The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 2, 2026

Program

Tonight, we had no scheduled speaker. Lion President Jeff Lawson reminded us that this day marked the 72nd anniversary of our Club's founding in 1954. Management of our first Fair began in the following year.

Other Business

Lion Charlie Childers announced that Lion Steve Cartee had been asked to head a committee to provide a slate of Fair Board candidates for the 2027 Fair Board of Directors. This slate of candidates will be presented at the next Club meeting on Nov. 9th; voting for Fair Board officers will take place on Nov 16th. Lion Charlie said this action is a little quick due to the later than usual Fair and the Fair appreciation dinner on Nov. 30th.

Lion Charlie also announced that the Fair would start next year on Oct. 7th through Oct 15th, advising all members not to schedule a cruise or other activity that might interfere with our Fair; this puts us back with Columbus Day for our "School Day", which is a positive. Someone asked about the Fair Parade date. He said it should be 2 weeks prior to the start of our Fair, but coordination had not been completed with school bands for their participation or with Octoberfest planners.

Someone else asked about a program focusing on final profits from the 2026 Fair. Fair Treasurer, Lion Barry Willingham said it would be a couple of weeks before utility and a few other bills come in. But he said that he expected a bottom-line number to be under the outstanding year we had last year, but still in line with most past years. And the 25% lower attendance would be mitigated due to entrance fee being increased from $8 to $10 and All-in-One passes increased from $28 to $30. As was mentioned in last week's Tale Twister, our mid-way contractor, Kissel, reported that all their fairs have seen decreased profit from all its fairs this year.

Lion Charlie reminded us that the way we are able to really make Fair profits available to contribute to our community Fair is through our Lion and other volunteers. "If you took the amount of hours that we invest and we paid everybody minimum, well, not minimal weights. Now you can't hire anybody for less than $12 an hour. If we paid you for every hour you worked, we would go home with very little. We wouldn't have anything left. So volunteerism is what drives that. So thank you very much."

Lion President Jeff Lawson read "Thank You" notes from both the Agriplex and Good Samaritan Clinic. The clinic is having an open house for its new location on Nov. 19th at 4:PM, but they want Lions there at 3:PM for photos; we provided them with one of our largest donations for the year; Lions, come if you can. "As you walk in, they've got a wall of all the donations. We've got a plaque there with our name on it. There's a room in the back with our name on it. So it's a really good look for the Cullman Lions Club. And so I would love us to be there. Maybe get a picture if we can do that on November the 19th. I know we got to work. I got to work. All those things. But if you can be there, wear your vest, wear your shirt, and we'll announce that again. But it's a good deal." Also, United Way thanked Lions Charlie Childers and David Bussman for helping them get set up in their booth at the Fair, and also for Lion Chris

Robinson who showed up just for them in his tuxedo (actually for the Fair Queen contest). Lion Jeff proposed that Lion Chris wear his tux all 10 nights since he was so impressive.

Lion Jeff noted that the Foundry Farm, which has supported our Fair and Fish & Ham projects with much appreciated man-power over the past few years, has lost its founder and director, Mr. Eddie Wilson, who passed away this past week. Lion Richard White recalled that anytime he called the Eddie Wilson at Foundry Farm for a couple of volunteers for the parking lot during the Fair, he would send four; he did a lot to help those men at the Foundry, many who had run out of options. He will be hard to replace. The Foundry is seeking donations for Thanksgiving Day meals.

Before closing the meeting, Lion Barry Willingham thanked all the Lions for their help at the gates during the Fair and, in particular, the late Lion Tim Scott's family.

Cullman Lions enjoyed pan cakes at Holly Pond fund-raiser.



Left to right (in picture): Lion Milford Parrish, Lion Quinn Jackson, Lion Morris Mangum, Lion Judy Mangum, Lion Charlie Powell. Not in picture, Lion Charlie Childers.
(Photo courtesy of Lion Milford Parrish)

<u>Upcoming Programs and Events</u>.

<u>Nov 9</u>: Program TBD. Fair Board Officer candidates will be announced.

<u>Nov. 16</u>: Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, President, Zack McGee will speak. Vote for Fair Board Officers will occur.

<u>Nov 23</u>: No meeting – Thanksgiving week.

<u>Nov 30</u>: Fair Appreciation Dinner at the Loft, same as last year. Our Branch Club members are invited, as usual. Spouse or one guest per member is invited, also. Doors open at 5:30PM with meal served at 6:00.

<u>Dec. 7</u>: Chainbreakers Ministries.

<u>Dec 14</u>: TBD.

<u>Dec 21</u>: No Meeting due to Christmas holiday week.

<u>Dec 28</u>: No Metting due to New Years's holiday week.

<u>Jan. 11</u>: Ms. Michelle Lee, founder and Executive Director of Healing through Creativity Foundation will be our speaker.

<u>*Tale Twister* Input</u>

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).