

# 03-18 Kiawah & Seabrook Exchange Club Dinner Meeting Notes

## Angel Oak Award, Community Updates, and Volunteer Opportunities

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| Date: 2026-03-18 18:30

### Meeting Notes

#### Guest and Member Recognition

- Several guests were introduced and welcomed, including Gary McQuay from Kea'au, and Julie and John Miller, Dr. Larry Menaldo, and Mary Ann Menaldo from Kewaunee River.
- A call for new members Jennifer Gar and Michael Dedugo was made, but they were not present.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Events

- There will be no meeting on April 1st.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th (Tax Day), featuring Ed Conroy.
- The education dinner will be held on May 6th.
- The Angel Oak Award fundraiser dinner is on May 20th. Members should check their email for correspondence.
- A Zoom meeting for chili cook-off volunteers is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 5:00 PM. An in-person meeting will be held on April 1st in the Cooper Room. The event date has not yet been set.

#### 2025 Angel Oak Award Honoree Announcement

- **Nominee Announcement:** Bob announced that Leroy Blake is the honoree for the 2025 Angel Oak Award. The nomination letter was written by Shirley Salvo.
- **Leroy Blake's Contributions:**
  - A lifelong resident of Johns Island, except for his 22 years in the U.S. Air Force.
  - Volunteered for the Blessing Basket Program of the Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation for nine years, picking up and delivering hundreds of pounds of food.
  - He and his wife, Marva, deliver food to about 10 of the 30 shut-in clients on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands.

- Manages the monthly recycling of cardboard boxes for the program.
- Elected to the board of directors of CyHAF in 2024.
- Participates in the meal train program and serves the community through his church.
- He is also a Johns Island Fire District commissioner.
- **Award Dinner Details:** The award dinner is scheduled for May 20th. Volunteers are still needed for various roles.

## Community and Website Updates

- The All Palms Exchange Club is hosting a free training on the prevention of child abuse and trafficking on Thursday, April 2nd at 5:30 PM at the Isle of Palms location. Details will be in the next newsletter.
- The club's website is being updated by Brian Bowling and is expected to launch in the next month or two.
- New website features will include:
  - Showcasing volunteer work more effectively.
  - A sponsor directory, described as a "mini Angie's List."
  - Improved event registration, allowing online purchases for things like mulligans or merchandise (e.g., polos, mini oak trees).

## Tribute to a Fallen Soldier

- **Honoree:** Jim Bannister led a tribute to **United States Army Staff Sergeant Steve M. Theobald**, age 53, from Goose Creek, SC.
- **Service Details:** Staff Sergeant Theobald died on June 4, 2010, near Kuwait City from injuries sustained in a vehicle rollover during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He joined the military in 1975 and was on his second tour of duty.
- **Conclusion:** The tribute was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer for the club, its leaders, public servants, and military members.

## Shannon's Hope Camp Presentation

- **Overview of the Program:**
  - Shannon's Hope Camp is a program by Bridges of Hope that supports children ages 7-17 dealing with grief from the loss of a loved one.
  - Camps are held twice a year at Camp Saint Christopher. The next one is scheduled for October 2nd-4th on Seabrook.
- **Volunteer Experiences:**
  - Club members shared their experiences as "buddies," where they were paired with a child for the weekend to provide support. One volunteer was paired with a 12-year-old boy who had lost

his father, and another with an 11-year-old boy who had lost his mother.

- **Volunteer Roles:**
  - **Facilitator:** Leads structured grief workshops.
  - **Buddy:** Acts as a companion to a child.
  - **Logistics:** Helps with setting up and taking down materials.
- **Call for Volunteers:** The camp had to turn away 15 children, mostly boys, from the last session due to a shortage of male buddies. Members were strongly encouraged to volunteer.

