

# AWC Journal

## From the President - Thanks for a Fabulous 2017-18 Year!



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### Special points of interest:

- 106 Members & Counting!
- Record breaking year of both community funding and fundraising
- Recycling Pilot Program to Launch Summer 2018
- \$11,000 in Scholarships Awarded
- Arley AL Rocks! Kindness Rocks Program Launched
- 2018-20 AWC Officers Elected & Installed

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

With 106 members, we are now averaging close to 60 members in attendance for each meeting. AWC has been able to give \$32,000 back to the community over the past year in the form of scholarships and financial grants. Through our various fundraising activities, our members worked tirelessly (and had fun doing it!) to raise a record \$23,000 net of expenses. The June President's Luncheon celebrated a great year and

another successful Arley Day Festival, Car Show & Parade. We installed the new AWC Officers for the 2018-20 term, our program on volunteering and serving in our community was spot on, and the launch of the recycling pilot program this summer is going to be great!

On behalf of the officers of AWC, it has been a joy serving this wonderful organization for the past 2 years. We know that you will show the newly elected officers the great support and patience you have given each of us.

With the Arley Women's Club Anything Is 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)**

## \$32,000 Given to the Community

Arley Women's Club was proud to be able to fund \$31,923 of projects and scholarships in our community from August 2017 through June 2018. Our process for organizations to request funds twice per year (Fall & Spring) has sharpened our giving efforts. Meek Elementary and Meek High School received a combined \$13,195 to fund Chrome-books, outdoor classroom, key-

boarding classes, SMART board installation, pottery studio kiln repair, art supplies, flooring for the HS media center, and safety equipment for the football team. Our local fire departments in Arley and Helicon received a total of \$5000 for emergency vehicle electronics, safety equipment, storm shelter supplies and vehicle overhaul. We also provided money to the Winston County

4H office to get a kayaking program started. AWC provided matching funds in order for the Arley Library to receive a grant for children's books. The Boy Scouts, and Little League also received funds.

\$7000 in scholarships for 4 graduating seniors were awarded in 2018 and we were also able to fund \$4284 for 13 students to take dual enrollment courses Fall 2017.

# 45th Arley Day Festival, Parade & Car Show

Over 2000 people enjoyed our 45th annual Arley Day Festival, Car Show and Parade on May 19, 2018. The weather was fabulous and after months of planning and hard work, the festival was another huge success. The day opened with a 5K fun run/walk sponsored by the Meek HS Band of Champions. Veterans had a prominent spot in the parade, which featured many floats and decorated vehicles on display. Local and area fire departments, law enforcement vehicles, school sports teams, local churches all joined in the fun decorating their entry. The Meek HS Band of Champions opened the festivities with the Star Spangled Banner at the entrance to Hamner Park. Thousands of spectators came into the park to shop among the 66 vendors, enjoy the live entertainment and participate in numerous games and activities. The car show sported 45 entries. Two wonderful drawings were con-

cluded at this year's festival; a Big Green Egg deluxe grill package donated by AWC members with help from ACE Hardware in Curry and a handmade quilt known as "Gateway to Paradise" made by AWC member Helen Fleetwood. The Air Evac medical helicopter landed on the field during the festival. Rock Painting was offered to kids of all ages with the only charge being to go hide the painted rock. A water slide was a new addition this year and was a tremendous hit, especially in the 94 degree temperatures. Carnival rides, kids games, strongman and dunk tank were all enjoyed by young and old alike. We are fortunate to have generous sponsors who helped make this day possible. The festival brings together community leaders, visitors, businesses, students, vendors and locals who enjoy a great day with friends and family.



**Ann Atkinson & Cindy Bryant**  
head committee to tackle  
Recycling in Arley

## Recycling Committee Established—Pilot Program in Arley set to Launch Summer 2018!

Cindy Bryant and Ann Atkinson are co-chairing the new Recycling Committee. With over 10 members, this committee is setting out to bring recycling to the Town of Arley and surrounding community. They have developed a pilot program set to launch this summer

working with a JOR Recycling, LLC of Cullman. The Arley town council has approved the use of the fenced area near the fire station on Helicon Road for this pilot program which will serve members of AWC, Arley Town Council, employees of the Town of Arley and local

school teachers and administrators. The intent is to get experience and data, taking the first step to expanding the program beyond the pilot. AWC has matched a generous donation from a family who is passionate about recycling to get this pilot going. Stay tuned for more information!



## 100th Member Milestone for AWC in 2018

We celebrated reaching the 100th member milestone this year.....6 times! 6 new members joined at the same time and we honored each of them with custom embroidered AWC totes (thanks to Helen Fleetwood). Diane Boren, Debbie Bono, PJ Magik, Jean Morrison, Ashley Waid and Barbara Wills all became members in February 2018. We thank each AWC member who has been an ambassador for AWC and introduced new people to the group. As we grow, we gain new experiences and ideas that make Arley Women’s Club better every year.

Welcome new members—106 total members and counting!



