

JULEP MAGAZINE

2017-2018 Issue

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Picture courtesy of Chris Sopher



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PEORIA

Women Building Better Communities

JuniorLeagueofPeoria.org

Letter from Our President

Over the last several years we have conceptualized our understanding of the Mission of the Junior Leagues as “PDI” -- promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities. I want to talk today about *how* we do that, not idly or reluctantly or in a plodding fashion, but as “Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change” (the Vision of the collective Junior Leagues). The word Catalyst sums up perfectly my impressions of the Junior League of Peoria and you as its members. Because to be a Catalyst is to be “an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action,” to be “something that causes an important event to happen.” It means “a person whose talk, enthusiasm, or energy causes others to be more friendly, enthusiastic, or energetic.” You are all of these -- you identify opportunities, you create solutions, you drive change, and you bring others along with you.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Association of Junior Leagues International’s Annual Conference. At every Annual Conference, representatives from each League cast their votes regarding the direction of the Junior League as a whole. As I prepared to represent our League, reviewed my conference materials, and analyzed the motions presented for consideration, I was again reminded of the strength of character and impactful nature of the women of the Junior League of Peoria. What brought this so sharply to my attention was the vote on whether we as unified Junior Leagues could, or should, add the following to the list of “Values” shared by all Leagues across AJLI:

Collaboration: We believe lasting societal change is achieved through both collaboration and meaningful disagreement. Living the value of collaboration inspires us to accomplish more together.

Community: We believe a strong sense of community is essential to human well-being. Living the value of community provides a foundation of inclusion, which allows us to make a greater impact on the world around us.

Empowerment: We believe that the empowerment of women is a necessary requirement to create positive, lasting societal change. Living the value of empowerment fosters trust and confidence in each other.

Leadership: We believe in the unique power of women’s leadership abilities to transform communities for the better. Living the value of leadership allows us to make a collective difference.

Respect: We believe respect is a fundamental human right. Living the value of respect instills in us an unconditional positive regard for others.

Service: We believe it is through service that we build core relationships with others. Service is the lens through which we decide how we will invest our time and resources. Living the value of service empowers us as catalysts for lasting community change.

It was an easy vote. Because what was so striking about these potential “new” values is that they are not new at all. Every single one is already embraced, modeled, and embodied by the women of the Junior League of Peoria. Every day, through your

League work, through the character you demonstrate, through your dedication to the Peoria area as your home, you show yourselves and others what it really means to build better communities.

At the close of my first year as the President of the Junior League of Peoria, I want to thank you all for being Catalysts -- Catalysts for the League, Catalysts for our communities, and Catalysts for me personally. The work all of you do, and the exuberance with which you approach it, every day replenishes my commitment to trying to make a difference, somewhere, in some impactful way. You are living the Values in a dynamic and resonating way, and our communities and our League are immeasurably better for it.

Amanda Campbell





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PEORIA

ABOUT US

Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, The Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing 150,000 women in 291 Leagues in four countries.

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JOIN US

August 18-24, 2018: Little Black Dress Initiative

September 11: General Membership Meeting

March 8-9: Frolic With the Fairies

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda Campbell, *President*

Christi Walker, *Executive Vice President*

Megan Homan, *Director at Large*

Laura Bazhenow, *Director at Large*

Emily Wilburn, *Recording Secretary*

Emilie Egan, *Treasurer*

Abby Clark

2017-2018 Volunteer of the Year

While many organizations benefit from her leadership, Abby is instrumental in the overall success of the Junior League of Peoria. As a League member, she has served in many capacities, including twice as the Chair for Kids in the Kitchen, Board Secretary, and most recently, President. As President of JLP, she was vital in ensuring the Ballance-Herschel House was sold to the right buyers who will continue its legacy. She further developed the League's new Education Initiative by working with Peoria Public Schools and its Foundation. As Past President, she is working on the League's "Playbook", detailing League positions and revising the League's policies. She is also a mentor for our President, Amanda Campbell.

As a United Way Board member, Abby serves as Chair-Elect and Co-Chair of the Human Resources committee and Community Investment Chair. In this position, she oversees the United Way's grant application process for the Community Impact Fund. Her knowledge has guided the Community Impact Fund allocation process to increase the capacity and performance of the HOIUW and its partner agencies. She has also been entrusted with the future sustainability and growth of the organization by serving as the Chair of the Search Committee for the new President.

