

SUMMER 2022



FOCUS

The Official Newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maggie Louks, 2021-2023 President



Many of us are looking around wondering how time flew by at warp speed. We are also looking forward, not just to the beginning of our Junior League year, but also to reconnect with friends and our Junior League work. Every year we plan, deliver it, review how it went and then take action steps to make next year's plan even better. We seem to always want to raise more than last year's fundraiser, have a New

Member class larger than the last and, most importantly, do more in our communities. That is one of the reasons the past two years have been so unsettling to those of us in Junior League. We have been disrupted. As we navigate our recovery, let us keep sight of what is most important. We have accomplished so much. Throughout this Focus you will read of all the amazing things that our members have worked hard to deliver.

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2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Maggie Louks

Treasurer

Dana Costello

Secretary

Lynn Fiedler

Executive Vice President

Susan Lutz

Nominating Chair

Rebecca Kosta

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler

2021-2022 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Susan Lutz

Community Vice President

Michelle Adams

Communications Vice President

Ally Caldwell

Education Vice President

Virginia Chambers

Finance Vice President

Lisa Whiting-Dobson

Fund Development Vice President

Kelly Miller

Membership Vice President

Andi Earl

Sustaining Management Advisor

Ann Vogelsang

MISSION STATEMENT

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

President's Message, continued from page 1

A few “big” things have happened this past year. First, at the AJLI Annual Conference the mission statement was voted on and the updated bylaw that describes who we are and what we do now reads: “The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.” With the proviso that all Junior Leagues shall adopt the new Mission Statement by July 1, 2024. While what we do has not changed, how we talk about it is now wrapped in language that is more accessible, inviting and collaborative. It has taken us back to the heart of Junior League founder Mary Harriman’s vision, while setting us up for the next 100 years. More information on updates to our Bylaws to conform with AJLI will be sent out in the coming months.

Second, following the successful Leadership Summit held by our League Landscape Ad Hoc Committee in February, the Board acted with policy changes that reflected appropriate right-sizing of leadership positions and committees based on our current membership numbers. Multiple operational and strategic opportunities and ideas were raised at the Summit and still need to be evaluated and implemented. The Board will continue to focus and work on the League’s strategic goals. Just as a reminder, you can always access our Strategic Plan on the membership side of the website under Member Resources.

The Junior League has always been a safe place to learn, to grow, to try new things. It is on-the-job, hands-on learning. Every year we get a new job, one with a clear beginning and an end. We start with a goal in mind, we plan and then we work the plan. And we do this over and over and over again with every placement, every year, at every Junior League. You can tell a lot about an organization by the way it handles leadership changes, and the Junior League has mastered the skills and competencies needed for smooth transitions.

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Board, Management Team and chairs. While you may be relieved to have made it to the finish line, please know that I am in awe of you. You were resilient, creative, compassionate and met your challenges head-on and kept your eyes on the future. As you find your next leadership journey, your honed leadership expertise will benefit your community for years and years to come.

This July, we turned the keys over to the next leaders, who, if we have done our jobs well, are ready to take the work to even greater heights. This practice gives us opportunities that we would not otherwise have had, and it feeds our souls as we stretch and challenge ourselves in ways not found outside the Junior League.

As we enter this season of transitions, take a few minutes to celebrate your accomplishments—big and small. Share gratitude with all those who gave what they could. Reach out to those who have gone quiet. Jump for joy with those who walked with you through the good, bad and ugly. And most importantly, cheer on and encourage those who succeed you, for they are the next guardians of the Junior League of Lansing.

My promise to you remains the same—I have and will continue to 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.

DONE IN A MEETING

JANUARY

Marcia Beer, Executive Director of the Southside Community Kitchen, described the work they are doing to feed the Lansing community. Started in August 1987, SCK provides more than 12,000 meals per year. With four people organizing and 150+ volunteers, they help both the homeless and others in need. Justine Bell, 2021-2022 DIAM/DIAD Chair, stated that \$593.26 in cash and in-kind donations were collected for the Southside Community Kitchen.

FEBRUARY

There was no DIAM.

