



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

July 7, 2025.

Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced Lion Champ Crocker, Cullman County District Attorney.



Lion Sam Roberts introduces the Cullman County DA, Lion Champ Crocker as Lion President Delane Ray presides over his first meeting as our new Club President.

Lion Champ noted as he began his presentation that he last talked to our Club just after his first 100 days in office as the County's DA, and that today marks his 903rd day. With him tonight was his Victim Service Officer, Mr. Bradley Williams. He said that he has a total staff of 16 which includes 5 lawyers.

DA Crocker provided copies of a report that detailed his organizations' accomplishments over the past year. Court cases "cleared" was really impressive, especially with the more critical District & Circuit Court cases which had been in deficit clearance before Lion Champ became DA. In 2024 his office cleared 10,076 court cases with clearance rates as follows: 121% of Circuit Court cases (736), 137% of District Court cases (2,865), and 92% of Traffic

Court cases (6,475) – total clearance rate of all cases was 104%. His office recovered \$3.8M in 2024 in restitution and child support.

Another subject in the DA's presentation was a listing of notable convictions in 2024, which included 4 murderers, a child rapist, and a shooter at a funeral home. Don't expect to ever see these convicts walking our streets again.

Specialized units with the DA's Office include the Victim Services and Restitution Unit, the Helping Families Initiative, and the Child Support, Worthless Chick Unit, and the pre-trial Intervention Program. Worthless Check & Child Support are generally self-explanatory, the other units are further explained, below.

The Victims Services and Restitution Unit collaborates closely with community partners to ensure that crime victims have access to the resources they need to rebuild their lives. It provides information on victim advocacy, counseling services, legal assistance, financial compensation, and how to obtain restraining orders.

The Helping Families Initiative collaborates with community partners and local school systems to provide prevention and intervention aimed at eliminating the barriers to the child's emotional, behavioral, and academic success. It creates a network of support and referrals to each child/family participating.

The Pre-Trial Intervention Program diverts certain first-time non-violent defendants from the traditional court system into a supervised restorative program. Not everyone is eligible, but if they complete the program, the case will



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not be brought to trial. The defendant will be required to work, perform community service, participate in counseling, drug & alcohol treatment, anger management, report to the Pre-trial Office, pay restitution, and anything else the DA feel will aid in rehabilitation of the defendant.



The Cullman County DA, Lion Champ Crocker, was in fine form as he discussed the operations of his office.

DA Champ Crocker is building a stellar reputation in his current position, which is a very challenging job. We hope to see him more often in attendance at Club meetings but will likely continue to cut him some slack.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold is continuing his cancer battle. Due to increased issues with his new treatment, Lion Ron has decided to move into an assisted living facility; he also tendered a letter of resignation from the Club. Secretary Lion Scott Starosta said that a couple of members of our Board of Directors intended to meet with him and let him know that the Club is refusing to except his resignation, and is providing a heartfelt letter explaining that he would always be on our roles in light of his exceptional service and Lion leadership at all levels of our State.



Lion Secretary shares a letter of appreciation that he drafted to Lion Ron Seybold to convince him that he should remain on our Club roster, despite his illness.

Lion Javon Daniel remains at home dealing his heart condition. Lion Mike Ponder is still very weak and resting at home with his medical issues. We did not have an update on Lion Jerry Smith's condition, but he was in attendance at church last Sunday. Continue prayers for these Lions.

Lion Treasurer Don Smith gave a superlative annual presentation of details of the Clubs financial situation. Generally, the Club's balance at the end of the 2024-2025 year is more than 5% higher than the previous year, despite a record year of donations and charitable expenses. Also, proceeds from Club's sale of its Smith Lake property a couple of years ago and its associated CD interest receipts now account for 75% of the Club's total current balances. Lion Don said that he anticipated providing the Club's 990 Federal tax submission to our CPA for any final adjustments and submission in the next few weeks. He closed, saying that if anyone has questions about the Club's finances, he will be glad to discuss them in as much detail as they may desire.



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Treasurer Lion Don Smith explains the nitty-gritty of the Clubs finances.

Upcoming Programs and Events

July 14: Our speaker will be Ms. Kelsey Scott, Executive Director of "Hope Horses, Inc."



Ms. Kelsey Scott, Executive Director of "Hope Horses, Inc.," with one of her mighty steeds.

August 25: Our speaker will be Mr. Mike Mullaney from Goat Island.

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)