

The Lantern



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

Sumter, South Carolina

Volume 80- Number 4

January 2018



Happy New Year!

May your year be filled with love,
laughter and good health!

Mark your calendar...

League Meeting:

January 22, 2018, 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church

Lantern Deadline:

January 20, 2018
Crosswell Home, Sumter Little Theatre,
Sumter Gallery of Art

Board Meeting:

January 8, 2018, 6:30 PM
At First Baptist Church
Hostesses: Nancy Branham and
Beth Poag
With Provisionals
February 12, 2018, 6:30 PM
Hostess: Kelly Mills (at the home
her mother—670 Chickasaw Dr.
Refreshments: Day Caughman

League Meeting:

February 19, 2018, 7:00PM
First Baptist Church
This meeting is
MANDATORY



Provisionals:

January 8, 2018, 7:00 PM
at First Baptist Church
With the SJWL Board Meeting

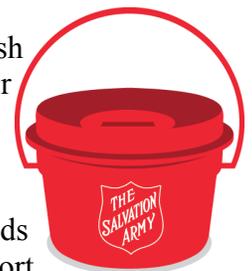
February 19, 2018 7PM
At First Baptist Church

** 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.**

Welfare & Emergency Aid Lantern Article

By: Cindy Ardis

The Welfare and Emergency Aid committee consists of 2 members, Vice President, Valerie James and Assistant Treasurer, Cindy Ardis. 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. Valerie and I thank you for your continued support which allows the league to provide funds to those less fortunate in our area!



General Meeting Minutes

November, 20, 2017

Welcome and Reminders – **President, Molly Matthews** called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. Please silence your cell phones. Remember that the doors will lock at 7:15.

Molly introduced **Mark Champagne**, and he began by thanking the league for the generous line item designated by the league to support the organization and for the hard work done at the Wishing Well in order to support that line item. With funding by area churches as well as donations by individuals, businesses, and civic organizations, the Sumter United Ministries is able to provide crisis relief funds, a construction ministry, a shelter, a free medical clinic, and an education assistance ministry.

Lisa Andrews provided a devotion regarding the condition of our souls, which we can think of as a cup. Women tend to live like a cup laid over on its side, poured out. We give and give until the cup runs dry. John 7:38 says that those who believe in Jesus will have rivers of living water that flow from within them. We can still live like a cup tipped over, but we need to unclog the flow of living water so we don't run dry. Lisa encouraged us to look for short stops in our day to talk to God, to pay attention to ways He is making His presence known, and to set limits on our distractions. In this holiday season, may we all keep an eye on our cup so that we can provide an overflowing stream to those around us.

Mark encouraged the members by reminding them that United Ministries is simply a platform for people to work through to serve their own community. All time, energy, and funding given to the organization directly benefits members of our local community, and there are countless stories of how those who have benefitted from their services are now giving back to help others. Molly thanked Mark for being in our community and for all of the programming that is organized by Sumter United Ministries. Molly read a thank you note received from a school nurse with the Sumter School district. Molly also read a thank you note from the library thanking the league for their support in encouraging early childhood literacy.

Vice President, Valerie James: Proposed bylaw changes are due by December 1. Please email bylaws to Valerie James.

Secretary, Sarah Smith: Remember that meetings are generally every third Monday, beginning in September. Exceptions are that there is no meeting in December, and the January meeting has been moved to January 22 in order to accommodate for the holiday. Sustainer letters and Change of Status letters are due by February 1 at the general League meeting. Any member contact changes need to be submitted in writing via text or email. Directories are still available to those who have not yet received one.

Treasurer, Nancy Branham: The Administrative Account has \$29,361.17 and the Community Trust Budget has \$33,155.32. Nancy will be emailing out budget request forms to those who need them and these are due at the January general meeting.

Assistant Secretary, Amy Jones: sent no birth notes and two condolence notes in October.

Amy thanked Darla Dean for hosting the November Board meeting. The next board meeting is January 8 with Beth Poag and Nancy Branham providing refreshments.

Assistant Treasure, Cindy Ardis: Cindy passed the kettle for the Salvation Army. As a point of reference, \$765.88 was raised last year.

Admissions, Darla Dean: Admission packets were due at the November general meeting. Committee members will receive a letter regarding the first meeting on December 5.

Community Research, Cheryl Landstrom: Cheryl announced that 15 grant requests and 1 new placement request have been received. More information will be coming in January.

Computer, Day Caughman: If you have any issues with receiving email, please let Day know.

Wishing Well, Whitney Dunlap: Amy Stallings thanked the gift committee for decorating for Christmas. Open House was a huge success!

She reminded workers to walk around and familiarize themselves with where things are so we can best help customers who come in quickly looking for gifts. Jennifer McMahon thanked everyone for their patience with learning the cash register. She reminded everyone that if you find yourself needing to void a transaction with a long line, you can print the receipt and void it at the end of your shift. This simplifies the job for the business managers and keeps numbers accurate. Also, remember that for employee charges you need to press the buttons on both the cash register and the badge machine.

