



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

July 23, 2018

### Program

After an introduction by Lion Steve Singleton, MD-34A 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lion Tim Sosebee (and former Marine), spoke to us with two main themes. First, he reminded us of Helen Keller's challenge for us to be the "Knights of the Blind." In doing this, he recited from memory, in a dynamic and inspiring manner, words from her speech, that she made to the Lion's Convention back in 1925. He also added a caveat from the International Director that we also include a larger portion of our support directed towards pediatric & juvenile diabetes, since it so directly affects blindness.



(L to R) Lion Steve Singleton, MD-34A 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Tim Sosebee, and Lion President Mike Ponder.

Prior to Helen Keller's influence, many individuals who were deaf and dumb, were merely warehoused in insane asylums, with no hope. Here, for your own reflection, are Helen Keller's electrifying words to the Lions: "I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a

capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see"? That is just the kind of friend the American



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Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves **Knights of the Blind** in this crusade against darkness?" How can we not be moved by these words?

In his second theme Lion Sosebee praised our Club as being the best in the State and ask its members to help him in in filling several vacant District 34-A leadership positions. Page 3 provides a sign-up sheet for any Lion willing to assist him. Return

completed forms to Lion Secretary Don Smith.

### **Other Business**

Lion Jerry Caudle was present tonight after a serious bout with respiratory issues.

A "Thank You" was received from District Governor Linda Starr for the Club's hosting of the quarterly MD-34A Cabinet Meeting.

### **Upcoming Programs and Events**



**Lion Charlie Childers**  
- President -  
Cullman County Fair Association

**July 30:** Fair President Lion Charlie Childers will talk about improvements at the Fairground.

**August 6:** 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).



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### Lions of Alabama 34-A

#### Lion's Contact Information & Interest Profile

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Al. Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Highest position held in club \_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing to serve as: (circle choice)**

Zone Chair      Region Chair      Vice District Governor      District Governor

Please, put a "C" by any District Committee you are willing to Chair, or "M" if you will be a Member of the Committee.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Membership Team               | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Leadership Team   | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution & By-Laws               | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Operations     | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions & Rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Committee                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Committee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Credentials         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes Awareness                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Convention             | <input type="checkbox"/> District Convention      | <input type="checkbox"/> State Convention    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MD-34 Leadership Conference          | <input type="checkbox"/> Necrology                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pins & Banner       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEO Committee                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Opportunity        | <input type="checkbox"/> Election            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama High School Band             | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations         | <input type="checkbox"/> LCIF                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama High School Leadership Forum |   |  |