Abby has received many community awards including, but not limited to: 40 Leaders Under 40, 25 Women in Leadership, a Woman of Influence, and the Boys and Girls Club's Most Valuable Citizen Award.

Qualities that make Abby stand out include her self-deprecating humor, strong character and her uncanny ability to relate to anyone who crosses her path. If you have had the pleasure of getting to know her, you will notice that she is the life of the party. And she, without question, will always give other women the guidance, mentoring, respect, and confidence they deserve and need to be effective leaders in their communities. Amazingly, she sometimes guides these women to accomplish feats that they never would have dreamed of doing - all because of her support and belief in them.

And not to mention, she is a rock star attorney, mom, wife and friend.



*Through her time,
compassion and
knowledge, Abby
exemplifies the impact a
volunteer can have on a
community.
She truly is a volunteer
extraordinaire.*

DC DAVIS &
CAMPBELL
L.L.C.

Carole Ackerman

2017-2018 Harriet Vance Parkhurst Sustainer of the Year

The Sustainer of the Year Award was created in 1997 to annually recognize and honor a sustainer for her extraordinary commitment to the League and community. The award was named in memory of Harriet Vance Parkhurst.

When Carole was elected as president of her University of Illinois sorority, she sought leadership advice from the Dean of Women, asking her the following question: "How can I best serve these women who have shown faith in me?" Nearly six decades later, she is still following the advice given by her wise mentor: To get the best results -- while showing sensitivity and true caring for others -- one must "organize, deputize, and supervise!" Carole has energized the Peoria area through more than 50 years of impressive leadership and community service, especially as a member of the Junior League of Peoria.

Community has always been Carole's passion. She has served as a Board Member and President of the Human Service Center. She was a Founding member of the Women's Fund of the

Community Foundation of Central Illinois, and has been very involved with the YWCA. She has also demonstrated leadership as a Board Member and President of the Mental Health Association of Illinois Valley, where she was honored as Volunteer of the Year, and has served on several mental health advisory committees as well. Carole also served on the Board of Directors and as Pillar Chair for the United Way, where she and her husband inspired others to join them in giving at a leadership level. In leading by example, she has motivated others to become more involved in their communities. Carole was recently recognized and received the award for outstanding volunteerism at the Community Foundation's 2017 Leader Luncheon.

Carole's leadership attributes extend to her faith as well. Her leadership as a member of First United Methodist Church has ranged from chairing the Administrative Board (as one of its first female chairpersons) to serving on the church's Foundation Board, the body that underwrites grants for community projects. She recently played an important leadership role in the renovation of the church's structure in downtown Peoria, which now serves as home for numerous civic, art, social, youth, and religious programs in the heart of the city. She also has assisted children from Lincoln School into membership within the Lincoln Choir, a music outreach program for underserved children from Peoria's near-North side.

Carole has also demonstrated strong and sustained support for the Junior League of Peoria, from training new members as Provisional Chairperson to

later serving as Vice President and President. She led the League during a transition time when women were returning to work outside the home, addressing membership needs during this period as the organization adapted to changing roles for women in the workplace. Her creativity and willingness to "organize, deputize, and supervise" allowed an eventual major shift in membership recruitment strategy and diversity. She has continued to be very active, showing unwavering support for the Sustainer Engagement Committee. This year she participated in the fall planning meeting, took the lead in planning the Sustainer Open House for our new Headquarters, and agreed without hesitation when asked if she would mentor an active member.



Adopt-A-School Update

What is Adopt-A-School?

The Adopt-A-School program is a partnership between schools, business, and organizations in Peoria. The purpose of the program is to utilize the time, talent, and treasure of our community to strengthen, influence, and enrich the quality of education in the Peoria Public Schools. The 2017-2018 League year marks the second year of the three year Adopt-A-School grant to the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The grant pays the salary of the Adopt-A-School Coordinator, Sarah Oakford. As of now, there are 98 AAS community partners, with at least one partner in each school. Community Partners consist of churches, volunteer groups and local businesses.

What Has it Achieved?

Since Sarah began just two years ago, the number of students receiving snack packs has doubled. This is from both adding additional snack packs at existing schools and adding new schools to the program. Also, a new program started this year at Lincoln Middle School. The new program, "Making the Grade", paired AAS partners with students to review progress reports on a one on one basis. Partners offered advice and encouragement, and showed the students that someone cares about them, their grades, and future. This was extremely successful at Lincoln Middle School and will be introduced at additional schools during the 2018-2019 school year. Dr Kherat suggested it was well received by volunteers and students and was an incredible opportunity.

