



Assistance League® Tulsa

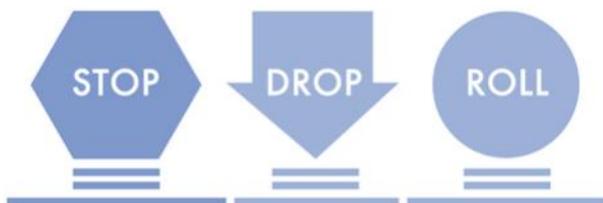
MISSION : Assistance League® volunteers transforming the lives of children and adults through community programs.

July / August 2020

Volume 46, Issue 1

Bargains' Stop, Drop and Roll Event

In preparation for re-opening Bargains Thrift Shop, our membership is invited to participate in the first ever **STOP, DROP AND ROLL EVENT**. The purpose is to do a trial run to fine tune and test our suggested guidelines for safely accepting donations (the first step to re-opening our shop.) It will be for **members only during the month of August**.



The parameters are:

Each day we will accept member donations during a specified 3-hour window, **10:00 am - 1:00 pm:**

- ◆ **August 3-7** If your last name begins with **A-E**, this is the week you are assigned to bring donations. (Bargains will receive and quarantine donations.)
- ◆ **August 10-14** Last name begins with **F-J**, this is your assigned week to bring in your donations. (Receive, quarantine and begin processing donations)
- ◆ **August 17-21** Last name begins with **K-O**, this is your assigned week to bring in your donations. (Receive, quarantine and process donations.)
- ◆ **August 24-28** Last name begins with **P-T**, this is your assigned week to bring in your donations. (Receive, quarantine and process donations.)
- ◆ **August 31-September 4** Last name begins with **U-Z**, this is your assigned week to bring in donations. (Receive, quarantine and process donations.)

You will simply drive up to the donations area of our building and hand your donations to the workers and drive off → **STOP, DROP, AND ROLL!** No entering the building or prolonged stopping.

Donations must be small - up to 4 (total) shopping bags and/or boxes size 18" X 20". These are what will fit on the shelves so that donations can be isolated in quarantine for a period of time. **No furniture items, please.**

Please drop-off only what is specified and only during your assigned week. It is the most efficient way the workers can safely manage the process. Again, this is a test run and your participation is important, but safety is our main goal. AL Tulsa appreciates your help... and your donations!

**Board of Directors
2020-2021**

Officers:

President: Yolanda Taylor
President-elect: Kim Campbell
Secretary: Pat Banzhof
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Vice Presidents:

Education: Priscilla Harris
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Membership: Elisabeth Harrington
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Bargains Thrift Shop: Linda Atwater (interim chair)
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Operation School Bell®: Julie Burton
Operations: Julie Guy
Orientation: Nancy Kingery
Strategic Planning: Donna Spielman

Appointive Officers and Chairs:

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Parliamentarian: Betsy Whitmarsh

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Assistant Treasurers: Carole Hale, Martha Nichols,
Edie Slack & Ginny Thomas
Office Administration: Glenna Morrison &
Loretta Raschen
Recorder of Service Hours: Mary Sue Whitney

Membership

Placement: Mary Peterson
Yearbook: TBD

Philanthropic Programs

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Life Senior Services: Liz McDoulett &
Sharon Atcheson
Mental Health Assoc. Oklahoma:
Debra Lockerman & Laurie Brumbaugh
EIS/Fostering Connections: Peggy Rock

Resource Development

Grant Writing: Julie Brockmeier
Estate Sales: TBD
Letter Donation Campaign: Lynne Hoe & Sussie Hyden
Waste Not: Mary Dotson

Public Relations

Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

Social/Relationships

Care and Concern: Michele Morris
Hospitality: Barbara Walters
Luncheon: Kathy Elliott & Judy Roberts

You Can Help Fight the Spread of Covid-19 at AL Tulsa

Personal Responsibility Statement

As a member of Assistance League® Tulsa, I am aware of the potential spread of COVID-19 that could result in severe illness and potential death. Therefore, I will, to the best of my ability, practice proper social distancing during all Assistance League® activities and other daily pursuits as recommended by health department directives, as well as practice good hygiene (handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, wearing of a mask when required, etc.) and follow other health recommendations. Should I become ill, I promise to self-report the illness and contact my nonprofit to let them know of my condition. I will adhere to testing guidelines and work with my own primary care provider. Finally, if I am exposed or suspected to be exposed to COVID-19, I will self-quarantine and notify my nonprofit.

