



Assistance League® Tulsa

MISSION : Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

October 2019

Volume 45 Issue 3

Excitement Abounds at Operation School Bell®

Welcome Fall !



We Operation School Bell® volunteers can feel the excitement in the air by spending time with our student shoppers. The smiles on their faces as they pick out new long sleeved shirts; the pride and thrill of seeing themselves in the mirror when they try on their new coat, lifts even the most heat weary heart! And, gloves! Can you imagine getting so excited about selecting your favorite colored gloves!

We get to talk about snow ball fights and building snow men! Fall break isn't that far away in their minds. The thought of having a snuggly new sweat suit to curl up in on chilly evenings is cause for happiness.

These children, so grateful and exuberant, remind us that there is an abundance of joy in providing the most basic needs to those who might otherwise go without.

There are many of you missing out on this rewarding experience! We need **YOU** to volunteer as personal shoppers to guide these young shoppers as they pick out their brand new school clothes. We are early in our school year and already struggling to have enough workers to serve the students. Our generous donors and sales from Bargains Thrift Store have provided the funds to serve more children this year. It is a shame that we can't readily provide the workforce to accomplish this wonderful mission.

Please, log on to SignUp Genius, look at the calendar, or look at the hard copy calendar on a clip board, located on the side desk of the Desk Chair. Decide what day or days you can give Operation School Bell® 3 hours of your morning – Tuesday through Friday. It's only 9 a.m. to noon (at the latest). You will have a smile for the rest of the day and a warm place in your heart knowing you have shown a child that they are cared for.

If you experience difficulty with SignUp Genius, please don't let this deter you. Call Sam Keel or Loretta Raschen. Heartfelt thanks to those who have volunteered so consistently!



Burroughs Elementary School students shop for new clothes and shoes.



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2019-2020**

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**Operation School Bell®
Off-site Shopping**



Students from outlying districts are served by Operation School Bell® at their local Walmart. Participating families can spend \$75 on each child for school clothing. Kids also receive two books and a personal care kit.

Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council

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President's Message By Marianne Pickering

Five representatives from AL Tulsa attended the National Assistance® League CONNECT 2019 conference in Las Vegas, NV. The theme of the gathering was *Think Big & Act Bold*. A series of dynamic speakers and hands-on workshops helped us examine national trends; their opportunities and challenges. We also had a chance to celebrate our many accomplishments and meet AL members from around the country.

Members choose to volunteer at Assistance League® for a variety of reasons. AL offers us a chance to give back to our community and make positive changes in the lives of others. Volunteering appeals because we meet new people and make new friends. Our work provides opportunities to develop new skills while using our experience and knowledge. Regardless of the motivation, five volunteer traits unite us all and support our shared purpose of transforming lives and strengthening community.

Passion:

Passion can be infectious and is an important trait that all great volunteers share. Sincere passion can inspire others and keeps us coming back day after day with smiles on our faces.

Reliability:

The golden rule to volunteering is that if you commit to something...do it! Our ability to fulfill commitments reflects on us as well as our organization. Great volunteers remain professional in all situations.

Integrity:

Our volunteers are entrusted with AL Tulsa's resources, facilities, customers, people we serve and, most importantly, our family of volunteers. This is a huge responsibility! Great volunteers realize that everything they do and everything they say are direct representations of our organization.

Team Player:

AL Tulsa members work with all sorts of different people. Being kind, friendly and flexible are key traits of a great volunteer. Sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others make our AL Tulsa team stronger and more successful.

Energy:

Volunteering isn't just about giving your time. It requires positive energy and being excited about what you are doing. Positive energy spreads and promotes even more positive energy.

Each AL chapter is unique in its programs, history and character. I learned from everyone I met and was inspired to *Think Big & Act Bold*. I also left CONNECT 2019 very proud of AL Tulsa and all we do to support one another, improve the lives of others and make our community an even better place to live.

You make all things possible.



Marianne Pickering, Yolanda Taylor, Julie Burton, Loretta Raschen and Julie Guy represented AL Tulsa at CONNECT 2019 in Las Vegas.

