



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OLYMPIA

COMMUNIQUE

Spring 2020



The Year of Change

by Lisa Bishop

This year has been full of change. It is the first time Junior League of Olympia has had a two-year presidential term. While there have been some hiccups, our incredible board has filled any holes. Next year should be much smoother.

We have also started an ad hoc committee to review our focus area. Two of our members will be reaching out to our community for input on needs of our community.

We are often asked why did you join the League. *I encourage you to think about this.*

When you have your answer, ask "Why?" to that answer. Originally, my why was to meet like-minded women and grow in leadership skills. The why of that was because I was tired of working in a male dominated field and wanted to show I could be a leader.

And the why of that was because I did not feel strong enough in any of my skills to speak up and voice my thoughts. That is what League has done for me

I hope you all take a moment to reflect on your whys.

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As we plan for placements next year, it is a great time to review this year. Have I completed what I set out to accomplish this year? What can I change for next year? What placement do I really want?

With that in mind, think about what your next step is. Do your top three placements stretch your comfort zone a little? Does it give you room for growth? Is it time for you to become a Chair or Chair-Elect?

Our mission is to develop the potential of women through action and leadership. It is time to meet that mission.



EmpowerU Inspires

by Leah Dobey

On Saturday, November 16th 2019 over 30 women gathered at the South Puget Sound Community College Lacey campus for the fourth annual EmpowerU. Members spent a day diving into all things empowerment and leadership. This year's theme was "Take the Reins" and event attendees participated in hands-on learning to add new skills to their toolboxes they could use as soon as the next day.

Speakers included Michele Zukerberg, who led a session on negotiations and encouraged everyone to set a strategy before entering even a minor negotiation, Logan Reed, who spoke about the importance of balancing your mindset, skillset and heart-set, and Mariah McCleary, who captivated the audience with her quick wit and inspiring stories.

Attendees also participated in small group breakout sessions to expand their mind, body, and spirit with sessions in positive self-talk (led by JLO's own Andrea Steele!), DIY lip scrubs, and self-defense Q&A with an officer from the Olympia Police Department. Thanks to all who joined in on a great day of learning!

Capital Day Success

by Eva Coblentz

On Monday, January 20, 2020, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, over 45 Junior League Members that represented JL chapters throughout the State of Washington (Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima and Longview) collaborated in a Junior League Capitol Day Event at the State Capitol in Olympia, WA.

The event included a "Legislative 101" training from our very own Leah Dobey and Kelly Hackney, as well as, the opportunity to meet with local legislators to advocate for their prospective issues related to women, children, welfare, and educational issues in Washington State.

JLO advocated for the Mockingbird Society (a long time League partner), as they work with youth and families impacted by foster care and youth homelessness. Specifically, we advocated in support of expanding the Mockingbird Family in Washington State and to create transition housing for homeless youth.

All the leagues were very excited with the opportunity to get acquainted and look forward to next year

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

-- Helen Keller



JLO members meet with the offices of Senator Sam Hunt, Rep. Beth Doglio and Rep. Laurie Dolan to discuss Mockingbird budget proposals.

New Members Engage

by Norma Cortez-Moreno

The New Member Committee started the year off with an awesome New Member Open House. We had a great turnout of exceptional woman all interested in learning about the Junior League of Olympia.

In September, we started a yearlong new member class year with a class on "All Things JLO." Since the first class, we have helped the Provisional New Members plan another successful DCYF Christmas party, hosted a fun Christmas social, and guided them through their first JLO Placement Fair. The New Member Committee has been working very hard to educate and welcome our 2019 Provisional New Members.

The 2019 Provisional Class planned an amazing Candy Land themed Christmas party for over 80 local foster kids and their families. We hosted it at a new location this year, Timberland High School Commons, to accommodate the growing attendance. Every kid left with a book and a gift thanks to the generous donations from our members and South Sound Reading Foundation.

We had fun game stations, a photo booth, and craft tables for all ages. The DJ and Santa (Craig Holt) donated their time and made the day incredibly special for all the kids.

The Provisional New Members are in the middle of planning the annual Easter Egg Hunt for local foster kids. We are so excited to see what they put together! To end their new member year, we have one more class with a panel of sustainers and active members and then a social to celebrate!



