



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

July 9, 2018

Program

After an introduction by Lion Steve Singleton, Lion Raymond Williams spoke on Cullman Lions Club Charities and Habitat for Humanity. Lions Raymond began by explaining how the Cullman's Habitat for Humanity Chapter began over 25 years ago and had included himself and several other Lions as members to provide homes to special-needs, indigent families. This organization had built 9 homes over those years through its efforts to secure funding contributions and in-kind labor throughout the community, as well as providing organization-members' own labor to build these homes. Also, a request was made to Lions International for its support in building one of these homes; it responded by providing a \$32,000 grant for this purpose. These homes were mortgaged at zero interest and at a price well below their market value; there was never a foreclosure required on any of these homes. The mortgage payments were made back to Cullman's Habitat for Humanity and used to fund new homes. This organization has been a viable and contributing asset to our local community.

However, the parent organization, Habitat for Humanity International, sent our local Habitat for Humanity a letter stating that if it was to remain as a member of the International organization, it would have to maintain a physical office with a phone, staffed by a full-time employee, and build at least one home per year. Cullman's organization concluded that it could not meet these requirements, and would,

necessarily, disband. Therefore, a decision by an illogical bureaucracy (or unintended consequences) at the International level crushed a viable community asset.



New Lion President Mike Ponder presents a Lion token of appreciation to our speaker tonight, Lion Raymond Williams.

One positive result from the dissolution of Cullman's Habitat for Humanity was that its funds on-hand (and monthly payments still being submitted for 4 existing mortgage) did not have to be turned-over to the International organization. Instead, the local Habitat organization decided to turn all those funds over to Cullman Lions Charities as the chosen successor 501(c)3, with the understanding that these funds would be used in repairs and needed upgrades to indigent family homes. Cullman Lions Charities is governed by a 5-member board from our Club, appointed for a 5-year term: Lions Jerry Bonner, Jerry Galin, Jim Greer, Fred Osborne, and Mark Aderhold. In the past Cullman Lions Charities was funded by the Cullman Lions Club and was used to fund local wide-ranging charitable needs as determined by



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

Lions Charities board members. This wind-fall funding from Habitat increases the Lions Charities budget several times-over and will increase its board members' responsibilities, significantly. Lion Williams made an appeal to our Club members and to Cullman churches to let the Lion Charities board know of indigent families in need funds to repair or upgrade their homes. On a case-by-case basis, Cullman Charities will make funds available for building materials as appropriate. Lions or churches will be asked to contribute labor to allow the funds to go further. Our Club will be able to obtain recognition locally and with Lions International as these funds are used within our community.

Other Business

Lion Bill Ruehl received the good news that a biopsy was benign. Lion Jerry Caudle is in the hospital with respiratory problems.

The Club received a "Thank You" note from Camp Seale Harris for its funding support for the attendance of several diabetic youths at the camp.

Lion President Bill Ruehl was given a standing ovation for his tenure as President.

Treasurer Lion Jerry Bonner distributed membership cards and quarterly bills.

Lions District 34-A will hold its first cabinet meeting under its new slate of officers on

July 14 at 10:00 AM at 7th Street Baptist Church. Our Club will be hosting this event, and all our Club's Lions are invited and encouraged to attend. You are asked to wear your vest for this event.

Lion Secretary Don Smith read the perfect attendance as was published in last week's Tale Twister. He noted that the Lion with the most years of perfect attendance was Lion Fred Osborne with an outstanding 49 years.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Ms. Deidra Lee

July 16: Ms. Deidra Lee from Quail Creek Golf Course.

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).