

Spring 2017

FOCUS



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

President's Message

By Kelly Nicole Miller, President 2016-2017

It's hard to believe this incredible Junior League year is already more than half over. The work we have done as a League this year has kept a huge smile on my face and I share with everyone I run into all of the good we are doing. The enthusiasm to try new things, work together and grow the awareness of Junior League is infectious, we have truly been "All In" this year. I am so proud and inspired by all of you and all that we have accomplished. This year of accomplishment is your year of accomplishment.

Every single committee from Arrangements to Web has been working hard to make this an incredible year for each other and our future. As we continue to celebrate our 85th Year of Service to the Lansing community, we welcome in a new group of women who will have the honor of joining us as we begin to shape the future in our cap on our first century of service to

the community. Looking forward to 100 Years of Service is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to all of the women that have given their time to League since its beginning.

As my time as the steward of this great ship of Junior League begins to draw to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, your time and your commitment to League. Our League is exceptional because of each one of our Members.

Over the past 10 years, League has taken me on so many great journeys I did not expect and I hope it does the same for you too. About half way through my League career, an amazing woman leading a training session about fundraising said, "Fundraising is about giving donors the opportunity to make a difference." These words have inspired me for years, and I have shared them countless times since then with

different committees in and outside of Junior League and they have made a difference. These words of inspiration came to me from one of our Sustainers.



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Junior League of Lansing Board of Directors 2016 - 2017

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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.

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This mentorship, this inspiration, is the servant leadership that is the hallmark of the Junior League. We are amazing women with a wealth of knowledge and care for the community. We inspire each other. We support and encourage each other. We work together to advance our Mission. We give each other the opportunity to make a difference in our community.

It is because of each other, our past and our future, that we are able to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. I thank you for being part of the Junior League and look forward to all of our future endeavors.

— Kelly



ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

By Sandy Grettenberger, 2016-2017 Endowment Fund Chair

Hello from The Endowment Fund! Our transition to Tri-Star Trust Bank as investment advisor for the Endowment Fund is now complete and our Board is pleased with their stewardship of the fund. The Endowment Fund is in its 33rd year and had a net asset value of \$600,818.06 at the end of February. The 2016 check from the Endowment Fund to JLL amounted to \$29,082.68—the largest distribution ever!

We can't do this without you! The Endowment Fund has grown over the years as a direct result of your support. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Endowment Fund in response to our annual appeal or for the National Day of Giving. Your generosity is evident in everything our JLL is able to achieve throughout the year, whether it be giving money directly to worthy causes, providing volunteers, training our members to better serve our community or offering scholarships to students.

Ways You Can Help Grow the Endowment Fund:

- Throughout the year, a donation to the Endowment Fund is a wonderful way to celebrate the birthday of a fellow Junior League member, honor the memory of a friend or loved one, or to celebrate a birth, an adoption, a new job or a retirement. Making a donation is easier than ever by going to the JLL website and clicking the “Donate Now” button.
- If we all contribute to the Endowment Fund when we pay our annual JLL dues, it will give the Endowment Fund a tremendous boost. So, if your financial circumstances allow you to “round up” your dues payment to donate \$10, \$20, \$50 or even \$100, we encourage you to do so. This can even be done if you pay your dues online and “round up” the amount to make a tax-deductible donation to the Endowment Fund.
- Another loving way to preserve the legacy of League is to name the Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund in your estate planning documents. Helpful information regarding planned giving is now available on the Endowment Fund page on the JLL website.



It is a distinct pleasure serving on the JLL Endowment Fund Board with Vice Chair/Secretary **Ginny Brooks**, Treasurer **Andrea Barnes**, JLL President-Elect **Alexis Chadderdon** and Community Members **David Wakeland** and **Nathan Triplett**. Their input, efforts and ideas have been invaluable. Rest assured the Endowment Fund is in very capable hands.

We send a sincere thank you to all donors for their generosity. Look for a complete list of all 2016 donors by donation level in the next FOCUS issue. We celebrate the heart behind every dollar donated to the Endowment Fund. Please continue to help the Endowment Fund and JLL reach new heights by making a donation today! Together, we can ensure that JLL has a lasting source of funding to continue its mission well into the future.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT SEASON

By Melanie Beil, New Member Training Chair

With lofty recruitment and retention goals for 2017, the New Member Committee was hard at work this past fall! Successful prospective member events took place at Spartan Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing, Bridge Street Social in DeWitt and Laurel Salon (thank you Janae Fredline for letting us use your gorgeous new space!) in Okemos, Sanctuary Spirits in Grand Ledge, as well as the annual Holiday Cookie Exchange in December. There are 36 paid new members for this year!

