



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

May 11, 2026

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker, Ms. Lillian Sheffield of “Knapsacks for Kids” ministry.



Lions Delane Ray and Randy Kraft flank our speaker, Ms. Lillian Sheffield of Knapsacks for Kids Ministry. Ms. Sheffield worked for the Social Security Administration for 25 years before retiring early to enter full-time Methodist ministry. She served as a pastor at several Alabama churches, including Cullman First Methodist Church. After retiring from pastoral ministry, she and her family settled in Cullman, where she remained affiliated with Cullman First Methodist Church.

The Knapsacks for Kids Ministry (also known as the Backpack Program) operates across the country and provides weekend food for school kids who have been identified as undernourished, usually by school staff but other organizations, also. It was started in 2012. She began serving the leadership role in her Church’s Knapsack for Kids Ministry last year. This “knapsack” consists of a 2-gallon bag of nourishing food since these kids are not getting the week-day breakfast and lunch meals they normally get at school.

Teachers pass out the knapsacks on Fridays. This past year 66 Cullman children were served by this ministry.

Lillian’s church provided this service to four of the City’s five schools; a local credit union takes care of the fifth (Cullman Primary School). Cullman County provides this service for the County schools. It partners with the North Alabama Foodbank which helps stretch its budget for food. It also gets donations from the Church congregation, other individuals, and local businesses. The cost of running the program for the 36 weeks of school is ~\$17,000. Although the ministry does not operate during the summer months, other charitable and civic organizations help in filling this gap. She invited our members to contribute or to speak with their own Sunday schools and churches or other organizations about supporting this ministry.

This is a most worthy cause. Ms. Sheffield, as she has done throughout her life, is indeed doing God’s work.

### Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel, who has a heart condition, remains in stable condition, but is currently limited to restricted activities. Continue praying for him. Lions Quinn and Charlie Powell were with us tonight following recent medical issues. Lion Carey Thompson’s son, Lee, passed on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> after battling cancer for several years. Celebration of his life will be at Ingram Funeral Home & Crematorium in Cumming Ga. on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.



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Lion Craig Gadow presented Lion Scott Starosta his 2nd VP District Governor patch.

See photo, below.



Lion Craig also had Lion pins available from last week's State Lions Convention. He explained that these pins were starting a series of pins honoring Alabama born pioneers such as this year's pin of Mae Jamison, the first woman astronaut in space. Our Treasurer, Lion Don Smith will provide a Club members with set of these pins at the Club's expense, upon request.

Lion Riley Smith presented Lion President Delane Ray with Alabama Lions Sight's "Champion Award" for our Club for its significant donation this year to it.

See photo, below.



### Upcoming Programs and Events.

May 18: Ms. Alyssa Thomas of the North Alabama Development and Manager of Make-A-Wish® Alabama



Ms. Alyssa Thomas

May 25: No Club meeting -- Memorial Day.

June 8: Agriplex Teaching Kitchen Opening Ceremony and dinner at 5:30 PM. Club meeting & meal on this night will be at Agriplex, not at Commission on Aging building.

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

June 29: Club Family Picnic at the Fairgrounds at 5:30PM. Also, a group photo will be taken of all Lions present. Be there in Lion vests or Lion T-shirts.

### 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).