



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

November 8, 2021

### Program

Lion President Javon Daniel was presiding tonight, and Lion Chris Robinson introduced our program speaker, Lion J. Chad Floyd, who is also the Honorable Cullman County Drug Court District Judge. Judge Floyd is a graduate of West Point High School and the University of Alabama, where he lettered for the Crimson Tide football team. He is also graduate of the Mississippi College School of Law. He has served as a Deputy District Attorney and was appointed as District Judge by Gov. Kay Ivey. The Judge explained that his court handles traffic cases, child support cases, civil disputes, and criminal cases. However, he talked to us tonight about the favorite part of his job, which is his judge's role in the Cullman County Drug Court. Fifty Counties in Alabama have a similar program.



Lion, the Honorable District Judge, J. Chad Floyd, talks to the Club about the Cullman County Drug Court.

The special court allows defendants who have received a non-violent felony drug conviction to either serve out a three-year prison term or to enter into the Drug Court's one year drug rehab program. This program was established in 2008 and has been remarkably successful. The Cullman Court has approximately 40 participants at any given time, and 624 successful graduates since inception. Another 120 failed to complete the course and were required to finish out their prison term. Of those participants who graduated, only 3.06% fell back into the criminal drug life. However, 49 % of those who were terminated from the program turned back to drug crime. This Court had 37 graduates in 2020. One key motivating factor in the program, other than avoiding jail, is that its graduates have their drug crime expunged from their record – just like it never happened. The program maintains high standards of control to make sure all its clients are walking the straight and narrow – the program, itself, has a weekly meeting with all participants; they have to attend a weekly alcoholics anonymous or narcotics anonymous meeting; they have to work at least one hour each week in community service to such organizations as The Link or other charitable organizations or in labor tasks to County/City facility upkeep; and they have to submit to random drug testing. They also have an annual group project – last year they served a Thanksgiving meal to indigent families in the County. Finally, participants have to have a regular “day-job.” As you can see, they are kept busy,



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so as to prevent them from have spare time to get into trouble. If they fail to meet the above obligations, they may be sent to jail for a brief period by the Judge, or if their infractions are serious or numerous, the Judge can kick them off the program and send them back to serve their original jail sentence.

Another excellent feature of this program is that it is a self-funded program. Each participant pays \$175 per month or \$2,100 per year. In comparison the annual cost to house them as an inmate by the Alabama Department of Corrections is \$22,024 per year. This program has been a cost saving to the County/Alabama taxpayer of \$814,891 per year. This doesn't count the fact that the participants are able to be at home with their families and earning a wage in the community.

With all the great things this program is able to accomplish and influence throughout the community, we can easily understand why Judge Floyd is so proud of this program. Wonderful job, Judge!

### Other Business

**Update** on Lion Richard White regarding surgery November 10<sup>th</sup> on his neck. I just talked with him prior to sending out this newsletter. He says that his surgery was highly successful, that he is relatively pain-free, and that now he just has to recover/rehab to get his strength back. He said to give his thanks to the folks that were praying for him.

Lion Tom Pfeifer, snowbird that he is, has returned to Cullman and was with us tonight. Welcome back, Lion Tom.

Lion Charlie Childers, Fair Association President, gave a brief summary of the last Fair Board meeting. The Fair Board made the following donations to organizations that supported our Fair in 2021:

- Sheriff's Department (related to this, the Lions Club will be a sponsor in the upcoming Sheriff's Department Rodeo)
- Cullman Volunteer Fire Department
- Fairview High School Student Council
- Peinhardt History Farm
- Charlie Johnson Family Janitorial Service

The Board also approved use of a small triangle of property outside the fairground fence at the SW end of fairground parking to the County for a storage building and parking. This small property, as is, has not been suitable for patron parking during the Fair.

Lion Morris Mangum, Chairman of the Fair Board election committee reminded us again about the Fair Board election on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

**November 15:** "Shop with a Cop" will be the main subject of our program.



Shop with a Cop.



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We will also have a short presentation by Ms. Kira Sims who is one of our County Extension agents, and she will speak first for about five minutes, and then come back again in the spring for another program.



Ms. Kira Sims, County Extension Agent.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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).