The New Member Retreat took place the first Saturday of January at Ele's Place, with additional training sessions in February, March and April held at Clark Construction (thank you Kristin Clark!). This year, the new members will have a choice for their new member project. They will either join the Kids in the Kitchen Ad Hoc Committee headed up by Lindsay Dangl and Melanie Beil or the High Heels & High Tea Ad Hoc Committee being headed up by Anita Lindsay. This change will free up time during the retreat and subsequent training sessions to focus on developing relationships amongst the new member class, as well as more in-depth training on our organization, community impact and much more!

The New Member Committee appreciates all of the prospective member referrals, wine donations and help from current members! We are excited about bringing in this great group of women who are joining JLL in 2017!



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN REINVENTED

By Carrie Waggoner, Community Vice President

Kids in the Kitchen is getting a makeover! In prior years, our Junior League of Lansing has implemented the Kids in the Kitchen program by allowing each new member class to plan an event unique to their talents and ideas. However, with the change in our League to an issue-based focus of food and shelter, the Board wanted to make Kids in the Kitchen a distinct Junior League event that reflects our new focus.

Based upon our research, it would appear there is a great need to help low income children with access to food over the summer. According to the Children's Defense Fund (in a 2014 study), only 13 percent of Michigan children who received a free or reduced price lunch during the school year participated in the Summer Food Service Program offered by the state. Other members of the state and our community have recognized this need. For example, Gov. Rick Snyder this last summer had a big publicity campaign to help promote the Summer Food Service Program. It was given the slogan "Meet Up and Eat Up;" there was an entire week dedicated to awareness, and the Michigan Department of Education has started a website for the program.

This past summer, a new initiative was also started by numerous companies in the community called Hunger Free Summer to try to raise funds to feed these children. In July 2016, WKAR radio ran a story about the fact that, "When school is out, free lunches are only offered at select locations through each school district, not at every school, so transportation is often the biggest barrier between kids and lunch."

We believe Junior League of Lansing can help assist these children with learning how to access food and, if they cannot access a free lunch program from the state, how to make easy healthy food that involves minimal cooking.

What does that all mean? Well, it means you're going to see a lot of changes to help meet this need. With this new Kids in the Kitchen event, new members are partnered with and mentored by current JLL members to gain experience in



how to plan a Junior League event. We are going to use our best targeted marketing efforts to ensure that the children attending this event are the children who need help. We are going to ensure that the location of the event is accessible by public transportation, is in a low income neighborhood and is a safe place for children to be even if they cannot be accompanied by a parent. We are going to host the event toward the end of the 2016-2017 school year—right before these children are out of school for the summer so the information we provide will be fresh in their minds when entering a time of need. We are going to have information for the children about access to state aid, but we are also going to focus the activities at the event on helping children prepare their own low cost, easy meals and how to grow their own food.

We are hopeful the Kids in the Kitchen event will become a JLL staple in the community. A consistent event that the community can plan on and something we can become known for. This event is a way to reach a real need in our community that fits with our issue-based community impact plan. We hope everyone will support this new endeavor.

If you would like to get involved we need volunteers for the day of the event, donations for the event and we would welcome assistance with planning and marketing the event. Please contact Lindsay Dangl at lidangl@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the committee.

ACTIVE MEMBERS ATTEND AJLI'S FALL 2016 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

By Leah Ann Sherer

To say that this has been my best year in Junior League thus far would be an understatement. I love everything about Junior League. As a member of Junior League, I have been exposed to a wealth of knowledge through trainings, workshops, voluntarism and great conversations. JLL has allowed me to take my voluntarism to a level that I could have never imagined. I was honored to have been chosen to attend the Organizational Development Institute in Raleigh, N.C. from Oct. 21 – 23, 2016.

ODI is a leadership development training designed to help develop a person's potential as a League leader through workshops. I had the pleasure of attending ODI with: Katrina Daniels, Stephanie Collier and Kim Sebastian. We had an awesome, fun experience.

