



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 24, 2025.

Program

Lion Sam Roberts introduced our speaker, Ms. Amber Thornton, Director of the Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS). Ms. Thornton was recently appointed to this position following 20 years as an educator at Cullman Middle School.



President Lion Chris Brooks presents token-of-appreciation coffee mug to the Director of CCPLS, Ms. Amber Thornton. Amber began with some history stating that County Library's main facility was built in 1967, but the library's origin goes back to the days of Colonel John Cullman in the 1890's. She then gave some impressive 2024 facts about how much our library has been used for the benefit of our local citizens. The current library building had started with 30,000 books, but its collection now stands at 80,000. Last year it had 222,000 visits with 129,000 checked out. 33,000 citizens have library cards. Ms. Thornton then praised services that a lot of people do not realize. That is, it has 287 free programs which were utilized by 6,900 users. It has 16 computers available for public use. And it's staff offer assistance to

those who need help with using computers or in setting up mobile phones. It also offers tax forms and help in filing one's taxes. This assistance is called the "Borrow a Librarian Program." They also direct people in need to local charities such as "Curt's Closet" and "Cullman Caring for Kids." 871 children participated in its summer reading program in 2024.

The problem with some of those numbers is that the fire code for the library only allows 53 people at a time in the building. Recently, one of the building sides partially collapsed due to the weight of books it was supporting; this was repaired, but the roof needs replacing, and the building has other age-related problems. The County provides salaries for the library's staff, and the City provides funds for upkeep and utilities. The City also donated the land upon which the library stands.

The solution for the issues mentioned, and one that Ms. Thornton is heavily involved with, is the expansion and renovation of the Cullman Library building. The goal here is to bring the building up to current codes, comply with ADA laws, and gain additional space to better meet the needs of the community. The new space will provide designated areas for children, study rooms, meeting spaces, and a bookstore. The estimated cost is around \$6M. A campaign is underway to seek funds from local businesses, individuals, and grants. So far, \$700,000 has been raised with a goal of \$2M from local community support. It is hoped that \$4M will be provided through a Federal Grant. Amber appears to have been an excellent choice as director of CCPLS who is eager and excited to



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make huge increases in service to our City and County.

Other Business

--Lion President talked with Lion Ron Seybold who said he has moved his abode to another street in his same neighborhood and just had an aluminum ramp into the house installed there, courtesy of the VA. He is maintaining a great attitude as he struggles with cancer.

--Lion Javon Daniel is still recovering from his heart condition. But he did attend the "Empty Bowls" event with many Lions, last Monday, and is looking forward to joining us at our regular meetings in the near future.

--Lion Jerry Smith is continuing to recuperate from his injury. — Let's keep these Lions in our prayers.

Lion President Chris Brooks read thank-you notes from Curt's Closet, First Source for Women, and Cullman Caring for Kids organizations. He also reported that our Club had made a donation to Alabama Lions Sight in keeping with our position as its greatest Club supporter. He announced the BOD's approval of Ms. Mary Horton, Lion Jimmy Horton's wife, as a new Club Member. The BOD also passed a motion for our Club to pay for our Club members' meals at the "Empty Bowls" event.

Lion Steve Cartee continued issuing Fish & Ham Dinner tickets to all Club members and began taking cash and checks for those tickets

Lion Randy Kraft reported on the Alabama Fairs Association Convention that was held at our Fairgrounds this past Friday. The Convention was highly successful, and the Association made a hefty donation to our Club. The Cullman High School Jazz Band put on a professional show as entertainment. Lion Randy had high praise for Lion James Pinyan and his wife, Lion

Cindy Pinyan, who decorated Bldg. #1 for this event; there were many complements for our Fairground facilities. Lion Randy noted that he was elected as 1st Vice President of this Association and that Lion Brad Mitchell was elected 2nd Vice President. Also, he noted that Lion Bill Ruehl was elected as Director of District 2, which covers Fayette, all the way over to Cullman, Marshall, and Etowah counties. The Alabama Fairs Association also gave our Club a plaque for hosting their event this year. Lion Randy also noted that the Mayor gave an opening "Welcome to the Convention" and introduced himself as Mayor Lion Woody Jacobs.

Lion Bill Ruehl announced the following dates for the Lions Vision Van's Wednesday visits to the Good Samaritan Clinic: February 26, March 25, April 23, and June 25. He needs Lions support on those days.

Lion Chris Brooks shared Lions' years-of-service anniversary for Lion David Bussman – 23 years.

See page 4 for Club Committee Assignments

Upcoming Programs and Events

March 3: Lion Steve Murphree will present a slate of the Club's officer candidates for 2025-2026 at our next meeting. We will be voting for those officers two weeks later, on March 17th.

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

March 10: Ms. Elena Caudle will present a program on therapy dogs.



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Ms. Elena Caudle has a dog ready to give you more therapy than you may be able to handle on March 10th.

March 17: Formal Pinning ceremony for new Lions. The dress is “coat and tie.”

March 21: Prep for Fish & Ham Dinner at CMS cafeteria at 3:30-630PM.

March 22: Fish and Ham Dinner. 7:30AM - 7:00PM.



We've got one seriously patriotic bunch of Lions, for sure!

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

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 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					
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	Richard Gurley	Steve Murphree	Raymond Williams	Ginger Hogeland	