

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

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May 2016

Something Different, Someone Special

By Leslie Day Caughman



Left to Right: **Dee Carraway, Mary Beth Mims, and Amy Moss**

Some people may see ten years worth of Wishing Well shifts, general meetings, extra hours and more “to-do”. We see something different; someone special! We see ten years of selfless giving; ten years of effort to make someone else feel loved; ten years of joining with other women to make a real difference! These three women have done just that. Dee, Mary Beth and Amy have impacted so many lives both directly and indirectly as they have graciously served. They have made friendships never forgotten, laughed and cried with us and touched our community with kindness. It is a pleasure to honor these women for their steadfast commitment to Sumter Junior Welfare League and Sumter. These special ladies are a grand example of God’s love and what SJWL means. Congratulations on your service and your “sustainership”!

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Mark your calendar...

League Meeting:

Monday, May 16th ~ May Dinner

The O'Donnell House

Social Hour ~ 6:15 p.m.

Dinner ~ 7:00 p.m.

Reminders:

- Please notify Valerie James if your phone number, address, and/or email changes over the summer at valeriepjames@yahoo.com or (803)491--5176.
- All receipts are due to Cindy Ardis by May 15th.

SJWL General Membership Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2016

Submitted by Molly Matthews

President Mary Geddings called the meeting to order at 7:03 and she thanked everyone for being there and emphasized the large amount of business that needed to be done.

Molly Matthews shared a devotion from Philippians 2 regarding our call to servanthood. She reminded us that our model is Christ who humbled himself to be a servant.

The Lantern was emailed and should have been received by all. Mary encouraged everyone to see Nancy Lee if they're not getting the Lantern.

The minutes from the March general meeting were provided through the Lantern. Valerie James made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Susan McGregor seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mary read a nice letter from a sustainer thanking her for our collective service.

Vice-President Gretchen Meyers announced that the first Board meeting for the 2016-2017 Board will be on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30 pm at her home. The new Provisional class will arrive at 7 pm. Gretchen also reminded the Board members to be prepared to pass their League notebook down by Tuesday May 24th.

Secretary Molly Matthews asked all members to check the attendance sheets to make sure their attendance record was accurate. She also explained that the member information sheets that everyone received as they came in were for the purpose of checking over and filling in any missing information or updating changes of information.

Treasurer Cindy Ardis announced the account balances: Administrative Account: \$33,611.28; Community Trust: \$30,757.63

She is collecting checks for the May dinner. Cindy also needs all receipts by May 15. Finally, she presented the budget and addressed the Museum line item as well as the Arts Showcase and then she called for a vote. Gretchen made a motion to pass the budget and Susan McGregor seconded. The budget passed.

Assistant Secretary Valerie James announced that 5 notes were written.

Assistant Treasurer Susan McGregor announced that dues are now past due and need to be paid immediately in the amount of \$80.

Admissions Chair Janelle Smith handed out an optional healthcare survey at each table for members to complete.

Community Research Chair Nancy Branham announced that all checked have been mailed to grant recipients.

Computer Chair Nancy Lee announced that FTC is still having issues and she asked everyone to check her lists to see if there email was correct.

Gift Shop Chair Gretchen Meyers announced that the Wishing Well inventory will be conducted on Tuesday, May 31st at 6:00 pm. She explained that if you are a member of the WW committee, Food or Gifts, you will need to be present for the inventory. If anyone is unable to attend she needs to contact Gretchen to make other arrangements for counting.

Hospitality Chair Amy Moss announced that the May Dinner will be May 16th at the O'Donnell House. She also announced the cost would be \$35 and we are collecting those checks. 6:15 is the social hour and 7 pm will be dinner.

Lantern Editor Bronwyn McElveen had no report.

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Something Different; Someone Special

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Dee Carraway reflects on her service for the League warmly. She recalls an amazing moment from United Ministries, “one day at UM, I had to interview a man who was broken physically and spiritually. He was a 30 year old veteran who was in a wheel chair, since he was 19, due to injuries from an explosion, while fighting for our country. He was also unsure of his religion, as he wrote that he was Islamic and Christian on his intake sheet. I knew that this man had a lot going on in his life. I knew that I wanted to help him with his crisis needs, but I was unsure how I was going to address his spiritual needs. He was truly broken spiritually, as he was unsure if he would go to heaven, because of the things he had to do during combat. However, God allowed a door to open and let me share Jesus’ sacrifice to forgive us of our sins, to spend eternity in heaven with Him. At the end of the interview, he asked for a bible!” While she has enjoyed serving as Placement Council Chair, Assistant Treasurer (twice) and Treasurer (twice) she will most treasure her placement and chair role at United Ministries because UM is a wonderful organization that helps our community in many ways. “I felt like I was doing more than just helping my community. I was also serving our Lord. ‘...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40. Dee would like to continue to volunteer for UM, and she is excited to see her children’s new chapter in their lives as they go to college in 2016 and 2018. She hopes to be visiting them with brownies and cookies in hand. She also looks forward to spending more time with her “sustainer” friends. She leaves provisional members with advice to “follow your heart and do what you love to do for the community. Get involved with the League’s Board and have fun”. Dee is thankful for the relationships that were forged and the opportunities to work alongside likeminded women of the League.

