

WINTER 2023



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

FOCUS

The Official Newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maggie Louks, 2021-2023 President



Happy New Year! I hope you had time over the holidays to recharge and renew as we've had a busy and exciting fall with opportunities to volunteer, attend trainings, fundraise, and socialize!

I know these articles usually start with a profound quote or something really thought provoking – but as I sit here and write this, I can only equate that leading the Junior League of Lansing

is like raising children. People always tell me that “the days are long, but the years are short.” That is exactly how I feel about my tenure as President. While we are in the weeds of project planning and fundraising, it can feel like things take forever to get done. But once the year wraps up, we sit back and reminisce on how fast it all went and now it's time to start planning the next year. There's something to be said about taking a quick pause, taking a breath to reflect, and celebrating all we've been through and accomplished.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Maggie Louks (2021-2023)

President-Elect

Stephanie Collier (2022-2023)

Treasurer

Dana Costello (2021-2023)

Secretary

Anita Nystrom (2022-2024)

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

Nominating Chair

Jessica Sender (2022-2023)

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler (2021-2023)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

Community Vice President

Lisa Biering (2022-2024)

Communications Vice President

Ally Caldwell (2021-2023)

Education Vice President

Leia Cooper-Rigg (2022-2024)

Finance Vice President

Lisa Whiting Dobson (2021-2023)

Fund Development Vice President

Ana Whitman (2022-2024)

Membership Vice President

Andi Earl (2021-2023)

Sustaining Management Advisor

Meredith Jagutis (2022 - 2024)

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

The Board continues to focus on League's strategic goals – which can be found on the member side of our website. One of the biggest changes we have made this year has been updating our mission statement. The process was lengthy and there were many meetings that went into working and re-working this new mission statement with all Leagues. Ultimately, the updated language allows us to work with greater clarity on who we are and what we are here to do. It helps us discover new ways to harness the power of service and collaboration and provide meaningful experiences that enable women to flourish as civic and community leaders. Our new mission statement reads:

“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.”

While what we do has not changed, how we talk about it is now wrapped in language that is more accessible, inviting, and collaborative.

The Nominating Committee prepared the 2023-2024 slate and helped execute our second Community Fund election. Advent House was selected by active membership to receive our Community Fund donation of \$5,023. The JLL also donated \$1,000 to Ele's Place to support their November Children's Grief Awareness Month Campaign. The Board has also taken on committee work based on the feedback and questions posed in the 2022 League Summit. We also continue to update our policies to be in alignment with our work.

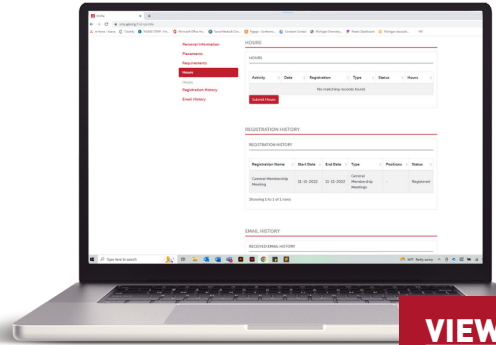
To the Board of Directors, Management Team, committee chairs, and all JLL members, thank you for your commitment to and engagement in our organization. Leadership is not about titles – it's about your ability to move things forward, for yourself and for your team. We should be extremely proud of what we have done and the things we have planned – and how we continue to move forward. We are making a difference in each other's lives and in our community.

I can't wait to see what we can accomplish in 2023. My promise to you remains the same, I will always listen to concerns, help problem solve, celebrate our successes, and continue to learn how to lead with each of you. Thank you again for your support and this opportunity.

COMMUNITY

Since our founding 92 years ago, community service has been a core tenant for our members. This year has been no different. We started the year with a new Volunteer Committee (formerly the Done In A Day/Done In A Meeting Committee) dedicated to researching, advocating, and creating opportunities for members to serve our community through time, talent, or treasure. So far, the committee has organized a winter coat drive for Cristo Rey Community Center, secured donations in a matter of hours for snow pants to children in need, and promoted volunteer opportunities at Haven House and the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

Beyond the committee, this year also marks the first year where members can log their own volunteer hours in Member Essentials to complete their annual volunteering requirement. These hours can be for any charitable organization in the greater Lansing area. Through this, we'll have a better look into the breadth and depth of volunteering done by our members outside of the volunteering that we coordinate as a League. We have always known the commitment of our membership to community service and now, we can show it.



And lastly, this League year is especially exciting with the chance to give away more than \$25,000 in grants. In December, members nominated, voted on, and selected to award our Community Fund Grant to **Advent House Ministries** for \$5,023! In 2023, we'll award our Community Response grants, totaling \$5,000, to various charities selected by the committee and one \$15,000 Community Impact grant.



