhood, having been assigned to an asylum until she was 14 years old after her alcoholic parents gave her up.

Jaidyn said that playing this part has been most meaningful to her and that she would never forget the very first night of the play this year; in attendance, there were 40 deaf and blind members of the audience. After they witnessed the play, she communicated with them and said many of them were crying because they so very much related to the characters and their circumstances. She said that during the play, they had their support people to communicate the play's action and words with them – in some cases, drawing and writing out on their backs with their fingers in braille and other means. Jaidyn said that she went to her dressing room, afterwards, and wept and wept; she said the experience changed her life forever.

Ms. Quillen says that the play is presented at Ivy Green, literally in Helen Keller's childhood backyard every Friday and Saturday in June and half of July; the gates open an hour



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before the play so that visitors can walk the grounds and visit the home before the play begins. She invited us to come and bring our friends and family because seeing the play can be life changing. Lion President Milford was gushing in praise after he and his wife saw the play. All this has convinced me that must visit Ivy Green and see this play. Great program.

Other Business

Fair workdays are Sept 26, Oct 3, and Oct 10.

A special invited guest at tonight's meeting was Lion 34-A, 1st Vice District Governor Susan Harrell, who thanked the Club for co-hosting the Lions Leadership Conference at Wallace State this past Saturday. Lion 1st VP Chris Brooks reviewed the Conference, saying he had a good time and learned a great deal. One new item of interest was the establishment of the "Alabama Lions Club Hall of Fame," and that 5 Lions were going to be inducted into it in the near future. Cullman was well represented at the conference with 12 members of our Club in attendance.

Lion Treasure Jerry Bonner presented a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow award to Lion Bo Waldrop.

Lion Secretary Craig Gadow reported that the Club's BOD voted to purchase a new generator for Alabama Lions Sight's mobile clinic, following last week's Club meeting.

Lion Charlie Childers reported that the Fair BOD has begun development on Club-member Fair work assignments. Those should be announced in a few weeks. He also thanked Lions Sam Roberts, Chris

Robinson, Steve Cartee, and Charlie Powell who helped in painting in the Fair Theater.

Lion Ron Seybold from the Community Lions Club joined us tonight and talked about Ivy Green where Helen Keller grew up under the care of Annie Sullivan. He noted that they are buried together in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He also reminded us that Lions can have a brick for themselves or for a deceased Lion with their name inscribed and added to the "Knights of the Blind Walk" at Ivy Green for a donation of only \$100. Checks should be made out to Helen Keller Memorial.

Our meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share> .

If you have any problem getting to the site, contact Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361.

Upcoming Programs and Events

August 22: TBD.

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).