



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

**September 18, 2023**  
**Program**

Lion Steve Cartee introduced our speaker, Lion Cody Davis, who is the Chief Operation Officer for Alabama Lions Sight, and who came aboard in that position on June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.



**Lions (President) Chris Brooks, Cody Davis (Chief Operation Officer for Alabama Lions Sight), and Steve Cartee.**

Lion Cody began with a brief history, reminding us of Helen Keller's challenge to the Lions to be "Knights of the Blind." Then, he moved on in recounting how Alabama Lions became one of the first to significantly answer that call by forming Alabama Lions Sight in 1944 with its mission: To promote sight conservation through research, education, as well as affordable eye disease detection and treatment to the indigent of Alabama. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Austin Callahan to fill the need for specialized high eye treatment, he raised money to open the Eye Foundation Hospital (later re-named the Callahan Eye Hospital) which handles over 23,000 patients, performing over 10,000 patients, annually. It is totally dedicated to care and treatment of the eye, and it has the only 24-hour emergency eye treatment center in Alabama. The Callahan Eye Hospital

established a fund-raising partnership with Alabama Lions Clubs. When a doctor gives a referral to Alabama Lions Sight for eye treatment funding, it is passed on to the Lions Eye Clinic of the Callahan Hospital, to get qualification information. If qualified, this information is passed on to the Callahan Hospital which will contact the individual, calling to advise of their acceptance for treatment (they will attempt calling only 3 times). People are served daily at the Lions Eye Clinic.

Clubs throughout Alabama host events and projects to fund Alabama Lions Sight. It also relies on individual, foundation, and corporate support.

The great importance of Alabama Lions Sight was noted by Lion Cody in the following statistics: At this time there are 121,000 cases of vision loss in Alabama.

Alabama Lions Sight funds medically necessary eye care for indigent, eligible Alabamians through a comprehensive network of partners. It promotes sight conservation and education in the prevention of blindness. It provides eye screening for children. It focuses on seniors, especially in rural areas, providing transportation to Callahan Eye Clinic; it has launched a comprehensive dilated eye screening program for seniors.

Lion Cody was very proud of the organization's two fully equipped Mobile Eye Clinics that will soon offer hearing testing, also. These clinics examine eyes for needed glasses, and all eye-related health conditions, including diabetes, cataracts, and glaucoma. Exams include case



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history, including medication and allergies, visual acuity, pupil function, eye movements, intraocular pressure, refraction, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment plans.

Alabama Lions Sight has received a very large donation each year from The Cullman Lions Club. Lion Cody Davis gave us a great explanation as to why.

### Other Business

Lion Gary Murphee is continuing to improve, and looking forward to joining us at meetings again, soon. Lion Gordon Boyd had a bad fall, temporarily losing consciousness after hitting his head and breaking a leg; he had an operation to stabilize his leg; otherwise, he is in fair condition and in good spirits, in spite of his medical situation.

Lion Scott Starosta gave a report on last week's BOD meeting. It was very productive. He reported that the BOD approved two membership invitations to individuals sponsored by Milford Parrish and Riley Smith. Donations were approved for quite a few charitable organizations -- Bosom Buddies, Good Samaritan Clinic, and for diabetes-kits for Cullman local schools (further investigation with some enhancements will take place before this last action is finalized). It also approved funding for Camp Seal Harris, The Link, and Leader Dogs for the Blind organizations. Further investigations are pending for funding towards the North Alabama Agriplex and the Lions Quest program. Furthermore, it approved a donation for Cullman Leos for their participation in the "Fast Track Program" with Wallace State.

Lion Bill Ruehl asked for a few Lions to help with the Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Screening van which was due at the Good Samaritan Clinic at 8:00 on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Lion Bill suggested that the Club do more to help with the purchase of

eyeglasses for indigent individuals identified through this van's screenings. The Good Samaritan Clinic is located within the old Folsom Hospital.

Richard White thanked those Lions who showed up to help with parking last Saturday for the Electric Co-op's annual meeting and election. The Co-op provided the Club with a \$500 check for this support.

Lion Craig Gadow reported that the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Band, that represented the Alabama Lions at the last international convention, will be at the Fair on Oct 7th at 4pm. They will perform in the pavilion and enjoy fair food following. Please give and support these students.

Lion Charlie Powell reported that our chef, Freddy Day, in support of Cullman's Octoberfest, will be serving German food at our next meeting.

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

September 30: Fair Parade

October 2: Fair Prep Night with hot dogs & hamburgers served, starting at 5:00PM, until 6:00PM.

October 5 – 14: Cullman County Fair.

October 7: Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Band will perform at the pavilion at 4PM.



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### Tale Twister Input

November 6: Ms. Renie Bright, Vice District Governor will speak.



**Renie Bright**  
District 34A, 1st Vice District Governor

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).

**See Club Committee assignments on the next page.**

**See Cullman County Fair work assignments on the last page. These have not changed since copies were passed out at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Let me know if your name is missing. Chairmen of each work group are listed first in that group. They should be contacting you to schedule your work times.**

November 13: Ms. Jolanda Hutson, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Clinic, will be our guest speaker.



**Jolanda Hutson**  
- Executive Director -  
Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Cullman



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### 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Burke Committees

Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Diabetes	Javon Daniel	Jason Tielking	
Fair Concessions	David Bussman		
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Jerry Bonner	
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	Frank Odell	
Membership	Gary Murphree	David Bussman	Dewayne Wilson
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Craft	Chris Robinson
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee	

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Delane Ray Committees

Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Area Lion's Liason	Jerry Bonner	Craig Gadow	
Constitution & Bylaws	Bradley Williar	Champ Crocker	
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborn	David Bussman
Member Info	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz	
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson	
Youth Leo's	Jeff Lawson	Sam Roberts	

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Jeff Lawson Committees

Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Tail Twister	Richard White	Richard Gurley	
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham	
	Charlie Childers		
Lions Branch Liaison	Dennis Burse	Ron Seybold	
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
Communication & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
New Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	David Bussman

