

# The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 81 Number 7

April 2019

*You are cordially invited to attend the  
Annual May Dinner  
Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
The O'Donnell House*

*Social Hour 6:15PM  
Dinner 7:00 PM*



## A Note from the President

"Attitude is a little thing, that makes a big difference." - Winston Churchill



Happy Spring! The season of new beginnings and fresh starts. It's also the time of the year when our league responsibilities start to weigh us down. We start to come up with excuses to miss meetings, question what we're doing, and lose the positivity we had in the fall. Verywellmind.com states, "an attitude refers to a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviors toward a particular object, person, thing, or event." Every day our attitude can make or break us. On the days, where your mind thinks, "I can't"...by, simply changing your attitude, "you can". Please remember that our placements offer things our community desperately needs: faith, education, creativity, life experiences, new beginnings, and most importantly, hope. In every placement, we have the opportunity to share hope. Our attitudes have the power to better our community, everyday. Our attitudes reflect our character, our future, the league, and our community. A positive attitude gives us power, and makes our community stronger. Lou Holtz said, "remember, everyday some ordinary person does something extraordinary. Today it's your turn." There's no such thing as failure, only lessons. Embrace the day, the week, the month. We've almost made it, ladies, and I'm so proud of all we've accomplished this year.

Blessings,  
Valerie

# SJWL General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes by: Amy Jones, Secretary

**Call to order:** Valerie James called the meeting to order at 7:04. She asked us to silence our phones, and then take a break to have refreshments. Valerie thanked hospitality for providing refreshments.

**Devotion:** April Geddings chose to do the devotion today on encouragement. 1:Thes 5-11 Paul wrote the Thessalonians a letter to remind them of their faith and their love in Christ. With this encouragement, they could continue building each other up. She asked us to take the time to recall the people who have been encouragers in our life, and to recall the last time we encouraged someone.

**President's Remarks:** Valerie James—Valerie thanked Lisa and Jenny for the March Lantern. Beth approved the March minutes and Vicki seconded. The minutes were approved as written. Correspondence- The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Gala will be on April 4 from 6-10. You can register to get tickets online. Sumter Downtown Brew Hippy Brew Fest is on May 10. The Gallery of Art is having an artist showcased Feb 28-May 21. Valerie read a letter from 1973 that was about a Canteen shift, and how hard it was to get there and get everything done. She compared this to our Wishing Well shifts and commented that it was a lot harder back then.

**Vice President:** Vicki Singleton—Vicki read the proposed by-law change again (raising paid workers' pay from \$25 to \$30) and we voted. Bronwyn motioned, and Brenda Barnes seconded. The Motion passed.

**Secretary:** Amy Jones—Active members not attending the May dinner need to regret in writing to the Secretary by May 1st.

**Treasurer:** Cindy Ardis—Balances in accounts: Administrative: \$29,800.40 Community Trust: \$14,969.40 Cindy will put out a basket at the March and April meetings for the collection of May dinner checks. All receipts need to be turned in to Cindy by May 15. She realizes we may have some later checks because of May dinner. Cindy has the check book for anyone that needs to be reimbursed. Cindy put the proposed budget on tables and went through the administrative account line by line. It went up \$690. She then went through the community trust budget line by line. Everything remains the same except Solomon's Home. They needed a monthly budget similar to Crosswell Home. We will vote on the budget next month at our April League meeting.

**Assistant Secretary:** Beth Poag—There was 1 condolence note sent for the month of February.

**Assistant Treasurer:** Cheryl Landstrom—All Dues must be received by April 1st. (Actives \$70, Sustainers \$40, Non-residents \$25)

**Admissions:** Jennifer McMahon—The Admissions Committee will meet on Thursday, March 14th at Wise Drive Baptist Church. Jennifer looks forward to sharing the results of the meeting with us at the May Dinner.

