



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

May 16, 2022

### Program

Lion Sam Roberts was responsible for bring us our speaker tonight, the State of Alabama's Secretary of State, Mr. John Merrill. He joined us tonight to go over the operations of his office for the upcoming election day. His message was not a partisan or political message, but just an overview of how the Secretary's office operates elections in Alabama. The Secretary was introduced by our Vice-President, Lion Milford Parrish.



**Vice-President Lion Milford Parrish presents a token of appreciation to Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill for speaking to us tonight.**

Secretary Merrill was especially proud of progress made in voter registration and in cleaning up rolls of registered voters. Well over 1.9 million voters have been added to voter rolls since he took office in 2015, while 1.4 million names were removed from voter role due to voter's death or those determined to be illegitimately registered voters. Reasons these voters were removed include cross-checks with other States to find voters who were already registered in other States or who were not U.S. citizens. Total voters registered is 3.6 million. Requirements for voting in Alabama are as follows: Must be

18 years of age, a US citizen, an Alabama resident, and cannot have been barred from registering due to having been declared mentally incompetent by a court or due to having a felony conviction. Also, voters must have a valid ID.

From 2016 through 2018, 1.4 million citizens who were not registered to vote, but who had drivers' licenses or non-driver ID. received a mailer informing them that they could register to vote. Besides the 2 forms of ID mention above for valid voter identification, the following forms may be used: -a valid ID card issued by a branch, department, agency or entity of the State of Alabama or the US Government that includes the individual's photo,

- a valid US passport, a valid student or employee ID card issued by a college, technical school or professional school located within the State of Alabama that includes the individual's photo,
- a valid tribal ID card containing a photo of the individual, and
- any valid US Military ID card.

If none of means of voter ID are available, the potential voter can present a form in person requesting a voter ID at his local Board of Registrars; any falsification or fraud in the making of the application will constitute a class "C" felony.

To vote by mail in the state of Alabama, you'll need to send a copy of your photo ID along with your absentee application, and a "valid" excuse for why you can't vote in person. The application must be resubmitted for each election. To cast a



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valid ballot, your vote must also be witnessed by a notary or two legal-aged adults. To receive an absentee ballot, your request must be filed five days before the election and the ballot must be returned the day before Election Day. Luckily, concerns over the coronavirus are considered a valid excuse for requesting an absentee ballot.

Since 2015 Secretary Merrill has visited all 67 counties at least once to discuss voter registration and photo voter ID. The results of these efforts to have a clean voting system in Alabama and encouragement for have been highly effective. In the last election 96% of registered Black voters and 91% of White registered voters participated by voting.

Secretary Merrill is an outstanding speaker and discussed other activities of his office. He also provided all Lions present with an “Annual Report” booklet full of Secretary of State activities and answers to questions. This was a great program.

### Other Business

Lion President Javon Daniel was looking after his wife tonight, following her recent surgical procedure. The surgery was successful, and full recovery is expected.

A change of venue was announced for the dinner and formal installation of Cullman Lions-Lioness Club officers for the 2022-2023 Club year. It is now scheduled for Monday evening, June 27<sup>th</sup>, in the Browne Stone Center at Stone Bridge Farms.

Fair President Charlie Childers that a new lawn mower has been purchased for the fairgrounds and that the IRS form 990 had been completed by The Fair’s auditing firm and submitted to the IRS as required.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

May 23: Dr. William E. Smith, Chief Medical Officer, Cullman Regional Medical Center.



Dr. William E. Smith M.D.

May 30: No meeting due to Memorial Day.

June 20: Club officer installation at the Browne Stone Center at Stone Bridge Farms. This event will open at 5:30pm with dinner 6:00pm. “Coat & Tie” attire is encouraged.

### 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).