MARCH

Alaina Nelson of the 2021-2022 DIAD/DIAM Committee provided an overview of Highfields and the link to donate to the organization. More information is found on their website at www.highfields.org. Alaina Nelson announced that \$210 was collected for Highfields.

APRIL

Venus Myles spoke about Eastside Community Action Center. They provide social, educational, housing and spiritual assistance to children and adults with particular attention given to those who are vulnerable or at risk. The best way to engage is to help support their social media efforts. Justine Bell announced that \$290 was collected for Eastside Community Action Center.

MAY

Erica Munchbach, President and Founder of L-Town Jubilee, spoke about the organization. It is a network that connects disadvantaged community members in the Greater Lansing Area with effective support and transformative opportunities. They are focusing on acquiring single-residential properties for a Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Justine Bell announced that \$250 was collected for L-Town Jubilee.

JUNE

Michelle Adams spoke about Helping Hands Food Pantry in Eaton County. They provide seven days' worth of food and personal care items to those in need. They are open Tuesday through Thursday. Michelle announced we raised \$150 for Helping Hands.

DONE IN A DAY

Done in a Day finished up the year with helping Weekend Survival Kits pack food for children in need. The river clean-up in late April was very successful. The team filled a few trash bags and helped the space look beautiful. Members also helped with the Essential Needs Event by donating dental hygiene and other personal items for volunteer requirements.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

The Essential Needs Committee chose Helping Hands Food Pantry in Eaton County for the Essential Needs Event. The organization provides a week's worth of food and personal items to those in need in Eaton County. The group collected reusable shopping bags and personal care items. They also helped the organization with social media and volunteering management.



COMMUNITY RESPONSE GRANTS

The Community Response Grants Committee allotted \$2,500 for the Spring and Fall Cycles this year.

Fall Recipients:

\$1,000 to City Rescue Mission to purchase new dryers and washers for their Women's and Children's shelter.

\$500 to Faith Lutheran Church to purchase food and toiletries for their two pantries, which amounted to about two months' worth of supplies.

\$500 to Southside Community Kitchen to buy local produce for guests.

\$500 to the Women's Center of Greater Lansing to provide comprehensive mental health services to women.

Spring Recipients:

\$1,000 to L-Town Jubilee for a new computer and printer for their nonprofit work.

\$500 to Helping Women Period to purchase menstrual cups for their Menstrual Cup Petting Zoo.

\$500 to Cross-Cultural Community Connections (an outreach of Liberty Christian Church) that was requested to create a resource room that houses clothing and household items for refugees arriving in the area.

\$500 to Peckham, which requested additional funds to address housing insecurity (in the form of rental assistance and utility assistance) to ensure that those who need assistance with housing stability have an outlet.

In Memoriam

Margaret Brodbeck (August 5, 1933 – June 14, 2021)

Ann Chick (January 2, 1938 – September 10, 2021)

Judith Kzeski (June 16, 1939 – March 3, 2022)

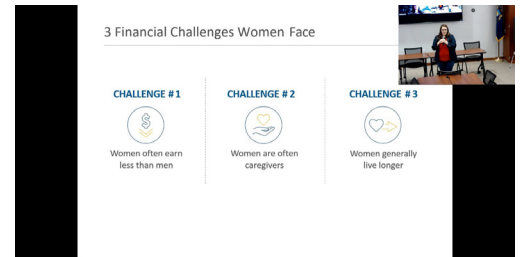
Sharon Skinner (July 19, 1937 – January 21, 2022)

Suzanne Tuck (1955 – October 1, 2021)

EDUCATION

APRIL 2022 LEAP

For the April LEAP, members enjoyed a presentation from Stephanie Collier. Stephanie is JLL's President-Elect and has owned her financial planning practice for 12 years. Attendees participated in an interactive session where they learned about the financial challenges unique to women and different financial planning strategies that can help you still reach financial security.



2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each spring, JLL accepts applications for its scholarship program to recognize women with outstanding commitment to their community and voluntarism. For the next academic year, JLL provided a total of \$3,500 for outstanding students in the Greater Lansing Area. Nominations and self nominations were accepted through April 1, 2022. The Review Committee met in April to review and select the winners.

