



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 24, 2023

Program

Our speaker tonight, Cullman County District Attorney, Lion Champ Crocker was introduced by Lion Sam Roberts. Lions Sam noted that tonight marks 100 days since Lion Champ was sworn in as our County's DA.



Cullman County District Attorney, Lion Champ Crocker updates the Club on the DA Office's recent activities. Our DA noted that this week is National Crime Victims Week, and that Lion Brad Williams serves as the Victims Service Officer for Cullman, helping crime victims file claims for restitution and informing them on how to make victims' impact statements for the sentencing phase of criminal trials. Lion Champ stated that in the past week there were 2 defendants convicted of murder, one from 2018 and one from 2021. Even though a "win" at a trial is a good thing, there is always a loss to the crime's victims; convictions can help provide closure to the victims and their families. His term started on his first day with an Anish's Law hearing.

This law allows judges to deny a defendant bail for murder or other violent crimes, and on this day, two defendants were seeking bail for a crime in which a victim was beaten with a tire iron before his car was stolen. Bail was denied. On the second day the DA traveled to Montgomery for a parole hearing in which the DA testified to deny parole to a woman who had a life sentence for smothering her child 20 years ago. Parole was denied. His office has started a pretrial intervention program first-time offenders who are who are low risk, and who can be productive members of society; if these offenders can work, be drug free, and show that they can stay within the law, they can have their cases dismissed. Besides handling traffic and misdemeanor cases; the DA's Office also collects child support for the State and vigorously enforces mandatory school attendance laws, working closely with our schools.

The DA said one of the big new laws recently passed, in working with our State legislators, was a crime bill requiring a mandatory sentence for trafficking fentanyl. There is a related bill making it a crime if someone provides fentanyl that injures user or package a first responder or a police officer. There is another bill to enhance penalties of 5 to 10 years added prison time for use of a firearm in a crime. Another big thing that our DA is working on is legislation that eliminates Class D felonies; this category of crime does require prison time for theft of \$1,400 or less. DA Crocker said that this D category of crime has been a failure. He encouraged the audience to contact their legislators if pass these bills and others that increase penalties for retail theft; such theft has caused closure of many



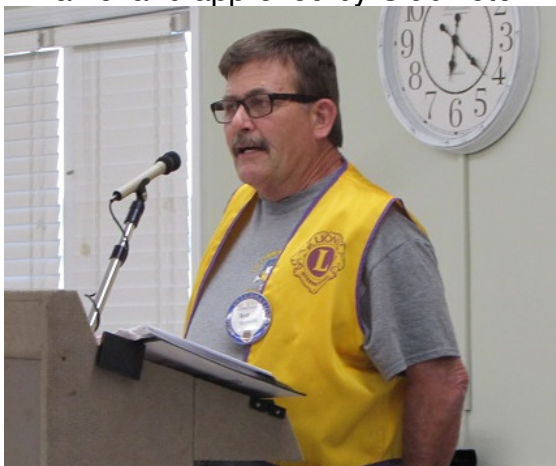
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businesses. DA Lion Champ Crocker pointed out some of the big and growing problems in other States where many crimes have been decriminalized. Champ comes across as committed and enthusiastic in keeping crime stamped down in our County. This was a very informative and well-received presentation.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold mentioned the District's nomination of Lion Craig Gadow for 2nd Vice District Governor. Motion was seconded by Lion Javon Daniel and approved by Club vote.



Lion Ron Seybold

Lion Carey Thompson provided an update to the Fish & Ham Event with an estimated breakout of profits between our Club and the Lioness Club. We had a very profitable year, and the final breakout is pending a decision of a percentage of the total profits to the Lionesses.

Lion Charlie Childers shared his appreciation for the club's purchase of an ad for the 2022 Cullman County Fair Queen Miss Alabama competition, as well as the amount collected in "passing the hat."

Lion Milford Parrish shared that the Distinguished Young Women event held on

June 17th at Wallace State. This was formerly called the Junior Miss Pageant event.

Treasurer Lion Jerry Bonner reminded us that Club 3rd Quarter Dues are due.

Secretary Lion Craig Gadow reported that the BOD had approved 5 scholarships for Leos for their support to our projects this past year.

Lion Steve Murphree, whose committee is heading up the candidate selection for new Club officers, presented Lion candidates last week as follows:

- President – Chris Brooks & Wendell Copeland.
- 1st Vice-Pres – Jim Burke & Doug Doggett.
- 2nd Vice-Pres – Delane Ray & Dewayne Wilson.
- 3rd Vice-Pres – Ricky Peek & Jeff Lawson.
- Secretary – Scott Starosta & Raymond Williams.
- Treasurer – Jerry Bonner & Terry Slaton.
- Lion Tamer – Adam Aker & Jerry Smith.
- Tail Twister – Richard White & Richard Gurley.
- Membership Committee – Andrew Manning & David Bussman.
- Directors (vote for two) – Jason Tielking, Craig Gadow, Steve Rogers, & Declan Yearwood.

Voting is scheduled to take place at the Club's regular meeting on May 1st.

Lion Frank Odell gave an update on the new-Lion roundtable discussions that he and Lion George Krigbaum have organized. Tonight, was to be the final session for the current set of new Lions. This session was to be led by Lion Ron Seybold, explaining zoning districts and multi-districts organization of Clubs. Another set of discussions for new Lions will run from July through October on the 4th Monday of those months, following the regular Lions Club meeting.



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Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share> . Call Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361 if you need help getting to this site.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 1: Speaker will be Councilman Johnny Cook, President Pro Tem of the Cullman City Council. We will also vote on the Club's officers for 2023-2024.



Councilman Johnny Cook
- President Pro Tem -
Cullman City Council

May 13: Shred-a-thon behind Buffalo Wild Wings. Show up before 8:30 for free biscuits for breakfast and pizza later.

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).