EDUCATION UPDATE

In September Executive VP Stacy Bogard provided training on the League's new Member Essentials site. Our members met before the GMM for a fun pre-meeting tailgate including a game requiring members to match and identify the baby photos of JLL leadership.

In October, the New Member chairs did a training on the new member lifecycle and the latest recruitment changes. In November Katie Lynwood did training on Difficult Conversations Going Into the Holidays.

In January Meredith Jagutis and Ann Vogelsang did training on Fund Development and the Endowment.

SPECIAL THANKS

Legacy Society Members

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

We would like to recognize our donors who made contributions during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Susan Allis
Patricia Ardnt
Kathryn Ault
Mary Ann Austin
Bridget Balesky
Candace Barnes
Zoe Bassos
Justine Bell
Carolyn Boger
Susan Brewster
Christine Brogan
Geraldine Brown
Lisa Callaghan-Keefer
Christina Carr
Jay Chick
Barbara Clark
Barbara and James Cleland
Stephanie Collier
Susan Combs
Georgia Condon
Marion Contompasis
Amy Crites
Patricia Croom
Marilyn DesJardins
Barbara Duda
Darrell Duffield
Lynn Dwight
Wendy Faulhaber
Lynn Fiedler
Barbara Fishell
Gretchen Forsyth
Lori Fuller
Barbara Galloway
Donna Gardner
Pamela Gillespie
Marcia Gresens

Linda Grua
Jody Haddad
Barbara Hamilton
Phyllis Harden
Debby Harrison
Annie Hayes
Diane Hollister
Katharine Hude
Meredith Jagutis
Tracy Jelneck
Jan Kahl
Colleen Keiper
Elizabeth King
Marian Korroch
Rebecca Kosta
Suzanne Kregel
Cathy Lazar
Mary Liechty
Margaret Liedholm
Barbara Lindquist
Sandy Little
Maggie Louks
Alexis Lupo
Susan Lutz
Katie Lynwood
Mary Ellen Maas
Dorothy Martin
Karen McCloskey
Ellen Mckay
Janine Medler
Lydia Millbrook
Nanci Mooney
Betty Moore
Lori Noyer
Marilyn Nugent
Anita Nystrom

Beverly Oetzel
Mary Lind Olson
Rebecca Paalman
Jennifer Pace
Maggie Papesh
Candy Parker
Kate Powers
Kristen Pricco
Kay Ellen Riegel
Elizabeth Rosekrans
Rachel Rosenbaum
Pamela Ruth
Nicki Sanford
Joann Schofield
Patricia Scott
Denise Shaheen
Nancy Shepard
Linda Smith
Marcia Spencer
Dorothy Spousta
Charlene Sproles
Katie Strong
Betsy Svanda
Diana Tarpoff
Mary Van Wieren
Angela Vlahakis-Bigelow
Ann Vogelsang
Carrie Waggoner
Pamela Wakeland
Mary West
Lisa Whiting-Dobson
Ana Whitman
Alex Wiesner
Judy Wilkinson
Barbara Wirtz

More than 30 years ago, a group of JLL members had the wonderful foresight to create the JLL Endowment Fund. Thanks to those visionaries, JLL has received as much as \$28,000 annually from the Endowment Fund to support the JLL's mission and community projects.

Learn how you can get involved with the Enowment Fund here: www.jllansing.org/endowment-fund/

Our fundraising efforts are an important part of what we do to help improve the community. Funds raised allow us to invest in leadership development of our members and provide financial resources to local charitable organizations and community projects that fall within our focus area.

In October, we introduced Effortless Fundraising, encouraging members to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards, a simple and automatic way for members to support JLL every time you shop. Go to www.kroger.com, log in to your current account or create an account, search Junior League of Lansing and select our League! It's that easy! Unfortunately, AmazonSmile is no longer offering this program as of February.

Next up was the Annual Fundraiser Raffle, which kicked off in November and concluded with a drawing on February 7. Chair Brittany Risk was hard at work securing the raffle license and prizes in the months leading up to November. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, we had a great line up of prizes!

Grand Prize: \$1,500 CASH - Lauren Enty

2nd Prize: Golf and Karting Package valued at \$762 - Ian Tolleson

Eagle Eye Golf and Banquet Center - (4) 18 holes of golf with a cart (M - Th) & 4 Little Hawk Putt Putt passes for a complimentary round
High Caliber Karting & Entertainment - \$150 gift card

3rd Prize: MSU Sports Package valued at \$600 - Ellen Nystrom

4 MSU football tickets (one home game during 2023 season, select games)
Coach Tucker signed football
Coach Izzo signed basketball
Coach Nightingale signed hockey puck

4th Prize: Night on the Town Package valued at \$450 - Alex Wiesner

Graduate Hotels East Lansing – one night stay
Capital Prime - \$50 gift card
Wharton Center- 2 tickets (22-23 season, select performances)

5th Prize: Health & Wellness Package valued at \$299 - Patricia Scott

FLEXcity Fitness - 1 month unlimited
Douglas J Aveda Institute - \$100 gift card
Playmakers - \$50 gift card



Congratulations to all of our winners and members who sold winning tickets!

