

WINTER 2022



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANSING

FOCUS

The Official Newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maggie Louks, 2021-2023 President



In the blink of an eye, the holidays have come and gone, and we're starting a new year – I feel like I just started getting used to writing 2021, and 2020 still feels like last year. When Stacy Bogard, Susan Lutz and I were at the AJLI Winter Conference in February 2020, I envisioned

my first year as President to be much different. With the difficulties COVID-19 continues to present, I try to think of the silver linings, one of them being that I continue to give more of my time – even with my kids at home.

While the pandemic is still ever-present, we've had a busy and exciting fall with opportunities to volunteer, attend trainings, fundraise and, most importantly, see each other.

President's Message, continued on page 2

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2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Maggie Louks

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Dana Costello

Secretary

Lynn Fiedler

Executive Vice President

Susan Lutz

Nominating Chair

Rebecca Kosta

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler

2021-2022 MANAGEMENT TEAM

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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

I hope you took the opportunity to participate in A Night with Vicki Clark and, if you missed it, you're in luck because a recording of the event will be shared! It was a great reminder that we are all amazing women individually, but we are even better when we work together.

The Board continues to focus on our League's strategic goals. One of our strategic priorities is to create and document clear roles and responsibilities for all committees and leadership positions. Thanks in large part to Ann Vogelsang and Lynn Fiedler, procedures have been developed and continue to be worked on for members to reference into the future. Our policies have also been updated in a format that is easier to read.

Additionally, in order to educate members about the leadership process and opportunities, the Nominating Committee mailed out a postcard to members to provide information about slating and leadership positions. In November, the Nominating Committee prepared the 2022-2023 slate and we executed our first Community Fund election. The Refugee Development Center was nominated and selected by membership to receive a \$5,512 grant.

JLL also donated \$5,000 to Ele's Place in honor of its 30th Anniversary. We were lucky enough to have Sustainers Mary Beth Pirich and Kate Powers present at our October GMM. It was a great opportunity to honor JLL's past projects and continue to support an amazing organization.

The Board continues to work tirelessly on our strategic plan. To every JLL member, thank you for your commitment and involvement in our organization. I hope you took the winter holiday break to look back and reflect on the great work we have done and the big things we have planned. Celebrate what you and your JLL sisters have accomplished and how hard you have worked.

I can't wait to see what we can accomplish in 2022. 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.

DONE IN A DAY

This fall, the committee chose organizations that focused on the essential needs of food and shelter and providing access to food and shelter. JLL members supported Weekend Survival Kits, a program that packs meals for K-12 students who are facing food insecurity. Members packed meals and delivered them to Riddle Elementary School in Lansing. All told, our chapter provided \$7,500 in support to Weekend Survival Kits.

In addition, the committee is looking forward to two additional projects – writing "Thank You" letters to health care workers at Sparrow Hospital (a great virtual option for members) and a river clean-up event this spring!

DONE IN A MEETING

During the September GMM, Executive Director Lysne Tait presented to our League about Helping Women Period, an organization that provides menstrual products to those in need. In total the effort raised \$480 and collected two boxes of tampons, four supply bags and 14 boxes of pantliners/pads.

During the October GMM, Tracie Blaise spoke about Homeless Angels, a street outreach program helping those who are homeless in the mid-Michigan area. Members donated \$242 and six coats, 78 hats, 31 scarves, 13 pairs of gloves and one pair of snow pants.

During the November GMM, Chelsea Stevens spoke about the Greater Lansing Food Bank, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency food to individuals and families in need throughout mid-Michigan. In total, members raised \$285 during the meeting.

During December's annual Holiday Open House, members donated two boxes of Tuna Helper, four cans of tuna, one large can of yams, ingredients for green bean casseroles (two large cans green beans, two cans cream of mushroom soup, two jars fried onions), four cans of soup, Hormel chili, three cans of pasta, five boxes of mac and cheese, and \$32 collected (used to purchase four bottles body wash and 1,200 baby wipes) to City Rescue Mission, a Lansing organization that provides food, shelter and hope to women, children and men in Michigan's capital area.



