

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 85 - Number 8

May 2025

*The Sumter Junior Welfare League requests
the pleasure of your company at the May Dinner
as we commemorate the 2024-2025 year.*



*Monday, the nineteenth of May
The O'Donnell House
Social Hour 6:15 PM
Dinner 7:00 PM*

Congratulations to our newest Sustaining members!

We extend the utmost gratitude to these ladies for ten years of service.

The following ladies have served the Sumter Community through the Sumter Junior Welfare League in many capacities for the past ten years. We thank them for their service, hard work and dedication. We will miss them, dearly.



Christine Kohl dedicated her League years to the Wishing Well in numerous roles. From the moment Christine was placed in the Wishing Well her first year, she found her niche and never looked back. Her journey through the roles of Co-Buyer, Buyer, Co-Chair, and Chair allowed her to fully immerse herself in the heart of the League, building lasting relationships and a strong connection to the community. Now, she looks forward to a little extra breathing room in between the busy schedules of her two daughters. Her advice is as heartfelt as it is wise: "Some days will seem like they drag on forever, but the years will fly by!" On the long days, don't lose sight of the blessing that you and the League are to this Sumter community! As an organization solely formed by volunteers, always

remember that there are people counting on you to show up and give it your all in your placements and yes, even the shifts at the Wishing Well! My hope is that, one day, we will all look back and realize that our time in the League blessed us as much as we were a blessing to others!" One of her fondest memories remains the market trips for the Wishing Well—filled with exhaustion and laughter that still brings a smile to her face.

Jenny Knopf's League journey took her through a variety of impactful roles, from Editor of the Lantern to President. She reflects fondly on her presidential term, where she truly grasped the depth of the League's purpose and was supported by a phenomenal Board. With her newfound free time, she hopes to hit the tennis courts. Her advice is simple yet profound: shift your mindset from "I have to" to "I get to"—because time in the League is fleeting and full of meaning. One unforgettable (and unplanned) moment? A trust fall at a general meeting, thanks to Mary Beth Skey, that still brings a laugh.



Joni Walker took on a variety of impactful placements throughout her time in the League, including extra Wishing Well shifts, the Food & Gifts committee, and chairing both the Sumter Opera House and Crosswell Children's Home. However, it was Solomon's Home that held her heart—she felt a special connection with the residents there, calling them "her people." As she steps away from the League, Joni plans to continue pursuing her nursing degree, channeling her passion for care into an even broader purpose. She reflects on her decade of service with gratitude, recognizing it as one of the most rewarding chapters of her life. Her advice to current and future members is a reminder of the unexpected blessings that come from service: though ten years may sound long, the growth, friendships, and opportunity to help others make every moment meaningful. One of her most

treasured memories is painting the Crisis Pregnancy Center—a project that not only served the community but also helped form deep bonds with the women who would become her companions through the years ahead.



Stacy Montgomery's League journey was filled with many roles, including serving as Vice President and President. She's especially proud of helping create "Deck the Doors" during the pandemic—a new tradition born from a challenging time. Looking ahead, she hopes to enjoy more family time and travel. Her advice is to stick with it—ten years goes by faster than you think, and it brings friendships and growth you wouldn't expect. Serving as League President while also PTO President at Wilson Hall was no small feat, but she treasures the trust placed in her and the joy of fully experiencing League life.

Heather Smith's League placements took her to many corners of the community, serving the Sumter Pregnancy Center, United Ministries, Solomon's Home, and the Wishing Well Committee, but it was her time with the Sumter Opera House that stood out. The connection to people and the vibrant cultural experiences left a lasting impact. With more time now, she'll be cheering on her son, Greyson, from the stands of his baseball games. Her encouragement to others is to embrace the opportunities the League offers—you never know whose life you'll touch, including your own. The friendships she's formed along the way are memories she'll always carry with her.



Angie Gilley found her place in the Wishing Well Gift Committee and as a Food Buyer, where her favorite placement gave her the joy of contributing thoughtfully behind the scenes. As she steps away, she'll continue giving back through concession work at Wilson Hall and creating family memories through travel. Her advice encourages ongoing involvement in the Wishing Well, where she's seen firsthand how a small touch—like a bouquet of flowers—can brighten a hospital room and a patient's day.