**This is recommended by Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits. It is a reminder of our responsibilities both inside and outside of Assistance League® activities.*

Assistance League® Tulsa Advisory Council

Ken Busby
Executive Dir./CEO Route 66 Alliance

Phyllis Dotson
Community Volunteer

Adam Doverspike
Counsel, Gable Gotwals

Heather Duncan
Community Volunteer

Danielle Hovenga
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Brian Paschal
Foundation for Education for
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Rodger A. Randle
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Clifton Taulbert
The Freemount Foundation

Steve Turnbo, APR
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Mollie Williford
Chairman of the Board
Williford Companies

Friends,

What an interesting time for the world. I am so grateful for the power of the human spirit. Just when I think, enough already, someone will do or say something to give me courage and hope for today and the future. There are extraordinary volunteers at the Assistance League® lending their voices, time and talent to help our community recover and persist. There isn't much in the AL handbook that would prepare you for a pandemic but the members of AL have proven to be resilient souls. Our members know how to solve problems and make a way when none appeared clear or even possible. I often say members of the Assistance League® are superheroes—no capes required—we have aprons. And while we may not be superheroes, we are present in our community. We will be present when it is time to go back into the community to help our most vulnerable citizens. Students will still need clothing when they return to school. Parents and guardians will still need supplies for new babies. And, our citizens who need mental health assistance will still need our support. The Assistance League® will be there to help. We've been helping our community for 50 years and our community needs us now more than ever. I look forward to standing with you when we answer the call. Please take very good care of yourselves.



We have work to do.

Best regards,

Yolanda Taylor
President, Assistance League® Tulsa

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Tulsa Day Center has asked for bottled water for their clients who are homeless. We would appreciate it if you could purchase a case or two of water to donate to the Day Center and drop it off (during your assigned week) with your donations for Bargains. As always, thank you for your generosity and we look forward to seeing you at our Stop, Drop and Roll Event!

We Are Now Open For Meetings! *With several especially important restrictions.*

Beginning August 3 our building will be open for on-site meetings with strict adherence to the following guidelines:

- ◆ Meetings must be **scheduled in advance** by email, al@altulsa.org or by phone 918-832-8832. Email is the best way because the office has reduced hours due to the COVID-19 situation. Someone will confirm your meeting by contacting you that it has been placed on the calendar.
- ◆ The only space available for meetings at this time is the **Board Room** (Some activities for Bargains & OSB will happen in other areas due to the tasks being done. Guidelines are for committee meetings and planning groups.)
- ◆ Please **check your temperature** upon arrival (a thermometer is provided just inside the building by the Office door.) If you have a temperature of over 100.2, please do not stay.
- ◆ **Masks are required.**
- ◆ There is a strict **10-person limit** to each meeting. Social distancing is not possible with more attendees.
- ◆ Meetings have a **2-hour time limit**.
- ◆ **Zoom calls**, so members who are not comfortable with in person meetings can participate, will be available. Yolanda Taylor (president) or Kim Campbell (president-elect) can help with that.

We are extremely excited to be able to meet in person. It feels like it has been forever. These first steps will be the beginning. If all goes well, then more opportunities will open up. We have a big job to do for our community and we are going to do all we can to follow through on our programs and activities. However, being safe and responsible are the highest priorities. So, we may need to change and adjust as the situations warrants. We will keep you posted. Welcome Back! ~ *Kim Campbell, Ad hoc Re-opening chair*

Operation School Bell® by Julie Burton

Despite the pandemic, Operation School Bell® is busy working! Sadly, the children will not be at the building this year, but we have devised a plan to still serve them.

