At the October 14 GMM, representatives from DeepWater Transitional Program and WKAR’s Ready to Learn Service presented the essentials of their proposals to partner with JLL for the next Signature Project. The organizations will return briefly during the January 13 GMM for questions, after which members will have time to consider the pros and cons of the proposals before Active members cast their votes that evening.

What follows is an attempt to summarize the fantastic proposals that were presented, but I can’t possibly cover everything, nor can I even hope to convey the passion that these women exuded at the meeting. So, the CRPD committee will be providing additional details about the proposals in upcoming FOCUS articles, and also will work out a way to make materials from the organizations themselves (i.e., their powerpoint slides and their budget proposals) available to members on the website or at least through links provided on the website and in FOCUS well in advance of the January meeting and vote.

**DeepWater Transitional Program**

Lannie Slabaugh, along with Karen Wallace and Judy Russ from DeepWater, shared the mission and goals of DeepWater, which seeks to help working single mothers at 200% of poverty or below become educationally, financially, emotionally, and relationally successful. DeepWater aims to help these single mothers achieve stability through a variety of services, including housing subsidies and other financial support such as utility assistance, counseling services, guidance on continuing education, and career development, including internet access and job skills training, access to education on finances and asset building, and finally, training in a myriad of life skills involved in running a household, child care, nutrition, budgeting, and many more.

DeepWater’s proposal for JLL has two elements: first, JLL will assist in developing and putting on seven skills workshops each year, once a month Sept-April, with December off. The evening or Saturday workshops will provide instruction and/or hands-on assistance to women participating in the DeepWater program, on topics ranging from interview skills to household budgeting to parenting skills—the precise content of the workshops will be developed as the program itself is developed, tapping into the skills that JLL members or their contacts may be able to share as workshop presenters. The second aspect of the DeepWater program would involve a smaller number of JLL volunteers, but seeks to match an individual or a pair of JLL members with individual single mothers to provide mentoring or tutoring on a regular basis over the course of the year (DeepWater participants are formally part of the program for one year at a time, so there will be three opportunities for JLL members to volunteer as mentors/tutors).

**WKAR’s Ready to Learn Service**

Beany Tomber and Susie Elkins from WKAR presented the proposal for JLL to assist in bringing the Ready to Learn Service (RTL) to the families of at-risk 4-year-olds in the Lansing School District. RTL aims to prepare children to become successful learners as they start school, and was created after studies showed that children were increasingly entering school without needed learning skills, and that public television could be an effective way of reaching most kids, since 99% of households have television. (continued on page 3)
**FOCUS** is the newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing, published 9 times each year for the use of its members. Any inquiries regarding **FOCUS** may be directed to the office staff or the following address:

**Junior League of Lansing**
271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-324-3734
office@jllansing.org
Focus@jllansing.org

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. The JLL strives in all endeavors to be sensitive to the special needs of our members and guests. If there is a special need, please notify the Education Vice President, Kate Quinn.

**FOCUS** accepts advertisements to help offset the publication costs. For advertising rates or to place an advertisement, please contact the Junior League of Lansing office.

**FOCUS** submission are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following each GMM. Email submissions should be sent to Focus@jllansing.org in Microsoft Word. Articles should include a title, author and author’s placement. All photos should be digital and sent to the Focus email address with the word “photo” in the subject line. Photos must include a caption with the names of those pictured and the title of the accompanying article.

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**President’s Message...**

Amy Suhrheinrich, President

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**Perseverance**

After attending the Women Working Wonders 5K Race, I’ve been thinking about how I could center my message around the topic of a race as many days seem like a race to most of us. Maddie (my daughter) and I attended the W3 Race to represent the Junior League as we had given a Community Sponsorship for this event. It was a fantastic day for both of us. She was delighted to have the MSU Women’s Basketball Team and Sparty sign her race day shirt and then be photographed. We really had no intention of walking the 5K, but we ran into a friend of hers that wanted to walk so we decided to participate, without any training. We were one of the last to start and one of the last to finish the race (1 hour 20 minutes). I was quite proud of this as it was the first 5K for both of us and we finished together. I imagine that most do not take a snack break in a race, but it did prove to be necessary. We now know that we can improve our race time by training and leaving the snacks behind.

To my delight last week, my daughter came home from school with a very well written paper on Perseverance. I was even more delighted when I realized she wrote about the W3 Race and the Junior League (she has a future here). As I read through her story, she talked about how difficult this race was and how she wanted to give up. I did not realize her fatigue while we were walking. She appeared to be a little tired now and then but that was expected on a cloudy Sunday morning. Maddie wrote, “Without the encouragement of my friend, I would not have finished.” The moral of her story was that she could not persevere without encouragement from others. This was wise beyond her years.

As I thought more about this, it is very true. Many times we assume that everyone is doing just fine and will complete “their race.” I believe that as a member of a training organization, we are encouraged to take on roles outside of our comfort zones. Most of the time we are provided with on the job training and have not had any prior experience in our placements. This situation allows us to develop our potential, but at times it may be difficult to juggle our schedules and complete our tasks. I would hope that within your committees when you are amidst these feelings of being just too busy, you will turn to your colleagues, Chairs and Vice Presidents to ask for encouragement. In Maddie’s dictionary it states that encouragement is support or assurance and to persevere means to accomplish a goal despite difficulty.