So What's Next?

JLP believes that metrics and measurements are an important part of measuring the success of the AAS program. Kristal Roop has worked closely with the Foundation this year to identify metrics and data that can be used to show progress in the program and in the schools. Metrics related to attendance, out of school suspensions, test scores and academic progress will be reported and monitored quarterly going forward.



Adopt-A-School Achievements

In just two years:

- 1,460: number of volunteers
- 20,124: volunteer hours
- \$162,250: total in in-kind donations
- \$16,688: total in financial donations
- 92%: percentage of partnerships continuing their partnership a second year



For more information on the Adopt-A-School Program, contact Sarah Oakford: Sarah.oakford@psd150.org or 309.282.5270

peoria public schools
foundation

Gone But Not Forgotten

A Ballance-Herschel House Update

JLP Member and Peoria Realtor Kendra Sipes reached out to the new owners for an update on the old JLP Headquarters on Randolph Street. After saying goodbye to the BHH in 2016, the new owners have been pretty busy updating the 125+ year old home, thus reassuring we selected the best owners to continue the historic home's legacy.

They've made several utilitarian updates, replacing 90% of the old galvanized plumbing with copper pipes after the water tested positive for lead. After replacing, they still found trace levels (though safe at the moment) and are using filters until the water company can replace the pipes from the mainline to the street.

Along with the pipes, they replaced faucets on the kitchen sink and bathtub to make them functional, updated the stove outlet to the kitchen, and re-arranged the appliances in order to work on the butlers pantry.

They have left the living room and parlors as they are and are using the 3rd floor as their main entertainment space, where the TV and couch are. They want to keep mostly antique furnishings in those main rooms. They were asked to be on the Historic Society's Christmas tour this year and are still considering it.

They made a repair to the porch after one of the spindles fell off in the fall. They had to take it to an Amish carpenter in Arthur, IL because they couldn't find anyone in the area willing to do wood turning on a piece that large.

Several major items they plan on addressing this summer include removing the emergency escape, repairing gutters and downspouts, and repairing the chimney flashing that is causing water leaks into the green bedroom. They wanted to repair the plaster in the library and build in some shelving, but that may have to wait until winter.



Celebrating Our Members

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

ABBY CLARK

*Boys and Girls Club of Peoria
Heart of Illinois United Way
Most Valuable Citizen Award*

MONICA HENDRICKSON

40 Leaders Under Forty

SANDY GARZA

25 Women In Leadership

EMILY CAHILL

Women of Influence

AMANDA CAMPBELL

PPS Foundation Supporter of the Year

ANDREA TORTORA

PPS Foundation Supporter of the Year

TEN YEARS: CLASS OF 2007-08

ABBY J. CLARK

COLLEEN DIGIALLONARDO

HOLLI HEINZ

HEATHER RUSSO

FIVE YEARS: CLASS OF 2012-13

AMY CARLSON

KRISTEN FREDERICK

MEGAN HOMAN

JESSICA KOBER

CORINNE OLSON

STEPHANIE PETRI

ALI TURNER



The Little
Black
Dress
Initiative

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PEORIA

LITTLE
BLACK
DRESS
INITIATIVE
Week

Stay tuned to learn more about
events throughout the week!

M T W T F

#JLPeoria
#LBDI
#unstoppable
#JLPdoesLBDI

Welcoming Our New Members

2017-2018 was another great League year for new members, welcoming 17 new members thanks to the Recruitment subcommittee's hard work. The Fall and Spring New Classes were organized by Amy Carlson, Carly Scott and Janay Yotter. Each class spent half a year learning about the history of the League, volunteering in the community, participating in training and development opportunities, and building lasting relationships.

New member training commenced with an orientation at the JLP headquarters. During this event, the new class met members from the governance board and management team and received an overview of JLP. Furthermore, orientation is used as an opportunity to connect with fellow new members.

Following orientation, new members volunteered for a Done in a Day event at the Family House, and completed a



scavenger hunt across Peoria to find past projects. These activities gave the new members a chance to give back to the community and learn about the impact of the League in the community over the years.

Another highlight of the new member training was the Sustainer Panel. A special thanks to Lisa Plantamura for organizing the Sustainer Panel for the League year. During the panel, the JLP sustainers shared how the League impacted them, and what they accomplished within and outside of the League. We were even able to get insight from multiple past JLP presidents!

