



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 7, 2022

Program

Vice-President Milford Parish presided over the meeting that actually turned into a program when Lions Frank Odell and Carey Thompson were asked to call upon Ham and Fish chairmen to give a general account of their team's experiences. Generally, there were no real shortfalls, although many teams were a less than planned manpower through a long day on Saturday; many Lions stepped up and worked the entire day; several asked their family members to help bear the load. We had tried to get things cranked up about 30 minutes earlier than normal to handle the big start-up rush, especially to handle the large-order groups; we had around 120 plates that were all due at the same time; but these were packed and ready by 11:00AM. There was not an instance of ever running out of food. Everyone seemed to enjoy and appreciate the food. One instance of possible displeasure came from a former Cullman mayor who questioned the higher price he paid this year, after at least a decade of no ticket-price increases. Although the total dinners served was quite a bit under last year's number our (primarily due to Cullman High School basketball playing in the State 6A championship [they won]) profits still look good. Other than a small cut on a finger, needing a band-aid, there were no injuries!

Although I could not be everywhere and am sure to leave someone out of the following commentary, I would like to commend the hard work that I did witness

by the following Lions: Friday night Lions Milford Parrish washed & cut most of the cabbage, then switched to potato washing. Lion Dwayne Wilson was all over the place. Lion Dennis Berse had two young Lions, Brian Spaeth and Tyler Frost who helped in cutting up all the ham, then did most of the potato washing; Lion Dennis made sure there were no problems at all with those items Saturday. On Saturday Lion Randy Kraft had a couple of mad-men Lions thawing fish, Lions Joshua Ray and Matt Hogue who had fish flying all over the place, getting more than half the fish thawed before 11:00AM. We only had six Leos, but they worked all day. Lion David Bussman started them off with a good attitude, and Lion Doug kept them laughing most of the day. Lion Charlie Powell had the drive-thru team working like a well-oil machine all day. Lion Jeff Lawson, a new Lion, was moving around like his pants were on fire all day. The fish & hush-puppy cooking teams were helped immensely by the cooking trailer, loaned to us by our regular meeting chef, Freddie Day. Lions Steve Murphree remarked that trailer took the place of 3 to four of our regular cooking pots and 5 or six men. This really made a difference since those guys were short on manpower, also. Lions Riley Smith, Delane Ray, and Morris Mangum did most of the fish battering – I think they worked all day, too. Lions Howard Perry, Mike Mangum, and Dwayne kept raw fish going to the cookers & coming back to the serving line all day. Lion Fred Osborne arranged and operated drinks section without fail and no problems.



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Lions Don Smith, surprisingly, along with Craig Gadow did not lose patience with any of the public that asked any irritating or ridiculous questions as they insured all money & tickets were accounted for. Lions Jerry Bonner and Javon Daniel were responsible for clean-up and public relations out front – their team did a great job. Through the day the dining room stayed in better shape through this day than I have ever seen. In particular, I would like to commend Lion Bo Waldrep for his effort during the day, and one of our MAL Lions, Terry Wilhite, for his clean-up efforts after 6:00PM. Finally, I have to give great credit to our Lionesses. They moved in like the professional group that they are – taking charge and providing those magnificent deserts to a grateful public. So sorry if I did not mention anyone that deserved accolades for their work.

I know that Lion Frank Odell worked his fanny off in encouraging us, coordinating all over the place in getting the facility, and lunch ladies, as well as the foods, plates, etc. all lined up from two different companies to delivery all that on mostly a “just in time” basis Friday afternoon – if there is a real hero in this event, its Lion Frank Odell.

Other Business

Lion President, Javon Daniel was absent tonight since he had completed a deep probing medical procedure today, which appears to have shown that he is OK, but that he was fortunate to have had the procedure when he did -- a couple of the polyps that were removed showed pre-cancer at least.

The Club received new member applications from Brian Simmons, sponsored by Lion Gary Murphree, and Brad Ponder, sponsored by Lion Mike Ponder.



Acting Tail Twister Richard Gurley offered any Lion shorter than him a chance to dispense with the “pot” charge tonight. Looks like Lion Dennis Berse won.

Upcoming Programs and Events

March 14: Lion’s induction ceremony for members who joined Lions within last 3 years and their sponsors. Wear vests. District Governor 34-A, Mechele Mosley presiding.

March 21: Our 2021 Fair Queen, Miss Abby Sosa, will present her “Miss Alabama” platform in her quest for that title, later this year.

May 14: Annual Shred-a-thon.

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).