



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

March 16, 2026

### Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced Mr. Bo Shedd, who presented a program about his Mission Ministries and its disaster relief efforts. Bo is a 1988 Haleyville high school graduate, also a 1992 graduate of Athens state and is married with 3 kids. Lion Chris said that he was a featured motivational speaker for Tide Pride.



**Our speaker, Mr. Bo Shedd and Lion Chris Robinson, who tries to smile without success due to a big mouth-full of Freddy's great food.**

Bo said that much of his missionary work has been in Guatemala where Mission Ministries has a Church and school, teaching and training pastors and evangelists. He thanked the Lions for the used-eyeglasses that it provides, noting that they are used in a clinic in Guatemala that his organization staffs. He also takes mission teams into other countries and has done that type work for 35 years.

Mr. Shedd talked about his own experiences in becoming a missionary after he initially thought his life was ruined after an auto accident took his leg an enduring 24 surgeries and rehab over 3 years. I quote, him, "I was so upset with God because he had taken my leg and had taken my scholarship, but I try to do what I could. And so this is a result of what I try to do what I

could. So I sing and preach and do mission work and hunt and fish and then that's pretty good combination." He talked about his work in other countries, especially Jamaica -- "I've been invited to go every year for just about a week, and to sing and to preach and teach in the schools. And now my teaching the college and the seminary in Monville, Jamaica, I have a partnership there with many sweet people that's also taken me since college to Russia, Romania, South Korea, the Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico, about 41 countries I've worked in. Now I'm 55 and so last year, in April, I took a team to Jamaica, and we taught in the schools and did mission work, and then preaching the churches and saying to them and encourage them following hurricane Melissa. We literally, I bought medicine here, vitamins, food, packaged food, Apple, PM, children's vitamins, batteries, flashlights, gloves, tape, everything I could take on a mission trip, because the power is still off in some of these areas. That's been over three months ago, people are living in schools on top of each other, just like what we had here 15 years ago, the tornadoes hit." Bo said that Jamaica has still a great deal of work to recover from that hurricane. He is looking for 7 men to accompany him back in the near future, mainly to repair roof, churches, schools, and houses. He had videos and photos of the extensive damage.

Bo gave us some inspirational preaching along with details of other missionary work with which he is involved. He, more than most anyone I have listened to lately, serves his fellow man. He finished his presentation with a song, showing a great and powerful alla-cappella voice.



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### Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel, who has a heart condition, is stable but currently limited to restricted activities. Pray for him.

Lion President Delane Ray acknowledged our Club's significant donation made to LCIF in honor of five recently deceased Lions: Jim Howard, Michael Ponder, Gary Murphree, Ron Seybold, and Tim Scott. Lion Delane reminded us about the upcoming Club officer election and for anyone interested in becoming an officer to contact Lion Steve Murphree, Morris Mangum, or Dwayne Wilson. The election will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lion President Delane Ray introduced new Lion member Rodney Bragg. Lion Rodney is from Bangor, Maine, where he had previously been a Lion with his dad & uncle 20 years ago. He came to Cullman to be close to his youngest daughter. He heard about our Club through others due to his membership in the Christian Mission Ramp construction crew, so he has already been volunteering to serve our community.



Lion Craig Gadow shared highlights from Saturday's District Convention. He stated that District 34-A had recruited 107 new Lions compared to 171 for the entire District of 40 Clubs, which great. He says we are anticipating another possible 50 before the Lions year is over on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Our Club has produced 13 District Governors and is very likely provide # 14 next year. Lion Craig noted that our District started a Lion Ron Seybold Legacy of Service Award this year. He also said that something that had not been done in a few years was selecting a Club of the Year. But he did not pick his own Club although you could make a for that with our Club. Instead, a little Club in Cherokee, a small community of only 1,100 citizens. They have 27 members, so those Lions are doing a lot for their community. He then announced that Lion Barry Willingham was awarded the North Alabama Lion of the year. Lion Barry had been asked to help straighten out the District's financial records with the IRS; he stepped up and successfully resolved all those issues after many hours of study and coordination.



Lion Barry Willingham receiving Lion of the Year for North Alabama award plaque from Lion District Governor Craig Gadow.



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Lion Frank Odell recognized Lion Eric Ponder for completing the New Member Round Table sessions.



Lions Eric Ponder and Frank Odell

Lion Don Smith provided a recap of the Fish & Ham fundraiser proceeds. The Club's profits exceed those of last year by a couple of thousand dollars. However, if the expenses for the trailer-cooker purchased from Mr. Freddy Day were not included in our expenses, this year profits have been around \$4,000 higher. So, good job Lions in selling those tickets – makes all the difference.

Lion Don, as a retired high ranking Naval Officer, also gave us a run-down on the current situation of U.S. Marines headed for deployment in the Iran war. He gave a good deal of detail about how it is organized, equipped, how it travels the seas, and its capabilities. His assessment of that expeditionary force is that they would likely be used to seize Kharg Island, from which Iran loads out 90% of its oil.

### Upcoming Programs and Events.

April 18: Cullman's Mayor, our own Lion Woody Jacobs, will be our speaker.

April 20: Club meeting will be at the Agriplex at 5:30PM. The Club has made significant contributions to the Agriplex. We have been invited to the dedication & opening of the Agriplex's Teaching Kitchen, part of its multi-million-dollar expansion.

April 27: Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.



Ms. Cathy Sloss

May 4: Cullman Power Board Director Allison Bright will be our program speaker

June 15: Club Officer Installation at the Church of Christ on Child Haven Road.

June 29: Club Family Picnic at the Fairgrounds.

### 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 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).