



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

June 2, 2025.

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speakers tonight, representing "Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), Hurricane Creek Chapter," Ms. Kathy Sweatmon (biker road name -- Kit Kat) and her fellow biker, Slushie, both of whom rode up on their motorcycles and wearing their Club vests; they are both local natives.



Lion President Chris Brooks, flanked by Slushie and Kit Kat (Kathy Sweatmon) from BACA.

Both Kit Kat and Slushie, and their dedication to help abused children was apparent. Slushie, who is the biker club President, spoke first and noted that BACA is a non-profit organization and has a sister chapter in south Alabama; there are chapters in every US State, except Rhode Island, and in 17 countries around the world. BACA's mission statement is as follows:

"BACA exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of bikers to empower children not to feel afraid of the world in which they live. We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them in conjunction with local and state

officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation and our physical presence. We stand at the ready to shield these children from further abuse. We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner, however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle."

BACA was started by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker Supervisor who was also a faculty member at Brigham Young University. He was also a biker who noted how his bike seemed to pave the way in connecting with the abused kids that he worked with.

Slushie said that the kids they work with are given a biker jacket with their own road name embroidered on it, and they are given rides. The BACA team forms a bond with these kids and makes it known that anytime they need help or get scared or worried, they can depend on them to be there. BACA even shows up at Court hearing to show support and lend confidence to kids when they testify.

Kit Kat then spoke, explaining that she is the child, chapter, and court liaison for her BACA chapter, mainly serving as the first point of contact for BACA involvement in child abuse cases. She pointed out one big difference in BACA from all other local agencies like law enforcement, the courts, and city/county government involved in child abuse cases. That difference is that they are all paid employees;



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BACA consists entirely of volunteers. The chapter accounts for every penny of donations, insuring that 100% is spent for the benefit of the kids it serves. Also, many of its members were child abuse victims, themselves. The two BACA chapters of Alabama provide service to all counties of the State. Two BACA members are assigned as a referred child's primary contact with support, based on the child's individual need and remain in close contact as appropriate.

Law enforcement and other agencies cannot physically provide protection or comfort 24 hours a day. BACA contributes to meeting this shortfall and is certainly a great asset to our community. Kit Kat mentioned a fund raiser coming up on September 13th which is a pig roast (smoked-shoulder) dinner at a cost of \$35; orders need to be in by August 31st. Last year they sold 300. If you contact them, they will deliver or you can pick up. Meetings are open to the public (2nd Sunday of the month @ 2:30PM, just off junction of Hwy 69 east of mile marker 251 and County Rd 1507. Contact at (256) 636-2453,--also, <https://bacaworld.org/alabama/hurricane-creek-chapter/>

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold began experimental cancer treatment; it has been rough on him and has required keeping him on pure oxygen much of the day. Lion Mike Ponder is back in the hospital, receiving treatment at Princeton, and remains very weak. Lion Javon Daniel remains at home dealing his heart condition. Continue prayers for these Lions.

President Lion Chris reported receiving Thank-You notes from Kirk's Closet, Camp Seale Harris, and Busom Buddies for the Club's contributions; also, our Club has 6 dinner tickets

available for the Busom Buddies fund-raiser at Stone Bridge on October 7th.

Lion Chris noted years-of-service for the following Lions: Jerry Bonner – 62 years, Craig Gadow – 11, Garland Gudger – 5.

Lion Craig Gadow shared that he needs assistance Thursday June 12 at the Link, [708 9th St SE](#) in serving a dinner meal to indigent patrons. Also, in appreciation of our donation, the Leader Dog organization is providing an all-expenses-paid, round trip, week-end tour of its facility in Michigan in mid-August; any Lion interested should see Lion Craig ASAP.



Two great Lions – that's the long & short of it.

Lion Bill Ruehl announced upcoming dates for the Lions Sight Mobile Van visits as follows: 6/18, 7/30, 8/27, 9/17, 10/29, and 12/3. All these dates fall on a Wednesday and start at 8:30AM.

Upcoming Programs and Events

June 9: Installation of Club Officers for 2025-2026 will be at Church of Christ, off Hwy 157, near Childhaven. Freddy Day will be catering our meal. RSVP ASAP if you have not already. The main course will be shrimp & steak, catered



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by Mr. Freddy Day. "Coat & Tie" is the appropriate wear. Doors open at 5:30 with dinner at 6:00.

June 19: Ms. Rhonda McDavid Executive Director of Camp Seale Harris will provide our program.

June 23: Lions Family Picnic Night at the fairground theater. It starts at 5:30.

June 25: Lion's Sight Mobile Clinic visit at Good Samaritan Clinic.

June 30: Ms. Jacqueline Schendel will be our speaker and will discuss both the Shred-a-thon and an update on current scams.

July 13: Lions International Convention in Orlando.

See page 3 for Club Committee Assignments

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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Committee Assignments for FY 2024-2025

President Chris Brooks							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Nominating	Steve Murphree	Morris Magnum	Dewayne Wilson				
Club History	Dennis Berse	Charlie Powell	Javon Daniel	Dewayne Wilson	Ron Seybold	Scott Starosta	
Explore	Jerry Bonner	David Bussman	Raymond Williams	Fred Osborne	Delane Ray	Craig Gadow	Steve Cartee
1st VP Delane Ray							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member			
Diabetes	Milford Parrish	George Krigbaum	David Peacock	Javon Daniel			
Fair Concessions	David Bussman	Richard Gurley	Judy Smith				
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Brian Spaeth	Jerry Bonner				
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	David Peacock	Jason Tielking				
Membership	George Krigbaum	Javon Daniel	Frank Odell				
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Kraft	Chris Robinson				
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	Chris Robinson				
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee					
2nd VP Jeff Lawson							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Area Lion's Liason	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee	Frank Odell				
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
3rd VP David Wiggins							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Tail Twister	Richard Gurley	Richard White					
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham					
Branch Club Liaison	Ron Seybold	Jeff Lawson					
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
Communications & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
New- Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	Richard Gurley	Steve Murphree	Raymond Williams	Ginger Hogeland	