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For **Lindsey Bozeman**, every placement—whether at Camp Scamp or the Wishing Well—was an opportunity to serve others through faith and compassion. She found purpose in praying with and comforting others in vulnerable moments. While she plans to continue supporting League members and the community, she hopes others will step out of their comfort zones—because those steps often lead to the greatest blessings. Her favorite memories aren't easily narrowed down but are woven through acts of kindness, prayers, and shared emotion.



Tiffany Rodgers embraced a wide range of placements during her tenure with the League, but her favorite was serving as Business Manager, where she found joy in the rhythm of organizing and managing the Wishing Well's financials. Now, she's looking forward to joining her church's ladies Bible study and hopes to volunteer with Make-A-Wish. Her advice for Provisionals and League Members encourages openness to every opportunity—sometimes the unexpected placements are the most transformative. She noted, "God works behind the scenes in so many ways and He may be grooming you for a position that could change your life!" A particularly moving memory was the support she received during her son's cancer diagnosis; the kindness and unity of the Board left a lasting mark. Her decade with the League has been filled with gratitude, growth, and enduring friendships.

Meighan Price's years in the League were rich with involvement, particularly in the Wishing Well Food and Gift Committee. She fondly compares unpacking items to Christmas morning—each box a mystery and a joy. Stepping back now, she'll be courtside and field-side cheering on her boys, savoring every moment of their growth. Her encouragement to others? Stay committed, even when time feels stretched thin. The friendships and bonds formed through the League are priceless. For her, the Wishing Well was the heart of it all.



Deanna Smith's heart for service shone in her years of dedication to United Ministries, a placement that allowed her to see the real impact of the League's mission. She continued to lead in that role for three consecutive years, fostering deep bonds and meaningful community work. With more free time, she plans to stay active in volunteering, enjoy long walks, and soak in more family time. Her message is clear: cherish the memories and friendships—their value endures. One particularly touching moment at the Wishing Well reminded her how a simple act of kindness can be a lifeline for someone else.

Marissa Deakin has contributed her time and talents to several placements during her time with the League, including the Sumter Art Gallery, Sumter Little Theatre, and the Opera House. Of these, the Sumter Art Gallery held a special place in her heart, where she found joy and connection through her volunteer work. Though she is stepping away from the League, Marissa plans to continue supporting the Art Gallery, channeling her passion into ongoing community service. Her advice to Provisionals and fellow members is to be adventurous when selecting placements—sometimes the most unexpected opportunities lead to the most meaningful connections and impact within the Sumter community. One of Marissa's fondest memories is helping visitors find the perfect gift at the Wishing Well, a moment that beautifully captures her warmth and spirit of service.



*Thank you, ladies, for your dedication to serving your community!
On behalf of the Sumter Junior Welfare League, we extend the utmost gratitude to you all
for ten years of service.*

SUMTER JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE

Board Meeting Minutes by: Larsen Cline, Secretary

Date: April 7, 2025

Email: sjwlsecretary@gmail.com

Time: 6:30 pm

Phone: 803-847-8929

Location: First Baptist Church

Jenny called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Devotion: Jessica Fralick

Jesus promises rest for our soul and eases our emotional exhaustion. Prayer for spiritual and emotional rest.

REPORTS

President's Remarks: Jenny Knopf

None

Vice President: Jessica Fralick

No Report

Secretary: Larsen Cline

Regrets for May dinner needs to be in writing to Larsen - one regret due to maternity leave

Treasurer: Susan Donohoo

Received counterfeit bill and wanted to make the board aware. Possibly found an accountant we may switch to.

Assistant Secretary: Brenley Davis

Notes sent to the hosts of our March meeting - Silver Paper and Lollibear. Two condolence notes - Kim Johnston(sustainer) and Hillary Griffin for the loss of their grandmothers. Katherine Schwartz is giving the devotion at our next general meeting. Thank you to Morganne and Whitney for providing refreshments and to Mary Kathryn for hosting. Our next meeting will be held at Jenny Knopf's home and she will provide refreshments.