In the League year calendar, we are about half way to May. In this race I can see many of you are speeding right along to the finish. Please provide encouragement to those on your committees even if it doesn’t appear to be needed. If you are one that stepped out of the box this year, I offer you an extra bit of encouragement. I believe that the training you are receiving this year will be a great benefit to you personally and for the League as an organization. It is my hope that you are learning something new this year and receiving encouragement from one another to persevere. I hope that you will put thought into taking on a leadership role or submitting your name for a slated position for the upcoming year.

To be successful in achieving our Mission, we must remain committed to promoting voluntarism. We are developing our potential as we take on new challenges within the League and the Lansing community. I know that we are improving our community! My hat goes off to all members as you take the time from your schedules and give it to the Junior League of Lansing. I encourage you to persevere to the finish line as we are making a difference!

Warmest regards,

Amy

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The New Member Retreat held on Saturday, October 11th was a huge success with 36 new members signed up! We all met at Dusty’s, bright and early on Saturday morning, and after a delicious breakfast, loaded onto a bus and went to visit some of the sites JL has been involved with over the years. We visited Ele’s Place and got to see first hand what a wonderful facility this is. Our next stops were St. Vincent’s Home then Ronald McDonald House, where we enjoyed a tour given by Lisa Gnass, President of the Ronald McDonald House Board and JLL Signature Project Chair. The new members were able to see for themselves what a large impact Junior League has on our community. After arriving back at Dusty’s for lunch, Rachel Rosenbaum stopped by to speak about the Signature Fundraiser and invited all to attend. Shelley Mielock discussed the Kids in the Kitchen Project and during lunch we all got to know each other better. The New Members met with their Advisors and discussed what would be happening over the next year. I think everyone was very excited, especially after receiving a JL water bottle filled with goodies to take home.

Many thanks to Amy Suhrheinrich, Molly Chan, Kate Quinn, Rachel Rosenbaum and Tracy Jelneck for coming by to visit with the New Members, to Lisa Gnass for a wonderful tour and especially to Sustaining Advisor Lynn Fiedler for being our tour guide for the day.

Our new policy this month comes from Arrangements and will hopefully abolish the amount of headaches suffered by the Arrangements Chair and the Treasurer. As it currently stands, the Arrangements Chair must purchase all JLL-related supplies up front and be reimbursed each month. In order to prevent delays in reimbursement and to cut down on superfluous paperwork, it was proposed that a JLL line of credit be established.

The new policy was passed by the Board on October 7, 2008, and reads as follows:

Section 13.11 Line of Credit

When available, a line of credit may be secured for the Junior League of Lansing at Board approved vendors. This line of credit will be available only for use by the Office Manager and the Arrangements Chair. In order to have use of this credit, the Office Manager and the Arrangements Chair must agree to the following terms:

• use this line of credit to purchase items for the Junior League of Lansing or an affiliated organization or event
• submit the receipt and a detailed check request to the Treasurer-Elect within one week of purchase
• remove name from line of credit when position has ended and transition the incoming purchaser
• sign a written agreement to abide by these terms
• written agreement will be collected and housed by the Treasurer
• purchaser will be responsible for remaining within parameters of the budget as set forth and any overages not approved by the Board may be the responsibility of the purchaser

Scope: Arrangements
Monitored by: Treasurer/Arrangements
Effective: October 2008

October-April, at the Harley Franks Early Education Center in Lansing, JLL volunteers would assist with (1) facilitating the meetings, (2) working with the children during the first portion of the workshops when the educators would speak directly to the parents about steps they can take to assist their children, and (3) helping the parents and children with the second portion of the workshop, which incorporates a project related to the book and video clip the children view with their parents.

Lastly, I wanted to express my gratitude to our members, who turned out in great numbers for the October meeting and stayed focused on the presentations, even through technological difficulties and blown time limits. Giving these matters extra attention now will help us choose the best possible Signature Project for the coming years.
How to Slate in Ten Easy Steps
Beth Cook, Nominating Chair

Slatting information is covered in the Bylaws as well as the Policies sections of the Red Book. Here is the short version… in 10 easy steps:

1. The only positions that are slated (i.e. get voted on by membership) are the Board of Directors (President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer Elect, Communications VP, Community VP, Education VP, Fund Development VP, and Membership VP), the Nominating/Placement Committee Advisors, and the New Member Advisors.

2. The Board of Directors and the New Member Advisors have a single slate, i.e. only one name is presented for each position. Nominating/Placement Advisors have a double slate, i.e. for each N/P Advisor position that is open, two names are presented.

3. The Nominating Chair and the Placement Chair do NOT have a vote regarding which members are on the slate for any position.

4. The slate must be made public three weeks (i.e. published in Focus) before the Annual Meeting, which is in January.

5. Eligibility
a. Board: a member must be in good standing, have been active for the past two years, and have chaired a committee.
b. Nominating/Placement Advisor: a member must be in good standing and have been active for the past two years.
c. New Member Advisor: a member must be in good standing.

6. Self-submissions and recommendations are used to generate candidates for the slated positions.

7. Process:
a. Each candidate is evaluated on eligibility and qualifications (both JLL and other relevant experience.)
b. A pro-con discussion then takes place among the Nominating Placement committee. Your Advisor is your advocate during this discussion.
c. The Nominating Placement Advisors then vote and rank order candidates.
d. The position is offered to the candidate with the most votes. If the candidate declines, then the candidate with the next highest number of votes is offered the position. This goes on until a candidate accepts.
e. Strict confidentiality is required during this process.