Meet Our Leadership Team: Part 3

Assistance League® Tulsa is a member driven non-profit organization. Committees plan, implement and evaluate our philanthropic programs, resource development efforts and Chapter administrative operations. Committee chairs are volunteer members, just like you! Our Mission is at the heart of everything we do: "Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs."

Linda Atwater – Bargains Thrift Shop

Bargains Thrift Shop is the largest committee of Assistance League® Tulsa. Sales from Bargains are our greatest source of revenue and support everything we do. Operating year-round and open to the public five days a week, the shop requires ongoing teamwork and commitment from our volunteer workforce.

I'm lucky to work with so many dedicated, hard-working people who receive and sort donations, price and merchandise the items, provide service to our customers, collect and count payments, and tackle all the other varied tasks that pop up each day. As chair, I coordinate the efforts of the Day Chairs and department leaders who provide leadership, encouragement and help things go smoothly.

What are the nicest words you can say to a Bargains volunteer? "How can I help you?"

Betsy Manis - Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund

The Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund Committee has the responsibility of selecting fine arts teachers in Tulsa Public Schools and surrounding school districts to receive a monetary award to supplement their classroom supplies, equipment or other needs. The chairman is responsible for communicating to school districts about the award, coordinating committee meetings, overseeing the selection process by committee members, communication of site visit dates set by committee members and working with the treasurer to assure reimbursement of funds to the schools and year end evaluation of the teacher visits.

AL Tulsa members are encouraged to participate in on-site school visits each spring to observe how Betty Bradstreet

awards impact the students. The kids will be excited to see you, too!

Lynne Hoe (and Sussie Hyden) – Letter Campaign

The Letter Campaign is Assistance League® Tulsa's sole fundraiser. It is a simple once-a-year process:

(1) Assistance League® mails a letter requesting donations to help with Operation School Bell® ; the letter goes to out AL Tulsa members first.

(2) The fundraising letter is then sent to previous donors and people who might be interested in helping with Operation School Bell® .

You can help. By making a donation, in any amount, you demonstrate your commitment to Operation School Bell® . Granting agencies frequently ask, "What percentage of your membership contributes to the campaign?" We'd love to tell them 100%!

Do you know someone in our community who might want to support OSB? Please share their name with the Letter Campaign committee.

Mary Sue Whitney – Member Hours

As Recorder of Hours I collect and keep a record of the many volunteer hours given by members and non-members. The numbers are obtained from members who report them. This information is tallied and made available annually to National Assistance League® and to potential donors who may request it.

Volunteer hours translate into dollars in the eyes of donors! Make sure the time you spend is included!

An additional but unrelated role I fill is coordinating the purchase and distribution of books for elementary children who are served through Operation School Bell® .

Volunteer hours can be submitted online at hours@altulsa.org, at the Office or the gray AL Tulsa mailbox in the lobby outside Bargains. Make sure your hours count!

Meet the Leadership Team: Part 3

Philanthropic Programs

Marinee Ricks - Yearbook

The yearbook is a blue binder that has all our current information for the members. The yearbook chair takes last year's yearbook in a digital copy and takes out and adds in so that the information is current.

The information is given to you by the current president and other chairs such as membership. If you can cut and paste or use a computer, then you can do the yearbook. All the work is done at home on a computer with a few meetings to edit the information. The yearbook is worked on during July and August so it will be ready for our members in September.

Have you picked up your 2019-2020 Yearbook insert from the Office? Can you pick one up one for a friend? Please save AL Tulsa the expense of mailing your yearbook pages.

Kathy Elliott – Luncheon Committee

This year I am serving with Judy Roberts (2005) on The luncheon committee. Judy was my mentor when I joined in 2016. The monthly chapter luncheon meetings are the second Monday of each month from September through May. We are trying something new this year by utilizing Evite to RSVP for the meetings. There will also be a monthly theme that will hopefully encourage our large membership to become well acquainted. The next meeting will be on October 14th at 11:30 a.m. and will be in the AL Tulsa Activity Room. The entire luncheon committee looks forward to seeing you then.

