



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

June 20, 2022

Program

Lion President Javon Daniel presided for the last time as our President since President-elect Lion Milford Parrish is scheduled to be installed next week. Lion Javon introduced our program speaker for this evening, our own Lion Charlie Childers. Lion Charlie enlightened us on the operation in Cullman Walmart's 1.2 million sq. ft. regional distribution center. He has worked as a supervisor there since 1982, before the facility first opened in 1983.



Lion Charlie Childers helping us understand a very complicated process.

Lion Charlie explained that Mr. Sam Walton chose Cullman for the site of this facility after flying over and remarking about all the chicken houses that he saw; he said that this area will have a lot of good workers. Walmart has 42 regional distribution centers, total, and 19 of them are just like the one here in Cullman. One way that the operation judges itself is in the number of cases of items it processes per day per hourly employee, which mean unloading a truck from receiving, then re-loading a case on another truck for shipping to another Walmart location or to temporary storage. Some of the items are

pre-ordered and comes-in and is shipped out the same day. Other staple items go to storage in the facility until it is ordered by a Walmart store. When the facility first started, the case count was 40 cases per hour; today that number is 120. So, over the years, operations have improved, they've gotten smarter and used computers, bar codes, cameras, and a vast conveyor belt system, moving all those cases around to & from the right loading dock. Right now, this distribution center serves a total of 140 Walmart stores, but they can only handle 23 stores at a time; all those 23 stores are handled in a batch and all shipping trucks depart at the same time; they have 7 minutes to get the loaded truck trailers out and the empty trailers back into the dock for another batch of 23. This all has to be very closely coordinated and takes place continuously. Next spring, the current system will totally change. They will be removing most of the conveyor belt system and replace it with "Symbotics" which will use very smart robotic transporters to do most of the work. In the process of doing this change-over, one-third of the facility will be gutted at a time as the new system installed, while continuing to keep all their stores supplied. This will be a 5-year-change process. At this time, the distribution center has 1,116 hourly workers. Walmart believes they will have jobs for anyone that wants to continue working, but many jobs will change to software related or machine monitoring jobs – and the jobs will not involve man-handling all those cases, all day long. Lion Charlie went into much more detail on how the work flows now, and how it will change with the new system. He did say that



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Walmart often has tours to come and see their operation. Perhaps we could have a regular Lions Club meeting that included such a tour if Lion Charlie could make that happen. Anyway, we had a most interesting and amazing program.

Other Business

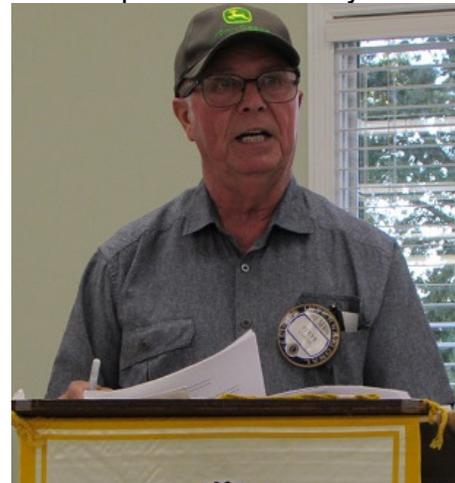
Secretary Lion Craig Gadow encouraged our Lions to attend a Leadership Conference this year on August 13th, particularly those Lions recently elected as officers in the Club. The conference will be in Hanceville at Wallace State, and the Club will pay the \$25 conference fee. Lion Craig attended this conference last year and was impressed with the agenda and how much he learned about Lionism. Great opportunity for any Lion to attend. Thank You was received from Leo Arleigh Scott for scholarship donation from the Club. Jerry Smith and David McCoy were announced as possible new members, both sponsored by Lion Jerry Bonner.



Secretary Lion Craig Gadow updates us.

Lion Steve Cartee gave a report on the recent Alabama Lions Sight quarterly meeting. Lion Steve is currently the treasurer of that organization's Board of Directors for a second term in that capacity; he also informed us that Lion Don Smith has been elected as a

member of this Board. Lion Steve reminded us about the great success that Lions Sight's mobile clinic has achieved over the past 4 years. This mobile clinic is mounted on a large 5-ton truck which is having to be replaced. Lions Sight was also fortunate to win a bid on another mobile clinic; it purchased a \$500,000 clinic for \$65,000 which will still require another \$170,000 to properly outfit. This purchase was made possible due to the efforts of a lobbyist who persuaded State legislators to get Lions Sight added as a State budget line item of \$423,000 for 2022 & 2023 for the purpose of eye-sight screening in our schools and would also include hearing screening. Screening service with the one mobile clinic has been to 23 counties; with this second clinic it would expand to 46 counties of the State. Lion Steve said that this screening service would also be offered to private schools. In closing he touted the fact that Alabama Lions has treated over 500,000 patients through its foundation hospital over its 77-year existence.



Lion Steve Cartee updates us on Alabama Lions Sight.

Treasurer Lion Jerry Bonner gave us an update on our giving to charities over the past 10 years. It has totaled nearly \$1,000,000. We had a good Fair this year which helped us



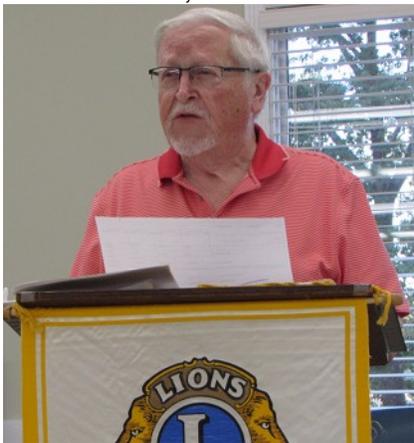
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achieve the 2nd highest annual total we've had in donations that we provided. He also reported on amounts that he currently has in the bank, as well as the amount from the sale of the Club's Smith Lake property; this sale money is all in a CD and has not been touched so far. Lion Jerry noted that our Club was the highest donor to LCIF within our State District, 34-A.



Lion Mechele Mosley, 34-A District Governor, will be conducting the installation of the Club's officers for 2022-2023.



Treasurer Lion Jerry Bonner updates us.

Lions Richard Gurley and Carey Thompson recovered as expected from Covid.

Learned a little more about Lion Ricky Peek's broken a foot in a motorcycle accident - he had parked in a sandy area, but his stand sunk into the sand, and his bike fell over on his foot.

July 4 : No Meeting for holiday.

July 11 : Lion Brian Spaeth, of Edward Jones, will talk about options for investing your money.



Lion Brian Spaeth

July 18 : TBD.

July 25 : MS Patty Bearden will speak about the Youth Academy.

Upcoming Programs and Events

June 27 : Club officer installation at the Browne Stone Center at Stone Bridge Farms. This event will open at 5:30pm with dinner 6:00pm. Dress code for Lions: Wear a dress shirt and tie with your Lions Vest. Officers being installed are also asked to bring a jacket for a group photo for the Club's website and the local newspaper.

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).