



Jamie Vann's President's Letter

As we bring the 2022-23 league year to a close, I have been doing a lot of reflecting. In the last few years, we have been through a lot. The uncertainty of COVID. The slow recovery. The process of continuing forward. In the last two years, we have gone from a league of women not comfortable gathering to almost back to normal. We have brought back our traditions and learned to give ourselves grace and space as needed. I am so proud we have made so many strides to the better since COVID rocked our world.

We also have made many strides toward the better. Our league has had so many successes. Our Funding Council has been spectacular with a variety of events and activities to support our mission and meet all individuals' abilities. Our Community Council has a new focus area and we have supported our community with drives and activities. We even have adopted a trail! Our Membership Council has been our league lifters. They have recruited and supported the members. Helping our league to grow in additional populations. They have been intentional about their inclusion work. Training Council has trained our members in a variety of ways and even brought life back to a signature program, Empower U. The rock of our league, the Operations Council, has been a consistent force behind all we have been doing and running the business of the league.

These are just a few of the many things I see as we wrap up. We are in a place for the future to flourish and continue to grow. I am so blessed to have been given opportunity and honor to serve as President for the last two years. Thank you and congratulations to our league in all that has been accomplished and all that will come. I look forward to continuing to see the league flourish! Grow on!

FUNDRAISING WITH OUR BOOTS ON Denim & Diamonds Gala 2023

From the first raise of the bid paddles by the nearly 150 attendees at the encouragement of MC/Autioneer Tracy Turner Taylor of Seattle TV fame, excitement was in the air at the recent annual fundraising Gala held at the picturesque Hillside Farms in Tenino.

We were shown how “it’s done” by the Diamond & Spurs country line dancers; sang along with and danced to the music tunes of the Dueling Pianos who returned from last year’s event; and ate fantastic barbecue salmon, beef and chicken from the Hunter family.

Then the serious bidders got to work doing what we do best—supporting the youth in our community who need just a little bit more help. Raise the Paddle raised over \$7,000 in a few short minutes to benefit our own Kids Count programs and the BrenRose Foundation.



Lunch and a ride-along with Thurston County Sheriff Derek Sanders was the hottest ticket of the night for two determined bidders!

Did Someone Say Dessert?

Many sustainers stepped up and assisted the Funding Committee by providing beautiful and delicious desserts that were sold by table bids in a Dessert Dash.

Strawberry tart, mini fruit pies, eyeglass cookies, cotton candy, banana pudding, ice cream sundaes, coconut mango cake, Girl Scout Thin Mint pie, cheesecake in many forms and whiskey were all up for grabs!



Over \$50,000 in bids to support the Junior League of Olympia !



Funding Chair Christina Janis, VP Kim Showalter, Tawnia DuVall, Sheriff Sanders, Sustainer Mentor Katie Frank, Kris Brown, Melissa Vannice & Vice-Chair Eva Coblentz



We couldn't do it without our sponsors!

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- State Farm —Eric Zabala
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Kids Count

This JLO year was one of rebuilding and growth for the Kids Count Committee. With the COVID-19 pandemic winding down and more in-person events/activities, the Kids Count Committee worked hard to reach out to our community partners to plan volunteer opportunities for JLO members, as volunteer opportunities were limited over the last couple of years. Kids Count also considered whether JLO should establish relationships with new community partners or limit our work to a more specific set of community partners given JLO's new focus area of advancing the social and emotional well-being of children and youth.

At times it was challenging to get ahold of and re-establish our relationships with various community organizations, and some of our usual community partners did not have a great need for volunteers. However, our small but mighty Kids Count team accomplished a lot this year!

Kids Count Volunteer/fundraising events the committee organized this year included:



- *Funds raised for the Mockingbird Society via the Ask Me About My Bag fundraiser*
- *Organized a playground clean-up volunteer event at our local Family Support Center.*
- *Promoted the annual DCYF Pinwheel Planting Event in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.*
- *Hosted a diaper drive for Dry Tikes and Wet Wipes.*
- *Solicited volunteers to help put together and deliver flower bouquets for the Mayday Foundation's May Day Fundraiser.*

William Ives Trail

This year we adopted the William Ives Trail in Lacey. The 2.6 mile, family friendly, and accessible trail travels through the Meridian Campus community. It's frequented by local residents and kids on bikes. The Kids Count Committee will arrange at least one maintenance DIAD for the trail each quarter. We're excited to provide a safe and beautiful trail for our local youth to get out in nature and improve their mental well-being.



JLO also invited representatives from several community organizations to come speak at our GMMs and hopes to continue partnering with these organizations in the future:

- *Jennifer Williamson-Forster from South Sound Reading Foundation*
- *Maija Glasier-Lawson from Family Support Center*
- *Amy Rowley from the Mayday Foundation*
- *Shelly Willis from Family Education & Support Services*

Throughout this year of rebuilding, the Kids Count Committee remained dedicated to providing volunteer opportunities for JLO members and laying the groundwork for future projects. Thank you to the Kids Count Committee for all of your hard work this year!



