



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

May 21, 2018

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speaker, Mr. John Latimer. Since 2014 John has been the Director of Camp Seale Harris. As a diabetic, himself, John is a walking advertisement of Camp Seale Harris. As an 11-year old boy, he was counseled by a Lion after he was first diagnosed with diabetes and encouraged to attend camp, which he did. He later came back as a counselor and worked there periodically through the years, helping other diabetics. The Camp was founded in 1949 and named for a renowned endocrinologist to provide a medically supervised, fun camp experience for thousands of youth with diabetes.



(L to R) Lion Chris Robinson, Mr. John Latimer, and Lion President Bill Ruehl.

Mr. Latimer stated that Camp Seale Harris became the primary program of a larger encompassing program called the Southeastern Diabetes Education Services (SDES). SDES is the only charitable organization in Alabama and Northwest Florida whose primary purpose is to provide direct residential, day, and local

programs and services that educate, encourage, and empower children with diabetes and their families – serving hundreds of clients, annually. It began as an innovative way to teach healthy behaviors outside of the doctor's office or hospital setting. Camp Seale Harris became a time-tested standard of care for children and teens with diabetes. Its overnight, day, week-long, and family camps are now year-round programs provided in nine locations in Alabama and Northwest Florida, serving attendees from throughout the Southeast. The Camp isn't just a place on a map. It's a shared experience and a feeling of community. Campers try new things, learn new skills, make life-long friends and just have fun. They become more independent and confident. Many become leaders and mentors. It's where they connect and are inspired to live well. As one camper related to his counselor, "In Camp I finally feel that I am not alone with my diabetes."

One great thing that John talked about, concerning the Camp, is its financial accessibility. It is a non-profit that relies on charitable donations to provide camp for all children with diabetes. Every family automatically receives a 30-50% subsidy as part of their reduced Camp Program Fee. For example, the actual cost of Camp Seale Harris Junior Week is \$1200 per camper, but the Program Fee for each child is reduced to \$800. This reduced fee is made possible by donations and sponsorships from caring donors and community organizations so that no child is ever turned away. SDES want all children



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with diabetes to be able to come to camp. Some families are not able to pay some, or all, of their remaining camp program fees. Our Club has sponsored several Cullman diabetic children every year to attend Camp Seale Harris. More information can be found at the following web site: <https://campsealeharris.org> .

Other Business

Lion Jim Walker is continuing dialysis treatments. Lion Jim Searcy had a stent placed in his leg and is having surgery on his aorta his week. Lions Ed Henke and Mariman Pope are doing better, but Lion Wayne McCravy has been a little weaker.

No meeting will be held May 28th, Memorial Day.

The Officer Installation will be held June 4th at Top of the Town at 5:30 in the Kullman Hall Room. PID Lowell Bonds will officiate. Contact Lion Dennis Berse (ph. 256-841-1888) by Wednesday of next week if you have not yet signed-up but wish to attend.

Lion Lummie Speakman says that due to the reduction in publishing and planned phase-out the Lions Magazine – “do not” bring them to Club meetings any more for his redistribution into the community since the magazine and, thus, his program will be ending.

Lions Charlie McBrayer and Charlie Powell received Gold Pin Awards, while Lions Josh Speakman and Jerry Eddleman received Diamond Pin Awards, for their efforts in getting new Club members.

As a fall-out from the dissolution of the local Habitat for Humanity, it is transferring its remaining charity funds to the Cullman Lions Charities as the chosen successor 501(c)3. The intention of the Lions Charities Board is to use the funding for essential construction projects.

At the most recent meeting, the Club’s Board of Directors (BOD) committed funding for repaving of the central loop of the Fairgrounds and some ancillary areas, after a contractor has been formally selected. Also, Lion Barry Willingham suggested the next BOD consider supporting a major upgrade of the Child Development Center playground in Vinemont. The BOD also approved some funds for Two Shoes; Lion Doug Doggett is the contact. Regretfully, a request to the BOD for a grandchild’s scholarship was declined without voting; the Club has not provided any scholarships for the last 4 years.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 28: No meeting due to Memorial Day.

June 4: New Officer installation at Top of the Town, 5:30PM in the Kullman Hall Rm.

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).