I attended the Achieving Community Impact workshop, which was taught by Vicki Clark. I learned a lot of information and laughed just as much. Katrina Daniels was in the Diversified Fund Development workshop; Stephanie Collier was in the Governing for Excellence; workshop and Kim Sebastian was in the Membership Development workshop.

Attending ODI was a great experience and I cannot wait to use the knowledge that I learned to take the Junior League of Lansing to new heights.

There were five workshop concentrations taught at ODI:

1. Achieving Community Impact: Creating Lasting Changes for Healthier Communities
2. Membership Development: Creating Tomorrow's Community Leaders
3. Building Internal Capacity: Strengthening Your League's Operating Infrastructure
4. Diversified Fund Development: From Fundraising to Comprehensive Funding
5. Governing for Excellence: Achieving the League's Mission Through Effective Governance Strategies

By Katrina Daniels

During ODI, I was on the fundraising track. Prior to this experience I thought that all of the Junior Leagues ran the same way and had the same fundraisers. I was delighted to learn how each Junior League develops their fundraisers and programs based on their physical location and the community in which they reside; it reinforced to me how the Junior League listens to and responds to the community in which they reside.

This fundraising workshop also gave us the opportunity to develop proposals and present them to the group. Our proposals were then critiqued so that we could strengthen our skills as fundraisers. I look forward to taking this new-found knowledge and putting it into practice.

This conference gave me the opportunity to learn more about the League, to engage with other members from around the country and to learn a variety of new skills. I feel so much more engaged and excited about our mission and the work that we do!



2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHIES



Heather Frick, President-Elect

Heather Frick is in her sixth Active League year. She has found great joy in her League work through leadership roles in Fund Development and Educations Councils. One of her favorite experiences has been implementing High Heels & High Tea and bringing together so many dynamic members from all councils together to make the past two events so successful and so much fun. Heather is deeply humbled and incredibly grateful to be slated as the next President-Elect. She is looking forward to sharing her leadership and love of giving back to the community with her fellow League members.

Heather is employed by the Michigan Department of Treasury as the Executive Director of the State Tax Commission. She is both a Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer and licensed attorney. She has served as the recognized expert in legal research and analysis in the area of property tax matters. Heather lives in East Lansing with her husband, Jason, daughter, Isabelle and their two dogs.



Alyson Kechkaylo, Secretary

Alyson Kechkaylo is enjoying her sixth year with the Junior League of Lansing. She has served on the Arrangements Committee, and has been a New Member and Nominating Placement Advisor. She is currently the Nominating Chair. Alyson works in highway safety with a focus on ensuring Michigan residents, old and young, are using proper car seats and seat belts. She joined Junior League to meet friends and engage in the community and League has surpassed those expectations. She lives in Haslett with her husband Nick and son Alex, and enjoys traveling, lying in her hammock with a good book and playing trucks with her three-year-old son.



Jessica Sender, Treasurer-Elect

Jessica Sender is the librarian for the College of Nursing at Michigan State University. Prior to moving to Michigan two years ago, Jessica has lived in North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. As someone who has always been active in the community in which she lives, Jessica enjoys being active in the Junior League of Lansing as a way of getting involved, giving back and connecting with the Lansing community. Jessica spends her free time reading, traveling, cheering for Chicago sports teams, attending musicals, trying new restaurants and exploring her new home state of Michigan.



Emily Stevens, Communications Vice President

Emily Stevens is finishing up her fourth active year with Junior League and has loved the opportunity to be involved. She has served on the Lunch With League Committee, has been the Social Media Chair and is currently the Webmaster. In her new member year, Emily served as a Co-Chair for the Kids in the Kitchen event hosted at Gier Community Center serving over 400 people and bringing in several community partners. In her working hours, Emily is the Manager of Leisure Services with the City of Lansing's Parks and Recreation Department, overseeing all recreational activities the city offers. Emily is also married to Chad Stevens and the proud mother of two sons, Anderson (10) and Beckett (8).



Katrina Daniels, Community Vice President

Katrina is a graduate of Michigan State University with a dual B.A. in Interior Design and Art History Visual Culture (and a minor in Museum Studies). Katrina is the Exhibitions and Gallery Sales Director at the Lansing Art Gallery where she is responsible for coordinating exhibitions and public art programming among other responsibilities. Katrina is a member of the Greater Lansing Arts Council's Art Education and Celebration Committees, as well as a juror for the Greater Lansing Housing Collation's Art Selection Committee. Katrina is also an Advisory Board Member of the Peppermint Creek Theater Co., which produces contemporary theatre that addresses vital issues in our society, raises awareness and encourages dialogue while entertaining. Katrina is passionate about the arts and the incredible importance it plays in our society.



