



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

March 20, 2023

### Program

For our program tonight we had two professionally related speakers: Ms. Rachel Dawsey, Executive Director of the North Alabama Agriplex and Ms. Kira Sims, Coordinator of the Cullman County Extension Service. Lion Randy Kraft made the introductions, heaping praise on these ladies for the services that they have provided to our community. Lion Randy noted that he had visited fairs in several counties, but that Cullman's Auburn Extension Service could set the example for the rest of the State from the manner in which it supported our County Fair. Also, our Agriplex serves as the agricultural support center for 19 counties in North Alabama.



**Ms. Kira Sims and Ms. Rachel Dawsey receive token of appreciation from Lion President Milford Parrish.**

Ms. Dawsey is also a granddaughter of one of our most celebrated Lions, the late Lion Chester Freeman.

These ladies have coordinated frequently in the past with each other in the course of their

positions, often referring clients back and forth. They will soon have a chance to coordinate even more conveniently. Ms. Dawsey gave us the Agriplex's plan for its new building which will include the offices of the Extension Service. The nearby Cullman Health Department will be able to conduct health classes here, also. This will be a huge facility of 8,525 sq.ft., costing \$2.3M and will be completed in 2024. Construction funding came from grants from both the State and County governments. It will feature a fully equipped demonstration and teaching kitchen and new space that enables the Agriplex to broaden its efforts in reducing food insecurity and promoting nutrition education to prepare, preserve, and enjoy delicious locally grown produce. The classroom expansion enhances the Agriplex's current instruction in heritage agricultural skills, sustainable living, job training in the food service and agricultural industries.

There are classes scheduled throughout the year at the Agriplex – for preschoolers, for farm kids 5 & up, for homeschoolers, and of course for veteran farmers and beginning farmers. During the summer months there are ag-instructional kids day-camps. And there are adult programs such as starting a green house, a raised bed garden, making mead, candle making, beekeeping, wilderness survival, etc. There are also lunch & learn programs like Instant Pot for beginners, growing and using mushrooms, good & bad bugs, etc. It also maintains a computer app-ag school program. The number of agricultural classes available is almost unbelievable. Last year 27,000 North Alabamians participated in Agriplex activities with 6,000 actually on site.



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

Ms. Sims talked about the status of her Extension Service and some of its current activities. One of the Extension Service's retired agents helps specifically with instruction for new farmers. She noted that the mission of the Extension Service aligns closely with that of the Agriplex. Kira said that Extension Service agents from other counties often call for advice on setting up some of the classes that are provided in Cullman. When questions about soil or pesticides, etc. come up with Agriplex personnel, they are able to just send them across the hall to the Extension Service for expert help. The Extension Service runs livestock workshops – one for cattle finished up a couple weeks ago; there's a field trip for new & vet farmers to Triple J Ranch in April, one for sheep & goats in May, and a Goat Assoc. Conference in June. The Extension Service manages the 4-H program in schools, which does most of its activities from Oct. to Mar. And on April 4-H school project winners will compete locally, then at the State level. Randy Kraft will be working with the Extension Service to investigate the possibility of having larger cattle show at the Cullman Agricultural Trade Center in conjunction with our Fair this year.

This was a very interesting and informative program. The future looks bright for agriculture in Cullman with the help of Kira and Rachel.

### Other Business

Lion David Goodman's daughter reported that he has early stage-4 lung cancer with 2 tumors in his lung and one on his brain. More testing will be done before a treatment plan is set in motion. She asked that we pray for him and his family. Lion Don Scott's brother-in-law passed away. Keep Lion Don in your prayers, also.

The Lion's Sight Truck was unable to visit Cullman on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as was announced. It is planned for a visit to Montgomery on April 5<sup>th</sup> for display to our State legislature who granted funded for its purchase and upgrades. This vehicle will be providing eyesight and hearing services to the indigent there, then it is tentatively scheduled to be in Cullman on May 14<sup>th</sup>, providing these services.

Lion Don Smith continued to collect ticket sales money from the Fish and Ham Dinner.



Lion Don Smith had some questions about animal husbandry that he was concerned about, and that he was hoping our speakers could answer.



One of our speakers was amused by Lion Don's cheekiness; the other seemed doubtful.



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

Lion Milford Parrish encouraged the History Committee to update plaques to preserve the club history.

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> .

If you have any problem getting to the site, contact Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

March 20: A speaker from the North Alabama Agriplex has been invited.

March 27: Police Chief David Nassetta.



**Chief David Nassetta**  
City of Cullman Police Department

April 29: Safe-Kids Expo will be at Sportsman Lake from 10:00AM until 1:00PM.

May 13: Shred-a-thon behind Buffalo Wild Wings. Details to follow.

### 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).