

# The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 77 - Number 6

March 2015

## *Congratulations to the newly appointed League leaders!*

### OFFICERS:

Vice President ~ Gretchen Meyers  
Assistant Secretary ~ Valerie James  
Assistant Treasurer ~ Susan McGregor

### Admissions Committee:

Rebecca Brogdon  
Ann Cannon  
Meg Hill  
Anna Moorman  
Alternates: Julie Hobday and Karen Timmons

## Dates to remember...

### League Meeting:

March 16, 7:00 PM, First Baptist Church

### Board Meeting:

**Monday**, April 13th, at 6:30 PM at the Home of Molly Matthews with Valerie James providing refreshments

### Provisionals:

April 27, 6:30 PM at the home of Valerie James

### May Dinner:

May 11, The O'Donnell House  
Social Hour at 6:15; Dinner at 7:00 \$35  
Send Payment to Dee Carraway at  
845 Andiron Dr. Sumter, 29150

### *Don't forget your dues!! April 1 to Cindy Ardis*

Dues may be paid at the March General meeting, or you may mail your dues to 42 Calhoun Dr., Sumter, 29150

## Community Research Committee

### By: Dibble Parker

It has been a true pleasure to serve as Community Research Placement Chair. This job has helped me see the great and legitimate need in our community for more giving and more serving. I have had the honor of soliciting and receiving grant requests and distributing grant monies on behalf of the league. Let me encourage all of us in our volunteering through placements and the Wishing Well. It is genuinely needed and appreciated by our community at large. We received grant requests for over \$19,000 and we had \$11,500 to give. Let us be motivated by that differential to want to do more? We awarded grants to the following organizations.

Advocacy Pregnancy Center  
American Red Cross  
Ebenezer Middle School-Tiger Band  
National Wild Turkey Federation-JAKES youth event-outdoor safety/education  
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club  
Sounds of Grace  
Sumter Area Backpack Program  
Sumter Civic Dance Company  
Sumter Family Health  
Young Life Sumter



Thank you to everyone in the League for your hard work and dedication. It is a privilege to be able to help so many deserving people and organizations.

## SJWL General Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2015

President Suzanne Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Elizabeth Hyatt shared the devotion from Matthew 5:3-“Blessed are the poor in spirit.” She reminded us all that it is when we feel inadequate and weak that Jesus fills and satisfies us and therein we are truly blessed.

Suzanne introduced the guest speaker, Mike Schwartz, interim CEO of Tuomey Hospital since December of 2013. Schwartz spoke about the upcoming merger of Tuomey Hospital with Palmetto Medical System out of Columbia. He explained that there were several things that had to happen for the merger to go through which included a favorable verdict in the court case. He assured the League that Tuomey’s primary objective is remaining to be a positive and viable part of the Sumter community, and he also emphasized that the hospital’s biggest asset is the positive morale of its people.

The Lantern was emailed and should have been received by all. Everyone attending appeared to have received their copy.

The minutes from the January general meeting were provided through the Lantern. Dibble Parker made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Mary Geddings seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Suzanne shared that she received a nice thank you note from Mark Champagne of United Ministries for the League’s recent donation.

Vice-President Mary Geddings passed out Interest indicators for placements and asked members to turn them in.

Secretary Meg Hill was sick and had no report.

Assistant Secretary Molly Matthews announced that one condolence note was sent.

Treasurer Dee Carraway reported that her committee met on January 14 and the budget will be presented at next month’s meeting.

Assistant Treasurer Cindy Ardis announced that dues were due for all actives, sustainers, and nonresident members by April 1. Actives-\$70, Sustainers-\$40, Non-resident-\$25

Admissions Chair Susie Herlong reported that her committee will meet again March 2 at Tuomey, Conference Room 2. If you proposed someone, you’ll be called on for that day.

