

San Luis Obispo County

Assistance League

September 2009

Chapter Chatter



From the President's Corner . . .

It's hard to believe that September is half over. Our Charitable Chic Fashion Show and fundraiser is fast approaching, and **Anne Boyd** and **Lynda Nath** have planned a wonderful afternoon for us. Also, our hardworking clothing volunteers have already clothed over 500 children since August 1, and we are currently telling parents to call later this month for October appointments.

Will we be able to fulfill our commitment to the parents and children to efficiently provide clothing for those in need? The answer to this question lies within you, and all of us. We need more volunteers as we are typically stretched thin on clothing day, so I encourage everyone to spend a few hours each month helping out.

On a related matter, the Board of Directors, at its meeting on September 8, approved the suggestion to allow non-member community volunteers to clothe children this year. The time these volunteers spend with us is most appreciated, especially in the North County. We plan to provide them with the required training to help them properly clothe our children. The Board intends to re-look at this issue at the end of the year to evaluate its results.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the membership for sending **Helen Robertson** (VP, Membership), **Gail Stoneburg** (Public Relations Chair), and myself to the National Assistance League Conference next month in Dallas, TX (Oct. 14-18). The conference will include lots of valuable workshops, and I'll be looking forward to reporting back to you on what we have learned. I have placed **Charlene Ables**, our Treasurer, in charge during our absence in case anything comes up.

On behalf of our kids, thank you for your service!

Bonnie

Calendar

Sept. 19 Charitable Chic Fashion Show	Nov. 10 Board Meeting
Sept. 22 Membership Meeting	Nov. 17 Membership Meeting
Oct. 13 Board Meeting	Dec. 6 Holiday Party
Oct. 14-18 NAL Convention	Dec. 8 Board Meeting/Holiday Lunch
Oct. 27 Membership Meeting	No membership meeting in December

Charitable Chic! — September 19

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

October 13 Board Meeting

Charlene Ables will host this meeting which will start promptly at 10:00 A.M..

Directions: coming from north or south on 101, take the Traffic Way exit (from north turn right; from south turn left and go under the overpass (all are at the same point now), Almost immediately the road dead-ends at Ardilla. Turn left onto Ardilla. Turn right at Santa Lucia (0.1 mile). Stay on Santa Lucia (you'll cross Portola Road and proceed a couple of miles). Turn left on Laurel Road and 9825 is the third house on right. 466-3563. **If you get to a bridge on Santa Lucia, you've passed Laurel Road.**

October 27 Membership 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.

Sharon Hurkmans, Barbara Stevens, Carolyn Jones, Tawnee Hosick, Joyce Maryuama, Anne Boyd and Shirley Powell brought the edibles to the August meeting. Thank you ladies — sooo delicious!

Public Relations Highlights

Gail Stoneburg

We have ads running for Charitable Chic in the **SLO City News**, **Bay News** and **Coast News** and we are scheduled on all of the media calendars. **Barbie Butz** has made us "all stars" in North County with front page coverage for clothing the children as well as talking about **Charitable Chic** and **Sue's Stars** in her own article she writes for the **Atascadero News**. What a blessing she is for our chapter public relations! I also want to thank **Kitty Rice** and **Joan Drake** for all the assistance they have given me.



We made our first speaking presentation with Arroyo Grande Rotary Club and it went very well. I was told afterwards that the pictures of the children were the most compelling part of the presentation. The club directed us to their website to make a formal request for a donation, which **MaryLea Harris** will complete for us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Nipomo Chamber of Commerce will hold it's annual **October Festival** on October 10th. We plan to have a booth again this year and we are looking for volunteers. The festival is from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. It would be nice to have volunteers for two and half hour shifts. I can be there early to set up and I can stay for the day. You all are working so hard right now with all we have going on, so I am thinking we can do this with just two or three more volunteers besides myself. Morning shift would be 10:00 to 12:30 and afternoon shift 12:30 to 3:00. I would need someone to stay and help me tear down and pack up. Please email me at pismoseek@aol.com if you can help out that day

Gail

Treasurer's Report

Charlene Ables

NAL has identified the value of the volunteer hour at \$20.53. ALSLOC volunteered 9,337 hours in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We have given \$191,688.61 in labor to our community which is a measurable and valuable contribution.

The interest earned on Founders Community Bank checking account since February is \$829.82. That is enough to clothe 10 kids. Hooray!