8. Once the slate is completed, the Nominating Chair presents it to the Board and gives it to Focus for publication.

9. Additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee and which meet eligibility requirements, may be made in writing by ten (10) active members. These additional nominations must be presented to the Nominating Chair at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

10. The slate, including any additional nominations, is presented to Membership at the Annual Meeting (in January) for ratification (of the single-slated Board and New Member Advisors) and voting (on the double-slated Nominating Placement Advisors).

***Remember, if you have informed your Advisor that you are interested in a slated position, please give a phone number to your Advisor where you can be reached on December 6, which is slating day.***

$25 for 25 Years — Every Member Drive Contributions (as of 10/20/2008)

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<td>Maggie Terry</td>
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- Alexandra Wiesner
- Christina Williams
- $30.00
- Jaimie Hutchison
- $50.00
- Mrs. Bethie Day
- Colette Evangelista
- Valerie Green
- Michelle Thompson
- $75.00
- Thuy Pham
- $100.00
- Kim Garrison
- David & Tracy Jelneck
- $250.00
- Cheryl Bartholic

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What is Junior League?

Gabrielle Johnson, Training Vice Chair and SPAC Chair

What is your answer when someone asks you what Junior League is? A blank stare? A stammer? If you were lucky enough to attend October 14th's Organizational Procedural Systems (OPS) training for chairs, you would have started the process of developing an interesting, snappy answer to this question.

Our President, Amy Suhrheinrich presented “Key Messages—Marketing to the Mission,” a synopsis of a previous training she attended. She stressed to us the importance of developing a clear and concise message to successfully build the Junior League brand in the Lansing area. Anyone with a television has been inundated with political advertisements lately, where brand building is second nature.

So, what do people want to know about the Junior League? Do they want to hear about our fabulous parties and great social networking, or do they want to hear about how we affect the community and train women to be effective volunteers? Some things you should touch on during your elevator speech are how JL promotes voluntarism, develops the potential of women, and improves our community. And make it personal! If you have gone to an MSC training that opened your eyes to how your body language shapes people’s perceptions of you, or you served on the Board and parlayed that into corporate success, brag about yourself!

We call them elevator speeches to remind ourselves to keep it short and simple. It’s said that important governmental decisions are made within the time it takes for a Congressperson to ride the elevator from their office to the Senate or House floor, with an aide whispering in their ear the whole time. Following is Amy’s elevator speech, which I believe is a beautifully written testament to why we do what we do.

“The Junior League of Lansing is a volunteer organization that develops the potential of women. We prepare our members to go out into the community to volunteer and eventually serve on other Boards or become involved with a variety of community organizations. We collaborate with other groups to improve our community. We focus on Families and Children at risk. Currently, we run a program in the Lansing schools titled “Food Education and Story Time” which emphasized the importance of reading and healthy eating choices. Essentially we are a training organization with the outcome of improving our community.”

A Chair? Do I Dare?

Kate Powers, Nominating Placement Advisor

When your committee meets do wonder how your committee chairs find the time to “do it all?” Do you think to yourself “I don’t have the skills, the time or the inclination to chair a committee?” Have you self-selected yourself right out of League leadership? If so, please, reconsider joining the Junior League of Lansing Leadership team as a Chair or Vice Chair. The rewards of chairing are many, and provide an additional level of the great training that makes JLL the premier volunteer training organization in our area.

As a Chair, you will have the opportunity to hone your public speaking skills at GMMs, strengthen your writing skills through FOCUS articles and learn the ever elusive “Roberts Rules of Order” as you run your committee meetings. Additionally, chairing a committee is one of the best ways to get to know members of League outside those that are just on your assigned committee. You will work with other Chairs and the Board as a member of the JLL Leadership Team.

While these responsibilities may seem a bit daunting, remember that in many cases you will receive plenty of training opportunities, including OPS and the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues Training along the way. If you don’t think you are ready to chair a committee at this point, consider taking on a Vice Chair role. This on-the-job training gives you insight into how a committee works, and lets you work closely with the current Chair, allowing for one more level of training. Also, remember that chairperson-ship is required before taking on a Board position.

If you didn’t have the chance to share your interest in chairing with your Nominating/Placement Advisor during your fall interview, please feel free to contact her at anytime and let her know your wishes. After the 2009-2010 Board is slated, they will meet for chair selection, having been given a list of suggestions from the Nominating/Placement committee.

Chairing a committee is just one more way to further become involved in the mission of JLL, and is, actually, a fun and memorable opportunity. Consider it over the coming weeks, if you haven’t already.
Membership

Happy Almost Thanksgiving

Suzanne Johnson, Member Relations Chair

This month’s Kudos winners were Lisa Gnass and Traci Riehl. Lisa was nominated for the hard work that she put in working the JLL booth for the entire Healthy Fit Expo, even setting up at 7 a.m., and Traci was acknowledged for her hard work and endless hours that she is working for our upcoming Signature Fundraiser. Congratulations Lisa and Traci! If you see a JLL member going above and beyond in League, please recognize that person by nominating her for a Kudo. You can email the name of the person and the reason for the nomination to Suzanne Johnson at ssscjohnson@sbcglobal.net.

Our next Member Relations event will be a Kid’s Holiday Gift Making Party on Friday November 21st at Art Unlimited from 4–6pm. Please come and help your child create a one of a kind plate, bowl, or mug to either keep for themselves or give to someone special. Cost is $5/child and can be either paid to me in advance or at the door. Please RSVP for this event to me prior to November 7th so that we can make sure that we have enough supplies available. Light refreshments and hot chocolate will be available!

