
Junior League of Olympia

Annual Report

2025-2026



JUNIOR LEAGUE
OLYMPIA

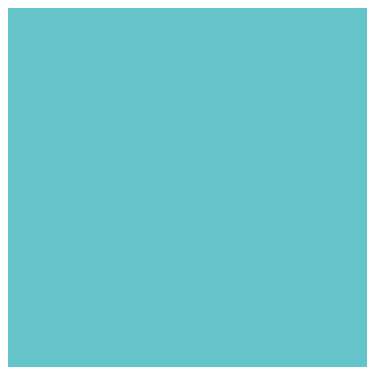
About Us

As one of hundreds of Junior League chapters across the world, we are a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI). The Olympia group began as a Junior Service League in 1987 and became a full-fledged Junior League by April 1993. Since 1987, the Junior League of Olympia plays an integral part in the development, improvement, and support of the communities of Olympia, Washington.

Above all else, our goal is to promote and perpetuate social change in the Olympia area communities that will benefit most from it. By empowering women and providing valuable leadership training, we are giving local women the tools to get involved, put their talents to work, and positively impact the communities of Thurston County.

Mission: Advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Focus Area: Our primary focus is advance the social and emotional well-being of children and youth within our community.



Board of Directors



Kelli Mohr
President



Jennifer Kelley
President-Elect



Alyssa Burgess
Operations VP



Melissa Oum
Community VP



Rochelle Andrade
Membership VP



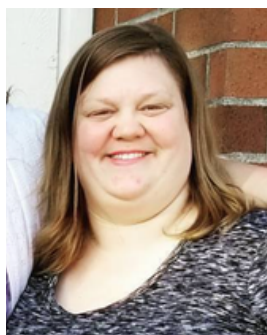
Marianne McIntosh
Co-Sustainer VP



Judy Holm
Co-Sustainer VP



Erin Jesky
Funding VP



Shelley Moritz
Nominating Coordinator

President-Elect's Letter

I was comfortable. I was a Sustainer. Just having finished Sustainer VP with my sister was so fun, how could I top that? I decided that I wasn't quite done with the leadership part of the league, so I had come up with some really great ideas for ad-hoc committees that I WANTED to do. Then I drummed up some support with the help of friends and off we went with 20(25) Acts of Kindness. This committee is a one stop shop for Junior League of Olympia, and the idea was simple; Volunteer for one of our 25 community events and get your yard sign. The yard sign was an advertisement for JLO but a lot more. There was a QR code that led you to our Public Website telling what this committee is about and had links to join(recruiting) and donate(fundraising). I think members had fun with the events and being recognized at a GMM when they earned their yard sign.....it worked! (Thank you Jamie for being co-chair with me). The someone said something about being president, but we will get back to that.

After acts of kindness was over, what was I going to do next? Everybody is talking about Mahjong, so why not make a committee for that as well! It fits in with our initiative for "Socials with a Purpose". So, I'll find out what you need and start learning how to play. Maybe even find a teacher, and an event space. Again.....it worked! (Thank you Joan, for stepping up to chair this committee)

I was at a birthday party for a friend, and I saw some former members of Junior League there, and I was talking about considering taking on the presidency. I didn't know if I wanted to take something like that on, I mean I was comfortable. My friend looked at me and said, "Maybe it's time for you to be uncomfortable". Hmmmm. That's a thought. What does that mean? It means that maybe t's time to step out of my comfort zone and grow into a new self. Scary! It's going to be Junior League's 125th anniversary, so I guess why not!?

So, after mulling it over I decided to jump in. Anyone who knows me knows that when I jump in, I'm ALL in. So here we go, for a year of learning, teaching, traveling, organizing, and showing up. We may be small, but we are mighty. Ask anyone in town, and Junior Leaguer's get things done. This is the only time I will say this, because I have complained about this, but thank you AMY for dragging me into the league with you. I am proud to be your President for the 2026-2027 League Year. Jump in and Join. It's time to get uncomfortable.

