



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

May 20, 2024

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced Lion and President of the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, Dr. Terry Slaton, DMV. Lion Randy noted that Lion Terry had helped him in the barn during last year’s Fair and was born and raised in Cullman. He worked as a local veterinarian for several years before taking a vet-related job with the State of Alabama for the last 30 years or so.



**Lion/Dr. Terry Slaton, DMV, President of Alabama Cattlemen’s Association (sporting his Cattlemen’s’ blazer with our Lions Club badge), spoke and entertained us tonight.**

Lion Terry noted that Lion Richard Gurley was his 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach and forced him to shave for the 1<sup>st</sup> time when he was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (Lion Gurley told him that he would not play until he shaved). But Lion Terry said he really wanted to talk about what he really loved about the Lions. He began with a story about a Club meeting speaker, Ms. Jackie Cook, talking about one of her terminally ill patients who was very despondent because he had not been able to provide his son with an eye operation. Jackie asked, “What if I get you lined up with the Lions

Club?” The Lions did get surgery for his son, and this man stated that he could now die in peace. Lion Terry then went on with a story from his Lions sponsor, the late, great Lion Chester Freeman, concerning waitress at a favorite local restaurant who had lost an eye. She had always tried to turn away her face when engaging with the public due to the visible impact of this affliction on her appearance. Lion Chester, with the help of our Club arranged for this lady to get reconstructive face surgery. Years later this lady came up to Lion Chester and asked if he remembered her; he said that he could not. She explained who she was and that she previously felt that she would never marry and have a family, due to her facial impairment. She then showed Lion Chester a picture of her family that included two children. She said that she was eternally grateful to the Lions for helping her.

Lion Terry then told another of Lion Chester’s stories. This one was about a 4<sup>th</sup> grade girl of modest means who had crossed eyes and lived with her grandmother. Again, the Lions came through, and this girl got eye surgery. Lion Chester was present at the hospital when her bandages were removed and she looked in the mirror for the first time and could not stop laughing. She then shouted, “Granny, now those other kids won’t keep laughing at me!”

Lion Terry then talked about the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association which was formed by a group of livestock owners in the 1930’s in Demopolis, Alabama, to represent their industry and promote it with youth. At one point Alabama had 18,620 members – the largest in the US. He noted that some past Cullman Cattlemen’s Association Presidents were also Presidents of the Lions Club, including the late Lion James



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“Kingfish” King and former Lion Steve Glascock. Lion Terry noted that he was our Lions Club President in 2001-2002. In 2004 Cullman had the largest county membership in the US with 400 members. Terry said that there were two members of our Club that joined the Cullman Cattlemen’s Association who did not own cattle, but just joined to help Cullman maintain its lead position – those two were Lions Jerry Bonner and Chester Freeman. He talked about how the Cattlemen’s Association tries to lobby legislators against burdensome taxes and stopping legislation harmful to farmers, such as outlawing chicken farming or requiring a CDL license to hook-up a small livestock trailer. He noted that every year the US loses 1.8 M acres of farmland. He says his association does a lot to support youth that are in agriculture and that want to stay in agriculture. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, this association gave out 110 scholarships totaling \$113,000 for youth in agriculture. Members of the Cattlemen’s Association also visit schools to talk with kids about agriculture, and Lion Terry had a few stories about his adventures doing that.

Lion Terry gave an invitation to the Lions to Join the Cattlemen’s Association. He said to qualify you have to own cattle, or know someone who does, or have thought about it, or if you have \$50, you can join. We heard several other interesting stories. All & all, Lion Terry gave us an entertaining and informative presentation. He also promised to make his presence at Club meeting much more frequent following his term as President of the Cattlemen’s Association.



Lion Terry loaded up on paraphernalia to decorate his study with: A Lions International Melvin Jones Award plaque presented by Lion Jerry Bonner; also, a framed article from the Cullman Times about him, and a one-of-a-kind mug from our Club presented by Lion President Chris Brooks.

