



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

October 20, 2025

Program

Before our speaker was introduced, Lion Randy Kraft made an announcement that the upcoming Veterans Hall of Fame (HOF) dinner on October 28th at The Loft (more details, forthcoming). One great thing about this dinner is that one of the inductees into Cullman's Veterans HOF this year will be our own Lion George Krigbaum. Our Club bought a table for this event. See Lion President Delane Ray for tickets.

Lion Sean Schofield introduced our speaker, tonight, Col. (ret.) Ken Brown, USAF and past President of the Cullman VFW, has spoken to us on several occasions before on veteran activities.



Col. Ken Brown, USAF (ret.).

The Colonel's topic for tonight was the Cullman's Veterans Day 2025 celebration. He explained that he, himself, had been in charge of this celebration for the past 16 years. This year it will be held on Saturday, November 1st at the

Cullman Airport (as usual), 9AM -3PM. Although actual Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11th, the helicopters, aircraft, skydiver team, etc. that make the celebration spectacular are committed at much larger venues on the 11th. The event offers free admission and parking. There will be free hot meals at Noon provided by the Elks Club to veterans and their spouses; food trucks will serve the public. Free Huey helicopter rides will be available all day on the flight line. A WW2 A-1 Sky Raider and movie can be viewed in the terminal; veterans will speak of their war adventures and talk with general public; other aircraft will fly over; an Iraq/Afghanistan Gray Eagle drone will be on display; Civil War & WW2 re-enactors will be on hand; skydivers will be parachuting; the Cullman Community Band will give a concert. WW2 ace pilot, Pappy Boyington (leader of the famous Black Sheep squadron) re-enactor will be present. Colonel Fallin (ret.), who has spoken several times to our Club will be on hand to introduce Cullman County's Hall of Fame Veterans, either in recognition or in person. Pass the word to all your friends and family about this great event and support our own veterans. But wait, there's more – go to website cullmanveteransday.com.

Lion Fair President Charlie Childers led a discussion about the just completed Cullman County Fair, first describing how beautiful the weather was the entire 10 days. He thanked the Fair Managers, Herman-Bill Ruehl and Bill Wilt for that great shape the fairgrounds were this year, especially, and every anything out of sorts came up, they were on top of it, immediately; in this same vein Lion Charlie Powell was recognized for his efforts through the year in helping and suggesting in many areas of Fair



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operations. Lion Charlie also acknowledge new board member Lion David Peacock for the fantastic job he did in managing Bldg #1; it looked great and ran smoother than it ever had in receiving all the handicrafts, art, canned goods, paintings, and photos; he and his staff where on top of things all the way; Lion Don Smith agreed, saying that Lion Peacock deserves the Lion "Rookie of the Year" award. Lion Brad Mitchell was praised for his innovations in filling up agricultural exhibits in Bldg #2, despite the dates of harvest, relative to the Fair's later date. Lion Randy Kraft and his crew were on top of the Barn exhibits, as usual, and we had two very popular petting zoos, the entire Fair. This is one of the few years that Lion Sam Roberts with parking crew were never really over-whelmed; Lion Richard White had much appreciation from patrons that he ferried them to and from the parking lot; one guy donated \$100 because he got a ride to the front gate. The Lions Concession Stand was the most popular of any of the mid-way food stands; Lion David Bussman had his crew serving delicious food in a highly efficient manner. There were several funny stories told about cars, blocking themselves in, the arrest of a rowdy drunk in the parking lot, a tiny-miss pageant contestant not getting to the bathroom in time, some guy wanting to shut the Ferris-wheel down because he found a bolt on the ground, and others. All-in-all, the general consensus was that this was the best run fair in recent memory. Lion Don Smith had couple of new ladies with his staff, our Lion Cindy Pinyan and Hanceville Lion Sara Manning; Lion Don was training them to understand and use the enormously complicated Excel program that he created in cataloguing the hundreds of exhibits and printing of award checks. Before Lion Don's program was created, over 20 people participated in this workload. The Hanceville Lions Club also had its Lions helping in other Fair areas. Lion

Charlie heaped praise on Barry Willingham, the fair Treasurer, and many other Lions for their help that I've not mentioned here. Also, noted were Lion spouses, kids, and other family members who came out to help such as those from Lions Tim Scott, Steve Cartee, Barry Willingham, and David Bussman. This year's Fair also promises to be the most profitable, but all the bills are not in yet to verify final outcome.

Although it was not talked much about tonight, the Fair Parage, managed by Lions Steve Murphree and Charlie Childers and others was also a great success this year.

Lion Riley Smith noted that our very ill member, Lion Ron Seybold was in attendance at the opening ceremony of our Fair.

In closing, our Club owes great, great gratitude to Fair President Charlie Childers, who has led us not only this year, but for many years now in the Club's most successful and profitable annual event.



Lion
Charlie
Childers



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Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel continues recovery and stabilization from heart related issues. Lion Mike Ponder continues his cancer fight. Lion Ron Seybold is receiving daily visits by hospice caregivers/nurses. Pray for these Lions.

Lion President Delane Ray announced years-of-service anniversaries for the following Lions: Jim Greer – 40, Richard Gurley – 17, Woody Jacobs – 44, Morris Mangum – 54, Frank Odell – 23, Douglas Bradley – 40, Alan Walker – 33, Jerr Wren – 18, Steve Cartee – 19, Jerry Smith – 2, Brian Spaeth – 3, Bill Wilt – 5, Jimmy Horton – 2, and Fred Osborne – 56. Lion Delane also announced a Thank-you note from the Cold spring High School FCCLA advisor for the Club's support in attending the National FCCLA convention. One of the students in attendance at the convention won a gold medal, placing in the top 10 in the USA.

Lion Bill Ruehl announced another visit by the Lions Sight exam van to the Good Samaritan Clinic on October 29th. Any volunteer Lions that want to help out, be there at 8:30. They really appreciate Lions help.

Charlie Childers announced that the Fair Appreciation Dinner will be held December 1st at the Loft. More details to come.

Upcoming Programs and Events

October 27: Regular meeting. Speaker TBD.

October 28: Cullman Hall of Fame Dinner at The Loft. Our Club has purchased a table, and free tickets are available. More details pending

November 1: Cullman Veterans Day 2025 celebration at Cullman Airport, 3AM – 3PM.

December 1: Fair Appreciation Dinner. More details pending.

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.