- *Jen Kelley*
President-Elect



General Membership Meetings

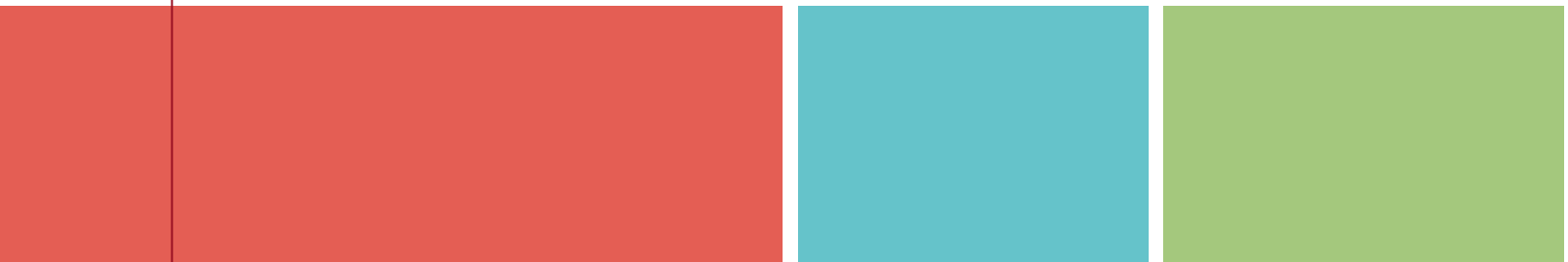
Our monthly General Membership Meetings (GMMs) continued to serve as a cornerstone for connection, learning, and organizational engagement. This year, we introduced several meaningful changes aimed at increasing access, shared responsibility, and member experience.

To promote more equitable participation, meetings were intentionally hosted at rotating locations throughout the community. This approach helped balance travel times and reduced barriers for members across different areas of town. In addition, we implemented a rotating host model, with each council taking turns planning and facilitating meetings. This shift distributed the workload more evenly, empowered councils to showcase their work, and fostered a stronger sense of shared ownership across the organization.

Each GMM was thoughtfully designed to offer value in multiple ways. Meetings throughout the year included:

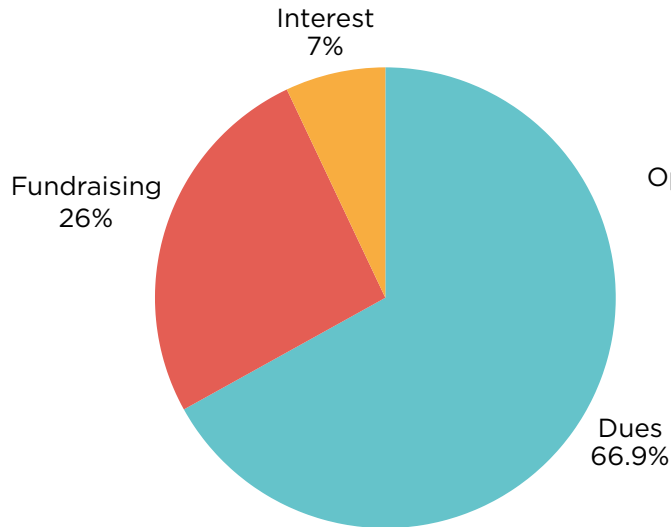
- Skill-building trainings to support leadership and personal development
- “Done-in-a-day” service or project activities that allowed members to make an immediate impact
- Guest speakers from the community, providing insight into local issues, partnerships, and opportunities
- Dedicated social time, strengthening relationships and building connections among members

Through these enhancements, our General Membership Meetings became more accessible, collaborative, and engaging, supporting both our mission and the diverse needs of our membership.

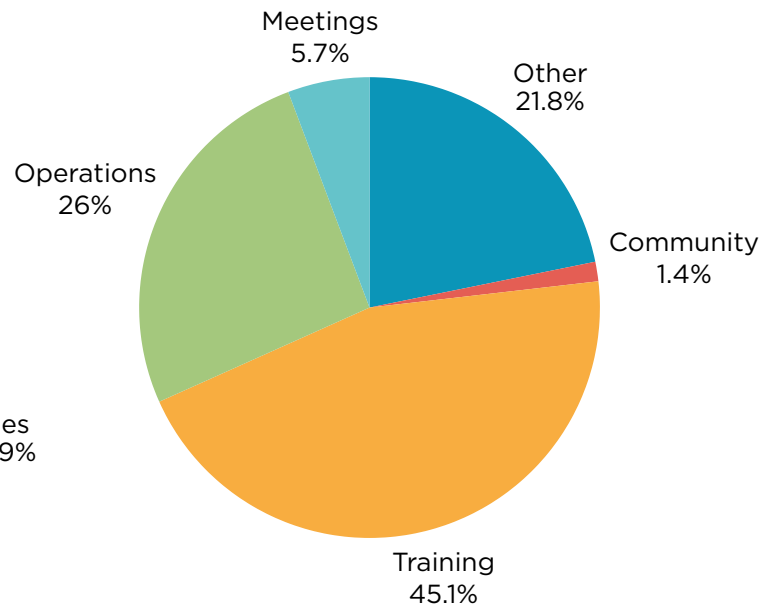


Finance

Revenue



Expenses



Volunteer Hours

1535
Total Volunteer
Hours

This equates to a monetary value of **\$55,475** based on the Independent Sector's current estimated national value of each volunteer hour, \$36.14.





