



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

February 10, 2025.

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced Raymond & Jeff Young from the Mary Carter Store as our speakers tonight. Mr. Jeff Young (CEO of the store) spoke first, explaining that the store with its current owner, his father, Mr. Raymond Young was founded in 1964. Jeff, a Georgia Tech graduate, highlighted the store's growth from a paint store with its paint inventory of just \$2,400, but growing through the years to a multi-section store with something for nearly everybody. You could spend several hours looking through their store. You would find not only paint, but all types of kitchenware, including quality cast iron pots & skillets, hunting and fishing equipment, including firearms, hardware, getting a key-fob replaced at a reasonable price, toys, wagons, oil lanterns, beer & wine making, and they provide picture framing—it's really a one-of-a-kind general merchandise store, occupying nearly a full city block in the heart of Cullman. Word-of-mouth about this store has spread far and wide and the staff provides personal service and expertise about its thousands of items.

Jeff related a couple of stories that tie into its customer service. During the last big snow, they quickly sold out of their inventory of several hundred sleds. They made a trip to Huntsville with a U-Haul truck to a warehouse and brought back 1,000 sleds which they promptly sold out again. During the last eclipse, for which they were prepared, they sold several thousand solar eclipse sunglasses.

Mr. Raymond Young, the store's boss, then talked about how he started off the store while

his original career was that of a teacher and he worked both jobs. As the store grew, it came to a point where he had to give up one of his jobs. So, he retired as a teacher and spent 58 years in his store and continues to do so. When Mary Carter Paint went out of business in the 1980's, Raymond decided to keep the name for their store because of the goodwill built up over the years. He talked about the cupola on top of the store, which was originally built as a look-out during WWII for violators of nighttime curfew and blackout periods. It was damaged and repaired following the tornado of 2011. The store is truly a family business; his three sons and brother-in-law all work in the store with him. It has been awarded "Small Business of the Month" several times by the Cullman Better Business Bureau



President Lion Chris Brooks presents and describes the finer points of our Club's speaker token-of-appreciation coffee mug to Misters Raymond & Jeff Young, as Raymond's brother-in-law and employee, Lion Fred Osborn looks on.

Jeff and Raymond both love their jobs and truly appreciate the people of Cullman and the city itself. They recount several other stories and tales about their experiences at the store. This



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was a highly engaging and entertaining presentation. They have built a great and popular business. Drop by -- they're open six days a week.

for this year in our Fairgrounds' Bldg. #1 on Friday & Saturday, February 21 & 22; he said that he could use some help on that Friday with registration and parking inside the Fairgrounds.

### Other Business

- Lion Charlie Childers was able to join us tonight, following his recent heart attack.
- Lion Javon Daniel is still at home recovering from his heart condition.
- Lion Ron Seybold is still in need of our prayers in his struggle against cancer.
- Lion Bill Wilt was sick tonight.

Lion Steve Cartee began issuing Fish & Ham Dinner tickets to all Club members and will continue this until the Dinner. He will begin taking cash and checks for tickets, starting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. He also says not to tear off the ticket stub; that will happen as tickets are redeemed at the Dinner.

THERE WILL NOT BE A "REGULAR" LIONS CLUB MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>. LIONS CLUB MEMBERS WILL BE DINING AT THE EMPTY BOWLS OF CULLMAN EVENT, FROM 4:00-6:30 P.M.

Lion Frank Odell announced the next new member roundtable is on February 24. Lions Carey Thompson and Steve Murphree will discuss the functioning of the Club's major projects.

Lion Chris Brooks presented and requested Club support and our votes for the DG nomination of Lion Craig Gadow, which ended with a unanimous show of hands for Lion Craig. He is headed to Ohio for training in his new position.

Lion Chris Brooks announced that the date for Shred-a-Thon is May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hobby Lobby parking lot.

Lion Chris Brooks shared Lions' years-of-service anniversaries for the following Lions: Ricky Peek -14years; Kelly Duke -13.

**See page 4 for Club Committee Assignments**



Accounting/Ticket Sales Chairman Lion Steve Cartee talks ticket plans, looking very dapper in his felt hat although his sweatshirt rather spoils the "Beau Brummel" effect.

Last week Lion Randy Kraft reminded us he was overseeing and making arrangements for the Alabama State Fairs Association's convention

### Upcoming Programs and Events

February 17: No regular meeting. Lions are encouraged to attend "Empty Bowls" event at the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church from 4 to 6:30PM. Lion members' meals are paid for by our Club. Wear yellow Lion vest or shirt.



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Lions enjoying meal at last year's "Empty Bowls" event.

February 21-22: Alabama State Fairs Convention at Fairgrounds, Bldg. #1.

February 24: Speaker will be Ms. Amber Thornton.



**Ms. Amber Thornton**  
**Cullman County Librarian**

March 3: Voting for Club's Officers for 2025-2026.

March 7-8: District 34-A convention in Huntsville on Pulaski Pike at Bob Harrison Wellness and Advocacy Center.

March 22: Fish and Ham Dinner.

### **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	