



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 28, 2022

Program

Lion Barry Willingham, Fair Board Treasurer, gave us a detailed report on financial data from the 2022 Cullman County Fair. Although gate ticket sales were down from 2019, pre-sale (All-in-One) tickets were up, considerably. Due to Covid impacts, years 2020 and 2021 were not good years for comparison to 2022. Overall, Profits were up about 4% from 2019, making it one of our best years. Lion Barry went over all the breakouts between the Fair Association, Kissel Entertainment (our carnival contractor), the Lions Club, and the Club's Lioness-charter Club. He also provided detailed spreadsheet hand-outs showing all the income and expenses and final anticipated balances after all known expenses were settled.

Lion Barry also took questions from the floor; one of the most pertinent questions dealt with the issue of Kissel selling VIP tickets. These VIP tickets allowed Fair patrons to get in line for rides ahead of other Fair ride-ticket holders. Fair President, Lion Charlie Childers spoke up about this, noting that the Fair Board had met with Kissel management a couple weeks ago for discussions and mutual understanding about it. The Fair Board's position was that these VIP tickets should not be allowed. It was agreed that a new, mutual agreeable contract would be developed in the first couple of months next year.

Lion Don Smith, who with Lion Sam Roberts managed the Fair's Facebook site, gave us a bunch of interesting statistics. The Facebook site had over 53,000 visits, of which over 30,000 were from unique individuals. 85 percent of hits were from females. 93% were from smart phones, with only 7% from people sitting at their computer. The top hits on pages of our site were for tickets and ride information; second was the calendar; and third was the parade information. After the notice that was posted, saying that we had a petting zoo, we got 24,400 hits! Lion Don then went on to talk about exhibits which totaled 3,059 and included livestock, field crops, handicrafts, photos, art, and canned food. The only category that dropped this year, compared to 2019, was field crops. This can be attributed to moving the schedule several weeks later in the year. Most all other exhibits were up significantly, especially livestock, which overall was more than doubled, and especially due to new staff leadership at the Extension Service. Don noted that 52% of our exhibitors were youth, and only 7% were seniors.

Next, Lion David Bussman, manager of the Lions Concession Stand gave us the facts there, which were not included in Lion Barry's data. Generally, Lion Concession Stand profits were also up from 2019 by about 4%. Sales from drinks were down, but more than made up for by confections and other food/sandwiches. Lion David has made many, many notable upgrades in the facilities and general operations in this



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area; there is no comparison as to how much better it is now with a few years ago. He said that while all his assigned Lions worked at least 25 hours, Lion David gave special thanks to two of our Lion's wives for their support: Melissa Cartee worked every other night, and Dara Willingham worked every night. He also gave special thanks to Lions Charlie Powell and Jerry Bonner for their help in making sure nothing was falling through the cracks, like turning the outside lights on or off.

Randy Kraft's granddaughter is facing a surgery on Dec 21st.

7-year-old, Type-1 Diabetic, Cash Howard and his family from Holly Pond, have accepted will be joining us for dinner December 5th. Cash has been matched to a service-dog, especially trained to alert for diabetic problems in his owner.



Lion Fair President Lion Charlie Childers presents check to the Lions Club President Milford Parrish for the Club's share of Fair profits.



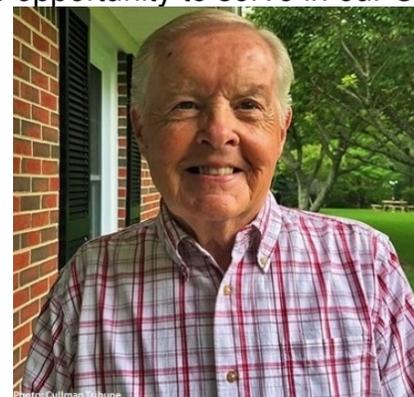
Cash Howard (L) and his family.

Other Business

Lion President Milford Parrish announced that our start-time for serving supper the next meeting on Dec 5th will be another 15 minutes later, at 5:45 PM, due to request of our program speaker. Following meetings will begin at 5:30PM until further notice.

New Lion Jerry Smith, sponsored by Lion Jerry Bonner, introduced himself tonight. Lion Jerry has been a local businessman for 37 years, running a shoe store, then a \$Dollar Store. He expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve in our Club.

Lion Gary Murphree recovered sufficiently enough join us tonight following his accident. Lion Charlie McBrayer endured his first chemo treatment for pancreatic cancer; he remains in good spirits. Lion Richard Gurley was out with the flu. Lion



Lion Jerry Smith



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Lion Craig Gadow talked about an excellent restoration by the Mary Carter Paint Store of our Club's original charter. He also read a letter of nomination submitted for Lion Jerry Bonner to the AL Lions Hall of Fame.



Lions Chris Brooks, Dennis Berse, and Milford Parrish proudly display our Club's restored, original charter from Lions International. This is an important part of President Lion Milford Parrish and his Historical Committee's efforts to secure and preserve documents from our Club's distinguished history.

1st VP Lion Chris Brooks announced Fair Board election results. Incumbent winners were Lions Sam Roberts, Barry Willingham, Riley Smith, Chris Robinson, and Dennis Berse; Lion Brad Mitchell was elected as a first-time member of the Board. An election is held each year for one-half of the Fair Board members for a two-year term.

Lion Jerry Bonner presented Lion years-of-service awards to Lions as follows: Charlie Childers (20 yrs.), Dwayne Wilson(20), Gary Murphree (20), Gordon Boyd (20), Charlie Powell (30), and Steve Murphree (30).



Lions holding certificates & pins presented for service years: (L to R) Gordon Boyd, Dwayne Wilson, Charlie Childers, Steve Murphree, Charlie Powell, and (seated) Gary Murphree.

Lion Charlie Childers noted that three of the contestants from our Cullman County Fair Queen Competition will be contestants in this year's Miss Alabama Outstanding Teen Competition. Also, our Fair Queen from 2021 and the runner-up Fair Queen from 2022 will be contestants in the Miss Alabama Contest later this year.

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> .

If you have any problem getting to the site, contact Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361.

Upcoming Programs and Events

December 5: Cash Howard and Family.

December 12: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stone Bridge, with doors open at 5:30PM



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and meal served at 6:PM. Theme for dress will be Christmas. Awards will be presented, based on over-all dress (not just sweaters as was announced in last week's Tale Twister). A couple of competitors from our 2022 Miss Cullman Fair competition will be on hand to provide entertainment.

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).