



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

May 1, 2023

Program

Our speaker tonight, introduced by Lion Randy Kraft was Cullman City Council President Pro Tem, Mr. Johnny Cook who happens to be a former Lion of our Club. He was raised in Jefferson County, but he has lived in Cullman for 38 years. His children and 8 grand children all live here, and he claims that coming to Cullman was the best decision he ever made.



Cullman City Council President Pro Tem, Mr. Johnny Cook after receiving token of appreciation from Lion President Milford Parrish.

Lion Randy jokingly asked Mr. Cook who should get credit for the long-awaited opening of the 4-laned re-construction of Hwy 157. Johnny replied, "Naturally, I do." Mr. Cook explained that most of the City's new road upgrades are based on grants from the Federal Government which pays 80% of their cost with the City paying the remaining 20%. He explained that some of these projects take longer than expected due to the fact that many water and

sewer lines are past due for replacement and that it is economically better to get those renewed at the same time as the roads and streets with update materials. He says that he has heard all sorts of complaints from citizens, including his wife, about disruptions and delays due to street work, but that the traffic department is working as efficiently as possible. He noted that the City is building a new 100x100 ft. aircraft mechanic facility at the airport and finishing up a major drainage issue at Austin Avenue NW. There is also an expansion of Depot Park that is just getting underway, and a new road from the primary school. There are hiking trail planned for the area around the Palimino RV Resort area as well as a world-class disc golf course. Cullman has many invitational sports events such as memorial track meet last week that hosted 30 teams. These events are bringing more and more tax dollars into our City. In a similar vein he noted the Strawberry Festival and 2nd Friday city tours. Johnny talked about how the City's various departments cooperate in maintenance and procurement of equipment and vehicles, and even share or pass-on items from one Department to another.

Mr. Cook answered several questions about several areas of concern around the City and seemed to be on top of these issues. He gave a good accounting of activities under his purview and provided an informative update on current projects.

Other Business

Lion Milford Parrish recognized Lion Ron Seybold's and Lion Jerry Bonner's induction into the Alabama Lions' Hall of Fame at the recent District Convention. These two Lions have also



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been recipients of Lions International's highest award; our Club is the only one that has two recipients of this award as current members; only 20 of these awards are given each year, worldwide among all Lions Clubs. See photo, below.



Lion Ron Seybold sought and gained support from Alabama Lions at the Lions Convention last week for designating the Ivy Green Memorial as a state-wide Lions project; a motion from State Lions for this designation was approved. Lion Ron also sought volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday for Ivy Green grounds clean-up, since the Helen Keller play season begins in a few weeks. Below is a photo of some of our Lions that participated in this cleanup.



Election was held for 2023 – 2024 Lions Club Officers, and results were as follows:

- President – Lion Chris Brooks
- 1st VP – Lion Jim Burke.
- 2nd VP – Lion Delane Ray.
- 3rd VP – Lion Jeff Lawson
- Secretary – Lion Scott Starosta.
- Treasure – Lion Jerry Bonner
- Lion Tamer – Lion Jerry Smith.
- Tail Twister – Lion Richard White
- Membership Chairman – Lion David Bussman.
- Directors– Lion Steve Rogers & Lion Craig Gadow

Lion David Bussman, who led our Club's participation, provided an update for the Truth in Nature Rodeo Event last Friday and Saturday, and gave his appreciation to Lions who supported the event, which was very successful. See photo, below.



Lion Scott Starosta shared takeaways from the District Convention, which impressed him seeing the higher level of Lion Clubs leadership in action. He was impressed with the enthusiasm of the Huntsville Club which had 17 members in attendance. He was awed with the Blind School of Alabama with their abilities, despite their disability.



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This band has been invited to represent Alabama at the Lions International Convention and will actually march-in during a ceremony of this event.



Secretary-elect Lion Scott Starosta.

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.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 8: TBD

May 13: Shred-a-thon behind Buffalo Wild Wings. Show up before 8:30 for free biscuits for breakfast and pizza later.

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).