



AWC Journal

From the President - Thanks for a Fabulous 2016-17 Year!

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Special points of interest:

- 98 Members & Counting!
- Record-breaking year of both community funding and fundraising
- New 30' x 50' Pavilion in Hamner Park
- Arley Military Banner Program Launched Fall 2016
- \$7,000 in Scholarships Awarded

Wow what a year! It is my privilege to serve the Arley Women's Club (AWC) along side Audra, Judy, Toni and Corky. We had a wonderful year and looking back, it is incredible what the club has accomplished.

With 98 members, we are averaging close to 50 members in attendance for each meeting. We gave \$29,528 to the community between scholarships, Hamner Park, and support of our schools, fire departments, library, 4H, and boy scouts. AWC worked with the Town of Arley to launch the first-ever in Alabama military banner program honoring our veterans and current service members. Through our various fundraising activities, our members worked tirelessly (and had fun

doing it!) to raise over \$16,000 net of expenses. The Arley Youth Club was established at Meek High School and was patterned after AWC.

The June President's Luncheon celebrated a great year and another successful Arley Day Festival, Car Show & Parade. We also honored 7 past presidents whose terms have spanned the past 20 years.

I'm thrilled to be a part of such a vibrant, giving group of women and enjoy the time we spend together. We hope to see you at the Summer Summit Monday, Aug 28, 2017, 1pm at the Arley Fire Station—we need your help to set the stage for the coming year!

With AWC, Anything's Possible! Laura Ulz



Laura Ulz
President

Audra Kelley
Vice President



Judy Crump
Treasurer

Toni Hoffman
Secretary



Corky Wachtl
Parliamentarian

**Arley Women's Club Leadership Team
2016-18 (above)**

\$30,000 Given to the Community

Arley Women's Club was proud to be able to fund \$29,528 of projects and scholarships in and around our community from Sept' 16-May' 17. A new process to request funds two times per year (Fall & Spring) and a focus on our mission statement when determining the distribution of funds helped sharpen our giving efforts. A new 30'x50' pavilion was erected in Hamner Park.

Scholarships were given to 5 graduating seniors and a new scholarship was created for dual enrollment. Meek Elementary got funding for their PC lab, much needed science and math materials/books, special education, and cursive writing. Arley VFD received monies to purchase a commercial washer and medical kit supplies. Helicon VFD put their funds towards furnishing

their new building. Arley Boy Scout Troop 77 was able to plumb and remodel their meeting hut. Winston County 4H started a 6th grade rocket program. The Pregnancy Center purchased educational materials to start their programs in Winston County. Meek Band was given funds for uniforms. Meek Library purchased Leap Pads and furnished their Sensory Room. The Arley Library purchased non-fiction books.



New 30' x 50' Pavilion erected January 2017 in Hamner Park (above)

Pavilion with new picnic tables being utilized at the 44th Arley Day Festival (below)



Hamner Park Pavilion Constructed; 12 Beautiful Picnic Tables Donated, Built by Eagle Scout

Hamner Park has been a focus area for AWC for the past 4 years. The walking trail was regraded, park benches were built and decorated by local businesses, an educational signage program was completed in conjunction with Winston County Extension Service and Auburn University, electricity was provided to the picnic pavilion and gazebo in the walking trail, and flowers have been planted. Jimmy & Kathy Hamner donated a rustic gazebo and garden area that provides a

wonderful setting for music, conversation, family photos, small weddings and special events.

This year as a result of AWC fundraising efforts, an enormous 30' x 50' pavilion with a copper-colored roof was constructed in January 2017 adjacent to the park playground. The Town of Arley provided the labor and materials for a beautiful concrete pad. Eagle Scout Tate Odem designed and built 12 gorgeous picnic tables, materials for which were do-

nated by the Warren Hamner Family. Not only does the new pavilion provide shade for families watching their children in the playground or at the baseball diamonds, it has provided shelter and a wonderful venue for picnics, family reunions, and school events. The Meek Elementary Fun Day, Earth Day Outdoor Classroom, and the 44th Arley Day Festival made great use of this new structure. Future plans include signage, adding electricity and partially encasing the 4 corner posts in local rock from the original Meek schools.