Community Council

We began the league year with a Back-to-School Backpack Drive supporting Little Red Schoolhouse, collecting backpacks for children across Thurston County. This initiative supported students and families while providing members an opportunity to engage in direct community impact.

In October, Community Council coordinated a Trunk or Treat event at the Family Support Center, bringing families together for a fun and welcoming community celebration. We were grateful to partner with South Sound Reading Foundation, whose participation enhanced the event by providing books to children and promoting literacy alongside community connection.

Throughout the year, members also participated in Trail Clean-Up Days for the Junior League of Olympia Adopted Trail, supporting environmental stewardship and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to hands-on service in Thurston County.

Community Council hosted the April General Membership Meeting, featuring a Done in a Day (DIAD) service project benefiting Mayday Foundation. Members assembled 300 flower cones for Mayday's May outreach initiative, combining fellowship with meaningful service and exemplifying the League's collective impact.

Funding Council



The Funding Council was vacant for the past few years, so this year was our first year back in action. We started the year with a sales fundraiser through Lynch Creek Farms, where members could promote the sale of holiday wreaths, garlands, and other floral arrangements from a local farm. We raised \$446 through this campaign.

Quickly thereafter, we began to plan our main fundraiser for the year: Bubbles, Bunco, & Brunch. The event was held on April 18th at a member's private residence in Olympia. We sold 45 tickets, which included two drink vouchers, brunch, and the ability to play bunco. Raffle tickets were also sold so attendees could try to win a range of alluring gifts. Local businesses and members donated all of the raffle prizes. It was a beautiful spring day, and attendees, both bunco novices and experts, reported having a blast. We raised over \$3,400 from this event.

We learned a lot through these experiences and look forward to planning more fundraisers next year.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors and donors who were essential in making this event a success:

Kim Showalter
Panowicz Jewelers
Rainier Eye

Pawsific Northwest Cat Cafe
PNW Cedar Works
Tumwater Costco





Membership Council

The Membership Council focused on fostering engagement, connection, and member development throughout the 2025–2026 league year. The Membership Committee hosted a Meet & Greet at Mercato in September 2025, a Coffee Meet & Greet, and four New Member Classes, culminating in the graduation of 12 new members into active league membership. We also expanded the new member graduation celebration into a social and networking opportunity.

The Placement and Advisory (P&A) Committee continued to support member growth and leadership development by sponsoring two members to attend four Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) training events. The Junior League of Olympia was also well represented at Northwest Exchange, with 14 active and sustainer members in attendance. Two members attended with league sponsorship, while the remaining participants self-funded their experience, demonstrating a strong commitment to professional development and league engagement.

To further strengthen member connections, P&A hosted four social events throughout the year and kept in contact with a group of active members to help maintain engagement and participation. These efforts helped create meaningful opportunities for relationship building, member retention, and a welcoming experience for both new and existing members.

Welcome to our latest members who completed provisional requirements this year!

Desiree Bloomstrom

Cally Dingler

Emilee Gazaway

Stacy Ison

Nitanya Jones

Ariele Page Landstrom

Carrie Nebeker

Sally Righter

Jennie Salazar

Sarah Skillman

Danielle Vocke

Carla Whiting



Operations Council

This year, our Communications Committee played a key role in keeping members informed, connected, and engaged across multiple platforms. Through consistent outreach and improved communication tools, the team helped ensure members had timely access to information and clear pathways for sharing updates across the organization.

The team produced seven e-blasts, serving as our monthly newsletters for all members. These communications highlighted upcoming events, organizational updates, leadership information, and opportunities for involvement, supporting transparency and engagement throughout the year.

In addition, the Communications Committee maintained an active social media presence, publishing over 45 posts across platforms. This consistent activity contributed to increased visibility and engagement, resulting in more than 60 new followers on Instagram over the course of the year.

