

POPLAR WORD

Happy
Mother's Day

Women's Auxiliary of
The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte

May 2026

President's Message

May marks a meaningful transition for Women's Auxiliary for a time to reflect, celebrate, and prepare for a season of rest before continuing our work with renewed energy. As our final meeting before the summer break, May offers an opportunity to pause and recognize the impact made throughout the year, highlighted by the success of the Women of Distinction Luncheon.

This year's luncheon was a powerful celebration of service, leadership, and community. We were honored to recognize an outstanding group of women whose lives and work embody compassion, excellence, and a deep commitment to serving others. Among this year's Women of Distinction honorees were Erica Bryant of WSOC-TV, former Red Shield Youth Center Youth of the Year Jasmine Higgins, and Lisa Knox of Soul Winners Outreach Ministry. Each honoree brought a unique and inspiring story that reminded us all of the power of service and the importance of lifting others along the way.

Heartfelt messages left a lasting impression. Metz, delivered words with purpose, serve with in our commitment to

The success of the the dedication and From thoughtful planning every detail reflected Because of these

only celebrated remarkable women but also strengthened support for the vital programs and services provided by The Salvation Army.



shared throughout the program Our keynote speaker, Deronda that encouraged us to lead humility, and remain steadfast those in need.

luncheon is a testament to collaboration of our members. to meaningful execution, excellence and purpose. collective efforts, the event not

As we gather for our final meeting of the season, we do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. It is also a time to extend sincere appreciation to every member who contributed their time, talents, and generosity throughout the year. While summer offers a brief pause, the mission continues and so does our shared commitment to serve. We look forward to reconvening in the fall, refreshed and ready to build on the momentum we've created.

**Gratefully,
Annetria (President 2025-2026)**

Meeting Reminder

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 19th at 11:30 am**, the board meeting will be held immediately before at 10:30 am. If you are planning to join us and have lunch, you **MUST RSVP by Wednesday May 13th** to Beth at 704-714-4720 or beth.butchino@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Member Spotlight

Susan Harmon

Susan Harmon was born in Baltimore, Maryland and moved to Winston-Salem, NC, where she attended Reynolds High School. Before moving to Charlotte she graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in Recreation Administration and later earned Certificates in Gerontology from Central Piedmont and UNCC. After college she became a field advisor and program advisor for the Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council, worked for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Business NC magazine, and Morehead Associates, a management consulting firm.



Susan and Steve have been married for 45 years. They have a blended family of 4 children, who added 8 grandchildren and now 2 great-grandchildren. The children live around the US and since Susan and Steve like to travel, they are usually on the road visiting or checking out new places. They live at Matthews Glen attending fitness classes, volunteering, and are members of Sardis Presbyterian Church. Both of them participate in various groups there. Susan is also a member of the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs. She and Steve enjoy the Charlotte Symphony and the Broadway Lights Series.

It's been over 28 years since Susan was invited by her neighbor to visit SAWA. She has been on many committees and ultimately became president from 2008-2010. She also co-chaired the Festival of Tables. During her years of service she attended the National Advisory Organizations Conference with Diana Rainey in Dallas as representatives of our SAWA. Later she attended a regional meeting in Atlanta and then another national meeting in Phoenix. Attending these meetings enhanced her knowledge and love for the work of The Salvation Army. One of the most rewarding things she has done with her life is working with the SAWA. It's been people helping people, doing the most good. Susan is presently a lifetime member and participates on the Community Care Committee.

Her pet peeve is people who complain without offering a solution. She lives by the mantra of being kind. You are unaware of what others are experiencing.

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

Member Birthdays

Please join me in wishing the following members a Happy Birthday and blessed day!

