

History:

The Eau Claire Service League was founded in 1935. Over a thousand local women have served the Chippewa Valley community since its inception. In 1993, it affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International, renaming itself the Junior League of Eau Claire.

Mission Statement:

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. 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 charitable & educational.

May-June 2004

Connections

Women building better communities



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EAU CLAIRE

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 6

Midwest Leadership Conference Update-

Eau Claire to host our first Midwest Conference

Next October our Junior League will host the Midwest Leadership Conference. This exciting event will begin Friday, October 1st with a Water Street Stroll. Avalon will host a welcome reception with hors d'oeuvres and wine and then it's off to shop our fine Water Street merchants. Details, Thistledown, and Willow have agreed to stay open late to allow conference attendees to shop at their leisure. The evening will end with dinner and camaraderie at Mona Lisa's.

Saturday will be a day of exciting speakers and training opportunities at the Ramada Convention Center. The MWLC committee will solicit AJLI for a League Governance Visit. This will provide all Leagues an opportunity to strengthen their organizational relationship with the Association while increasing their understanding of Association Governance related issues and enhancing their League's relationship with community partners.



~
Midwest Leadership
Conference Planning Mtg.
May 20 7pm Sweetwaters

Exciting keynote speakers will be the Honorable Lisa Stark on how to juggle our many different roles as women and Kimberly Barrett, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Development and Diversity at the University-Eau Claire on how we can make League more attractive to a diverse group. There will be ample opportunity to network with area Leagues and browse the exhibits that will be on display. Saturday will wrap with the Fountain of Chocolate and a night-cap party in the hospitality room. The conference will end on Sunday with brunch at Fanny Hill and a presentation from Marcia Arneson of Sacred Heart Hospital.

This is an exciting event and all are welcome to attend. This conference will provide an opportunity to showcase our beautiful city and give members a chance to experience the power of women in Junior League.

Back to School Backpack Project Kickoff

Come join our committee to plan this summer's 2004 project.

The Back To School Project is off to another great start. We'll fill the backpacks with school supplies on **August 18th** and distribute them to children in the Eau Claire and Altoona School Districts on **August 19th**. Mark your calendars we will need helpers!

Heading into its ninth year, the BTS Project will also benefit children who qualify for the free lunch program in the Augusta, Fairchild, and Fall Creek Schools.

Mark your calendars for the next BTS meeting! Congratulations to Paula Persing and Jen Ropes, the 2005 co-chairs of the BTS Project. They will do a fine job in serving the committee next year.

~
BTS Planning Mtg.
May 27 6:30 pm
Pinang Restaurant

May - June 2004



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE

Final Reflections *from Robin*

May, 2004

Spring is my favorite time of year. I am filled with joy as the air warms, the daylight lingers, and Nature awakens. It is a time of renewal. Chocolate is plentiful.

The spring marks the end of our Junior League year. As I reflect on our accomplishments, I am filled with pride about what we have achieved and am inspired to learn more about what we can do to further improve our community, foster meaningful relationships, and develop our skills. I am most excited about welcoming sixteen new members! Our league is growing, our momentum is building, and there is no limit to what we can accomplish together as women committed to improving our communities and our own lives.

Thanks to the vision and passion of Linda Bohacek, we served hundreds of students through the very successful and much-needed dental sealants program. The Back to School team continued the great tradition of service to our area children by distributing over a thousand backpacks; the women from Bolton Refuge House who are beginning their new lives were able to select professional clothing at no cost through our partnership with Encore Consignment. We sponsored our first annual Bunko event to raise funds for Junior League sponsored programs. We learned and networked at the Midwest Leadership, President-Elect, and AJLI Annual Conferences. We began planning for the 2004 Midwest Leadership Conference we will host this fall. The Sinterklaas Markt and Younker's Community Day fundraisers, along with the most successful Packer Party to date, raised thousands to support and further our mission. This successful fundraising has enabled us to contribute funds to the following: \$300 to The Eau Claire Children's Museum, \$750 to the Family Resource Center, \$500 to the staff of The Ruth House for training materials that develop leadership skills in the area of shelter management, \$1000 to the Department of Human Services to supply funds for educational and recreational programs for Eau Claire County Foster Children, \$100 to Warm the Children, and \$200 to purchase printed materials that advertise the 'Safe Haven Law' to get the word out and prevent newborns from being abandoned.

This summer, the board will convene as a new team to plan and train for the coming year. We, as a League, will raise funds at Country Jam while enjoying the company of friends and listening to country music, and we will pack and distribute more backpacks than ever before in the history of our signature project.

I am honored and so very grateful to collaborate with such extraordinary women. It has been an amazing learning and challenging experience to serve as president these past two years. I look forward to all we will achieve together as we continue to grow and flourish. As always, thank you for all you do and for all you are to so many and to me.

