

# Steel Magnolias

## Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

### Parts Manager Has New Purpose

November 20, 2017

(This article appeared in the Anniston Star October 22, 2017 in a special insert for Breast Cancer Awareness.)

**Elaine Johns Volunteers With Steel Magnolias**  
By Sherry Kughn



Elaine Johns has a new purpose. Johns, Sunny King Toyota's parts manager, volunteers to help the Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group. Through her work, she wants to help as many cancer patients as possible.

*Sharing love through support*

In her past, Johns had several of her father's side of the family who had either died from breast cancer or had lost a breast. Included is one of her three sisters who has developed and overcome the disease. So, for the past several years, Johns sought checkups every six months. In November 2011, the results of her tests were not good.

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

Lenora Johnson, Founder  
Nancy Burnell, Executive Director  
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Johns remembers the dread of telling her three sisters. The four, plus a niece and great-niece, went on a Saturday trip to a craft show. "We were having a good time," Johns said. "There was never a good time to tell anyone. The next morning, Johns called each of her sisters and told them the bad news. After that, she saw the importance of a loving group of supportive people. A few days after her diagnosis, she had a lumpectomy and started her chemotherapy.

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

Johns, who is currently in remission, had the sick feelings that sometimes go with breast cancer and chemotherapy but not with the radiation. During the treatments, she learned to look for the positives, even when losing her hair. "I did not have to fix my hair or have a haircut," she said.

Pinks Boutique: For Appointment  
call the Office 256-231-8827  
Physicians Center, STE 407  
901 Leighton Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36207  
www.steelmagnoliasinc.org

Another positive development was the start of her involvement with the Steel Magnolias, which falls under the Chaplain's service at Northeast Regional Medical Center. While attending the meetings, she found a host of breast cancer survivors and later decided to help others as the group helped her. Now she serves as president, writes the monthly newsletter, and assists with fundraisers. Others prepare care packages to be sent to newly diagnosed patients.

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Email any officer by typing  
Their—first name  
@steelmagnoliasinc.org



The care packages have a copy of a book that came to have a meaning for Johns, “Jesus Calling”. Now some of the money raised by the group goes into buying “Jesus Calling” by the caseloads. One book goes in each care package.

A third positive development was the support Johns received from her coworkers and management at Sunny King. Recently, the company donated \$15,000 to Steel Magnolias. Also, for every car sold at either of the dealerships, a donation will be made. “This is such an honor and a blessing,” Johns said.

Now Johns wants to spread the word about the expenses incurred for people recovering from breast cancer. She wrote down a list that included \$50-\$80 for a mastectomy bra, \$300-\$500 for a prosthesis, and \$200-\$400 for a compression sleeve. The group helps those who have little or no insurance.

In addition, Steel Magnolias maintains an office near the chaplain’s office in the Physician Center. They purchase literature for patients and maintain a program for school-age girls. They provide lunch vouchers for family members visiting their loved one during surgery and snacks to the chemo treatment and radiation rooms.

“We are all volunteers,” said Johns. “It takes anywhere from \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually to fund our services.” The 501c3 organization welcomes donations. Call 256-231-8827 or visit [www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org). Patients may also email at the following address: [support@steelmagnoliasinc.org](mailto:support@steelmagnoliasinc.org). The group is always seeking new volunteers.

Patty King with Elaine to the right and below Vernon Thomas, GM of Sunny King Toyota, Jeff Burt, GM of Sunny King Honda and Tony Russell, GM of Sunny King Ford with members of the Steel Magnolias. The 3 dealerships raised \$17,000 during Breast Cancer Awareness month to help Steel Magnolias. Thank You Sunny King Automotive Group!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting  
October 24, 2017**

**The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group Inc. met on Tuesday, October 24th in the private dining room of RMC.**

**The meeting was called to order by President Elaine Johns. We had three visitors, Tangelia Williams, Heather Bragg, and Tammy Nelson.**

