



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

July 13, 2026

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our program speaker, tonight, Ms. Molly Bloom, Director of the Cullman County Museum since May 2026. Lion Chris noted that she's already brought a lot of joy to the club because she is the one that found all of our scrapbooks that he brought in that we all enjoyed looking at, and now they're over the Fair Board office. So, anybody can go over there and look at it. She most recently served as the curator and educator for the James K. Polk Presidential Home and Museum. Prior to that, she worked in collections care at the Summerlee Museum of Scottish industrial history and served as an archivist for the University of Glasgow in Scotland. She holds a Master of Science in Material Culture and Artifact Studies from the University of Glasgow, with a minor in Art History from Athens State University. She's from Madison, Alabama.



Cullman County Museum, located across from City Hall at 211 2nd Avenue, NE.

Ms. Bloom began talking about her interest in "material culture", which is the story of people told through things. She said one of the reasons she took the job here in Cullman is that although the museum was established

in 1975, it has been dormant and untouched for years, and she saw it as a challenge. She said the one thing that really excited her the most about this museum is that there's so much untold history you have here in Cullman... "we found a Spanish-American War gun, which is really cool. We've got World War One guns, World War Two guns, Vietnam guns -- we got all sorts of guns. And I was like, "This is interesting and awesome history." We also have every single uniform from every single war, and it's all in our basement. So having that collection here in Coleman is amazing, and I get to tell the story of our collection. She noted that, "John Cullman is the founder of Cullman. There is a lot of interesting history that we have about him in our museum. One of them is the establishment of the LNN Railroad, so I wanted to tell that story of Cullman bringing in that LNN Railroad history. So I've completely redesigned the exhibit room to bring in that history, a side that's not really taught about, especially with the train depot being converted. We do have the LNN car there, but I wanted to bring that history to life. So throughout the museum, we're changing every single room. Every single room is going to be completely redeveloped into a new story, but it's also going to rotate. We have so many objects that need to be told about ... every six months every room is going to be completely different. So you're going to be able to see Cullman's history regularly throughout the museum ... A big purpose of the museum is to bring education to children who can't afford to go to summer camps or get to go out and do fun things."

She was excited to be bringing history to light that the community hasn't seen yet from



The Tale Twister

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donors who've donated items who've passed-on decades ago, and their history is sitting there, unseen. "So, it's a history that gets told and brought back to life. One example is the 35 Stiefelmeyer hat boxes that had been on top of a wooden shelf that had never been opened; it's on display right now in our museum. So if you want to see 1950s, 1920s hats, now is the time to go. We have a ton of Edwardian gowns, which I'm really excited to get those out so people can see them."

Hours are: Monday - Friday: 9AM - 4PM
and Saturday: 10AM - 2PM.

Exhibits include:

John G. Cullman, City founder and man with a mission.

Our Hometown: Growing Up in Cullman – Original businesses, our military, children's toys & activities, unique medical instruments, tools & other unique items.

Music & Photos from Cullman's Past.
Native Americans.

Pioneer Life.

Civil War, including Battle of Hog Mountain.

Natural History & Special Exhibits.

(There are over 4,000 items in the museum).

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel, who has a heart condition, remains in stable condition, but is currently limited to restricted activities.

1st Vice President Craig Gadow announced that Lions Brooke Marks, Brooke Windeknecht, Sean Schofield, and Melinda Schofield are certified Alabama Lions Sight

vision screeners. He also noted that Lion Brook Windeknecht is registered for an expense-paid trip to visit the "Leader Dogs for the Blind" facility in Michigan. Lion Craig also read thank-you notes for our donation to "Rail to Trails" from its representative who recently spoke to our Club, and from Mr. Parker Howe who received one of our Leo scholarships.

Lion Craig also read an announcement from the people at the Cullman Power Board where the late Lion Tim Scott worked as a manager for the Duck River Dam. During the dam construction, Tim was instrumental in making sure the community knew what was going on. And after construction was finished, he made sure everything was safe and working properly. Due to his hard work and personal attention, the walking and bike recreation trails at Duck River Reservoir were named in his honor. Lion Tim did not seek any recognition, and no signage is in place to inform the users that the trails are named after him. A group of individuals felt like he deserved to be remembered for what he has done for the community. A drive is underway to raise money to place a memorial brass plaque with an impressive stone foundation at the entrance to the Tim Scott Recreation Trails, in tribute to Lion Tim. Our Club plans to make a donation, and individuals may also contribute through the Cullman Power Board.

We have a new member, a familiar face, Lion Cindy Pinyan, who has transferred from our Branch Club to join her husband, James, in our Club.

(See photo on following page.)



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club



Lion Cindy Pinyan

District Governor, Lion Craig Gadow presented the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellow Award to Lion Sam Roberts.



Lion Sam Roberts received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award, as he is given a pin from Lion Chris Robinson and plaque from Lion Craig Gadow (see close-up photo of this award, in following column).



The Melvin Jones Fellowship is named after Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs International. It is largely due to the growth of the fellowship program that LCIF has been able to meet humanitarian needs in the communities around the world. Through LCIF funding, we are fighting diabetes, preventable blindness, childhood cancer, and more. We are feeding the hungry, responding to natural disasters, empowering young people for success, and protecting our environment.

Upcoming Programs and Events.

July 20: TBD.

July 27: TBD.

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).