On Tuesday, July 21 we had a workday, and it was so exciting to see everyone, we cheered! I want to say a HUGE thank you to Pam Glenn, Anita Word, Cathe Kehe, Madeline Gilbreth, Linda French, Pat Banzhof, Sharon Atcheson, Suzanne Davis, Donna Spielman, Lynne Tucker, Sue Warner, Marilyn Brill, Marva Carnahan, and Marcy Landis. My sincere apologies if I overlooked anyone. These members worked hard and accomplished a great deal! There will be more workdays in the future.

If schools are open, parents will be asked to fill out the shopping checklist, filling in their child's sizes. This will be returned to Operation School Bell® and we will fill bags with the clothing. All the bags will be delivered to the schools. A selection of leveled books will also be sent along with the clothing.

Here's the basic plan:

- ◆ Tentative start date will be September 15 (pending decision by TPS Board.).
- ◆ Volunteers can choose to work a morning or afternoon shift. Shifts are roughly two hours.
- ◆ Masks are mandatory.
- ◆ We plan to fill clothing bags for up to four schools per day. If all goes as planned, all eligible schools will be served by early October.
- ◆ Cleaning will take place between shifts.

The Tulsa Public Schools Board will meet on August 3 to determine if schools will open or if classes will be online only. If that is the case, we will need to work with TPS on a *new* plan to serve students.

As long as we all stay flexible and patient, we will get through this together!

~ Julie Burton, OSB Chair



2019-2020 Operation School Bell® Totals



Number of students served:

Onsite 1,644
Offsite 1,379
Uniform Shirts 18,829
Middle School 2,120
High School 3,564
CPR (Clothes Closet Project Replenish) 1,737
Ed Darby Foundation Grant 357

FAST FACTS to share
with friends and family!

26,249 "Unduplicated" Students from **105** schools

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to OSB's success!

2019-2020 Ada Edwards Laughlin Award: Marjorie Phillips



Marjorie has been an active member of AL Tulsa since 2015.



Marjorie Phillips is dedicated, reliable and always willing to help whenever needed. Marjorie works with Operations School Bell®, Estate Sales and in Bargains' linens department. She regularly volunteers both Thursday and Saturday late shifts in the shop. She particularly enjoys interacting with our customers and anxiously looks forward to the reopening of the store.

It is with pride that AL Tulsa honors Marjorie Phillips with the 2019-2020 Ada Edwards Laughlin Award. Named for the co-founder of National Assistance League® and nominated by our membership, recipients of this award exemplify those who quietly contribute beyond what is expected. Nomination letters describe Marjorie as someone who is welcoming to new members, treats others with dignity and responds to every request with, "Yes, I can do that!"

AL Tulsa sincerely thanks and congratulates Marjorie Phillips!

Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children (TAPC) Has a New Name!



FOSTERING
connections

Same Mission. Same Heart. Updated Image.

Since 2008, Assistance League® Tulsa has partnered with Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children, also known as TAPC. This non-profit organization has recently changed its name to **FOSTERING CONNECTIONS**. Their mission remains the same: **to improve the lives of abused and neglected children** in Tulsa and contiguous counties by providing resources and building community. They will be continuing current programs and will soon announce additional ways they will help children in foster care.

Assistance League® Tulsa enhances the services they provide to foster families by purchasing requested items (mostly NHTSA approved car seats.) The organization is also one of our Waste Not partners and receives items donated to Bargains Thrift Shop that are usable, but not saleable.

AL Tulsa looks forward to working with Fostering Connections!



The Little Girl Who Waved

Clifton Taulbert, AL Tulsa Advisory Council
Originally published July 7, 2020

July 4, 2020 came upon the world in the midst of great controversy and even greater expectations. COVID-19 has silently crept across the globe, wreaked havoc, killing family members and friends, and instilling fear all along its path. The death of a formerly unknown black American named George Floyd introduced a global refrain, “I can’t breathe,” which has become the opening chant for many organizations, who have volunteered to join a long-overdue conversation regarding the long reach of slavery upon our country’s history and its present. As a published author and one of the keepers of Southern history, I wanted to share my thoughts about our celebrated day of National Independence, but the words wouldn’t come. I wanted to write what my heart was feeling, but my heart was not speaking in a way that could be conveyed.