Community Research Chair Dibble Parker announced her committee’s grant proposals. They are as follows:

Salvation Army Boys and girls Club	\$1600
Sounds of Grace	\$1000
Advocacy Pregnancy Center	\$1200
Ebenezer Middle School Tiger Band	\$1400
Young Life of Sumter	\$1200
Sumter Civic Dance Company	\$1200
Sumter Area Backpack Program	\$1300
American Red Cross	\$1100
Sumter Family Health Center	\$500
National Wild Turkey Federation	\$1000

Gretchen Meyers made a motion to approve the grant proposals and Mary Geddings seconded it.

Computer Chair Nancy Lee Zimpleman had no report.

Gift Shop Chair Gretchen Meyers reminded workers of the last shift to put the money bag for the day in the second drawer of the large filing cabinet. She also asked that only members of the Gift Shop committee check items in as it can lead to confusion when others do.

Hospitality Chair Amy Moss announced that the May Dinner will be May 11 at the O’Donnell House and the cost is \$35.

Lantern Editor Kelly Mills announced whose pictures were to be taken and whose articles were due next month.

Placement Council Chair Vicki Singleton announced that placement descriptions had been placed on the tables for everyone to look over. An email will also be sent describing each placement. She asked everyone to be considering what they would like their placement to be as we will submit our requests in April.

Provisional Chair Valerie James introduced provisional member Ashley Scott to talk about the Provisional Class project. Ashley described their plans to improve and renovate the Wishing Well with new flooring and paint. The renovation is planned for March 13, and they passed around a bucket accepting donations for supplies. Gretchen also asked that if anyone has time to spare on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> they could use as much help as possible to get the Wishing Well back in shape.

Sustainer Representative Gayle Booth had no report.

Cheryl Landstrom announced the “Above and Beyond” award for Suzanne Palmer in recognition of all the extra Wishing Well shifts she has taken on and for Gretchen Meyers in recognition of all the extra work she has put in with the Provisional Class and their project.

Old Business: Michelle Duvall asked, in light of the uncertainty of the Tuomey situation, should we move forward with the renovations. Suzanne explained that we would not move forward unless there was greater certainty that the SJWL would maintain the use of the Wishing Well.

New Business: Molly Matthews passed out election ballots and eligibility lists. After a number of members removed their names from the lists, the ballots were cast.

The next board meeting will be March 9, and the next general meeting will be March 16.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly S. Matthews for Meg Hill

### Provisional Project!!!

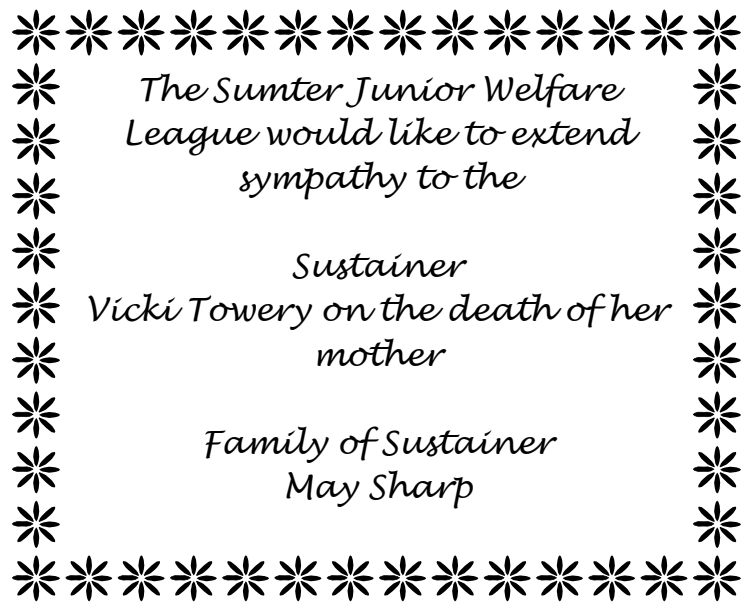
The 2014-2015 Provisional Class would like to thank the SJWL for their \$542 donation at last months General Meeting. Thank you so much for your support towards the renovations of The Wishing Well! Donations will continue to be accepted through March and April. Checks can be mailed to:

Lauren Locklear

2960 Tara Dr.

Sumter, SC 29150

Also we are collecting donated paint supplies (rollers, brushes, etc.) as well as large cardboard boxes. Please contact Lauren or Ashley Scott regarding donations. We will gladly come to you to pick up any supplies!



