



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 11, 2024

Program

Lion Don Smith introduced Ms. Gracie Moody as our speaker who is a senior at Vinemont High School and a fast-track student at Wallace State, looking for a career in political science. Gracie had recently placed first at the Cullman VFW Auxiliary for a speaking contest it sponsored with a subject that dealt with an aspect fundamental to our government. This contest is where Lion Don's wife first heard her speak. After taking his wife's advice, Lion Don phoned Gracie and asked her to speak to the Club. Following her VFW speech, Gracie then was elected runner-up for Governor at Boys/Girls State Convention in Montgomery as the Cullman VFW's representative where she also gave her speech. Then, she was selected to attend Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., where she was elected runner-up for President. Tonight, she presented her speech to our members.



Ms. Gracie Moody, Lion President Chris Brooks, and Gracie's proud parents, Mr. & Mrs. John and Amanda Moody.

Ms. Moody's speech was entitled, "Respect", recalling Aretha Franklin's song of that title. She then noted its definition, according to Webster's Dictionary as: due regard for the feelings,

wishes, and rights of others. She rightly stated that when you give someone respect, you provide a catalyst for hard work and loyalty. Her speech recalled our forefathers with their considerations that were embodied in authoring our Nation's constitution and its bill of rights. Gracie noted that King George of England had shown disrespect and disregard for its colonial citizens in declaring edicts of various taxes without allowing the citizens of its American colonies to have in say or path to be heard for compromise. This led to the colonies revolt with its major complaint of "taxation without representation." Our nation's founders constructed our nation on the idea that when a citizen feels respected that feeling will prosper the entire nation. This respect is not based on an individual's role, but simply because they are part of the nation. Gracie continued, talking about the Nation's history, recalling groundbreaking progress such as women's gaining the right to vote and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Gracie had great delivery and gave an emotional speech, which also looked at many Americans who do not appreciate the right to vote in achieving their own chance for determining their representation in government. Statistics show that less than half of eligible voters show up at the polls to vote. She ended her speech by saying that when we hear the phrase: R E S P E C T, ... "it should serve as a reminder of all those who have sacrificed to give you the rights to representation. Let it serve a reminder to vote." After hearing his speech, one of the comments from our Lions was, "I think you can make a Senator." This may be a very prophetic prediction for a very talented young lady.



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Other Business

Lion Carey Thompson thanked Lions who were on-hand during the latest Fish & Ham Dinner. Lions Carey shared a few of his observations. Some of those are as follows: When he arrived Friday afternoon at 2PM for the dinner preparations, Lions Dennis Berse and Tom Pfeifer were already working and had filled several pans of washed & wrapped potatoes. Several of our key team leaders were absent this time, but they had trained their teams well and things really fell into place and the operation ran smoothly. We had more Leos than we anticipated, thanks to Lion Jeff Lawson, his wife, Lion Stephannie from our branch Club, and to the Branch Club President, Lion Ginger Hogeland who corralled several Leos from outlying schools. Lion Stephanie did a terrific job in managing all the Leos, as well as working, practically non-stop with Lion Charlie Powell and the Take-out/Drive Thru area. Those Leos were all over the place working. We also had several workers from The Foundry who helped out in many areas; we donated a several pans of left-over fish, ham, hushpuppies, and potatoes to The Foundry after shutting down the serving line. Gregarious Lion, David Wiggins filled in admirably on the serving team for Lion Gordon Boyd, who has been out due to ill-health. All team leaders were asked to summarize how they saw operations in their areas. Generally, they all said "Great"! Lion Randy Kraft went a little further, giving a rambling tirade, starting with the exploits of Lions Matt Hogue and Josh Ray, and continuing about the greatness of his Thaw team, which he described as the "Special Forces" of Fish & Ham operations. All & all we had a very good event from which we will be able to help and give back to our community. We served around 1,150 meals, just slightly less than last year; we don't have net profit yet, until

all expenses and tickets-sold data is tallied. Other than a slightly reddened face, no injuries reported.



Lions Brad Mitchell, Mike Ponder, and Raymond Williams cooking up a storm.



Lions David Wiggins and first team of Leos ready to serve, like our motto says.

Lions David Granz and Fred Osborne were able to join us again tonight after their medical difficulties.

No update was available on Lion Jerry Smith following his heart procedure

Lion Jimmy Horton had recovered sufficiently from emplacements of 4 stints to even help out at the Fish & Ham dinner.



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Lion Ron Seybold continues chemo.

Lion President Chris Brooks read a thank-you letter from Cullman Caring for Kids.

Lion George presented a check for the American Legion for its Boys and Girls State program. Our speaker tonight was a recipient of some of the scholarship money from this program.

Lion Steve Cartee requests that you turn in any unsold Fish & Ham tickets and any money from sales this coming Monday night, March 18th. This is the last meeting he and his crew will be set up to receive unsold tickets and money, and he wants to close out the books on this event.



Martha Lawrence

Upcoming Programs and Events

March 18: 1st Vice President of the Association of Alabama Fairs, Scott Haskell will speak.



Association of Alabama Fairs

April 8: Ms. Martha Lawrence with the Food Pantry by the Mary Carter Store will speak.

April 15: Jessica Atchley with Victim Services will speak.



Jessica Atchley

May 4: BBB's "Shred-a-Thon" event on May 4th. We meet at 8:30am behind Buffalo Wild Wings. Make sure to wear your vest. Biscuits will be provided at breakfast and pizza for lunch.



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Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share> . Call Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361 if you need help getting to this site.

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).

General Committee assignments on page 5.



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Cullman Lions Club

1st VP Jim Burke Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Diabetes	Javon Daniel	Jason Tielking	
Fair Concessions	David Bussman		
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Jerry Bonner	
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	Frank Odell	
Membership	Gary Murphree	David Bussman	Dewayne Wilson
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Craft	Chris Robinson
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee	
2nd VP Delane Ray Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Area Lion's Liason	Jerry Bonner	Craig Gadow	
Constitution & Bylaws	Bradley Williar	Champ Crocker	
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborn	David Bussman
Member Info	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz	
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson	
Youth Leo's	Jeff Lawson	Sam Roberts	
3rd VP Jeff Lawson Committees			
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	Members
Tail Twister	Richard White	Richard Gurley	
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham	
	Charlie Childers		
Lions Branch Liaison	Dennis Burse	Ron Seybold	
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
Communication & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
New Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	David Bussman