

SUMMER 2024



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

FOCUS

The Official Newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stephanie Collier, 2023-2025 President



I was having lunch recently with our JLL Sustainers and it was inspiring to hear story after story of how they can directly connect the opportunities and successes that they enjoy today to their time spent growing and developing in their Active years with JLL. It is often said that the days are long and the years are short. It can be true that when we are in the thick of planning, budgeting, and executing,

we are sometimes too close to see the profound value that we are living and creating for ourselves and our community. What's more true is that the placements, trainings, and community impact we foster as a League each year provide immeasurable value that transcends a lifetime. I am so grateful for the opportunity to get better acquainted with these Sustainer perspectives and I find these shared experiences are what is so beautiful about our mission and our membership opportunity.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **President's Message**
- 3 **Nominating**
- 4 **Community**
- 5 **Education**
- 6 **Endowment Donors**
- 7 **Fund Development**
- 9 **Membership**
- 11 **Sustainer Update**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Stephanie Collier [2023-2025]

Treasurer

Lisa Whiting Dobson [2023-2025]

Secretary

Anita Nystrom [2022-2024]

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard [2022-2024]

Nominating Chair

Andi Earl [2023-2024]

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler [2023-2025]

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard [2022-2024]

Communications Vice President

Brittany Risk [2023-2024]

Community Vice President

Lisa Biering [2022-2024]

Education Vice President

Leia Cooper-Rigg [2022-2024]

Fund Development Vice President

Ana Whitman [2022-2024]

Membership Vice President

Resa Tran-TenBrink [2023-2025]

Sustaining Management Advisor

Lori Noyer [2023-2025]

MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Lansing is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

President's Message, continued from page 1

Looking back, the 2023-2024 League year can be summarized with the word **foundation**. Setting the foundation to continue to build on what makes the Junior League so special.

Robust work was done to review, discuss, and prioritize our strategic plan for 2024-2027. This included a kickoff with the Board and Management Team at our summer retreat last July, an updated member survey and a further review by the current Board over the course of the fall and multiple strategic planning sessions facilitated by Robin Miner-Swartz in early 2024. The cumulative total of hours spent to ensuring our League is moving strategically into the future was more than 125 hours from our committed volunteers.

Our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan contains four main priorities:

OUR PURPOSE:

- Embed and operationalize the new mission across all aspects of the organization.

MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT:

- Increase our Active member count by transforming JLL's recruitment strategy to ensure clarity, understanding, and connection while fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for new members.

ENGAGEMENT:

- Identify and promote community partnerships and diversify engagement efforts through intentional projects and strategic event planning.
- Create a supportive environment for experimentation that addresses the fear of failure by promoting a culture that values learning and growth from setbacks.

LEADERSHIP:

- Evaluate leadership roles to ensure they are meaningful, manageable, and aligned with JLL's needs and goals, fostering a culture of leadership that is proactive, realistic, and embraces the opportunity to lead with a mindset of enthusiasm and honor.

Work is already underway for the 2024-2025 League year and we are excited to bring this vision to life.

Another important function of League business is ensuring a strong working partnership with our association management firm. The Board made the decision to review our options for partnership through a request for proposal last fall and are pleased to share that we approved our new relationship with GCSI Association Services. The official start with GCSIAS was in April. While all new relationships take time to learn and adjust, I am pleased to share that we have already experienced a meaningful improvement in League operations in a short time. GCSIAS has shown a high commitment to learning about League and both

JLL and GCSIAS are looking forward to the continued improvement in our support of all our League members.

Finally, I'd like to highlight some of the new updates from AJLI. They have been very busy under new leadership bringing refreshed branding and cohesive messaging to support local Leagues. The new member site, MyAJLI.org, provides additional resources to all League members including networking groups, a miniMBA program, member discounts, and more. Additionally, AJLI has a refreshed purpose statement to ensure that they are a resource to each individual member throughout all the years of your membership.

You are a gifted and amazing group of women, and our success as an organization is truly the result of all your efforts compounded together year after year. Thank you to those who have created the legacy of what is the Junior League of Lansing today, and to those who are working to bring our future to life. Thank you for an amazing year full of thoughtful leadership across the organization — I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity to serve as your president. We truly are developing women to do a world of good.