**Gloria Woosley said the blessing before our meal of pizza provided by RMC. Side dishes and desserts were provided by Steel Magnolia members.**

**We did not have a guest speaker.**

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Secretary Connie Stephens read the minutes from the September meeting. Susan Dupree made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Linda Barton 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The meeting minutes were Accepted.**

**Treasurer Chuck Trull gave the financial report.**

**Elaine asked our guests if they would like to speak to our group. Tangelia Williams met Margaret Taylor at the Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast held at Golden Corral. She said that she is very passionate about helping those diagnosed with breast cancer and would like to volunteer with the Steel Magnolias. Guest Heather Bragg is with a group called Girls Love Mail. This group provides support to those diagnosed with breast cancer. She brought the newly published book titled "Dear Friend: Letters of Encouragement, Humor and Love for Women with Breast Cancer". Heather donated a copy of the book to our group which will be kept in the Steel Magnolias Office.**

**Executive Director, Nancy Burnell, passed along the information she received from restaurants that she contacted about booking our Christmas Brunch. After hearing all the prices and menu choices, Marti Warren made the motion that we have our Christmas Brunch at Alexander's this year. Elizabeth McCabe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all members agreed. Our Christmas Brunch will be held at Alexander's on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. A motion was made by Margaret Taylor and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Elder that the cost for guests will be \$10. After a vote of the members, the motion carried.**

**Elaine updated the group on all the events Steel Magnolias were a part of during the month of October and provided us with the amounts that were donated to Steel Magnolias at each event.**

**Jimmy Taylor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the names of members who were being nominated for officers in 2018. They are as follows: President - Elaine Johns; Vice President - Margaret Taylor and Nancy Burnell; Secretary - Brenda Parker; Treasurer - Chuck Trull; Chaplain - Sherry Grinstead and Parliamentarian - Steve Stephens. After receiving no other nominations from the floor, Jimmy made a motion that the nominees be accepted as Steel Magnolias' new officers, Elizabeth McCabe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. After a vote by the members, the motion was carried.**



**Jimmy updated the group on our 2018 golf tournament which will be held at Pine Hill Country Club on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. He also announced that Sunny King Ford is donating \$15,000 to our group this year!**

**After giving a short devotional, Nancy Burnell went over the prayer list. Walter Lawson ended with a prayer.**

**There was a drawing for prizes and the following were the lucky winners. Margie Smith, Chuck Trull and Steve Stephens.**

**Steve Stephens made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Barton 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Meeting was adjourned.**

**Submitted by:**

**Connie Stephens  
Secretary**

**P.S. I have had a couple of people ask why I am stepping down as Secretary of Steel Magnolias. After the passing of my daughter, Sonya Burns, in January of this year, I made the decision that I would need to free up some time so that I will be able to spend more time with my granddaughter Madisyn. I am playing a very large part in raising Madisyn who will be 13 years old on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I know it isn't going to be easy to raise a 13 year old girl who has lost her Mother, but with the help of other family members we will ensure Madisyn receives all the love, security, guidance and nurturing she needs to adjust to life without her Mother. Madisyn is doing good and has adjusted to the dreaded 7<sup>th</sup> grade very well. She is a member of the Oxford Middle School band, takes 2 dance classes (jazz and hip hop) and is a member of the Youth Group at Meadowbrook Baptist Church. All of these activities keep both of us busy so there will be times that I may not be able to attend a monthly meeting or an event. Steve and I still plan on being active members of the Steel Magnolias and will continue to be on the Golf Tournament Committee; as well as, Steve becoming your Parliamentarian. Thank all of you for your love and support during the time of our loss.**

**Connie Stephens**





### **Joggin' Inside**

**A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy answered, "No ma'am, they're dead."**

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**A young boy, after hearing the story of Thanksgiving and how the Indians and the Pilgrims sat down together, climbed up into his father's lap and said, 'Daddy, did you know that if we were Indians, you would be a brave and Mom would be a squawk?'**