This League year a new event was added entitled *Mapping Out Your Junior League Career*. This was a travel themed event that encouraged the new members to visit different cities (committee tables) and learn about each



committee (time commitment, sample tasks, competencies developed) and how they can contribute after graduation. After visiting each city, new members spent time filling out placement forms and networking with other league members.

The final activity was the new member project. The fall new member project completed a room flip of the Richland Community Center for the South Side Office of Concern. The spring new member project was a room flip of a tutoring space at Common Place.

CONGRATS AND THANKS

To Our New Members!

Megan Aberle Kate Legge

Paige Blumenshine Becky Noble

Rachel Bradle Kelly Reardon

Marissa Cline Jessica Reyling

Samantha Conley Nikki Romain

Laurie Heinold Jennifer Pearce

Crystal Johnson Megan Snodgrass

Michelle Jones Elyse Vernon

Carmen Kremitzki



2018 FROLIC WITH THE FAIRIES

SKY EXPLORERS

The 10th annual Frolic with the Fairies fundraiser filled the ballroom at Par-a-Dice with Sky Explorers! The annual event was held on March 8th & 9th at the Par-a-Dice Hotel Ballroom and for the first time ever, hosted events for both girls *and* boys. As always, our Junior League of Peoria ladies made Frolic with the Fairies a huge success by bringing together entertainment, vendors and photographers for a truly magical weekend.

This year our decorator, Christi Walker, made everyone feel like they were stepping into an airy, whimsical world. The room was decorated with hot air balloons, clouds, and hidden treasures to be found by our sky explorer girls and boys.

We had four seatings available, one on Friday evening and three on Saturday, and we hosted around 1,500 guests. This year we had two guest hosts, Alex Menke from WEEK-HOI and Clare Zell from the Peoria Civic Center. The Friday event hosted dinner, a dance

lesson (hosted by JLP member Emily West), and ended with a dance party led by DJ Ryan Hogan. Saturday/s events included a fairy feast, a ballet performance by Cornerstone Academy of Performing Arts, musical performance by Julie K, fairy fashion show and promenade. Saturday night exclusively held a special sky explorer story and treasure hunt!

The Events Committee would like to thank Par-A-Dice Hotel for hosting our tenth annual Frolic with the Fairies fundraiser! Thank you to all of our JLP members who supported by volunteering a large amount of their time, and a very special thank you to Marietta Azavedo who put an extra effort into the event despite her busy travelling schedule. Once again as a League we have pulled together and accomplished an amazing fundraising event that many in the community look forward to every year.

Photos compliments of Brooke Michele Photography.



Two convenient locations:



Peoria Studio

9226 N. Industrial Road
Peoria, IL 61615
(309)693-8277

Washington Studio

308 Peoria Street
Washington, IL 61571

• 9226 N. Industrial Road
Peoria, IL 61615

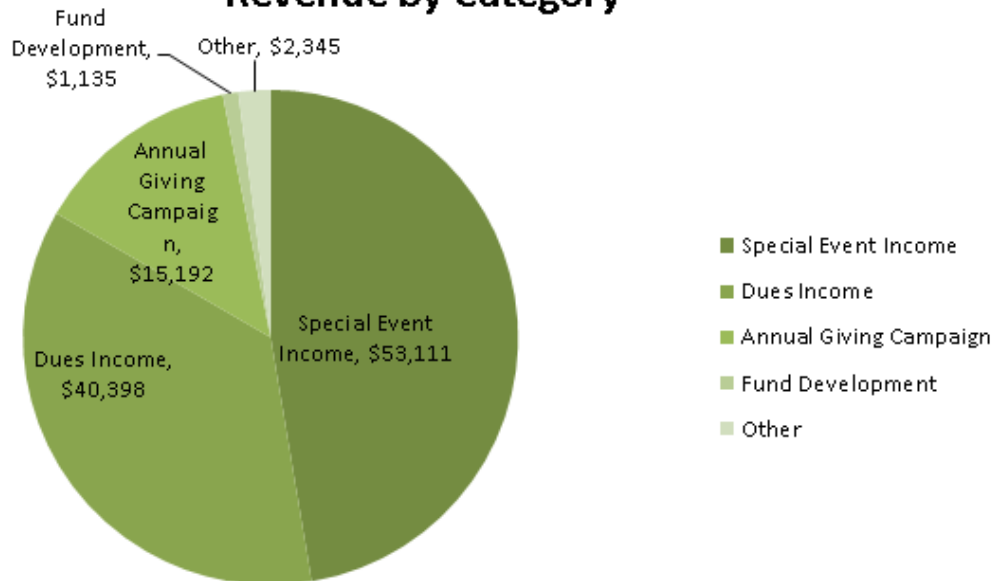
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kimsdancepeoria@yahoo.com