Elizabeth Battiste, Education Vice President

Elizabeth Battiste joined Junior League to meet outstanding women in the #LoveLansing area, actively participate in training—and to learn from—fellow female leaders, and to give back to the community in structured service projects. Since the time she joined Junior League in 2015, Elizabeth has been honored to serve in leadership positions as State Public Affairs Committee Co-Chair and Secretary, and Training Chair. She is passionate about bringing women to the center of the conversation to ensure the future of our city, state and nation are built upon compassion and authenticity.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Elizabeth just joined Martin Waymire as an Account Executive. She was born in Harbor Springs and lived in Durango, Colo., for seven years before relocating back to Rochester Hills. Elizabeth now resides in Lansing's Westside Neighborhood with her adorable dog, Benji.



Anita Lindsay, Fund Development Vice President

Anita Lindsay has been an active member of JLL since 2011. She has served on the Communications Committee as Webmaster, Marketing Chair and Vice President. She currently is in her second year on the Nominating Placement Committee, served two years as a volunteer on the High Heels & High Tea Ad Hoc Committee and will chair the committee in 2017. Anita has attended various JLL trainings, including ODI. She lives in Lansing and works for the Michigan Chamber Foundation. She enjoys skiing, shopping and spending time with her friends and family.



Kim DeLucia-Drew, Membership Vice President

Kim DeLucia-Drew is a sixth-year Active member of JLL, currently chairing Member Relations. Other placements she has held are Community Service, Member Relations, two years on the Annual Fund Committee—including one year as Co-Chair—and Community Outreach Committee. In life outside JLL, Kim is the manager of AF Group's Subrogation Department. She is also a proud graduate of MSU. Kim and her husband Dan are football and basketball season ticket holders for many years and are known for their tailgates.

ELECTED NOMINATING/PLACEMENT ADVISORS



Stephanie Collier is a lifetime resident of the Lansing area, growing up in Haslett. She attended Michigan State University to study finance and currently runs her own financial planning practice with Northwestern Mutual. Stephanie is married to Cody and they recently rescued two pitbulls, Trooper and Royal, and have their cat, Jasper. In January 2012, she joined the Junior League of Lansing as a new member and has enjoyed serving in different areas within League and building amazing friendships!



Melody Kindraka grew up in Canton, Mich., and attended Michigan State University. After graduating with a degree in communications and public relations, Melody accepted a job with the state of Michigan doing media relations and crisis communications. Melody is an avid sports fan and enjoys singing with the MSU Choral Union. She joined the Junior League of Lansing in 2013, and has served as a co-chair for a Kids in the Kitchen planning committee, member and co-chair of the Annual Fund Committee, chair of the Marketing Committee and VP of the Communications Council.

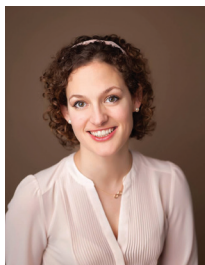


Susan Lupo is in her 11th Active year in League and has served in several leadership positions including Placement Chair, Nominating Chair, Membership Vice President, President-Elect and President. She has also served as a New Member Advisor and as a Nominating/Placement advisor (2008-2010). Most recently, Susan has served on the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues as Training Chair (serving second year of two-year placement). Susan works as a practice manager for a dermatology practice in Okemos and lives in East Lansing with her husband, Tony, and her two English Bulldogs, Winston and Bailey.



Kelly Nicole Miller is currently in her 10th Active year with the Junior League. She began her League career in Chicago where she enjoyed spending time on the Meeting Planning (Arrangements), Prospective Member and Cookbook Committees. After transferring to Lansing, Kelly joined the Fund Development Committee and then held several leadership positions in the Fund Development and Community Councils. The highlight of Kelly's League career was the opportunity to serve as our 2016-2017 President. She is truly humbled to have been able to share her love of League with the community. Kelly is looking forward to this opportunity with Nominating/Placement to use her extensive knowledge of League and her AJLI training to advise members on their journeys in the Junior League. Professionally, Kelly was a fundraiser prior to raising her family. She currently lives in Okemos with her husband of 15 years, their 6-year-old daughter, rescue dog and kitty cat.

