



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

April 30, 2018

Program

After bringing us the Cullman City Superintendent of Schools last week, Lion Steve Singleton introduced Dr. Shane Barnette, Superintendent of Cullman County Schools tonight. Based on the number of schools and students, alone, Dr. Barnette seems to have the tougher job. But he does have good help; 58% of his teachers have earned Master's Degrees.



(L to R) Lion Steve Singleton, Dr. Shane Barnett, and Lion President Bill Ruehl.

The County has a student population of 10,000 – the City has 3,000. The County has 29 schools, while the City has five. As a matter of fact, Cullman County Schools is the largest employer in the County with 1,212 employees. The school system operates 109 buses, traveling 4,100 miles each day – 754,000 each year. There is a law-enforcement resource officer assigned to every school. Substantial growth is obvious in the County school system's future; of its students, 51% are in elementary schools, while only 19% are in its high schools.

The current graduation rate from its high schools is a 92%; this is impressively up

from under 75% in 2011. Its graduates also earned \$9.3 million in scholarships this past year. 86% of its graduates continue their education into college and into technical schools.

Dr. Barnett explained that the high schools have established career centers program that specialize and guide the students towards specific careers, such as Certified Nursing Assistant. Through this program the student at graduation can take the Alabama certification test and go to work immediately to work at a hospital. So far, every student in this center has been certified. Other programs include auto service, building construction, electrician, engineering, heating & air conditioning, JROTC, precision machining, welding, and others. Also, available to students are Industry Based Certifications (IBC's) that are recognized by business and industry professionals; these certifications verify that students have met the skill standards established by the industry to successfully enter the workforce. Over 99% of the students who take the IBC have been certified.

Shane pointed out that students have the opportunity to participate in The Fast Track Academy in which they earn college credits while in high school. Notably, in 2017 there were 26 students who earned their college associate degree before they earned their high school diploma.

An average of 63% of the systems County students' families are within the low-income category, with a high of 76% at one



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school. Concern for proper student nutrition is very appropriate in many instances. Not only does the school system serve 1.1 million lunches each year, but also 342,429 breakfast meals. And it provides 3,397 supper meals, daily; this is for over a third of their students.

In addition to scholarships, the system's schools, students and teachers have won numerous State and National awards in sports, academics and teaching. Dr. Barnett seems to be doing a fantastic job.

Other Business

The announced the last BOD meeting had only 1 item, wherein it approved Patrick James for membership.

Lion Steve Murphree clarified that a Lion could receive the Chester Freeman Award.

The President briefed the Club about the MD-34 State Convention held at Guntersville.

The Officer Installation will be held June 4th at Top of the Town. PID Lowell Bonds will officiate.

Prominent Lion Don Jarrells of Hokes Bluff passed away.

A "Thank You" note was received from Distinguished Young Women. The President and his wife will attend the next pageant.

May 21st will be a picnic meeting at Heritage Park.

No meeting will be held May 28th, Memorial Day.

New Members: Lion Ches Harris, sponsored by Lion Steve Murphree, and Lion Patrick James, sponsored by Lion Charlie Powell.



(L to R) New Lions Patrick James and Chess Harris

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 7: Carol Anne Sporleder – Outreach coordinator for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

May 14: TBD.

May 21: Picnic at Heritage Park at Lions Pavilion.

May 28: No meeting due to Memorial Day holiday.

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).