Greetings Dear Ladies! I know that you have been uplifted by our inspiring stories to go out and do the work needed to make our Festival of Tables a success. The FOT needs us all to help to sell tickets, to find silent auction donations and to sell program ads. Do the best you can! Of great help is the document that was sent to you by email. This document lists last year’s silent auction items, the businesses that donated them, and the name of the member who was able to acquire each item. We don’t want to duplicate efforts by “hitting” the same businesses!

At our upcoming March General Meeting, I am looking forward to welcoming April Meadows as our guest speaker. April is employed at Wells Fargo and is the current chair of The Salvation Army Advisory Board. I thought it would be helpful for you to understand the role of the Advisory Board as it fits in the overall structure of Area Command. The Advisory Board supports and helps to engage community leadership to broaden the impact of SA programming and to develop resources. The Board consists of approximately 50 members, who represent local businesses and institutions. New members are nominated and then approved by the Board. The Board meets monthly, and also works with staff through committees, which include Finance, Resource Development, Property and Marketing. The Board is also responsible for “growing” its own membership. Board members are expected to promote the mission and programs of the Salvation Army, as well as to enhance networking and increase giving.

Recently, the Board supported Officers and staff leaders by engaging in a Mission Planning Study. This study determined the strengths and areas of need for our Greater Charlotte Area command. This study has resulted in recommendations for focus and growth, beginning with a feasibility study to determine success in a capital campaign. Recommendations in this study, and their implementation, will have a far-reaching impact on the future of our Charlotte Area Command. These are very exciting times! April will be able to share some insight into this planning process, and to update you so that you know where we currently stand. I hope that you will all welcome her to our meeting.

Last year, I described the great work of the “Hallelujah Lassies”, young Salvationist women who went out spreading the Word to gain converts to the Lord. These women were very brave, as they took personal risks preaching and ministering in dangerous areas and among people who were not kind. Take inspiration from these women as you go outside of your own personal comfort zone to make our Festival of Tables a success.

Nina Robertson
President, 2018-2020
**Festival of Tables Update**

“Time flies when you are having fun” is the old adage. Time is truly flying by as we approach the date for our Festival of Tables. I examined myself this morning to see if I was having fun and realized I might be over-stressed but I am truly having fun. It is truly joyous for me to tell our wonderful, rich story. This is a remarkable place to be, it gives great joy to be a part of something greater, something worth telling. The invitation is open to all of you. Be a part of accomplishing something great, ask someone you know to attend (that is another person to tell our story and support our cause), ask someone to be a part of the event by placing an ad or giving an item for the silent auction. What we hope that you will do is to tell at least two people every day about the Festival of Tables. Multiply that by the number of members and see what we can accomplish with just our voices and the beauty that shines through in your face as we work for the good of others. You will get as much or more out of this than any other.

So please, please let’s get it in gear and work together to make this a memorable event, this is a real opportunity to serve others. We pray that the message conveyed on the day of the FOT will make your heart sing and if we do not sell tickets who will tell our story?

Thank you for all your tireless work and for caring for those less fortunate. If you have questions or need any supplies, please call me at (704) 533-3991.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR FOT DEADLINES:**
- Program ads: March 31st
- Ticket sales: April 8th
- Auction item drop off: April 8th

Thank you,
Brenda Rorie, Event Chair

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**Poplar Grove update**

We are grateful to all of the members of the SAWA who continue to provide gift items for the birthday bags and door prizes. Our next birthday party will be on April 15th. We can always use gift cards for Walmart, Harris Teeter and CVS. The residents can make good use of these, as they can easily access these stores. We appreciate all you do!

God bless,
Kay Major

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**Membership**

Please remember to invite guests to our meetings so that we can grow our membership. A good incentive to join soon - any dues paid after March 31st will be applied to next year’s membership.

Carolyn Gibson

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**Scholarship Student Highlight**

In third grade, Tonea Welch was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (commonly known as ADHD). The Boys and Girls Club youth development professionals worked patiently with Tonea, helping her to grow and improve, in spite of her challenges. The staff and members offered Tonea the support she needed to build and maintain friendships and gain confidence. The Club also offered structure, which was necessary for her to stay organized and maintain good grades.

“It was the Boys & Girls Club that gave me the courage to learn again and fight for my education.”

Now, as one of the Auxiliary scholarship award recipients, Tonea is attending Shaw University in Raleigh and is studying Early Childhood Education. She made the Dean’s list last semester with a 3.74 grade point average and has been invited to join Sigma Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Tonea hopes to one day work with children that have learning disorders and help them prosper as she eventually did without the struggles she had. Just as she once fought to learn herself, she will be fighting for the children who need the extra attention so that they don’t have to struggle as she once did.

We are so proud of Tonea and her accomplishments and look forward to what is yet to come.

Scholarship Committee

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**Lunch Reservations for Members & Guests**

Our next meeting and luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 17th at 11:30 am
The cost is $10 for members.

RSVP BY Friday, March 13 to: Dionna Andrews at 704-334-4731 or dionna.andrews@uss.salvationarmy.org

The Auxiliary Board meeting will take place just prior to the General Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m. All Auxiliary officers and committee chairs, please plan to attend.
Boys and Girls Club celebrations

Ladies:
Easter seems like a long time away but we have only one meeting before that day and there will be Easter parties coming up for the Boys and Girls Clubs. I will be distributing sign-up sheets for cupcakes at our March meeting as well as sending follow-up reminders. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Cheryl Crawford

Center of Hope News

The COH meals are running smoothly. Center of Hope employees covered for us during the icy weather last week so we wouldn’t have to drive downtown!

Becky Herring, Diane Thomas, Jennifer Moore and Jen Adkins are scheduled to serve the March 19th dinner and Cheryl Crawford, Chris Riddle, Penny Hewett, Jane Truesdel and Rosella Bergen are scheduled for the March 27th lunch.

Thank you all who make brownies! That saves a lot of money and they are appreciated. Thank you to all who serve!!

Jen Adkins

Birthdays

Please help me wish the following members a very Happy Birthday and blessed day!

Kay Major          March 10
Pat White           March 18
Clement Gibson      March 23
Krysten Hoversen   March 25
Jen Adkins          March 28

Carolyn Gibson