Hats and gloves donated to the Homeless Angels Outreach Program

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FUND

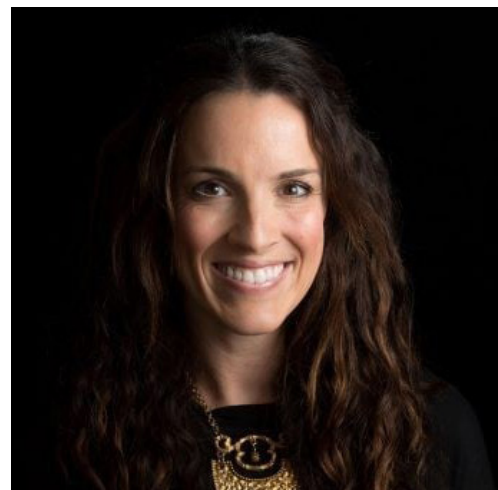
The Community Fund grant supports organizations in the Lansing area that offer programs focused on JLL's issue area—programs that provide shelter, food and/or access to food or shelter. This fall, members were able to nominate and vote on the organizations selected to receive an award of \$5,512. The Refugee Development Center was selected to receive these funds. It is a grassroots organization offering formal and informal learning opportunities in an open and inclusive setting. It serves as a link between newcomer populations and the private, public and faith-based communities of Ingham County and the Lansing area. Executive Director Erika Brown-Binion says these funds directly helped 120 Afghan refugees who have resettled in Lansing this fall.

EDUCATION

OCTOBER LEAP

What qualities are uniquely you? How do you communicate your value? All these questions and more were answered at the October LEAP hosted by the Training Committee (chaired by Amanda Pugh and Amanda Dernovshek).

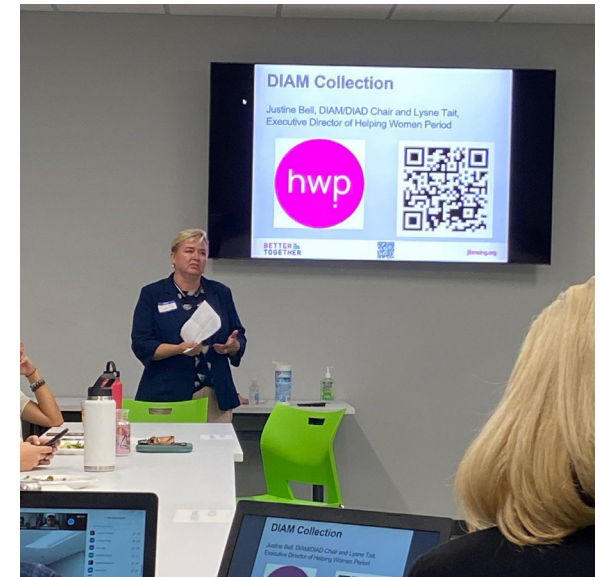
To succeed in the workplace, you've got to know your brand. Communicating your value and selling your ideas revolve around how well you tell your personal story, and nobody else can (or will) do it for you. Holly Amaya from Story Imprinting talked through the importance of understanding and embracing your personal brand and how your behaviors are a direct expression of those values. Attendees learned strategies to advance and leverage their ideas and engaged in small group workshops to help develop their own personal brand.



Holly Amaya from Story Imprinting

GENERAL MEMBER MEETINGS

We have shifted our General Membership Meetings from fully virtual to a hybrid model, allowing members to start engaging in person again. To showcase Lansing-area community organizations, the Arrangements Committee, headed by Leia Cooper-Rigg, hosted GMMs at the headquarters of two community partners – the Greater Lansing Food Bank and Ele's Place. The Junior League of Lansing has a deep history with Ele's Place and members heard firsthand from JLL Sustainers and Ele's Place representatives Kristine Kuhnert (Director of Ele's Place-Capital Region), Kate Powers (Chief Operations Officer and Chief Development Officer) and Mary Beth Pirich about our pivotal involvement in helping to establish Ele's Place in 1991. The organization has now served more than 30,000 individuals across its four branch locations in Michigan by creating a supportive environment for grieving children and families.



Executive director Lysne Tait, presenting about Helping Woman Period

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PAC, led by De'Shondria Bedenfield, has been actively involved with the Junior Leagues of Michigan State Public Affairs Committee. This year, MSC SPAC has supported the Victim Information legislation (House Bill 4974, Rep. Tenisha Yancey (D-Harper Woods)) with a substitute that addresses the need to add reference to the new Address Confidentiality Program (a six-year advocacy effort supported by MSC SPAC). The package seeks to address a Court of Appeals opinion that would require prosecutors to provide unredacted police reports to defense/defense counsels. This opinion creates significant victim and witness security and safety concerns. In order to address that opinion, legislation was introduced to require prosecutors provide redacted victim and witness personally identifiable information in police reports and make the individuals with redacted information aware. Defense counsel can still motion the court for unredacted information by showing cause for its need to provide an adequate defense. Redacted information includes address, phone number, email, driver license number, social security number, date of birth and place/address of employment.

