



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 29, 2024

Program

Lion Randy Kraft enthusiastically introduced our speaker tonight, Col. Don Fallin. He talked a little about his initial steps in the US Army, saying that his Army affiliation was the best thing that ever happened to him, leading to a very satisfying life.



Col. Don Fallin give us an update on the progress and accomplishments of the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame. Col. Fallin focus tonight was to brief us about his efforts in establishing the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame organization with its purpose in recognizing veterans in Cullman County. He noted that there were many veterans among the Lions in attendance tonight, and that his organization was not focusing on any single group among generations of veterans. His organization intended to continue with the process that it started last year in recognizing 6 worthy veterans each year from within the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines. In its inaugural year of 2023 six veterans were honored with

plaques in their honor, prominently displayed in a high-traffic area on a wall of the courthouse and in Veterans Park. Each year, another 6 will be honored and the previous honoree names will be added to a plaque of running names. This past year, and going forward annually with another 6 honorees, they are to be honored with an induction ceremony at Veterans Park and with a celebratory dinner for them, along with their friends and their families; this past year there were 154 attendees. After plaques have been displayed over the year in the courthouse, they will be given to the honoree. Sponsors of this organization include the local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and many businesses, and community & business leaders. The Cullman Times and the Cullman Tribune featured articles about the Veterans Hall of Fame and the nominees.

Veterans Hall of Fame Nomination packets for consideration by members of the Hall of Fame selection committee are available at the VFW, the DAV, the American Legion, as well as the Cullman Savings Bank. Nominations can be made by a veteran's friends or family members who have knowledge of the military career of that veteran or in ways that a veteran has moved-on to contribute to the civilian community that would make them worthy of consideration. Col. Fallin noted that one problem with getting nominations is that often veterans are sometime reticent about talking about themselves and their military careers because of some those experiences were painful, although often heroic.

Col. Fallin has led his committee in honoring our veterans in an outstanding manner. We continue supporting these efforts.



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Other Business

Several of our Lions are having health and other family issues:

Lion Ron Seybold will be starting Chemotherapy and will not be able to attend our meetings in the near future.

Lion Jerry Smith is going for a CT scan on his heart for heart-valve problems.

Lion Josh Speakman is not doing well with overall weakness due to heart problems.

Lion Dewayne Wilson has been admitted to Cullman Regional Hospital with RSV with severe coughing and other symptoms; visiting Lion Dewayne at this time is strongly discouraged.

Lion Brian Spaeth's father passed; Lion Brian is with friends and family in NW Arkansas.

President Lion Chris Brooks' wife, Betty, was headed to emergency surgery as reported on February 2nd.

Please include all these affected Lions and their families in your prayers.

Lion Chris Brooks read thank-you notes from The Link and Good Samaritan Health Clinic.

Lion Scott Starosta read the January 22 BOD minutes in which he mentioned discussions about our assistance to the Agriplex, the Cullman Addiction Re-entry House, as well as donations towards Cullman Caring for Kids, a recent financially strapped house-fire victim, and to The Foundry Farm.

Lion Steve Cartee announced that at the next meeting, Fish & Ham tickets will be available for Lions to sell.

Lions Frank Odell and George Krigbaum provided updates on Season 4 of the new-member roundtable orientation beginning tonight.

Lion Javon Daniel reminded us about the Empty Bowls dinner that will be on February 19th.

President Lion Chris Brooks presented the Lions International Builder Key Award to Lion Jerry Bonner.

Lions Dennis Berse announced we are placing a Lions Tee Shirt Order. See Lion Secretary Scott Starosta at the next meeting, if interested. Cost will be added to your Lions dues bill.

Lion Bill Ruehl announced and got volunteers to help in The Lions Mobile Sight Van visit to the Good Samaritan Clinic on Wednesday, the 31st.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 19: Empty Bowls Dinner from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at 1st United Methodist Church. The cost is \$15, but Lions can eat for free if you wear your vests. (No regular Lions Club meeting.)

March 9: Annual Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria. Dinner will be served that Saturday from 11:00AM until 6:00PM. Doors will open at 7:00AM for setup, as necessary. Initial Preparation on the Friday before the dinner will be from 2:00PM until 6:00PM on March 8th.

March 18: 1st Vice President of the Association of Alabama Fairs, Scott Haskell will speak.



Association of Alabama Fairs



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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>

. 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).