Arley Youth Club Established Fall 2016



"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

-19th century proverb

Andrea Gibson, former AWC scholarship winner, returned to Arley in 2016 to teach advanced courses at Meek High School. She started the Arley Youth Club (AYC), and worked with Sue Grogan to pattern the AYC after the Arley Women's Club. Officers were elected, budgets for volunteer hours set, and over 70 Meek

High School students became involved. Each student is expected to donate 50 hours or more of their time helping in the community each year. Projects included Meek campus clean ups, running the concession stands at various sporting events, participation in the PALS trash clean up, and partnering with AWC for the fern

sale fundraiser. AYC members volunteered alongside AWC members for all of our fundraising events, the Arley Day Festival, the PALS 10-mile trash clean-up, and even baked for our bake sales! It was wonderful to see these young men and women get involved in the community and become organized for the future!

Arley Military Banner Program First in Alabama



Arley Military Banner Program launched Fall 2016

AWC member Juanita Culler is now well-known as "The Banner Lady." Juanita was the creator of the new military banner program for Arley and Addison, honoring service members past and present. Juanita was in her father-in-law's home town, saw the banner display

there and wanted to start something similar in Arley. Troop Banners, a Pennsylvania company, was contacted and the first program of its kind in Alabama was launched right here in Arley. The Arley military banner program is a moving display (May & Nov) of over

100 military men and women who have served dating back to the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and on to those presently serving our country. AWC is honored to have veterans Pam Conklin, Pamela Faye, and Rosalie Nicholson as members.

Chili Fest 2017—January 2017 “Weaver Feaver” Quilt Donated

Chili Fest 2017 was a new addition to our fundraising activities this year. Margie Coleson was the winner of the Golden Ladle Award at this year’s inaugural Chili Festival. Coleson’s chili was voted the best overall out of 22 different chili recipes prepared by members of the Arley Women’s Club which sponsored the event. Independent judges Dex Young, Sharon Hogg and Dave Wafer served as the judges, and were thanked by AWC members for volun-

teering their time. AWC Chili Fest Committee Co-Chairs Corky Wachtl & Beth Sargent noted that about 300 dinners of chili, cornbread and cookies were served that day. Local businesses, such as Son’s of Arley, the Arley Coffee Shop, La Plaza Bonita, and Evans Gas Station also contributed to the event. The Arley Youth Club helped serve and clean up.

Helen Fleetwood and Valerie Hagopian took the initiative to come up with a fabulous fund-

raiser. They spent their time and talents creating “Weaver Feaver,” a beautiful red, white and black quilt that they donated for raffle. Tickets were sold from October—February and the drawing was held during Chili Fest 2017. Over 800 tickets were sold and the lucky winner was Libby Bailey! Helen and Valerie wanted the proceeds to go to the Arley Day Festival Car Show prizes to entice more entrants to participate.



It takes a lot of special volunteers to pull off an event like this!



Margie Coleson makes best chili & wins Golden Ladle Award!

Arley’s Longest Yard Sale—October 2016

On October 1, 2016, a new event came to town—Arley’s Longest Yard Sale. People set up their wares starting south of town and winding all the way to Helicon. One of the things AWC does best is publicity, and this first annual event drew lots of participation and shoppers from around the area. The Arley Women’s Club set up an

area and many members brought gently used items from their homes to raise money for the community. We also held a small bake sale that day to entice folks to stop at our booth. Gail Pisani organized our yard sale efforts and Nancy Sellers ran our bake sale. The day was a huge success, raising over \$1000 for our AWC scholar-

ships and community projects! The county benefited as well—Main Street Ministries picked up all of the unsold items for free distribution to their clients. Everyone is looking forward to our next Arley’s Longest Yard Sale October 7, 2017. Start cleaning out those closets now!



The Ways & Means Committee, led by Corky Wachtl, really kicked it in gear! Arley’s Longest Yard Sale and Chili Fest 2017 are two great examples of new events added to our fundraising efforts. From September 2016 through May 2017, AWC raised \$16,000 net of expenses.

There is No Question—Our Members Really Know How to Bake!

AWC holds multiple bake sales each year, and this year we raised \$4,322 from all of the events. We added a bake sale to entice people into our new annual yard sale in October. Our November bake sale, held the weekend before Thanksgiving, was another great opportunity for members to bake their

favorite items, and for customers from around the community to take home something special for their Thanksgiving celebrations. Pies and Posies for the Park in February was in its third year and once again was a big hit with the community. Members baked all sorts of scrumptious pies and Narumi

St John created beautiful flower arrangements. Customers were a big hit at home, bringing dessert and flowers to celebrate Valentine’s Day! The final bake sale of the year is held at the Arley Day Festival, and once again, our members did not fail to delight!