Lauren Beck

Recipient of "The Bernice Olds Roe Scholarship Award"

This award is in honor of former JLL member Bernice Olds Roe, whose family donated the first major grant of \$25,000 in her honor to establish the Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund. The awardee who exemplifies the highest caliber of commitment to academic excellence and extracurricular and volunteer services receives \$1,500 for the 2022 academic year.

High School: St Johns

Future Plans: University of Michigan, physics and mathematics

Community Involvement: Founding member of the St. Johns Youth Action Committee, Student Council Vice President, National Honors Society Vice President, Gender and Sexualities Alliance Club, science and math tutor, food pantry volunteer. Organized a vigil for students impacted by the Oxford school shooting.

Magdalyn Hallead

Junior League of Lansing Scholarship Recipient

The awardee received \$1,000 for the 2022 academic year.

High School: St Johns

Future Plans: Grand Valley State University, pre-med

Community Involvement: Vice President of Business Professionals of America (placed third in the state), Student Council President, Mint Royalty Court, Peer Assistance Leader, Co-lead of the St. Johns High School Pantry

Grace Chomas

Junior League of Lansing Scholarship Recipient

The awardee received \$1,000 for the 2022 academic year.

High School: Okemos

Future Plans: Michigan State University, major in packaging, minor in food processing and technology

Community Involvement: All Connecting To Improve Our Neighborhoods (Okemos HS's volunteering club), CONNECT Leader (mentorship program with lowerclassmen), Hope Quilting Group (volunteered to make quilts for the sick, those impacted by house fires), St. Vincent Giving Tree, Vacation Bible School Leader

YEAR-END CELEBRATION

Members gathered on June 7 at the Hidden Gem in Holt for our annual Year-End Celebration. Janine Medler, Sustaining Member At-Large, celebrated the lives of JLL members by reading the memoriam and Susan Lutz, outgoing Executive Vice President, shared an overview of the many accomplishments of the 2021-2022 League year.

The Scholarships Committee announced the recipients of the 2022 awardees. The program is designed to recognize women with outstanding commitment to their community and voluntarism (see page 5 for details).

Michelle Adams, outgoing Community Vice President, shared the four winners of the spring Community Response Grants (see page 4 for details). All recipients were awarded grants to support programming that falls within the JLL community focus area of essential needs - food, shelter and access to food and shelter.

Membership Vice President Andi Earl recognized our new members. These incoming members were the second class to participate in JLL's new rolling recruitment model and were welcomed into full membership. New members include: Megan Cochrane; Charley Hays; Melissa Hutchinson; Amber Irrer; Elizabeth Siefker; Ashley Smith; and Courtney Young. Additionally, Alexis Murray, Rachel Wolf, Octavia Cannon and Kily Buta were among our transfers and returning members.

Jaimie Walsh and Maureen Watson-Bolger were recognized for their 10 years of service to JLL and Ann Vogelsang, outgoing Sustaining Management Advisor, welcomed Virginia Chambers, Catherine Cleveland, Colleen Keiper, Elizabeth King, and Rebecca Kosta as JLL's newest Sustaining Members.

To round out the member awards and recognition, Andi Earl presented the Annual Membership Awards (see page 10 for more details).

The night concluded with Maggie Louks' Presidential Address, which highlighted and recognized the tremendous accomplishments of the 2021-2022 League year, expressed admiration for the resilience, commitment and grit of the membership and leadership, and emphasized the excitement as we look to the year ahead.



THANK YOU!

