



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 15, 2018

Program

Lion and retired police officer, Milford Parrish, introduce his former college, Police Lieutenant Mike Reese, who began his career as an undercover narcotics agent in this area. Although he is not now still performing active police work, he conducts training for Alabama police and State Troopers, as well as making presentations to our high schools, related to opiate issues. In 2006 he received National recognition for a liquor and drug enforcement program called "Operation Save Teen." Thus, he was very highly qualified to talk to us tonight as he presented a program mainly about the problem of opiate abuse.



Lt. Mike Reese, flanked by Lion Milford Parrish (L) and Lion President Bill Ruehl (R).

Mike's presentation was eye-opening for everyone. He gave a series of true stories about young people who died from drug overdose, or had their futures destroyed by opiate drugs; when something like this happens it impacts families dramatically, too, of course. His program was peppered

with alarming facts and included a slide presentation with headline after headline taken from mainly Alabama newspapers that dealt with drugs busts or overdose instances. Some of the facts are these: Drug overdose is now killing over 50,000 U.S. citizens every year; that is more than gun or automobile deaths; it is the leading cause of death in adults over 50 years old. Closer to home, Alabama and Colorado lead the nation in opioid prescriptions. Over prescribing opiates by doctors is a big problem, too. This drug problem can be found in almost every school. A kindergarten kid was discovered with 30 packs of heroin in his lunch box. A student at the University of Alabama was arrested for possessing 10,000 Xanax tablets.

Once someone starts taking opiates, there is only a 10% cure rate once someone is hooked. The worst drug that has come to light in the last few years, Lt. Reese says, is synthetic fentanyl. In one case Mike spoke of a woman who had OD'd and was brought back from opiate death by the drug Narcan; then, 40 minutes later, she OD'd herself again and died. Nearly all the flood of this deadly opiate comes from facilities in China. China levies a death penalty on anyone selling it in their country, but lets it flow freely to the U.S. Our country at one time had an agreement with China to shut this trade down, and China did – but for only a period of months. Fentanyl is 80 to 100 times as powerful as morphine and 30 times as powerful than heroin. It is often being added to marijuana and other street drugs, so users can never be sure of what they are getting when taking illegal drugs.



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These Chinese manufacturers are even creating fake Lorcet pills using fentanyl. Police and health care workers must take precautions handling OD victims not to even get this fentanyl on their hands because it's so powerful, or else they risk over-dosing themselves. No wonder we are seeing such an explosion of over-dose deaths. In a single drug bust in New York City, law enforcement recovered enough fentanyl to kill 30 million people; 7,000 doses were taken from a drug dealer just down the road in Pelham. By the time Lt. Reeves stopped (and he could have gone on much longer) everyone was taken aback by what they heard and saw. After seeing this presentation, no one here could see how any argument to legalize marihuana, called a "gateway" drug to opiates, should take precedence overkeeping it illegal.

Other Business

Lions Scott Waldrep, Lummie Speakman, and Dwayne Wilson are all sick with the flu.

Fish and Ham tickets will be available again at the next meeting – get yours. Remember the Fish & Ham Dinner will be on March 3rd.



MD-35A District Convention will be March 16-17 at Joe Wheeler State Park. See info flyer (page 3) and registration form (page 4). Check this out. It really looks like a great thing to attend and maybe to take the wife along, too.

Upcoming Programs and Events

January 22: – Lion Durden Dean.



Lion Durden Dean
- Executive Director -
Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association

January 29: – Coach Plunkett/ Principal Hall.

February 12: Mr. Mike Dengate will talk about the Leader Dog Organization.

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).



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MARCH 16-17, 2018

MD34-A DISTRICT CONVENTION

JOE WHEELER STATE PARK - 4403 MCLEAN DR, ROGERSVILLE, AL
35652



AGENDA:

Friday, March 16

-Social Dinner

Saturday, March 17

-Breakout sessions featuring

ID Joyce Middleton

-Lunch and Dinner

PRICING:

• Rooms: \$69/night until Feb. 16

• Rooms: \$78/night after Feb. 16

• Friday Night Social: \$20/person

• Saturday: \$50/person

• Both Days: \$65/person

*Prices include meals and refreshments, as well as access to breakout sessions

<http://www.alabamalions34a.com/>



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Registration Form

Please join us for a wonderful district convention, featuring guest ID Joyce Middleton!

[When: March 16-17, 2018]

- Friday Night Social, Dinner Included – 6:00 pm
- Saturday Breakout Sessions, Lunch & Dinner Included
 - Registration – 8:30 am
 - Meeting – 9:30 am

[Where: Joe Wheeler State Park]

- 4403 McLean Driver, Rogersville, AL 35652

[Pricing]

- Rooms Available - \$69/night through Feb. 16 - \$78/night after Feb. 16
 - *To reserve, call (256)-247-5466 and give code: 2668**
 - Friday Social: \$20/person (\$25 after March 2)
 - Saturday: \$50/person (\$55 after March 2)
 - Both Days: \$65/person (\$70 after March 2)
- *Childcare will be provided at no extra cost! ***

Please complete the bottom half of this form and send with payment to:

District CST Lindsey Schneider
117 Burton St.
Huntsville, AL 35811

***Couples, please register separately, so we may get an efficient and accurate headcount.**

Name: _____ Club: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone#: _____

I am registering for:

Friday _____ Saturday _____ Both Days _____

Total: \$ _____