### Crosswell Home

#### Karen Timmons

“Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.” – C.S. Lewis  
In our busy lives it is easy to be distracted by our lists of responsibilities and forget how important it is to stop and be thankful for our many blessings. The children at John K. Crosswell Children’s Home are that blessing for us. They eagerly await our visits and welcome us with tight hugs in the baby cottages and big smiles from the teenagers. They appreciate when we are there for fun activities like parties and even when we come to help with homework. They remind us that it is in these little things that we find our true blessings, as time spent with each of them is precious. We have the opportunity to make a difference in their lives with our visits but we are the ones who leave with a smile on our face and a lightness in a heart from spending time with children who only want our time, attention and love.  
Nancy Branham, Elyn Croft, Bronwyn McElveen, Lillie Smith, Melissa Timmons and I have all had the wonderful opportunity to spend time with the children this year. We began the year with an ice cream social at the pool so that our new volunteers would have the chance to meet all of the children. We participated in an orientation so that we could provide the most beneficial help for Crosswell . We then chose cottages to adopt so that we could each spend more of our time at that particular cottage to develop deeper relationships with the children. We spent time spent playing and

reading with the small children, helping with homework and hanging out with the older boys and girls, and attending birthday parties for all of the children. We even had a volunteer chaperone for a trip to the State Fair. We had the opportunity to participate in Trick-or-Treating on and off campus at Halloween. We had a Christmas party for the children to make ornaments to decorate their Christmas tree in the Dining Room and celebrated the birth of Jesus with a birthday cake and singing “Happy Birthday”. In the spring, we are planning an end of the school year party at Gamecock on Wheels where we will skate, eat pizza and enjoy our time together.

We have all had a wonderful year at Crosswell Children’s Home and will carry those special memories of smiles, hugs and unconditional love with us to remind us that it is in giving of ourselves that we will truly be blessed.



### Vice-President's Report

By Mary Geddings

I do not have any proposed By-Law changes to share with you this year, but I would like to take this opportunity to say that I feel blessed to be part of the Sumter Junior Welfare League and associated with such outstanding women.

I have enjoyed serving on the Board this year.

Working with our current President, Suzanne Palmer, was a delightful experience.

I look forward to serving as the President next year.



Sumter Junior Welfare League  
P.O. Box 626  
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Placement Council  
By Vicki Singleton

Placement Council is the Sumter Junior Welfare League committee that oversees the volunteer hours of the League members within the community. Placement Council consists of a Chair, co-chair, the chairs of each individual placement, the President and Vice-President of the League, the Community Research chair, the Wishing Well chair, and the Wishing Well scheduler. The Placement council meets four times a year to make sure that each placement is running smoothly and is fulfilling the League's community service obligations. Each January, the Placement Council members are asked to reflect on their placement, provide suggestions as well as information on their placement to help the board decide whether or not to continue these placements. In April, Cheryl Landstrom, the Placement Council co-chair will present the placement selections for the next year and the members will have the opportunity to sign up. Also in April, the Placement Council co-chair will be using information from the interest indicators that each member completed to select chairs for these placements. If you are approached, please prayerfully consider taking this leadership role. Thank you to Cheryl Landstrom for serving as co-chair, and thank you to each member who has chaired a placement this year. We have had a great year and placements have run smoothly due to your leadership. Also, thank you to each League member for your willingness to serve and for fulfilling your obligations. Placement Council is nearing completion of another successful year serving our community.



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