Together in service,

IT STARTS WITH A WOMAN

2024-2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Stephanie Collier (2023-2025)

President-Elect

Leia Cooper-Rigg (2024-2025)

Treasurer

Lisa Whiting Dobson (2023-2025)

Secretary

Allison Purtell (2024-2026)

Executive Vice President

Alexis Murray (2024-2026)

Nominating Chair

Leia Cooper-Rigg (2024-2025)

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler (2023-2025)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Alexis Murray (2024-2026)

Community Vice President

Brittany Risk (2024-2026)

Education Vice President

Tricia Brentar (2024-2026)

Fund Development Vice President

Ana Whitman (2024-2026)

Membership Vice President

Resa Tran-TenBrink (2023-2025)

Sustaining Management Advisor

Lori Noyer (2024-2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Leia Cooper-Rigg, Chair

Stacy Bogard

Andi Earl

Maggie Louks

NOMINATING

COMMUNITY



MSU Student Food Bank Drive

Here's to another year of Junior League of Lansing members serving our community through volunteering, grants, and advocacy.

For this League year, our members volunteered more than 300 hours at nonprofits in the community and gave away more than \$9,700 in grants.

Congratulations to the recipients during the 2023-2024 Junior League of Lansing grant cycle:

Community Fund Grant:

Helping Hands Food Pantry of Eaton County for \$4,703.44

Community Response Grants:

Four recipients, all receiving \$1,250

- ◆ Child and Family Charities
- ◆ L-Town Jubilee
- ◆ Lansing Community Development Corporation
- ◆ Punks with Lunch Lansing

For Advocacy, the committee collaborated with other Michigan Junior Leagues to host the annual Day at the Capitol where members interacted with their elected representatives on pressing issues impacting the community.

Thank you to the Volunteer and Advocacy Committee members for your dedication and service to making our community a better place.



MSC SPAC Day at the Capitol



Alexis Murray, Stephanie Collier and Heidi Hansen at Day at the Capitol

EDUCATION

During the second half of the League year, the Education Council continued to host GMMs at Small Talk Advocacy Center. The Council is grateful for the relationship we have formed with Small Talk and its generosity in allowing us to use their space.

Within our GMMs, we have continued impactful training for our members through Sustainers, Actives and community partners. At the January GMM, we broke into small groups and had facilitated conversations around JLL's mission, values and how we can be Ambassadors for League. March's GMM gave us the opportunity to hear from Melissa Nay from Choose Lansing about all the great things happening in our region. At our training in April, we were thrilled to have Sustainer Jennifer Charette sharing tips on how to "Confidently Present." We love having Sustainers come and share their expertise and League stories with us! If you are interested in presenting at a future GMM, please reach out to education@jllansing.org.

Our February Social was a great hit this year! We had Sustainers, Actives, Provisionals and guests join us at Toscana. Many toured the new AC hotels while others enjoyed the great food and fellowship. In March, the Member Events Committee hosted a self-defense class at Mid-Michigan Academy of Martial Arts. We wrapped up the year with our Year-End Celebration at Hidden Gem. JLL Active member Connie Jordan did a fabulous job taking headshots and photos during the event. A highlight of the evening was presenting our three scholarship recipients with \$1,000 each. Beth Ronning did a fantastic job spearheading the scholarship process this year and we were thrilled to host the winners and their families at the Celebration dinner. It was a wonderful evening recognizing our members and the accomplishments of the year!

2024 Scholarship Recipients

Magdalene Callender, East Lansing High School

Rachel Chomas, Okemos High School

Rachel Perez, Michigan State University



Year-End Celebration



President Stephanie Collier and President-Elect Leia Cooper-Rigg at the 2024 AJLI Annual Conference



Scholarship recipients with Stephanie

ENDOWMENT REPORT

SPECIAL THANKS

Legacy Society Members

Anonymous
 Ken and Ginny Brooks
 John and Sandy Grettenberger
 Sue Mills
 Mary Beth Pirich

This year marks the 39th anniversary of the Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund. The Endowment supports the mission of JLL in perpetuity and we are grateful to our founding members for the foresight to establish this Endowment Fund to benefit the women of this community.

As of June 30, 2024, the current fund balance is \$728,230. As our Endowment Fund balance grows, its financial impact on our League will continue to grow.

Our members generously support our League every year through donations, tribute gifts in memory or honor of a loved one, and dues round-up. Thank you for remembering the Endowment Fund throughout the year, whether it's a year-end donation, birthday or Mother's Day gift, or simply to make a gift to let someone know you are in their thoughts, your gift matters.

We invite you to join the Legacy Society. Please consider making a gift of \$5,000 or more by pledge or an estate gift. For more information or to make a gift today, please visit jllansing.org/endowment-fund. Thank you to our existing members who have made this commitment.