Adding to my conflict were the words of **Frederick Douglass**, spoken generations ago, which found a place in my consciousness. According to Douglass, it was a day of independence, but for those in slavery, their lives remained the same. Slavery is a complex addition to one’s life—a forever shadow that hangs over everything. When words should have been coming freely, I battled so many voices, trying to organize my thoughts, thoughts that would cause us as a nation to stand up and embrace our shared heritage and set in motion culture-changing personal actions. Remembering my days as a soldier, I could only ask myself, “Aren’t we all in this together?” To write what my heart yearned to read would take several volumes, not unlike Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy In America*, which brought to our nation’s attention in the early 19th

century the disparity that existed between what our documents said and what we as a nation actually lived out.

With the reality of COVID-19 continuing its rampage and the last words of George Floyd (“I can’t breathe!”) now becoming our first words, I had just about decided that this year, 2020, the power of the pen had alluded me. However, my head continued swirling with many random thoughts. My heart was calling for the pen to awaken our collective consciousness to take full advantage of this global moment of introspection, personally and as nations. I finally gave up and headed to my front porch, where I sat in one of our Southern rockers and focused my gaze on the aging trees whose limbs had become bent and overburdened by time.

As I allowed my prior thoughts to slowly slip away, my eyes became heavy with tears as another 4th of July, from 1995, joined me on the front porch. I was no longer thinking about the founding fathers and the acceptance of slavery as a way of life for those who looked like me. “I can’t breathe” had moved off the front porch and COVID-19 was wiped away in a flood of tears.

Twenty-five years ago, on July 4th, death invaded our lives. It was the day and the year Barbara’s and my seven year-old daughter Anne Kathryn died—the saddest day in the many decades of my life. While sitting on my front porch, the memory of our little girl came back to me, and all the joy she had brought into our lives and into the lives of others washed over me anew. These memories took me back to a better place in time—memories of my little girl who lived her life to WAVE AT PEOPLE.

My apprehensions didn’t bother her. She never even noticed my fear. When Annie, as she was affectionately called by family and friends, saw any person within her range of sight, she lit up, almost jumping off my lap. “Daddy, wave!” she would say. Our front porch was back from the street and slightly on an incline. It was easy for us to see those passing by and easy for them to glance up and see us. And our Annie never missed a single person passing. Sometimes, I wanted to hold my head down and pretend I didn’t see anyone. I didn’t want Annie to know that because of who we were, others might not return her heartfelt wave. She was too young to know the history of our color. There would come a time, but not yet. I felt it was too early to start the lessons of race that I had learned as a young boy when growing up on the Mississippi Delta. For me, it was necessary to start early. For me, they were survival techniques. For me, they would become lingering lessons of race and place, which became the heart of my most recent book, *The Invitation*. Those lessons

were learned and written on my memory in indelible ink—unable to be erased.

Annie had no idea of the world of slavery and legal segregation bequeathed to her parents. She was all about the pursuit of happiness and sharing that pursuit with anyone and everyone she could. I wanted her to remain at this place of innocent independence as long as she could. So when pressed by my little girl for me to wave at strangers, I did. She rejoiced in life and naturally brought her daddy along. She made me wave first, even when I was absolutely sure that my wave would not be returned. From our front porch, Annie waved to the world, and I watched the world wave back. I knew not to wave at joggers—they were focused on a difficult task—but not Annie. If you were passing our house—walking or running—she waved. We waved, they waved, and she was happy. Her job had been done.

Her life was short, but her joy was full. From our front porch, she experienced an America that Frederick Douglass had longed to see and Alexis de Tocqueville had traveled to experience. In her short life, she enjoyed community the way it should be: people respected, affirmed, and included each other. On our front porch, Democracy had an ally in a little girl who never thought twice about sharing her heart with others.

She always waved first.