Sustainers Impact

by Katie Frank

It's Winter 2020 and our league Sustainers have taken an active role in assisting us with the change of focus regarding the Gala. We are excited Katie Hurley and Liz Kapust volunteered to co-chair the May 16th event, which will be held at the Lacey Community Center. Check your email or the JLO Members page on Facebook or reach out Katie Frank, your Sustainer VP for further details.

In December a group of Sustainers met up at Hotel RL for a holiday happy hour and a chat about the future of the League with our now, President -Elect, Jamie Vann. It was nice to see those ladies as some of them have been in the league from the beginning of JLO in Olympia.

January's GMM saw a large group of sustainers attend the GMM and get updated on the league happenings and meet our newer members.

At February's GMM, we had a "Done in a Day" which several Sustainers attended and joined in stuffing reading book bags for the South Sound Children's Reading Foundations' give-away to new mothers and parents in our area. They were joined by Jennifer Williamson-Forster, Sustainer and past JLO president; who is the current Executive-Director of the South Sound Children's Reading Foundation. She gave the membership a quick insight into the foundation's purpose, projects, mission and thanked our membership for its years of assistance in giving children in our area, a solid literacy foundation that pays dividends for decades to come.

February also found Sustainer Barb Nickham and her husband Wes presenting a procurement training for membership to assist the league with a successful gala event in May.

A trip is in the planning stages to Woodburn, Oregon's Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm and Vineyard, with some optional outlet shopping near the event. That is looking at early April as a date, possibly during the week as not to have too many crowds.

The annual Sustainer Tea is slated for late April at Uncork and Unwind, more information on that to come in the next few e-blasts, so watch your email. Have a great end to winter and a wonderful start to spring.



Kids Count Delivers

by Judy Holm

The 2019-2020 Kids Count committee was very busy as our League year took off! We provided funds for facilitator trainings for Pizza Klatch and heard from a member of their Board at our GMM.

In October we supplied and filled Welcome Bags for children of various ages arriving at the Safe Place domestic violence shelter. We created 75 bags with items appropriate for infants and toddlers, young children, middle aged kids, and teens. Eight members attended the DIAD for this project.

In January we had a fun Birthday Party and packed Birthday Bags for the Mayday Foundation, serving children whose families are experiencing cancer treatment. We had a great showing at this DIAD, with about 25 members and their kids helping.

In February we helped sticker and stuff about 830 board books for the South Sound Reading Foundation, which will be given to families of newborns to encourage family literacy practices. We had art supply and snack drives for Monarch and Stand up for Kids. And we have provided ongoing support to our partner, Camp Hope, with their semi-monthly gatherings of camp alumni. We have cooked and provided three dinners for these gatherings so far this year.

We had quite a few of our partners speak to the league at our monthly GMMs. The League financially supported these community partners as well, with over \$15,000 worth of grants.

PNA Selects

by Jennifer Kelley

This has been an unusually busy nominating year for your Placement, Nominating and Advisory (PNA) committee. We had five positions to fill this year; two were voted in by the membership with a quorum present voting by ballot. Congratulations to:

- President Elect- Jamie Vann 2020-2021 (will follow as President 2021-2023)
- Operations Vice President- Eva Coblentz 2020-2022

We vetted these ladies during October and November, in which they went through the applications process, had face-to-face interviews with PNA, and answered written questions. Then PNA came to an internal majority vote. This process was not easy for anyone and took many hours to complete.

Anne Dalton from AJLI was so kind as to lend us her knowledge in circumstances that had never before arisen in our league; an Independent Nomination. The independent nominee ended up declining the nomination and we moved forward with the one candidate in December and the membership voted.

This year was unprecedented in learning new and interesting guidelines that came as a result of the President-Elect candidates proving all deserving and competent. This made our choice all the more difficult, and this, I think, is the essence of The Junior League. We have so many bright, educated, driven women in our small league that it is extremely hard to differentiate between them.

We also had three board appointed positions to fill. They too went through the application process, met in face-to-face interviews, and PNA voted as a majority with these ladies as well. The Board voted and passed these women forward. Congratulations to:

- Membership Vice President- Barbara Nickum 2020-2021
- Sustainer Vice President- Katie Frank 2020-2021
- Training Vice President- Rachelle Masseline 2020-2022

With socials, advising our members, and nominations, it has made for one heck of a year! I would personally like to thank my fellow committee members - ladies with strong minds and versatile opinions. It has been anything but dull to work with you.

Lena, Heidi, Erin, Dimity and Christine THANK YOU!!!! It has been a pleasure serving this year as your Nominating Chair.