Community

DIAM Helps Otto Health Ctr

Julie Urbain, DIAD/DIAM Vice Chair

The October GMM had Otto Community Health Center as its Done in a Meeting recipient.

Otto Community Health Center is a school-based health center located in C.W. Otto Middle School. The center was established by the Ingham County Health Department in conjunction with Lansing Schools, upon receiving a request from the State of Michigan for funding. The center provides primary care for both youth and adults.

Thank you to the JLL membership, whose generous donations included 30 packages of pocket tissues, 7 combs, 14 travel deodorants, 4 bottles of Tums and $91 in cash donations. The cash donations will be used to purchase more items from their wish list. Of all active members present at the October GMM, approximately 32% participated in the Done in a Meeting project.

Next month, at the November GMM, we will be collecting feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and CATA bus tokens for the Women’s Center of Greater Lansing.

Condolences...

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to Sustainer Nanette (Nan) Martin, her family and friends. Nan’s husband William (Bill) passed away on September 2, 2008. Nan and Bill had been married for over 60 years.

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Iris Marzolf who passed away on August 17 2008 in Flagstaff, Arizona at the age of 95. She was an active member of JLL until her resignation in 1973.

Did you know

you can receive AJLI Conference Materials without attending a conference?

Do you want resources that are committee specific?

Simply go to www.ajli.org and login as a member. Choose Training and Meetings; then AJLI Taining and Meeting Resources and Archives.

You will be able to download presentations and documents. You can even search using Key Words.
This month’s category is What’s New with Junior League Sustainers?

For $200. What was LOVELY?
The Sustainer Luncheon of course! Walnut Hills was ablaze with color providing the perfect backdrop for our day. We had a wonderful time with over 50 Sustainers in attendance. The room buzzed with chatter as we caught up with each other and reminisced about our years as Actives. JLL President Amy Suhrheinrich provided an overview of the years activities. CRPD Chair Polly Synk, our feature speaker, presented the projects under consideration for the next JLL Signature Project. Everyone was happy to learn about the two opportunities and JLL’s continued work in the community. We cast our Straw ballot votes and will be interested to see if our choice is the one selected in January.

For $400. What is THRILLING?
Galleria Consignments! Caryn Rhodes announced the new addition to Dusty’s. Galleria Consignments features gently used furniture and accessories. Best wishes Caryn on this new endeavor.

For $600. What is PRECIOUS?
Ian Michael Vlahakis! Betty and Ange Vlahakis welcomed their new grandson on August 15, 2008. Ian joins brother Evan and parents are James and Stacy Vlahakis. Next time you see Betty, ask to see the pictures—Ian is darling!

For $800. What is EXCITING?
Molly Fletcher, daughter of Mary West, is launching her book beginning November 1st at Borders and Amazon.com. Your Dream Job Game Plan outlines the five tools one needs to be successful—A Passionate Style, Fearlessness, a Game Plan, Flawless Execution, and Management of Choices. Congratulations Molly!

For $1000. What is SPECTACULAR?
The Children’s Ballet Theatre of Michigan’s 28th annual production of the Nutcracker at the Wharton Center this Thanksgiving weekend will include six daughters and granddaughters of Junior League members. Bravo to Sarah Dobson, daughter of Lisa Whiting Dobson; Kaitlin Kerwin, granddaughter of Cathy Kerwin; Catherine Crites, daughter of Amy Crites; Alison Rhodes, daughter of Caryn Rhodes; Abby Lasch, daughter of Suzanne Lasch; and Maddie Brogan, daughter of Chrissie Brogan and granddaughter of Pat Brogan. Additional information, including show times and ticket information is available at 1-800-WHARTON.

Priceless. What will be FESTIVE?
The Junior League of Lansing’s Open House on December 9th from 4 to 7 pm! This year’s event will be at Becky Myers’ home at 6350 Pine Hollow Drive, East Lansing. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Happy Holidays!
Lynn
## Membership Council Update

**Renee Knake, Membership Vice President**

### New Additions to Membership

We are pleased to announce that **Jill Tuley** and **Debra Landis** have been reinstated to active membership. Welcome back, ladies!

### Let’s Meet at the Movies!

The November 11th GMM will be held at Celebration Cinema in Lansing. Our meeting will begin there at 6:30PM. At 7:15PM, stay for the movie *The Secret Life of Bees*. Cost is $8.00 for the movie, pop, and popcorn. Of course, the meeting portion is free! Please bring friends!

### 2008–2009 Apparel Sale

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING**

*Women building better communities*

All items are embroidered with the Junior League of Lansing logo and the tagline of Women building better communities

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Grand Total: ____________________________

Make checks payable to the Junior League of Lansing, and mail to Becky Paalman, 240 E. Washington St., Dimondale, MI 48821. Orders will be available within 2–4 weeks. All special orders will be notified of price via email.

Name: ________________________________ Email Address: __________________________

Phone Number: __________________________ Payment Method: Check/Cash

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**YOU’RE INVITED!!**

Grab the Gifts and Reserve your Seats, The Sustainer Bus Trip can’t be beat!

“SHOP ’TIL YOU DROP”

**CHICAGO BUS TRIP**

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

Depart–Okemos Commuter Lot @ 6:30a.m
Value City Lot @ 7:00am
Return–Lansing @ approximately 11:00 p.m.

Continental breakfast, Light dinner and drinks
Plus entertainment provided on the bus!