Nancy Sellers, who leads all of our various bake sales, is pictured above in our booth with Libby Bailey & Betty Patton at the Arley Day Festival.



Touring historic Mooresville, AL (above)

Hiking at Natural Bridge (below)



Day Trips are a Great Way to Get to Know Each Other

Thanks to Gwen Blackburn, we have 12 fun places to go each month of each year. If you are new to the area it is a great way to learn about northern Alabama. If you have been here a while, the day trips are a great way to meet other members. Gwen makes sure there is something for everyone throughout the year and has been organizing the monthly trips for the past 11 years. Over the past 12 months, we have visited Mooresville, AL,

hiked the area around Natural Bridge, shopped at the Outlet Shops of Grand River in Leeds, visited historic Hartselle, gone to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in Decatur, enjoyed Tim Hollis' Toy Museum outside of Jasper, gone to the Gardendale Flea Market, splurged at Seven Winds Kitchen and Logan Steele Orchard, visited the Jack Warner Art Museum in Tuscaloosa and the Mc Wane Science Center in Birmingham. A new tradition has been to enjoy

cooking with Toni Hoffman....ok, she does the cooking and we enjoy her decorations and scrumptious food....this year she hosted a Luau!

The trips for the year are published in the member directory—plan on joining us for these fun adventures and get to know other members of AWC!

Welcome New Members—98 and Counting!

Maybe we will have our 100th member in the coming year—who will have invited her and who will it be?

We welcomed 23 new members this year, growing our membership to 98 in total! Many new members have jumped right in to help with our bake sales and other fund raising events, gone on day trips, volunteered for committees, and have participated in meetings. A big thank you goes out to everyone who has invited

and encouraged these women to join. Each member is an ambassador for AWC and it is great to have new people with new ideas, talents and experiences join our group. Arley Women's Club has also added a new member to our Board of Directors, Allen Owens. Mr Owens is a native of the area and the VP and Branch Man-

ager of Traders+Farmers Bank in Arley. We welcome his outside perspective and guidance.



Toni Hoffman and her Goulish crew

Haunted House Anyone?

Toni Hoffman organized a spooky haunted house to add fun to the annual Meek Elementary Fall Festival. Members and their husbands pitched in to build and then dress up to scare the stuffin' out of the kids (and adults too!). The Haunted House raised over

\$300 for the one night event to go to the school. It was a great partnership with the school and a whole lot of fun!

Members also pitched in earlier last fall to make large decorative bows for "Paint the Town Orange" in celebration of Meek Homecoming week. The

schools raised over \$800 and the town strutted its Tiger Pride!





AWC Salutes our Veterans

In addition to our wildly successful military banner program, AWC honored local veterans during the annual Christmas and Arley Day Festival Parades. Veterans honored at Christmas were Odis Bishop, Bob Cooper, James Rickett, Philip Pisani, Ralph Williams, Van Hutchins & Willard Wadsworth.

During the Arley Day Parade, veterans Rosalie Nicholson, Odis Bishop, Frank Guthrie, Don Keeton, Thomas Smith, and Buddy Estes rode the AWC float and veterans John Hoffman, Bob Cooper, David Stahle and Joe Bongiovanni walked the parade route.

Kathy Mahoney and her husband and friends created a huge patriotic Sponge Bob float for kids and adults alike. What creativity!



\$7,000 in Scholarships Awarded

Our Scholarship Committee, led by Sue Grogan, had a busy year. Last fall we added scholarships for the Dual Enrollment program in conjunction with Meek High School and Wallace State Community College. The committee awarded one recipient for the Dual Enrollment scholarship and set up an application and evaluation process for this new program. This Spring, the committee recommended 5 students be honored with the AWC Citizenship, Maitlyn-Newsome, and Bob Smiley Memorial scholarships for a total of \$6,500.

For the year, the committee awarded \$7,000 in Scholarships between the 2 programs. We again plan on increasing our funding of the scholarship programs in the coming year.

Congratulations 2017 Scholarship Winners!



Cora Alexander Nick Noland Sarah Mauldin Will Rickett Kayla Williams

“The Annex”

As the work AWC is doing in the community and the Arley Day Festival, Parade and Car Show expand, our need for storage has increased. The Town of Arley and the Volunteer Fire Department was gracious enough to let AWC share the old fire station (behind the

Arley Coffee Shop) with the Arley VFD. Members and their husbands worked together to clean, scrub, and haul ‘stuff’ to the dump from the newly named AWC Annex. Items were organized (thanks Corky!) on shelving and pallets. Our parade floats, Arley



Day Festival items, military banners and signage have all been stored in the Annex. No more hauling things up and down the library stairs!