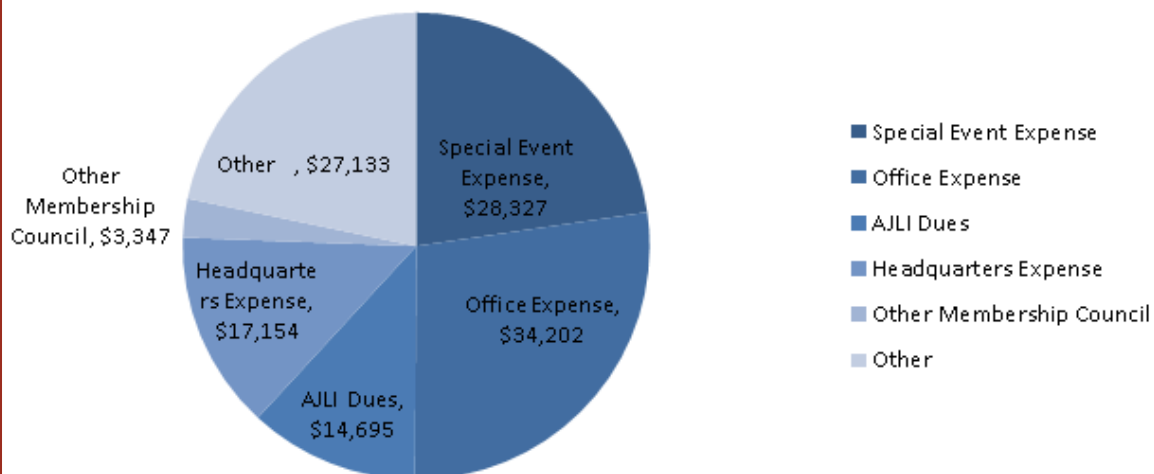


Our Financials

Revenue by Category



Expenditure by Category



Our Volunteer Hours

Promoting
Volunteerism

187

Developing
the Potential
of Women

2,875

Improving
Community

440

Our New Headquarters

Sustainers and Active Members enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and refreshments during the Official Ribbon Cutting of our Headquarters on September 21, 2017. The new location is downtown near Kelleher's at 114 State Street Suite 2A and marks a new beginning for the Junior League of Peoria.



Our New Member Projects



Fall New Member Project 2017:

The new member class worked with the Richland Community Center to turn their main room into an inviting study area for the children they serve every day. By reaching out for donations from the League family, they were able to exceed their expectations. By better utilizing the space, the new members created a small computer lab using equipment that had already been donated to the community center. Through a generous donation from the membership, a reading nook was created, complete with super comfy beanbag chairs and a large assortment of books. White boards were donated to create a learning space for the kids to work on their homework, or even some fun arts and crafts projects. The study space is also utilized by the Junior League to host Kids in the Kitchen events for the Richland Bottoms Community. The small room that was once the local laundromat has been given new life.

The Community Center serves Richland neighborhood is home to about 750 people in the East Peoria Community, just steps away from the Caterpillar plant.

Spring New Member Project 2018

The new member project for the spring 2018 class partnered with Common Place Family Learning Center to renovate a room to create a space for studying and tutoring. They cleaned, painted, and decorated the space with office items donated by League members. Additional items were purchased to create a truly transformed space for learning. After the new member project members completed the renovations, the Common Place team held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new beginnings and the continued efforts of a truly amazing organization.

Opening its doors in 1967 to youth learning and community outreach, Common Place expanded its learning services in 1979 to include an adult learning program. Common Place was the first adult literacy program in Peoria serving over 4,000 adults through one-on-one tutoring and small group classes for reading, writing, math and life skills.



Our Impact on the Community

The Junior League of Peoria kicked off the 2017-18 league year by sprucing up the administration building for the Peoria Public Schools on Aug. 8. The JLP women planted bushes and added flowers to landscape beds to beautify the exterior of the Wisconsin Avenue building. It was a great way to brighten the surrounding community and make the building more welcoming.

