



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 29, 2024

Program

Prior to our program speakers Lion President Chris Brooks presided over the formal induction of four new Lions into Lionism (six were originally scheduled, but two were unable to be with us, tonight). These four were Lion Jimmy Horton, sponsored by Lion Steve Rogers; Lion Quinn Jackson, sponsored by Lion Milton Parrish; Lion David Peacock, sponsored by Lion Jeff Byrd; and David Wiggins, sponsored by Lion Charlie Childers (Lion Barry Willingham substituted for Lion Charlie, tonight).

Club. Besides our biggest projects – the Cullman County Fair and our Fish & Ham dinner, but that we are always trying to grow our footprint in the community with support to such organizations as the Agriplex. The induction ceremony continued with sponsors pinning each new member with their Lions Club membership pins after making a pledge to support our Club and Lions International; sponsors were also pledged to assist the new members in transitioning to be great Lions. A round of applause was given to them all.



(L to R) Lions Barry Willingham, David Wiggins, David Peacock, Jeff Byrd, Jimmy Horton, Steve Rogers, Quinn Jackson, and Milton Parrish.

Lion Chris introduced and called upon Past District Governor Jerry Stephens to talk about the history of Lionism, beginning with its founding by Mr. Melvin Jones and other businessmen in Chicago in 1917, continuing to the Lions' convention in 1925 with Helen Kellers challenge to be 'knights of the blind.' Lion Chris followed with history of our Club, noting that we are 135 members strong, including our Branch



Lion Steve Rogers pins Lion Jimmy Horton.

After Lion Chris Robinson first thanked the support shown to him through the ordeal of his wife's cancer treatment, he then introduced our speakers for tonight's program. First was Ms. Rachel Dawsey, Executive Director of the North Alabama Agriplex. Ms. Dawsey thanked the Club for its very generous contribution towards its capital campaign to raise \$2.4M for construction of an 8,525 sq. ft. community center on its current property. At this point she said that their funding campaign has so far achieved about 70% of its goal, and that construction plans are up for final review. After approval by



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the Alabama Department of Construction Management, they will proceed with the project bid. This center will feature a fully equipped demonstration and teaching kitchen and home for the Cullman County Extension Office. The Agriplex works to preserve agricultural heritage, to educate and feed our citizens, and to grow a sustainable future.

Lion Chris Robinson next introduced our other speaker, tonight, Past District Governor and current District LCIF (Lions International Club Foundation) Coordinator, Lion Jerry Stephens. Lion Stephens. Lion Chris was proud to point out that Lion Stephens was a fellow Michigan native, but that he is currently a database administrator at Athens State University. Lion Stephens stated that he has been very happy to have moved to Alabama, and he was grateful to our Club for its continued support to LCIF, which has been in operation for over fifty years. LCIF, in turn, has made several well-known contributions to our State following tornadoes and floods over the years. Its focus in several areas – service to youth, disaster relief, humanitarian disaster relief, cancer support, and hunger relief. Its total donation across the globe exceeds \$1.2 billion. He pointed out that 100% of donations go to helping people. All administrative costs, promotional materials, etc. are paid for by an endowment of Lions International, not from donated to LCIF. He pointed out that Lions Clubs, by themselves, cannot directly apply for an LCIF funding grant. The Clubs have to go through their Districts for a grant. LCIF can make emergency relief grants for \$10,000 that can be made almost immediately when a disaster strikes. North America and Canada have received 148 grants from July 2023 to December 2023. Across the world grants have been made for refugee needs, including survival and transitional needs for settlement in new communities. He also noted

thanks to our Clubs donations, our Club has over \$8,000 from LCIF that are available for a District impact grant request. It has to be used for humanitarian services and not for use to repair or build a club house or meals at meetings, etc. But it can be used to match funds that the Club already donated for humanitarian purposes in the community. He is working with Ms. Dawsey to secure a LCIF grant, matching our Club's contribution to the Agriplex.

Lion Jerry also talked about another LCIF program called the "Peace Poster Contest." It's for middle school kids. Any middle school can get a kit from Lions Club International explaining a poster competition rules and guidelines with the theme of "Peace without Limits." It's for kids from 11 to 13 years old, and a winner is selected from each State. The prize is \$250. Last year the Alabama's poster winner was from the city of Athens.

We all learned to appreciate how LCIF functions, its accomplishments, and what a great organization it is.



Our speakers, Ms. Rachel Dawsey and District LCIF Coordinator Lion Jerry Stephens.



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Other Business

Lion Gary Murphee continues in rehab at Woodland.

Lion Bill Ruehl recognized the Lions that assisted with Alabama Lion Sight mobile eye clinic this past week, including Lions Charlie Powell, Milford Parrish, Richard Gurley, Steve Cartee, Quinn Jackson, and George Krigbaum.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 13: Our 2023-2024 Fair Queen, Ms. Avery Flint will be our speaker.

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).

See Club committee assignments on page 4.



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1st VP Jim Burke Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Diabetes	Javon Daniel	Jason Tielking	
Fair Concessions	David Bussman		
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Jerry Bonner	
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	Frank Odell	
Membership	Gary Murphree	David Bussman	Dewayne Wilson
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Craft	Chris Robinson
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee	
2nd VP Delane Ray Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Area Lion's Liason	Jerry Bonner	Craig Gadow	
Constitution & Bylaws	Bradley Williar	Champ Crocker	
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborn	David Bussman
Member Info	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz	
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson	
Youth Leo's	Jeff Lawson	Sam Roberts	
3rd VP Jeff Lawson Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Tail Twister	Richard White	Richard Gurley	
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham	
	Charlie Childers		
Lions Branch Liaison	Dennis Burse	Ron Seybold	
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
Communication & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
New Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	David Bussman