



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

March 2, 2026

### Program

Lion Jeff Lawson presented our program tonight which dealt with a proposal to support a scholarship program through Wallace State, titled the Wallace State Future Foundation. Ms. Suzanne Harbin from WSJC was on hand to help answer any questions.



Lion Judy Smith, President of our Branch Club, stands with Lion Jeff Lawson, Ms. Suzanne Harbin, and Lion President Delane Ray.

Essentially, this scholarship program, which our Club has been asked to consider with Wallace State, requires establishing an initial investment of at least \$25,000 which is invested for continual growth. That investment is not diminished, but the growth it earns goes towards Wallace State scholarship payments for individuals that meet requirements established our Club and Wallace State concurrence. These payments can be used not only for classroom payments, but for tools, equipment, uniforms, etc. that the students can continue to use in their jobs during and after completing their education. Our contribution would be one of many, many other contributors, totaling \$ millions across

the entire Program. A contributor can increase its investment as desired, and the total investment amounts will remain in place for decades – again, only the interest is drawn off for scholarship purposes.

Our Club has supported individual scholarships through the years, especially to our Leos; that type scholarship could continue as desired. This program just guarantees scholarship support for the future and appears to be a worthy cause. Our BOD intends to further discuss its merits and to decide our Club's participation.

### Other Business

Lion Chris Brooks' mother and aunt past away on the same day while in hospice-care in North Carolina. Lion Javon Daniel remains in stable, but restricted activity status with his heart condition. Lion Bill Ruehl was hospitalized with double-P pneumonia this week. Pray for these Lions and their families.

Roundtable discussions for new Lions are as follows:

RT3-Mar 16 — BOD & Operations.

RT4-Apr 20 — Beyond our Club:

District, Multi-District, & Global operations.

Lion Delane Ray noted years-of-service anniversaries for the following Lions: , Terry Slaton – 32, Mark Ham – 22 years, Dean Twilley – 15, Sam Roberts – 6, and Mary Horton – 1.

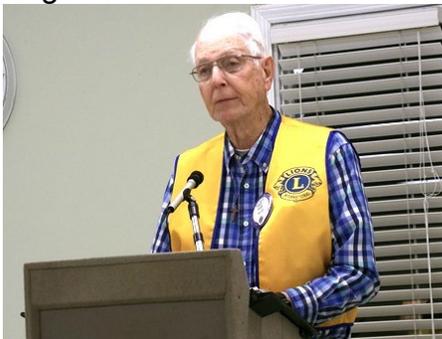
Lion Don Scott thanked the Club for its support of the Ramp Building Ministry. He noted that this Ministry over the last four



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years has completed 82 housing ramps for the disabled of our community who could not have afforded this cost by themselves. Our Club has provided cost that covered 85% of the material for these ramps; members of the Ministry team provided free labor. The Ministry's business card that he passes out to interested parties now contains acknowledgement of our Club's support and our mailing address.



**Lion Don Scott thanking Club for its support to Ramp Building Ministry.**

Lion Frank Odell recognized Lion Brooke Windeknecht for completing all four sessions of New Member Roundtable Orientation.



**Lion Brooke Windeknecht receiving recognition cup for completion of new Lion Roundtable Discussions from Lions Frank Odell and President Delane Ray.**

Lion Carey Thompson shared a recap of the Fish & Ham. We had the best weather day for this event in recent memory. One big hiccup was discovered right after the

potatoes were washed the Friday of prep night. About 350 were not acceptable to be served and were thrown-out. So, we started by making a call to our main Walmart contact, Lion Charlie Childers, but he did not have a good contact in the produce section. Luckily, someone suggested that we try Grover Grocery Mart; they were just about to close but agreed to sell us 200 beautiful regular large baking potatoes, and 50 huge ones. We got by OK, running short with potatoes on the last half-dozen or so customers to whom we gave extra fish.

We had a pretty good turn-out of Lions, and an outstanding turn-out of Leos – 23, which was the most I can recall helping for this event; to be clear, we would have been hurting without their great support. I have to give Lion David Wiggins credit for bringing this about. Lions David also did a great job in meeting, greeting, and schmoozing with our customers, making them feel welcome. The kitchen staff, who have been the same over the past few years, provided outstanding support. By 3:30, when the Lions arrived, they had already washed most of the potatoes. They pretty much handled clean-up of the kitchen after the serving line closed operations. Lions Barry Willingham and Steve Murphree did a great job in managing the cooking area (especially in light of the tragic passing of one of our past cooking stalwarts, Lion Tim Scott) – no delays at all in that area and nobody hurt in that most potentially dangerous area. Also, I walked through their area Sunday afternoon and found not a scrap of trash or any sign that we had even been there.

One other supporting group acquitted themselves well. That was the foundry men



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on hand. I had initially asked Richard to cut back from 4 to 2 because I knew we had a good number of Leos signed up. Those 2 came, but also 2 others showed up. These other 2 were graduates of the Foundry's program and just came because they just wanted to help. All four worked hard the whole day, no matter where we asked them to help. We had decided previously to donate all left-over perishable food to the Foundry; since we already contribute to that organization, doing this efficiently helped us close out loose ends from the Dinner. Lion Richard White reported that when he arrived at the Foundry Farm with this food, including several pans of fried fish and slaw, the Foundry men had a much-appreciated party.

Lion Craig Gadow received all the tickets he had asked for from Lions, thus providing meals for Child Haven families who were very appreciative.

At this point Lion Don Smith reports that it appears that we will exceed profits from last year with most expenses now accounted for. Proceeds from ticket sales will continue to be taken in for another couple of weeks; final profit numbers will be announced at that point. There are several operational suggestions that have been noted for improvement for this event next year. Great job, Lions !!

If you cannot attend the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, here is a link that Lion Craig Gadow had set up for you to watch and join-in:  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hmv-fque-cbj>

### **Upcoming Programs and Events.**

**March 9:** Ms. Kathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.



**Ms. Cathy Sloss**

Also, Club and Fair BODs will meet, following the regular Club meeting.

**March 14:** District 34-A Convention at Cullman Church of Christ. Lion District 34-A Governor Craig Gadow says that our Club members can attend for free, but that he needs our help to be on hand at 8:00AM to set-up for the kick-off at 9:00AM. Lion Craig has been doing an exceptional job as District Governor – lets turn out for him.

**April 20:** Club meeting will be at the Agriplex at 5:30PM. The Club has made significant contributions to the Agriplex. We have been invited for the dedication & opening of the Agriplex's Teaching Kitchen, part of its multi-million dollar expansion.

### **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 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).