We would like to recognize our donors who made contributions during the 2024-2025 dues round-up:

Deb Atkinson
 Susan Allis
 Kathryn Ault
 Mary Ann Austin
 Elizabeth Bacon
 Candy Barnes
 Joan Bauer
 De'Shondria Bedenfield
 Justine Bell
 Stacy Bogard
 Susan Brewster
 Christine Brogan
 Juliette Buckberry
 Paula Campbell
 Chrissy Carr
 Barbara Clark
 Barb Cleland
 Catherine Cleveland
 Stephanie Collier
 Georgia Condon
 Jenny Corr
 De De Coy
 Patricia Croom
 Lindsay Dangi
 Marilyn DesJardins
 Barbara Duda
 Carolyn Dudley
 Darrell Duffield
 Lynn Dwight
 Caryn Edwards
 Wendy Faulhaber
 Barbara Fishell
 Gretchen Forsyth
 Tricia Foster

Heather Frick
 Lori Fuller
 Barbara Galloway
 Donna Gardner
 Marcia Gresens
 Linda Grua
 Jody Haddad
 Barbara Hamilton
 Heidi Hansen
 Phyllis Harden
 Debby Harrison
 Annie Hayes
 Karen Hubbard
 Kate Hude
 Jaimie Hutchison
 Amber Irrer
 Tracy Jelneck
 Jan Kahl
 Colleen Keiper
 Elizabeth King
 Becca Kosta
 Suzanne Kregel
 Michelle Lange
 Cathy Lazar
 Barb Lindquist
 Sandy Little
 Maggie Louks
 Alexis Lupo
 Susan Lutz
 Katie Lynwood
 Dorothy Martin
 Karen McCloskey
 Ellen McKay
 Janine Medler

Dianne Mohnke
 Nanci Mooney
 Betty Moore
 Lori Noyer
 Marilyn Nugent
 Rebecca Paalman
 Jennifer Pace
 Maggie Papesh
 Mary Beth Pirich
 Jennifer Pope
 Kristen Pricco
 Allison Purtell
 Janice Reed
 Cristin Rizor
 Pam Ruth
 Nicki Sanford
 Cat Schwartz
 Alexis Scovel
 Denise Shaheen
 Nancy Shepard
 Dorothy Spousta
 Charlene Sproles
 Laura Stoken
 Katie Strong
 Diana Tarpoff
 Mary Van Wieren
 Pamela Wakeland
 Katie Waskiewicz
 Maureen Watson-Bolger
 Mary West
 Lisa Whiting Dobson
 Ana Whitman
 Carolyn Willoughby
 Barbara Wirtz

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Reflecting on a Year of Fundraising Success

Throughout the year, our fundraising team at the Junior League of Lansing has been tirelessly engaged in coordinating two significant events aimed at supporting our mission and community initiatives. While both our Annual Raffle and the bRUNch and Walk with League 5K were pivotal in our fundraising efforts, let's take a closer look at the vibrancy and impact of our 5K.



On Sunday, June 2, 2024, the heart of downtown Lansing became a bustling hub of activity as 90 participants, 8 committee members, and 12 volunteers congregated at Rotary Park for our bRUNch and Walk with League 5K. This event, now in its second year, exemplifies the spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose that defines our community.

The race route took participants along the Lansing River Trail, past historic landmarks such as Turner Dodge House, and through Adado Park. As runners and walkers made their way back to Rotary Park, the air buzzed with excitement and determination, echoing the collective commitment to our cause.

Post-race celebrations were marked by the indulgence of delicious waffles, refreshing mimosas, and panoramic views of the Jackson Field/Lansing Lugnuts Stadium at The View. However, our commitment to community outreach extended beyond the festivities, as Heidi Hansen, Jennifer Pope, and Ana Whitman exemplified by sharing leftover provisions with members of our community experiencing homelessness under the Shiawassee Street bridge.



We extend our sincerest gratitude to the dedicated individuals who made the 2nd bRUNch and Walk with League 5K a resounding success. From the hardworking committee members and generous sponsors to the enthusiastic volunteers and Junior League participants, your collective efforts ensured the event's triumph.



In total, 115 participants signed up for the race, demonstrating the widespread support and enthusiasm for our cause. Furthermore, 25 sponsors rallied behind our endeavor, contributing essential resources to make the event possible. With 168 bottles of water, 45 pounds of bananas, and countless volunteer hours, the event was a testament to the power of community collaboration.



While preliminary numbers show us just shy of our fundraising goal of \$17,500, the impact of our endeavors extends far beyond monetary figures. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our fundraising teams, members, and community supporters, we've raised a net total of \$22,880 this year. These funds will empower us to advance the mission of the Junior League of Lansing and support critical initiatives such as community grants and sponsorships, scholarships, and member development programs.



As we reflect on the past year's achievements, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support and commitment to the Junior League of Lansing. Together, we've made a tangible difference in our community, and we look forward to continuing this journey of impact and empowerment in the years to come.

