



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

December 10, 2018

### Program

Lion Austin Monk introduced his boss, Mr. Jimmy Hodges, Dean of Applied Technologies Programs at Wallace State, who talked about these programs.



President Lion Mike Ponder presents a Lion token-of-appreciation to Mr. Jimmy Hodges for his presentation.

Mr. Hodges began the program with a little history, noting that Wallace State began with just 10 programs, 11 instructors, and 59 students. Today, it boasts a 300-acre campus with 6,000 students; it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest community college in the State as a comprehensive college with 8 academic programs, health programs, and career & technical programs. The technology sectors in both our economy and the job market is the most exciting and fastest growing sector. There are 14 tech programs that fall under Mr. Hodges oversight. These include Agricultural Production, Automotive Service Technology, Aviation/Flight Technology, Building Construction, Collision Repair, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, HVAC & Refrigeration, Machine Tool Technology, Mechatronics/Electronics & Robotics,

Salon & Spa Management, Small Training, Tool & Die Technology, and Welding. With a slate of offerings like that, anyone really looking for a technology career could find a great fit through one of these Wallace State programs -- with average starting salaries in the \$19-\$20 per hour range and with no, or very little, student loans.

Jimmy stressed the excellent reputation that Wallace's graduates have with industry around the State. One great example of this is when the Mett South company realized that many of their best employees were Wallace State grads; they established a certified apprentice program at Wallace State and were able to work a deal in which they moved their business to Hanceville. There have been numerous instances when business representatives have come to Wallace to tour the campus and speak about career opportunities. And then, they have hired or interviewed students on the spot, or ask individuals to visit them for job interviews. Many current students split the year, working as apprentices (earning \$15+/hour) and studying for their degrees or technical certification.

The "Skills USA" program is a State and National program in which colleges and technical school students compete, first state-wide, then nationally, against each other based on their technical skills. This year Wallace sent over 100 students to the State competition which was the most from any community college, winning 55 medals, many of them 1<sup>st</sup> place. These 1<sup>st</sup> place winners then competed for best in



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the US, winning medals in robotics & automation, cosmetology, culinary arts, and computer applications.

The next program to be added to the excellent suite of technologies is an electrician program. The trend continues to be up for the Applied Technologies Programs at Wallace State under Mr. Hodges' leadership.



Lions Riley Smith and Milford Parrish assembling bicycles at the Fairgrounds on Dec 11<sup>th</sup> for "Christmas Love." (See paragraph, below)

### Other Business

At last week's Fair Appreciation Dinner, Lion Fred Osborne was honored for his 50 years of service, as well as his 50 years of perfect Club-meeting attendance; he was presented with a pin, a plaque, and a Lion watch on this occasion. In addition, his wife, Lioness Delores, was presented with a bracelet in appreciation for supporting and enduring Lion Fred for all those years.



Lion Fred Osborne receiving a plaque, commemorating his 50 years as a Lion in our Club from President Lion Mike Ponder.

Club member volunteers are urgently needed this week for toy assembly for "Christmas Love" in Exhibit Building #1 at the Fairgrounds. Work begins at around 9:00 A.M. If possible, bring your own Phillips & flat-blade screwdrivers, pliers, small adjustable (crescent) wrench.

Lion Alton Pitzing is facing challenges with his remaining leg. Lioness Judy Waldrop, wife of Lion Bo and mother of Lion Scott, is recovering from surgery.

The MD-34A convention will be held in Gadsden March 2, 2019.

Secretary Lion Don Smith read minutes from last week's Board of Directors meeting. Funding support was approved for the local Army National Guard Christmas meal, a Christmas bonus for our meal server (Christie), Alabama Lions Sight, and Cullman Caring for Kids.



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### Upcoming Programs and Events



Robert Scott Davis  
- Director -  
Genealogy Program of Wallace State College

Dec 17: Mr. Robert Davis, Director of the Genealogy Program of Wallace State.

Dec 24: No meeting. Christmas Eve.

Dec 31: No meeting. New Year's Eve.

Jan 7: TBD

### 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).