Libby Bailey (center) wins the quilt made by Helen Fleetwood (right) and Valerie Hagopian (left)

Humbled by the generosity of our Members & Their Families— Donations, Memorials & Honorariums

AWC was fortunate to have received over \$6,000 in donations, memorials and honorariums this past year. The majority of the funds were donor-designated and have gone to specific projects and scholarships. Memorials and Honorariums are another way members and/or their families have chosen to make a financial contribution.

In addition, members enjoyed the annual Christmas party which gave members and their spouses a chance to support

AWC through a huge silent auction and 50:50 raffle. This past year, the Christmas party silent auction and raffle raised a record \$1,800!

Donations to AWC are not just financial. A special quilt was designed and sewn by members Helen Fleetwood and Valerie Hagopian and donated to raise funds in support of the Arley Day Festival. 1000's of hours have been spent volunteering in the community through our various educational and fund-raising events, and also in the

schools, in our park, along our roadways, in our county, and in support of the arts.

We are also fortunate to have such a wide variety of interests & causes in our club. Members grouped together to raise money (separate from AWC funding) for several events throughout the year including the Laura Crandall Brown Ovarian Cancer Foundation Head over Teal Walk/Run, the Pregnancy Test & Resource Center Gala, and Tablesapes for a Cure (cancer research).

War on Trash

Did you know that AWC adopted a mile of CR 41 to keep clean of roadside trash as part of the Alabama People Against a Littered State (ALPALS) program?

Gwen Blackburn has organized AWC to pick up trash monthly from the roadsides around Arley for the past 9 years. It is a good way to meet other members and keep Arley looking great at the same time. The group goes out to lunch at a local restaurant immediately following the clean up. In addition, Gail Pisani headed up

our annual People Against a Littered State (PALS) efforts this year. We partnered with the Arley Youth Club, invited our husbands and friends, and managed to clean up over 10 miles of roads in and around Arley the week of the annual state-wide event. We had over 50 volunteers helping throughout the week, with the big push

on Saturday morning, April 22, 2017.

Keeping our town and the surrounding community clean is a full time job. We appreciate our members, the AYC, the community, and the efforts of the county sheriff's office for cleaning up our roads. Now, if we could just prevent throwing trash in the first place.....



80 - 4th & 5th Graders participating in the Reptile Lecture (new Hamner Park Pavilion)

Earth Day 2017—Outdoor Classroom at Hamner Park

AWC worked with the Winston County Extension Service and Winston County 4H to put on our 3rd annual Earth Day Outdoor Classroom in April 2017. Gail Pisani, Cindy Bryant and Margie Coleson spearheaded the event, working with Kerri Roberts, Director of Winston County 4H. The outdoor classroom was again held at Hamner Park and eighty 4th & 5th grad-

ers from Meek Elementary School and their teachers and principal were in attendance. AWC members helped with the 3 interactive learning stations positioned around the walking trail. They included hydroponics, led by Kerri Roberts, watershed & pollution, led by Judy Lambert and wildflower 'bombs' led by Cindy Bryant. The AL Extension Service from

Birmingham started off the day in our new pavilion with an education and demo of reptiles. Refreshments were served at the end of the day by AWC members. It was great to see the kids and their teachers surrounded by nature for this learning opportunity. We received some very special hand crafted thank you cards from the kids that were displayed at the President's Luncheon.



Tragedy Hits Home

On November 29, 2017 a series of tornados struck Winston County and left a trail of destruction 300 yards wide and 4.5 miles long from Arley to Helicon. Although no one lost their life, the destruction was devastating. Several AWC members sustained damage from the storm and experienced power outages. Unfortunately, two of our members were hit harder than others. Sherren Smiley had 12 large, mature trees fall on her roof. She spent over 6 months displaced in her base-

ment while construction was going on to repair the extensive damage to her home. As terrible as this was, Sherren said she felt blessed once she saw the destruction and devastation of the Dotson home. Sylvia and Randy Dotson lost their home that night and are still in the process of rebuilding. The Dotsons were literally caught up in the storm as the house ripped apart and blew away around them. They were thankfully rescued from their home that night, but the trauma they

have endured is unimaginable. An outpouring of volunteers from AWC, the Arley Fire Department and the community helped Sylvia and Randy through the 4 days immediately following the tornado. Recovering as many items from their home and debris as possible allowed demolition and reconstruction to begin.

