



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

December 5, 2022

### Program

The Howard family gave an update on their son's Cash diabetic dog.



Lion President Milford Parrish stands with the Howard family -- Dad – Robert, Mom – Sera, Cash's two sisters, and Cash, himself.}

Mr. Robert Cash began by thanking the Club for the dinner invitation and explaining that Cash was diagnosed with diabetes about a year ago. He explained that they had tried several different electronic alert monitors that are designed to alarm and also notify them by phone if Cash blood-sugar level gets too high or too low, and they are worn continuously. Generally, these have worked well.

However last summer while on vacation in the middle of the night, the monitor did not alarm until Cash's blood-sugar level was dangerously low. This incident scared both Robert and Sara, and they began researching diabetic-alert dog information. They found a kennel and trainer in Chattanooga that sounded like just what

they were looking for. The family made an extended visit to the kennel and were introduced to several potential young dogs to find the one most compatible and that showed the best chemistry with Cash. The kennel has different dog breeds, and the dog breed of one they selected is called a double-doodle, which is half poodle and half Labrador. These dogs get months of training before they are placed with their diabetic owner. The dog they selected for Cash was only about 6 months old and still requires several more months of training before he will be certified as fully trained. The cost of such a dog is \$18,000. But if anything happens to the dog, the kennel will offer a replacement at no charge. The family will be required to keep the dog on a specified diet and buy vet pet insurance for it. Robert said that in addition to getting the service alert dog, Cash will continue to keep using his electronic diabetic monitor.

The sensing abilities of diabetic alert service dogs are remarkable. They have been shown to detect both high and low sugar diabetic problems at a range of a mile. If these dogs do not get a satisfactory response to their alert from the owner, they will seek help from others until the situation is responded to properly. The dogs that the kennel has are mostly donated from breeders, and animal shelters. Robert said that one of the dogs they considered was a former police dog candidate that had not passed its training because it would not bite. The police said that "there is no excuse for a police dog



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that will not bite.” This program was very informative, interesting, and enjoyable.

The family was given information about Camp Seale Harris and were told that the Club would sponsor the family for a stay there, as well as a camp stay, just for Cash, this summer. The Club’s BOD voted to make a donation to the Howard family for the expenses of Cash’s alert service dog such as its diet, vet, and insurance costs.

### Other Business

Lion Jim Howard was seen at a local restaurant and says “Hello;” he expects to be in attendance again at our Club meetings in the near future. Lion Charlie McBrayer endured another chemo treatment for pancreatic cancer. Lion Richard Gurley was back with us tonight after his bout with the flu.

Membership Chairman, Lion Bill Ruehl read the names of Benjamin Burns, sponsored by Lion Eric Ponder, and Don Scott, sponsored by Lion Ron Seybold, as prospects for recruitment.



Lion Jerry Bonner presented service-years awards to Lions Bo Waldrep (40 years) and Richard Gurley (15 years).



Lion Jerry also presented Lion Tom Pfeifer with a Melvin Jones Fellow award. Lion Tom is just back from Wisconsin for his annual snowbird stay in Cullman.



President Lion Milford Parrish presented a membership achievement award to Lion Dennis Berse for his efforts in bringing in new members.

North Alabama Agriplex has invited Lions to a Christmas meal Dec 16 from noon – 2pm. Call 256-297-0144 or email [agriplexifo@gmail.com](mailto:agriplexifo@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view



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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**

December 12: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stone Bridge, with doors open at 5:30PM and meal served at 6:PM. Theme for dress will be Christmas. Awards will be presented, based on Christmas attire. A couple of competitors from our 2022 Miss Cullman Fair competition will be on hand to provide entertainment.

December 19: TBD. Serving time will start at 5:30 PM.

### **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).