ELECTED NEW MEMBER ADVISORS



Susan Gisholt lives in East Lansing with her husband and two girls. Susan is an Organizational Development Specialist in the Human Resources Department at Dart Container. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in General Studies with a concentration in Art History/Philosophy/Italian. At Michigan, she was part of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She has a Master's Degree in Human Resources, Labor and Industrial Relations from Michigan State. During college, Susan spent time studying and working abroad in Italy and Germany. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, yoga, travel and reading. Susan hopes to help women who are new to Junior League understand how JLL will help them develop their own potential and how through League, new members can improve our communities through voluntarism.



Kourtnei King lives in Grand Ledge with her husband and two fur babies. She runs a home-based business and loves pursuing her passion for leadership and helping others. Kourtnei is currently completing her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management at Northwood University. Outside of work and school, her hobbies include traveling, hot yoga and reading.



Born and raised in Ann Arbor, **Becca Kosta (Coudron)** is entering her third active year in JLL. She is the Real Estate Manager for Adams Outdoor Advertising and lives in Okemos with her husband, daughter and springer spaniel. She enjoys cooking, everything Bravo and reading.



Originally from Texas, **Rachel Santorelli** has a B.A. in Music from Florida State University and a Master's Degree in Public Relations from Michigan State University. Currently the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, she has been involved in Junior League for almost two years assisting with the Member Relations and Annual Fund Committees. Rachel commutes from St. Louis, Mich., where she shares a home with her boyfriend Josh, and enjoys exploring the different sections of the state. Along with her extensive background in both music and arts administration, Rachel has performance experience in dance, theatre and music, and was a member of the Blue Knights Drum & Bugle Corps. In addition to her passion and admiration for the arts, she loves sports, movies, animals, travelling, concerts and spending time with family and friends!

SUSTAINING LINE

By Lori Hacker Fuller, Sustaining Advisor to the Board



What a pleasure it is to be back involved with the Actives in the Junior League! These ladies are an amazing group of women dedicated to making positive improvements in the Lansing community and honing in on their leadership skills! They are 111 strong and with our 247 sustaining members; League's

membership total is at 358 (at this point in time). I say that because Membership Recruitment was working hard last fall and by the time you read this letter, they will be welcoming and starting to train our new class of members!



We were saddened in 2016 to lose two of our very special members and past presidents. **Joan Legg** was our 36th president (1968-1969) and **Barb Sukenik** was our 57th president (1989-1990). Both ladies held Junior League in a special place in their hearts as well as theirs in ours. Rest in peace, dear friends. And we appreciate all you did to make the Junior League of Lansing and the Lansing community a better place!



A warm thank you to those of you who have remembered family and friends by honoring them and/or their memories by donating to our Endowment Fund in 2016. Many of you were very generous to our Endowment Fund on the National Day of Giving (#GivingTuesday) on Nov. 29, 2016. The Endowment Fund is at an incredible level of \$567,212! Because of the success of this fund through many of your collective and individual efforts, Junior League was recently tendered

\$29,082 for 2016! A portion of those funds allowed 15 of our Active members to attend a Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues Fall Training in Traverse City in November. We are proud that our very own, **Donna Gardner**, was one of the featured speakers at the training! Look for upcoming information from our Endowment Chairs, **Ginny Brooks** and **Sandy Grettenberger**, on sustained growth of the fund through a new giving campaign this year!

Sustainers were active this past fall with 30 attending the fall Sustainer lunch at the Country Club of Lansing in October. President **Kelly Miller** updated the Sustainers on Active league news, ticket sales by **Sue Mills** were selling like hot cakes for the **Becky Beauchine Kulka** Diamonds and Fine Jewelry raffle tickets (thank you again Becky!) and Ginny and Sandy undated us on the Endowment Fund plans. Thank you to **Deb Atkinson** for opening her home again for the December Cookie Exchange party for the Actives and for a New Member Recruitment event! We also want to thank **Hillary Henderson** for opening her beautiful home to us in December to host the Holiday Open House. My personal thanks to the 33 Sustaining members (you know who you are) who helped set up, clean up, and supplied delicious food and drink for all our members to come and enjoy each other during the holiday season!