Reserve your spot by sending a $65.00 check
Payable to Junior League of Lansing
(Seating limited to the first 50 people)

Mail check to:
Ginny Brooks, 1330 Bridlewood Lane,
Williamston 48895

Your hosts: Ginny Brooks, Kathy Colby

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**FOCUS • November 2008**

The Junior League of Lansing, Michigan ("JLL") is a non-profit 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. Our focus area is supporting children and families at risk.
I. **Amy Suhrheinrich**, President called meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

II. **Amy Suhrheinrich**, President discussed the broadcast email issues and with a show of hands asked who did not receive the broadcast email with the Agenda attached. Members were asked to let their advisors know if they were having trouble receiving broadcast emails.

III. **Tracy Jelneck**, President Elect had three changes to the September GMM minutes. Amy Suhrheinrich, President requested a motion to approve the September GMM minutes with the changes made by T. Jelneck. Kate Powers moved to approve the September GMM Minutes as changed. Becky Myers seconded. Motion carried.

IV. **Tracy Jelneck**, President Elect introduced Polly Synk, CRPD Chair. Polly Synk introduced the two projects up for consideration for our next Signature Project.

a. Deep Water Transitional Program presented first and provided a PowerPoint presentation to the membership on their program. Their mission is to empower women and children to achieve stability for a successful future. They would like volunteers on two bases: mentoring the program participants on a long-term basis or helping out with workshops to the program participants and then mentor the participants after the workshop. Sue Mills asked how many volunteers were needed and how much money. Members were referred to the handout provided by Deep Water Transitional. They are asking for 10,000 per year and 10–15 volunteers for the tutoring relationship. They would also like 8 volunteers for the workshops. Jamie Hutchinson asked two questions: 1) how is this program different then Ballentine Stepping Stones? This program is different because they are helping people who have gone thru a transitional program and are not eligible for economic assistance; and 2) with so many non-profits closing, what are your other funding sources? They are in their infancy stage, just starting out. They have applied for grants and funding from other sources. They have received a $7400 grant to offer counseling to single mothers who are not insured. Kim Garrison asked about the population they are trying to reach and discussion ensued regarding the women whom they are helping. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked for a motion to extend time. Becky Paalman moved to extend time for 10 minutes. Polly Synk seconded. Motion carried. A video was shown to the membership. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect asked for a motion to extend time. Polly Synk moved to extend time for 5 minutes. Kate Powers seconded. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked for a show of hands and motion carried. Betsy Svanda asked if JLL would get any publicity on air for our participation. Yes, they would probably be able to do an underwriting segment mentioning the JLL and a content video in between programs. Kimberly Garrison asked the age range of the children in the program. Target age is 4, but with siblings it could be between 2–8. They hope for 50 families at each workshop. Becky Paalman asked how much money they are requesting. Approximately $19,000 for the first year and approximately $18,000 for the second year. If JLL could not give the amount requested, they would have to trim the program by cutting the number of workshops.

b. WKAR Ready to Learn presented a PowerPoint to the membership. Ready to Learn grew out of a 1994 report that said too many children are starting school unprepared. The US Dept. of Education funded public stations to present Ready to Learn. Funding is still available from the government, but it does not come directly to the station. Target audience is high-risk families, low income who are having problems with their children's learning abilities. Ready to Learn is a service (it is not on tv) for childcare providers, teachers, and parents to extend and enhance a child's learning thru media literacy, get control of media, and extend learning thru a "triangle." TV viewing tips are provided to parents, childcare providers and teachers. The project would be a three way partnership between WKAR, JLL and Great Start Readiness Program in Lansing School District. Overall theme would be emergent literacy skills. Goals would be to help parents see the importance of their role in building a child's literacy skills. Workshops will use teachers from program and contract facilitator from WKAR. The JLL would provide 10–15 volunteers for each workshop. Building relationships with the families is very important. The meetings would be an hour and a half because they would be serving a light supper. The children would then be segregated and JLL volunteers would go with children and provide activities for the children. Once the children are brought back, the JLL volunteers would then do an activity with the parents and children. A video was shown to the membership. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect asked for a motion to extend time. Polly Synk moved to extend time for 5 minutes. Kate Powers seconded. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked for a show of hands and motion carried. Betsy Svanda asked if JLL would get any publicity on air for our participation. Yes, they would probably be able to do an underwriting segment mentioning the JLL and a content video in between programs. Kimberly Garrison asked the age range of the children in the program. Target age is 4, but with siblings it could be between 2–8. They hope for 50 families at each workshop. Becky Paalman asked how much money they are requesting. Approximately $19,000 for the first year and approximately $18,000 for the second year. If JLL could not give the amount requested, they would have to trim the program by cutting the number of workshops.

c. Polly Synk, Chair will summarize both programs in the Focus including budget numbers.

V. **Traci Richl** and **Collete Evangelista** provided a Signature Fundraiser update. Invitations are ready and will be in the mail this week. Kudos to Amy Lothamer’s mom for printing the invitations for JLL. They have raised $17000 which is about 50% of their goal. Members were asked to write down contacts for corporate sponsors. Raffle tickets are ready and members were encouraged to pick up their raffle tickets to purchase and sell. Corporate and In-kind Sponsors were introduced to the members by a slide show. Details of the event were explained to members and all members are encouraged to attend and bring friends.

