



## Callista and Winona's Big Meadow Muffin Adventure

October 10, 2021

By Lion Stephen Flanders

(Advisory to the reader: *This story contains some inter-cow dialog that may not be suitable for all age groups.*)

**Norwich, Vermont:** On the morning of October 9<sup>th</sup>, Callista and Winona (not their real names) had a funny feeling, as they started to go about the day's business of eating—their jobs as heifers (young cows) on Farmer Chet's farm. They thought nothing of that brief sensation until early afternoon, when Farmer Chet put halters on them.

"Hey, what gives?", asked Winona. "Hay! Where?", responded Callista.

Neither one suspected that the day would expand their horizons in a big adventure that would include a ride to the Norwich Green to be stars in the [Norwich Lions Club Meadow Muffins Contest](#), wherein "deeds" to 500 plots laid out on a grid on the Norwich green were up for sale to those who wanted a chance to win a \$1,000 first prize or a \$500 second prize—all determined by the scatological productivity of these two heifers!



Sample of the 2021 deed

A bit later, Farmer Chet clipped a lead onto the two heifers so that he and his helper could take them for a ride. He had done the same for Xenia, too, who when pulled refused to budge! Callista and Winona resisted too—they didn't like to be made to do things—but soon they found themselves loaded into a trailer, which began to move with them inside.

"Hey, what gives?", asked Winona. "I'm scared sh\*tless!", responded Callista. "So am I!", rejoined Winona. And they did what any bovine would do under the circumstances.

By the time the trailer arrived at the Norwich green, their "movements" were manifest on the trailer floor. Little did they realize the effect that their travel travails would have on ensuing events!



Callista and Winona, waiting for their starring role.

Farmer Chet and his helper unloaded the two heifers and waited for a momentous ceremony to take place. The announcer of the event, Lion Flanders, introduced the Master of Ceremonies with flourish and fanfare, as “the Founder and Primary Exponent of the Norwich Lions Club Meadow Muffins Contest, and past Citizen of the Year—Lion Demosthenes Sofronas!”

Feeling a bit over-hyped, Lion Demo took over the proceedings and introduced the four **Judges** that he had selected by an elaborate vetting process (he asked them).

They were **Their Honors**:

- **Ryan Bradley**
- **Gigi Gray**
- **John Guy**
- **Zinnia Hort**



Lion Demo briefs the judges.

Lion Demo had each of them draw lots to determine which among them would be chosen as **Supreme Court Justice**. That role fell to **His Honor, Ryan Bradley**, whose duty became to swear in the three judges of the event with the following words, as their Oath of Office:

I do solemnly swear that I will:

- Follow the “Rules of the Plop”
- Be impartial to all parties
- Apply my best judgment
- Listen to my peers
- Respect the advice of experts

The judges being sworn in, each was stationed at a corner of the enclosure to watch for a determinative dropping, as Callista and Winona were led under protest onto the field of play.



Callista and Winona on the field of play!

And play they did, once released! They frolicked in tandem, paused in tandem, and wondered why they were there in tandem—until they realized that there was grass to eat! The more experienced heads among the onlookers nodded and suggested that eating would stimulate their bovine bowel tracts.

The heifers were content, the onlookers were patient and well-mannered, yet nothing happened for half an hour—the agreed-upon time to find another way for Chance to determine the outcome.



Patiently watching for a plop to drop!

Foreseeing this contingency, Lion Demo had prepared a bucket with ticket stubs numbered 1 to 500 to correspond with each plot. He invited onlookers to stir the tickets to randomize them. When the time was called, a judge pulled each of the two winning numbers:

- 181 for the \$1,000 first prize
- 259 for the \$500 second prize

(The names of the winners are being withheld to protect them from the attentions of pestering strangers and greedy distant relatives, seeking a share in the bounty.)

Just after the winners were announced, Callista or Winona (we're not sure which) finally did what they were supposed to have done, upon arrival, and left a deposit on square H-6, which would then have determined the prize winner according to a randomized scheme on display at the contest!

Upon the conclusion of the event, Lion Demo presented each judge with a certificate that thanked each of **Their Honors** and certified that each had "served on the quasi-judiciary panel of the Norwich Lions Club Meadow Muffin Contest, held on 9 October 2021, which role required a knowledge of the rules, impartiality, good judgment, and the ability to listen to the testimony of experts." Each of the judges left with swag that comprised their top hats, oaths of office, the labels denoting their role, and their certificate of thanks.

Also receiving thanks with a certificate were:

- Adam Moore, who lined the field
- Chet Miller, who brought Callista and Winona
- Dimitriy Kim, who shot and edited the videography of the event

The Norwich Lions Club thanks the many people, who bought the 427 Meadow Muffin deeds that grossed \$8,740, the net proceeds of which will fund the club's community grants program in aid of non-profits.

We hope that the 425 third-place winners will derive great satisfaction from their participation—knowing that they have helped fund the Lions grants program—and that they will consider doing the same, next year!

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