**Community Research:** Susan McGregor—All grant award letters have been mailed, and 5 of the 6 recipients have returned the agreements and were sent their checks.

**Computer:** Day Caughman—No Report.

**Wishing Well:** Julie Hobday—Julie was not able to attend the meeting. Tiffany Rodgers spoke for her. She mentioned a few Wishing Well reminders. We need to be careful when punching in the correct form of payment in the register, we only accept checks from members, and to call Julie if we need to ask her a question or write it in the notebook. We will be receiving a one-hundred-dollar bill machine to test for fake bills. It will be here soon.

**Hospitality:** Gretchen Meyers—Our annual May Dinner will be held at the O'Donnell House. The social will begin at 6:15 pm and dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$35 and due by May 1st. Those members that have been approved for Sustainer status, do not pay. Other members can pay tonight. There is a basket up front, or checks can be mailed to Cindy Ardis at 42 Calhoun Dr. Sumter, SC 29150. Checks should be made payable to SJWL with a memo noting it is for the May Dinner. For those active members who cannot attend please submit a letter to Amy Jones by May 1st as to the reason you will not be attending.

**Lantern:** Lisa Andrews—Pictures to be taken after League Meeting March 18th: Hospitality Solomon's Home Sumter Opera House

**Placement Council:** Katie Holloway Please see Katie if you need help completing your required placement hours. Hours need to be finished before the May Dinner.

**Provisional Chairman:** Stacy Montgomery—Stacy was unable to attend the meeting. Laurin Locklear spoke for Stacy. The Provisional class delivered toys to the hearing-impaired class at Millwood Elementary to complete their project. Dori Jarecki, the teacher, was very thankful and even shed a few tears of joy and excitement for her kids to come back to school the following Monday. Several of the girls brought their daughters and it was neat to be able to teach them what it means to give back to your community. We have received photos and a video of the kids seeing the toys for the first time and it was so sweet to see their excitement.

**New Business**—Julie sent in an Above and Beyond nominating Angie Gilley. She nominated her for always taking care of situations quickly and helping workers with register questions. She comes in when needed and takes care of big orders that need to be priced and put out. Angie was unable to attend the meeting, Valerie will present it to her at the April Meeting. Valerie mentioned what Above and Beyond is and who to send nominations to. Our next Board Meeting will be Monday, April 8 at 6:30 at Beth Poag's home, 1860 Vintage Ct. home with Cheryl providing refreshments. Our next General Meeting will be April 22 at 7:00 at First Baptist church and is mandatory.

**Old Business**—Lisa Andrews drew a name for a 40 percent off coupon from the Wishing Well. Missy Evans won the door prize.

**Adjournment**—Valerie adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

## Admissions

### By Jennifer McMahon

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 the new energy and ideas that this new provisional class will bring to the future of the League.

It has been an honor to serve this year along with Sarah Smith, Admissions Co-Chair, and the other dedicated women that served on the Admissions Committee. We held our first meeting in December at Wise Drive Baptist Church. Our second and final meeting was also held at Wise Drive Baptist Church on March 14th.

I would like to thank each of our committee members for their dedication and confidentiality. Committee members were Jennifer McMahon (chair), Sarah Smith (co-chair), Tiffany Davis, Whitney Dunlap, Kelly Mills, Beth Poag, Amy Stallings, Brenda Barnes, Ann-Frances Brown, Christine Kohl, Shelly Stokes, and Lauren Locklear. Sustainers serving this year were Paula Stover and Tammy Achziger, with Laura Brogdon as Sustainer Alternate.

