



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 4, 2024

Program

Lion Javon Daniel introduced Mr. Steven Sutter Executive Director of Cullman Caring for Kids, and who has also been referred to as the “new” Javon Daniel. Steven is also the Pastor at West Side Baptist Church.



Our speaker from Cullman Caring for Kids, Mr. Steven Sutter, flanked by Lions Chris Brooks and Javon Daniel. Steven’s first order of business tonight was to thank the Club for its unwavering support across many years to Cullman Caring for Kids. Steven also recalled how his wife, the nurse at West Point Middle & Intermediate School, asked for the Club’s help in getting a pair of glasses for an indigent boy who badly needed them since his family was unable to afford them. And she recalled later how our Club provided kits for diabetic emergencies at the schools.

The organization’s main mission is this: To feed the hungry – and also, that no child will ever be abused, no child will go to bed hungry, no infants will ever be shaken in anger and the cycle of abuse will be stopped – and to see the next generation loved, encouraged, physically and emotionally prepared to face life, and that they feel wanted and needed in their world.

By all accounts Cullman Caring for Kids is succeeding in a great way. In 2023 it provided food for over 13,000 people. The total for 2023 was 355,000 pounds of food, where it was needed most. Included in these amounts is over 100 families that have food delivered in its mobile food truck, along with food delivered to 25 students at Wallace State. Cullman Caring for Kids is working to establish a back-pack program whereby it will provide packaged food for kids in school to take home food every Friday in their backpack.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program in Cullman is a secondary mission for Cullman Caring for Kids. Its volunteers speak for the best interest of a child in court. A judge appoints CASA volunteers to recommend the best possible outcome for an abused or neglected child’s future. Whether this means helping to make a connection with adoptive parents or safely reuniting the child with parents or relatives, the ultimate goal of the CASA volunteer is to help ensure that every one of these kids can live in a safe, permanent home. These volunteers review records, research information, and talk to everyone involved— social workers, attorneys, judges, parents, teachers, family members and, of course, the children themselves. In 2023 CASA served 131 kids from the Cullman area and closed 40 cases with about 23 volunteers.

Steven told several moving and sometime funny anecdotes about his experiences as well as providing impressive facts on his organization’s accomplishments. It’s hard to imagine how such vital needs throughout our community could be met without Cullman Caring for Kids.



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Other Business

Lions Howard Perry and Gary Murphree were able to attend tonight's meeting, as they continue their recoveries.



Lions Dennis Berse and Bill Ruehl welcome back Lion Howard Perry.

Lion Fred Osborne is recovering from carpal tunnel wrist surgery and other minor issues. Lion Jimmy Horton is recovering from heart surgery involving emplacements of 4 stints.

Lion Randy Kraft's cousin, Mr. Chris Kraft passed away; his Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, March 7th at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church, preceded by Rosary at 9:15. Although he was not a Lion, he often helped-out during the Fair and at the Fish & Ham Dinner.

Lion Steve Cartee gave an update on Fish & Ham ticket sales. Receipts to-date now total more than \$10,000. He stated that no unsold tickets or ticket money can be accepted from Lions this Saturday at the dinner; he will be too busy handling customers. He will continue to accept those at our regular Club meetings.



Lions Steve Cartee, Delane Ray, and Claude Clay taking care of Ham & Fish ticket business.

The Club's Board of Directors will meet at the next meeting on March 11th.

Our Club will again support the annual Better Business Bureau's "Shred-a-Thon" event on May 4th. We meet at 8:30am behind Buffalo Wild Wings Make sure to wear your Lions Club vest. Biscuits will be provided at breakfast and pizza for lunch.

Fish and Ham prep will be this Friday March 8th at 2pm at the Cullman Middle School cafeteria.

For the Fish and Ham Dinner on this Saturday, March 9th. Lions are asked to park in the new parking lot, south of the Middle school.

Upcoming Programs and Events

March 8: Preparation afternoon for Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria at 2PM-6PM, this Friday.

March 9: Annual Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School Cafeteria. Dinner will be served that Saturday from 11:00AM until 6:00PM. Doors will open at 7:00AM for setup, as necessary.



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March 11: Fish & Ham review and recovery.

Tale Twister Input

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



Association of Alabama Fairs

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).

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.