**'That is the best description of your mother I have ever heard', replied his daddy as he ducked.**

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**It's the day before Thanksgiving, and the butcher is just locking up when a man begins pounding on the front door.**

**"Please let me in," says the man desperately. "I forgot to buy a turkey, and my wife will kill me if I don't come home with one."**

**"Okay," says the butcher. "Let me see what I have left." He goes into the freezer and discovers that there's only one scrawny turkey left. He brings it out to show the man.**

**"That's one is too skinny. What else you got?" says the man.**

**The butcher takes the bird back into the freezer and waits a few minutes and brings the same turkey back out to the man.**

**"Oh, no," says the man, "That one doesn't look any better. You better give me both of them!"**

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### **Enter the Pearly Gates**

**Three men die in a car accident Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering they must present something relating or associated with Christmas.**

**The first man searches his pocket, and finds some Mistletoe, so he is allowed in.**

**The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in.**

**The third man pulls out a pair of stockings.**

**Confused at this last gesture, St. Peter asks, "How do these represent Christmas?"**

**Answer... "They're Carol's."**

**Submitted by Elaine**

**Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

## **Birthdays and Survivor Years!**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> was Sue Patin's birthday and she is a 20 month survivor!**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup> was Nancy Johnston's birthday and she is a volunteer!**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup> is Lenora Johnson's birthday and she is a 18 year survivor!**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup> is Christie Renfro's birthday and she is a volunteer!**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup> is Kenny Guldin's birthday and he is a man of steel!**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup> is Marti Warren's birthday and she is a 33 year survivor!**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> is Judy Elders' birthday and she is a 21 year survivor!**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> is Doris McWhorter's and she is a 10 year survivor!**  
**December 23<sup>rd</sup> is Diane Kennedy's birthday!**  
**January 7<sup>th</sup> is Janet Reese's birthday and she is a 18 year survivor!**  
**January 12<sup>th</sup> is Jessie Rhodes' birthday!**  
**January 18<sup>th</sup> is Vickie Norman's birthday and she is a volunteer!**  
**January 19<sup>th</sup> is Judy Williamson's birthday and she is a 6 year survivor!**  
**January 21<sup>st</sup> is Elizabeth McCabe's birthday and she is a 20 year survivor!**

## **Up Coming Events**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> is our annual Christmas Brunch at Alexander's at Noble Shops. This is a celebration for our active members and their guests. If you are not an active member and would like to attend contact Nancy Burnell by 11/24 at nancyburnell@gmail.com. It will be \$10 per person in advance to attend. We will start at 10 AM and our musical entertainment will be provided by Alexander's.**

**January 15<sup>th</sup> is the next newsletter mailing day.**

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> is our next meeting in the private dining room at RMC. Neither the menu nor the guest speaker has been determined yet, it will appear in the January newsletter.**

## **President's Corner**

**Another year is drawing to a close and I want to take this time thank everyone who has played an active roll in our success this year. If you wrote thank you cards, made calls, mailed birthday cards, worked events, set up or took down at events, worked in the office, set up our meals, secured speakers for our meetings, spoke at events, participated in the School Girl Program, delivered snacks to the oncology and radiation departments, took care of the money, paid bills, packed or mailed care packages, helped someone in "Pinks", took pictures, wrote articles for the newsletter, folded the newsletter, mailed newsletters, printed newsletters, sent newsletter out through emails, baked goods for the bake sale, repaired jewelry for the jewelry sale, got door prizes for the golf tournament, got sponsors for the golf tournament, made all the arrangements for the golf tournament, put out signs for the golf tournament, served food at the golf tournament, registered golfers, donated money or your time or had any part of any of the above, THANK YOU!**

**A note from Gloria, Please call or mail me your correct phone number and address. Please mail to Gloria Woosley 1000 Commerce St. Anniston AL 36201 or call 236-2650.**

**Submitted by Elaine**

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## **Services Offered By Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.**

### **1. Group Meetings**

Steel Magnolias meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Private Dining Room of RMC.

