

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 77- Number 4

January 2015

Happy New Year!

Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow!



Mark your calendars...

- League Meeting:** January 19, 2015, 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church
- Board Meeting:** February 9, 2015, 6:30 PM
Hostess: Kelly Mills (her mom's)
Refreshments: Amy Moss
- Provisionals:** February 16, 2015, 7:00 PM
at First Baptist Church
Following the February General Meeting
- Lantern Deadline:** February 2, 2015
- League Meeting:** February 16, 2015, 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church –MANDATORY

Please be aware of your absences—you are only allowed two excused absences for the entire year. Don't forget the February Meeting is Mandatory.



SJWL General Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2014

President Suzanne Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and thanked everyone for coming.

Angie Sistare shared the devotion. We wake each morning with the chance to choose how we will face the day. Commit your day to rejoice in the Lord and He will surround you in all that you do.

Suzanne introduced the guest speakers Mark Champagne and Mariah McKellar with United Ministries. Mark thanked the League for support over the years. The United Ministries has several projects including home repairs, the Samaritan House, and the free medical clinic. Mariah is the director of the new clinic. She explained who the patients are and how they qualify to become patients. They will be opening a pharmacy at the beginning of the year.

The Lantern was emailed and should have been received by all. Everyone attending appeared to have received their copy. The minutes from the September general meeting and the October Tea were provided through the Lanterns. Bronwyn McEIlveen made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Cindy Ardis seconded the motion.

Suzanne read thank you notes from two Ebenezer Middle students. They were very appreciative of the money that we gave them through a grant that allowed them to purchase clarinets.

Vice-President Mary Geddings reported that proposals for by-law changes are due by January 11.

Secretary Meg Hill asked members to please remember to keep up with their attendance. Sustainer and semi-active status requests are due by February 1.

Treasurer Dee Carraway shared the balances in the current budgets. There is \$17,994.55 in the community trust account and \$24,377.30 in the administrative account. Budget requests are due in January.

One condolence note was sent out this month.

Assistant Secretary Cindy Ardis passed Salvation Army kettle for donations.

Admissions Chair Susie Herlong thanked those who are proposing members. The first Admissions meeting will be held on December 8.

Community Research Chair Dibble Parker announced that grant applications have been received. She will be meeting with her committee and will be presenting their recommendations in January. The membership will vote in February.

Computer Chair Nancy Lee Zimpleman asked members to please ensure that they are receiving regular emails from the computer chair. Contact Nancy Lee or Meg if your email address has changed.

Gift Shop Chair Gretchen Meyers thanked the committee for helping to decorate the Wishing Well for Christmas. The Open House held on November 7 was a success. There is a new garment hook that will help reach hanging items. There is no longer a need to call Chick-fil-a to request more food. The number of sandwiches and nuggets in the original order has been increased. Cut Rate is bringing us only what they are able to at this time. If you place an item in the damage bin, please include a note specifying how it is damaged. Only use the notepad labeled "Gifts Sold During My Shift" for that purpose. These are not needed for inventory purposes. The Collegiate merchandise is currently 30% off. The "Twelve Days of Christmas Sale" will begin on December 9. It will offer a 20% discount on select items on weekdays through December 23. There is a 30% off coupon in this month's Lantern. It expires on December 31. Food Committee: King Distributors is closed the week of Thanksgiving so this week's order will be doubled. Please coordinate your schedules to accommodate this change.

Hospitality Chair Amy Moss had no report. Suzanne thanked her and the committee for a wonderful Tea.

Lantern Editor Kelly Mills notified those whom she needs articles from for the January edition of the Lantern.

Placement Council Chair Vicki Singleton reported that there will be a mandatory placement council meeting on January 13.

Provisional Chair Valerie James thanked the hospitality committee for the Tea. The provisionals will be training for the Wishing Well in December.

Sustainer Representative Gayle Booth had no report.

Old Business: none

New Business: The Above and Beyond recognition went to Dibble Parker for working a shift at the last minute. There are no meetings in December. The next board meeting will be on January 12 at First Baptist Church, and the next general meeting will be held on January 19.

A drawing for a door prize was held for those attending the meeting. Jennifer McMahon won a certificate for 40% off an item at the Wishing Well.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Brogdon Hill
SJWL Secretary



PLEASE NOTE:

*If you are planning on going semi-active or sustainer for the next year, please submit
a*

letter to Meg Hill before February 1, 2015.

