

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 79- Number 4

January 2017

Happy New Year!



May God be with you through this year, and fill your life with blessings, comfort, love and joy!

Mark your calendars...

League Meeting: January 23, 2017, 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church

Board Meeting: January 9, 2017, 6:30 PM
At First Baptist Church
Hostesses: Nancy Branham and
Rebecca Montague
With Provisionals

February 13, 2017; 6:30 PM
Hostess: Vicki Singleton
Refreshments: Lisa Burke

Provisionals: January 9, 2017, 7:00 PM
at First Baptist Church
With the SJWL Board Meeting

February 20, 2017 7PM
At First Baptist Church

Lantern Deadline: January 20, 2017
Crosswell Home, Sumter Little Theatre,
Sumter Gallery of Art

League Meeting: February 20, 2017, 7:00PM
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 21, 2016

President Gretchen Meyers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Bronwyn McElveen read a devotion titled "Sweet Potato Times". It was about being thankful in the light of adversity. Situations can make us feel angry, frustrated, and selfish. We need to find our thankfulness despite negative events. Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...". Times change. We need to remember to be thankful for the small things in life. Joyfully give thanks for our food, our families, and for our God.

Gretchen reminded everyone to sign in and introduced the guest speaker, **Jenny Dailey**. Mrs. Dailey spoke about personal safety and concealed weapons permit information. Your personal safety matters. The most important aspect to our safety is our awareness. Don't allow yourself to be vulnerable. Watch surroundings. Be aware. Limit distractions. Put phone down. Trust your gut. If you have car trouble, do not get into anyone's vehicle. Stay put and call for help. Be cautious on social media. Don't put everything out there. Do not make yourself an open target. Obtaining a Concealed Weapons Permit is another option for your safety. Jenny offers a one-day class. The class is divided into parts: a written portion to learn the safety procedures, laws, and to answer questions. A fingerprinting, paperwork portion, and finally a shooting range portion. Once the class is taken, you should receive your permit within 90 days. CWP's allow you to control your safety. If interested in a CWP class, please contact Gretchen Meyers for more information.

The Lantern was emailed and should have been received by all.

Vice President, Molly Matthews had no report.

Secretary Valerie James reported Sustainer letters & change of status letters are due by February 1. Any new updates/changes to your information need to be submitted to me in writing (text/email). She has JL directories available if you still haven't picked one up. She put Directory Member Update slips on the tables for corrections to the SJWL books. Please update your books/contact information.

Treasurer, Susan McGregor reported the Community Trust Account balance is \$33,189.72 and the Administrative Account balance is \$27,639.13. Susan reported \$4,250.00 was distributed in October to the Community Trust donation recipients. All budget request forms have been distributed and need to be returned by Dec. 31st.

Assistant Secretary Sarah Smith announced she wrote two condolences & one birth note to provisional Jenna Brown, who had a daughter. Email/Text her if you know of any additional notes required. Next Board Meeting is: January 9th at 1st Baptist Church with the provisionals. Nancy Branham & Rebecca Montague will be providing refreshments.

Assistant Treasurer, Nancy Branham announces the Salvation Army kettle is being passed tonight. Cash and/or checks (made payable to Salvation Army) are acceptable.

Admissions Chair, Elyn Croft announced she is still accepting applications until Dec. 1st. Contact Elyn for details. Next meeting for the committee is Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30pm.

Community Research Chair, Vicki Singleton has received eight grant applications and five placement requests. All look promising. More information to come at the January General Meeting.

Computer Chair, Lisa Burke had no report.

Wishing Well Chair, Whitney Dunlap reported, "Thank you to all who came to help set up the Wishing Well for Christmas. A special thank you to: Alexis Rowe, Brenda Barnes, & Ashley Melton. If you need to make a void during your shift, please follow the directions on the void card by the register. Also, please limit phone use during shift.

Shannon Boykin, Bookkeeper announced effective Sunday, employees will have new badges. Use the reader on top of the machine, not the side reader. Place photo to outside, then swipe. Please bear with us & be patient through the changes. Call Shannon Boykin, if needed, at any time during your shift.

Hospitality Chair, Ann Cannon reported Tea was a great success. Thank you to Mary, Karen, & Elizabeth. Ann Kolb was a gracious host. Twenty-five provisionals were honored & we had 130 in attendance. The O'Donnell House has been reserved for the May dinner on Mon., May 15th.

Leslie Day Caughman, Lantern Editor announced November Lantern has been sent, mailed, and emailed. Deadline for the January Lantern is December 16th. Articles needed from Welfare & Emergency Aid, United Ministries, & Get Real About Violence. Pictures immediately following meeting.