TOOTHPASTE and TOOTHBRUSHES – Our inventory of toothbrushes and toothpaste is almost depleted.



The cost of toothpaste and a toothbrush for each child is \$2 or more. We should always try to get donations in lieu of purchasing OSB items. This is a natural opportunity for us to get donations. *Please contact your dentist and ask for toothpaste, toothbrushes or both.* They would be pleased to promote good dental health in their community and honored to help ALSLOC.

Charlene

Membership Nook Helen Robertson

The Membership Committee has been busy preparing for the September new member orientation meeting to be held on September 15 at the Chapter house. We have nine new "regular" members for this year so far. Please welcome our newest members **Anita Abshire** and **Cris Freeman** when you see them at our events. Look for pictures and information about our new members starting in the October newsletter.

The committee has been asked by the Board to update our chapter conflict-of-interest forms. So you all will receive one at our next meeting to read and sign. This is a requirement by NAL and protects us from liability.

Please keep in mind referring your friends and neighbors to us as potential new members. This will continue to be a challenging year for all non-profits and will most likely be that way into the next several years as our economy recovers. We will need new enthusiastic people to keep our organi-

zation as vibrant as it is today. Thanks to everyone for the many new people we have contacted so far.

The BTS Award for August



... was given to our very active, long-time member, **Carol Porter**. In the past Carol has held several Board positions including President. Currently she schedules the children for north county OSB. She and her husband Paul have been responsible for designing and implementing

our Kards 4 R Kids program. The program has not only brought in over \$2,000 for our chapter but also gets our name out in the community each time a card is sent. Thanks Carol!



Our 2009-10 Roster has been emailed to those of you who are on-line and will be mailed to the rest with this newsletter. Please print and put it in your notebook. Here are some changes that should be incorporated:

Terry Bothwell's home phone should be 546-8217 and her cell is 550-3040

Joan Drake's home phone should be 785-0780

Tawnee Hosick has a new home phone, 549-0464

Claire FitzGerald has a new cell phone, 704-8541

In our Business Members portion of the roster, the correct phone for **Jouet Studio** is 546-1060

Please keep **Betty Bretting** up to date if/when there are any changes to your contact information. Thanks.

Helen



Circle Fund Diane Schneider

Please see me at our September monthly meeting to join Circle Fund. Your donation helps to provide funding for a variety of educational training and materials at the three national conferences. Become a member of Circle and provide support to prepare our chapter as leaders in our community. You will receive an attractive commemorative pin acknowledging your support with your \$25 tax-deductible donation. Thank you.

We had a good representation at the Women's Legacy Fund Luncheon recently at Embassy Suites. **Diane Schneider, Betty Bretting, Charlene Ables, Bonnie Long, Lee Mackey, Carolyn Jones** are pictured at right. **Gail Stoneburg** took the photo and **Barbara Stevens, Terry Bothwell** and **Barbie Butz** were at nearby tables. It was fascinating hearing of the wonderful work this group does addressing the issues and needs of women and girls in the County.



Education Judy Jiménez

Dealing with difficult families and children:

The majority of our families are grateful and cooperative; but unfortunately on occasion, we have to deal with a difficult child or parent in our Operation School Bell program.

Over the years I have helped clothe a few difficult children/families. I have a few suggestions that will hopefully help if this happens to you:

Ask another volunteer to switch with you, if you are feeling uncomfortable dealing with a difficult child or parent.

Ask the mother to assist in the clothing process if you have a difficult child.

You can explain to a difficult child that he or she does not have to take any clothing, because there are many children who do want the new clothing.

We do not offer vouchers if a child "just does not like" the items we offer.

You might return the child to the mother, explaining to the mother that the child does not wish to try on or receive clothing. If the child changes their mind about trying on and receiving clothing; you would help the child after you finished with the next child waiting for clothing.

In conclusion: You as a volunteer should not tolerate "inappropriate attitudes" from a child or

family. You have every right to ask parent to reschedule if you feel uncomfortable.