Communication was a priority of last years' Sustaining Advisor **Kim Hartman**, and my hope is to continue her progress. As you know, the range of social media acumen ranges from 0 to 100% with our varied Sustaining members. Whatever level you are on, we hope you are tuning in and reading our messages! For those of you on Facebook, we have our own Sustaining Page within the Junior League of Lansing. Email continues to be a good communication resource and, of course, the good old U.S. Mail doesn't fail us, either. We can save a lot of money, however, with email and social media communication, so please try to catch up with us that way! Remember to update your email and

addresses with **Nancy Shepard** at the JLL office. You can reach her at 517.324.8716 or office@jllansing.org. And if you're an Instagram ([jloflansing](https://www.instagram.com/jloflansing)) or Twitter ([@jllansing](https://twitter.com/jllansing)) follower, you can see what's going on there!

The issue-based community impact that the Active members are continuing this year is a focus on essential needs, such as food and shelter. The Active members collect monetary donations or specific items at each membership meeting for a specific organization and also provide Done in a Day opportunities that month for the same organization. The groups that are benefitting from league this year are Habitat for Humanity, City Rescue Mission, Haven House, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Volunteers of America, Allen Street Market, Safe Place and Homeless Angels. That's a lot of GOOD spread out in our communities!

Fundraising continues to be a priority and Lunch With League event produced more than \$21,000 in profit along with a lot of good community promotion last fall! The raffle ticket fundraiser raised more than \$13,000 in 2015 and here's hoping 2016 is even higher. WAY TO GO!

I encourage the Simply Social Sustainer groups to continue their fun outings and get-togethers! Don't wait for someone to come up with an idea—even a few calls for a simple night at the movie could be a fun way to catch up with each other and YOU can be the instigator! Kudos to the Champagnes and Chardonnays for their garden party at **Susan Allis'** house this past summer and the wine and cheese party at **Sue Mills'** house. **Maggie Frankland** and **Joanie Stapleton** never let us down with the fun! We will plan on a fun outing or event this spring and anyone interested in helping me plan it, please contact me!

To all of the snow birds and the snow bird wannabes—have a safe winter and try to get together with your Junior League friends wherever and whenever you can!

EDUCATION COUNCIL UPDATE

By Kristin Clark, Education Vice President

The Education Council is comprised of three committees: Arrangements, Training and State Public Affairs. All three committees have had a very busy autumn. After three years in the same location our Arrangements Committee, chaired by Jessica Tramontana, had the responsibility of moving our monthly General Membership Meetings to the Country Club of Lansing. This new setting at CCL proved to be fantastic for the October OPS Training and our dynamic speaker, Shannon M. Garrett was incredibly informative. Shannon's presentation, "Owning Your Expertise," made sure that all JLL members in attendance were able to verbalize our **Qualifications**, own our **Expertise**, identify our **Ambitions** and establish a plan to tame our **Fears** in 2017. Our Training Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Battiste, worked diligently to get a sponsorship from Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, who is committed to

getting more women at the table when decisions are made whether that is in public office, serving on a nonprofit board or taking on a leadership role within Junior League of Lansing.

We are looking forward to another OPS Training in April 2017. The Training Committee has expanded to include more members than in prior years in an effort to "beef up" the training. One of the opportunities the Board has identified for enhancement is with New Member training. There is a new focus on cross-council (Education and Membership) collaboration this winter to ensure our New Members receive the most robust training experience, and an effort to use technology to institutionalize and standardize some basic procedural concepts.

Our third committee, SPAC, is led by Kate Hude and Katrina Daniels and has been very busy hosting other Leagues from around the state in Lansing as the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues meets here. Additionally, serving as Secretary to that group is our very own Elizabeth Battiste. They have had success monitoring human trafficking legislation and are now involved in foster care. They recently held a very successful Day at the Capitol on March 1. JLL was represented by the highest number of attendees from any of the Leagues (yes, even more than Birmingham!).



JLL LAUNCHES ITS LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

By Stacy Bogard, Secretary

If you were on social media the week of Oct. 17 – 21, 2016, you hopefully saw a flood of postings from JLL members all wearing the same little black dress (or black ensemble) for the entire work week.

This was a new awareness initiative suggested by 2016-2017 President Kelly Miller and supported by the Board to harness the power of our community to make a difference in improving access to the essential needs vital to our community's success.