We didn't know many of these people by name, but only by the humanity we shared. When Annie was missing from the front porch, these strangers would see me and ask, "Where's the little girl?" I had to tell them that our Annie was no longer with us.

She was totally unaware of slavery, of legal segregation, and of the social challenges that her parents had to face. Because of the way I had to be raised, it was hard for me to wave first if the person was white, but not for our Annie. She prized life with the innocence that only a five year old can possess.

***She had come into the world to wave,
and to challenge me to understand that in spite of
my lingering lessons of race and place,
it was alright to wave first.***

Our Annie was the epitome of independence; her laughter had not been bridled. Her questions were welcomed. Color was what she saw, not what defined her and our lives. She did not see it as a burden, nor as a door-opener. She embraced the rainbow of our human existence with bubbly excitement. Our Annie loved our shared humanity. I adored her innocence independence, even though I knew that one day, it would be tempered by the reality of our history in America. She, too, would have to be pulled aside and have some well-meaning adult explain to her why sleepovers may not be the best

activity for her and her friends. But for that brief moment, just slightly past the age of five, while sitting together on our long front porch, I would cautiously allow myself to enter her childhood world.

***In her world, waving at everyone walking by...
was simply what people did.***

As I sat alone on the front porch, on another Fourth of July, some twenty-five years later, tears rolled and sadness mixed with thankfulness. The tears seemed to be telling me that it's never too late to capture the innocent spirit of our youth and use this discovery to wave first. Sometimes, the racial problems we continuously face are so daunting that we search for answers of equal ilk. Can a FIRST WAVE start a craze that introduces us to one another? Knowing each other is a good first step, and a powerful one. Can a FIRST WAVE provide the impetus to ask for names, exchange contact information and eventually lead to the breaking of bread? Can a FIRST WAVE set the stage for racial healing long overdue—going into our mental models to embrace and discard, as our shared humanity dictates? Remembering our Annie, I am clearly reminded that Democracy still needs front porch allies.

Now I realize why words were not forthcoming when I so desperately wanted to write: I would have overlooked a childhood gesture as just something cute—when in reality, it could be a force multiplier, a catalyst, a movement in the process of building community between people. A simple, animated wave from the heart. In her "Annie Moments," she accomplished during her short lifetime what nations still grapple with and social scientists still contemplate: how can we honestly wave at each other, even if our names are not known and our races differ, simply because we care for the life that we share?

"Daddy, this is fun!" she would say to me. And she was right. It was fun to follow her heart. Our Anne Kathryn had no racial history to consider or hurtful incidents to move beyond. She just lived to wave, and in her childlike delight, she brought me along. From twenty-five years ago, the words finally came: wave at others with faces of joy.

It is never too late to wave first.



Clifton Taulbert has served on AL Tulsa's Advisory Council since 2018.

***"Thank you for reprinting.
It has impacted me. I have
waved at all; more than ever
before in my life."***



2020-2025 Strategic Plan

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 & our community

Leadership - demonstrating professionalism that is visionary & ethical

Respect - appreciating & considering others

Self-esteem - enhancing success in the people we serve

Goals

- Goal 1: Provide philanthropic programs of excellence that meet community needs
- Goal 2: Recruit and retain and informed and engaged membership
- Goal 3: Maintain effective efforts to educate community about chapter philanthropic work
- Goal 4: Assure financial sustainability

Strategies

Goal 1:

- Conduct community needs assessment every 3 years
- Maintain Gold-level distinction on Candid

Goal 2:

- Enhance member satisfaction
- Increase membership with an emphasis on diversity

Goal 3:

- Utilize most current technology
- Train members to be AL Tulsa ambassadors

Goal 4:

- Cultivate and enhance donor relationships
- Increase revenue annually

Assistance League® Tulsa thanks the following people for their generous contributions in the second half of May through the first half of July 2020

