



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

August 11, 2025.

### Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced our speaker, Mr. Jeff Clemmons, Chairman of the Cullman County Commission who has just started his second term in that office. Previously, he was in Cullman law enforcement for 33 years.



**Mr. Jeff Clemmons, Chairman of Cullman County Commission, gives us an update on Cullman County progress and outlook.**

Commissioner Clemmons explained that the Commission has 4 districts headed by part-time commissioners with himself as the only full-time member of the Board. He stressed that the County has a very tough job in matching its infrastructure growth with the accelerated population growth the County has experienced in the past decade. He said it never seems like there is enough money to do everything that really needs to be done. On the subject of roads, he said that Cullman has the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest miles of roads in Alabama; it maintains over 1,800 miles of roads; its 60 miles across our County.

Jeff says that the most challenging job he has is hiring and keeping good employees -- say for instance equipment operators. You can't just hire anyone off the street and put them on a tractor, bush-hogging 20 miles of road. One great program that has been started by the Commission is teaming up with Wallace State on a powerful partnership training program that will start this October. The Commission oversees 13 departments with over 520 employees, even though some people think that the only thing the Commission does is pave roads. His total budget is being planned for \$90M. The breakouts for the largest departments are as follows: \$15M for the Water Department, Sheriff's Department with \$15M, Sanitation with \$12M, and the Road Department with \$14M to \$15M.

Commissioner Clemmons was asked about bridges. He said that there is a new bridge being constructed on County Rd 1763, near Joplin, leading to Hwy 231. He said that local officials have been visiting DC trying to get money for several bridges that may have to be shut down in the foreseeable future if more money is not made available. And he said that monthly inspections are done on all bridges within the County.

Jeff was also asked about a private business constructing a resort in the Smith Lake area. He said that that business wanted the County to invest money towards that resort, but it was turned down as it was not considered a sound investment of the County's funds.

In past years, the County Commission has been helpful with our Fair when able for instance with an occasional equipment job or with road



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materials for our parking area. The Sheriff's Department has also always helped with security during the Fair and with volunteer trustee prisoner-labor. Commissioner Clemmons has a tough job and is doing well in keeping a lid on things for our County.

### Other Business

Lion James Howard had gall bladder surgery and was still recovering at the hospital. Lions Mike Ponder and Javon Daniel continue recovery at home from heart related issues.

Lion Ron Seybold continues to need assistance for the next few weeks with daily transportation back & forth between his place in Decatur to near CRMC. Treatments are expected to conclude each day by 3:00 PM. His number is 256-531-6075. Give him a call if you can help.

Lion Secretary Scott Starosta introduced two visitors who may be future Club members. Both were named Brooke and have worked at Westminster Assisted Living; one, Ms. Marks, is the current Director of Nursing there; the other, Ms. Windeknecht, is retired. Both are looking to further serve our community.

Lion President Delane Ray announced years-of-service anniversaries for two Lions: George Krigbaum – 10 years, and Don Smith – 14.

Lion Riley Smith gave us an encouraging update on the Alabama Lions Sight organization. He began by explaining that he has now been a Board member of Lions Sight for about a year now and has seen a complete overhaul of its leadership. He said that the new President over the past year, Ms. Randi Vaughn has really been a blessing for the organization. The Executive Director, the Chief Executive Officer, the Lobbyist, the bookkeeper, and the auditing

firm have all been replaced. A new President for this year is Ms. Sharon McClean from Mobile; 1<sup>st</sup> VP is Pete Cruz from the Dothan Club; and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is Riley Smith, himself. Lion Riley said that one of the doctors involved with the mobile Lions Sight vans quit, but a couple more and a nurse are coming on board. The mobile van that burned last year is being replaced with two SUVs. All in all, Lion Riley said things are really looking up for Alabama Lions Sight, and that he would have more detailed information and more detailed financial information to share after his next board meeting.

The next New Lions' Roundtable discussions will be on August 18. The subjects will be most interesting and will include Lion Projects such as the Cullman County Fair, Fish & Ham Dinner, and Mop & Broom sales.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

August 18: Speaker will be Lion Scott Starosta who will speak about his recent visit and tour of the Leader Dog facility in Detroit, Michigan. Also, New Lion Roundtable discussions are scheduled on the subject of Lion Projects.



Lion Secretary Scott Starosta



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## **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.

August 25: Our speaker will be Mr. Mike Mullaney from Goat Island.