In February 2014, the Junior League of London pioneered the Little Black Dress Initiative with the goal to "Make Poverty Unfashionable." While their fellow Londoners were attending London Fashion Week, local Junior Leaguers wore the same black dress every day to increase awareness of poverty in the city. That campaign was so successful that Leagues worldwide have answered London's call and spearheaded their own LBDIs.

The Junior League of Lansing's LBDI was a social media-fueled campaign aimed at raising awareness about our League's focus area: providing access to essential needs (food, shelter, and support services) for at-risk children and families in the Greater Lansing area.

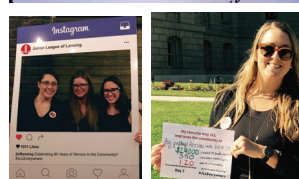
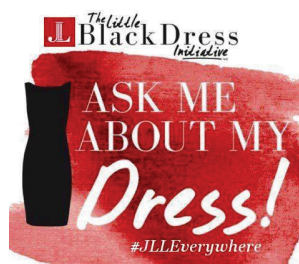
During LBDI week, JLL members wore one black dress for five consecutive days (or if a black dress didn't fit the participant's lifestyle, some other variation of a black ensemble). Members also wore a pin to prompts the public to "Ask Me About My Dress," with the goal of sparking conversation and spreading awareness about the initiative and its objectives.

Each day during the LBDI, members wrote a response to daily prompts, took a photo with the response and posted it on social media with the tag #JLLEverywhere. The prompts were:

- What does the JLL mean to you?
- The JLL is more than Little Black Dresses because. . .
- My favorite way the JLL improves the community is. . .
- The JLL has empowered me to. . .
- The JLL gives a voice to. . .

The initiative did spark a number of conversations about the community and JLL with the members who participated and those they encountered throughout the week. The total number

of Facebook likes was 6,124 with 513 loves, 201 comments and 17 shares across 36 participants. The final group photo taken by Active member Stephanie Davis of N-Zo Moments Photography reached 6,339 people through Facebook with 1,416 post clicks, 96 likes or loves and eight shares. Look for LBDI to return again in the next League year.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

By Jennifer Charette

On November 10, 2016, the Junior League of Lansing hosted the annual Lunch With League fundraiser at The University Club of MSU. The event raised \$21,700 to support JLL's mission! This year's committee did a wonderful job integrating the JLL mission by asking area nonprofits to create centerpieces displaying their organization's focus. During the lunch, a video was played to showcase how JLL works with area nonprofits that provide essential needs (food, shelter and access) to those most in need.

This year's committee members were Jennifer Charette (Chair), Renee Brunette (Vice Chair), Dione Pena, Jaimie Walsh, Eve Pourzan, Jennifer Ronan, Nicole Ceccacci, Felicia McMullen and Trystin Vanderstelt.

A big "thank you" to this year's sponsors: The University Club of MSU, Foster Swift and Walmart! Thank you to all who attended and supported Lunch With League!



MEMBERSHIP DUES STILL BEING ACCEPTED

By Kayla Byrd-Daniels, Treasurer

We have made it through another amazing fall season and early winter of Junior League activities. Dues notices were mailed out in January with payment due without penalty by Feb. 28, 2017.

A late fee of \$16 will now be assessed to any dues payments received, but you can still get them in! As a reminder, dues for Active and Senior Active members are \$130 and Sustainers are \$92.

We have multiple options to pay. Members can send a check in the mail to our Dues Bookkeeper Kristin Pricco or you can login to the Junior League of Lansing website,

www.jllansing.org. If you choose to pay online, please note that an administrative fee of \$2.50 will be charged for Active members and \$1.75 for Sustainers. The fee will be charged at the time the dues payment is made.

Additionally, please consider “rounding up” your dues to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund. Did you know that each year the Endowment Fund provides the Junior League of Lansing roughly five percent of the net asset value of the account? In 2016, JLL received a check for \$29,082.68 to help fund our mission.





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The Junior League of
Lansing thanks its
sponsors!



Mark Your Calendars for
2017 Kids in the Kitchen!

May 20, 2017
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Cavanaugh STEAM
Elementary School
300 W. Cavanaugh Rd.,
Lansing

Contact Lindsay Dangl at
lidangl@gmail.com if you're
interested in helping out
the day of the event.





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING
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The Junior League of Lansing's office is located at:
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Contact the office by phone at: **517.324.8716**
or email: **office@jllansing.org**

Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.