



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 12, 2026

Program

Lion Fair President, Charlie Childers introduced program speaker tonight, Ms. Jilian Zapka, Reigning Miss Cullman County Fair Queen. As our Fair Queen she is now eligible to pursue the next step of becoming Ms. Alabama Teen, associated with Miss Alabama and Miss America contests. Her speaking topic tonight concerned her efforts in fighting cancer as a project related to building her Ms. Alabama Teen resume'. She noted that her aunt had been diagnosed with stage-4 metastatic breast cancer after a routine mammogram with no prior indication and yet, was able to live for over a decade.



Reigning Miss Cullman County Fair Queen, Ms. Jilian Zapka.

Jilian created a platform called "Twirl for a Cure," and partnered with Cullman County Busom Buddies in cancer fund-raising, helping to pay for gift baskets, medical bills, and encouraging regular screenings and spreading awareness. She stressed that she hopes to lift up individuals and families

affected by all kinds of cancer. She thanked and noted our Club for its commitment to service for our community and making it stronger.

Lion Charlie Childers then spoke about getting contact information for our Club's Board of Directors to consider donations to both Jilian's platform and to the Miss Alabama's sponsorship of the Heart Association of America in Jilian's name. These type contributions are a consideration in qualifying as a viable Miss Alabama Teen contestant winner.

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel's heart condition continues to restrict his activities. Lion Mike Ponder's battle with cancer ended on January 13th with his passing. Lion Mike's family's visitation on the 17th and celebration of his life on the 18th were well attended by Lions and many, many friends. Continue prayers for Lion Javon and Lion Mike's family.



Lion Mike Ponder R.I.P.

Quoting partially from Lion Mike's obituary, "Michael truly never met a stranger. He was



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full of life, quick with a smile, and always willing to lend a helping hand or take the time to listen. His presence made people feel seen and valued, and his generosity of spirit left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered.”

After evaluating several possible dates for our Fish and Ham Dinner and by a show of hands in favor of a particular option, Lion Carey Thompson announced date of our big Fish & Ham Dinner as Feb 28th.

Lion Bob Manney from the Hanceville Lions Club asked for support for their “Bingo Night” on March 7th. He also expressed an appeal for Lions to support all District 34-A Lion Clubs fund raisers, in particular those of the four Lions Clubs in Cullman County (our Club, Hanceville, Holly Pond, and Fairview). He noted his Club’s past support for our Fair and our upcoming Ham & Fish Dinner. He was also pleased that both Club’s upcoming projects were not going to cause impacts to mutual support by occurring on the same day. In addition to our attendance, he asked for our help in donating bingo prizes, especially from any locally owned businesses.

Upcoming Programs and Events

January 19: Ms. JB Morgan, Alabama Master Gardner, will speak about Cullman’s Master Gardeners.



Ms. JB Morgan

January 26: Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.





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February 2: Lion Philip Garrison will be speaking on Bee Keeping and other agricultural topics.



February 19-22: Alabama Association of Fairs Convention at Fairgrounds.

February 28: Annual Cullman Lions's Club Fish and Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School cafeteria.

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