



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

October 29, 2018

Program

Lion Milford Parrish introduced his own son, Lion Tim Sinyard as our speaker, tonight. Lion Tim was drawn to a career in law enforcement, following similar careers as his father and step-brother. After graduating in 2008 from the University of Alabama, Lion Tim applied and was accepted into the U.S. Border Patrol and was assigned to a unit on the Southern California border with Mexico. After severe budget cuts for the Border Patrol were planned, he decided to pursue a position with a business in Hanceville and to leave the Border Patrol and his approximately 5-years of service behind.



(L to R) Lion Milford Parrish, Lion Tim Sinyard, and President Lion Mike Ponder.

Lion Tim began his presentation with a little history of the Agency. The U.S. Border Patrol was founded in 1924 as an agency of the United States Department of Labor to prevent illegal entries along the Mexico–United States border and the Canada–U.S. border with 450 agents. After the start of WWII, it grew to 1,500

agents and was moved under the Department of Justice. After 9/11 it was placed under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security, and its mission was increased to include preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the US. In 2017 the Southwest border sectors were patrolled by 16,605 agents, while 2,048 other agents staffed northern border sectors and 212 were assigned to coastal border sectors.



Lion Sinyard points out the extremely rugged terrain in one of his program slides of the Mexican border in which his team operated. Sometimes the only way to get up some hills was by foot, taking four exhausting hours.

Most of what Lion Sinyard talked about and showed in his slides, was what he and his fellow agents did and endured in the apprehension of illegal aliens. The US border is a barely discernible line in uninhabited deserts, canyons, and mountains. Most of the fence is no more than 8' tall, and easy to cross. The Border Patrol utilizes a variety of equipment and methods, such as electronic sensors placed at strategic locations along the border, to detect people or vehicles entering the country illegally. Video



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monitors and night vision scopes are also used to detect illegal entries. Agents patrol the border in SUVs, aircraft, and afoot. However, in many areas the Border Patrol employs horses, all-terrain motorcycles, and even dog teams. Air surveillance capabilities are provided by unmanned drones. Most illegal alien captures start with electronic indications of movement and end with the illegals being cut-off and chased down. The job requires a lot of patience, long hours, danger from fire-fights with drug-runners, and harsh conditions. If you are a tough-guy and adventurous, this might be just the job for you, but all this makes it difficult to have a great family life. In Lion Tim's sector, which was very mountainous, the temperatures in a 24-hour period could range from a 100 during the day to the 30's at night; they even saw an occasional snowfall. Lion Tim had great stories and amusing anecdotes to pass on to us about his many encounters while a Patrol Agent – one of the most engaging presentations we've had.

Other Business

Lion Kevin Veal was in a bicycle accident and has just had a hip replacement as a result. President Lion Mike Ponder will be going for a check-up prior to upcoming surgery. Lion Wendell Copeland still recovering from hear surgery. Lion Jim Walker was back with us after rehab.

On November 5th the Fair Board President will announce candidates for the 2019 Fair Board of Directors. On November 26th we will have a closed meeting (no guests) at which we will hear final Fair reports. We

will also vote to re-elect or replace Fair Board members who are coming to the end of their 2-year terms. Some of the present members who could run for another 2-year term have declined to run again.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Lion Linda Starr

Nov 5: 34A District Governor Lion Linda Starr.

Nov 15: Farm-City Dinner at 6:30 at the Civic Center.

Nov 26: Closed meeting for final Fair reports and vote on new or re-elected members of the Fair Board of Directors.

Dec 3: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stonebridge restaurant.

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).