POPLAR WORD

Women's Auxiliary of
The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte

March 2026

President's Message

March brings a beautiful sense of renewal. As we welcome the first signs of spring, we are reminded that growth begins with preparation, faith, and intentional action. Just as the earth begins to bloom again, so does our opportunity to serve, uplift, and make an even greater impact in our community.

March is also Women's History Month, a time to honor the strength, resilience, leadership, and contributions of women throughout history. We celebrate the women who paved the way, those who continue to break barriers, and the women within our own Auxiliary who faithfully serve behind the scenes and at the forefront of change. Your dedication embodies the very spirit of servant leadership.

This month, we are also preparing our hearts and hands for our annual Women of Distinction Luncheon, our signature event that allows us to celebrate excellence while raising vital funds to support the mission of The Salvation Army. This fundraiser is more than an event; it is an opportunity to spotlight remarkable women in our community and extend the reach of our service. I encourage each of you to: invite guests and supporters, share the mission with enthusiasm, volunteer where needed, and pray for a successful and impactful gathering. Your commitment makes this event possible. Together, we can ensure it is not only a beautiful celebration but also a powerful moment of purpose and provision.

As we step into this new season, let us continue to grow in unity, compassion, and determination. Spring reminds us that what we nurture will flourish. Let us nurture our mission with excellence.

With Gratitude,
Annetria Lattimore
President, 2025-26

Meeting Reminder for Members & Guests

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17th at 11:30 am.** If you are planning to join us and have lunch, you **MUST RSVP by Wednesday March 11th** to Connie Liles at: 704-807-8331 or cliles704@gmail.com, and remember to bring your $12 (exact change or check) to the meeting. The board meeting will be held immediately before at 10:30 am.

Membership Committee Update

As we head into March with signs of spring beginning to “spring” out everywhere I hope all of us will ponder how our organization can keep reflecting God’s light to each other and to the world.

Seeing your sunny faces at the meetings and out in the community spreading our mission as you collect sponsorships and items for the auction, enables others to see that we are all called to be Christ’s hands and feet.

Thank you to all of you who spread God’s love every day and to those who bring others to join us. We always welcome any visitors or new members. We were happy to welcome Ginger Smith last month who was a guest of Susan Harmon.

I often think of one of the shortest verses in the Blble:
“Jesus went about doing good” *Acts 10:38*

May we continue to do the same in His precious name.

Jennifer Moore and Barbara Johnson-Davis

Social Services Update

Thanks to everyone for helping to serve lunch and reading to the young children at the Center of Hope. Thanks to all the February servers: Diane Minsker, Freida Schipman, Diana Rainey, Regina Harris, Suzanne Duncan, Tina Fort, and Sandra Wilson.

As you may have seen in the news recently, The Center is going through a renovation to accommodate more people and that is a great need in the Charlotte area.
We serve lunch and have Storytime on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:45am - 12:30pm. We are currently in need of volunteers for May 7th and 21st, 2026.

Sandra Wilson and Tina Fort

Birthdays

Please wish the following members a very Happy Birthday and blessed day!

Marva Hutchinson	March 2
Jamea Gray	March 19
Yolanda Brown	March 20
Clement Gibson	March 23

Scholarship Committee Update

This month we are spotlighting our scholarship student, Eryn Coe, who will graduate on May 8, 2026, from Fayetteville State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education.

Eryn, who was a club member at Marsh Road and a student at Mountain Island Charter School, has been honest about the challenges she has faced during her academic career. “As a student with an IEP, I felt that I was looked down on and not always treated fairly. Fortunately, I had very supportive parents. They helped me believe in myself. I want to give that same encouragement to special education students when I teach.”

Her mentor, Ynez Olshausen, watched Eryn grow academically and socially during her three-year mentorship. To be a caring and involved educator in an elementary school is Eryn’s goal. “I love seeing the passion to learn in these energetic and enthusiastic young students.” Eventually, Eryn hopes to earn her master’s degree in School Administration.

Congratulations, Eryn! You have made the Salvation Women Auxiliary members proud!

Diane Minsker

Fundraising Update

Springtime is upon us and so is our Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon and Silent Auction. First, let me thank those of you that have purchased sponsorships, tables, tickets and gotten items for our Silent Auction. If you will recall, at our January meeting we asked that each member donate two items for our Silent Auction. We suggested that you go places and ask for donations or you could purchase items (particularly gift cards) to donate. We need everyone to help secure items for the Silent Auction. We are starting to organize these items and ask that you bring your donations to the March 17th meeting so they can be photographed and uploaded to the auction site. Our Keynote Speaker, Award Winners, and program are all are all going to make this a great event.

As was shared at our Auxiliary meeting a few months ago, the committee has set a goal of raising $100,000 for this event. This is the only fundraiser we do and to continue the wonderful things we support, we need everyone to contribute. This is a very ambitious goal, but WE CAN DO IT! If you have not purchased a table, tickets, or if you wish to be a sponsor, please reach out to Diane Thomas to do so. Time is running out. Reach out to your friends and acquaintances and invite them. This is how we can share how we support our community by DOING THE MOST GOOD.

Thank you all for everything you do every day for our community! *Debbie Inman*

Community Care Update

Fun was had by all at the Belmont senior party on March 3rd. We served a picnic lunch, played bingo, and gave out prizes and goodie bags. Thanks to all who joined us and helped out!

Terry Pope and Marilyn Withrow

ARC News

We will sort jewelry on the second and fourth Tuesdays in March and will be providing goodie bags to the men for Easter, please bring candy to our next meeting and look for an update on when we will get together to fill them.

Cindy Polshak and Linda Franklin

Member Spotlight

Gail Card

Mrs. Gail Card, a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts attended Cambridge High and Latin School and graduated from Chandler Secretarial School, also in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When she was twenty years old, a friend since kindergarten wanted to introduce her to a handsome young military man. She did not want to go on a blind date, but her mother encouraged her to go and offered to buy her a new dress if she went and she wanted that new dress. Three months after meeting the military man, she married the love of her life, Merritt Card! She became a happy homemaker. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Gail was introduced to the SAWA by Mrs. Sharon Nivens, who was president of SAWA from 1973 to 1975. She fell in love with SAWA from the very first meeting because she knew of no other organization that gave as much to the community. She has been a member for over forty years and is now a Sustaining/Lifetime Member. It has been her delight to support all the endeavors of the SAWA because of the good that is being done, especially the scholarship program (of which she is a founder). Some of the scholarship recipients continue to stay in contact with her. She is looking forward to our fundraiser; she and Charlotte Dunn are going to co-sponsor a table.

Gail has been a member of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church for over 30 years. Gail's sole pet peeve is when people talk excessively about themselves, favoring "I" over "you" or "we." Her mantra: "Do good as often as you can for as long as you can. Be willing to share."

To new members, she suggested: Listen to your heart, and accept invitations to join in and offer your unique talents.

Thank you, Gail, for all you do for SAWA.