## **Presentation by Cheryl O'Donnell of Young Moms Together**

- **Introduction:** John introduced Cheryl O'Donnell, the executive director of Young Moms Together (formerly Florence Crittenton), who has over 25 years of experience in women's health and child welfare.
- **Organizational Transformation:** The organization, which has been in SC for almost 130 years, has a new five-year strategic plan to help young moms and their children build a thriving future through coaching on education, workforce skills, and confidence.
- **Challenges Facing Young Mothers:** In SC, about 3,000 women under 19 have children annually. Less than 50% of teen mothers graduate high school, and infants are the fastest-growing homeless population.
- **"No Wrong Door" Approach:** The organization now provides holistic housing and support in young women's own communities, serving as a single point of contact for resources like housing, WIC, and Medicaid.
- **Success Coach Program:** Supported by the Duke Endowment, this program uses the "Parents as Teachers" model for individualized home visiting to support the entire family, focusing on building trust and relationships. The program teaches skill-building, crisis intervention, and self-advocacy.
- **Strategic Housing Decisions:** A historic house in Charleston was sold due to high upkeep costs. Proceeds were used to buy two four-bedroom homes in West Ashley, each housing three young women (ages 14-21) and their children, who are taught home maintenance skills.
- **Rental Assistance and Funding:** A rental assistance program is available for women up to age 24. The organization secured \$3.8 million in federal funds to address youth homelessness, which requires a match. A "Legacy of Hope" brunch on April 30th aims to raise \$58,000 to unlock over \$230,000 in rental assistance funds.
- **Program Participants and Referrals:** Youth find the program via schools, hospitals, DSS, and the organization's website. About 70-75% of participants had parents who were also teen parents. The program is not equipped for those with diagnoses involving violence or hard drug dependency but can work with those who use marijuana. An estimated 25% have experienced human trafficking.

## Next Arrangements

- Contact Speaker 2 to volunteer for the chili cook-off committee.
- Look for the newsletter for details on the child abuse prevention training.
- Consider signing up to volunteer for the Shannon's Hope Camp in October.
- Volunteers are needed for the Angel Oak Award dinner on May 20th. Interested parties should sign up on the sheets provided on the tables.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th. There will be no meeting on April 1st.

### Dinner Meeting Attendance 3.18

Attended?	Member	Attended?	Guests	Status	\$s	Pmt
No	Victor Agusta	No	Carol Agusta	Spouse	\$55	
Yes	Alan Armstrong					
Yes	James Bannister	Yes	Dr Larry Monaldo	Guest	\$55	Paid \$120 Check
		Yes	Mary Ann Monaldo	Guest	\$55	
		Yes	John Minner	Guest	\$55	
		Yes	Julie Minner	Guest	\$55	
Yes	Marlisa Bannister					
Yes	Phyllis Barber					
Yes	Tim Barnard					
No	Joe Bauer					
Yes	Herb Boehm					

Attended?	Member	Attended?	Guests	Status	\$s	Pmt
Yes	Bryan Bolling					
Yes	Kevin Boyle		Linda Ligenza	Guest	\$55	Bill
Yes	Ed Bredd					
No	Don Day					
Yes	Jim Dwyer	Yes	Lois Dwyer	Spouse	\$55	Bill
Yes	George Fink					
Yes	Bree Florees					
Yes	Dianna Forsythe					
Yes	Joe Foti					
Yes	Jennifer Garr					
Yes	Stephen Haines					
Yes	Larry Healy					
Yes	Edward Heskamp					
Yes	Ed Hughes					
Yes	Bob Jones					
Yes	Ed Leary					
Yes	Bob Leggett					
Yes	Milum Livesay					
Yes	Lisa McDonald					
Yes	Rick McDonald					
Yes	Tom Meyer					
Yes	Bill Nelson					
Yes	Maureen Oberg			At Large	\$55	Paid
Yes	Steve Penkhus					
Yes	Robert Quagliato					
Yes	John Reock	Yes	Cheryl O'Donnell	Speaker	\$0	
		Yes	Katie Tymbleston	Speaker	\$0	
Yes	Ed Rigtrup					
No	Joe Ritchie					
Yes	Shirley Salvo					
Yes	Robin Stebbins					
Yes	Roger Steel					
Yes	Chris Stephenson					
Yes	Joe Thompson	Yes	Gary McCray	Prospect	\$0	
Yes	Dick Trent					
Yes	Bruce Van Voorhis					
Yes	Tom Webster					
Yes	Pat Welch					
Yes	Jack Wilson					
No	Mela Wyeth					

	Reservations	No Show	Attending
Guests	10	1	9
Members	47	8	39
Total	56	9	48
Club Count	47-51		