



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

November 18, 2024

Program

We actually had 3 speakers tonight. The first was Cullman's Community Officer Adam Clark who was introduced by Lion Millford Parrish. Officer Clark first spoke to us last year about the "Shop with a Cop" program, which is continuing again this year to help the about a dozen or so of Cullman's most underprivileged children and to improve the Police department's image and reputation throughout the community. Adam explained the this was the 11th year anniversary of this program which he initiated, originally, and is the department's longest running community police program. He said most of the kids are chosen by Brook's Place (a child advocacy center), and they have been a victim of sexual or physical assault.



Officer Adam Clark and new Police Chief Joey Duncan. Every dime in donations goes to these kids; last year the program collected over \$10. On the day of the event, the kids' parents drop them off with a group of volunteer police officer assigned to each one. Then, they are taken to Walmart, usually, and begin buying whatever they want, until their allotted cash (usually between \$600 and \$700) is spent; other volunteers help officers keep track of how much money is spent. The last stop on the day of this event is Chick Filet for a meal, where they are served whatever

they want. This program gives police and these kids great interaction, building mutual appreciation, and the kids, themselves, a great Christmas that they're not otherwise going to have.

After Officer Clark spoke, our new Police Chief Joey Duncan introduced himself. He said that he's been with the Cullman police department for 24 years. He said that his department has an open-door policy, and if he is not there, Assistant Chief Patterson or someone else will easily assist. He said that his staff is in the middle of promotions. He has brought on board a former state trooper with 20 years of experience, and he is promoting another lieutenant and 3 sergeants. The biggest change, that he is starting, is a new traffic unit which he believes will reduce crashes. The new chief seemed excited to be in his new role and eager to do a good job.

Our third speaker Navy Commander (retired) Vince Lambert who was introduced by his friend, Lion James Pinyan. The Commander spent most of his career in the U.S. Navy as a submariner, which was his topic.



Commander Vince Lambert speaks as Lion James Pinyan looks on.



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Commander Lambert was born in southern Illinois, was president of his high school's National Honor Society, and graduated Cum Laude from Rees Morgan Institute of Technology with a double degree in physics and math. He attended officer candidate school and was commissioned as an Ensign in 1977 following 18 months of nuclear prototype and submarine school. After many sea tours on submarines, he took an assignment as Naval ROTC instructor at Vanderbilt. He had several other varied and interesting positions including at the U.S. embassy in Uruguay and consultant for the movie "Red October. His wife Robin (a Cullman native) is a pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Cullman. He settled down in Cullman for his retirement, following private traveling to numerous locals around the world.

Commander Lambert seemed to prefer Vince nowadays instead of Commander. He started with a history of U.S. submarining, which began with a wooden vessel christen as the Turtle, during our Revolutionary War. It was designed to attach an explosive charge to British ship, but it was never successful. The USS Navy built its first practical submarine in 1900, but it was considered a novelty. That changed dramatically in WWII. German U-boats sunk 2779 ships which was 70% of all Allied shipping in all theaters. On the other hand, the US submarine force was responsible for sinking 55% of Japan's merchant marine ships & 30% of its warships and was the single most decisive factor in the collapse of the Japanese economy, leading to their losing the war. All this -- and the US submarines made up only 2% of our entire Navy in WWII. US subs were also used along US bombing routes to rescue 502 men who were forced to bailed-out over the ocean -- one of whom was later President George HW Bush. Casualty rates for the submarine force during that war, 23% was higher than any other branch

of US forces. In 1955, the US sent its first nuclear sub to sea with no need to surface ever, except for food. Three later it was the first vessel to reach the North Pole. From that point the US never built a non-nuclear sub. During Eisenhower's presidency, it built and launched the first nuclear missile from a sub. Nuclear missile subs became the third in a triad of nuclear deterrence, joining land launched missiles, and air force bombs. Today's US submarine force has 53 fast attack subs, 14 ballistic missile subs (that comprise 54% of our nuclear deterrent), and 4 guided missile subs. The ballistic Trident nuclear missiles arming our subs have a range of 7,000 miles and each one has 10 independently targetable re-entry vehicles. If one of those Trident missile subs decided to go rogue, it would be the 3rd largest nuclear power in the world, by itself.