Did you know the luncheon committee sets and decorates our tables? They also serve as clean-up crew afterwards. A BIG thank you for their great work!

Look for Part 4 of "Meet Our Leadership Team" in the November issue of the newsletter.



each year.

Life Senior Services is responsible each year for providing a party for each of the three LIFE Services facilities. We provide food, decorations, and entertainment. We also provide Christmas totes and fill them with items. In the spring we fill 60 laundry baskets with household items and deliver them to Senior Services. We also try to purchase larger items of each for the three facilities. They provide us with a wish list

Mental Health

Throughout the year **AL** helps support four mental health facilities in Tulsa, and there is always an ongoing need for: toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo and deodorant.

There is a box located in the Bargains workroom labeled "Mental Health", where any donations may be placed, and are greatly appreciated!

We're also looking for coffee mugs, a gently use foosball table, and two pool cues.

-Debra Lockerman, Patti Ross, Chairs.

Orientation

On August 29, 2019 twelve new members completed Assistance League® orientation. Along with their mentors they have stepped right in and are already volunteering in Bargains and OSB. Please give a hearty welcome to Laurie Brumbaugh, Cecilia Codrey, Kaye Klintworth, Diane Lind, Karyn Maio, Becky Queen, Kay Quinton, Paula Reno, Melanie Schnell, Mary Dee Sims, Mary Thomason, Pat Van Triest, and Judy Ellis.

Thanks to our Orientation presenters, lunch hostesses, and mentors for a job well done. Thanks to all members for sharing your smiles, expertise, and encouragement with these talented new ladies. An Assistance League® Affiliates Tour will be announced for October in a future email blast.

*Nancy Kingery
Orientation Chair*

Donations

Pat Banzhof
Katie and Larry Bartley
Art and Carmen Baum
Pat Connery
Sharon Cotner
Richard and Mickie Davidson
Maurice and Sara Duncan
Bill and Linda French
Robert and Mary Frizzell
Carla Gilbert—*in memory of Joe Gilbert*
Don and Madeline Galbreth
Donna Glocker
Gary and Susan Henderson
Ray and Donna Hickman
Pat Holder—*in memory of Billie Suchsland*
Sue Hunnicutt
Ben and Cathe Kehe
Carmen Kinsey—*in honor of Joni Kinsey Fields*
Carmen Kinsey—*in honor of Brian Kinsey*
John and Lina Kratzert
Ovanda Ladner
Richard and Nevin Loerke
John and Janet Main—*in honor of Sussie Hyden*
Diane Moore—*in memory of Don Moore*
Don and Ann Waller Neal
Patricia Otto

Please consider leaving a gift to Operation School Bell® in your estate plans. You'll help ensure that our program's good work lives on.

Donations, continued

Robert and Judy Ray
Ronald and Jeanne Reitz
Mike and Jan Reynolds
Mike and Millie Rhoads
Sharyn Rusher
JoAn Whitmire
Herb and Mary Sue Whitney

thank you!

Hospitality

Elisabeth Harrington and Barbara Walters are co-chairs of the Hospitality Committee, and we plan the parties!! This year we are forgoing a Christmas party and saving that money for our big 50th Anniversary party in January. We will have the Style Show at Cedar Ridge on April 24, 2020; the annual luncheon will be held at Tulsa Country Club on June 3, 2020.

If you like to plan parties, Elisabeth and I would love for you to help!



Assistance League® Tulsa

Mission

Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

Vision

Essential needs are met in our community and families flourish.

Values

Commitment - showing compassion for all

Accountability - being fiscally responsible to our donors and our community

Leadership - demonstrating professionalism that is visionary and ethical

Respect - appreciating and considering others

Self-esteem - enhancing success in the people we serve



Tulsa

President: Marianne Pickering
Newsletter Editor: Julie Burton

www.altulsa.org



Volunteers are ready to check in students for Operation School Bell® offsite shopping at area Walmart stores.

Assistance League® Tulsa

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