Internet Information:

There are five informational Assistance League websites:

www.assistanceleague.org - general information of our national organization

www.alslocounty.org – our local website with general information of our Chapter

www.websiteshare.com/OSBN - for North County - lists children scheduled for clothing appointments, as well as volunteers scheduled - password is OSBN (all Caps) - North County Operation School Bell calendar

www.websiteshare.com/OSB - for South County - lists children scheduled for clothing appointments, as well as volunteers scheduled - password is OSB (all Caps) - South County Operation School Bell calendar

www.websiteshare.com/OSBDB - User ID is OSBDB - password is OSBDB – This is a new database that was created to offer an 'at a glance' report page for all Operation School Bell activity. You may print a user manual in the first section of the launch screen.

Judy

Chapter Chatter Betty Bretting



Board Bytes and Bites

Charlene Ables, Treasurer. This is Charlene's second year as treasurer and her sixth year in AL-SLOC. In 2004 she retired from the Atascadero Unified School District after 30 years as a school secretary. She enjoys reading, cooking, walking and swimming. Since Charlene has retired and doesn't need a professional wardrobe, SHE MISSES SHOPPING! She and her husband, John, were high-school classmates. They are both avid gardeners and seem to have an endless number of home projects which produce laughter, sweat and endless trips to Home Depot. Charlene and John have four grandchildren between them.

HEALTHY Zucchini Bread (Charlene Ables)

I reduced the sugar and oil, and used whole wheat flour to create this recipe.

3 eggs	1 teaspoon salt
¾ cup oil	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 ½ cups sugar	¼ teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons vanilla	3 cups whole wheat flour
3 teaspoons cinnamon	3 cups grated zucchini

Beat eggs until light; add oil, sugar, and vanilla. Mix well. Sift in cinnamon, salt, baking soda, baking powder. Mix well. Add flour and mix. Stir in zucchini. Bake in 2 greased loaf pans at 325 degrees for one hour. Cool five minutes, remove from pan, cool on rack. ENJOY!

Resource Development Corner
Claire FitzGerald

Charitable Chic!

Hope you ladies have made your Charitable Chic reservations. It promises to be a fun afternoon. If you can't come, you can support the cause by buying raffle tickets. Who wouldn't like to win a \$1,000 gift certificate to K-Jon's??? Contact **Joyce Maruyama**, maruyamaj@sbcglobal.net or 473-5866 for extra raffle tickets. **Anne Boyd** and **Lynda Nath** have been putting in long hours to make this show the best one yet.



Anne Boyd writes: There will be an envelope at each table which will contain six tickets. For \$5 you can purchase one of the tickets. During the drawing for door prizes, etc., we will be drawing one of the tickets. If anyone at a given table has this ticket they win the centerpiece. If no one at your table has the drawn ticket another one will be drawn and so on until all centerpieces have been won. Emcee Karen Willer will promote the drawing during the show, but I'd like to ask you to encourage your tablemates to buy a ticket.

Viva La Fiesta!

I'm very pleased to announce that **Barbara Stephens** and **Sharon Hurkmans** have agreed to be co-chairs of Viva La Fiesta in April. They have started their plans and will be asking for volunteers to be part of the Fiesta Committee. It is our signature event and always a fun time. It promises to be even a bigger and better Fiesta this year with Barbara and Sharon taking the lead. This is our last big fundraiser of the year.

Back-to-School Mailer

... is in the mail. As you know, we are trying a different approach this year by buying labels from a commercial firm. We really believe this is the wave of the future.

Co-Chair **Karen Gould** writes, "The mailer was sent to 1,100 of the County's largest businesses. We are hoping for a good response with lots of dona-

tions. Many thanks to the committee, including **Claire Fitzgerald, Anna Aven, Charlene Ables, Tawnee Hostick, Helen Robertson, and Diane Schneider**. At the meeting there will be additional unaddressed solicitations for everyone to hand out personally to their dentist, doctor, hairdresser or anyone else whom you feel might contribute. Thanks Ladies."

The Haunted Caves at Eberle Winery, Paso Robles

We were very lucky to be offered this fundraising event which was created by D.R.E.A.M. for Kids Foundation. It will be held Friday and Saturday, October 30-31, at the Eberle Winery, 3810 Highway 46 East, 3.5 miles east of Paso Robles. The hours are 4-8:00 p.m. and we will have several two-hour shifts available. How cute will it be to see all the youngsters in their costumes?