**Pictured left to right: PJ Magik, Ashley Waid, Barbara Wills, Debbie Bono. Not pictured: Diane Boren & “Yankee Jean” Morrison.**

## AWC Fundraising Sets Another Record—\$23,000

Between the Arley Day Festival, Car Show & Parade and all of the events of the AWC Ways & Means Committee, we had another record year of fundraising with \$23,000 net of expenses. The Ways & Means Committee, led by Corky Wachtl, set a goal to do a fundraiser each month! We helped Meek Elementary Paint the

Town Orange in September with the Meek Tiger Pride bow sale. October brought Arley’s Longest Yard Sale and November the annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale, December was the Silent Auction & 50:50 at the Annual AWC Christmas Party, January was our second annual Chili Fest, February had Pies & Posies for the Park on Valen-

tines Day, in March we partnered with the Meek HS Cheerleaders for a wildly successful fern sale. The Arley Day Festival, Car Show & Parade takes 6+ months of preparation and planning and is our largest fundraiser by far. Thanks to each and every one of you who generously volunteered your time and gave your resources to make this possible.



**The Ways & Means Committee combined with the Arley Day Festival, Parade & Car Show raised a record \$23,000 net of expenses over the past year.**

## \$11,300 in Scholarships & Dual Enrollment Course Tuition Awarded Throughout the Year

.Because the Arley Women’s Club is primarily a group dedicated to community service, we structure our scholarship program to reflect good citizenship. We believe that by helping out in their own community, students can learn a valuable lesson - one of community service. Our scholarship requires a minimum of 50 hours of service, letters of recommen-

dation, and an essay reflecting the student’s experiences in serving others. Congratulations to: Jayden Waldrep and Joni Rudd for being awarded the Outstanding Citizenship Scholarships; Jacob Farley for being awarded the Maitland Newsome Scholarship; Sevana Banks for being awarded the Bob Smiley Schol-



**Sevana Banks      Jacob Farley      Joni Rudd      Jayden Waldrep**

arship. We wish them all the success in their future endeavors! In addition to our annual scholarships for graduating seniors, we were able to support 13 students in the Fall of 2017 in dual enrollment courses to prepare them for higher level education. Meek HS partnered with Beville State to offer college level courses to prepare these students and AWC was proud to be able to help!



**Pond Springs Plantation outside of Decatur, AL (above) Dismals Canyon (below)**



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

Thanks to Gwen Blackburn, we have a fun place to go each month of each year. If you are new to the area it is a great way to learn about northern Alabama and enjoy a great lunch with fun people. Gwen makes sure there is something for everyone throughout the year and has been organizing the monthly trips for the past 12 years. Over the past 12 months, we have visited Goat Island Brewery in Cullman, Pond Springs Plantation near

Decatur, hiked Dismals Canyon near Phil Campbell and the TVA Nature Trail in Muscle Shoals, enjoyed the Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman, shopped in Historic Hartselle, visited the Bankhead House in Jasper for the Smithsonian exhibit on “Water Ways” and also for the Winston County Arts Council artists’ exhibit, gone to the Huntsville Art Museum for the Norman Rockwell Exhibit, and toured the Belle Chevre Cheese Shop in Elkmont. Everyone

who has been able to attend enjoys cooking with Toni Hoffman....ok, she does the cooking and we enjoy her decorations and scrumptious food....this year she is hosting a Taste of France in June.

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!

## Sunshine Committee Expanded



We know that there are many things in life that happen that may require a little more sunshine to make better. Audra Kelley expanded the Sunshine Committee to tackle the challenge of spreading a little more sunshine from AWC amongst

its members. The committee has traditionally sent cards and made phone calls to members who may be ill, suffered a loss or need a little extra help. We now also bring meals, run errands, do odd jobs, make hospital visits, etc as the need arises

and the member wants the help. As you can imagine, it is challenging to keep up with over 100 members, so please contact the committee if you know of someone who may need a little more sunshine in their life!

## Arley Public Library Receives The Pilcrow Foundation Grant for Children’s Books



**Jennifer Stewart, Librarian (left) Beverly Stewart, Assistant (right) Arley Public Library**

**THANKS for all you Do!**

The Arley Public Library was awarded a grant in October 2017 from The Pilcrow Foundation for their 2017 Children’s Book Project. Over 70 children’s books were provided to our local library from this grant. The Arley Women’s Club provided matching funds in order for the Arley Public Library to be awarded this national grant for rural libraries. The Arley Public Library is at

the center of our community and is a place where we come together to learn and share ideas and network. It is a key ingredient in the lifeblood of Arley and the surrounding Smith Lake area, and we are proud to have worked together to make it into what it is today. The Arley Book Club and the AWC Library Committee have been busy working with librarian Jennifer Stewart to bring programs and authors to our

library and we continue to partner to enhance our library offerings even further! Special thanks to Jennifer and her assistant Beverly Stewart for all of the help they provide the Arley Women’s Club. Often they are our conduit to the community recommending newcomers to AWC and the Arley Book Club, as well as facilitating communications with Arley Day vendors and between AWC members.





