

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

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*You are cordially invited to attend the
Annual May Dinner
Monday, May 15th, 2017*

The O'Donnell House

Social Hour 6:15PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

(\$35 per person)

Deadline is May 1st

Mail checks to Susan McGregor

330 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, Sc 29150



SJWL General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2017

President, Gretchen Meyers called the meeting to order at 7:00. We will enjoy hospitality for ten minutes & reconvene at 7:10. Silence cell phones & sign in, please. **Christine Kohl** lead a devotion with how we should spend our time on earth depends on the different gifts we were given. We've become the eyes and ears of Jesus. Develop & expand on what Jesus wants us to do. Seize the opportunities with a servant's heart. Romans 12:6-8 states, "...God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well...if your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." Discover the opportunity that has your name on it. **Gretchen** introduced our Guest Speaker **Lashonda McElveen** is a mother of two, a registered nurse, and through her greatest tragedy, a writer. She wrote the book, Loving, Losing, and Living. **Lashonda** tells us of her story "my gift and my calling are to share and help all those that I can". The book explains how my life changed in 2004. I went from being a happy, newlywed with two children to a widow after a car accident. Through my journey, I learned to depend on God. We lived in a bad neighborhood and I remember praying, "Lord, you have taken away my protector..." The Lord let me know that HE was my protector and that we were going to be alright. This time taught me about life, how to appreciate people, and how to trust God. As long as we live trouble will come. Love, live, keep living through losses & challenges. My story is to give God's glory. This is a story of God's love and grace. **President Gretchen's** remarks include February Minutes were approved as written. Molly Matthews-1st; Susan McGregor 2nd. Correspondence: Thank you notes received from: Ms. Libby's Rising Stars for our support of the Tuomey Showcase, United Ministries for the monies for the emergency shelter and Crisis Relief, and the Alston Wilkes Society. Mayor's Prayer breakfast is on Thursday May 4th. Marcus Lattimore will be there. If you'd like to attend, contact Gretchen. **Vice President, Molly Matthews** hoped we all took the time to read the proposed by-law changes. Gretchen made a motion to accept the changes. Bronwyn McElveen 1st; Beth Poag 2nd. By law changes were approved. **Secretary, Valerie James'** report includes a directory changes sheet is being passed on a clipboard. Please write needed changes/additions to the list for next years' directory. This includes anyone not listed, or listed incorrectly in the book. If you've already contacted me, previously, you should already be listed on this sheet. If you aren't, please add the changes now. Also, remember you are allowed two general meeting misses per year. **Treasurer, Susan McGregor** reports a balance of accounts: Community Trust-\$29,135.87, Administrative Account-\$26,649.75. The budget was approved by the Board. Explanation of changes / additions to the budget were described. Question, from Jeanna Mahr on the Wild Turkey Federation. Nancy Branham explained that it is an outdoor education program for children and their safety. Crosswell children attend. We will vote on the budget at the mandatory April meeting. **Assistant Secretary, Sarah Smith's report was read by Valerie:** One condolence note was written. Please remember to contact Sarah with any known births/deaths. **Assistant Treasurer, Nancy Branham** announces dues are due by April 1st. Box is here for payment. Members' dues are \$70. If you are going sustainer, it is \$40. As of April 2nd, a late fee is assessed. On April 30th, you will be removed from membership. To date, a total of \$2,200 has been deposited for dues. **Admissions Chair, Elyn Croft** has no report. **Community Research Chair, Vicki Singleton** has no report. **Computer Chair, Lisa Burke** has no report. **Wishing Well Chair, Whitney Dunlap's report is read by Gretchen:** February sales were amazing! New picture frame behind the cash register explaining that everything goes back to the community. Provisionals are catching on well. Some complaints on 4th shift: Please restock the drinks. Be careful to void properly. Use the void procedure on the card. **Hospitality Chair, Ann Cannon** announces The May Dinner will be held on Monday, May 15th at the O'Donnell House. Social hour will begin at 6:15. The price is \$35. Those going sustaining do not pay. The deadline to pay is May 1st. You may pay tonight, at the April meeting or mail checks to Susan McGregor. Actives who cannot attend, please contact Valerie James, in writing, by May 1st with the reason. **Leslie Day Caughman, Lantern editor** reports, hope you are enjoying the Lantern! Please send all Light News to Kelly Mills-we love publishing your life events, adventures, & accomplishments. I will take photos of Elyn Croft & Ann Canon tonight after the meeting. Deadline for the May Lantern is April 21st. **Placement Council, Nancy Branham** reports new placement description sheets were emailed last week. Look through them. Questions, contact Rebecca or me & we'll explain. Crosswell Home, art gallery, United Ministries & WW should each have completed over 17.5 hours by the end of March. SLT should complete around 4.2 hours/play. If you are behind, please get in touch with your chair or me to make up hours. **Provisional Chair, Rebecca Montague** announces the class will be dropping off their SPCA donations & presenting them with a check on March 25th at 10:30. The class has raised over \$700. Anyone who has items to be donated, please give them to either Ashley Reddick or me. The Provisionals will have their meeting immediately after this one. They will hear about 3 placements: Camp Scamp, Crosswell & Get Real About Violence. Their April wrap-up meeting will be at 5:30 prior to the General meeting, here. Sustainer Representative, Angie Sistare has no report. **New Business: Shannon Boykin** announces Feed My Starving Children is coming back to Sumter's Civic Center on August 1st/2nd. They are in the planning stages now. We are hoping to get the word out. Community needs to raise \$44k to put this on. We need sponsors/pledges/volunteers. Last year we provided over 200,000 meals. **Rebecca Montague** announces tonight's Above & Beyond goes to **Tiffany Garrity** for all her hard work in the Wishing Well for Valentine's. I had several members contact me about her. **Gretchen** reminds us our next Board Meeting is Monday, April 17th at 6:30 at Whitney Dunlap's home with Ann Cannon providing refreshments. Our next General Meeting is Monday, April 24th (mandatory) at 7:00 at First Baptist Church. **Old Business: Gretchen** awards a Wishing Well Door Prize to Angie Gilley. **Gretchen** adjourns the meeting at 7:49PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie James, Secretary

