



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 27, 2023

Program

Lion President Milford Parrish introduced guest speakers tonight, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chaplin Clarence Benefield and American Legion, DAV Commander Chris Dutton. There were two programs for which these gentlemen were seeking donations.

Chaplin Benefield spoke about the need for securing a couple of vans for transport of non-ambulatory veterans to their doctors and other medical treatment facilities. There is a real shortage of this type of transportation for our veterans' community. Even if veterans' medical care, itself, is supported by the Veterans Administration, special transportation support is lacking. The price quoted for a new van, capable of easy loading of a couple of veterans in wheelchairs was \$75,000. Lion Don Smith, from his own family's and another Lion's experience, recommended that the DAV investigate a company in Kentucky; it refits late-model used vans (bought at rental-car auctions) for wheelchair transport at a considerably cheaper price, and they still comes with some warranty.

Cmdr. Dutton talked about their second program, which was suicide prevention among our veterans. Currently, nation-wide, we are losing 2 veterans per day to suicide. This program involves establishment of suicide prevention call-centers for veterans to get emergency counseling and get them to a safe place in a short time to interrupt a suicide attempt. It will utilize professional counselors, and volunteers who have been trained via a three-day course to help these veterans. These volunteers may be first responders, clergy,

police, and others who normally interact with the public in the course of their regular jobs.

Both of these programs appear to be worthy of consideration of support from our Club.



Cmdr. Dutton speaks as Chaplin Benefield (r) and Lion President Parrish (l) look-on.

Other Business

Funeral services for Lion Jerry Eddleman were held Saturday, February 25. Peinhardt Farms made a donation to the Club in his honor.

Lion David Bussman was recovering from the flu tonight, but he called in to thank the Club for its support at the Empty Bowls Dinner. Lion President Milford also read a note of thanks for the Good Samaritan Clinic.

Lion Steve Cartee, who is on the Board of Directors of Alabama Lions Sight (ALS) gave an refresher on ALS history in which he noted that it had served over 500,000 indigent Alabama residents over the last 70 years. He also gave updated information on ALS receiving a \$700,000 grant from the State government,



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much of which is going for the purchase of a second mobile eye-clinic & eye-scanning van. This van will also conduct hearing assessments. It is tentatively scheduled for a visit to serve indigent patients at the Good Samaritan Clinic sometime in March.



Lion Steve Cartee giving Alabama Lions Sight update.

Lion Carey Thompson spoke about the upcoming Fish & Ham Dinner. He advised again on the problem of parking being limited, and other updates. He will report about the Dinner as the program for the next Club meeting on March 6th which will cover our experiences following preparation and conduct of the Fish & Ham Dinner, occurring on the 3rd and 4th of March.

Lion Secretary Craig Gadow advised that Lions International will no longer allow Lions and their Lion spouses to use the same email. Lion Gadow says to make sure that you have unique emails addresses for each Lion by June 15th – no shared email address. Otherwise, will not be able to access the Lion International website and get its emails.



Acting Tail Twister Lion Richard Gurley quizzes farmer Lions (l to r) Riley Smith, Doug Spradlin, and Randy Kraft about their knowledge of strawberries. Lion Doug won the quiz

Our Club 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

March 6: Lion Carey Thompson to give re-cap of preparation for & conduct of Fish and Ham Dinner and fishy tales. Financial outcome to be determined later as all expenses are resolved.

March 10-11: Lion District 34-A Convention in Ft. Payne.

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).