Placement Council Chair, Nancy Branham reported the last placement council meeting was held last week. Placements are moving along smoothly. Next meeting is Jan. 3, 2017 (mandatory). Recommendation reports due at this time. Behind on hours? Call your chair.

Rebecca Montague, Provisional Chairman reports the provisional members have chosen Sumter Mission Outreach as their project. More information will be forthcoming. Reminder: the provisional meeting is tonight, immediately following the general meeting, at the Wishing Well. Next meeting Jan. 9th.

Sustainer Representative, Angie Sistare had no report.

New business: Door Prize for the Wishing Well went to **Darla Dean**. **Rebecca Montague** announced Above & Beyond was awarded to **Julie Hobday** for stepping up to help when Whitney had pink eye & couldn't do the puppet show. Thank you, Julie Hobday for going Above & Beyond!

No old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Valerie James, SJWL Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are planning on going semi-active or sustainer for the next year, please submit a letter to Valerie James before February 1, 2017.

Welfare & Emergency Aid Lantern Article

By: Nancy Branham



The Welfare and Emergency Aid committee consists of 2 members-Vice President Molly Matthews and Assistant Treasurer, Nancy Branham. At the beginning of each school year, we establish an account at K-Mart to be used by nurses in Sumter School District to purchase necessities for needy students. We have \$1400 available which is greatly needed and appreciated by the schools.

Our committee also has a discretionary \$450 in our budget as a crisis fund. It can be used as needed to help with crisis relief in our county.

Our committee is also in charge of the Salvation Army donation. We pass around a kettle at our November general meeting. All funds collected go directly to The Salvation Army. This year, we donated \$765.88. This is an increase from last year's total of \$515.38. Great job, ladies!



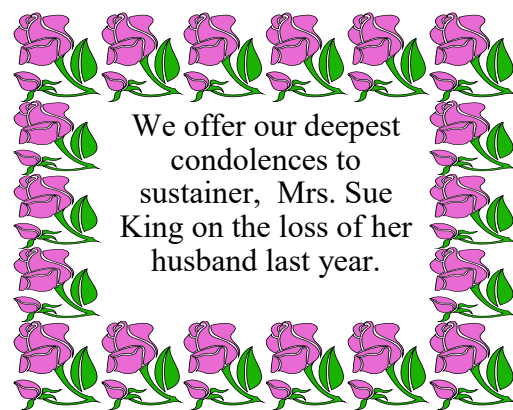
United Ministries

By Beth Poag

Gear up for Learning. Ocktoberfest. Lighthouse Grill. Help an Angel Fly. Thanksgiving boxes. Christmas dinners. These are just the beginning of the projects that the United Ministries team for SJWL have participated in. From serving food to coloring angels to writing notes, from inputting data to sitting with those in need and really helping them sort through their finances in order to make their obligations, the team at United Ministries goes the extra mile to give each person a fighting chance to stay on their feet and maintain their financial independence. Via Samaritan House, those with no place to stay are welcomed and fed by many churches in town. United Ministries is committed to those in need in this community at this time. Throughout the year, UM also assists in home repairs and upgrading to maintain appropriate codes for homes, and are still assisting those in our community in recovering from the flooding, and further damage from Hurricane Matthew.

With the addition of the new medical clinic last year, United Ministries entered into a new, very special ministry in Sumter County. Those without medical insurance or the ability to pay for medical treatment can come to United Ministries on Tuesday nights from 6:00 until 8:00 and receive free medical care. This care is provided by the hearts and hands of local doctors with the sole purpose of giving the gift of health.

Your United Ministries Team includes Anna Dilts, Michelle Duvall, Missy Coulter, Jennifer Smith, Deanna Smith, Nancy Lee Zimpleman, Hayes Jones, Tina Patterson, Heather Smith, and Beth Poag. We are honored to be serving United Ministries in this placement!



We offer our deepest condolences to sustainer, Mrs. Sue King on the loss of her husband last year.



Sumter Junior Welfare League
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Get Real About Violence **By- Kim Johnston**

This past July, I had the honor to serve alongside Katie McLeod, April Geddings, Shelly Stokes, and Lillie Smith as we completed the Get Real About Violence placement. During the week we presented at eight community centers throughout Sumter County during their summer program for elementary students. We presented the "Get Real About Violence" program to over 150 children over those five days. During each presentation we read books, made crafts, and role-played teaching the importance of kindness and non-violent conflict resolution strategies. Students had the opportunity to share experiences they have had with friendships, families, and bullying. Visiting and interacting with these precious children was such a blessing to each of us. Each community center welcomed us and shared that they look forward to this program each year. Thank you to the Sumter Junior Welfare League for giving us the opportunity to love and support the children in our community!



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