Colleen Gribbon	May 7	Debbie Inman	June 2
Susan Castle	May 9	Kathy Friese	June 4
Carolyn Gibson	May 15	Angie Psillos	June 11
Marilyn Withrow	May 16	Brenda Rorie	June 15
Freida Schipman	May 17	Regina Harris	June 19
Diane Thomas	May 24	Dana Vaden	June 20
Melanie Mason	May 26	Vivian Blanding	June 28
Diann Back	May 31	Penny Hewett	June 30
Ann Young	May 31		



ARC Update

Join us at the ARC to help sort donated jewelry for the Salvation Army. This is a fun and meaningful way to give back to the community with fellow volunteers. We meet from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Come whenever you can. Your help is always welcome and appreciated. Parking at the ARC is limited, so use the Family Store lot next door.



Thank you for all you do for our organization. God Bless!

Cindy Polshak and Linda Franklin

Member Update

Welcome to May! How wonderful to see everyone at WOD 2026. What a wonderful event it was, I hope all of your guests enjoyed it! The honorees were so inspirational and Larry Sprinkle always brings a great atmosphere!

I keep thinking about all the members of the community who are able to benefit from everyone's hard work - a great big thanks to you all!

Last month we welcomed a new member to SAWA: Judy Lawrence-Lamb. It will be great to meet her at the May meeting and to get to know her. She will be a great addition to our membership.

In my favorite Bible verse, one I memorized as a little girl, from Psalm 100: 1-2: *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing!* As SAWA members we take that to heart and always try to serve the Lord with a joyful heart. Hope you have a wonderful summer too! Go forth in peace and love.

Jennifer Moore and Barbara Johnson-Davis

Social Services Update

We hope everyone enjoyed the Women of Distinction Luncheon. The chairs and their family members served at the COH so members could attend the event.

The committee serves lunch twice a month, the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, September - May. Many thanks to those who served during the month of April: Marilyn Withrow, Terry Pope, Susan Jones, Suzanne Duncan, Tina Fort, Amy Melody, and Sandra Wilson.

Sandra Wilson and Tina Fort

Community Care Update

We will be having our next Belmont Corps birthday party on June 2nd featuring a patriotic theme and picnic style lunch with hotdogs and all the trimmings. We will be doing a craft and have the regular goodie bags, birthday gifts, and door prizes.

Let me know if you are available to help with food, items for the gift bags, or candy.

Terry Pope and Marilyn Withrow

Fundraiser Update

April 16th was a beautiful sunny Spring Day and what a success our Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon was! We raised \$122,000 before expenses and it looks like we will crush our \$100k goal! This was only possible with the gracious support of our sponsors, auction item donations, ticket purchases, and donors. A heartfelt thank you to the Fundraising Committee for their hard work and dedication to making this event successful. Thank you also to those of you that attended and brought guests to the event. Hopefully they left better knowing all the work The Salvation Army and Auxiliary do every day for our community. If you were unable to attend, you missed a great event. Mark your calendar now for our 2027 Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon. It will be held on April 22, 2027, at Quail Hollow Club.

We would love to have you join our committee. Please consider helping with this event. If you are interested, please reach out to me. We will be meeting later in the summer to start our planning. This is our only fundraising event and funds raised from this event enable us to continue to support Salvation Army programs, provide scholarships and so much more - Doing the Most Good.

Debbie Inman



Scholarship Update

While there are changes taking place within the Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte Area, one important goal has not changed, which is the commitment of this beloved organization and our SAWA to serve those in the community who need our help. That is why the scholarship committee is dedicated to the young people of Charlotte who can benefit from funding for their higher education costs. There will be fourteen students receiving scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year. We expect six of these college students to graduate in May of 2027. Five of our students are using their "fifth year" funds from us next month for summer school. Except for Jailyne Lewis, who is attending Texas Southern University in Houston, and Briana Higgins, who is at University of South Carolina, all of our students are attending state colleges. Interestingly, eight of our students are getting degrees in the medical field. How proud we are to be supporting these young adults who want to serve others!

Pictured here is Eryn Coe who is graduating from Fayetteville State University with a BA in education this month. We are so proud of her, she is another example of how our students give back to their communities.

Diane Minsker

