

The Lantern



Printed monthly for members and friends of the Sumter Junior Welfare League, Inc.

Sumter, South Carolina

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September 2015

2015-2016 Executive Board

The League, Leadership, and Legacy

By Leslie Day Caughman

The happiest people I know are those who lose themselves in the service of others.

-Gordon B Hinckley

Being a member of the Sumter Junior Welfare League is about giving back to our community and enabling our League to make a difference in Sumter. The four ladies who make up the 2015-2016 Executive Board have committed themselves to a year of service and contribution. Mary Geddings will serve as President with Gretchen Meyers as her Vice-President. Treasurer will be Cindy Ardis, and Molly Matthews will be Secretary. These ladies will contribute not only their time, but also their leadership and passion for service this year.

President Mary Martin Geddings is a native of Sumter, SC. She is engaged and excited to be getting married next Spring. Mary has a sweet dog named Spencer. She loves her work as a Registered Oncology Nurse at Santee Hematology/Oncology in Sumter. Mary holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Carolina and an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Central Carolina Technical College. Mary is a member of Grace Baptist Church and enjoys decorating, shopping, watching HGTV, Pinterest and planning her wedding. She also loves eating good food, spending time with her friends and family and going to the lake. Jackie Olsen, Mary's mother, is a sustaining member of SJWL and served the League as past-President. This will be a special year for Mary as Mrs. Olsen will serve as Sustainer Representative. Mary has been in the League for eight years serving on Wishing Well Committee, Lantern co-editor, Lantern editor, Wishing Well Scheduler, Hospitality and as Vice-President. Wishing Well Scheduler remains her favorite placement because she enjoyed working from home and the challenge of putting the schedule together.

Vice President Gretchen Geig Meyers is married to Dr. Edward Julian Meyers. They have four children Jake (15), Madeline (13), Owen (9) and Wyatt (7). Gretchen is originally from Doylestown Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Education from The University of Toledo. Gretchen enjoys

card-making, scrapbooking, substitute teaching, group exercise, family trips, shopping with Madeline and playing sports with her sons and attending her children's games. She is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and is a member of Wilson Hall PTO. Gretchen has served the League for seven years with placements at United Ministries, Crosswell Home and as the Wishing Well Chairman. She has enjoyed the Wishing Well Chairman position most of all because of the memorable trips to market and bonding with other committee members.

Treasurer Cynthia Lynn Weeks Ardis is originally from Florence, Alabama and is married to Michael Anthony Ardis. Cindy holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Marketing and is employed by Tuomey Healthcare Systems where she works as Manager of Quality Services. She attends Crosswell Baptist Church, and Cindy enjoys making homemade stamped cards, scrapbooking, reading, international traveling and Alabama Crimson Tide football! This is Cindy's seventh year serving the League; she has served on the Wishing Well Gifts Committee, Business Manager for the Wishing Well and Wishing Well Food Committee. Cindy's favorite placement was serving as the Wishing Well Business Manager because she enjoyed the detailed work and it reminded her of previous jobs.

Secretary Molly Simpson Matthews is a native of Sumter, SC and is married to Shawn Michael Matthews. They have four children, Mary Catherine (13), Lucy (11), Shawn Michael (8) and Sims (4). Molly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of South Carolina Honors College, and she works part-time in her family's business, Simpson Hardware and Sports. She is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and enjoys spending time with her family, reading, playing tennis and coaching basketball. Molly has been a member of the League for seven years, and her mother, Cathy Mellon Simpson is a sustaining member. During her time in the League, Molly has enjoyed placements at Maizie's Place, United Ministries, Wishing Well, Community Research and as Assistant Secretary. She has enjoyed Community Research most of all because of the time she spent learning about other civic groups in Sumter and the gratifying nature of being able to support their efforts through grants.

Mark your calendar for...

General League Meeting:

September 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Board Meeting:

September 14, 2015 at 6:30PM
Hostess: Susan McGregor
Co-Hostess: Nancy Branham
October 5, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Hostess: Valerie James
Co-Hostess: Lisa Andrews

Placement Council:

September 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM

**Lantern Deadline for the October edition
is September 16 and for November Issue October 14.**

Provisionals:

September 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM
General Meeting First Baptist Church
September 29, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Sumter County Museum

Admissions Application:

Agreement of Confidentiality Deadline: November 1, 2015
Return Deadline: December 1, 2015
Contact: Janelle Smith (803) 968-5497 or janelledeluco@yahoo.com

Save the Date!

