



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 12, 2024

Program

Lion Richard White introduced Mr. Eddie Wilson, Executive Director of the Foundry Farm as our speaker. Lion Richard described him as one of the finest gentlemen he knows, having visited him and his organization weekly for the past 8 years.



Mr. Eddie Wilson speaks about the Foundry Farm.

Mr. Wilson described the Foundry Farm as a facility with an associated program to assist men seeking assistance in freeing themselves from alcohol and drug addiction. The main facility is an 80-bed dormitory, along with a 50-acre farm, raising all manner of animals, eggs, and crops. The program is a Christian faith-based and lasts 9 months total, with 6-months mandatory on site, led by those who believe that the Word of God is active in it. The entrance fee is \$695, un-refundable. Eddie testified that his whole life was changed after going through this program and he continued association with it. One of the programs aims is to teach the men how to be employable by means of "Work Keys." In this concept, the clients do volunteer work for one week on the farm or elsewhere. Then, the same group attends classes, and rotates back and forth. Each man is assigned a personal counselor with one-on-one counseling each week. Then, there is weekly peer group

counseling. Every Sunday the men can go out into the community to church and grow relationships with the men and women there.

Anyone wishing to come into this 6-month program must detox before coming into it. If they do not yet have a detox facility, the Farm can help them in locating one. Electronic devices are not permitted. Tobacco smoking is allowed, but vaping is not. Each dorm has a landline for personal calls. There is also a resource center for computer access and business calls to be made. The very first drug test upon entry can show drugs, but any test thereafter, results in dismissal from the program. Beginning in Phase 2, which is after 4 weeks, clients receive two 24 hour passes during the 10 weeks and then in Phase 3, they receive three 48-hour passes. Six-hour passes are allowed on Sundays during Phases 2 through 4. Family visits are allowed on Sundays between Noon and 6PM.

About 45% of the men who come into this program graduate and go on to lead successful lives back in the community. The Farm program is a great asset to our community and especially for those men it was designed for.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold is recovering from surgery to control fluid accumulation and expects to remain in the hospital this week.

Lion Dewayne Wilson continues recovery at home after being admitted to Cullman Regional Hospital with RSV.

Craig Gadow reported that District Governor Susan Harrell is facing imminent brain-tumor surgery.

Former Lion Phillip Sessions passed away. A celebration of Rev. Sessions' life was Tuesday, February 13, 2024; burial was at Cullman City



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Lion Dave Gratz was able to join us tonight following his most recent hospitalization—it's hard to keep a good man down.



Lion Ricky Peek welcomes back Lion David Gratz after his recent hospital stay.

Lions Frank Odell and George Krigbaum recognized Lion Jerry Smith as a summa cum laude graduate of the new member roundtable after completing all 4 sessions.



Lions Frank Odell, Jerry Smith, and George Krigbaum.

Lion Chris Brooks read Thank you notes from The Foundry Ministry.

Lion Craig Gadow asked for members to attend the 34A District Convention March 2 in Tuscumbia. See him for more information if you would like to attend. Lion Don Smith shared that

mileage and fees for district events, such as this, can be reimbursed by the club.

There will not be a regular Cullman Lions meeting on Monday, February 19th. Club members will dine at the Empty Bowls of Cullman County chili dinner from 4:00PM to 6:30PM in the fellowship hall of 1st United Methodist Church. Wear your Lion vest or shirt; Club members eat at no charge; sign the sign-in sheet when you arrive; Lion guests will require tickets of \$15, available on site

One of our guests tonight, introduced by Lion Wendell Copeland, was Graham King, grandson of one of the outstanding Lions, the late James "Kingfish" King. He has just completed seminary at Stanford and is being considered for a chaplaincy at UAB.

Don't forget to sell those Fish & Ham Dinner tickets. This event is only about 3 weeks away.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 19: Empty Bowls Dinner from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at 1st United Methodist Church. The cost is \$15, but Lions can eat for free if you wear your vests. (No regular Lions' Club meeting.)

February 26: TBD.

March 2: District 34A Convention in Tuscumbia.

March 9: Annual Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria. Dinner will be served that Saturday from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Doors will open at 7:00 AM for setup, as necessary. Initial Preparation on the Friday before the dinner will be from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM on March 8th.



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256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).

March 18: 1st Vice President of the Association of Alabama Fairs, Scott Haskell will speak.



Association of Alabama Fairs

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.

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