



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 10, 2025

Program

The program tonight was presented by Lion Carey Thompson, who was asked to deliver a slide show that he provided a couple years ago to our Leos shortly before the Fish & Ham dinner. This was mainly to give a little inspiration, appreciation, and Lion history to our newer Lions. The presentation showed the history of Lions Club starting with the first Lion, Melvin Jones when the first Club was created in 1917, going international in 1929, becoming "Knights of the Blind" through Helen Keller's challenge, establishing LCI within the NGO section of the UN in 1945, formation of LEOs in 1957, establishing the LCI Foundation in 1968, and launching SightFirst in 1990. In 2025 there are 1,400,000 Lions world-wide, belonging to 49,000 Clubs. Although each Lions Club has its own service focus, Cullman's Club primary focus has been on vision, and the largest contributions each year support this. A couple of the slides presented showed a total of 43 charitable organizations that we have supported over the past 5 years. These include Alabama Lions sight, Cullman Caring for Kids, Good Samaritan Clinic, North Alabama Agriplex, Leader Dogs for the Blind, The Link, Foundry Farm, Camp Seale Harris, Boys & Girls State, etc. We are continuing to make a meaningful difference for good in Cullman and beyond. Total donations for each of these five years averaged over \$100,000 per year. I am not aware of any local community organization in Cullman or the State that can exceed this.

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel continues recovery and stabilization from heart related issues. Lion Mike Ponder continues his cancer fight. Our great Lion, Ron Seybold's Lion Ron's funeral was last Monday, November 10th. Pray for these Lions and their families.

Lion President Delane Ray noted some of the words that were spoken at Lion Ron's funeral earlier this day as he prepared to speak to us tonight about Veterans Day. He thought about the similarities in serving as a Lion and serving as a soldier. I quote him as follows: "At Ron's funeral there were two speakers who used similar words. One speaker was a Lieutenant Colonel that served with Ron, and they were best friends throughout their military years & beyond ... the other was a former International Director of Lions Clubs who spoke on Lion Ron's service with the Lions and all of his accomplishments. Listening to both of them talk, what they said about Ron, in each capacity, represented a mirror of the other one. Both used three words .. one word was *compassion*, one was *service*, and one was *commitment*. As we approach Veterans Day, we can't help but see how Lions Clubs mirror the spirit of our veterans. Both stand as symbols of service, one in uniformed service to country -- the other as Lions in our local community, but both bound by a common thread -- a commitment to serve others before oneself. Veterans dedicate their lives to protect our freedoms, often sacrificing comfort, safety, and time with loved ones. Lions do much the same on a local level -- we serve our neighbors, our schools, our



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towns, not for recognition, but because we see a need, and we act to fill that need. We believe in leadership by action, and we believe that one person's willingness to serve can inspire others to do the same. So, as we honor our veterans this week, let's also renew our own pledge to continue serving with courage, compassion, and integrity --- because whether on the battlefield or in the community, the mission is much the same: to make the world a better place through service. And may we continue to serve with the same devotion that our veterans have shown to this great Country." These were thoughtful words from Lion Delane.

Lion President Delane announced years-of-service anniversaries for Lions Mike Mangum – 9 years and Lion Eric Ponder – 4 years.

Lion Craig Gadow announced that one of our Club's earliest members, Lion Jerry Bonner is going to be moving to Georgia on November 22nd to his daughter's house in Georgia to help with family medical issues. Lion Craig thanked Lion Jerry for his help in bringing him into the Club and in assuming higher leadership levels (which now include his being District 34-A Governor.) Lion Craig noted that Lion Jerry has twice served as District Governor, once as District Chair, received the highest award that the International President can give, and has been nominated for induction into the Alabama Lions Hall of Fame. Replacing Lion Jerry's level of accomplishment and leadership and friendship to all will be difficult to the extreme.

Chair of the Fair Association Election Committee, Lion Steve Catree, reminded everyone that an election for electing 5

members of the Fair Board is scheduled for the next meeting. He also announced that current Fair Board members whose terms are ending have agreed to be candidates in this election for another 2-year term. Lion Steve asked again for nomination from the floor, but none were made.

Lion Don Scott announced that his ramp-building crew for the disabled would be starting tomorrow on finishing out a house for the Unsheltered International organization. This was made possible through a generous donation from our Club that was used to purchase building materials.

Lion Jeff Lawson introduced Officer Adam Clark, from the Cullman Police Dept. (accompanied by his son, Nash) who talked about the Department's Shop with a Cop project, which has been ongoing at Christmas time for the past 11 years. This project takes 12 to 15 under-privileged kids, most of whom are referred by Brooks Place child advocacy center, and, guided by police in police vehicles, takes them on a \$700/each Christmas shopping trip. The kids can buy whatever they want. No parents come along. The project gives the kids a great experience with the police and allows the participating police officers a chance to give back to our community. Adam told several interesting and heartwarming stories, including cases of going above-and- beyond sometimes to help some families with groceries with non-committed funds. In past years, our Club has been one of many community supporters of this project.



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(l to r) Lions Delane Ray, Richard White, Carey Thompson, Jeff Lawson, and Nash with his dad, Officer Adam Ckark.

Upcoming Programs and Events

November 17: The Cullman Fair Association will conduct the election for five members of the Fair's Board of Directors for a 2-year term.

December 1: Fair Appreciation Dinner at the Loft. Dress is "Coat & Tie." Doors open at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00.



Lion Dave Gratz looked pleased to be here tonight.

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 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 C.



Our great Chef Freddy Day trying to figure out if how to keep feeding us such great meals night after night at Club meetings.