



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 1, 2021

Program

Lion President Javon Daniel was presiding tonight, and Lion Vice President Milford Parrish introduced our program of our County Sheriff Matt Gentry, two of his deputies, and their drug dog, Ollie.



(L to R) Lion Vice President Milford Parrish, Sheriff (& Lion) Matt Gentry, Lt. Mathew Bell, Lion President Javon Daniel, and Deputy Golden.



Is Ollie a good boy? Oh, yes, he is! *Just don't have any scent of illegal drugs around this guy. Woof!*

Sheriff Gentry was really focused on the great help his canine team is to the entire department. His canine force has four Belgian Malinois, imported from Holland, and used in drug searches. They also have four tracking blood hounds, used to locate criminals on the run and lost/disoriented people. It has been the Sheriff's goal to have a tracking dog and a drug dog on every shift. He told several humorous anecdotes about the dogs at other presentations, as well as stories about quickly finding lost children and apprehending criminals thanks to these canines.

Sheriff Gentry explained that his office gets as many as 70,000 calls a year for service so it definitely needs this canine help. His canine teams have helped other nearby county sheriff departments and have made drug searches at all city and county schools. They even use the dogs for periodic searches through the detention center, nearly always finding drugs. The detention center population is about 330 with around 20 coming and going each day. He and his officers give talks to students on drugs and crime, to include demonstrations of how well the dogs are at finding hidden drugs, as the dog, Ollie, did for us tonight. He explained that often a driver of a vehicle that is stopped by a deputy, based on reasonable suspicion, will not allow a law officer to search his vehicle without a search warrant signed by a judge. But if a drug dog sniffs around a car and the dog reacts for smelling drugs,



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that gives the officer legal probable cause to search without a warrant.

Lt. Bell explained that the Sheriff's department has been getting its drug dogs for the same Holland kennel since 2003 at a cost of \$10,000 before being fully trained. A dog is trained for about 12 weeks before being assigned to its deputy-handler for its service life (generally about 10 years), and it is often adopted by its handler after they are taken out of active service. They are trained by putting the drug-scent on plastic pipes that are the dogs' toys; the dogs do not train with actual drugs, just the scent on their toys. Sheriff's Department dogs are not biting or attack dogs, so although they might track down criminals, they do not pounce on or attack after locating them. At the same time these dogs are very strong and active and might jump up on someone and knock them down during play; so, their handlers keep them at close heel while around the general public.

Sheriff Gentry gave us a very entertaining and informative program -- much more than I covered in the newsletter, here.

Other Business

Lion Richard still has surgery planned for November 10th on his neck as he still has great difficulty in walking. Bruce Harbison continues is still recovering after a negative reaction to his Covid booster shot; he will have Home Health Care coming to his house to provide rehab services.

Lion Secretary Craig Gadow said that Lions District Secretary wanted our Club members to provide Lion Craig with a short

write-up of the history of their service with the Club to include positions held, Lion awards that they have received, and number of members they have recruited for the Club.

Lion Dennis Berse was awarded a Lion metal for new members that he has brought into the Club.

Lion Morris Mangum, along with other committee members, Lions Steve McSwain and Jeff Wren, provided a list of candidates to fill the end of two-year terms for five current Fair Board Directors. There was no response from the floor for a request from Lion Morris to add any additional candidates. This slate of candidates includes Lions Mike Ponder, Mike Fromhold, Dewayne Wilson, Brian Spaeth, Howard Perry, Doug Spradlin, Charles Childers, Randy Kraft, Steve Murphree, Tim Scott, and Carey Thompson. The Fair Board Election will be held on November 29th. Also, on the 29th Fair Treasurer, Lion Barry Willingham will present financial outcome for the 2021 Fair. This meeting will be closed to all non-Club members.

The following names were presented to the Club for membership vote at the next BOD meeting:

Eric Ponder sponsored by Lion Dennis Berse.

Matt Bales sponsored by Lion Javon Daniel.

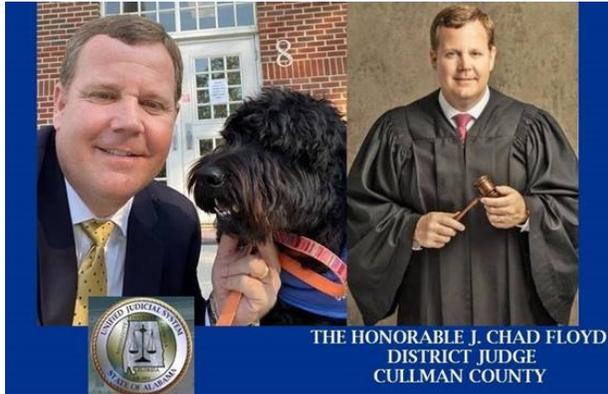
Upcoming Programs and Events

November 8: District Judge /Lion Chad Floyd will present our program.



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November 15: “Shop with a Cop” will be the subject of our program.



Shop with a Cop.

November 16: Farm-City Banquet will be held at the Loft at 6:00PM. Lion Treasurer Jerry Bonner will have tickets. Coat & Tie.

November 29: Vote for Fair Board Members, presentation of financial outcome for the 2021 Fair, and Fair checks for Lions and Lioness Clubs. This meeting will be closed to all non-Club members.

December 6: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stonebridge. Socialize at 5:30PM with dinner served at 6:00PM. Coat & Tie. RSVP to Lions Charlie Childers or Dennis Berse by December 15th for yourself and any guests. A great meal is planned.

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).