



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

November 18, 2019

### Program

Tonight's meeting included both the election for the 2020 Cullman County Fair Association's Board of Directors, as well as a presentation of details on how well the Fair did for 2019. Following the Fair each year, half of the Fair Board stands for election for a 2-year term. Representing the Fair Board candidate selection committee, which consisted of Lion David Bussman, Lion Charlie Powell, and himself -- Lion Clark Rainwater orchestrated the election by means of paper ballots. Also, the Fair Board met after tonight's Lions Club meeting and selected its officers for the coming year. Results of the election and officer selections are seen in the table below:

<u>Fair Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
<b>- FOR THE 2020 CULLMAN COUNTY FAIR -</b>	
Dennis Berse	Nov. 2020 ✓
* Vice President * Steve Cartee	Nov. 2020 ✓
Rickey Peek	Nov. 2020 ✓
* Treasurer * Steve Singleton	Nov. 2020 ✓
Richard White	Nov. 2020 ✓
Barry Willingham	Nov. 2020 ✓
* President * Charles Childers	Nov. 2021
Randy Kraft	Nov. 2021
Steve Murphree	Nov. 2021
Tim Scott	Nov. 2021
* Secretary * Carey Thompson	Nov. 2021

Next, Fair Board Treasurer Lion Steve Singleton presented the financial details, showing receipts and expenses for the 2019 Fair. Both gate receipts and midway receipts were higher this year than last

year's Fair. And the bottom line was that this year's Fair generated a higher profit than any other year in its history.

Following that good news, Lion Don Smith provided an analysis and a comparison of exhibit and internet activity of this year's Fair with previous years' data. This data was gleaned from a unique and innovative computer program that Lion Don developed and enhanced each year over the past three years; it has streamlined exhibitor item check-in & check-out, cut errors dramatically, and slashed manpower to track exhibits, exhibitors, awards, and check-writing. (Please forgive this editor's plug to Lion Don, one of the Fair's unsung heroes in my opinion. The reason I can appreciate him is that I play the role of "Igor" to his role of "Mad Scientist" back in the office on the computer before & during the Fair.) Anyway, one of the interesting facts noted was that 87% of the internet visits came from mobile-phones, rather than traditional PC computers, which is good in that the website itself has been modified to be more mobile-device friendly. (Lion Don also generally manages this site.) The top 4 things that the internet visitor looks for is the calendar (#1), ticket info, exhibitor info, and, lastly, entertainment. Over 600 exhibitors from last year were pre-registered this year, thanks to letters that were mailed in September to last year's exhibitors (Lion Don, again). We had over 3,300 exhibits entered this year; this was not quite the best year, but better than last year. Livestock exhibitors were down but can be



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attributed to the fact that the State Fair was going on at the same time as our Fair which drew participants. Overall, exhibits were up 1.6%, but the number of individuals was down 4.4%. The number of youth exhibitors exceeds the number of adults and seniors, combined.

Lion David Bussman then covered data from the Lions Concession Stand. Showing and comparing how items sold compared to last year and what the profit percentage was for each. Drink sales were generally down, but bottled water did very well; next year we are going to bottled drinks, only. Hot chocolate did well when the weather cooled. Grilled items were down – lost money on cheeseburgers. Concession stand did well on French fries, and funnel cakes were the biggest money maker. Bottom line was that this was the Concession stand's highest profit year. Lion David made a point of giving special thanks to some individuals who really helped him: Lions Jerry Bonner, Charlie Powell, Charlie McBrayer, and Richard Gurley; he also thanked a couple of Lions' spouses, Patti Greer & Melissa Cartee.



**Fair President Lion Charlie Childers presents a check from the Fair Association to our Club President Lion Andrew Manning. This was the largest such check in the Fair's history**

Photographer: Lion Charlie Powell

Editor: Lion Carey Thompson

Associate Editor: Lion Don Smith

Finally, Lion Charlie Childers paid tribute to one of our long time and highly respected & appreciated Fair Board members, Lion Doug Spradlin who decided to step down this year. He was given a standing ovation.

This was truly an outstanding Fair, run by a group of great Lions !

### Other Business

No meeting next week for Thanksgiving week.

Lion Frank Odell announced that the Fish & Ham Dinner is set for Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Lions Javon Daniel continues to recover from a heart ablation catheter procedure.

Thank-you note was received from Grace Place.

The Farm City Banquet will be held November 21st. Probably too late to see Lion Jerry Bonner for tickets, now.

The Christmas/Fair Banquet will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Stonebridge. Dress is coat & tie. Lions, Lionesses, spouses, and special invited guests of the Fair Board eat for free. The menu will be pork, chicken, baked potato, beans, corn, rolls, and desert.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

November 25: No meeting for Thanksgiving week.



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**Ms. Shawna Norman**

December 2: Principal of Sacred Heart School, Ms. Shawna Norman.

December 9: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stonebridge at 6:00 PM. Dress is "Coat & Tie."

December 16: TBD

### ***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).