



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

May 23, 2022

Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker tonight, Cullman Regional Medical Center Chief Medical Officer, Dr. William E. Smith, Jr., who was accompanied by Cullman Regional Director of Marketing, Ms. Jennifer Malone. Dr. Smith gave us a review of the origins of the Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC), its growth through the years, its role in bringing our community through the Covid epidemic, and its future plans. Also, Ms. Malone passed out CRMC's Annual Report, full of information about the medical center.



Dr. William Smith reviews CRMC's progress

Ms. Malone provided all Lions present with an "Annual Report" booklet full of Secretary of State activities and answers to questions.

Dr. Smith began his presentation, assisted by Lion Randy on the projector, showing a photo of the original Cullman Hospital. which was completed in 1939. That hospital became the current Folsom nursing home, and the CRMC facility with a hospital and a professional building was opened 35 years ago with an

average daily patient count of 90 patients. CRMC added its current main hospital section with 115 beds in 1995. In 2018 it added a fifth floor, bring the total bed count to 145; this was a \$14M project. By this time, it had also added 2 more professional buildings and upgraded the emergency room area. CRMC has spent over \$90 million in investments in its facilities. These include:

- Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System, an advanced, minimally invasive robot that excel across multiple medical specialties, including gynecology, urology, thoracic, and general surgery.
- Mako Robotic-arm Assisted System, allowing orthopedic surgeons to generate 3D models of the patient's joint to complete plans before entering the operating room.
- 3D Mammography, improving diagnostic accuracy.
- 128-Slice GE Revolution CT Scanner, the very latest technology.
- Center of Excellence for Orthopedics & Spine, using evidence-based medicine and advanced standards of surgical care.
- Bariatric Center of Excellence for weight loss surgery and post op behavioral changes.
- An interventional radiology suite and doubles as a second cath lab and a new cardiac cath lab equipment.
- BrainScope, new technology for quickly testing and treatment for concussion or stroke.
- Implementing a standardized approach to testing and treating sepsis, a type of run-away infection that has a mortality rate of 40% to 60% if not diagnosed and treated



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right away. Since 2017 this approach has saved an estimated 180 lives at CRMC.

The Doctor then moved on to future additions which includes another increase in the Emergency Department by 80%. This department was originally built to handle 125 patients, but they are seeing 145 to 150 patients daily, now; this will be completed by July 2022. The 3rd & 4th floors will add another 30 beds. The need for more beds became apparent when, during the height of the Covid epidemic, the ICU unit was at 220% capacity; so, the 3rd floor will double its ICU capacity. By the fall of 2023 CRMC will have a total of 175 beds.

Dr. Smith then answered questions, having given us a highly informative presentation, holding everyone's attention.

Other Business

Former Cullman Lions Club Member Phillip Massey has passed. Lion Phillip was with his daughter in Texas and (per his cousin Lioness Dottie Henke) died early Wednesday morning, 5-25-2022. Per Lion Bonner, his body is being flown back to Alabama, and will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. The arrangements will be shared with Club members when they are made available.



RIP former Lion Philip Massey

Lion Chris Brooks has been in Grandview Hospital recovering from heart catheterization and insertion of stents. He expects recovery soon and thanks everyone for their continuing prayers.

Club Secretary Lion Craig Gadow reported that the Club received thank you notes for our support from: the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for the Shred-a-Thon, First Source for Women, Brook's Place for Kid's Expo, Distinguished Young Women of Cullman County.

Acting Tale Twister Richard Gurley had another quiz on facts surrounding Memorial Day. His victims were Lions Wendel Copeland, Morris Mangum, Jeff Lawson, Brad Mitchell, and Bill Ruehl. Generally, they did poorly at providing the right answers, but Lion Jeff won the prize, a Christmas baseball cap – the losers all got small American flags as consolation prizes.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 30: No meeting due to Memorial Day.

June 6: Program is TBD.

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).