



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

October 21, 2024

Program

Lion Scott Starosta introduced Ms. Athelia Gibbs from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to discuss Wreaths Across America (WAA). This annual event will occur on Saturday, December 10th at 10:00AM, and it will honor our deceased veterans by placing a wreath on their graves. Our Club helped last year with not only a donation, but our members help with unloading, storing, and transporting wreaths to the Cullman City Cemetery. Ms. Gibbs is asking for the Club's help again for this year's wreath laying project. Last year 812 wreaths were ceremoniously laid on veteran's graves, and this year Athelia's goal is to increase that number to 1,000, since unfortunately all veterans' graves did not get a wreath last year.



Lion Scott Starosta introduced Ms. Athelia Gibbs, who spoke to us about Wreaths Across America.

WAA helps in teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. Last year the wreath laying ceremony included boy and girl scouts as well as many veterans and many

Lions Club members. During the initial ceremony, wreaths were also laid to honor each of the armed services branches. There was also an honor guard and a veteran speaker during the opening ceremony.

WAA also offers learning tools, interactive-media projects and opportunities for schools, 4-H clubs, Scouts, and other youth groups to participate.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold is making great progress due to his current cancer treatment and was on hand during the Fair parade and the Fair itself. Lion Gary Murphree was well enough to attend the Fair also.

Lion Chris Brook had a heart attack at home, early into the start of the Fair, and he was rushed to Birmingham hospital where he was taken into surgery and had several stents implanted. It's hard to keep a good man down, and Lion Chris was seen back at the Fair, a day & a half after his surgery.

Lion Bill Ruehl got a sufficient number of Lion Volunteers to help out with another visit from the Lion's mobile sight vehicle on Wednesday this week.

Lion Brad Mitchell introduced his guest tonight, Mr. Lloyd Nickel, a retired heavy equipment operator from Ohio, now a resident of Baileyton.

Lion President Chris Brooks read a thankyou letter from clients, staff, and families of the Cullman County Center for Developmentally Disabled for the Club's help for them in attending our Fair. As a side note, they said that



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

the paved walkways and drop off areas that were installed this year were all game changers.

Lion President Chris Brooks noted club membership anniversaries for the following Lions:

Fred Osborne – 56 years, Woody Jacobs – 44, James Greer – 40, Doug Spradlin – 40, Allen Walker – 33, Frank Odell – 23, Jeffry Wren – 18, Richard Gurley – 17, Steve Cartee – 19, Jerry Smith – 2, Brian Spaeth – 3, and Bill Wilk – 5 years.

Lion Charlie Childers led the Fairy Tales stories, tonight. He began with an announcement that we will have an election on December 2nd to replace or re-elect several Fair BOD members who are coming to the end of their two-year terms; these include Lions Chris Robinson, Barry Willingham, Riley Smith, Sam Roberts, Dennis Berse, and Brad Mitchell. Lion Steve Cartee will head up the nominating committee. He announced that, also, on December 2, we would have a closed meeting to go over financial reports. Lion Charlie then said that we had great weather that could not be beat, and we had a very successful 2024 Fair, thanks to everyone in our Club that participated. He shared a story about Fair Queen moms who tried unsuccessfully to circumvent rules of their daughters' dress during the Fair parade. The Fair Queen pageant went off with no real issues.

Lion Brad Mitchell bragged about the success of barn # 2, especially the new "Scare Crow" event which had many colorful, excellent entries. He also was most appreciative for the other Lions there: Danny Ray, Fred Osborne, Doug Spradlin, George Krigbaum, and Steve Murphree. He also told about a 195 lb. watermelon that had been leaking for 3 days and that had been transported out of the barn one night to be thrown away. The next morning

it had disappeared; the assumption was that some of the midway workers had a big watermelon party.



Lions Brad Mitchell and Fair President Charlie Childers talking about the 2024 Fair as Lion President Chris Brooks & Lion Secretary Scott Starosta look on.

Sam Roberts talked about the great crew he had in the parking lot. But he was really thankful for the men that volunteered from the Foundry drug rehab organization to supplement them on several particularly heavy nights, making an incredible difference.

