



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 23, 2018

Program

Lion Steve Singleton introduced our speaker, Dr. Susan Patterson, Superintendent of Cullman City Schools. She received her Doctorate degree from UA, has been a classroom teacher for 25 years, and served another 12 years in school administration. She oversees 275 teachers and over 3,000 students in five schools as Superintendent. These schools are East Elementary, West Elementary, Cullman Middle, Cullman High, and Cullman City Primary School, which also hosts Cullman's Head-Start Program. Dr. Patterson's school system consistently ranks in the top school systems in College ACT scores as well as in the State.



(L to R) Lion Steve Singleton, Dr. Susan Patterson, and Lion President Bill Ruehl.

Recent achievements of note include those of Cullman Middle School as it competed in the North District FFA contest. The FFA Quiz Bowl team placed 1st in District and will advance to the State competition in June. Its Forestry judging team placed 3rd in district and will also compete in State competition in June. Both CMS math teams placed at the Pizitz Middle School

Tournament on Saturday! The 8th grade placed 1st and 7th grade placed 2nd. Cullman High School has a specialized Engineering Academy for those interested in pursuing this area; it also has a Health-Science area of interest that allows students participate in demonstrations of drawing blood, taking blood pressure, and other health related skills. Cullman City Schools has been a national leader in the integration of technology in the classroom for several years. This is evidenced by being selected a Technology Leaders Network Salute District in 2009, by being awarded the Consortium of School Networking Team Award in 2011, and by student achievement that has improved its state ranking from 11th in 2005 to 2nd of 132 districts in the State of Alabama for the 2011-2012 school year. Part of this technology is an app that enables parents to sign-in to a Cullman City Schools web-site allowing them to check on their children's grades and progress at any time, as well as to verify homework assignments, and for them to receive teacher and weather-related messages.

Susan says that they have initiated a donor web-site that allows anyone to make on-line donations towards specific school needs or funding goals. This site is <https://www.leanstream.school/cullman>. Current needed items that are on the list seen on this site are iPad with Apple Pen, Chromebooks, piano lab headphones, and a MicroSight 5MP Microscope. Responding to a question about security, considering recent school shootings in other parts of the country, Dr. Patterson



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

says that teachers and staff have worked closely with local law enforcement to implement security plans for all City Schools, and that they periodically conduct response drills to make sure that everyone knows how to react. The school system is also making long range plans for anticipated increases in student population.

Other Business

Lion Jim Walker is in the hospital following kidney dialysis. Lions Ed Henke, Jim Searcy, and Wayne McCravy are doing better this week. Lion Mariman Pope is also doing better and hopes to see us soon at a Club meeting. Lion Ricky Peek's used-car business was hard hit due to the recent hail storm damage.

Lion Barry Willingham is investigating the value of property owned by our Club on Smith Lake to assess its potential sale value and to make recommendations for follow-up on this issue.

Our Club's Officer Installation and dinner will be held June 4th. Venue will be at "The Top of the Town" restaurant.

Lion Randy Kraft still has "Alabama/Auburn football game with motel room" raffle tickets for sale at \$10 each. After issuing a commitment last week to shave his beard for anyone buying \$300 worth of tickets, Lion Randy followed through after Lion Raymond Williams anted-up to force the issue. Proceeds support the High School Leadership program.

The Club has received LCIF raffle tickets. They are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Prize of \$500 will be awarded to winner of the raffle drawing.

The MD-34 annual State convention will be held in Guntersville this week-end, April 27th through April 29th.

Chester Freeman Award Committee asked for input for candidates for this award.

A short BOD meeting was held to consider a Club membership application from Lion Charlie Powell.

We received thank-you notes for the Club's funding support from the Distinguished Young Women and Brook's Place organizations.

Upcoming Programs and Events

April 27-29: MD 34 Convention in Guntersville.

April 30: Mr. Shane Barnett, Superintendent of Cullman County Schools.

May 21: Mr. John Latimer from Camp Seale Harris.

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).