Hospitality, Mary Baird: No report

Lantern, Kelly Mills: No report

Placement Council, Beth Poag: Beth announced that if you have a flexible placement, you should be roughly halfway through the placement by now. If you need help earning your hours, please let Beth know.

Provisional Chair, Cindy Ardis: The Provisional Class is going to the Wishing Well after the general meeting for their training session. They are also working on the details of their provisional project.

Sustainer Representative, Heather Eldridge: No Report

Old Business: Door Prize of a 40% off coupon goes to Vicki Singleton for having a birthday closest to Christmas!

New Business: Bring a new or gently used children's book to the January meeting for a local elementary school. You can bring anything appropriate for K-5th grade classrooms to help build their classroom libraries. We can continue to support early childhood literacy in our local schools by helping meet their needs.

Above and Beyond goes to Jeanna Mahr for her work spending extra time with critiquing puppets. Also, Brenda Barnes received the award for her help decorating the wishing well.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are planning on going semi-active or sustainer for the next year, please submit a letter to Sarah Smith before February 1, 2018.

Done in a Day

Ashley Scott

The Done in a Day Placement is new this year to Sumter's Junior Welfare League. The name is slightly deceiving as the League does not have any volunteer projects that will give you the required 21 service hours needed in one day, however, with the variety of options this placement offers, one could certainly obtain the required hours in little to no time at all. Done in a Day is unique in that it gives the opportunity to mix up the volunteer hours in several different service projects. This year the following organizations were selected as part of the Done in a Day placement: The Advocacy Center, Sumter Senior Services, Sumter Volunteers, and the Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands. Each service project has different needs, giving volunteers a range of dates and hours, making this placement a win for working women with limited availability.

Both the Advocacy Center and Sexual Trauma Services have a primary need for volunteers during the week answering phone calls and preparing informative packets. The Sexual Trauma Services also offers training for volunteers that are interested in counseling victims through its hotline service. Sumter Senior Services is responsible for the Meals on Wheels project. Volunteers are able to serve Sumter seniors and those with disabilities through the food delivery service. This is a service that's offered year round in Sumter. Sumter's annual wine festival, The Sip and Stroll, is hosted by the Sumter Senior Services. League volunteers assist local businesses in preparing wine tasting sites downtown while attendees enjoy paired food samplings and live music. Last but not the least, Sumter Volunteers uses the League's assistance for its annual "My Community and Me" presentations. Fourth graders throughout Sumter learn about Sumter, their local representatives, Shaw AFB, and even our healthcare services. These presentations take place from September- October. Our Done in Day Placement group for 2017-2018 is very excited to be serving Sumter through these various and unique opportunities.

United Ministries Part A - Missy Coulter

This is one of the most rewarding placements in the league. After a brief training session, participants will take part in the in-taking process. An intaker interviews a client that is in need and is currently going through a crisis. The information gathered from the client is then presented to a staff member, and a decision is made on the assistance that can be offered. Becoming an in-taker at United Ministries is a wonderful way to give back to our community and help those who are truly in need.

United Ministries Part A - Beth Poag

Gear up for Learning, Ocktoberfest, Lighthouse Grill, Help an Angel Fly, Thanksgiving boxes, and 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 meet 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. Throughout the year, UM also assists in home repairs and upgrading to maintain appropriate codes for homes. Your United Ministries Team includes Lauren Locklear, Susan McGregor, Deanna Smith, Jennifer Smith, and Nancy Lee Zimpleman. We are honored to be serving United Ministries in this placement!

United Ministries Medical Clinic Part C - Becky Craft

Sumter United Ministries Medical Clinic provides primary healthcare to qualifying patients who work hard, but find health care financially out of reach. The staff is a group of local and selfless physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, clinical coordinators and front desk receptionists who volunteer their time once a week on Tuesday nights from 4-8pm to provide healthcare to those in financial need. After meeting specific financial, age and residential requirements, patients are scheduled for their appointments and treated accordingly. A few of the physicians who volunteer are: Dr. Trigg, Dr. Mahr, Dr. Smith, Dr. Neuner, Dr. Grunsky, and PA Bud Reynolds. The medical clinic has been open for three years, but this is the first year that the SJWL has been able to participate and have thoroughly enjoyed serving in this placement. This year's volunteers are **Jeanna Mahr, Ashley Reddick and Amanda Tindal.**

Get Real About Violence

By- Kim Johnston

This past July, I had the honor to serve alongside Nancy Ferriell, April Geddings and Shelly Stokes 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 one of us. Each community center welcomed us and shared that they look forward to this program each year. Get Real About Violence is a great placement to impact the youth of Sumter. Thank you to the Sumter Junior Welfare League for giving us the opportunity to love and support the children in our community.



Light News by Lisa Andrews

Actives Mary Baird and Jackie Hicks and their husbands along with another couple enjoyed a cruise to the Bahamas in October. They sailed on the outskirts of a tropical storm which gave them all "sea legs" for days after the cruise but it was a great adult getaway before the hustle of the Christmas season. They look forward to planning another fun filled trip.

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Reminder:
Budget Request Forms
due to Nancy Branham by
January 22, 2018!