We would like to recognize our donors who made contributions during the 2021-2022 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
Virginia Brooks
Geraldine Brown
Lisa Callaghan-Keefer
Christina Carr
Jay Chick
Barbara Clark
Barbara Cleland
Catherine Cleveland
Stepanie Collier
Susan Combs
Georgia Dondon
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
Sandy Grettenberger
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 Ruth Lindquist
Sandy Little
Maggie Louks
Alexis Lupo
Susan Lutz
Katie Lynwood
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 Papesch
Candy Parker
Mary Beth Pirich
Kristen Pricco
Kay Ellen Riegel
Elizabeth Rosekrans
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 Debra Van Wieren
Angela Vlahakis-Bigelow
Ann Vogelsang
Carrie Waggoner
Pamela Wakeland
Mary West
Lisa Whiting Dobson
Ana Whitman
Alex Wiesner
Judy Wilkinson
Barbara Wirtz

ENDOWMENT FUND

FUND DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RAFFLE



Thank you members for taking part in our annual fundraiser. Funds raised will support organizations and community projects that provide food and shelter to those in need.

Winners:

Grand Prize: Jim Stotenbur

\$1,500 Cash Prize

2nd Prize: Megan Brueggeman

Night on the Town Package valued at \$550

3rd Prize: Ashley Skinner

MSU Sports Package valued at \$500

4th Prize: R. Konarz

Wellness & Apparel Package valued at \$255

5th Prize: Pat Graham

Sips & Eats Package valued at \$100



Ann Volgelsang, 2020-2022 Sustaining Management Advisor

SUSTAINER UPDATE

The Junior League of Lansing year culminated at the beginning of June with our Year-End Celebration at the Hidden Gem in Holt. It was wonderful to sit down and enjoy dinner with each other as we looked back at the successes and challenges of the past year.

I hope this event is just the start of JLL members getting together again in person to do our work and to strengthen the personal ties and friendships that are such an important part of being a member of our organization.

I am grateful for the efforts of so many members to continue the mission of JLL despite the challenges we have faced since March 2020. Thank you, Sustainers, for your continued support of JLL.

I am delighted to let you know that Meredith Jagutis is the incoming Sustaining Management Advisor.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and looking forward to the fall when I hope we can once again enjoy regular in-person events for all our members!

2022-2023

JLL LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Maggie Louks (2021-2023)

President-Elect

Stephanie Collier (2022-2024)

Treasurer

Dana Costello (2021-2023)

Secretary

Anita Nystrom (2022-2024)

Executive Vice President

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

Nominating Chair

Jessica Sender (2022-2024)

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)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jessica Sender, Chair

Rebecca Kosta

Susan Lutz

Kelly Miller

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Advocacy (Education Council): Alexis Murray

Annual Fundraiser (Fund Development Council): Brittany Risk

Communications (Communications Council)

Event Fundraiser (Fund Development Council): Rebecca Kosta and Jennifer Pope

Member Events (Education Council): Tricia Brentar and Maureen Watson-Bolger

Member Support (Membership Council)

New Member (Membership Council): Lauren Enty and Shajuana Tyson

Training (Education)

Volunteer (Education Council) : DJ Grubaugh and Resa Tran-TenBrink

As we all reflect on this past year and all the wonderful individuals who make up JLL, the Membership Council would like to highlight award recipients, new members, and new Sustainer's.

Our Membership Award Winners



Community Service Award
Carlee Knott



Leadership Award
Virginia Chambers



Living the Mission Award
Rebecca Kosta



Spirit Award
Renee Price



League for Life
Janine Medler



**Women Building
Better Communities**
Lisa Biering & DJ Grubaugh

SUPPRISE!!!
Rewrite, Rework, and Review Award
Virginia Chambers, Lynn Fiedler & Ann Vogelsang

Welcome New Members

Megan Cochrane
Charley Hays
Melissa Hutchinson
Amber Irrer

Elizabeth Siefker
Ashley Smith
Courtney Young

Welcome New Sustainers

Virginia Chambers
Catherine Cleveland
Colleen Keiper

Elizabeth King
Rebecca Kosta

**Thank you for an amazing
year and looking forward
to the next one!**

Members like you make the League!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANSING

2501 Jolly Rd #110
Okemos, MI 48864

UPCOMING GMMs

September 2022 Tuesday 13	October 2022 Tuesday 11	November 2022 Tuesday 15	January 2023 Tuesday 10
February 2023 Week of 13	March 2023 Tuesday 14	April 2023 Tuesday 11	May 2023 Tuesday 09