Here's what the Eberle website says:

"Come if you dare and venture through Eberle Winery's Haunted Caves! Decorated and lit by a team of professionals, our 16,000 square feet of underground caves turn into one of the spookiest tickets in town. Brave souls 10 and older are recommended for this Halloween fun, but there will be plenty of games for the little ones above ground as well. A \$5 donation to D.R.E.A.M for Kids Foundation goes directly to the Assistance League of San Luis Obispo County, which dresses children in K-6 through their Operation School Bell program. It's a great cause and a lot of fun! (Parents, the Tasting Room will be open for complimentary wine tasting as well! Just ask for the Ca-BOO-nay!)"

We'll be working with the younger children outside the caves—face painting, bounce house and perhaps movies. **Carol Porter, Paula Daman** and I will be there both days and we'll need a few more volunteers (four each day for about two hours).

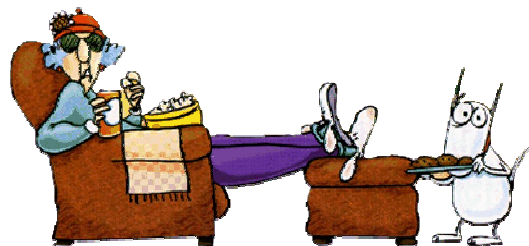


Claire

HOW TO CLEAN THE HOUSE

1. Open a new file in your **PC**.
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the **RECYCLE BIN**.
4. Empty the **RECYCLE BIN**.
5. Your **PC** will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete Housework permanently?"
6. Calmly answer, "Yes," and press mouse button firmly ...
7. Feel better?

Works for me!



Philanthropic News
Lee Mackey

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL

North County: The number of children clothed continues to mount. **Maureen Marquis** reports that 286 kids have been clothed to date! Due to the high demand they are currently not calling no-shows to reschedule; if/when things slow down, they'll try to pick them up. And a note from **Mary Chapman**: "Once again, I have the good fortune of being able to take another vacation. We are leaving for a cruise on September 11 and will return on September 27. Please let Maureen know if you need to change any date. Contact Maureen at 466-3503, mjmarquis@charter.net" **Tina Bell** has been kind enough to help with the scheduling chores, too. Thanks, Tina!



South County: Starting in October **Lou Harsch** reports that the clothing schedule will be every 30 minutes in an attempt to clothe more kids (left: **Donna Cummings** helping a tiny client and her mother). September time slots are filled and scheduling for October will begin Sept. 14.

As a reminder, please empty the trash if you unpack items for display. And remember to print out the schedule for the day when you come to clothe. Here's how to access the schedule:

OSB Web calendar:

- To access the web calendar to check and print the schedule before you go into clothe children:
- North County : websiteshare.com/OSBN password is OSBN (all caps)
- South County : websiteshare.com/OSB password is OSB (all caps)

If you need to change your scheduled clothing day, **please find a substitute**, and then call the volunteer scheduler to make the change on the web calendar.

- North-Mary Chapman – chappym@sbcglobal.net
- South-Joyce Maruyama-maruyamaj@sbcglobal.net

Sue's Stars

On August 26, **Sandee Mengee, Barbara Wright, Donna Cummings, Gail Stoneburg, Lou Harsch** and her daughter and **Karen Willer** clothed the last group of 7th and 8th graders at Old Navy (one of our satisfied customers is pictured right.). Sandee's thrilled to report that we have now clothed 51 children. 23 in North County and 28 in South County with \$26 left over in their budget. Way to go, Ladies!!



Outreach

North County: **Ann Holman** reluctantly had to resign as Outreach Chair due to health reasons. But she laid the groundwork and **Patti Rodriguez** will be stepping into her shoes. Thank you, Ann, for all you've done; and, Patti, for being so willing to take over!

Totes

At the September Membership Meeting we will be voting on a motion to terminate our Totes program. The Board discussed the issue at their meeting and upon recommendations from the past two Totes Chairs passed a motion to terminate the program. It was reported that other organizations in the community are providing the same service which has resulted in more totes than are needed. Also we are experiencing a shortage of members to fill our clothing slots as a result of expanding the number of kids clothed at OSB and having added **Sue's Stars**. Given these facts it was decided to recommend termination to the membership.

HELP: We need toothpaste and tooth-brushes!! Please see note in Charlene's report!

Lee



Birthdays! Birthdays! Birthdays!



Claire FitzGerald—September 19
Lee Mackey—September 27
Lindsey Ridgeway—October 13
Karen Willer—October 13