Additionally, PAC sent out holiday cards to elected officials, thanking them for their ongoing support and collaboration on policies and programs impacting food insecurity and homelessness.

EDUCATION

Happy New Year – let us look forward to 2022 and hope to return to the new normal as we approach the spring.

I am honored to be serving on the Junior League of Lansing's Endowment Fund Board, as it truly enriches the opportunities the League has to promote voluntarism in the greater Lansing community.

The Fund remains steady, although with the climate of the past two years, has also seen fluctuations. Thankfully, we are in good hands with our friends at Tri-Star Bank & Trust, who closely watch the market performances.

Currently we have a balance of \$807,011.35 and the goal remains to meet the \$1,000,000 mark in the near future. In 2022, the Endowment Fund will be distributing \$34,694.90 to the Junior League to carry on its Mission. How exciting!

I would like to thank the members who serve on the Board: Lisa Sack, Vice Chair/ Secretary and Justine Bell, Treasurer. A big thanks to our Community Trustees, Tim Vogelsang and Mark Lawrence.

Thank you to all who have contributed and supported the JLL Endowment Fund over the years! We look forward to getting back in the community and supporting those in need.

Best wishes in 2022!



An old adage states that people give time and money to the things that are important to them. This is something that guides fundraisers to do the work we do, daily for some, and seasonally for our fellow Junior League members.

As the members placed on the Fund Development Council got back to League work this fall, it was against a backdrop of “what’s normal now?” What does this work connecting people to giving back to their community through time and dollars look like now?



Looming first was Lunch With League, canceled completely in 2020 due to COVID. In many long conversations with the University Club to help guide our Fundraising Events Committee through what has been (and still is) a constantly changing event landscape, the decision was made to proceed with a drive thru-style event where servers would bring to-go orders to waiting cars instead of balancing trays of plates.

While event planning was underway, the Annual Fund Committee got back to work securing licenses and some amazing prize packages for this year’s Raffle. Brand new this year, we have a reduced ticket price! At only \$10 per ticket, already members are reporting easier and higher ticket sales. With an extremely low overhead, this is one of JLL’s longest and most profitable fundraisers. As of this printing, tickets were still on sale with the drawing coming up in February 2022.

Results are in for the 2021 Lunch With League held on Nov. 11! While it was different in many ways, ultimately it was all that an event wants to be—engaging with the community. A great time at the event was had by all and hopefully you caught Susan Lutz on the news that night sharing the event on behalf of League.

With lots of hard, quick work by the community here’s Lunch With League by the numbers:



100+ Lunches Served



12 Celebrity Servers



4 Sponsors



1 Top Tip Earner
SUSAN LUTZ!



1 Spot on WLNS
Evening News with
Celebrity Server,
Sheri Jones

With sponsors, tips and ticket sales the event grossed \$10,075. After event expenses, nearly \$7,000 was netted for going back to our work.

As you are around town, please thank our servers and sponsors when you see them—they are critical to our mission.

Sponsors: See back page for sponsors

Celebrity Servers: Fonda Brewer, Amie Brown, Rebecca Johnson, Sheri Jones, Erik Larson, Susan Lutz (JLL Past President), Michelle Massey, John McGraw, Courtney Millbrook, Danielle Robinson, Paul Schmidt, Diana Tarpoff (JLL Past President).

An overall focus for the Membership Council this year is to offer both in-person and virtual options to ensure that our members are both safe and comfortable. This fall, the Council hosted a Relaxing Salt Yoga class and a VIP shopping event at Sweetlees Boutique in Mason.

We have also hosted numerous new member recruitment events including supporting the Greater Lansing Food Bank's distribution events, preparing dinners at Haven House, Horrocks Social Hours and Hollaback trainings.

The Turner Dodge House once more hosted our Annual Cookie Exchange in early December – with many a delectable dessert shared! In all, 24 dozen cookies were donated to residents of EGE, Sparrow Hospital staff and teachers at Oakview Elementary.