Mary Beth Mims is a devoted SJWL member serving many placements including Broadcast for the Blind for two years, United Ministries B, Wishing Well Food committee for two years, Puppets for three years and United Ministries. Her favorite placement is puppets because the schedule worked really well for her, and she enjoyed working with and bonding with the other puppetries during “puppet season”. Mary Beth loved performing for the classes and hearing their reactions during the show. Mary Beth will always remember the first class that came to her first puppet show. They loved the show, and she feels it made it so worth all the practice. She will never forget all the laughs behind the puppet curtains “when things don’t always go just right, but the show must go on and we hold in our laughter”. Another funny memory she recalls was from working a shift at the Wishing Well when two doctors stood in the middle of the store talking and one even set a plate of food on the shelf and ate standing in the Wishing Well over 30 minutes. Mary Beth offers great advice to provisional members to “always see the good in what you are doing; enjoy it and hang in there when it seems like too much. You will go through seasons when life seems overwhelming as a whole and the League may get the blame, but everything you are doing is for a great cause and before you know it someone will be telling you your 10 years are over as Mary Geddings informed me. I could’ve sworn I had one more year!” Mary Beth is most thankful for the fellowship she had with other women she may not had gotten to know otherwise. She is overwhelmingly thankful she had the opportunity to serve through this great organization.

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Amy Moss looks forward to extra quality time with family and friends now that her active League years are over, but she has greatly enjoyed her service. She has held many placements including Wishing Well Gift Committee for two years, Museum Tours for two years, Wishing Well Co-buyer and Buyer, Hospitality and Hospitality Chair for two years. Her favorite placement has been her service as Hospitality Committee and Chair because “it was fun to try new recipes and plan for events and meetings”. She will never forget being able to comfort a customer in the Wishing Well who had just received bad news about a loved one. She recalls making a difference as “the customer was so grateful for my prayers”. Amy knowingly advises provisional members and us all “to enjoy every moment serving, knowing that you are making a difference”. She is most thankful for friendships she has made with other League members.

These women are truly special both in service and spirit. Thank you for each of your ten years worth of making a difference and being a part of the Sumter Junior Welfare League. We appreciate all you have done and wish you blessings as you continue to make a difference!

Condolences

The SJWL extends our most sincere condolences to....

....sustainers

Sandy Noonan, Laurie Merchant, and Kathleen Noonan on the passing of Bill Noonan, a beloved husband, father and father-in-law.

.... active, Tiffany Davis, on the passing of her father in law.

Happy Mother's Day!

*For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.*

-Psalm 139: 13-14



A Special Welcome to Our Newest Actives

By Lisa Andrews, Provisional Chair

From our first meeting at the home of Mrs. Dee Carraway, I knew we had an extra special group of ladies for the 2015-2016 Provisional Class. We have twenty-one amazing women, whom all bring unique gifts to the Sumter Junior Welfare League. I had an amazing year working alongside my Co-Chair Mrs. Rebecca Brogdon. She will be a blessing to the next year's Provisional Class. The Provisionals were honored to be welcomed into the beautiful home of Mrs. Jackie Olsen for the League Tea in October. We met monthly to learn about the history of the League, future placements and the Wishing Well.

For their Provisional Project, they chose to assist the Sumter Pregnancy Center in the remodeling of their new office. The Provisional members spent the majority of their time priming and painting eight rooms and fundraising for renovations. They raised \$1,433 which was spent on two bathroom vanities, faucets, toilets, mirrors, toilet paper holders, artwork and door handles. We would like to thank all members and sustainers who contributed funds to help with this project. We couldn't have done it without your support.

It has been an honor to work alongside these Provisional Members. This class truly has a heart for Sumter and for giving back to their community. I am so proud of all they have accomplished this year! Congratulations to our newest active members:

Mrs. Amanda Boykin, Mrs. Lindsey Bozeman, Mrs. Heather Cromer, Mrs. Marissa Deakin, Mrs. Angie Gilley, Mrs. Kristine Hinson, Mrs. Sherri Kennedy, Miss Shelley Kile, Mrs. Jenny Knopf, Mrs. Christine Kohl, Mrs. Candi Payne, Mrs. Stacy Montgomery, Mrs. Tina Patterson, Mrs. Keonna Porter, Mrs. Meighan Price, Mrs. Tiffany Rodgers, Mrs. Deanna Smith, Mrs. Heather Smith, Mrs. Joni Walker and Mrs. Meg White.



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Placement Council Chair Cheryl Landstrom announced that it is time for everyone to complete their hours and offered ways to get those hours. She was happy to report that so far this year 925 hours had been volunteered in our community. Cheryl announced that placement chair notebooks need to go to Nancy Branham at the May Dinner. She also announced that Feed my Starving Children is coming up and would be another way for members to make up hours they may need to complete their placement.

Provisional Chair Lisa Andrews had no report. Sustainer Representative Jackie Olsen had no report.

Old Business: Mary announced a 40 percent off coupon for one lucky winner. Anna Elmore reminded everyone about the Cooking for Babies event.

New Business: Placement Cards: Nancy Branham explained how to fill out placement cards.

Wishing Well Cards: Hayes Jones directed everyone on how to fill out their Wishing Well cards.

Mary announced that our next meeting would be the May dinner on May 16th and she thanked everyone for a wonderful League year and working together as a team. Mary adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Parting Words from *The Lantern* Editor ~Bronwyn McElveen

It is bittersweet for me that my time working on *The Lantern* is coming to an end. Being part of *The Lantern* has allowed me to stay connected to the happenings of The League, as well as the happenings in the lives of its many members. Serving on the League board also gave me an inside look at how this wonderful organization works. This insight only strengthened my love for The League and my desire to serve my community through The League.

A huge thank you to Nancy Lee Zimpleman and Leslie Day Caughman (Co-editor) for carefully proofing *The Lantern* each month. I would also like to thank Mary for affording me the opportunity to serve on the board. It was a pleasure serving under her leadership. I wish Leslie Day much luck as she takes over this great publication. It has truly been a pleasure serving as editor of *The Lantern*. I look forward to my next adventures within The League.



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