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 to making the Admission Committee's big announcement at the May Dinner and welcoming the Provisional Class of 2019-2020



## Solomon's Home

### By Joni Walker

Solomon's Home placement is a super flexible placement that can work with any schedule. This was our first year working with the residents. We started out the year with ideas for making crafts and having parties, but as the year went on, we realized that what the residents needed most was our time. They have been so appreciative and gracious for us just "being there". This year we have celebrated birthdays and holidays, made goodie bags, created cards, played Bingo, Scattergories, trivia, and most recently Uno along with Family Feud. To date, Family Feud has been the biggest hit. Sometimes, we would just sit and talk. We learned so much about "the good old days" and really enjoyed listening to stories about Sumter from past decades. This year our members included Elizabeth Lee and Heather Smith. These women have not only been a pleasure to work with, but we have become great friends. We look forward to serving the residents of Solomon's Home in the future!



## League Legends

February 1998



*Broadcast for the Blind  
Rose Rhodes, Susan Brabham, Janice Lathan,  
Brenda Brown, Kim Harvin,  
Beth Justice, Mandi Burnette,  
Leigh Carraway, Suzann Seave*



*United Ministries  
Vivian Brogdon, (Chair), Lori Horton,  
Tammy Pannell, Sissy Bynum, Kim Galloway,  
Gail Carter, Nancy Clinkscales  
(Not pictured - Joanna Lathan)*



*Placement Council Chair & Co-Chair  
Audrey Shaw & Linda Moses*

## Mark your calendar...

**League Meeting: April 22nd, 7:00 PM, First Baptist Church**  
**\*MANDATORY\***

A group photo of all new sustainers will taken immediately after the meeting.

**Board Meeting: April 8th, 6:30 PM, at the home of Beth Poag**  
with refreshments provided by Cheryl Landstrom

Many thanks to *Meg White*  
for the beautiful artwork  
on the cover!

Please e-mail Amy Jones by **May 1st**  
if you are unable to attend the May  
Dinner. ([amyjones1002@yahoo.com](mailto:amyjones1002@yahoo.com))

Sumter Junior Welfare League  
P.O. Box 626  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151

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### Hospitality Committee By Gretchen Meyers

The Hospitality Committee is a very rewarding placement in the League. Each month we get the pleasure of serving refreshments during the meeting, while members enjoy some



fellowship among friends. The committee also plans the Provisional Tea in October and May Dinner. It has been a fun and busy year for the Hospitality Committee. It has truly been a pleasure to work with my committee members Lillie Smith (Co-Chair), Ann Cannon and Karen Timmons. Their dedication and willingness to serve have made my job an easy one.

A special thank you to Boo White for graciously opening her beautiful home to us for the Provisional Tea in October. We honored 11 young ladies while enjoying the hors d'oeuvres prepared by our caterer, Dibble Parker.

Currently, we are finalizing our plans for our annual May Dinner to be held on Monday, May 20 at the O'Donnell House. The social will begin at 6:15 pm and dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$35.00 and is due by May 1. Please contact me with any questions, or checks can be mailed to Cindy Ardis, 42 Calhoun Drive, Sumter, SC 29150. Please make plans to attend our year-end celebration!

It has been an honor to serve as the Hospitality Chair during my last year in the League. I have truly enjoyed serving in the Sumter Junior Welfare League, and I am blessed to have met so many amazing women along the way.

### Sumter Opera House By Sarah Smith

The Sumter Opera House is an iconic venue in Sumter. Home to numerous national entertainment acts, live theater, and a cinema series, there are no shortage of the ways in which the Opera House serves our community. We are honored to support the arts in Sumter County and the staff of the Sumter Opera House in this effort!

After undergoing volunteer training (which included instruction in customer service, problem solving, and role-playing difficult situations), the placement members were certified to serve as ushers for shows. Members Sterling Mitchum, Becky Craft, Shannon Boykin, and Sarah Smith enjoyed serving as ushers for summer matinee movies and evening entertainment events. In a pinch, members were also called on for baking cookies for the holiday showing of The Polar Express or assisting with laundering table linens for receptions.

The women of the Sumter Junior Welfare League are truly appreciated by the Sumter Opera House as reliable and dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all of the women of this placement, and the league at large, for the ways in which you serve the Sumter community!



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