



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 23, 2026

Program

Lion Riley Smith introduced Lion Amanda Traywick, Executive Director of Alabama Lions Sight, and Roxanne Alridge, Director of the Vision Screening unit with Alabama Lion Sight. In his introduction, Lion Riley had high praise for Ms. Traywick who has totally turned around the past financial shortfalls of that organization.



Lion Riley Smith stands with Ms. Amanda Traywick and Ms. Roxanne Alridge of Alabama Lions Sight, along with Lion 1st Vice President Jeff Lawson.

Roxanne started with a slide show of about 50 slides, showing what Alabama Lions Sight actually does. She oversees the vision screening at the Good Samaritan Clinic that Lion Bill Ruehl has been coordinating on Wednesdays for many months. These clinics are essentially eye care units on wheels, fully equipped with the same diagnostic technology found in traditional optometry offices. Staffed by licensed optometrists and trained technicians, the mobile units travel to rural and underserved counties across Alabama, bringing vital vision services directly to people who may otherwise struggle to access care.

The mobile clinics provide: Comprehensive dilated eye exams; prescription glasses; screenings for conditions like glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic eye disease; and referrals for advanced care, including surgery. These services are offered at low cost to most patients — for example, a dilated eye exam may be as low as \$20, with glasses available for modest fees — and completely free for those unable to pay. Local partnerships allow scheduling at community sites such as health clinics, schools, and public health departments.

The mobile clinics are more than just an outreach tool; they represent a lifeline for rural Alabamians who face geographic barriers and limited transportation options. News coverage highlights repeated visits to counties such as Cullman, where hundreds of patients receive care during a single clinic day — from exams to glasses to surgical follow-up coordination. Roxanne told a very touching story of a toddler who poor vision had left her legally blind; she had put up a terrified fight in not wanting the vision team to put her glasses on; however once she had them on, she was screaming to keep them on when it was time to take a bath.

Roxanne had many stories and pictures showing the success of Lions Sight. She encouraged us to help in bringing one of their sight screening vans to our schools, both public and private, to nursing homes, and to our events such as the Fair and Fish & Ham Dinner – or even to a Club meeting. When I she first announced she had 50 slides, I first thought, “Ooh, this might get boring.” However, it was anything but that.



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Other Business

Lion Tim Scott's funeral was held on Wednesday, Feb. 25th with many Lions in attendance and a huge turn-out, overall. His obituary included the following: "Tim proudly served as a member of the Cullman Lions Club for 38 years and was honored to serve on the Cullman County Fair Board for more than 25 years. He had a deep love for the land and a passion for helping farmers through his work with RC&D and the Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District. His legacy will forever be remembered at Duck River Reservoir, where his dedication, hard work, and friendships left a lasting mark." His untimely death was a shock of regret and sadness for our Club members. Rest in peace, Lion Tim.



Lion Javon Daniel's heart condition continues to restrict his activities

Lion Randy Kraft, who is 1st Vice President of the Alabama Association of Fairs, spoke about its Convention which was held the weekend of Feb. 20-22 at our Fairgrounds.

This was the 2nd year in a row at this site, and it was the most successful convention that the organization has had, and it accomplished this with a savings of \$8,000. Lion Randy said that our Branch Club members provided a great deal of help toward this success. Cullman Mayor Woody Lion Jacobs and State Government Representative Lion Garland Gudger spoke. Our Lion Cindy Pinyan was in charge of decorations and had Bldg. #1 looking like a wedding venue. The Cullman High School Jazz Band played and sounded as good as a professional band found anywhere -- a lot of dancing going on. Lion Randy thanked Fairground Managers, Lions Herman Ruehl and Bill Wilt and Lion Chris Robinson for their great work.

Roundtable discussions for new Lions are as follows

RT3-Mar 16 — BOD & Operations.

RT4-Apr 20 — Beyond our Club: District, Multi-District, & Global operations.

The Lions Fish & Ham Dinner was successfully held on Saturday the 28th. Further details will be provided in the next Tail Twister newsletter. As a brief summary - -- we had great weather, a good turnout, and no accidents of note. Ticket returns and payments will continue for several weeks.

Upcoming Programs and Events.

March 2: Lion Jeff Lawson will present a proposal from the BOD regarding consideration of establishing a WSCC foundation scholarship on behalf of the Cullman Lions Club.



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March 9: Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.



Ms. Cathy Sloss

5:00PM with drinks and snacks and featuring many door prizes valued in excess of \$100.

March 14: District 34-A Convention at Cullman Church of Christ.

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

March 7: Hanceville Lions Club Bingo Night fund raiser at Hanceville Civic Center (just past Hanceville High School). Doors open at