Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

KEEP CALM and FIGHT ON

At the end of September everyone starts getting out their pink ribbons, shirts, caps, pins and signs. It is wonderful that our country recognizes breast cancer awareness month. We are invited to so many events to speak to young women and



to share information about us and our services so we can help someone that will face cancer or who is facing it now. We do this all year long (not just in October) in hopes of helping other women that are going down that same road that we have traveled. We have so many members and volunteers willing to help others, to give their time to try and make someone's journey easier. We don't have all the answers and we can't meet every need, but we are here willing to try to do what we can. We try to find new ways to help breast cancer patients and are open to suggestions. Every ones journey is different and so are their needs.

So remember when everyone starts putting away their pink stuff that the Steel Magnolias keep on going! We live and do this 365 days a year. We can't do what we do without the support of the community. We are so blessed to have all the people that contribute to our cause and support us every year. It is our month to say:

"Thank You"

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Sharing love through support

Steel Magnolias P.O. Box 2208 Anniston, AL 36202

Lenora Johnson, Founder Nancy Burnell, Executive Director nancyburnell@gmail.com Editor: Becky Tiner Beckyathome@att.net

Elaine Johns, President Nancy Gillespie, Vice President Connie Stephens, Secretary Chuck Trull, Treasurer Group Chaplains: Gloria Woosley & Sherry Grinstead RMC Chaplain, Jim Wilson Historian & Photographer Elizabeth McCabe

Pinks Boutique: Marti Warren, Mgr. For Appointment (256) 239-0855 Office 256-231-8827 Physicians Center, STE 407 901 Leighton Ave. Anniston, AL 36207 www.steelmagnoliasinc.org

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Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting September 22, 2015

The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group Inc. met on Tuesday, September 22nd in the private dining room of RMC.

President Elaine Johns called the meeting to order and welcomed our guests to the meeting. We had 3 guests, 2 from Dr. Esposito's office and 1 cancer survivor, Barbara Hawkins. Elaine told Barbara she would give her a welcoming gift at our next meeting.

Chaplain Sherry Grinstead gave the blessing before our meal of ham and turkey sandwiches provided by RMC. Side dishes and desserts were provided by Steel Magnolias members.

Vice-president Nancy Gillespie introduced our guest entertainer, Regina Apple, who gave us some information about herself and family before entertaining us by playing the keyboard and singing beautiful inspirational hymns. Regina told us about her husband's health challenges and how he has improved so much to point that if we met him today that we wouldn't be aware of any past problems he had. Regina and her husband have been foster parents to more than 30 children! Regina ended the night by singing "I'll Fly Away" while Steel Magnolia members joined in. Nancy Gillespie thanked Regina for coming to entertain us and presented her with the "Jesus Calling" devotional.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Minutes from the August 25, 2015 meeting were read by Secretary Connie Stephens. Linda Barton made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Marilyn Lawson 2^{nd} the motion. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer Chuck Trull gave the financial report. Steve Stephens made the motion to accept the report and Roger Zeimet 2^{nd} the motion. The financial report was accepted.

Elaine reminded everyone that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and that we will be very busy with many events during the month beginning with the Oxfordfest on October 3rd. We will have our tent set up in front of Cotton's in Oxford and need members to sign up to work that day. Nancy Gillespie told our group that she, Nancy Burnell, and Marti Warren will be speaking to the JSU Zeta Sorority on October 6th. Margaret Taylor asked for volunteers to work for the Brake for Breakfast at the Tyler Center which will be held on October 9th from 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Where attendees will be given a free healthy breakfast, a gift and information on the early detection of breast cancer. On October 10th, Cindy the Pink Fire Truck will be at the Anniston Fire Department and Nancy Gillespie asked that as many of us attended that event as possible.

The "Steps to Help" Breast Cancer Awareness Walk will be held at Ranburne High School on October 17th. Margaret stated that we have had low attendance of this event in the past and asked that we come out and support it this year.

On October 18th, the Mt. Cheaha Harley-Davidson Chapter #3476 presents "Tutus for Tatas" with all proceeds to benefit the Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group. There will be awards for best costume & best decorated bike and a police escorted ride through Calhoun County to show off the costumes and bikes. Our members were asked to put on their Tutus and come out to support this fun event!

Sherry went over the prayer list then ended the meeting with a prayer.

