



# Assistance League® Tulsa

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

December 2019/January 2020

Volume 45 Issue 5

## AL Tulsa in MLK Parade

Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

'What are you *doing* for *others*?'

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



January 20, 2020 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Assistance League® Tulsa's charter as a Chapter of National Assistance League®. January 20 is also Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a national day of volunteer service and citizen action. In celebration our 50 years of service to the community and in honor Dr. King's commitment to service, AL Tulsa will participate in the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Tulsa MLK Parade.

Organized by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society, a nonprofit organization promoting the works and ideals that Dr. King practiced, the parade emphasizes unity, justice and love in a nonviolent and nonpolitical manner. This year's theme is *20/20 Vision: The Dream Seen Clearly*.

How can we show Tulsa that we're turning 50? ...By having 50 AL Tulsa members participate in the parade! A heated, yellow TPS school bus (like the buses that bring children to Operation School Bell®) will be our featured parade entry. Members can don an AL apron and walk the parade route or travel in the warmth and comfort of the bus.

Dr. King said he felt an "inner urge calling him to serve humanity." AL Tulsa members feel the same call to action. Join us as we march (or ride) to reflect our commitment to strengthening community.

### Celebrate Our 50<sup>th</sup> with Friendship & Fun

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Tulsa MLK Parade – Monday, January 20, 2020

Bus departs the AL Tulsa building at 7:45 a.m. to be at the parade staging area by 8:30 a.m.

We'll provide coffee & snacks, songs and games. Help decorate the bus for the parade!

Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. This is your chance to wave to thousands of Tulsans!

Following the parade, the bus will return us to the AL Building.



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2019-2020**

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Luncheon: Kathy Elliott / Judy Roberts



Despite a cold and rainy day, AL Tulsa members gathered for their monthly meeting. Table discussions focused on ways to improve our Chapter as part of the Five-Year Strategic Plan.

**Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council**

**Ken Busby**  
Executive Dir./CEO Route 66  
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Community Volunteer

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# President's Message By Marianne Pickering

Where were you in 1970?

The voting age was lowered to 18.

A first class postage stamp was 6 cents.

Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was the #1 song.

The floppy disk was invented.

Year-end close of the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 838.

The Beatles broke up.

Best Picture Academy Award went to "Midnight Cowboy".

A lava lamp cost \$11.95

Robert J. LaFortune was Mayor of Tulsa

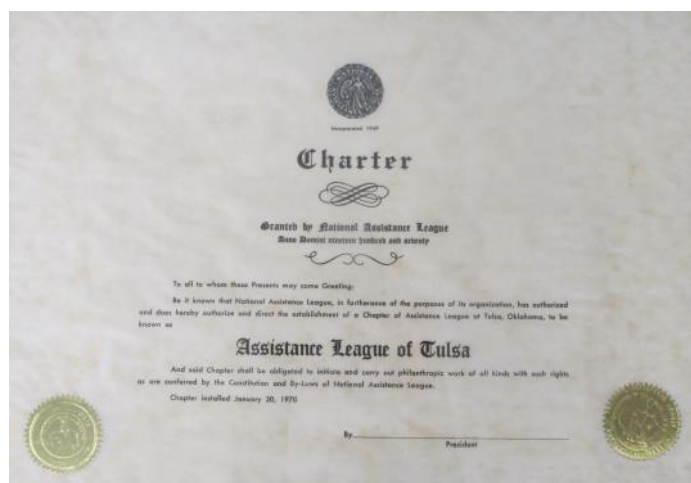
OU won Bedlam 66 – 6. (So sorry my Poke friends)

And...on Tuesday, January 20, 1970 eighty-three original members were issued the National Charter of Assistance League® Tulsa in a ceremony at Southern Hills Country Club. Current members Marion Gotwals and Jean Roberts were among the remarkable founders of our organization.

Fast forward fifty years to 2020. AL Tulsa's first generation could hardly imagine where we are today.

Assistance League® Tulsa has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. We are trusted and admired throughout our community. We have made a lasting impact; truly making our world a better place.

What will the next 50 years hold for Assistance League® Tulsa? What inspiring stories will be told about us in 2070? What we do and how we do it will change; but I'm confident that AL Tulsa will continue to be a vibrant and committed group, transforming lives and strengthening community.



Some things never change. In 1970, the AL President got busy and forgot to sign our Charter! You can see the original AL Tulsa Charter in the Boardroom.



# Mental Health Association of Oklahoma Thanksgiving Dinner

"Wow, there's a lot to choose from!"

"Is there any more pecan pie left?"

"This is great! Thank you!"

Appreciative remarks from the clients and staff attending the Mental Health Association Oklahoma (MHAO) Thanksgiving dinner at Boston Avenue Methodist Church on Friday, November 22, 2019. Thank you to Assistance League® members who brought desserts that served 250 clients of MHAO, staff members, and Boston Avenue volunteers. There were plenty of desserts to go around and what was left was taken to the various residence facilities of MHAO.

ALT also purchased and assembled ingredients for two salads—a fruit salad and a green salad—for the dinner. ALT Mental Health Committee members shopped, transported, cut-up, served, and enjoyed seeing the clients enjoy their dinner.