Assistant Treasurer: Whitney Brown

Received 2 thank you notes from Sumter Little Theater and Sumter United Ministries. \$13,820 received for dues and May Dinner

Admissions: Anna James

No Report

Community Research: Hillary Griffin

No Report- Letters and checks will be going out soon.

Communications Chairman: Morganne Anderson

Sent sustainer questionnaire. Suggestion to go down to 6 issues of the lantern.

Wishing Well: Jackie Hicks

No report

Fundraiser: Lauren Pritchard

No Report

Hospitality: Stacy Montgomery

May dinner will be Monday, May 19th at the O'Donnell house. May dinner fees (\$50) can be paid at the general meeting and the deadline is May 1st. Members going sustainer don't have to pay.

Placement Council: Mollie Oswald

All tracking well, Katie is starting to place with VP's guidance. Cards will be filled out next meeting. Sumter Little Theatre/Opera House/Gallery of Art will be combined for placement next year.

Provisional Chairman: Mary Kathryn Hulme

Provisionals to meet at Mary Kathryn's, Mid April. All took their test but 4.

Sustainer Representative: Susan Hilton

No Report

BUSINESS

New Business: Jenny will let us know where our meeting will be next month for our last May meeting.

Old Business: No old business

Adjournment:

Jenny adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

The Communications Staff:

Chair: Morganne Anderson, morgtindal@gmail.com; 803-968-9785
Co-Chair: Caroline Rogerson; rccubbage@gmail.com; 803-323-7368

A note from our Sustainer Representative, Susan Hilton



Watching you in action this year has been inspiring and reassuring. Your commitment to making the Sumter community strong, vibrant and caring is extraordinary. There is no other organization in Sumter whose service opportunities reach the diverse aspects of living well as the League. I am so proud of you!

I encourage you to see your years in the League as a mission field. God has given each of you spiritual gifts. Ask yourself how you can best use yours in the League. Find the placement or leadership position that will allow you to be a blessing with your gifts. Be bold and courageous!

I am grateful to the awesome Jenny Knopf for giving me the opportunity to, once again, be an active part of the work of the League. I marvel over what has been accomplished this year, the leadership skills you all bring to the cause, and the camaraderie you strive to build. This will go down as one of the most favorite years of my life.

God's continued blessings on the work of the League is my prayer for our amazing organization. I pray, too, for each of you to feel the peace that passes all understanding as you navigate the beautiful, busy, and sometimes messy! days of your life. Much love to all of you.

Communications Committee by Morganne Anderson

On behalf of the 2024-2025 Communications Committee, thank you to all those that have contributed to publications in The Lantern. And, a special thank you to my committee members Caroline Rogerson and Ariel Wilkie.

It is a pleasure to feature the work SJWL is doing in the Sumter community. Duties of the Communications Chair are mainly done behind the scenes, yet are necessary for the overall success of the League.

Responsibilities include creating and distributing the monthly newsletter that goes out to members and friends of the League called "The Lantern," updating member/sustainer contact information for the League email database and ensuring all incoming emails are managed and/or sent to the appropriate committee. The Communications Chair works closely with the

League President, Secretary, and Placement Chairs, sending necessary emails and other correspondences to our members. The Communications

Committee also oversees all social media outlets that the League uses (currently, Facebook and Instagram) and has recently begun moving the archive to a digital database. Record keeping and maintaining member information is essential in order to ensure the League continues to thrive as a community of women with a servant's heart.



Congratulations to our newest *active* members on the completion of their provisional year!

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

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Congratulations

The Sumter Junior Welfare League congratulates Katie LeBlanc, on the birth of her daughter, Olivia "Liv" Grace LeBlanc & Amelia Abercrombie, on the birth of her son, Huntley Crenshaw Abercrombie

Condolences

The Sumter Junior Welfare League sends its sincerest condolences to Christine Kohl on the passing of her grandmother.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Board Meeting:

May 12th at 6:30PM
At the home of Jenny Knopf

May Dinner:

May 19th at The O'Donnell House
Social at 6:15PM, Banquet at 7:00PM

Contact Information

Send any updates for contact information including email, address, phone, or name changes to Larsen Cline at sjwsecretary@gmail.com