



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 20, 2026

Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced Lion Champ Crocker, Cullman County District Attorney, who will be entering his 4th year in this position (at the 1,190th day to be exact). Before he began his presentation, the DA told us that he had contacted Lion Treasurer Don Smith to make sure that his dues to the Club were up to date. Lion Don said, "Amen," to that.



Cullman County District Attorney, Lion Champ Crocker provides details of his office's accomplishments over the past year. It continues moving in the right direction under his leadership.

The last time Lion Champ spoke to us was after his first 100 days in office, and he says he is "just as excited and just as passionate about the work we do today as I was then." He began his presentation about his work by giving us a run down on some of the more infamous criminals that were criminally prosecuted this year, beginning with a character named James Michael Dawes who had been initially charged about 6 years ago for a heinous crime against a child; he was

sentenced to 325 years in prison. The DA continued with case histories of a half dozen other notable convictions that were made over the past year for crimes of murder, rape of a child, armed robbery, multiple property robberies, jail escape, drug distribution, and a one-man crime spree that ended with a high-speed pursuit of 21 miles. These high profiles cases mentioned above involved only a few of the total criminals removed from the streets & roads of Cullman County.

His office has indeed been busy, clearing 12,190 total cases in the past year – a clearance rate of 105%, broken out into 8,694 Traffic Court cases cleared; 2,792 in District Court; and 704 in Circuit Court cases. Total money recovered was \$4,308,966.

DA Crocker talked about community involvement by his office. One of these items was the "Love Like Lexi Project," which promotes and highlights suicide prevention in our schools. He described a case in which a student recounted that a presentation about this project was held at her school on the same day she intended to go home and take her own life; however, the presentation motivated her to seek assistance and ultimately saved her. In his annual DA report, copies of which he passed out to our members, he had photos for over a dozen events that he & DA staff members supported including meeting with local legislators about priorities for stronger laws, presentment of Marshall's Safe Schools Initiative Award, witnessing Governor Ivey sign the bill to expand the list of crimes that will be ineligible for bond under Aninah's Law, presenting DA Valor Awards to local law enforcement officers, and more.



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DA Crocker also highlighted the “Victim Services and Restitution” program, headed by Victim Service Officer, our own Lion Bradley Williams. This office works closely with community partners and organizations to ensure that victims have access to the resources to heal and rebuild their lives. This program provides information on victim advocacy, legal assistance, financial compensation and obtaining restraining orders while protecting the rights and dignity of victims of crime.

Another highly successful program that his office engages in is the “Helping Families Initiative (HFI).” This program is built on a collative relationship between the DA’s Office, community partners, and local schools systems; it is aimed at eliminating the barriers to the child’s emotional, behavioral, and academic success. Its main feature is the pairing of a case officer to assist families specific needs along with necessary resources to assist them. Results speak for themselves: At City schools, perfect attendance is up 121% and chronic absenteeism is down 59%; at County schools, perfect attendance is up 300% and chronic absenteeism is down 18%.

Other DA supported areas mentioned were the Child Support Division which sees the children are financially supported as required by law. Also, is the Worthless Check Unit which collects restitution for victims of worthless checks; if the bad check writer fails to pay through the DA office, it assists with prosecution. The final program that the DA talked about was the “Pretrial Intervention Program” which diverts certain first-time nonviolent defendants from the traditional

court system into an individualized, supervised restorative program. Not everyone is eligible. If a defendant successfully completes the program, the case will not be brought to trial. The defendant must work, complete community service, attend counseling and relevant treatment or classes, pay restitution if required, and fulfill any other rehabilitation measures deemed appropriate by the DA. Last year 91 individuals successfully completed this program, in lieu of a trial and jail.

I think we can all agree that our DA is doing great things for Cullman County.

Other Business

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

Lion Bill Ruehl will be stepping away from his position as our Club’s community eyecare coordinator on July 1, 2026. The most visible job in this position has been coordinating our members support for the Lions Sight Mobile Eye-Van visits at the Good Samaritan Clinic. Anyone with an interest in taking over this position should contact Lion Bill.

Lion President Delane Ray announced years of service anniversaries for the following Lions: Lion Bill Herman Ruehl – 16 years and Andrew Manning – 16 years. Lion Delane also read thank-you notes from our Club’s support for their bingo-night fund raiser. Another note was from LFIC for the generous donations made in the names of



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several of our deceased Lions this year, including Lions Ron Seabolt, Tim Scott, Mike Ponder, Gary Murphree, and Jim Howard.

Lion Secretary Scott Starosta announced latest Club Board of Directors (BOD) donation decisions of major donations to Camp Seale Harris, covering a week's expenses for 15 children, and to Cullman Caring for Kids, alongside the LCIF donation, mentioned earlier, above. The BOD also approved a donation to Boys & Girls State competition. Lastly, the BOD approved covering the catering bill for the Agriplex's grand opening of its latest facilities, expected to be announced in the very near future. The number of attendees at this event is expected to be around 80; this includes our Club members who will be substituting attendance at a regular Monday night meeting for attendance at the Agriplex event which will be scheduled on a Monday night.. Freddy Day will be catering.

Upcoming Programs and Events.

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



Ms. Cathy Sloss

May 2: Saturday morning, Shread-A-Thon at Cullman Fairgrounds 9:00AM – 12:00PM, presented by Cullman Better Business Bureau. Lions will be assisting.

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



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 at 5:30PM. Also, a group photo will be taken of all Lions present. Be there in Lion vests or Lion T-shirts.

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).