



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 26, 2024

Program

Lion Richard White introduced our speaker Mr. Albert Pugh, Executive Director and one of the founders of the Cullman Re-entry Addiction Assistance (CREAA) organization, also known for its Brian Clay House facility. Other key founders that were part of this organization's establishment and incorporation include Dr. Bill Peinhardt and Jo Kreps. Their vision has been to provide a non-profit transitional home for men that would be a safe place for those who had no place to go after completion of addiction-related programs. Its home is not a handout, it is a hand up, and a way forward for those that truly want to re-start their lives. Its first Board of Directors meeting was held in October of 2017, and opened its first transitional home for men in Cullman, Alabama on April 1, 2018. Mr. Pugh gave special thanks to our Club for its donation which

of support. Most come directly from drug rehab or from jail for drug-related offenses. The program does not take in anyone who is still in active addiction, and these men are required to work regular jobs to earn money and to pay room and board. They need rules and structure back in their lives and guidance in getting a job, food, shelter, and in taking responsibility for their own lives. They get help in getting a driver's license or some form of I.D. and in clearing any existing warrants with law-enforcement. They get out of their old neighborhoods, lifestyles, and bad influencers. They attend church regularly. They have classes, guidance counselors, classes on money management, and group discussions on improving their lives. They are provided with transportation to and from work. The ages of the clients are currently from 20 to 57. The length of stay has been from a few months to 2 years. Men are asked to leave the house if they fail a drug test, get in a fight, or steal anything.

This organization is playing a valuable role in turning men from a failed or criminal life into valued citizens for our community.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold bravely joined us tonight, despite his continuing chemo treatments. He expressed thanks to the Club and others for their prayers.

Lion Dwayne Wilson also was in attendance after his serious hospital stay and home recovery from RSV.

Lion President Chris Brooks reported that his wife is having a rough time and is in the hospital with a perforated colon, facing possible surgery.

Lions Frank Odell recognized Lion Brian Spaeth as an honor graduate of the new-member



Lion Richard White introduces his friend and our program speaker, Mr. Albert Pugh who spoke to us about CREAA. provided funds for the Brian Clay House's sand filtration system as specified by the Cullman's Health Department for the facility's continued safe operation. This facility was once the old Shady Grove Baptist Church and can now accommodate 36 men, and they stay full most of the time.

Albert explained that the men who seek assistance are essentially broke with no means



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roundtable after completing all 4 sessions and presented him with a Lions cup.



Lions Brian Spaeth and Frank Odell.

Lion Bill Ruehl announced that the Lions vision exam van would be visiting Cullman again at the Good Samaritan Clinic on March 14th and would need Lion volunteers that morning.

Lion Charlie Childers provided updates to the Fair Grounds improvements, mainly re-wiring for RV hook-up, supporting our midway contractor during the Fair and possibly improvements to the Fair theater.

Lion Milford Parrish shared updates to School Diabetes Kit program which has already provided diabetes support kits to most of Cullman High Schools and Middle Schools. This past week began a first expansion into elementary schools. Lion Milford said that the school nurses were overwhelmed with joy for the Club's donations. This program is also allowing the Club to get the word out about Camp Seale Harris, we have already had several potential kids who may attend as a result.

Don't forget to sell those Fish & Ham Dinner tickets. This event is only upon us this coming Saturday. Lion Steve Cartee reminded the club about the tickets – tickets should not have tabs

torn off until presented for meals at the dinner. His team will be taking in cash each Monday meeting night. This Monday is your last chance to get tickets at a meeting.



Lion Steve Cartee is all over tickets! Do what he says.



The Lions made their presence known in supporting the Empty Bowls Dinner last Monday night. Very good turn-out.

Upcoming Programs and Events

March 8: Preparation afternoon for Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria at 2PM-6PM, this Friday.



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March 9: Annual Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria. Dinner will be served that Saturday from 11:00 AM until 6:00PM. Doors will open at 7:00 AM for setup, as necessary.

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 website:

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