



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 11, 2022

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speaker, Mr. Rick Barry, author and missionary for Eastern Europe.

Rick opened discussing his childhood. He developed a love reading starting with comic books as a small boy. As he grew older, he became a voracious reader and set his sights on becoming an author. He entered an essay contest in college, and although he did not win, his piece was published separately from the contest, and he was paid for it. He has been writing professionally since then. After college, his contacts with the professional publishing community developed into a five-year stint as a textbook editor. On a parallel vein, his father was in post WWII in occupied Germany. Later his father became a Ham radio enthusiast.



(L to R) Lion President Javon Daniel, Mr. Rick Barry, and Lion Chris Robinson converse at the head table. Hearing his father's and other relative's stories about both the war and the places they had been, as well as hearing his father's world-wide Ham contacts, created

a desire to travel. This desire to travel was answered with a call to be a missionary. Rick made his first trip to what was then the Soviet Union in 1987. Rick has been to eastern Europe, including both Russia and the Ukraine, over fifty times in his role as a missionary where he now functions as both a chaperone and translator. He speaks and reads not only fluent Russian but also Ukrainian and provides translation services daily. He noted that Ukrainian and Russian are not dialects of the same language but sister languages like Italian and Spanish. He has many friends in both countries and is staying in close contact with those in Kyiv who still have internet access. Concurrent with his missionary work Rick has published several novels. Most are young adult reading with an emphasis on WWII or science fiction. He summarized his lead characters as "Ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances." Rick brought several books with him and provided autographed copies for Lions who purchased the available books.

Other Business

Lion Carey Thompson is ailing with an undefined virus (Lion Don Smith took notes for this newsletter in his stead). Lion Howard Perry and wife are still in France in quarantine until they can pass a Covid test to be allowed to fly home.

A membership application for Brad Mitchell, sponsored by Lion Randy Kraft, has been received



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The Tail Twister conducted a quiz about Easter with 4 of the Lions whose names started with "J." Lion Jim Burke was the winner and received a chocolate bunny.



Lion Jim Burke w/chocolate bunny, presented by Acting Tail Twister Richard Gurley.

Officer nominations were announced. [See page 3.](#)

Upcoming Programs and Events

April 18: A native Ukrainian will give what promises to be an interesting program.



Mr. Igor Tirnoviy
- was born in the -
Kyiv, Ukraine, Region

April 28-30: Alabama State Convention in Atmore at Morgan State.

May 14: Annual Shred-a-thon.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF NORTH ALABAMA PRESENTS
CULLMAN SHRED DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022 KING EDWARD PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER 1731 2ND AVENUE SW, CULLMAN, AL 35055 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- FREE DRIVE-THRU SERVICES**
- DOCUMENT SHREDDING
 - NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS (TO BENEFIT CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS)
 - 3 LARGE BAGS OR BOXES PER VEHICLE
 - DRUG TAKE BACK (NO NEEDLES)
 - FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (256) 734-8209

Lion Dennis Berse has been appointed to arrange for a portable john facility for this event.

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).



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Cullman Lions Club

Nominations for 2022-2023 Cullman Lions Club

President

Lion Milford Parrish (I)

Lion Charles McBrayer

Secretary

Lion Craig Gadow (I)

Lion Terry Slaten

1st VP

Lion Chris Brooks (I)

Lion Doug Doggett

Treasurer

Lion Jerry Bonner (I)

Lion Clark Rainwater

2nd VP

Lion Wendell Copeland

Lion Delane Ray

Lion Tamer

Lion Dave Gratz (I)

Lion Jeff Lawson

3rd VP

Lion Jim Burke

Lion Ricky Peak

Tail Twister

Lion David Bussman (I)

Lion Richard Gurley

Director

You will vote for two:

Lion George Krigbaum

Lion Brian Spaeth

Lion Eric Ponder

Lion Jeff Wren

Membership Committee

Lion Scott Ivey

Lion Gary Murphree