Vince went on to describe details of how the sub crews are organized, time in port, time at home, numerous stories/adventures/tales, and many, many more facts about his subs and his career. I believe that his address to us was the most interesting that I've heard in all the years that I have been a Lion.

Other Business

Lion President Chris Brooks presented Lion Jerry Bonner with his years-of service pin chevron for his 60th year as a Lion in our Club. He also reported that Lion Scott Starosta has achieved his second-year anniversary as a Lion.

Lion Chris reported that Lion Javon Daniel is waiting for a second opinion regarding his latest arteriogram; until this issue has been resolved he has been advised not to attend events that include public contact.



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Lion Chris reported that Lion Gary Murphree is doing much better as can be seen in his weight reduction program that has resulted in a loss from 418 to 253 pounds. He says Lion is looking forward to being a part of our meetings again soon.

It was noted that our only snowbird member, Lion Tom Pfeifer, came down to Alabama before the first snowfall and was with us tonight. He says he has almost persuaded his wife to sell their northern home and stay here year-round.

The vote for 6 members of the Cullman Fair Association Board of Directors will take place at our next meeting on Dec. 2nd Club.

Sample ballot -- Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Choose 6:

- Dennis Berse
- Brad Mitchell
- David Peacock
- Danny Ray
- Sam Roberts
- Chris Robinson
- Riley Smith
- Barry Willingham

We had a number of guests tonight. Lion Barry Willingham brought his high school classmate, Mr. Lee Johnson, who is also one of Lion Barry's employees. Ms. Robin Lambert, wife of our speaker, and her friend Ms. Cindy Pinyan, wife of Lion James Pinyan, who introduced our speaker, were also guests. Lion Milton Parrish introduced our new Police Chief Joey Duncan, along with the new Assistant Police Chief Randal Patterson, and Community Service Officer Adam Clark. Lion Ron Seybold introduced his granddaughter, Harper.

Lion Craig Gadow gave an update on last week's BOD meeting which included a treasury report and report on work done by the constitution & bylaws committee. Also, several people were approved for recruitment as Club members including: Mr. Brian Monk, sponsored by Lion Randy Kraft; Mr. Sean & Mrs. Melinda Schofield, sponsored by Lion Craig; Mr. Lee Johnson, sponsored by Lion Barry Willingham; and Mr. Samuel Ruffin, sponsored by Lion Dean Twilley. Also, funding was approved for the VFW to help them in their project to provide a Thanksgiving meal for veterans. Lion Craig announced the Mr. Sean Schofield will be in charge of the "Toys for Tots" program which will be handling and bundling gifts at the Fairgrounds. That program will be handing out toys somewhere between Dec. 10th & Dec. 15th. They will be asking for Lion assistance with traffic control and possibly handing out some of the packages.

Lion Charlie Childers reminded us of the Fair Appreciation Dinner on Dec. 16th. He said to expect an email to RSVP back to him on whether you can attend and the number of guests, in order to get a good count of the meals to prepare. He also thanked our Police & Sheriff departments for their support and presence during the Fair, saying that the public's assurance of safety was a great draw for attendance.

Lion Randy Kraft announced that he and a few other Lions will be hosting the Alabama Association of Fairs on Friday, December 13. In order to help it in making plans for this Association to have its convention that our Club is hosting on Feb. 21st at our Fairgrounds.



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Upcoming Programs and Events

November 21: The annual Farm-City Banquet will be held at Loft 212 at 5:00PM. See Lion Brooks for tickets

November 25: No meeting due to Thanksgiving week holiday.

December 2: Closed meeting – no guests. Fair Board election and presentation of financial reports from Fair.

December 9: Regular meeting, but it will not be at the Commission on Aging building; it will be at a Fairground Building – the specific building will be announced later.

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. Details to follow.

See page 4 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

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	