A Thanksgiving Thanks to all of you who brought desserts and contributed volunteer hours that helped provide funding for the dinner goodies!

~Patti Ross and Deb Lockerman

*Mental Health Committee*



Patti Ross, Ginny Greek, Lynn Fuente, Laurie Brumbaugh and Debra Lockerman prepare the salads.

# Mental Health Committee



## Christmas Party

Yale Apartment Christmas Party will be held December 12 at 1:30 at the Yale Apartments. Music, food, tree decorating, and a visit from Santa are on the program! If you would like to come and help celebrate, please bring a finger food, your singing voice, and holiday spirit. We'd love to have you!

### Items Needed

- Mental Health Committee is looking for some pool cues for Altamont apartments. If you have any used ones in good condition, please contact us.
- Denver House is always in need of card tables and chairs. Also, continue to look for winter warm clothing items for Denver House clients, small hotel soaps and shampoos. Donations may be dropped off at the Bargains donation area, but should be marked for Mental Health Committee.

Call Patti Ross or Deb Lockerman with questions.



LIFE Senior Services guests engage in activities at their Halloween party. AL Tulsa volunteers Jan Schweiger, Sharon Coffman and Nancy Sacra hosted.

### Have you seen AL Tulsa boardroom lately?

Many thanks to Jan Fox and Dayon Smith for applying their design know-how. They've created a comfortable, inspiring space that makes a great impression!



### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Greetings from the Strategic Planning Committee. We have been busy facilitating reviews of the 2019-20 Strategic Plan with the individual committees. Please remember we are still trying to complete the goals that were set for this 3-year plan. We have not started on the new 5-year plan.

At the November Chapter meeting we conducted a survey of the strengths and weaknesses of our organization. President Marianne Pickering helped me tabulate the findings of this survey. We hope to have the survey report ready for the December Chapter meeting. Committee chairmen need to constantly check to see what things have been completed so far this year, and what still needs to be addressed.

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, we wish for all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

~Pat Holder, SP chairman



# Operation School Bell®

The Offsite Operation School Bell program held at local area Walmart stores has completed another successful year. We began the program September 17 and completed it on October 29. with parents bringing their students selected by school counselors to the store in their area.

We were able to serve 1,379 students from 12 districts and 43 different schools. We sponsored 17 different events at 10 different Walmart stores and worked 11 days to accomplish our goal.

We had a wonderful response from our members and friends, with 61 different workers completing over 800 service hours for the Assistance League of Tulsa.

Thanks to all of you that joined us for these events!

~Loretta Raschen

## Operation School Bell® Off-Site At a Glance

- 43 area elementary schools
- 1,379 children served
- 17 OSB shopping events
- 10 Walmart stores
- 11 calendar days
- 61 different volunteers
- 795 Volunteer Hours of Service

YAY for YOU! Three cheers for OSB Off-site!



# Community Volunteers At Operation School Bell®

**The Links, Inc** is an international non-profit organization of professional women of color. Volunteers from The Links recently helped students from John Hope Franklin Elementary at Operation School Bell. Their chapter sponsors a mentoring program and other enrichment activities at the school. Thank you Links volunteers!



Operation School Bell® welcomes volunteers from The Links, Inc.!

Member Marva Carnahan gives instructions to the volunteers.





# AL TULSA ENTERS THE 21st CENTURY!

The new century introduced expanded funding opportunities and new community partnerships to Assistance League® Tulsa. Our membership reached 200 volunteers for the first time!

- In 2005, the Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund was endowed with a gift from the Emma R. Showman Trust. Betty Bradstreet Arts Education Awards provide financial support to public school teachers of the fine arts for classroom projects.
- In 2008, AL Tulsa began its annual book drives to promote literacy in our community. The event distributes hundreds of children's books each year.

**ACTION WEEK 2020:** Assistance League® chapters throughout the country will dedicate the week of February 23, 2020 to promoting literacy. Watch for information about AL Tulsa's February book drive!

- Bargains Thrift Shop initiated its Waste Not program in 2008. Waste Not distributes unsellable donated items to partner nonprofit organizations. Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle are encouraged everyday at AL Tulsa.
- In 2009, AL Tulsa began its longstanding relationship with Mental Health Association Oklahoma. Our shared goal is to help prevent homelessness and to assist those with mental illness.
- AL Tulsa Mini-programs were established at several nonprofit agencies that support area children and families. Our partnerships expand and enhance the services these organizations provide. When a community need is identified, Assistance League® Tulsa is there to lend a helping hand!



↑ AL Tulsa volunteers answered the Christmas wish lists of residents at Lakeside Center, a facility housing displaced teens. Lakeside closed in 2013.



← Tulsa Public Schools adopted a uniform policy at selected schools. OSB began providing uniform shirts to qualifying students.

↓ Community partnerships expanded our AL programs. Members filled their cars to deliver requested items to Emergency Infant Services, Laura Dester House and Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children.





## 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](http://www.altulsa.org)



## Assistance League® Tulsa

A chapter of  
National

Assistance League®

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OSB students love to draw and leave thank you notes on the chalkboards. This one is from Liberty Elementary—"Huskies Love you!"