



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 12, 2018

Program

Lion Secretary Don Smith introduced our speaker, Lion Mike Dengate of Leader Dogs for the Blind organization, spoke about guide dog training and their facility.

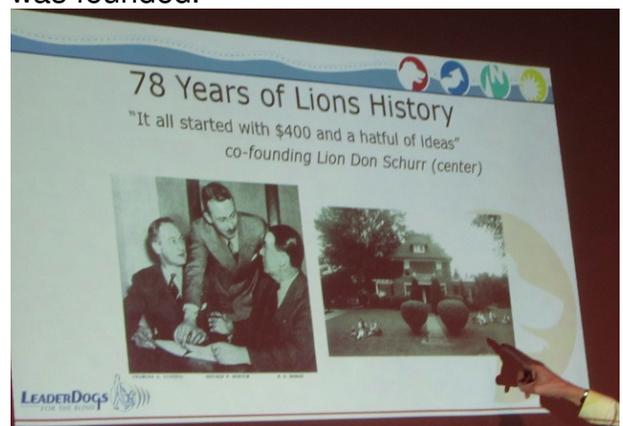


Lion 2nd Vice President Andrew Manning (R) presents donation from our Club to Mr. Mike Dengate (L) for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Mike explained that 3 determined Lions in Detroit, Michigan, decided to establish this organization in 1938 after they were unsuccessful in getting a leader dog for their friend; a kennel back in an Eastern-seaboard state had turned them down.

Although Leader Dogs for the Blind started with an initial budget of only \$400, the organization just finished up an eye-popping renovation of \$14.5M of their facility, still located on the outskirts of Detroit. The facility takes a unique approach in linking up their trained seeing-eye, leader dogs with their new owner. Owners/clients can spend 25 days on campus with their new dog in training. Each dog and owner are given their own

room during this training, and the personalities of the dog and owner are matched to give the best possible outcome for this team, who will then normally work together side-by-side for an average of nine years. There are 3 breeds used: Generally, about 80% Labrador retriever, 15% golden retriever, and 5% German shepherd. After 6 weeks of whelping, the pups spend 12 to 14 months with a "puppy trainer" before getting another 4 or 5 months in serious seeing-eye training; at this point in their young lives they are ready for full-time work helping their blind owners. Each year about 200 dogs are trained for seeing-eye, leader service. The costs in matching up one of these dogs up with a blind person, with all the training for both, is \$41,680. There are 1,438 of these leader dogs helping their blind owners, today, in 48 states and 19 countries. 15,000 leader dogs have been provided since Leader Dogs for the Blind was founded.



One of the slides from Mr. Dengate's presentation: **78 years of Lions History** – "It all started with \$400 and a hatful of ideas" (by Lions).

Although there are 13 other US facilities that can provide seeing-eye dogs, none



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provide all the available services of this facility. And the best news is that the dogs and everything else is provided for free. Other services include 7 days on campus for white-cane training, 3 weeks of training for people who are both deaf and blind, urban training in the city of Chicago, home delivery of a leader dog, devices for voice-activated GPS training, and warm weather training in Naples, Florida (during winter months). Also, there is summer camp experience for 16-17-year-old clients who are legally blind; here they can do all the things kids usually do at summer camp, and they can test drive a leader dog. Their web site, leaderdog.org, provides much more information about this amazing organization. Lions Clubs, like ours, provide a total of \$2M in annual support -- most worthy cause – an uplifting program.

Other Business

Lion Carey Thompson asked Lions wishing different work assignments contact him or their desired Committee Chairman for the Fish and Ham meal. Committee Chairmen should contact Lion Carey for change requests.

Lion Tom Pfeifer underwent testing. Lion Clark Rainwater's mother, Jean, is in critical care in Birmingham. Lions Steve Singleton and Jim Grier were both out with flu symptoms.

The Club received "Thank You" a note from Cullman High School, Alabama Lions Sight for our support, the family of Ms. Carolyn Peinhardt Johnson also sent their appreciation for the donation our Club made in her name to Alabama Lions Sight.

New member training was held by Lions Frank Odell and Scott Waldrep; the topic was Fish and Ham Dinner history and process.

The Secretary read the BOD minutes. A Fair Board meeting was held.

February 19th will be the annual "Empty Bowls" night at 1st Methodist Church, which runs from 4 to 6:30PM. No meeting will be held.

The MD 34-A Convention will be March 16-17 at Joe Wheeler State Park. See info flyer (page 3) and registration form (page 4).

The State-wide MD-34 annual convention will be held in Guntersville April 27th through April 29th.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 19: Empty Bowls Dinner at First Methodist Church. No regular Club meeting at the All Steak.

March 5: Mr. Doug Long from Cullman Shooting Sports.

March 16-17: The MD 34-A Convention.

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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MARCH 16-17, 2018

MD34-A DISTRICT CONVENTION

JOE WHEELER STATE PARK - 4403 MCLEAN DR, ROGERSVILLE, AL
35652



AGENDA:

Friday, March 16

-Social Dinner

Saturday, March 17

-Breakout sessions featuring

ID Joyce Middleton

-Lunch and Dinner

PRICING:

• Rooms: \$69/night until Feb. 16

• Rooms: \$78/night after Feb. 16

• Friday Night Social: \$20/person

• Saturday: \$50/person

• Both Days: \$65/person

*Prices include meals and refreshments, as well as access to breakout sessions

<http://www.alabamalions34a.com/>



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Registration Form

Please join us for a wonderful district convention, featuring guest ID Joyce Middleton!

[When: March 16-17, 2018]

- Friday Night Social, Dinner Included – 6:00 pm
- Saturday Breakout Sessions, Lunch & Dinner Included
 - Registration – 8:30 am
 - Meeting – 9:30 am

[Where: Joe Wheeler State Park]

- 4403 McLean Driver, Rogersville, AL 35652

[Pricing]

- Rooms Available - \$69/night through Feb. 16 - \$78/night after Feb. 16
 - *To reserve, call (256)-247-5466 and give code: 2668**
 - Friday Social: \$20/person (\$25 after March 2)
 - Saturday: \$50/person (\$55 after March 2)
 - Both Days: \$65/person (\$70 after March 2)
- *Childcare will be provided at no extra cost! ***

Please complete the bottom half of this form and send with payment to:

District CST Lindsey Schneider
117 Burton St.
Huntsville, AL 35811

***Couples, please register separately, so we may get an efficient and accurate headcount.**

Name: _____ Club: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone#: _____

I am registering for:

Friday _____ Saturday _____ Both Days _____

Total: \$ _____