



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 6, 2023

Program

Lion Carey Thompson gave a history of Lions Club International (LCI), the Cullman Lions, and our Leo Clubs. This was mainly for the LEOS in attendance, tonight. Lion Ron Seybold discussed training and award opportunities available from the LCI website. This briefing was also a good reminder to our membership of our Clubs' contributions back to our community.



Lion Carey giving indoctrination on the Lions to our Leos.



(L to R) Lion David Bussman (Club Leo coordinator), 4 of the CHS Leos, Ms. Donna Brunetti (CHS Leo Coordinator), Lion Jeff Lawson (also a Club Leo Coordinator), and President, Lion Milford Parrish.

Lion Carey started with info about Lions International 100+ year history: Its mission partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding; its motto of “We Serve.”; its strength of 1.4M members in 200 countries with 46,000 clubs; and several history slides starting with its founding led by Melvin Jones in 1917 – its international start in 1920 – the challenge from Helen Keller in 1925 – its establishment in the UN in 1945 – its establishment of the LCI Foundation in 1968 which has awarded more than \$1B in grants – launching its Sight-First campaign in 1990 which has impacted over 488M people.

From there the presentation moved on to our own Club’s history and some of its highlights: It was first organized in a meeting at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on November 2, 1954, led by its first President, Lion Powell Blair. The first Cullman County Fair was held less than one year later, under our Club’s management. In 1973, Lion Chester Freeman was elected President of Alabama Lions Sight, dedicated to funding quality eye treatment for the medically indigent and to promoting sight conservation in the State of Alabama; Lion Freeman helped organize the Alabama Eye Bank. It was recognized as the best Lions Club in Alabama 4 times, in addition to being the best in its District on another occasion. It has a been a major contributor to many great funding campaigns in the Cullman, including: The establishment of Heritage Park, the Field of Dreams, the refurbish of Cullman East Side Park, a pavilion at Smith Lake Park, the Cullman City Schools foundation,



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refurbishing of Clarkston Bridge Park, the Golden Window Campaign of CRMC for the Emergency Room Project, for tornado damage in 2011 and recently for those in south Alabama, to United Way for hailstone damage, and major annual contributions to Cullman Caring for Kids, as well as Alabama Lions Sight, and the LCI Foundation. Last year Cullman Lions Club was recognized by Lions Club International as a Melvin Jones Model Club, and the Alabama State Fairs Association awarded Cullman County as having the “Best Fair in the State. In addition to the other special funding contribution cited above, one of the last slides showed a list of 27 local charities that over just the last 4.5 years, have received over \$199,000 in Cullman Lions funding. Next, there were a few slides on the Club’s funding projects (like the Fair), information about Leo Clubs, world-wide, and how they made a difference for good in the world with their 40,000 projects – just last year. The ending slide asked for the CHS Leos’ support in the upcoming Fish & Ham Dinner project.

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel and Lion Mary Daniel continue to improve following their bout with Covid, but are not yet fully recovered. Lion Chris Brooks was under-the-weather; not sure of his diagnosis.

Lion Carey Thompson passed out the first draft copies of work assignments for the Fish and Ham Dinner, coming up on March 4th. There will be another version coming with new Lions.

Lion Don Smith and his team continue to sell tickets and receive proceeds from their sale.

They were also on hand at the Cullman Lions Branch Club meeting last week, offering tickets for their group to sell.

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> .

The meeting this week with our Leos was not televised due to technical difficulties. If you have any problem getting to the site, contact Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 13: Program TBD.

February 20: The annual “Empty Bowls” dinner will be held again at the 1st Methodist Church on Monday, February 20th, from 4:00PM to 6:30PM. This dinner will be in lieu of our regular Lions Club meeting. Club will pay for a ticket for each member.

March 3-4: Friday, prep for Fish and Ham Dinner. Saturday, Fish and Ham Dinner.

March 10-11: Lion District 34-A Convention in Ft. Payne.

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).