



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

July 11, 2022

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced Col. (retired) Ken Brown, Commander of Cullman's VFW, who then introduced former Marine, Mr. Sean Schofield. It is noteworthy that Col. Brown introduced Sean, because Col. Brown addressed the Club back in April of 2021, asking for our support of a new treatment for post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) called "stellate ganglion block (SGB)." And Sean subsequently received such treatment, due to Col. Brown's fund-raising for this cause.



(L to R) Col. Brown, Lion Randy Kraft, and Mr. Sean Schofield.

Mr. Schofield began his presentation by thanking the Club for its support for SGB treatment, which has helped him and other vets tremendously. The Club also supported him with financial aid for his transportation back from Ukraine and for his family. Sean is from the Cullman area and has a U.S. military heritage; he is a fourth generation Marine, and that his goal growing up had always been to be a Marine. After he was medically discharged from the Marines, he still missed

the military life. Thus, when he read about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the atrocities being committed against Ukrainian people, he was moved to volunteer to lend his military experience. He told about overcoming all the red tape, through both U.S. and Ukrainian embassies, just to get across the border and in place in Ukraine to help. Sean said that U.S. volunteers outnumbered those of other countries by a margin of ten to one. He initially helped with assignments of other non-Ukraine volunteers to military units, then help train recruits and volunteers in rifle marksmanship and other military skills. He was asked to serve with a special sniper team that traversed Russian-held territory to take out Russian leadership, especially those involved in torture and outright murder of civilians and Ukrainian soldier POWs. He also served with a team that extracted an orphan 3-month-old baby from a hospital under Russian control and transported it back to its adoptive parents back in Poland. He told several specific incidents of inhumane treatment dealt out by these Russians. He said he was proud of his accomplishment in Ukraine, training between 600 and 700 soldiers who had never had any military training. He provided his hosts with websites that could be used to download military skill manuals. His stories of about his Ukrainian service kept the audience enthralled. Upon his departure he was awarded three Ukrainian military medals and was made an honorary Ukraine Marine. He in-turn had the highest praise of the Ukrainian soldiers and people for their strength of will, resilience, and determination to remain a free nation.



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### Other Business

Former Lion Jason Tielking was a guest tonight, sponsored by Lion Morris Mangum to become a member of our Club once again. We had another guest, tonight, Ms. Sara Gladney, a reporter from the Cullman Tribune.

Lion Javon Daniel has shingles, but his treatment is going well. Lion Jim Howard is experiencing balance issues. Lioness Pat Pitzing is still in UAB, being treated for seizures.

Secretary Lion Craig Gadow again encouraged our Lions to attend a one-day Leadership Conference this year on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> -- particularly those Lions recently elected as officers in the Club. The conference will be in Hanceville at Wallace State, and the Club will pay the \$25 conference fee. Lions should sign up before July 25<sup>th</sup>. Lion Craig read out perfect attendance at Club meetings for the last year; these were: Lions Craig Gadow, Richard Gurley, Fred Osborne, Milford Parrish, Charlie Powell, Bill Ruehl, Dennis Berse, Morris Mangum, Don Smith, Jim Burke, Steve Cartee, Dave Gratz, Jerry Bonner, Charles McBrayer, Dewayne Wilson, Gordon Boyd, George Krigbaum, Richard White, Javon Daniel, and Chris Robinson.

Lion Jerry Bonner passed out Melvin Jones Fellow plaques to Lions Doug Doggett and Steve Cartee.

Lion Charlie Childers gave an overview of the Miss Alabama Contest. He noted that our 2021 Miss Cullman County Fair, Ms. Abby Sosa, who came finished the contest in the

top twelve, really gave an impressive performance throughout the week of the contest. She will remain eligible to enter again; some entrants have entered as many as five times. One of the top Directors for Miss Alabama sent Lion Charlie a note about Abby, saying that she was “absolutely blown away – I have never seen a first-year girl walk in with so much talent – I am sure she will someday be Miss Alabama.” Abby was awarded \$10,000 in scholarships, based on her performance and was the top seller of \$500 ads in the contest’s program book.

The Club received a thank-you note from Cullman Caring for Kids for our latest donation.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

July 18: Lion Brian Spaeth, of Edward Jones, will talk about options for investing your money.



**Lion Brian Spaeth**

July 25: Ms. Patti Bearden, Director of the Youth Advocates Program, will speak on her organization. (See photo on next page.)



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**Ms. Patti Bearden**

## **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).

August 1: Travis Sharpe, President and Founder of Cullman-based, Unsheltered International, will speak on his organization.



**Travis Sharpe**