## Kindness Rocks Project

3 years ago, a woman placed 300 rocks with kind and inspiring messages along Cape Cod beaches during the spring and summer and the Kindness Rocks Project was born. It has swept the USA and countries all around the world. Libby Bailey, AWC member, brought the project to Arley. AWC launched our own Kindness Rocks Project in the Fall of 2017 and have gathered on a variety of occasions with rocks, paint and lots of loving thoughts to create inspirational gems to share in the community. The rocks will be hidden in unexpected places. Anyone who finds a rock is encouraged to leave another in its place to “pay the kindness forward” and post a photo of it on the Arley AL Rocks Facebook page or AWC Facebook page. Not only are we hiding rocks around Arley, many members are all taking rocks with us on our trips and adventures outside of our little community and across the nation to hide. Ilene Barnett, in addition to helping us organize our paint parties, has set up a Facebook group to encourage everyone to share their rocks that they make and find and hide....and sometimes keep! Rock Stations have been placed at the Arley Public Library and at the rustic gazebo along the walking trail in Hamner Park. You never know when one of our Arley AL Rocks will find its way to someone who needs comfort and a smile!!



**'Rock Party' at Judy Crump's (above)**

**Rock Station at Arley Public Library**

## Earth Day 2018—Outdoor Classroom at Hamner Park

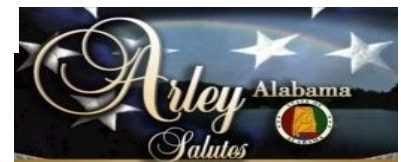
Cindy Bryant led the Earth Day activities again this year. Partnering with Kerri Roberts, Director of 4H for Winston County, Cindy and her committee made it a great learning experience for the 75 4th & 5th graders who walked from Meek Elementary to Hamner Park. Kerri started the day with Skins & Skulls where she brought native animal skins and skulls for the kids to handle while she gave her instruction. Ann Atkinson talked about recycling to the group and then they proceeded along the walking trail for their educational stops. Kerri Roberts had the students make impressions in clay of the hooves, paws and claws of our native animals. Cathy Cooper and Teanna Kwolek assisted. Judy Lambert and Belinda Rahal demonstrated water testing. Ashley Waid, Jane Nichols and Cindy Bryant helped the kids make wild flower seed bombs for pollinators. At the end of the day, refreshments were provided by Corky Wachtl, Lori Patten, Helen Fleetwood, Valerie Hagopian, Audra Kelley, Doris Dickerson, Beth McClarty, Mim Kuntz, and Louise Bensinger. Thank goodness for Marie White who kept them all on time!

## Person of the Year 2017

Every 3 years, we select a member of AWC as our Person of the Year. Juanita Culler (a.k.a. “The Banner Lady”) was named AWC Person of the Year in 2017. Juanita brought the Military Banner Program to Alabama in 2016. She sold AWC on the idea and then worked with local VFW’s and the Towns of Arley & Addison to get the ball rolling. Once she had

everyone’s support, she worked with a company in Pennsylvania to make her vision a reality. The pride this program has brought to families in honor or memory of their loved ones and their service to this country is exemplary. Juanita has befriended the veterans and their families in and around the community. AWC has recognized the women in our mem-

bership who have served our country. We have over 130 banners proudly displayed in Arley during May and November. Arley was the first town in Alabama to start this program and Juanita has spread the word and the program has been duplicated in Addison, Double Springs, Cullman, Good Hope, Jasper, and Haleyville with more to come.



**Juanita Culler  
2017 Person 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 departments, 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.

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

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## Officers Elected for 2018-2020 Term



*Cindy Bryant*  
**President**



*Ann Atkinson*  
**Vice President**



*Libby Bailey*  
**Treasurer**



*Gail Pisani*  
**Secretary**



*Ilene Barnett*  
**Parliamentarian**

On May 19, 2018 AWC members elected a wonderful slate of officers for the 2018-2020 term, all of whom are enthusiastically ready to serve. The energy and passion each officer shows for the Arley Women's Club is contagious and as a team they will make us even better than before.

**Cindy Bryant**, President, has led our Earth Day Outdoor Classroom for the past 2 years, As a member of the Ways & Means Committee, she initiated the Fern Sales that we do in conjunction with Meek HS. She has been instrumental in making Arley Day successful and is always ready to help AWC and the community. **Ann Atkinson**, Vice President, joined AWC in 2017 and jumped in to help in every event we have had since. Most recently, she is spearheading our Recycling Committee alongside Cindy Bryant and is driving the pilot program which begins this summer in Arley. **Libby Bailey**, Treasurer, has

been an active member in AWC since joining in 2015. Most recently, she has launched the Arley AL Rocks program based on the Kindness Rocks Project that is sweeping the country. **Gail Pisani**, Secretary, has spearheaded our annual Arley Trash Clean-up in parallel with the statewide effort (PALS). She has also been in charge of our Games Committee for Arley Day, bringing smiles to kids young and old. **Ilene Barnett**, Parliamentarian, developed the AWC website and has juiced up our Facebook presence. She orchestrated over 65 vendors for the most recent Arley Day Festival and has been very active in the Arley AL Rocks Project.

We are fortunate to have this group of talented women who have stepped up to lead AWC through the next 2 years. They will appreciate your support as we all grow together, making anything possible!