We sold 1,389 tickets for this year's raffle. Thank you for your time and effort selling your raffle tickets!

Our top ticket sellers were:

- Sue Mills: 200
- Ana Whitman: 116
- Susan Lutz: 105
- Meredith Jagutis: 80
- Elizabeth Siefker: 60
- Andi Earl: 50
- Joann Schofield: 50
- Laura Stoken: 46
- Alexis Murray: 45
- Lisa Biering: 40

Andi Earl is the lucky winner of the \$100 Capital Prime Gift Card incentive prize drawing for selling more than 20 tickets.



Our next fundraising event has something for everyone: fitness, food, and fun! Mark your calendars for JLL's first bRUNch & Walk with League 5k on Sunday, April 30. Finalized event details will be announced at February's GMM and through JLL's weekly e-blasts.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Support Update

The Membership Support Committee is a new committee this year with the intention of providing support to members as well as help with placement planning for the 2023-2024 Junior League year. The committee has been connecting with members throughout the year through emails, birthday cards, and various other manners. Moving into the spring, the committee will be supporting members through the placement process.

New Member Update

Rolling recruitment continues to be in full force with new members joining throughout the year. New Member Committee chairs have hosted coffee hours and socials for those interested in the Junior League of Lansing. Members sipped and shopped at Bradly's Home and Garden on November 9, and gathered on December 13 for the annual Cookie Exchange at the Turner-Dodge House in Old Town, Lansing.



Annual Cookie Exchange at the Turner Dodge House



Sip N' Shop at Bradly's Home and Garden



ANNOUNCING THE 2023-2024 JLL LEADERSHIP SLATE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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Treasurer

Lisa Whiting-Dobson (2023-2025)

Secretary

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Communications Vice President

Brittany Risk (2023-2025)

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

Meredith Jagutis (2022-2024)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Andi Earl, Chair

Maggie Louks

Susan Lutz

Alexis Murray

This past summer when I was asked to serve as the Sustaining Management Advisor, I was simultaneously humbled, honored, and terrified. Other than buying raffle tickets periodically (which I have never won), I've been pretty disconnected from League for many years. Actually, let's be honest, I've been pretty disconnected from everything except my close circle of family and friends for the past three years. So I considered the request and did what my JLL training taught me, reached out to my network to discuss. And by network, I mean my closest friends who I met through JLL.

This is an organization that I am grateful for in so many ways. I credit JLL with introducing me to the world of fundraising over 20 years ago and have been fortunate to make a career of it. I also received training in areas that have impacted my professional and personal journeys. Most importantly, I built a network of women who are trusted advisors, travel companions, and more. As I reflected on the value of having joined League in 2000 to my life today, I felt compelled to get reengaged.

The past six months have been a time of learning what League is today because it looks very different than it did when I joined and when I went sustaining over a decade ago. I've been surprised and pleased by many things I've discovered. Top of the list of surprises is the new structure with governing and managing teams. Councils have changed, committees are different, and rolling recruitment is new, just to name a few. Faster change seems to be one of life's only constants these days so it's important to embrace progress and change, while also respecting our solid foundation with appreciation for traditions and longevity.

We conducted a Sustainer survey in the fall to gauge current interest. Many other Sustainers had the same questions as me but their interest in activities is varied. This is very reflective of the world we all find ourselves living in today. It's challenging to prioritize opportunities, yet we all seem to long for some connectivity that's not virtual.

Our membership numbers, both Active and Sustaining, are smaller than in years past. As we've seen with many organizations and activities coming out of the pandemic, attitudes have shifted and commitments have waned. The Sustainer survey was positive and highlighted interest in engaging but didn't clearly pinpoint any one area. For this year, instead of planning additional events and activities distinctly for Sustainers, we are working to integrate opportunities into General Membership Meetings, trainings, and events. It's more important now than ever that we make sure this organization remains strong for generations of members.

We really hope to see more Sustainers at social activities, we hope you will help recruit new members, we hope you will buy raffle tickets, and we invite you to attend General Membership Meetings and catch a glimpse of League today. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out!

SUSTAINER UPDATE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANSING

2501 Jolly Rd #110
Okemos, MI 48864

UPCOMING GMMs

February 2023

Thursday

16

March 2023

Tuesday

14

April 2023

Tuesday

11

May 2023

Tuesday

09

June 2023

Tuesday

13