Light News

Active members, Anna Dilts, Karen Timmons, Ann Cannon and Melissa Timmons earned their Concealed Weapons Permit. Great job ladies!



Admissions

By Elyn Croft

The Sumter Junior Welfare League has had the privilege and opportunity to serve our community for many years. I believe we have been successful because of the dedication and commitment required of its members. As League members, we are able to impact the community in a multitude of ways that better the lives of others and enrich our own in the process. This year, as in past years, the Admissions Committee has had the task of reviewing proposed candidates provided by sustainers and current League members. The committee was so impressed with the dynamic group of women that were proposed this year. It is exciting to think about what new energy and ideas will bring to the future of the League.

It has been an honor to serve this year along with Darla Dean, the Admissions Co-Chair, and the other dedicated women that served on the Admissions Committee. We held our first meeting in December at my house. Our second and final meeting was also held at my house this past week

on March 15th.

I would like to thank each of our committee members for their dedication and confidentiality. Committee members were Elyn Croft (Chair), Darla Dean (Co-Chair), Lisa Andrews, Becky Craft, Elizabeth Hyatt, Ann Cannon, Amy Jones, Meg Hill, Julie Hobday, and Karen Timmons. Alternates were Allyson Sanders and Brenda Barnes. Sustainers serving this year were Shelly Galloway and Meg Creech.

Applications for admissions for next year will be available between June 15th and November 1st and must be returned by November 15th. I am looking forward making the Committee's big announcement at the May Dinner and welcoming the Provisional Class of 2017-2018!



Sympathy

The SJWL extends deepest sympathy to Allison Patrick on the passing of her grandmother. Also, we offer our sympathy to Sustainer Lisa Smoak and Sustainer Sharon Young on the passing of their grandmother and mother in law respectively, Mrs. Marion Young.

Mark your calendar...

League Meeting: April 24, 7:00 PM, First Baptist Church—MANDATORY

***Attention New Sustainers: A group photo will taken immediately after the meeting.

Provisional Meeting: April 24th, 5:30 PM, at First Baptist Church prior to the General Meeting

Board Meeting: April 17th, 6:30 PM, at the home of Whitney Dunlap, refreshments: Ann Cannon

**Many thanks to
Ashley Bateman
for the beautiful artwork on
the cover!**

Hospitality

By Ann Cannon

It has been a great year working with the members of the Hospitality Committee. Co-Chair Mary Baird, along with committee members Melissa Beasley, Elizabeth Hyatt and Karen Timmons have gone above and beyond. They have been dedicated and true servants. These ladies have worked hard to prepare some delicious treats for each meeting and also to ensure the October



Tea was a success. The tea was held at the beautiful home of Ann Kolb and was the perfect setting to welcome our new provisional class this year. We are now in the process of planning for the May Dinner which will be held May 15th at the O'Donnell House. Plans are in place now to ensure you are served a delicious dinner in a beautifully decorated venue. It will be a night to honor those ladies who have tirelessly served their 10 year placement in the Sumter Junior Welfare League, as well as congratulate the ladies who have just completed their provisional year. The social hour will begin at 6:15 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. This night always proves to be a wonderful and enjoyable time. Please make sure to mark May 15th on your calendar. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Sumter Junior Welfare League as their Hospitality Chair. I could not have asked for a better committee to serve with. Thank you again ladies for your dedication. I would also like to thank Gretchen Meyers for this wonderful opportunity. It has been a fantastic year!

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