Steve Stephens made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Roger Zeimet 2nd the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY:

Connie Stephens Secretary



Many thanks to Pleasant Valley High School for hosting the School girl Awareness Program on September 16th. I had a delightful sidekick in Sarah Lickers who shared her journey with breast cancer to about 150 young ladies from 9th through 12th grades. The girls were very attentive and courteous and we had many positive comments about the program. Sarah is new to Steel Magnolias and managed to make her story entertaining and funny even though she has endured great struggles. Thank you Sarah.

Submitted by Margaret Taylor

I recently received a call from Jennifer Pierce, nurse at White Plains High School, asking Steel Magnolias to come and present the School Girl Awareness Program to the 9th grade Health classes. On October 7th I arrived at the school prepared for about 90 girls. To my surprise I only had 23 girls. We had a great time in each of 4 classes. Because of the small number per class it enabled us to have more time individually for questions and comments. The health/business classes are split per semester so every 9th grader did not have the opportunity to see the program. Jennifer and I will schedule a time in January when these girls will have that opportunity.

Submitted by Margaret Taylor

In recognition of October's designation as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Regional Medical Center (RMC) was pleased to host an awareness and early detection connection event on **FRIDAY**, **OCTOBER 9**TH to recognize and honor breast cancer survivors and promote early detection and breast cancer awareness.

Local residents were invited to RMC's first annual **"Brake for Breakfast"** early detection connection event. Local residents were invited to make 3 important stops as they **'Brake for Breakfast'** with RMC staff and Steel Magnolia volunteers to receive a FREE healthy breakfast, gift and important information on early detection capabilities available at RMC.

The event was geared for on-the-go women—because they always put other's needs, health and well-being first and never take time for themselves— and was set-up like a "drive-thru". It was a chance for busy professionals and moms to focus on their health and wellness and to celebrate the courage of our survivors and supporters. "Cindy" the Pink Firetruck was on hand to show their support for ALL women and their families in their fight against cancer. We had over 175 women participate in this event in hopes that they will use the information to make a difference in early detection.

Submitted by:

Lagina Fillingim



On October 5th, Jacksonville State University's chapter of the Zeta Sorority requested that we present a program at their regular monthly meeting. Nancy Gillespie, Marty Warren and Nancy Burnell each spoke regarding their journey with Breast Cancer. After a wonderful and fun time, Nancy Gillespie and Nancy Burnell showed each young lady how to do breast self exams. This program was presented to over 84 girls. This is the second year the Zeta's have requested we speak to them.

On October 9th, Sherry Lassiter, Cosmetology Instructor at the Career Technical School in Jacksonville asked Nancy Gillespie speak to each of her classes regarding Breast Cancer. After the speaking program each girl was shown how to do a breast self exam. This program was presented to over 90 girls. The Cosmetology Department cleans and styles some of our wigs.

On Saturday, October 10th, several of our members were at the Anniston Fire Department to welcome "Cindy" the Pink Fire Truck. Those present were, Chuck and Barbara, Lawrence and Nancy, Della, Vickie, Marilyn, Connie and Steve, Marti, Gloria, Janet, Margie, Vickie and her daughter. Marti Warren and Nancy Gillespie were asked to speak. After speaking they were presented a Check in the amount of \$2700 from the Anniston Fire Department. Also, at that same time The Guardians of the Ribbon (the Pink Fire Truck Fireman) presented us \$300 to be used for the purchase of new breast teaching forms.

On Sunday, October 11th, "Cindy" the Pink Fire Truck and the Guardians of the Ribbon visited the Jacksonville Church of God. Nancy and Lawrence Gillespie were present.

On Sunday, October 11th at noon "Cindy" the Pink Fire Truck was stationed on the Square in Jacksonville. Those present to hand out information were Chuck and Barbara, Nancy and Lawrence, Della, Linda, Vickie and her daughter.

A special thanks to each and everyone of you that came out and help with these events. Due to your efforts the Steel Magnolias received donations of over \$3800.





On Saturday October the 3rd the Steel Magnolias set up our tent on Main Street in Oxford at daybreak in a cool drizzle for Oxfordfest. The morning started off a little slow, but as the day continued more people were out and about. We had many items for sale from donated breast cancer jewelry, scarves, lanyards and pink Steel Magnolia wrist bands. We also had raffles on a breast cancer bear, a small afghan and a large afghan that were donated to us to raise money. We talked to a lot of people during the day and shared the information about our services. We had several Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel that were there most of the day. Thanks to Chuck, Barbra, Della, Nancy, Lawrence, Elaine, Nancy Buckman, Connie and Steve for all the hard work. We drew for the raffle at the end of the day and Linda Buddle won the bear, Lena Brown won the large afghan and Norma Daniel won the small afghan.