The Annual League Tea will be held

Monday, October 12, 2015

*at the home of
Jackie Olsen
3030 Lowfalls Lane*

Congratulations to actives
Nancy Lee Zimpleman and
Jessica Lamb on the births
of baby boys.

Congratulations to active
Kathryn Ross, active Elizabeth Lee and provisional
Jenny Knopf on the births
of baby girls.

Welcome 2014-2015 Provisional Class:

Amanda Boykin
Lindsey Bozeman
Mandi Chiappone
Heather Cromer
Marissa Deakin
Angie Gilley
Amanda Hardee
Kristine Hinson
Laura Jervey
Sherri Kennedy
Shelley Kile
Jenny Knopf
Christine Kohl
Candi McLeod Payne
Stacy Montgomery
Tina Patterson
Keonna Porter
Meighan Price
Tiffany Rodgers
Dianna Smith
Heather Smith
Joni Walker
Meg White

**The deadline for new
placement proposals and
grant applications is
November 1st.**

Spirit of the League

by Suzanne Palmer

The Sumter Junior Welfare League was founded over 80 years ago by a group of ladies with the purpose of organizing fellow women in the Sumter community to foster interest in the social, economic, educational, cultural, and civic conditions of this community, to promote members to volunteer service, and to develop a members potential as a continuing community leader.

Several years ago, a very smart League member, Mary Sheridan, suggested the League recognize a person in the Sumter community that displays a heart of service and whose life resembles the volunteer spirit and community leadership the League was founded to promote. One of the best duties as president is to recognize this person.

Congratulations to Melissa “Boo” White, winner of the 2015 Spirit of the League award.

Boo has been serving her community for many years. She is a Sustainer of the League. She is a graduate of Leadership SC and Leadership Sumter. She has served on the Iris Festival Committee, the United Way Board and Tuomey Fellows. She is a former member of the Sumter Rotary Club and has served on its board. She has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Episcopal Diocese of SC Finance Committee, the Congaree Land Trust-Sumter Advisory committee and the Sumter-Shaw Community Council. And, I’m sure there are many more organizations she has helped.

She is a member of the Church of the Holy Comforter where she has served on many committees and the church vestry as well as teaching Sunday school for numerous years.

Thank you Boo for all you have done and continue to do in the Sumter community. We are most fortunate to have you as a role model.

To nominate someone for the “Above and Beyond Award,” please contact Nancy Branham at (803) 938-3010 or nancybranham@gmail.com

Special Recognition

Our apologies to **Darla Dean** who was mistakenly omitted from the perfect attendance announcement at the May dinner.

Congratulations to Darla for attending all of the general meetings last year!

Our most sincere appreciation goes to **Dibble Parker** and **Suzanne Palmer** who completed 24 and 34 Wishing Well shifts last year respectively. They truly embody selfless service to the League and their community!

Picture Reminder

The following placements will have pictures and articles featured in the October *Lantern*:

**Provisional Chair/Co-Chair
Computer Committee
Camp Scamp**

**Please see Bronwyn McElveen immediately after the September meeting to have your picture taken.

In an effort to continue to be a good steward of our funds, all Active members will now receive *The Lantern* via email. Sustainers will continue to receive theirs via US Postal Service. However, if you would like to have yours emailed as well (and help lower the cost of mailing for the League), please contact Bronwyn McElveen at BronwynKelson@yahoo.com or (864)430-4540.

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May Dinner—May 11, 2015

The annual May Dinner was held at The O'Donnell House on May 11, 2015. The evening began at 6:15 P.M. with an hour for socializing followed by dinner.

At 7:00 P.M., President Suzanne Palmer welcomed everyone and recognized the sustaining members in attendance. She called the meeting to order and thanked Amy Moss and the Hospitality Committee for the beautiful decorations and wonderful meal.

Following dinner, Provisional Chair Valerie James introduced the new active members to the League. Secretary Meg Hill recognized those with perfect attendance for both the general meetings and board meetings. Dibble Parker was awarded with a plaque for attending every general meeting for her ten years in the League.

Suzanne then announced the members who have completed ten years of service and have elected to become sustaining members in the upcoming year. They were each presented with a gift from the League.

Following recognition of the new sustainers, Meg thanked Suzanne for her leadership and guidance and presented her with a gift from the League. Suzanne thanked her board and then passed the gavel to incoming President Mary Geddings. Mary recognized her new board members and promised what will be another wonderful year for the Sumter Junior Welfare League.

