



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

April 13, 2026

### Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced our speaker, Cullman City Mayor, Lion Woody Jacobs. The Mayor gave us an update on the latest City happenings.



Lion 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jeff Lawson looks on intently as Mayor Jacobs discusses the ever-improving and expanding Cullman city projects.

Lion Woody is now in his third term as our Mayor. He explained that going into his first term he was obliged to attend Mayor School hosted at the U of A in Tuscaloosa. One of the main topics was tourism. He was especially proud about the progress of the festivals the City has developed: The big 3 being the Strawberry Festival, Octoberfest, and lastly, the Christmas Market (which last year saw 416,000 visitors total and one Saturday which had attendance of 65,000. He also pointed out the Farmers Market facility at the old train depot. Our City has been on a continuing upward trend of visitors from surrounding States and beyond. Our City has a great reputation which helps explain its tremendous and continuing growth in all areas.

One of the projects that his administration began was a multimodal path connecting both ends of Hwy 157 allowing paths for bicycles, walking, and running; this project was a funding primarily through a \$20M rural transportation grant. Our Congressmen have also been working hard to bring in \$34M for road and highway development in Federal money. Part of this will be for a new bridge on Hwy 278 near St. Bernard; he was not sure how the traffic would be managed which the new bridge was being constructed. He talked a good bit about the wheeling & dealing that had taken place in the City's growth, particularly in our Parks and Rec facilities, noting the Omni-plex, Heritage Park, the swim & water park, and other attractive facilities. He also talked about the City purchasing a vacant church and converting it for use as a theater.

The Mayor noted that a huge retail store called "Rural King" will likely be coming to Cullman. It's described as a combination Walmart and Lowes, and larger than either. He also talked about Duck River Dam with its great walking trail and other attractions for citizens throughout North Alabama and what a great job the late Lion Tim Scott played in its development and management.

Mayor Lion Woody is an entertaining and informative speaker and has really learned what it takes to be a most effective leader for our City. He is someone our Club can proudly point to as one of us.

### Other Business

Tonight was Club officer election night. Club Officers for 2026-2027 are as follows:



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- a. President – Lion Jeff Lawson
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Lion Craig Gadow
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Lion Raymond Williams
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Lion Eric Ponder
- e. Secretary – Lion Scott Starosta
- f. Treasurer – Lion Don Smith
- g. Lion Tamer – Lion Charlie Powell
- h. Tail Twister – Lion Richard Gurley
- i. Directors – Lion Jeremy Bryant &  
Lion Quinten Poulin
- j. Membership Committee –  
Lion David Bussman



There has been a change for the planned Club group-photo at our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. It will **not** happen on that date. When and another date is established, it will be announced and appear in the newsletter.

Lion Javon Daniel, who has a heart condition, remains in stable condition, but is currently limited to restricted activities. Continue praying for him

Lion President Delane Ray announced years of service anniversaries for the following Lions:

### Upcoming Programs and Events.

April 20: The Club meeting **will NOT be at the Agriplex on this date as previously announced**; it will be rescheduled for some time in May. Instead, Lion Sam Roberts will be presenting our program.

April 27: Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.



May 2: Saturday morning, Shread-A-Thon at Cullman Fairgrounds, presented by Cullman Better Business Bureau. Lions will be assisting.

May 4: Cullman Power Board Director Allison Bright will be our program speaker.



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C.E.O. Allison Bright  
Cullman Utilities Board

May 11: Judge Emily Johnson will be our program speaker.

June 15: Club Officer Installation at the Church of Christ on Child Haven Road.

June 29: Club Family Picnic at the Fairgrounds.

### **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 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).