All were excited and 2 of them are breast cancer survivors. We raised around \$384 even with the bad weather. I hope we go again next year!

It was a nice cool and windy morning in Ranburne Alabama, October the 17th for the "Steps to Help" walk. The Steel Magnolias had a great crowd there to man our tent. Margaret, Jimmy, Chuck, Barbra and Linda got there early and set up our tent and tables. Elaine, Nancy, Gloria, Judy, Brenda, Ina and two of her granddaughters also came. We had 7 to participate in the walk and everyone else stayed at the tent. There were around 50 to 60 people there today and we had several come to the tent. We handed out flyers for the "Tutus for Tatas" to most of the walkers. We raised around \$60 from sales at the tent and will know later the amount we will receive from the proceeds raised at the walk. We want to thank Runa and her supporters for all the hard work they do every year to put this walk on. Breast cancer has touched their lives. They want to help to make someone's journey a little easier and to make sure all women can get mammograms.





Joggin' Inside Little John the Baptist

Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing Church" with their cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work.

A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny Baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought of about that before he joined my church." Dear Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel: The Breast Cancer Stamp sales at the Weaver Post Office have so far been a great success, as usual. If you recall, we have been invited in October for several years to set up in the lobby, pass out our literature and make the public aware of the great services we offer, encouraging people to buy breast cancer stamps at this post office. Last year, Weaver invited us too late, after we had committed to Jacksonville Post Office . Unfortunately, we did not have enough volunteers to serve both. Quite a few patrons told me how much they missed us last October, and with a lot of hugs, told me how glad they were to have us back this year. It's good to be missed. Weaver was quick to invite us 5 months in advance this time. Some patrons reminded me they played in our golf tournament in the spring, and are looking forward to playing again this spring. Some were quick to put money in our "Money jar", especially knowing donations serve local areas. All of us should be proud to be part of this benevolent group, filling such a great need. There are so many requests for us to send volunteers in October. These are wonderful opportunities to further our cause, reaching a broader audience.

Through October 15, the USPS sold \$921.00 in the Breast Cancer Stamp Sales program. A big Thank You to Denice Daffron, Postmaster, Weaver, for inviting us . She sends her appreciation to our group, crediting us for the greater increase of sales. Our donations, thus far, have totaled \$225.42 I have, plus Nancy Buchmann has \$41.00 (\$266.42). By October 31st we should have the total stamp sales and the total donations to our group to report. Weaver Post Office has

been 4th place for the whole State of Alabama in the past. I am so thankful to these wonderful volunteers who took time from their busy schedules to represent us in this very important opportunity: Linda Barton, Gloria Woosley, Ann Peoples, Judy Elders, Vicki Norman, Marilyn Lawson, Della McNeal, Nancy Buchmann, Janet Reaves, The rest of the month, volunteers will be Margaret Taylor, who has been great to organize, Keither and Roger Zymet, Connie Stevens, Linda Barton, and Susan Dupree, I sorely miss Paul not being able to participate this year. He has been actively involved in the post office sales since the beginning. He always enjoyed meeting and greeting people as they came in.



Submitted by:

Elizabeth McCabe, Historian Photographer



The Steel Magnolias and the Men of Steel attended the first annual "Tutus for Tatas" at Mt. Cheaha Harley Davison. It was put on by the Hog Chapter #3476. We all showed up in pink tutus and so did the bikers! It was a beautiful day and we had a wonderful time. It was such a joy to feel the love and support from this group of men and women. There was a contest for the best costume and best decorated bike. From our pictures you will see who would win that. They raised \$843 for. I want to thank everyone that came out. We had a great turn out and it would be easier to list the few that didn't come out Sunday afternoon. Many thanks to every one from Mt. Cheaha Harley Davison and Hog Chapter #3476.



Up Coming Events

October 27th is our last meeting for the year. We will have meat loaf and creamed potatoes. Steel Magnolias please bring side dishes and deserts. We will have no guest speaker.

November 16th will be our next news letter mailing date.

December 5th is our Christmas Brunch at Classic on Noble at 10 A.M.

President's Corner

We have had a busy October. I want to thank everyone that came out and helped. Every one has worked very hard at all of our events. We have made a lot of new friends and had fun along the way.

Don't forget there will be no meeting in November. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas this year. We will have a news letter in November to let everyone know more about the Christmas Brunch and what we have in store for next year.

God Bless Elaine

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