VI. DIAM donations were requested.

VII. **Alex Wiesner**, Treasurer handed out the financial report continued on page 10
which includes postage and copying charges in each line item. No questions regarding the budget. Sue Mills, Endowment Chair was introduced. The 25 for 25 drive was discussed and over $3,000 has been collected from 10% of our total members. Actives who have contributed were introduced and asked to go to the front of the room to accept a sticker for their contribution. On behalf of the Endowment Board, contributing members were thanked and all members were reminded to get their donations in before September 2009. Amy Suhrheinrich, President was asked to come forward and was presented with a check for $24,510.00 for the JLL from the Endowment Fund.

VIII. Shelley Mielock, Chair informed the members of the New Member Retreat held on Saturday, October 11th. Currently, there are 36 new members. Out standing job, Ladies! Shelly Mielock introduced the new members present at the October GMM. Committee Members were thanked and introduced. Board members present at the new member retreat were thanked. Lynn Fielder was presented with flowers for her participation as the tour guide and participation in the event.

IX. Nancy Nyquist, Nominating Placement Advisor discussed the fall interviews. Deadline to complete and compile the information collected from the interviews is December 2008. Please respond to your advisors and due your fall interviews so they may compile the information by the deadline. Members were asked to RSVP to your advisors if you are not going to attend the meeting so you can still get your point.

X. Suzanne Johnson, Member Relations Chair asked if all members received their Junior Pal assignments and asked members to acknowledge their Pals at least monthly. Wine and cheese social was not well attended. Witches and Warlock Party is on October 28th and members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Suzanne Johnson. November 21 will be a Kids Holiday Gift making party at Art Unlimited from 4-6. RSVP’s are needed for the event. Kudos nominations were announced. Lisa Gnass was presented with a Kudos for her work in the JLL booth for the entire Health and Fit Expo. Traci Riehl was given a kudos for her work in the JLL booth for the entire Healthy and Fit Expo. Traci Riehl was given a kudos for her hard work on the Signature Fundraiser.

XI. Jamie Hutchinson, Community Council Chair discussed a mid-year school supplies drive, a food drive and a clothing drive. The clothing drive is gently used clothing for adults and children.

XII. Lisa Gnass, Signature Project Chair and Anne Vogel handed out background checks for volunteers who would like to participate in FEAST. The Lansing School District asked JLL to go into six schools this year instead of five, so extra volunteers are needed. The schools attended were introduced.

XIII. Becky Paalman, Communications VP announced the Focus Deadline is Wednesday, October 15th at 5:00 p.m. JLL apparel was shown to the members for purchase. It was discussed that the prices were rounded up, and extra money raised will be donated to the Endowment Fund. JLL apparel will be available at the next GMM and then again in the spring. Order forms will be on-line and should be sent to Becky Paalman. If you are interested in a different apparel piece not shown, please look thru the catalog and let Becky know which piece you are interested. Discussion ensued regarding the correct JLL logo which is to be used. Members were shown the correct JLL Logo to be used and the different ways you may not alter the logo. Logo and tag line must be on all committee minutes even if it doesn’t go out to the public. Discussion ensued regarding why the logo must be on committee minutes. It is because the minutes are kept by the office and we need to know that they are our minutes. The logo is protected so that people become familiar with our logo and what the JL is. Issues regarding broadcast emails and Focus were discussed.

XIV. Betsy Svanda, Arrangements Chair asked by a show of hands how many people received their Evite. Members were asked to change their email address if they did not receive the Evite or if it was sent to the wrong address. The November GMM is at Celebration Cinema and the movie is Secret Life of Bees. Cost is $8.00 and includes popcorn and drink. Please bring a friend. Table Arrangements are from Hobby Lobby and available for purchase at 50% off. After the meeting, people are congregating at Dublin Square. Hillary Henderson won the “B” gift card. Amy Lothamer won the Allison Glass _ day consultation.

XV. DIAM was for Otto Health Center and 27 out of 84 members contributed. We collected 30 packs of tissue, 4 packs of Tums, 7 combs, 14 deodorants and $91.00 in cash.

XVI. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Nyquist moved to adjourn meeting. Tracy Jelneck seconded. By a show of hands, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Chan
Board Secretary

Communications

FOCUS & Broadcast Email

Becky Paalman, Communications Vice President

On behalf of the communications committee I just wanted to give you a short update on a few issues we have been experiencing with league communications.

First of all, we hope that as of today you have received your October issue of the FOCUS. There was a delay in printing due to mechanical problems that occurred at our printer. The problem has been fixed and we hope to not experience this delay as we proceed through the League year. Please let us know if you have not received your copy.

Secondly, we are experiencing a fair amount of errors with our broadcast email system. We apologize if you have submitted broadcast emails and they have not made it to the membership. It seems the emails reach some members, but not all. We are working diligently to fix this problem with our website provider. We will keep you updated as we continue to research this problem. In the mean time, we appreciate your patience.
September 2, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Fiedler, Kate Quinn, Tracy Jelneck, Renee Knake, Molly Chan, Alex Wiesner, Nicole Shumway, Amy Suhrheinrich, Becky Paalman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dawn Kroeger, Suhrheinrich, Becky Paalman, Renee Knake, Molly Chan, Alex Wiesner, Nicole Shumway, Amy Suhrheinrich, Becky Paalman

I. Call Meeting to Order. Amy Suhrheinrich, President, called meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Add Items to Meeting Agenda. Lynn Fiedler, Sustaining Advisor, added discussion for “Hot Flashes” and Sustainer Committees. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer’s discussion regarding Sustainer overages was combined with Treasurer’s Report. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect would like to discuss Annual Plan.

