



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

January 5, 2026

### Program

Our program tonight was presented by Lion Barry Willingham who discussed potentially adding a two story, 60' x 100' metal building to the Fairgrounds which would potentially include a meeting place for our Club, offices for the Fair Association and the Club, larger restroom accommodations (particularly for women), storage area, gates, and a new entrance way with exhibits on display. It could also tie-in to the theater, giving space for pageant judges and contestants. He also mentioned that perhaps this new building could be utilized by other civic organizations in Cullman and provide compensation to our Club or assistance with our projects.



Lion Barry Willingham discusses ideas for a new building at Fairgrounds.

Lion Barry stated that he and Lion David Bussman had discussed the possibility of a new building during the previous Fair. Lion Barry said he plans to talk with several construction companies around Cullman next week to get a better idea of costs and options in pursuing this ambitious project. He would then discuss ideas with the both the Club and Fair BOD's and bring options to

review before the Club. If the decision is made to go forward, then the soonest we could proceed would be right after concluding our upcoming Fair.

### Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel's heart condition, and Lion Mike Ponder's fight with cancer have not shown improvement. Continue with prayers for these Lions.

Lion Jim Howard passed on January 6<sup>th</sup>, following a fall this past week; his funeral was January 11<sup>th</sup>. His obituary noted Lion Jim's lifetime member status in our Club, serving in many positions, including President; he played a key role in establishing the Leo Club at Cullman High School, and was a recipient of the Melvin Jones Award. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.



March 28, 1938 — January 6, 2026  
Lion Jim Howard, R.I.P



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Lion President Delane Ray gave us some inspiring words for the New Year, and I quote:

“On the first morning of a new year, a small town woke to find fresh footprints in the snow. No one knew who made them, but they noticed something curious. The tracks led from the food pantry, to the school and to the homes of those who lived alone. Later that day, people discovered what the footprints had left behind, a repaired ramp, a box of groceries, a handwritten note of encouragement, a blank fixed where darkness had lingered. No one ever saw who made the tracks, but everyone felt their impact.” He continued, saying, “That’s how a Lion’s new year truly begins, not with grand announcements, but with acts of service; we don’t always leave our names behind, but we do leave hope, compassion and stronger communities as we step into this new year together, may our footprints be many, our service be steady, and our impact be felt long after the snow melts.” Lion Delane then announced years-of-service-anniversaries for Lions Michael Earnest -- 25 years, Lee Johnson – 1, and Sam Ruffner – 1. Lion Delane also read a note with a donation from the late Lion Ron Seybold’s mother for our love and support for her son. We also got thank-you notes from the Good Samaritan Clinic and Cullman Caring for Kids for our support.

Lion James Pinyan thanked everyone for their prayers for his wife, Lion Cindy, saying that she is doing great following her kidney surgery and is looking forward to getting back to work with our Club.

Lion Randy Kraft asked for program ideas and for help in bring in speakers who would

be interesting and informative to our Club members. He also discussed the Alabama Association of Fairs annual convention at the Fairgrounds, February 19-22, assistance will be needed. He stressed how much the Association enjoyed this event here last year. He also mentioned what a great job Lion Cindy Pinyan did last year in decorating Bldg. # 1 for their activities. He also noted that our Club has members who are on the Association’s Board of Directors. He is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Lion Bill Rue is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Lion Brad Mitchell is 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

Lion Craig Gadow talked about the Home Street Home meal at The Link 1/8/26 and invited the club to come and help if they could. He noted that the link served 246 meals in November for Thanksgiving with the crowd lined up to the road, and the need in our community seems to be growing; so, if you can volunteer to meet this need, please do so. Lion Craig also announced the upcoming District 34-A Convention on March 14, which will be at the Cullman Church of Christ. As District Governor, he asked that our Club member give him our support in participating and that this meeting would be “something different.”

Lion Don Smith announced that there will be a Club BOD meeting next week; on the agenda will be funding for First Choice for Women, the Fountry, Unsheltered, and the Lions Sight organization. He encouraged any Lion to make recommendations to him, to Lion Delane, or to Lion Scott Starosta for other organizations that should be considered for funding at this meeting. He continued to stress that we seek new members for our Club.



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### Upcoming Programs and Events

January 12: Ms. Jilian Zapka, Reigning Miss Cullman County Fair Queen will be our speaker/program.



January 19: Ms. JB Morgan, Alabama Master Gardener, will speak about her organization.



Ms. JB Morgan

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

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).