The outpouring of help from over 40 members of the AWC left the Dotsons speechless and humbled.



Sylvia and Randy Dotson with a few salvaged collectables

Arley Public Library

The Library Committee, headed by Doris Dickerson, expanded their membership and worked with Jennifer Stewart (librarian) to bring new offerings to the Arley Public Library this past year. Several “Night at the Library” events were held and included the Maudlin Girls sharing their musical talents, Odis Bishop telling stories

of WWII and the Arley community, and a musical storytelling (“Peter and the Wolf”) for the kids. A ‘book corner’ was established in the NW Alabamian newspaper featuring items from the Arley Book Club (10 year anniversary 2016), book selections, and reading highlights. The annual Summer Reading Program, held in June

and July, was another success. The AYC offered classes for seniors on the internet and computers in the library Computer Lab. AWC donated monies toward the purchase of non-fiction books. The Arley Public Library has so much to offer—we look forward to expanding their offerings even further in the coming year!



Have you been to the Arley Public Library lately? Have you told your friends and neighbors what it has to offer?

“Persons of the Year” Announced at Annual Christmas Party

For the past 8 years, AWC has named a person (or persons) that exemplify the values we hold dear as a club. Selflessly volunteering or serving the community, valuing education, and doing things to help improve the community in which we live are a few of those values. Bob & Patsy Williams were the Arley Women’s Club

Citizens of the Year for 2016. Winners are announced at the annual AWC Christmas Party and then honored in the annual Arley Day Parade in May. Bob and Patsy Williams’ families have been in Arley for over 5 generations and formerly owned Williams Grocery (now Sons of Arley). Both are very active in their church and the

community and give freely of their time and resources to make Arley a great place to live.

Prior Person of the Year winners include LaVerne Mattheson, Rick Harris, Blythe Welton, Sandra Heaven, George Gibson, Beth McLarty, and James & Cheryl Rickett.



Bob & Patsy Williams, 2016 Citizens of the Year



ARLEY WOMEN'S CLUB, INC.

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find us on Facebook

or on the web
www.arleywomensclub.org

Anything's Possible!

Arley Women's Club, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Arley, Alabama in Winston County. Our organization helps fund many projects in and around our community. Arley Township serves over 4000 residents in the neighboring area. Monies raised by the club go back to the community in the form of educational scholarships, beautification of Hamner Park, support of our local library, support of our schools, support for our volunteer fire department, and a variety of philanthropic endeavors aimed at the community's continuing vitality.

Mission Statement

The Arley Women's Club is committed to improving the community of Arley and its surrounding areas. The members share the goal of encouraging the use of the Arley Library. They are also devoted to supporting the local schools and parks. The volunteers of the Arley Women's Club are hard working and caring individuals who make a positive difference in the lives of area residents.

Arley Women's Club, Inc.
is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization



44th Arley Day Festival, Car Show & Parade a Hit!



Over 2000 people enjoyed our annual Arley Day Festival, Car Show and Parade on May 20, 2017. The Car show sported 48 cars, trucks, and motorcycles and awarded prizes for People's Choice, Participant's Choice, and AWC Choice as well as door prizes and a 50:50 raffle held throughout the day. Many cars also participated in the annual parade that showed off emergency vehicles, floats, the train, the Meek Marching Band, a few bikes, our vets, and honored our Persons of the Year and Arley Day Festival Queen (Sarah Mauldin). 70 vendors brought delicious food, creative crafts, and artwork for a nice variety of shopping. Arley First Baptist Church held it's 3rd annual Pancake Breakfast, with proceeds going to the Arley Volunteer Fire Department

and their student missions. The Meek Band of Champions kicked off the day with a 5K run and marched in the parade, playing the Star Spangled Banner at the entrance to the park to open the festival. Tone Tone the Clown created animal balloons for the children and entertained the crowd with his stilt-walking ability. Traditions Bank sponsored the train that weaved its way through the crowds around the festival, giving free rides to all who wanted them. The AirEvac Emergency Helicopter landed briefly during the festival. Life South was invited to run the record blood drive.

Live music and entertainment was provided by some outstanding area bands, including the award-winning FFA String Band.

The Kid zone was a big hit with inflatables, face painting, and kids games. Games were provided for all ages, including archery, disc golf, the dunk tank, and the new strongman game. Carnival rides delighted the children and adults alike.

