



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

May 15, 2023

### Program

Our speaker, tonight, introduced by Lion Chris Robinson, was Mrs. April Bowen German who founded Victoria's Hope Thrift and Treasures store in 2018 while maintaining her position as a kindergarten teacher. She's a graduate of Hanceville High School, has a bachelor's education degree from Athens State, and a Master's degree in educational administration from the University of Alabama. April stated that she founded this store in memory and honor of her mother who instilled a heart of community service within her family throughout her life, despite limited means, without ever expecting anything in return. She has 3 teenage sons and a husband, all of whom have assisted in running this store.



Mrs. April German presented with token of appreciation from Lion President Milford Parrish who is all smiles. Her mom was a single mother who worked several jobs in supporting her and her siblings. Her mom worked at Walmart and as a manager of a low-income apartment complex, often helping tenants in raising money to help tenants out when possible. April recounted her family

moving to Cullman from Florida as a kid and coming to the Fair which greatly improved her outlook about Cullman, and she still keeps that time as a special memory. When her Mom died in 2018, April dealt with her grief in deciding to pickup where her mom left off in helping indigent people, just trying to get clothes and other household items to about 5 families. Mainly, by work of mouth and with a few friends, this work continued to grow until she rented a very small storage building to work out of. This business continued to grow and grow until she decided to start a larger thrift store to fund her charitable non-profit work in 2019. Her husband quit his 20- year job as a salesman, cashed-in his retirement and came to work in this thrift store. At first April could not even afford to pay the workers who joined her enterprise. She says it was a huge leap of faith for her family, but that they have made it work for four years. She initially started just helping single mothers but has expanded beyond that limitation now to anyone who is struggling – from single fathers to grandparents raising their grandchildren to people who have lost their jobs to fire & tornado victims. And they have opened up the store at 2 AM for immediate need items from clothing to toothpaste. The local community has been a great help in providing items for the store and appreciates what it has done and is doing. She has also made it a goal to pay-off delinquent school lunch bills for students when possible and awarded a scholarship for the first time for a student at Good Hope Highschool. April told several anecdotes of individuals that have been helped. She says she would like to start a tutoring program for parents that cannot afford to pay when their child needs such assistance. Victoria's Hope is located on Hwy 278, west of



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I-65, and just past the dollar store. All these accomplishments and continuing plans have happened with no dedicated sponsors.

April's mission is an amazing happening for good in our community. She, like many speakers we have heard over the years, deserves our admiration and appreciation. This was an emotionally moving program. May God bless April and her family.

### Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel reported the results from the Shred-It Event. He said that it was a "light" day as far as traffic, but a beautiful and enjoyable day for all attendees, saying that he heard favorable comments from many people who came through the line with documents to shred. He also said that he received a good deal of food for the Food Bank and thanked the many Lions who turned out.

Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share> . Call Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361 if you need help getting to this site.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

May 22: Col. (Retired) Ken Brown will speak about the Veterans Hall of Fame.



U.S. Air Force/Retired Col. Ken Brown

May 29: No meeting in remembrance of Memorial Day.

June 12: New Club members' formal installation.

June 19: New Officer Banquet with installation of new officers, summary of past year's activities, and award presentations. Details to follow.

July 17: Speaker will be Ms. Rhonda McDavid, Executive Director SE Diabetes Education Services, Camp Seale Harris. Photo, below.



### 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).