



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

**December 2, 2024**

### Program

The original program tonight, which had been scheduled to present financial details from our Fair, was postponed due to Treasurer Barry Willingham being out of town. However, with Fair President Lion Charlie Childers' direction we did vote on half of the Cullman County Fair Association Board of Directors. Winners were announced by Fair Election Committee Chairman, Lion Steve Cartee as follows: Lions Brad Mitchell, David Peacock, Chris Robinson, Riley Smith, Barry Willingham, and Sam Roberts. Lion Charlie Childers also reminded us of the Lion Appreciation Dinner on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Cotton Creek, beginning at 5:30; coat & tie or formal-type Dress is the uniform.



Fair President Lion Charlie Childers talks about election of Fair Board members for 2025, while Lion President Chris Brooks gives him the "side-eye."

### Other Business

Three new Club members were announced tonight. New Lion Sean Schofield introduced himself and his wife, new Lion Melinda. They

have both visited with us the last couple of meetings. Lion Sean is a veteran; he joined the Marines in 1993, went to Iraq in 2011, and went to Ukraine in 2022; he is Cullman coordinator for the "Toys for Tots" program. The Club also welcomed new Lion Brian Monk, also a veteran, and is Commander of Cullman's VFW. Lion Brian was a speaker several weeks ago for a Club meeting.

Lion Chris reported that Lion Gary Murphree continues to improve his medical condition and feels that he will be coming to at least one of the next two Club meetings.

Lion Chris announced years of service anniversaries for the following Lions: Mike Ponder – 14 years; Chad Gambrell – 9; and Howard Perry – 11.

Lion Chris also called up the President of our Branch Club, Lion Stephanie Lawson, and presented her with a well-deserved check for her Club's support with the Lions Concession Stand during the Fair.



Branch Club President, Lion Stephanie Lawson, receives check for her Club from our Club President, Lion Chris Brooks.



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Lion Craig Gadow reported on changes of leadership within Alabama Lions Sight. There had been financial mismanagement issues brought to light, and our Club's Board of Directors made a decision to withhold further contributions to Alabama Lions Sight, until changes were enacted to address its financial issues. The CEO, Lion Barry Elliott, and the COO, Lion Cody, were removed from their positions within Alabama Lions Sight. Nothing criminal has been indicated -- just mismanagement. All the financial records are being reviewed and a new auditing firm is being sought to go over all books, from A to Z.

Lion Craig also reported that due to contract issues with the wrong cartel, the Lions International Convention has been moved from Mexico City to Orlando, FL. "The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Band" has been invited to perform during the Convention.

Lion Don Smith reported that an editor at the Cullman Tribune newspaper was upset that he would not be allowed to be present during our review of financial results from the Cullman County Fair. Lion Don explained that our Club is a non-profit organization (501c3), not a charity (501c4). As such, it's meetings are not public. However, an IRS Form 990 is filed annually. That form provides financial details with balances and major distributions and is available for public scrutiny on the IRS website.

Lion Bill Ruehl requested and got one more Lion, Milford Parrish, to help out this Wednesday AM for the very last visit of the Lions Sight Mobile exam van this year.



Lion Don Smith begs for extra desert as Lion Scott Starosta talks secretarial matters with Lions Dean Tilley and Ginger Hogeland.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

December 9: Regular meeting, but it will not be at the Commission on Aging building; it will be at a Fairground Building #1 (across from the office). Same time.

December 14: Wreaths Across America for deceased veterans at Cullman City Cemetery at 10AM. Lions will be needed to help transport wreaths and with placement of wreaths. Details to follow.

December 16: Fair appreciation dinner at Cotton Creek at 5:30PM; dinner served at 6. Dress is Coat & Tie.

**See page 3 for Committee Assignments**

### 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).



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### Committee Assignments for FY 2024-2025

<b>President Chris Brooks</b>							
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
<b>1st VP Delane Ray</b>							
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					
<b>2nd VP Jeff Lawson</b>							
Committees	Chair	Co-Char					
Area Lion's Liason	Craig Gadow	Scott Starosta					
Constitution & Bylaws	Craig Gadow	Steve Murphee	Frank Odell				
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborne					
Member Information	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz					
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson					
Youth Leos	David Wiggins	Jeff Lawson					
<b>3rd VP David Wiggins</b>							
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	Richard Gurley	Steve Murphree	Raymond Williams	Ginger Hogeland	