



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

February 14, 2022

### Program

Lion Javon Daniel presided over tonight's meeting. Lion Craig Gadow introduced the program tonight: Mr. Brian Burchett, director for the Cullman Chapter of Truth in Nature presented information and details about the program. This program is dedicated to helping youths from age 12 to 18 (5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) whose fathers are not actively in their lives. This program is an activity outdoor Christian ministry and mentoring based program that does not try to replace their father, but to fill the gap where there is not one. Mr. Burchett has a large farm of 105 acres where these boys can learn to fish, hunt, camp, learn survival skills, map reading, caring for farm animals and horses, etc. They try to meet every month.



**Mr. Brian Burchett, director for the Cullman Chapter of Truth in Nature**

The program began in Georgia and has spread across the country. Brian heads the only chapter in Alabama, which is now in its third year. The program can not solve the problem fatherless boys, but it certainly helps and brings together other

community organizations for their involvement, also. The program reaches out to single Mom households to help. The boys don't have to be from Cullman, as long as their mothers can bring them to Brian's farm or wherever they meet and pick them up. They usually meet on Saturdays, but sometimes they meet on a Friday night for a camp-out into the next day. Brian said that they try to feed the boys really well during their stay at the farm, since sometimes their single Mom's struggle to keep food on the table. They try to give the boys a fun and an entertaining time and always include a religious devotion. They have had 10-12 boys participating and are always looking to add more. Brian said he has a roster of ten mentors, of which two or three are on hand every meeting, besides himself.

Brain showed several videos with testimonies from boys and people involved with the program that were inspiring. This has been an admirable program for our community.

### Other Business

Lion Don Smith's Mother-in-Law passed away.

For the second week in a row, the Club has introduced a new member: Lion Matthew Bales sponsored by Lion Javon Daniel. And for a second week in a row, this member works for the Sheriff's Department; a veteran there for 23 years. He has been married for 21 years and has two children. If you recall, Lion Matthew participated in a program presented by the



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Canine Section of the Sheriff's Department a few weeks ago.



**New Lion Matt Bales.**

Lion Steve Cartee gave a report from the Alabama Lions Sight Board (Lion Steve is a member of this board) meeting. He noted that its funding from many Lions Club has slowed the last couple of years due to Covid impacts in those Clubs fund raising events. One thing Lion Steve is working on is participation of Alabama Lions Sight in being a recipient of \$5,000 grants which each Walmart store can make available to various charities. One current goal of Lions Sight is to enhance its mobile eye activity with a new van. It currently has just one mobile van that visits 23 counties every month. Since February of last year, it has seen a total of 84,000 indigent patients. They can write prescription for glasses and actually give glasses to the most in need. The crew for this mobile lab-clinic consists of a doctor, a nurse, and two assistants. Lion Steve noted that in the recent past, Alabama Lions Sight, through a reference from a couple of our Club members, helped a local Cracker Barrel waitress get an eye cornea transplant. He reminded us that our main mission is has been on eyesight

as "Knights of the Blind" and that Alabama Lions Sight is certain a factor in achieving that. Lion Steve closed, saying that if you had old glasses to contribute to help the indigent, turn them in to him, and he get them properly turned in.

Lion Frank Odell talked about the Fish and Ham Dinner preparation progress, again which seems to be going well. We expect a big turn-out this year as Covid winds down, and people wanted to get out and do things in the community again.

### **Upcoming Programs and Events**

February 28: Program is TBD We will again be meeting at Commission on Aging building.

March 4: Preparation for Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School lunchroom; 2:00 – 5:00PM.

March 5: Fish & Ham Dinner. Keep this date, a Saturday, open to help. Schedule times determined by Committee chairmen.

May 14: Annual Shred-a-thon.

### **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).