Lion Bill Wilt talked about his first Fair as a Fair Manager, along with veteran manager, Lion Bill Ruehl. Lion Wilt appreciated all the help from Lions. The only thing surprising for him was one night around 11PM when he got an urgent text to bring toilet paper, and to use his imagination as to why.

Lion Quinten Poulin read a note from Lion David Bussman about the Lions Concession stand. He talked about how this was the first year that it had help from the Branch Club – that was great. He also appreciated Lions Jeff Lawson, David Wiggins, and Ginger Hogeland for the coordinated help that they brought in from the LEOs. He also had thanks for Lion Barry



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

Willingham's wife, Dana, who worked 9 nights, as well as Lion Steve Cartee's wife, Melissa, who worked 7 nights. He also said next year that they were going to limit traffic inside the concession stand because it was becoming too hectic.

Lion Dennis Berse said that things mostly went very smoothly for the exhibits and judging in Bldg #2. He was also especially appreciative of Lion Morris Mangum for all his help at several critical times.

Lion Doug Spradlin told one tale regarding a shortage of toilet paper. He said on one occasion that Lions Doug Doggett and Fred Osborne were in adjacent stalls in the restroom when Lion Doug asked Lion Fred if he could pass a little toilet paper to him since his stall was out – Lion Fred said that his stall was out also. After a pause and a sigh, Lion Doug asked Lion Fred if he had change for a ten \$. This may be where Lion Bill Wilt's text (several paragraphs back) originated.

Lion Barry Willingham talked about the gate that he and Lion Tim managed. He said that Lion Tim and his wife did a great job in organizing the 9 person crews and shifts and that things generally ran with no real issues. One thing that helped was that signs were put up in Spanish, also. He also noted that gate receipts were several thousand dollars ahead of our best year, but that all expenses had not yet been taken into account. He also felt that our Fair has become really saturated and that it would not be able to satisfactorily accommodate much larger crowds than we are now experiencing. Some nights patrons were getting frustrated waiting for rides.

Upcoming Programs and Events

October 28: VFW speaker.

November 4: Cullman DA, Lion Champ Crocker will be our speaker.

November 6: The Link charity will be having a gala dinner and auction at the Cotton Creek venue at 6PM. Out Club has several free tickets for anyone wishing to attend. See Lion Chris Brooks.

November 21: The annual Farm-City Banquet will be held at Loft 212 at 5:00PM. See Lion Brooks for tickets.

December 2: Closed meeting. Fair Board election and presentation of financial reports from Fair.

December 10: Wreaths Across America for deceased veterans at Cullman City Cemetery at 10AM. Lion will be needed to help transport wreaths and with placement of wreaths. Details to follow.

December 16: Fair appreciation dinner at Cotton Creek.

See page 4 for Committee Assignments. See me if you have been left off list.

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).



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2024-2025

President Chris Brooks							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Nominating	Steve Murphree	Morris Magnum	Dewayne Wilson				
Club History	Dennis Berse	Charlie Powell	Javon Daniel	Dewayne Wilson	Ron Seybold	Scott Starosta	
Explore	Jerry Bonner	David Bussman	Raymond Williams	Fred Osborne	Delane Ray	Craig Gadow	Steve Cartee
1st VP Delane Ray							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char	Member	Member			
Diabetes	Milford Parrish	George Krigbaum	David Peacock	Javon Daniel			
Fair Concessions	David Bussman	Richard Gurley	Judy Smith				
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Brian Spaeth	Jerry Bonner				
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	David Peacock	Jason Tielking				
Membership	George Krigbaum	Javon Daniel	Frank Odell				
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Kraft	Chris Robinson				
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	Chris Robinson				
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee					
2nd VP Jeff Lawson							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Area Lion's Liaison	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee					
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
3rd VP David Wiggins							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Tail Twister	Richard Gurley	Richard White					
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham					
Branch Club Liaison	Ron Seybold	Jeff Lawson					
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
Communications & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell					
New- Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum					