

San Luis Obispo County
Assistance League
July 2009
Chapter Chatter



From the President . . .

Welcome back to the 2009-10 year of our Chapter! A few months ago, when I was approached to be president, I can tell you I was slightly flabbergasted but ultimately quite honored to be given the trust, and opportunity, to hold this important position. We continue to have a wonderful and well-qualified Board this year, and with our committed volunteer members, we should have a wonderful year ahead of us and I am very excited about getting started.

On June 2 and July 7, **Lou Harsch** and a **large number of great volunteers started unpacking all of the clothes that Barbara Stevens and Cheryl Koalska** bought this past spring. The unpacking should be done by the release of this newsletter, The clothing looks great, and I think the children we serve will be so pleased when they start showing up in August to get their new clothes for school. Also, I took a peek at the new books that arrived, and they are fantastic! A big Thank You goes to **Tina Bell** for ordering the books, and to all of you who have helped in this effort. If you haven't spent time clothing children yet, I encourage you to sign up. **You will work with a bunch of great women, and someone will gladly help you if you feel uneasy about doing this for the first time.**

On July 2, several Board members and I had a site visit with **Janice Fong Wolf** of the **San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation**. **Barbara Bell**, a Board member from the **Women's Legacy Fund**, also joined us. As you may know, the Foundation provided our Chapter with a \$8,000 grant, and they were quite pleased with how we utilized their funds in clothing the 1,114 children in 2008-09. They also provided us with invaluable suggestions for enhancing our donor acknowledgements and relations. The Board will be actively pursuing this.

Anne Boyd and **Lynda Nath** will have some news to report in this newsletter on our Charitable Chic fashion show coming up on September 19. Be sure to mark your calendars, and encourage your friends to attend as well.

For new and continuing members of our Assistance League, I welcome you and encourage you to get involved. I can honestly say, and I think all our members that give of their time will agree, that you will get the most out of your membership by getting involved in the activities that our Chapter organizes. Also, read and print out the newsletter each month to see what is happening. Ask questions, and come to the meetings. Our members are very welcoming and friendly – don't be shy! There are many things each of you can do to get involved, and it is so appreciated.

I look forward to working with all of you. *Bonnie*

Mission Statement
 Assistance League® of San Luis Obispo County is a nonprofit volunteer organization serving families and children through its philanthropic programs: Operation School Bell®, Assistance League Totes® and Books for Packs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Deadline for submission of items for the newsletter is the Thursday after the board meeting, which is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month



Save the Date!
Charitable Chic!
September 19, 2009

July 28 Regular Meeting
 August 10 Advisory Council Meeting
 August 11 Board Meeting
 August 18 New Member Coffee
 August 25 Regular Meeting
 Sept. 8 Board Meeting
 Sept. 15 New Member Orientation
 Sept. 19 Charitable Chic Fashion Show
 Sept. 22 Regular Meeting

Calendar

Oct. 13 Board Meeting
 Oct. 14-18 NAL Convention
 Oct. 27 Regular Meeting
 Nov. 10 Board Meeting
 Nov. 24 Regular Meeting
 Dec. 8 Board Meeting/Holiday Lunch
 Dec. 13 (tentative) Holiday Party
 No regular meeting in December

Public Relations

Gail Stoneburg

Thank you to **Roxanne Camron** for a great job in keeping us in the spotlight this last year. She finished her term acknowledging our contributors, sponsors, advisory council and other major supporters of our AL chapter and of OSB. The acknowledgements appeared in the *New Times* as well as *The Tribune*.

Watch for more news coverage of OSB in upcoming issues of *SLO City News*, *Coast News* and *The Bay News*. We had a reporter covering our last unpacking at the South County site.

If you are interested in providing input, critique or ideas for publicity or would like to be put on the list for speaking on behalf of AL at service clubs and other community venues, please contact me at **pismoseek@aol.com**. I am looking for members who are comfortable speaking in front of a group and members who would keep me informed of activities within their community where we could have a presence and others that would just like to pass on ideas to me. I am new at this and would love to have some guidance from those of you who have been around awhile.

I'm looking forward to all that we can accomplish this coming year. Let's do it as a team, working together to support each other while we are supporting our cause.

Gail

July 28 Regular Meeting

. . . will be held at the OSBS Chapter House. We'll gather at 10:00 AM (coffee and refreshments); the meeting will start at 10:30.

Directions: On Johnson Avenue in SLO, turn at the light at Lizzie Street (opposite French Hospital). On Lizzie, turn left at 2nd driveway on the left into the school campus. Park in the old tennis courts on the right. Go straight ahead into the building in front of the tennis courts and go to the end of the overhang.

August 10 Advisory Council Meeting

. . . . will be held at the office of Advisory Council member, **Mary Verdin**, (Verdin Marketing Ink) at 689 Tank Farm Road, Suite 210, starting at 10:30 AM. The office is located just off Broad on Tank Farm (689 is directly behind the gas station on the corner). Enter from Tank Farm and drive around the back of the building to the entrance.

August 11 Board Meeting. . . will be held at Founders Bank, 863 Marsh, between Morro and Chorro (where the Law's hobby shop was located). Meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

Treasurer's Report

Charlene Ables

After doing the analysis on the cost of clothing each child for 2008-2009, the new price is \$80. Please be mindful of this change from \$85, when preparing all printed materials or presentations.

I'm asking this year that committee members who take our bulk mail to the post office to please call or email me the amount of postage used. It is my desire to always have enough prepaid

postage so none of you would have to write personal checks. This will also help me in keeping exact records.

Charlene

NAL Conference, "Make Your Mark" in Dallas October 14-18. Let Bonnie Long know if you are interested in attending this year.



Membership News Helen Robertson

The membership committee met this month and we are off to a great start. We have seven new members in the newly created category of "business nonvoting." This category works well for those folks who are very busy with their work and would like to support us but don't have time to attend meetings. They will receive recognition plaques for their offices and get all of the information about our activities as well as recognition in the programs for our fundraisers. We will talk more about this opportunity at the July meeting.

This is also the time of year when we need all of you to consider who you know who would enjoy being part of Assistance League. So far we have two new regular voting members for this next year and seven women who are interested in attending the informational coffee in August. Please think about referring a friend to our group. Send the information to me at garry47@aol.com. Invitations are going out soon.

Members of the committee are ready to assist you in any way so that you have a successful year of making

difference in children's lives through your work with ALSLOC.

If you need to inform us about a change to the roster, contact **Betty Bretting**, ebretting@sbcglobal.net, 541-8763

If you need a new name badge (\$5), contact **Charlene Ables**, jandc.ables@sbcglobal.net, 466-3563

If you are unable to attend a regular meeting, contact **Sally Junge**, wgsajunge@aol.com

At the regular meetings you may see some potential new members as well as those who recently joined, so remember: wear your badge, get there a few minutes early and go out of your way to spend some time getting to know these great new members.

Speaking of new members, let's welcome the newest ones, sisters **Jan Hutchinson** and **Marge Harris**.

Helen

Jan Hutchinson lived in the Antelope Valley for 31 years and worked for Lockheed Martin for 35 years. She retired in 2002 and she and Dan relocated to the Central Coast to build their new home in Arroyo Grande. They have three children and four grandchildren and love living on the Central Coast where "the weather is the best!"



Marge Harris moved to SLO County in 1982 from Manhattan Beach, CA, when her husband, Jim, accepted a position at Cal Poly. She also went to work at Cal Poly in 1983 and retired in 2006. She says, "We have three daughters who were in college when we moved to SLO. Over a period of a few years they moved to SLO County so we are able to see them and our seven grandchildren. Retirement is wonderful!"

Many thanks . . . to our members for the Past President's gold pendant which was presented to me at the 2008 Installation Dinner. Thanks to **Anna Aven** who had the pendant engraved to reflect both of my years as President. It is beautiful; I will wear it often and think of all of you.

Thanks also to all who worked on the beautiful scrapbook which captures my last year as President with great photos and memorabilia. My friends and family have enjoyed looking through it this summer. They seem to know more now about what ALSLOC does (and what I was working on). I will treasure the scrapbook and the notes inscribed in it.

Finally, thanks to all of you who sent cards and emails following the passing of my dear father. It meant much to me to see so many of you at the Mass said in his honor and his Celebration of Life at our home. My family was impressed with the friendship shown and the delicious food many of you provided!



Thank you, *Diane*

Philanthropic Corner Lee Mackey

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL:

North County: On June 16 **Stan** and **Maureen Marquis**, **Charlene Ables**, **Judi Hazuka** and **John** and **Lee Mackey** met at OSBS to truck the newly arrived clothes up north. All were put away on June 18 by a hard working group of ten women whose names I forgot to get from Maureen before she left on vacation. But your help is greatly appreciated!! **Garry Robertson** will be installing a second rack to hold an additional row of jackets and **Stan** bargained for an additional rounder which will help greatly in displaying the beautiful new clothes. Clothing starts August 12 and Enrollment Day at Santa Rosa School is scheduled for August 19. Look for the sign-up sheet at the General Meeting.

South County: Many thanks to **Shirley Powell**, **Judy Jimenez**, **Barbara Stevens**, **Jan Hutchinson**, **Gail Stoneburg**, **Marge Harris**, **Cheryl Koalska**, **Georgann Stafford**, **Joan Drake**, **Bonnie Long**, **Terry Bothwell** and husband **Rob**, **Kathy Christensen**, **Helen Robertson**, **Judi Hazuka**, **Charlene Ables**, **Maureen Marquis**, **Tina Bell**, **Lou Harsch**, **Anna Aven**, **Paula Daman**, **Joan Drake**, and **Lorraine Farahmandi** for helping unpack and display all the fabulous new clothes. We won't be offering sweat shirts this year, but we know the kids will be excited with the variety of the new clothes.

Unfortunately the clothes have proven to be an attraction to potential burglars; someone attempted to break into OSBS the week of July 6. The lock box is gone and we are working out a new procedure to allow access for those coming to clothe the children in August. We're planning on explaining it at the July Regular Meeting.

SUE'S STARS:

Sandee Mengee and her committee have been working hard to get our clothing of junior high school kids started. We will be clothing 50 children (25 from North County and 25 from South County) at Old Navy on August 1. It will be patterned after the program we've done with AL of Santa Barbara at the Target store in Santa Maria. If you would like to help on August 1, contact Sandee, sandeemng@email.com, 595-7315.

BOOKS FOR PACKS:

AL National has partnered with the Molina Foundation and we have received some wonderful new books. **Tina Bell** recruited a group of ladies to categorize the new books according to grade level.

Lee

Installation Dinner and Annual Meeting

It was a lovely evening at the San Luis Country Club — unbeatable views, great ambience and fine food. The company wasn't bad either!

Outgoing President **Diane Schneider** gratefully accepted a gold pendant engraved to show her two years in that role and a wonderful scrapbook highlighting her achievements.

Joyce Maruyama received the 110% Award, **Judy Jiménez** The President's Award, **Betty Bretting** the Gladys Fiske Flamingo Award and **Barbara Stevens** the Ada Edwards Laughlin Award.

Charlene Ables, **Anne Boyd**, **JoeAnn Bruzzo**, **Claire FitzGerald**, **Joyce Maruyama**, **Kathi McEwan**, **JoAnne Grossman**, **Judy Jimenez** and **Barbara Stevens** received awards for their years of faithful service to AL. **Maureen Marquis** and **Barbara Stevens** received certificates of thanks for their hard work on Operation School Bell.



The 2009-2010 board are (rear) **Lorraine Ridgeway**, Recording Secretary, **Lee Mackey**, VP Philanthropic, **Donna Cummings**, Corresponding Secretary, **Claire FitzGerald**, VP Resource Development, **Charlene Ables**, Treasurer; (front) **Gail Stoneburg**, Public Relations, **Bonnie Long**, President and **Helen Robertson**, VP Membership.

Education Judy Jiménez

As your 2009-2010 Education Chair, I hope to be able to clarify any questions you might have about Assistance League's programs, procedures and computer issues throughout the year.

Internet Information:

There are two informational Assistance League websites:

www.assistanceleague.org - our national organization

www.alslocounty.org – our local website

We also have a local Internet calendar which lists appointments of the children scheduled for Operation School Bell, as well as the volunteers scheduled for any given day.

In North County – **www.websiteshare.com/OSBN**
password is OSBN (all caps)

In South County – **www.websiteshare.com/OSB**
password is OSB (all caps)

You will not be able to edit the calendars, but you can read them and print them. When you are scheduled to clothe children, please print the list and bring it to the clothing center.

E-mail etiquette: When you receive an e-mail, it is important that you reply to the sender, even if it's a "thank you" - or – "I received your message or attachment- and will get back to you later". There are two types of reply options: 1) a reply to "sender" (your response goes only to the person who sent the e-mail; and 2) a "reply to all" (all recipients listed in the "to" line, or "cc" line receive your reply).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any problems - whether it be computer woes or questions about our programs or procedures. When I don't know the answer, I will do my best to find the best source to answer your question,
aljudyj@pacbell.net or **544-2518**

Judy

Resource Development News

Claire FitzGerald

Charitable Chic News . . . Chairman **Anne Boyd** writes: "The Charitable Chic committee has been hard at work this summer planning the September 19 event. As you may know, we're having a second fashion show this year so we can get on track for an annual Autumn fundraiser in the future. This year's event will be at the SLO Country Club who are being very good to us. We hope to make it a sell-out event again.