Get Real About Violence

Stacey Reaves

For one week this past June, April Geddings, Katie McLeod, Shelly Stokes, and I were blessed to serve approximately 55 children ages 8-14 through the SJWL's Get Real About Violence program. Visiting two community centers—South Sumter Park and Salters Town, we provided lessons each day to educate the children to be able to identify different forms of violence both in their various environments and electronically. We encouraged them to avoid violent situations when possible but also coached them on ways to deal with unavoidable aggression. The children were placed in groups and given different scenarios and allowed to role play handling acts of violence for practice, which they seemed to enjoy the most. In addition to teaching them about handling violence, we shared the gospel and challenged them to memorize a piece of scripture that coincided with the lesson for the day. It was a blessing for us to shower these children with not only life skills but also God's love and direction through His word. As we reflected upon the experience at the end of our week, we realized that we may not have solved the problems of violence that these young ones face today but hoped that we planted some seeds that will be nurtured in the years to come.



Welfare and Emergency Aid

Cindy Ardis

The Welfare and Emergency Aid Committee is just one more way the Sumter Junior Welfare League provides aid to underprivileged families in Sumter. There are two members of this committee: Mary Geddings, Vice President and Cindy Ardis, Assistant Treasurer.

Each year, the League establishes an account at K-Mart which can be accessed by the public school nurses in the Sumter School District. The 16 nurses are able to use these funds to purchase necessities such as undergarments and socks. We were able to fund a total of \$1400. District Lead Nurse, LaShonda McElveen said, "Trust me, it will be well spent, as it has been in the past. We certainly appreciate it, and thank you all for thinking of us once again."

The committee also collects donations for the Salvation Army at the November general meeting. This year, we collected \$497.10 in our red kettle passing. Over 700 families are assisted by The Salvation Army during the Holiday and winter seasons.

Thank you for your continued support which allows the League to help two very worthy projects.

United Ministries By Jeanna Mahr

The United Ministries of Sumter County is an extension of the ministry of our local area churches. UMSC's mission is to provide assistance to those in need in our own community. The three main areas of ministry are crisis ministry, Sumter Area Mission (home repair), and Samaritan House Homeless Shelter. UMSC is also adding a free medical clinic and pharmacy.

This year seven ladies from the league are providing much needed assistance to UMSC. These individuals are Anna Dilts, Michelle Duvall, Anna Moorman, Tiffany Davis, Beth Poag, Christy Richardson, and Liza Griffin.

Several of our league ladies serve as "in-takers" at UMSC. Clients come to UMSC Monday through Thursday mornings to be interviewed and receive crisis assistance. Crisis assistance may include providing financial help for utilities, rent, mortgage, medicine, and even furniture. Clients often take home a food box and are provided referrals for things such as clothing, employment assistance, or budget counseling. Often clients are working full time and are unable to make enough money to support their family, and UMSC provides much needed support for these individuals.

Other league members are assisting with some of the special projects at UMSC. These ladies have spent hours and hours writing thank you notes for donations received from members of our community. During the Sumter County Fair, League members work at the Lighthouse Grill. This raises several thousand dollars through concession sales. At Thanksgiving, "Giving Thanks" provides food items to clients of UMSC for their Thanksgiving dinner. Finally, league members contribute many hours filling out the angels for the "Help an Angel Fly" project that takes place in December.

Please check out www.unitedministriessumter.org for more information. The director of UMSC, Mark Champagne, can be reached at 775-0757. UMSC is always happy to have more volunteers!

Isaiah 58:10 "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."



Computer Committee

By: Nancy Lee Zimpleman

With technology being such an integral part of our lives these days, it makes sense that so much of the information we rely on as members of the League is easily accessible on our website. With the click of a button, you can check your Wishing Well schedules, read current and past issues of the Lantern, and access the League membership directory. You can also find out who serves on the Board and on our various committees and placements. Visitors to the site can see the benefit we provide the community by reading our mission statement, viewing the grants we provide, and seeing what's new in the Wishing Well gift shop.

As the only member of the Computer Committee, it is my responsibility to update all member information in the League database, to make changes and updates to the website, and to send Wishing Well Schedules and Lanterns electronically. I work closely with our secretary, Meg Hill, to make sure our records are current and that any address or e-mail changes are made in the computer database so members continue receiving League information in a timely manner. Please remember to notify Meg or me if any of your information changes during the year. I hope that the League website and e-mails make your life a little easier, and I look forward to a great year for the Sumter Junior Welfare League.

The Lantern Staff:

Editor—Kelly Mills, 968-0046, kellygmills@yahoo.com

Co-Editor—Bronwyn McElveen, (864) 430-4540, BronwynKelson@yahoo.com