Our next adventure was assisting the neighborhood of Richland Bottoms on Oct. 14. This area, located in East Peoria, needed to have debris cleared, overgrown shrubbery trimmed back and weeds cleared. Members assisted several residents who require help taking care of their property. Many volunteers commented how grateful they were to be able to give back to a veteran who had served our country and now needed our assistance making his back yard more handicap accessible. He was so appreciative. It made our day!

As Halloween neared, JLP volunteers assisted Best Buddies with its Halloween party on Oct. 21. Best Buddies creates opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Halloween party was a fun way to celebrate the holiday with kids and adults tasting treats, playing games and enjoying each other's company. The volunteers interacted with the participants by helping them with food, teaching them new games and just having fun with the kids.

November brought an opportunity to enjoy a game night with several EPIC residents. EPIC serves adults living with developmental disabilities. It manages group homes that allow its adult clients to live independently and support each other with daily life skills. On Nov. 6, the ladies of the Junior League visited two homes to play games with residents. Volunteers and residents alike had a great time playing bingo. All participants look forward to another game night in the future.

The women of the Junior League of Peoria started December by bringing

Christmas joy to Peoria seniors. On Dec. 3, volunteers helped Neighborhood House by delivering presents to homebound seniors. Not surprisingly, those making deliveries enjoyed the gift giving experience probably more than the recipients. Several volunteers extended their initial two-hour shift to deliver more presents. What a way to bring in the holiday season!

Next on the December calendar was the Neighborhood House Toy Pick up on Dec. 5. JLP women spent time picking up donated toys. Families were able to wrap and give these items to their children this holiday season. What a gift for our volunteers! It was wonderful to know that we could help improve a child's Christmas.

We started 2018 by assisting the Center for Prevention of Abuse. The center helps people who have suffered physical or mental abuse, elderly who have been injured and human trafficking victims. The center was looking for a way to improve a room used for interviews and caseworker meetings. On Jan. 26 and 27 our volunteers painted the room, spruced up the décor and brought in a few fresh pieces of furniture. One of our members, Megan Homan, painted a beautiful picture that now accents the room.

In February, we returned to the Center for Prevention of Abuse and decorated the TV and family room. This area is where residents come to unwind and

spend time with their children. Through generous donations, we were able to provide new comfortable furniture and other updated furnishings. The space is now inviting and relaxing for all to enjoy. Volunteers painted walls, assembled furniture, displayed décor and hung magazine racks and wall hangings. A positive note board was installed for residents to write one another inspiring thoughts and lift each other's spirits through tough times. There was a whole new feeling to the room when it was complete.

We ended up the league year by hosting the Race for the Cure Kids Zone on May 12. JLP volunteers have organized many fun activities for the morning, including:

- A kids warm up by Michey Maloof of Sculpt Mode by Michieline Fitness
- “Wafflewich” making station from Kids in the Kitchen, using waffles, yogurt and fresh fruit
- Imagination Playground will be available for kids to assemble and play with
- Hair styling and accessories from Tricoci University of Beauty Culture



Developing & Training Our Members



Throughout the 2017-2018 League year, the Training and Development committee kept busy scheduling speakers on topics directly relating to The Junior League Competency Model for Community and Civic Leadership. This competency model, which focuses on Developing Self, Managing and Developing Others, Driving Results, and Leading Innovations, comes directly from the Association of Junior Leagues International.

In October, we started off the year by hearing from Shelli Dankoff, who is the Media Relations Coordinator at OSF. This offered a great training for Developing Self while educating JLP on best practices on speaking with the media. In December, we had the honor of hearing from one of our own, Sustainer Lisa Plantamura who is the Regional Director of Organizational Development and Engagement at UnityPoint. She spoke on visionary leadership which relates to Managing and Developing Others. Colleen Runkle, another Sustainer and Director of Development at WTVP, visited us in January to give advice on how to present JLP on your resume. These helpful tips focused on Developing Self.

February's speaker was Cindy Byrd, who is the Founder/Owner of Image Potential Training and Consulting. Cindy's presentation was on clearing

roadblocks and breaking down silos in communication, which relates to the Managing and Developing Others piece of the model. Our last General Membership Meeting training of the year was presented by Becky Wood, Management and Leadership Instructor at Bradley University. Becky did a great job engaging the audience while speaking on emotional intelligence, which incorporates Developing Self. We are always thankful that these amazing resources in the community take the time to strengthen the Junior League of Peoria through training.