III. Adopt Meeting Agenda. Kate Quinn, Education VP moved to adopt the meeting agenda as changed. Nicole Shumway, Fund Development VP, seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Approve Minutes from August Board Meetings.

a. August 5 Board Meeting. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked for changes to the minutes. Leadership Transition Meeting is to be changed to “Leadership Team Training.” The word “authors” should be included under Section VII (i). Tracy Jelneck, President Elect moved to approve minutes as amended. Renee Knake, Membership VP seconded. Motion carried.

b. August 12 Board Meeting. The times missing in the minutes should be 6:07 start time and 9:03 adjourn time. The minutes should be amended to reflect that the projects were narrowed down to three projects: WKAR Ready to Learn, Deep Water Transition and Care Free Dental. The membership will then narrow the three down to two with a straw vote at September GMM. The minutes should reflect that the meeting was suspended from 7:00 to 8:15 to complete Leadership Team Training. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer moved to approve the minutes as amended. Becky Paalman, Communications VP seconded. Motion carried.

V. Announcements

A. Ballentine’s Stepping Stones. Amy Suhrheinrich, President stated only eight children needed backpacks due to internal changes with Ballentine’s. Any issues regarding Ballentine’s should be directed to Amy Suhrheinrich, President.


C. Char Roe, Thank You. Amy Suhrheinrich, President informed the Board that Ms. Roe contacted Debby Harrison to thank JLL for the wonderful Focus article.

D. Leadership Team Training Packets located on the side of the mailboxes in the JLL office if anyone needs one.

E. Focus Article. Amy Suhrheinrich, President asked the Board to review the blurbs she will write for Focus Articles by September 8, 2008 and return to her your goal and contact information to be included.

F. Calendar Renee Knake, Membership VP announced the following events: Wine and Cheese Social on September 25th, GMM post-drinks will be at Troppos instead of Beggars Banquet, Witches and Warlocks party on October 28th.

VI. Action Items

A. Policy Approval. The Board changed the Line of Credit policy as follows:

- When available, a line of credit will be secured for the Junior League of Lansing. This line of credit will be available for use by the office manager and the arrangements chair. In order to have use of this credit, the office manager and the arrangements chair must agree to the following terms:
  - Use this line of credit to purchase items for the Junior League of Lansing. They may not purchase any personal items or anything for any other organization
  - Submit the receipt to the Treasurer Elect along with a detailed within one week of purchase. Unsupported purchases shall be the responsibility of the purchaser
  - Avoid unnecessary purchases
  - Remove name from the line of credit when “term” has ended, and transition incoming purchaser
  - Sign an agreement that outlines these terms and states that they will abide by them

- Scope: Arrangements
- Monitored by: Treasurer/Arrangements
- Effective: September 2008

Discussion ensued regarding the agreement to be signed by Office Manager and Arrangements Chair.

VII. Delegate, Decide, Discard

A. Annual Plan. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect reminded Board to update monthly the Annual Plan with regards to goals and objectives met.

B. Treasurer Report. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer handed out financial report. Discussion ensued regarding overages for Sustainer dues due to incorrect labeling of Sustainers and Emeritus. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer would like Emeritus and Sustainer relabeled for a more accurate budget estimate. Motion to extend time for three minutes by Lynn Fiedler, Sustaining Advisor. Nicole Shumway seconded. Motion carried. Board will look into reconciling database to accurately reflect Sustainer and Emeritus numbers. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer will find the correct form for overages to be discussed at future GMM for vote. Alex Wiesner, Treasurer will do Dear Jill article to discuss Sustainer and Emeritus status.

C. VP Responsibilities; financial. Discussion ensued regarding financial responsibilities for Board positions.

D. Sustaining Advisor, Lynn Fiedler discussed the addition of “Hot Flashes” to Focus. The Board agreed that adding the column would be a great idea. The Board is considering raising line item 54060 due to the increased number of

continued on page 12
Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 11

recognition expenses.

E. ODI Candidates. Renee Knake, Membership VP informed
the Board of the ODI Candidates selected by Nominating
Placement. Discussion ensued regarding ODI and
Candidates.

F. OPS. Amy Suhrheinrich, President discussed the availability
of a Publicity Tool Kit on the AJLI website. Discussion
ensued regarding website and can we incorporate the
website and things to be included on the website at OPS.

G. Signature Fundraiser. Tracy Riehl and Collette Evangelista
attended the Board meeting at this point to discuss details
of the Signature Fundraiser and answer Board questions.

H. Office Space. Renee Knake, Membership VP suggested the
JLL look into finding office space which will be donated. It
was decided that Alex Wiesner, Treasurer and Shelley
Mielock will have an ad hoc committee looking into donated
office space. Lynne Fiedler, Sustaining Advisor will con-
tact Sustainers on any ideas for Office Space.

I. CRPD. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect informed the Board
that Polly Synk is putting together a power point for the
GMM. The Board had a few additional questions regarding
the three projects which will be forwarded to Polly
Synk. Discussion ensued regarding ballot for straw vote.

J. DIAM. Tracy Jelneck, President Elect discussed implement-
ing a new tracking system for DIAM collections. It
was decided that at each GMM, the DIAM chair will
announce the amount of money collected as well as the
goods collected. Molly Chan, Secretary will then record
these amounts in the minutes for tracking purposes.