### **2. Steel Magnolias' Office**

Our office is located in suite 407 of the Physicians Center in Anniston. Currently our office is staffed (part time) by Steel Magnolias volunteers Monday through Friday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Every effort is made to have someone in the office when our staff is sick or on vacation. Phone (256) 231-8827

### **3. PINKS Boutique**

Located in the Physicians' Center across from the Steel Magnolias Office, we are stocked with Mastectomy Bras, Breast Prosthesis, Wigs, Hats and Scarves. These items are of no cost to cancer patients.

### **4. Care Packages**

Steel Magnolias provide a comfort package including inspirational and educational materials to breast cancer patients the day of surgery at Regional Medical Center. Packages are mailed or taken to newly diagnosed patients who do not receive them on day of surgery.

### **5. Dining Vouchers**

Dining vouchers are provided for two family members of any patient, in surgery, at Regional Medical Center. Each provides a meal in the hospital cafeteria.

### **6. Snacks**

Steel Magnolias provide the following: (1) snacks in Anniston Oncology chemo treatment room - Suite 602 Physician Center (2) chemo treatment room on the 4th floor of RMC and (3) the Radiation / Oncology Center on 2nd Floor of RMC.

### **7. Breast Cancer Awareness Program**

Available to girls in grades 7-12, this program is taught in the school by a trained volunteer under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. Anyone interested in having our program presented, contact our office.


### **8. Speakers Bureau**

Speakers are available to civic clubs and churches. To schedule, contact our office.

### **9. Steel Magnolias Newsletter**

Our monthly newsletter is an informative and inspirational publication about upcoming events, meetings and activities. Also included is a joke page and current information regarding cancer testing and treatments.

### **10. Web-Site**

[www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org) is a great source of information and inspiration. Also,  Find us on facebook.

### **11. Men of Steel**

Group of men (husbands, friends or family) of breast cancer patients or survivors and for men who themselves are breast cancer survivors. Meetings are held jointly with Steel Magnolias (see Group Meetings #1). Contact Jimmy Taylor (256-463-4313) or email [tjimmeg63@aol.com](mailto:tjimmeg63@aol.com) for additional information.

### **12. Prayer**

We are praying for you with love and blessings.

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## **WAYS YOU CAN HELP**

### **1. VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**

- attend our meetings and get involved with us
- volunteer for office work or Pinks Boutique
- help with our fund raisers (2 per year)
  - a. Bake and jewelry sale (annually the Saturday before Easter at Quintard Mall)
  - b. Golf Tournament at Pine Hill Golf Course (in the spring each year). Numerous opportunities to serve.

2. **CONTRIBUTE** - contributions are tax deductible (a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization) and can be made to: Steel Magnolias, P.O. Box 2208, Anniston, AL 36202. ALL contributions are used to provide services to breast cancer patients who reach out to us.

3. **DONATE UNUSED JEWELRY** (new, vintage or broken) - it is cleaned, repaired and resold at our events. Drop off at the following: Steel Magnolia Office, Cotton Antiques, 508 Main Street, Oxford or call Marti Warren 256-237-0206.

### **4. PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRY**



# THANKSGIVINGS

F P C S Y A W L A F A Y O P  
 O L E D S L N I S M E L R B  
 R O G N I V I G S K N A H T  
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ALWAYS	FRIENDS	LIFE	THANKSGIVING
CELEBRATE	HARVEST	LIGHT	TRINITY
FAMILY	HEALTH	LOVE	TURKEY
FEAST	HEART	MERCY	VOLUNTEERS
FOOTBALL	HOLIDAY	PETS	WISDOM
FORGIVENESS	HOLY	PILGRIMS	WORK
FREEDOM	JOY	PRAYER	YAMS