The Membership Training Development Committee also hosted a new event this year – a public speaking training. Although most JLP members wouldn't volunteer to spend their Saturday morning working on public speaking, we had a great turnout of ladies who were excited to learn! This training was put on by Laura Bruns, Lecturer of Speech Communication at Bradley University. Laura did an excellent job of keeping this topic fun and interactive. Those who attended even got to witness President Amanda Campbell performing rap lyrics in different expressions! We look forward to more trainings next year.



AJLI Organizational Development Institute

The Association of Junior Leagues International sponsored a combined annual meeting and organizational development institute in Memphis this April. President Amanda Campbell attended the annual meeting while President Elect Andrea Tortora and Community Outreach Committee Chair Cindy Kiel participated in the ODI. Both sessions reaffirmed the League continues to be a movement standing on a strong, solid footing in these times of accelerating change. "The only thing that can stop our success is us," outgoing AJLI President Carol Scott said in her opening remarks. Inspiring and empowering speaker Muniba Mazari drove that point home by sharing her own life story. After being paralyzed in a car accident at age 21, Mazari was told she would never paint again, or be a mother. She proved her doctors wrong in a big way. (You can watch some of her talks on YouTube.) Mom to a 12-year-old boy, Mazari is an accomplished artist, TV show host and global public speaker. Her message: Be true to you who are. As the Junior League of Peoria works to expand member training programs and community engagement efforts, we'll be working hard to ensure that our mission is the common thread through everything we do. At the annual meeting, all leagues unanimously agreed on AJLI values. You can learn more about this by reading Campbell's President's Letter on page 2.

Kiel attended sessions focused on powerful ways to design community programs and partnerships that have significant impact. She shared the following ideas and key take-aways:

Communication. It is key to communicate in various ways throughout the League, so that all members understand why we are doing what we are doing.

Mission. All members should understand how our volunteer activities, fundraising events and member trainings complement one another and link back to our mission to promote voluntarism and to improve the Peoria community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Members. Ask what members want and try to fulfill that. Trainings and leadership development should be key components of everything we do.

Community partners. When we work with another agency, we should ask what it could do for us. Do they have experts on staff who could lead a training session for members?

Sustainers. Engage sustainers at completely different levels by giving them more opportunities and encouraging their involvement at any level they prefer. Consider forming a sustainer group for each committee, to lend expertise and ideas.

Tortora attended workshops about strategies for sustainable and diversified fund development. She shared these highlights:

Fundraising events. When adding a new fundraising event,

choose one that costs little and does not require a lot of volunteer hours. Use events to attract/retain members and promote the League's mission. The most profitable fundraising events are those closely tied to the League mission.

Annual campaign. Encourage all League members to give at some level. It is difficult to ask for money from people and organizations outside the League if members do not financially support the mission. Highlight members who give to encourage others to join them.

Increased donor participation. The best prospect is a past donor. Build the donor pipeline by creating giving societies or levels. Work to upgrade some donors each year. According to the Giving USA 2017 Annual Report on Philanthropy, 72% of the \$390 billion given in 2016 came from individuals. Explore individual sponsorships, planned giving opportunities.

Make the case for support. Engage donors in being partners with the League. Craft a statement that shows supporters how their gift will bring benefits. Show prospects their gift matters more with the League because it supports specific community projects *and* helps train members.

Make the ask. Fight your fear. Meet in person if at all possible. Ask for what you want. Be specific. Show the person you are talking with how their gift will make a difference. Thank them as soon as possible afterward.

One of the benefits of attending ODI and the annual meeting is the ability to share and learn from League members from other cities. Being in Memphis, they also had the opportunity to see St. Jude Hospital on a moving tour led by Markie Maloof, Jim Maloof's granddaughter. There was also time to visit the National Civil Rights Museum and to watch the march of the Peabody Hotel ducks.

Campbell, Kiel and Tortora gathered lots of insight and ideas, which they will share with the League.



Worldwide Day of Play

JLP Ladies participated in fun and interactive experiences at Worldwide Day of Play. The annual event at Glen Oak Park is a free day of fun for families to enjoy. Worldwide Day of Play is part of a national effort by Nickelodeon to get children outside for 4 hours instead of in front of the television. JLP, along with other community partners, hosted free games and activities throughout the day.