Jay and Linda Barnett

- In memory of Rae Annis

Paul and Virginia Greek

- In memory of Rae Annis and Don Neal

Steve and Julie Guy

Linda Harrison

- In memory of Rae Annis

Pat Holder

Jean Hunter

-In memory of Don Neal

Sussie Hyden

- In memory of Carol Bethell

Forrest and Marcella Landis

- In memory of Carol Bethell and Lyle Hunter

Beverly Marquardt

Martie McCain

- In memory of dear friends lost

William and Kathleen Mercer

- In memory of Carol Bethell

Melvin and Gail Minthom

-In honor of Lynne Hoe

LeRoy and Glenna Morrison

- In memory of Sherry Gibson, Lyle Hunter and Don Neal

Dick and Martha Nichols

- In memory of Rae Annis, Carol Bethell, Lyle Hunter and Don Neal

John and Jane Phillips

William S Smith

Tulsa Women's Investment Group

- In memory of Carol Bethell

Anne Waller

- In memory of Rae Annis and Carol Bethell

Reed and Carol Woods

Generous Anonymous Donors

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.

COLOR ME STRESS FREE



Managing Life's Pressures

Stress affects everyone. Too much worry and stress that lasts for a long time can take a toll on your body. Stress can make you feel run down, sad, nervous, angry or irritable. Here are some healthy suggestions on reducing your stress from our partners at Mental Health Association Oklahoma:

Connect with Others. You don't have to cope with stress on your own. Talking with a friend can dramatically improve your mood. **Your AL Tulsa blue Yearbook is filled with friends who would love to visit with you. Give another member a call. The bonus is, you'll both feel better!*

Relax Your Mind. Each person has their own ways to relax. You can relax by listening to music, reading a book or doing a quiet activity. Consider deep breathing or meditation.

Exercise. Exercising relieves your tense muscles, improves your sleep and increases your energy and strength. Just 30 minutes of walking can help boost your mood and reduce stress.

Set Goals and Priorities. Decide what must get done and what can wait. Note what you have accomplished at the end of the day, not what you have been unable to do. Think about the good things in your life and expressing gratitude may actually help you feel happier.

De-Stress Through Deep Breathing

Deep breathing actually changes your brain's chemical balance to calm you down.

Here's how to do it:

- ◆ Lie down or sit on the floor.
- ◆ Rest your hands on your stomach.
- ◆ Slowly count to four and inhale through your nose. Feel your stomach rise. Hold it for a second.
- ◆ Slowly count to four while you exhale through your mouth. To control how fast you exhale, purse your lips like you're going to whistle. Your stomach will slowly fall.
- ◆ Do this a few times.

Assistance League® Tulsa



The safety of our members and customers comes first!
Bargains Thrift Shop is currently **CLOSED**, but Covid-19
procedures are being established to reopen for business.

Watch for updates!



Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community

President: Yolanda Taylor

Newsletter Editor: Marianne Pickering

Assistance League® Tulsa

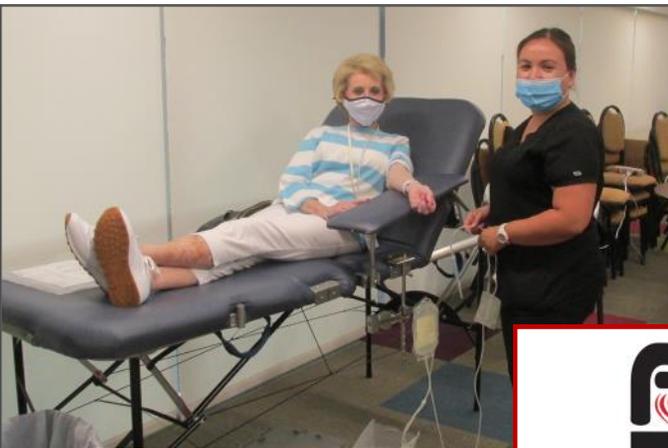
A chapter of National Assistance League®

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BLOOD UNITES US

Assistance League® Tulsa, Hearts for Hearing and New View Oklahoma sponsored a successful blood drive. Thank you to Pat Banzhof, Linda Atwater, Bridget & Dave Muller and the many other AL members who donated blood for patients in our area hospitals.

Give Blood. Give Life.