K. Fall Interview Questions. Renee Knake, Membership VP
asked for Board input with the fall interview questions.
Alex Wiesner, Treasurer suggested a question regarding
endowment fund awareness and whether they plan to
donate to the endowment fund be included. A suggestion
for a possible question was, “did you find the presentation
of endowment fund helpful?”

L. Focus Articles. Becky Paalman, Communications VP gave
an informative presentation on Face Book.

M. GMM Agenda. Amy Suhrheinrich, President discussed
that GMM agenda was an hour and a half without adding
time for three items which would need to be discussed.
Discussion ensued where to cut time.

VIII. AJLI Electronic Notices. Amy Suhrheinrich, President
informed the Board that AJLI has changed its policy on elec-
tronic notifications of meetings. Molly Chan, Secretary and
Renee Knake, Membership VP will look into the policy
change and whether or not this policy change would be
required under Michigan law.

IX. Adjourn. Becky Paalman moved to adjourn the meeting.
Lynne Fiedler seconded. Motion carried and meeting
adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Chan
Secretary

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Junior League of Lansing

Endowment Fund

A Legacy for League.
A Legacy for Lansing.
1984 – 2009

25th Anniversary

Every Member Drive

$25 for 25 years

Let Us Continue to Build
Our Commitment
to the
Greater Lansing Community

Our goal is to have every member of the
Junior League of Lansing
New Member, Active, Sustainer,
Non-Resident Active and Sustainer
contribute a minimum of $25
to the Endowment Fund
as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

All donors will be recognized in upcoming
issues of Focus and at our year-end
Anniversary Party on September 13, 2009.
We hope to see your name listed in our
$25 for 25 EVERY MEMBER Drive
in the next issue of Focus!

$25 ______$250 ______$2,500 $_____ Other

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Focus)

Please make checks payable to the JLL Endowment and
identify it as $25 for 25 EVERY MEMBER Drive
271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115
East Lansing, MI 48823
I nterested in ramping up your business or know someone who would like to get the word out about their business? Before, during, and after the GMMs, sponsors have an opportunity to sell their goods, educate members about their company and/or the services they offer, and network with attendees.

Sponsorship for one meeting is $100. There may be up to 3 sponsors per meeting, however, we will not schedule similar vendors for the same meeting. For instance, we would not offer sponsorship to two children’s clothing companies or two photographers in the same night. At a cost of $300, sponsors can ensure that their company will be the exclusive sponsor for the evening. All proceeds go toward offsetting the costs of the GMMs. For more information or to sponsor a meeting, contact Betsy Svanda, Arrangements Co-Chair at bsvanda@sbcglobal.net or Nicole Maison, Fund Development Vice President at nmaison@biggby.com.
Dear Members of Junior League,

I want to thank you for making EPO your first Done in a Meeting recipient of the year. The stamps, sleep sacks and diapers will help a great deal. We plan to use the diapers and sleep sacks as incentives for pregnant teens attending our Teen Prenatal Series this fall. We really like to be able to give them something that is so useful and helps promote what we teach in class. We strongly recommend the use of sleep sacks when teaching infant safe sleep. This way we know each of these teen mothers will have a sleep sack to use when they take their babies home from the hospital.

The many stamps you sent us are also very helpful and will cut down on our postage costs over the next few months. In these difficult financial times, gifts like yours really make a difference. Thank you so much for your continued support of prenatal and parenting education.

Sincerely,

Carol Buzzitta
Executive Director
The word is spreading!!! Our Night in New York is going to transport us to a larger than life occasion. We will sip Cosmopolitans with friends, dress to kill, and take in the evening’s entertainments. One live auction gives us a shot at seeing the city ourselves. What woman doesn’t want to go on a buying trip to New York City with Bella Blu to buy clothes, clothes, clothes? Speaking of clothes, how about a fashion show to remind us just how swank and urban we all really are (no seriously, there is shopping around here!). Need to shake your tail-feather? The Dan Rafferty Band does not disappoint. The evening is rounded out by gambling, great food, and a great group of people.

Let’s not forget the most important part. The Signature Fundraiser is where we get the resources to support our Mission. Important stuff wrapped up in one big party. Come out with your friends as we of the Junior League of Lansing continue to help those at-risk in our community. That is what it is all about.

Can’t make it? Consider being a “New York” sponsor. Private patronage is very welcome and encouraged. Your generosity will be noted with your name listed in the evening’s program. Checks can be sent to the League office.

A bonus this year. You can pre-register with a credit card when you buy your tickets in advance. That will help get you into the party faster. What is cooler than that? Winning the Becky Beauchine Kulka Raffle, but I digress…

More information for all topics can be found on the JLL website, or contact Colette Evangelista at 517-337-9086.
**Calendar of Events**

### November
- **November 8**  DIAD "Girls on the Run"
- **November 11**  GMM—Movie Night
  DIAM: Feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, CATA bus tokens for Women’s Center of Greater Lansing
- **November 15**  Signature Fundraiser
- **November 21**  Kid’s Holiday Gift Making Party

### December
- **December 5**  Shop ‘Til You Drop Chicago Trip
- **December 9**  Holiday Open House

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**NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008 • 5 pm**

All articles must be sent in Microsoft word with Times New Roman 12 pt font. Email all articles as attachments to Focus@jllansing.org

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**The Junior League of Lansing**

**Holiday Open House**

Tuesday, December 9th
4:00 to 7:00 pm

At the home of Becky Myers
6350 Pine Hollow Drive
East Lansing