Positioned in front of the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum's porch, the women of JLP were able to interact with kids with the Imagination Playground, hula hooping, ring toss and a nature color matching game. In addition, we taught children to make Frisbees using paper plates, crayons, scissors and tape. Kids in the Kitchen was there to provide a healthy snack option of bananas dipped in yogurt with various toppings. We recruited potential new members to help gain future interest from community partners on activities and collaboration. Overall, the event was a huge success and we had a wonderful rotation of volunteers to help assist on the gorgeous fall day. Kudos to all that joined and visited! We look forward to the 4th annual event on September 8, 2018.

Peoria PlayHouse + JLP



The Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum remains a big part of the Junior League of Peoria's efforts over the last year, with large contributions from time, talents, and treasures of women in the League. Over the last year, the League has helped to provide a collective effort towards volunteer efficiency. The PlayHouse committee focused on creating a volunteer database along with contacts of community partners, rewriting the volunteer material on the PlayHouse website, and creating a satisfaction survey to distribute to all PlayHouse volunteers. In addition, many women have been involved in supporting the PlayHouse on the Advisory Board as well as supporting committees. Through those efforts, we've assisted in updating the PlayHouse's website mapping and content, implemented a social media, completed marketing research in partnership with Bradley University, and worked as a partner to the Peoria Chamber of Commerce's Community Leadership School to define a development position and strategy. Furthermore, the League has assisted in many volunteer efforts and lead positions for Hopscotch and Be Anything.

Be Anything!

Be Anything! was held in September as children were able to explore career possibilities in a dynamic program at the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum with local professionals ranging from an architect to a veterinarian. During the event, children and their families traveled through the PlayHouse to engage in career-related activities and chat with professionals, to imagine themselves in a wide variety of careers and learn more about the career paths that interest them. In this way, children can start thinking about what they can start doing to prepare them to *be anything*.

The event's unique online auction experience kicked off on Worldwide Day of Play experience for parents to bid on individual career-related experiences for their child with approximately 80 professionals around and beyond Peoria. The auction featured time on-the-job with local professionals from a wide range of career sectors, including technology, the arts, entertainment, business, engineering, science, services, non-profit, athletics, and education.

Be Anything! was an enormous success, grossing over \$20,000 nearly doubling the previous year's proceeds. JLP will support the PlayHouse in its mission of helping children become explorers and creators of the world and in making sure that the PlayHouse is accessible to ALL children, regardless of income, abilities, or background.

Hopscotch

The 3rd annual Hopscotch event was held on January 25, 2018 at the PlayHouse. HopScotch is our annual adults-only event that helps us kick off the new year. The Cookery returned to provide guests with tasty selections while guests explored the museum. Noir and Hearth returned again this year to provide their delicious whiskey cocktails. New this year, was Edge, Tan-nins and Hops, and Zion, which were deemed a success by attendees. Beer presenters Half Acre, Destihl and Triptych joined in the fun. Overall, the event was an enormous success with over 240 attendees and earning \$17,000 for the PlayHouse.

The proceeds from HopScotch help the PlayHouse continue to have a lasting impact in the community by:

- Offering a safe space that encourages over 40,000 children to engage in the types of play essential for healthy development.
- Welcoming hundreds of low-income families to visit free of charge, and joining the museum as "Explorer Members" for only \$15 per year.
- Facilitating play and learning experiences for over 5,000 school children visiting on field trips.



Sustainer Committee Update

The Sustainer Engagement Committee has had quite the year! The first action item was multiple input meetings to gain insight to what Sustainers wanted from this committee. After many great meetings, the committee members started their plans for the year.

One of the biggest items that the committee worked on is the Sustainer Newsletter. With articles from past activities to future opportunities, the newsletter showcased sustainer member spotlights and the good deeds this group has done for the community. Personal information such as birthdays, deaths, and births also included to help the sustainers stay informed of others and their families. It was distributed by mail, email, and posted on the Facebook page.

The Sustainer Luncheon in the spring has become a renewed favorite and so it was held again in April. It has become one of the largest present Sustainer events for JLP. To add onto that favorite, the committee helped create the 1st annual Holiday Tea held on December 7th, hosted at Joan Krupa's home. Our 50 JLP members enjoyed socializing, hearing the latest from our President Amanda Campbell, sipping on tea, coffee, wine, and enjoying delicacies from Trefzgers! Sustainers donated over 100 toiletry items that were collected for the six Free Little Pantries through the Peoria Public School's Adopt-A-School program.



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