NEW! ROLLING MEMBER RECRUITMENT

New Member Recruitment will look different this year! DJ Grubaugh and Lisa Biering, New Member Recruitment and Training Chairs, have created a Rolling Recruitment Program that allows prospective members the opportunity to start the JLL application process as early as September and as late as April. Prospective members will complete a “passport” that allows them to meet members, learn about Junior League and complete League activities. Six prospective members have already submitted applications and are well on their way to joining the Junior League of Lansing!



A kayaking new member recruitment event was hosted this fall.



2022-2023

ANNOUNCING THE JLL BOARD, MANAGEMENT TEAM AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

Ann Vogelsang (2022-2024)

Nominating Chair

Jessica Sender (2022-2024)

Sustaining Member At-Large

Janine Medler (2021-2023)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Vice President

Ann Vogelsang (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

Stacy Bogard (2022-2024)

Membership Vice President

Andi Earl (2021-2023)

Sustaining Management Advisor

TBA (selected by the Executive Vice President)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jessica Sender, Chair
Rebecca Kosta
Susan Lutz
Kelly Miller

The Sustainer Council hosted its Holiday Open House for all members on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021 at Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing. It was such a pleasure to be able to celebrate the season in person with other JLL members! We had a "Done in a Meeting" at the event to collect items for the City Rescue Mission of Lansing's "Pack the Pantry" drive. Cash donations were used to purchase baby wipes and body wash. Thank you to those who contributed. Your nonperishable food and hygiene items were taken to the City Rescue Mission location on East Michigan Ave. Many thanks to Angela Vlahakis-Bigelow whose help got this event off the ground! Thanks also to Janine Medler and Chrissy Carr for baking delicious desserts and helping at the party. Janine and Angela both brought many holiday decorations from their homes to make the room festive for us.



From left to right: Chrissy Carr, Maggie Louks and Susan Lutz



From left to right: Domonique Brace, Lisa Biering and Chelsea Stevens

This year's Annual Meeting took place on Jan. 11, 2022. President Maggie, thanked everyone for their efforts this year. She stated that we have continued to volunteer, train, recruit, fundraise and see each other, despite the difficulties the pandemic has put in front of us. Progress continues toward our strategic goals including:

- Increased community impact through the first Community Fund grant of \$5,512 to the Refugee Development Center and \$5,000 to Ele's Place in honor of their 30th anniversary and JLL's involvement from the very beginning
- The recruitment of new members through the newly established rolling recruitment process
- Hosted a special training event with Vicki Clark in December
- Increased education regarding the Nominating Process
- Improved governance documents by developing procedures and updating policies in an easy-to-read format

On behalf of the Management Team, Executive Vice President Susan Lutz summarized all the great work being done so far by the Committees, Councils and Management Team:

- **Done in a Day** - \$7,500 and volunteer commitments to Weekend Survival Kits and upcoming Thank You Letter Writing to health care workers and River Clean-up opportunities.
- **Done in a Meeting** - Monetary and/or in-kind donations have been made to helping Women Period, Homeless Angels, Greater Lansing Food Bank and the City Rescue Mission.
- **Community Response Grant and Essential Needs** - efforts are in progress.
- **Communications** - working with Ngage to provide improved communication to our members through Facebook, Instagram and the weekly e-blasts.
- **Arrangements** - Effectively providing hybrid meetings, including two in-person events at JLL-connected locations, the Greater Lansing Food Bank and Ele's Place.
- **Training** - LEAP in the fall with additional training being developed.
- **Public Affairs** - Updated the membership on issue area legislation and sent holiday cards to local elected officials.
- **Lunch With League** - Reinvented the event with about \$7,000 being raised through sales and sponsorships.
- **Annual Raffle** - Ticket sales ended on Jan. 31, 2022. Full fundraising information to come soon.
- **New Member Recruitment and Training** - The new rolling recruitment process includes both training and volunteer opportunities. A proposal to reduce the New Member fees will be presented for a vote in March. Pass It On - Random Acts of Kindness cards are making their way through the community.
- **Member Relations** - Members have been busy at Salt Yoga and other events.
- **Placement** - Providing support to members,
- **Sustainer Council** - Continuing to keep in contact with Sustainers through cards and emails. All are looking forward to the end of the pandemic when we can all comfortably meet in person.

Also at the Annual Meeting the 2022-2023 Leadership Slate as placed by the Nominating Committee was announced (see page 9). Congratulations to everyone who was placed!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANSING

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THANK YOU SPONSORS

