



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

January 6, 2025

### Program

We were given rundowns on financial situations for both the 2024 Cullman County Fair by Fair Board Treasurer, Lion Barry Willingham; and for the Cullman Lions Club for July through December 2024 by Club Treasurer Lion Don Smith.

Treasurer Don Smith had handouts with details of all funds taken in and expended in support of our community. The biggest recipient during this past 6-month period was the Good Samaritan Clinic; last year the biggest was the North Alabama Agriplex. Lion Don explained that our Club is a 501c4 paternal organization that does not receive any funding from the City, State, or Federal Government. We push money out for charitable organizations, mainly local ones. We do not take money in as a charity. Every year our Club files a IRS form 990 that is publicly available to the press or anyone showing our financial activities.

are our two biggest projects – the Cullman County Fair (Managed by the Cullman Fair Association), the Lions Fair Concession Stand, and the Fish & Ham Dinner, plus some Smith Lake property that we sold a year or two ago. Money from the Smith Lake sale remains in several CDs, drawing interest. Our Club also maintains a separate account for the Cullman High School Leo Club. A different pair of Lions each year is appointed to review all Club financial records.



**Fair Board Treasurer, Lion Barry Willingham giving facts and figures. And without the aid of his reading glasses, his arms were barely long enough to allow him to read some of his numbers.**

Although I cannot provide figures publicly in this newsletter, Lion Barry reported that this past year was one of the Fair's best, if not the best, in terms of total revenue and All-in-One ticket sales. Lion Barry sends out bank statements for all Fair Association accounts every month to Board of Directors members of both the Lions Club and the Fair Association. The checks and balances that Lion Barry maintains are exceptional. Fair President Charlie Childers spoke up about all the Fairground capital improvements that the Fair Association paid for this year, including enhancement of the theater roof, asphaltting of



**Lion Treasurer Don Smith presented a very favorable financial position of our Club, as Lion President Chris Brooks checks Lion Don's addition.**

Lion Don presented details that show our Club to be in great fiscal health. The reasons for this



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the theater floor, replacement of barn boardwalk, and electrical rework of RV hook-up for mid-way workers. Even with all that, our balance at this point significantly exceeds our positive balance of the 2023 Fair. Funding that has not been earmarked for near term requirements and not anticipated for the 2025 Fair and 2025 Fairground operations is maintained in CD's, drawing interest.

### Other Business

Lion Bill Ruehl gave an update on his wife's recent hospitalization. She was diagnosed with microscopic colitis, but it had taken several days to make the correct diagnosis; after getting her on the correct medication she improved rapidly, and she is doing well now. Lion Bill expressed his gratitude for the prayers and cards he and his wife received.

Lion Chris Brooks reported that his Mom had been hospitalized ICU in South Carolina with severe COPD. He asked for your prayers for her.

President Lion Chris recognized years-of-service for Charlie Childers of 25+ years (he was not sure on total years & blamed Secretary Starosta). He also recognized Lion Steve McSwain for 24 years' service.

Lion President read a great thank you letter from the Boone, North Carolina area Lions Club President for our funding support, following the recent Hurricane which had caused devastation. He detailed exactly how these funds were used which was for clothing, bedding, coats, etc. ... for 39 of their citizens.

Lion Scott Starosta announced clean-up of wreaths resulting of the "Wreaths Across America" project. Our Club has been asked to

help with this at 10AM on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cullman Public Cemetery.

We had two new members introduced tonight. Lion Barry Willingham sponsored and introduced new Lion Lee Johnson, who is a native Cullmanite and works with Lion Barry at the Court House; he says he knows many of us and is looking forward to knowing us all. Lion Dean Twilley sponsored and introduced new Lion Sam Ruffner from California, where he retired as a public works inspector. He has talent in many construction trades and is looking to serve and put himself to work in serving our community with our Club.



New Lions Lee Johnson & Sam Ruffner.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

January 13: TBD.

January 18: Clean up for Wreaths Across America at Cullman Public Cemetery at 10AM.

**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	