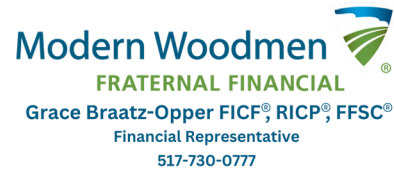


THANK YOU SPONSORS

ULTRA MARATHONER



DAUDI & KROLL, P.C.



Stephanie Collier, CLU®, CLTC®
stephaniecollier.nm.com
517-827-2123



MARATHONER



SPRINTER

**Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC | Fraza
GreenStone Farm Credit Services | Heat 'N Sweep**

The 2023-2024 Junior League Year was filled with so many fun and meaningful membership activities and events, and an even better impact to our local communities. We are honored to have members who have chosen to commit their time to advancing the Junior League of Lansing's mission.

The 2023-2024 Member Award recipients have been recognized for going above and beyond their call of duty. These members have demonstrated excellence in their roles and have been outstanding role models to others in the League.

Thank you to all of our amazing members for another fantastic League year. Looking forward to seeing what we have up our sleeves for 2024-2025!

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to our New Active Member

Carlie Richards

Congratulations to our Milestone Five-Year Members

De'Shondria Bedenfield
Lisa Biering
Emily Ballard
Leia Cooper-Rigg

Andi Earl
Sarah Hoppie
Chelsea Stevens
Shajuana Tyson

2023-2024 Dual Placements

Lisa Biering
Stacy Bogard
Alexis Murray

Brittany Risk
Lisa Sack
Lisa Whiting Dobson



Five-Year Members



New Sustainers

WE ARE THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



Community Service Award

Emily Stevens

Ashley Smith

Given to a member who has contributed significant, outstanding volunteer time and effort to improve the quality of life in the Lansing community, either through her own community involvement or League placement.



League for Life

Lori Noyer

This Sustainer has given of her time and talents to support the efforts of the organization.



Spirit Award

Leia Cooper-Rigg

This member embodies the spirit of Junior League volunteerism in her actions and interactions in the community and with other JLL members. This person constantly inspires others with her caring, understanding, enthusiasm and pursuit of excellence embracing the values of JLL.



Woman to Watch

Carlie Richards

Elizabeth (Beth) Ronning

This new member has given “above and beyond” of her time and talents to support the efforts of the organization.



Leadership Award

Ana Whitman

A member who demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and who motivates and inspires others to further the vision of the organization.



Living the Mission Award

Brittany Risk

This member consistently goes “above and beyond” placement job description, or, in addition to her regular placement, assists other committees or projects in an outstanding manner.



Women Building Better Communities

Education Council

This committee has gone above and beyond during the current League year.

Another League year has come to a close and May was jam-packed with activities. On May 10, 2024, we had about 30 Sustainers including 7 Past Presidents gather at the Kellogg Center for a lovely luncheon. The excitement in the air and lively conversations are a reminder of how much we value the opportunity to get together and catch-up. The food was delicious as usual, too. Thanks to Maggie Louks and Stacy Bogard for their assistance with planning details and Janine Medler for making the table decorations. It truly was a lovely event.



On May 14, several Sustainers gathered for the Year-End Celebration at The Hidden Gem. There was a Sustainer Social, where we welcomed new Sustainers and recognized Sustainers that had passed this year.



Congratulations to our New Sustainers:

Chrissy LaFountain
Angela Palmer

Jennifer Pope
Cristin Rizor

Lisa Sack
Emily Stevens

Maureen
Watson-Bolger

In Memoriam:

Pat Hagan
Shirlean Hauser
Catherine Hornbach

Pam Irwin
Nancy Sheldon
Glenda Simpkins

Planning for the 2024-2025 League year is underway. If you are looking for ways to get involved, look no further...

1. Help plan the Fall Sustainers Luncheon/event.
2. Volunteer yourself or someone else to speak at a GMM. (With a focus on training, we are looking for 3-4 Sustainers willing to share their expertise. Topics of interest are open for suggestions, too.)
3. Host the Holiday Open House/Cookie Exchange. Typically about 20-30 Actives and Sustainers gather for this event.
4. Help plan the Spring Sustainers/Past Presidents Luncheon/event.
5. Provide ideas for other fun things we should do to stay connected.

If any of these items are of interest to you, please reach out to Lori Noyer, Sustaining Management Advisor at 517-803-1130 or SustainingAdvisor@jllansing.org.

Looking forward to connecting!

SUSTAINER UPDATE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

120 N. Washington Square
Suite 110A
Lansing, MI 48933

UPCOMING GMMs

September 2024 Tuesday 10	October 2024 Tuesday 9	November 2024 Tuesday 12	January 2025 Tuesday 14
March 2025 Tuesday 11	April 2025 Tuesday 8	May 2025 Tuesday 13	