



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 27, 2023

Program

For our program tonight Lion Randy Kraft introduced the “new sheriff in town”-- or rather the new Cullman Chief of Police, David Nassetta, who has replaced Chief Culpepper, who retired after 34 years in that position. Chief Nassetta’s Cullman roots run deep as both his parents and grandparents are natives of Cullman. His education runs through Sacred Heart School, St. Bernard, and Auburn. He began his law-enforcement career here, transferred to the Birmingham Police Departments for 2 years, then came back to the Cullman Police Department.

Since becoming Chief, David said one of his biggest objectives was to increase the size of the Department which has really been understaffed in recent years. He noted that



Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta was presented with a token of appreciation by Lions Milford Parrish & Randy Kraft.

the city itself has really been growing with new housing subdivisions springing up all over our area, along with new outlying areas being incorporated into the City. Along with that growth has been a corresponding increase in the number of calls for law-enforcements.

He says that the Mayor and the City Council have been very receptive to his ideas, and they realize the requirements to keep our city safe are growing. One situation for change that he noted is that the ratio of higher-grade officers to lower grade officers had gotten out of balance, in that the Department had as many captains, lieutenants, and captains as regular patrol officers. But with the recent retirement of several officers, he has been able to start rectifying that situation. He also noted that our Parks and Recreation Department has significantly expanded its activities and offerings to the public in recent years for such things as the Strawberry Festival, Octoberfest, the expanded water park, etc. These activities bring many visitors into the city of Cullman, expanding its security needs. The Chief stated that his Department has officers in all public schools, but that private schools such as St. Bernard have to provide for its officer’s salary. The Chief says that there are several officers assigned to those schools that have been part time, but those part-time officers will be transitioning to full time jobs in the future. He also noted that a large school, such as Cullman High School, has more than one officer present.

He says his Department has 7 candidates ready now to start training at the Police Academy at Ft. McClellan that will hopefully become part of his officer staff in a few months. Lion Charlie Childers spoke up to tell the Chief how much our Fair counted on his officers, and that the public had commented about how they felt safe at our Fair due to its police presence.

The Chief gave a good status update on his department and answered many questions from



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the Lion audience. One of the questions dealt with the impact of the law that made alcohol legal in Cullman. He said that there has been little impact on policing and that part of that was because prior to the law change, Cullman had already been known as the wettest dry county in the State. Chief Nassetta stressed that Cullman is a fantastic city to live and grow-up in, and that the overwhelming majority of the community is pro-police. This is true and much of this status is because of its police department with its strong leadership.

Other Business

No further information on treatment for Lion David Goodman's stage-4 lung cancer. Lion Don Scott reported that he was absent tonight due to Lion's work in repair of recent weather damage around our community. Lion Javon Daniel has had continued fatigue following a Covid infection but is getting better. Lion Jim Howard was with us tonight after improvements to his continuing with his medical condition; Lion Jim received his Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow award, presented by Lion Jerry Bonner.



Lion Jerry Bonner presented the Progressive Melvin Jones Award to Lion Jim Howard.

Following tonight's meeting, Lion Frank Odell conducted the third in a series of round-table discussions for new Lions at Freddy Day's Catering with Lion Milford Parrish talking about how our Club functions.



Acting Tale Twister Richard Gurley quizzed Lions Charlie Childers, Don Smith, Barry Willingham, and Bill Ruehl on their Knowledge of peanuts. Prizes were awarded.

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> .

Upcoming Programs and Events

April 3: Program TBD.

April 10: Lion President decreed that there would be no meeting due to Spring-Break.

April 28-30: State Lions Convention in Prattville.

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).