New Member Committee

Starting off strong, New Member Committee held a recruiting open house at Woodroof Park in August. With rolling enrollment, we were able to recruit four new members to plan the Winter Funderland New Member Project. We procured enough gifts and stockings for 100 children and were able to serve 25 foster children and their families. We also procured Vic's Pizza and Flaming Pig BBQ, and with the budget were able to serve a full meal with take home meals to all the families. We had a fun day of ornament making, slime creation, a photo booth, Santa and a snowman, frame making, a selfie wall, and other games and activities. Everyone that attended the event had a wonderful time. The event could have been improved by further marketing to increase attendance.



The year continued with another open house in January at Linger Boutique where we recruited five new members to plan the Spring Fling New Member Project. To increase attendance at the spring event, we invited our community partners to participate by sending the event information to their contacts and attending the event themselves to provide information to parents. We also opened the event to the general public to increase attendance. The attendance doubled at the Spring Fling and there were activities such as paracord bracelets, fishing, crafts, a balloon artist, story time, a selfie wall, duck pond, bean bag toss, darts, Jenga, and more. The party was carnival style and the children and families earned tickets to redeem for prizes. The leftover prizes from the winter party were used and provided enough prizes for the event. Although the attendance increased, even further marketing could improve this party in the future. The inclusion of our community partners made it a very special day for everyone.

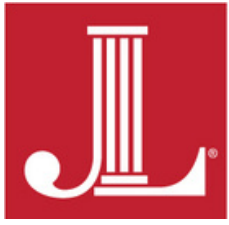


In addition, the New Member Committee tried to focus on diversity recruitment, with a focus on ensuring the diversity in our chapter matches the diversity in our community. We updated our Passport for Membership to reflect this and other changes that had been made in the League. We looked at advertising and fliers to make sure they attracted a diverse group of new members. We also held a flier contest and engaged the membership to take part in recruiting.

All in all, seven new members graduated, three are well into their requirements, and we have one brand new member!

We are proud of all our accomplishments and all the wonderful new members that we were able to recruit this year. We are also proud that so many of the new members decided to fill leadership roles within the New Member group and with their placements in the League.





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OLYMPIA

Placement & Advisory...

This year we had two advisory groups, Salt and Pepper. Along with gathering the league information to send to you in our advisory letters, we have tried to diligently communicate with members, which in the past has always been one way, email. In these times, it falls under many different communication forms: text, social media, email, phone calls, and face to face. Everyone responds to something different. We hope you each feel that you have had a personal conversation with one of us, and that we have helped you in some way this year. We have also taken on a new learning experience with our Member Essentials platform through AJLI to survey our members, incoming new, as well as Active and Sustainer, with the Placement Matching Tool. This takes information that you give us through the survey and gives us an algorithm that will best come up with a placement that best suits you, and what the league as a whole has the most and least interest in, which in essence, gives us the path forward for the next year and ideas of what content you are interested in. It also gives the member the opportunity to opt for which position they want due to how many hours they may have to give, so it's the right placement for everyone. This includes requirements to sign off on that you commit to. This is a lot of backend work on the Members Essentials platform and is an out-of-the-box experience for this committee to take on. During the placement fair, you hopefully took away what our different committees can offer you, and it may have sparked interest in something you hadn't thought before. The finalization of the placement matrix is our final push, and we have to give many hours and changes as we go. We were not sure that we could make it work with just us two (Lisa and Judy) but with the help of our council, we were successful. We did it!



News from our Placement Matching Tool Committee

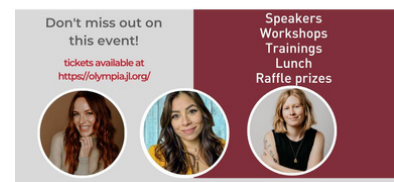
We were lucky enough to be a part of Placement Matching 2022-2023 Cohort to test and implement the placement matching tool in our league. This was a two-year commitment from the group which included Alex Monroe, Lacey Garrett, Jennifer Kelly and Heidi Clayville. We had monthly assignments, deliverables, round tables, and meetings. The feedback from the leagues chosen for this cohort. The first year we launched it was all about training our league in how to use the tool for placements. It had a few bumps in the road but overall, it was successful. The second year was mostly training and handing off the tool to the placement & advisory committee. They did a fantastic job taking the reins. The information gathered in the tool is to help us shape our league and membership experience that keeps our membership engaged.



Learning & Development Committee 2023 Review

This year the Learning and Development Committee was busy working on providing great speakers and content for the EmpowerU event in February. We were able to reach out and connect with three very diverse and interesting women in our community to speak at our event. This year's EmpowerU was focused on empowering women with setting boundaries, making connections, and the importance of our nervous system and how it affects our lives.

2023 EMPOWERU



We started the day off with light Yoga by our very own fellow Junior League member Liz Tenebaum and we ended the day with an overview of CPR training led by Thurston County Medic One.

We received several feedback responses from women that attended that the event was very meaningful, and they walked away with lots of knowledge and tips from our speakers.

The committee also hosted the March GMM this year. We provided a baked potato/salad bar. Bobbie Jo baked cookies for us also. Junior League member Vicki Jovanovic. Vicki spoke on financial planning/investing. She was a great speaker, very energetic, and gave a wonderful presentation. This was a great year of providing lots of knowledgeable training focused on emotional and financial well-being.

Great Ladies of ILO 2022-2023



Sustainers Tea 2023