"The fashions will be provided by **Rosa's Boutique** in Pismo Beach and **Chico's** in SLO. This is a change from the last newsletter when we said we'd be having Coldwater Creek again. Unfortunately, it didn't work out because of their Autumn sale scheduling but we hope to have them again in future years.

"**K Jon's Fine Jewelers** in Atascadero is again furnishing the \$1,000 grand prize for the Opportunity Drawing and there will be gift certificates from Rosa's and Chico's.

"**Judy Jiménez** is in charge of the children who will model outfits from OSB. Please contact her if you think your children/grandchildren would be good candidates, **aljudyj@pacbell.net** or **544-2518.**"

Anne



Back To School Direct Mail Fundraiser - Names and Addresses Needed!

Karen Gould and Anna Aven, Co-Chairs

It's **Back to School** time again! We will be mailing our annual request for donations to OSB to businesses and organizations in the community, and we need your input. Do you have a local business you use who may want to help support Operation School Bell? Please send the names and addresses to Karen Gould, **kareng@mac.com, 545-7669**

We'll be sending out the Back to School mailers following our regular meeting on August 25. The committee decided that if all members could hand deliver or mail two personal requests to a business or organization with whom they do business, it could increase our visibility and chance of donations. We will have extra mailers available to members at the meeting.

Karen and Anna

Chapter Chatter Betty Bretting

Now that we've gone electronic with the newsletter and since extra pages won't result in higher printing costs, we thought it might be fun to add some lighter items. The board has agreed to give brief bios and favorite recipes which we'll print with a photo. We'll also add some recipes for the great food our ladies bring to the regular meetings. More color photos and a monthly birthday listing will be a nice touch too. Please email me at ebretting@sbcglobal.net with any suggestions you may have for additional (fun) entries.

Betty

Board Bits and Bites—Bonnie Long, President

I have lived most of my life in SLO having been brought here by my parents when I was five from Minnesota. After graduating from high school and business college, I was fortunate to have been hired by Cal Poly. Over my 38-year career there, I worked in three different offices, of which the last 25 years were spent as the Executive Assistant to the Provost. I retired in 2007, and this is the start of my 3rd year with the Assistance League®. I think my responsibilities at Cal Poly will be an asset in my role as president of our wonderful chapter.



My husband, Mike, and I enjoy traveling and snow skiing, but really just enjoy our life and home on the central coast. I'm fortunate also to have my son, daughter-in-law, and two beautiful grandchildren with me in SLO. Thanks for giving me the honor of being your president. I have gained some wonderful new friends!

Bonnie

Artichoke Nibbles (Bonnie Long)



2 6 oz jars marinated artichoke hearts
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
4 eggs
¼ C fine dry bread crumbs
1 tsp. Salt

1/8 tsp. each pepper, oregano leaves, and liquid hot pepper seasoning
2 C sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (8 oz.)
2 T minced parsley

Drain marinade from 1 of the jars of artichokes into a frying pan. Drain other jar (reserve marinade for other uses). Chop all artichokes and set aside. Heat marinade in frying pan over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and cook, stirring until onions are limp.

In a bowl, beat eggs with a fork. Stir in crumbs, salt, pepper, oregano, and hot pepper seasoning. Then stir in cheese, parsley, artichokes and onion mixture. Turn into a

greased 8x8" pan and bake, uncovered, in a 325° oven for about 30 minutes or until set when lightly touched. Let cool in pan, then cut into 1" squares. Serve warm or at room temperature, or cover and refrigerate and serve cold. To reheat, bake uncovered in a 325° oven for 10-12 minutes or until hot.

This is a very old recipe of mine that always seems to be a crowd pleaser!!



Birthdays! Birthdays! Birthdays!

Patty Lu Ballard-July 22
Linda Nath-July 28
Bev Davis-August 6
Joyce Maruyama-August 7
Judi Hazuka-August 18

I don't have entries for those listed below. Please email me at ebretting@sbcglobal.net with yours so I can add it to the roster.

Jean Borraccino
Norma Brown
Judy Burdick
Judy Criss
Peggy Elliott

MaryLea Harris
Marjorie Johnson
Liz Maruska
Shirley Powell
Michelle Williams