### Other Business

Lion Gary Murphee continues recovery from injuries due to a fall at Woodland.

Lion David Goodwin has been diagnosed with cancer, once again, and will be starting chemo and radiation. Keep him in your prayers, along with Lion Ron Seybold, also battling cancer.

Lion Scott Starosta read last week’s BOD minutes. He said that the BOD would continue consideration of producing a new constitution. It made donations to CIF( which will be matched by a donation from LCIF to a charity to be later chosen). It also made a scholarship donation to the Distinguished Young Women of Cullman organization, to the Bosom Buddies, to the Never Forget Garden at Sportsmen Lake, and for support of relief, following the recent tornado



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in north Alabama. Lion President Brooks noted that we already got a thank-you note from Bosom Buddies; they noted that all donations go 100% towards people in treatment for cancer.

Lion Randy Kraft introduced two guests tonight, his neighbor, Mr. & Mrs. James Pinion. Lion Randy failed to introduce his wife, Susan, who was also present. However, Lion Don Smith was quick to point out this gross oversight on Lion Randy's part. Although Lion Randy tried to make apologies to his spouse, no doubt he will endure future rebuke.

Lion Charlie Childers and the Fair Board hosted a dinner last week with 2024 Fair Pageant Contestants and their families. These young ladies are already preparing for our fair in October.

Lion Chris Brooks read an appreciation letter from First Source for Women. He also noted that Lion Jeff Lawson was not here tonight because he was presenting four scholarships that the Club awarded to Leos.

Dennis Berse reminded everyone that the new officers' installation at Church of Christ of Cullman will commence at 5:30PM with dinner served at 6:00. This is a coat & tie event.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

May 26: No meeting due to Memorial Day.

June 3: Ms. Janet Davis, Executive Director of First Source for Women will speak.



**Janet Davis**  
Executive Director  
**The First Source For Women**

June 10: Cullman Lions Club and Branch Club New Officer Installation and Banquet at Cullman Church of Christ, located at Childhaven Rd & Hwy 157. Doors open at 5:30 with meal at 6:00PM. Coat and tie event, as usual.

### 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).

**See Club committee assignments on page 3.**



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The dinner for the formal installation of the club-year is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2014. The church, located on Childhaven Road, near the intersection of Hwy 157, will be open at 5:30 P.M., dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M.



Cullman Church  
4345 Alford Road  
Cullman, AL 35055

Hwy 157



Lion J. Frank Moore  
Past Lions International President

Has been invited to officiate the installation

*Meal by Freddie Day Catering*

**We Serve**  
THE LIONS MOTTO



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<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Burke Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Diabetes	Javon Daniel	Jason Tielking	
Fair Concessions	David Bussman		
Finance & Community	Don Smith	Jerry Bonner	
Fish & Ham	Carey Thompson	Frank Odell	
Membership	Gary Murphree	David Bussman	Dewayne Wilson
Program	Sam Roberts	Randy Craft	Chris Robinson
Mop & Broom	Richard White	Dave Gratz	
Sight	Bill Ruehl	Steve Cartee	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP Delane Ray Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Area Lion's Liason	Jerry Bonner	Craig Gadow	
Constitution & Bylaws	Bradley Williar	Champ Crocker	
House & Food	Dennis Berse	Fred Osborn	David Bussman
Member Info	Charlie Powell	Dave Gratz	
Song Leader	Richard White	Chris Robinson	
Youth Leo's	Jeff Lawson	Sam Roberts	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> VP Jeff Lawson Committees</b>			
<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Members</b>
Tail Twister	Richard White	Richard Gurley	
Fair Parade	Steve Murphee	Barry Willingham	
	Charlie Childers		
Lions Branch Liaison	Dennis Burse	Ron Seybold	
Publicity	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
Communication & Web	Sam Roberts	Charlie Powell	
New Member Orientation	Frank Odell	George Krigbaum	David Bussman