



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

July 29, 2024

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speaker, tonight, Alabama District 11, State Representative, Randall Shedd. He has held this position since 2013 and has been the State House majority whip since 2023. District 11 the counties include Blount, Cullman, Marshall, and Morgan. He had also been the mayor of Fairview and Cullman's Commissioner on Aging for two terms. He told an amusing story that occurred soon after he became Commissioner of Aging. He was told that a gentle had brought a dog into a meeting there and refused to get the dog out, saying that he was not leaving, and his dog was not leaving either. Randall explained that there was food around and that his dog might frighten the other senior citizens. The man declared "this dog is my therapy dog and whenever I think about committing suicide or shooting-up the place, my dog calms me down." Randall said he leaned over and petted the dog, saying that it was "a fine dog, and you just go right on in – no problem."



Mr. Randall Shedd, Al. District 11, State Representative

Representative Shedd recognized many friends within the Club; but he said the one he was most excited to see was Mr. Freddy Day, our chief, who as usual, provided a great meal for us tonight, with steak and fried shrimp. He explained that most of the work that gets accomplished in the House is done by committees. He is a member of many important ones – Transportation, Utilities, Infrastructure, Digital Expansion, Children's & Seniors' Advocacy, Energy, House Local Legislation, Joint Transportation, and the Sunset Committee. The legislature is in session from February through May and work on committees is mostly done the rest of the year. He provided an impressively long list of legislative accomplishments that included many road projects, sewer improvements, bridge replacements and community projects such as a million-dollar grant for the Good Samaritan Clinic.



Randall Shedd and Freddy Day chew the fat.



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Randall said that he sponsored legislation for the Alabama Digital Expansion, noting that Alabama has risen from 47th in the Nation to 24th in home digital access, mostly due to the highly successful Sprout High-speed Internet service, being provided through the Cullman Electric Co-op. He also sponsored legislation leading to the establishment of Mental Health Crisis Centers, so that law enforcement can take someone having a mental crisis to one of these Centers, rather than to a hospital or to jail.

Randall said that the issue of establishing a State Lottery had been a periodic subject for the legislature, but that "Big Gambling" hijacks the discussion, and the issue tends to just lock-up in trying to come to agreement on this subject. He said this has happened 3 times in the ~ten years that he has been in the State Legislature. He also mentioned a couple of good laws that the legislature had recently passed. One was "The Sound of Freedom Act," which imposes a minimum life sentence for human trafficking of a minor. Another is Aaron's Law prevents pardons for people convicted of child sex offenses and prohibits artificial intelligence from being used in child sexual seduction and added clergy restrictions within the sexual predators law. It passed a law requiring fentanyl education in grades six through twelve. It passed the "Teachers' Bill of Rights," that includes addressing disruptive children in the classrooms; in 2017 & 2018 school year there 81,000 disruptions; in 2022 & 2023 there were 258,000 disruptions; the problem was out-of-hand. It passed anti-squatter legislation --- this has been seen to be a problem in many other States. It passed a law putting a cap on property taxes. It passed new legislation favoring veterans and current military members. It has done an excellent job of governing within the State's budget, not having to fall back on proration since

2010 as many other States and the Federal Government has.

Representative Shedd marks yet another recent informative and engaging speaker by individuals who are playing an important and appreciated role within our community and the State. The next meeting with Mayor Woody Jacobs as our speaker promises to continue this trend.

Other Business

Updates on Lions with health issues are as follows: Lions Wendell Copeland, Dwayne Wilson, and Ron Seybold was present with us tonight following their medical difficulties; and Lion Ron reported that his doctor told him that the cancer associated with his skull has cleared. Lion Charlie Powell reported that Lion Gary Murphree has been looking and feeling better.

Lion Steve Cartee received a "Key Lion" award from Lions International for bringing in 2 new Lions this year.

President Lion Chris Brooks recognized Club-membership anniversaries for the following Lions: Doug Dogette (41 years), Tim Scott (36 years), and Dwayne Wilson (21 years). He also presented framed letters of commendation, signed by the Lions International President for their total year's membership as Lions to the following Lions: Wendell Copeland (60), Jerry Bonner (60) and Fred Osborne (55). These Lions were previously recognized at the Lions' Officer Installation that was recently held in June.



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Three Lions with a record of outstanding years of membership, standing with Lion President Chris Brooks.

New Lion James Pinion attended his first meeting as a new Lion, tonight. Lion Randy Kraft sponsored him. After his previous attendance as a guest, Lion James noted that one of the things that impressed him about our Club was our recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation at the start of our meetings. He is from Marietta, Ga., and his wife is from Cullman.



New Lion James Pinion.

Upcoming Programs and Events

August 5: Speaker will be Mayor of the City of Cullman, Lion Woody Jacobs.



Mayor of Cullman, Lion Woody Jacobs.

August 5: To be determined.

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).