

# Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

## In Remembrance of Lenora Johnson

May 16, 2022

The first time I met Lenora she came to see my mom on her 2<sup>nd</sup> round of breast cancer. She introduced herself and told us about the Steel Magnolias and what they did. She invited us to a meeting, and she told me I would be an asset to the Steel Magnolias. I fell in love with her and the Steel Magnolias!

Linda

Lenora was the hardest working woman I have ever known. I was with her from the beginning, and she was very determined that this group would succeed, and it certainly has.

Janet

She was a very sweet lady and a good friend to a lot of people.

Margaret M.

By the time I met Lenora her health had started to decline, but she was still a spiffy, gung-ho lady who was the epitome of the Steel Magnolias!

Brenda P.

I didn't know her personally, but she had a vision and that is how the Steel Magnolias got started. This organization has helped so many people. For that vision she had to have love in her.

Pam

I came to a Steel Magnolia meeting in January or February after having surgery in December for breast cancer. That is when I met Lenora for the first time. The more I learned about this group she started, the more I wanted to be involved with it. Lenora worked hard to get this organization started and she saw the need for it in Calhoun County. She put in a lot of hard work and would not take no for an answer on getting HB147 passed through legislation and to the Governor's office in

Alabama. How big is that?!! I like people that take charge and make things happen for the right reasons. I love being a part of a group of volunteers that work together to run our office, our "Pinks Boutique" and work hard at fundraising to support cancer patients fighting the same battle we have! What more of a blessing could you ask for? Thank you, Lenora, for fighting for us, fighting for this group, and fighting for all the breast cancer patients to come.

Elaine



*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  
Margaret Taylor and Nancy Burnell,  
Co-Vice Presidents  
Brenda Parker, Secretary  
Chuck Trull, Treasurer  
Group Chaplains: Gloria Woosley &  
Sherry Grinstead  
RMC Chaplain, Jim Wilson  
Historian & Photographer  
Elizabeth McCabe

Pinks Boutique: For Appointment  
Call our Office @ 256-231-8827  
Physicians Center, STE 407  
901 Leighton Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36207

[www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org)

Like us on Facebook

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



**LENORA JOHNSON continued**

**Elaine asked me to write something about three people in our cancer group. I have been in the cancer group since May 2003, so I knew them very well.**

**Lenora Johnson. I called Lenora after I came home from the hospital. She reassured me that everything would be ok. We became close friends. Our backgrounds growing up were very similar. She grew up poor as I did. We would talk about the struggles that we had. She told me she lived near a railroad track and people would throw things from the train to them and this made her happy. The last time I saw Lenora, she invited me, Marti Rogers, and Marylin Lawson out to eat lunch with her at her river place. She cooked chicken in the oven. It was the best chicken that I have ever ate. Every time when I called all the people in the group, she was on my list. I would always call her, and we would talk awhile. Lenora was a special person that loved to help people. She always told me the things that happen to us make us who we are! Our world was a better place for her being in it. We will always miss her, and I will miss her.**

**Gloria Woosley**

**With the recent passing of Lenora Johnson, you might think the organization that wears her initial "stamp of creation" would be in some degree of confusion or future direction. Not the case! Lenora had long ago passed the "baton" to worthy charter members and newer members that she saw as leaders with the ability and foresight to continue to move The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group forward with renewed energy. During the last few years Lenora was faced with physical adversities that imposed limitations and limited her to specific Group events. Lenora received honors from the group on each occasion and the smiles and teared eyes showed that she was not disappointed in past decisions. One such decision was the selection of a Treasure in 2013. I was approached by members that Lenora would like me to have my name submitted for the position of Treasurer. My thought initially was Steel Magnolias was a lady's group and the group's officers should reflect the base. Eight years later I suspect that Lenora would be saying, "see I was right". Some may say that Lenora was a stern leader with a singular idea of where we are and where we need to be to be effective in helping those in need to get through truly trying periods in their lives. With 21 years in the Army to guide me I can say that any group no matter how small, must have a leader to survive and reach assigned goals. Lenora was that initial leader, and the Steel Magnolias has survived and excelled with the choices that she had to make along the way. Thank you, Lenora. May your new journey be as fruitful.**

**Charles Trull**

**"Under Lenora Johnson's leadership STEEL MAGNOLIAS developed and thrived. We were blessed to have her as our founder. She was an inspiration to all of us cancer survivors."**

**Keither**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> is Nancy Buchman's birthday, and she is a 9-year survivor!**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> is Shirley Barger's birthday, and she is a volunteer!**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> is Chuck Trull's birthday, and he is a Man of Steel!**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> is Brenda People's birthday, and she is a volunteer!**

## **Up Coming Events**

**JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> is the next newsletter mailing day. If you have something to go in the newsletter, please send it to me no later than June 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**JUNE 28<sup>th</sup> is our next Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel meeting in the private dining room at RMC. RMC Chaplain's office will provide ham and turkey sandwich for our meal, Steel Magnolias please bring side dishes and desserts.**

**We will try and have a speaker, but due to working on the golf tournament we have not secured a speaker at this time.**

**Come at 5 to socialize and our meeting will promptly start at 5:30.**

**Please bring a friend!**

## **President Corner**

**Now that we are kind of back in the swing of things, concerning our meetings and the newsletters, I need to know what you would like to see in both. This support group and newsletter need to be informational to everyone that comes to our meetings or who reads this newsletter. I want to encourage readers to get involved and come to our meetings, we need you.**