To further strengthen internal communication, the team developed a new Communications Guide. This resource outlines where and how members should share information to ensure consistency, reduce confusion, and make content easily accessible to the full membership. The guide also supports equity in communication by clarifying expectations and expanding awareness of available platforms.



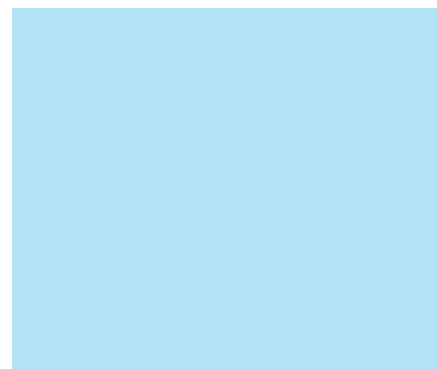
Sustainer Council

We kicked off the year by hosting our annual Sustainer Social on a lovely Sunday, enjoying steamed clams and good conversation. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends, old and new, and celebrate the community that makes our work possible.

In November, we hosted the GMM and featured “Sustainer Speed Dating,” a fun way for members to get to know one another, along with a food drive that supported our local community.

We hosted two Sustainer Council meetings and were delighted to see so many Sustainers engaged throughout the year. Members attended activities, participated in League events, and generously shared their time and talents to support our mission.

We reinstated the Sustainer–New Member Mentor Program this year, with eight Sustainers volunteering to mentor ten new members. The program has been a valuable way to foster connections and support member engagement, and we look forward to continuing it in the coming year.



Trainings

Investing in the growth and development of our members remained a priority this year. Through participation in regional and national trainings and conferences, our members strengthened their leadership skills, expanded their professional networks, and brought new ideas back to our organization. These opportunities not only support individual development but also enhance our collective capacity to serve at a higher level.

Organizational Development Training (ODT) - Chicago, IL

Two members, Jenny Switzer and Kelli Fitzgerald, attended this intensive program focused on strategic leadership, governance best practices, and organizational effectiveness.



Winter Leadership Conference - Grapevine, TX

This conference offered advanced leadership development and national networking opportunities for Jen Kelley and Jenny Switzer who represented our league.



Small Leagues, Big Impact (SLBI) - St. Louis, MO

We sent Amanda Schuyler and Kelli Mohr to SLBI, which emphasizes innovative programming, community impact, and practical solutions tailored to small but mighty leagues.

Northwest Exchange - Eugene, OR

The Northwest Exchange provided an opportunity for regional collaboration and idea sharing. We officially sent Rochelle Andrade and Erin Jesky, while an additional 11 members self-funded their attendance, demonstrating a strong commitment to professional growth.



Special Projects

Club Moxie

We created Club Moxie in 2023 as a safe space for young women to come together for meaningful experiences and intentional engagement. In May, we held our third annual Club Moxie retreat focused on older teen girls, ages 16 to 20. We hosted eight young women who spent the day learning about financial success, career pathways, self defense, and creative expression.

We extend a special thank you for our sponsors and speakers who helped make Club Moxie 2026 a success: O’Bee Credit Union, Oriana Cozzalino from Human Resolve LLC, Small to Tall Pediatric Dentistry, Half Priced Books, plus the dozens of volunteers!



Mahjong

This year, we launched a new social opportunity centered around mahjong, led by sustainer Joan Crenshaw. Members gathered more than **eight** times throughout the year to learn the game and enjoy playing together in a welcoming, low-pressure environment. These gatherings fostered meaningful connections and strengthened relationships among members, and we hope to grow this popular activity into a future fundraising event.



How to Join

The Junior League of Olympia (JLO) has served the South Puget Sound area since 1993. Our members include community leaders, mothers, professionals, executives, and entrepreneurs. This diverse organization welcomes and celebrates women of all backgrounds as each member brings a unique perspective to our organization and enriches our League.

Together, we're focused on advancing the social and emotional well-being of children and youth, and we need women like you to get involved to make real change.

- Do you want to make an impact in the South Sound community?
- Do you want access to professional trainings and personal growth opportunities?
- Do you want to help mentor women and girls?
- Do you want to meet other community minded women?

Then we think Junior League of Olympia is perfect for you! [Submit an interest form to get started.](#)



**You can also
support us by
donating!**





Thank You!

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 www.olympia.jl.org

 @juniorleagueofolympia