**As I have stated in prior newsletters, we need help. We have lost several members and our group is getting older. This support group needs people willing to volunteer their time to help with events. Our biggest fundraiser is our Lea Fite Golf Tournament and we need it to help in funding our services. There is a lot of work to put this event on, but with enough people working together it would make it a little less stressful. If you have skills to help with a golf tournament or fundraising ideas, come help. We also get involved in October with Oxfordfest and other events that people ask us to come to because it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We also have monthly meetings where we eat and most of the time, we have a speaker. The only thing that involves every day of the week is having someone in our office from 11 am until 4 pm. We have this covered right now, but we need someone to fill in from time to time. This is a much-needed support group in our area. Please do not be blind to this need. We see people almost daily needing something from our Pinks Boutique and we send out care packages at the same rate. Breast Cancer is not going away and they're many people who benefit from this support group.**

**If you feel this is something you are interested in, please contact me at [elaine@steelmagnoliasinc.org](mailto:elaine@steelmagnoliasinc.org) or call the office at 256-231-8827**

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS/MEN OF STEEL MEETING  
APRIL 26, 2022**

**Meeting was called to order by our President, Elaine Johns.**

**Minutes from the previous meeting were read and motion made by Steve and seconded by Janet, that minutes be approved.**

**Elaine asked for suggestions for building our attendance back to where it was prior to covid. She also pointed out that we had lost 7 members just recently.**

**No Treasurers Report available.**

**Picture and tickets were handed out for the Solo Outdoor Heater to be given away at the conclusion of our golf tournament. Tickets are \$10.00 each and each member present was asked to sell at least 10 tickets.**

**Margaret and Jimmy Taylor gave an update on the golf tournament. We have 82 sponsors, 18 corporate sponsors and approximately \$18,000. Margaret stressed how important that we continue to get sponsors.**

**I presented a flyer that Dillards had brought to the office about the fragrance and cosmetics event of the season inviting all of Steel Magnolias to attend.**

**We then shared our memories of Lenora Johnson. General consensus was that she was a go-getter and woe be unto anyone that got in her way. She was the epitome of Steel Magnolias.**

**Sherry brought our devotion from:**

**James 4:8 – “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”**

**She pointed out some things that would keep us from drawing nearer to God:**

- 1) Doesn't tell the truth;**
- 2) 2) Taking something from work;**
- 3) 3) Not reading our Bible;**
- 4) 4) Spending too much time with family and friends;**
- 5) 5) Spending too much time on the computer or cell phone playing games or talking with friends.**

**No further business, motion was made by Jimmy and seconded by Pat that meeting be adjourned.**

**Respectively submitted,  
Brenda Parker, Secretary**

## 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 is a great source of information and inspiration. Also, 

### 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 for additional information.

### 12. Prayer

We are praying for you with love and blessings.

---

## 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

**“Joggin Inside”  
Life Changing**

**Country Living**

A farmer drove to a neighbor's farmhouse and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door. "Is your dad or mom home?" said the farmer. "No, they went to town." "How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?" "No, he went with Mom and Dad." The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, mumbling to himself, when the young boy says, "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message." "Well," said the farmer uncomfortably. "No, I really want to talk to your Dad, about your brother Howard getting my daughter Suzy pregnant". The boy thought for a moment, then says, "You'll have to talk to my Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bulls and \$150 for the pigs, but I have no idea how much he charges for Howard."

Sadie, a 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live." Upon recovery, Sadie decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?" God replied: "I didn't recognize you."

**“Traffic Stop”**

**Cop: You were going fast.  
Me: I was just trying to keep up with traffic.  
Cop: There isn't any.  
Me: I know! That's how far behind I am.**

.....  
**Fine Waitress**

**I told the waitress my steak was bad. She picked it up, slapped it, put it down and said: "if it gives you more trouble let me know!"**



## **“Joggin Inside” CONTINUED**

### **Cuckoo Clock**

The other night I was invited out for a night with the “girls.” I told my husband that I would be home by midnight, “I promise!” Well, the hours passed, and the margaritas went down way too easily. Around 3 a.m., a bit loaded, I headed for home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hallway started up and cuckooed 3 times.

Quickly, realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution, in order to escape a possible conflict with him. (Even when totally smashed... 3 cuckoos plus 9 cuckoos total 12 cuckoos = MIDNIGHT !)

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in, I told him “MIDNIGHT” he didn’t seem mad in the least. Whew, I got away with that one! Then he said, “We need a new cuckoo clock.” When I asked him why, he said, “Well, last night our clock cuckooed three times, then said, “oh shoot” Cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another three times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then tripped over the coffee table and farted.

.....

### **Don’t Mess with Marines**

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a High School Teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back.

He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence... the rest of the year went very smoothly.

.....

### **Marriage**

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said,

"This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I fish.

.....

### **Facebook**

My wife complained that my life revolving around facebook has destroyed the way we communicate as a family, so I blocked her!

# WHAT GOD'S WORD DOES FOR US

D L E I R A G E N S S G T C  
 O E N C O U R A G E S E I D  
 M I S L I S A W E G F S L P  
 R E N D P N C D U N V E F E  
 E G E T K O E G L A I V N Y  
 L U H O M F W A D H V A K U  
 A I T R I E V E S C B S N C  
 N D G L C I N C R L E P O H  
 E R N H V Y L T E F H U W A  
 C L E E T E C S I T U E L D  
 U W R N A R T R U A B L E C  
 D O T N E M N R E C S I D H  
 K P S O E W T H G M O U G A  
 N E W N W I S D O M H B E N

---

CHANGES	GUIDE	OINTMENT	SHIELD
CLEANSE	HOPE	POWERFUL	STRENGTHENS
DISCERNMENT	KNOWLEDGE	RENEWS	TRUTH
ENABLES	LIFE	REVIVAL	WISDOM
ENCOURAGES	LIGHT	SAVES	
GRACE	MERCY	SEED	