With great hope, Robin

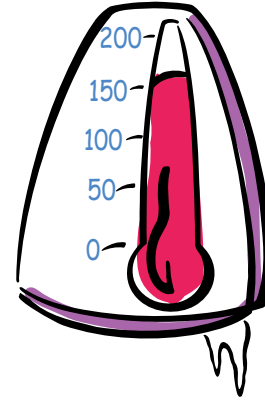


We're almost there!

We're in the home stretch! We have accumulated 163 of the 200 hours we commit to volunteering each year in exchange for our office space in the ECRAC building. Below are the summer dates. **Please sign up today by calling Jean Hood at ECRAC at 832-2787.**

ECRAC Volunteer Opportunities: Summer 2004

| DATE | EVENT | TIME (TO BE AT ECRAC) |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sat. May 22 | Northern WI Youth Ballet | 1:00 pm |
| Sat. Jun. 12 | EnAvant Dance Recital | 12 noon |
| Sun. Jun. 13 | EnAvant Dance Recital | 5pm |
| Sun. Jun. 13 | EnAvant Dance Recital | 12 noon OR 5pm |
| Fri. Jun. 25 | Bye, Bye Birdie CVTG | 6:30 pm |
| Sat. Jun 26 | Bye, Bye Birdie CVTG | 6:30 pm |
| Sun. Jun. 27 | Bye, Bye Birdie CVTG | 12:30 pm |
| Fri. Jul. 30 | Footloose - ECCT | 6:30 pm |
| Sat. Jul. 31 | Footloose - ECCT | 12:30 pm |
| Sat. Jul. 31 | Footloose - ECCT | 6:30 pm |
| Sun. Aug. 1 | Footloose - ECCT | 12:30 pm |



As of press date, we have 37 hours of volunteer time to fill before next September! Please sign up!

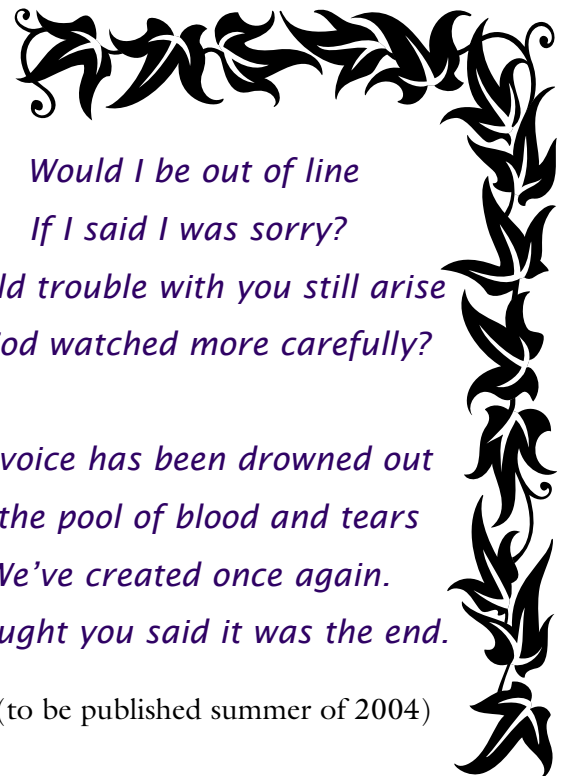
Many thanks to all of you who have helped put a BIG dent in our hour commitments. We still have 18% to go!

Congratulations to Mackenzie Bublitz daughter of JLEC member Janet Bublitz. Mackenzie is having her first poem published this summer in Eternal Portraits. She is an 8th grade student at DeLong Middle School.

"It was the End"

*I hope your mind doesn't fly
Along with running eye makeup.
I can only pray that when love disappears
My halo won't flee to its grave.*

*I don't want to be there to see
My bleeding wrists and wet eyes.
It's impossible to turn away
When my neck is gone with a noose.*



*Would I be out of line
If I said I was sorry?
Would trouble with you still arise
If God watched more carefully?

My voice has been drowned out
In the pool of blood and tears
We've created once again.
I thought you said it was the end.*

Publication: Eternal Portraits (to be published summer of 2004)

**Don't forget to check out our new website! www.idd-ec.com/jlec
Username: jlec Password: women**

Country Jam

July 17 to 20th!

Summer fun is right around the corner! We will again serve refreshments to the country-loving public at the VIP beer tent at Country Jam. Tracey Newhouse is coordinating the volunteers, so please contact her if you are able to sign up for a shift. Bring your friends, bring your family, and bring your date! All are welcome to work to raise money at this fundraiser for our projects. Country Jam kicks off Thursday, July 17th and rolls through Sunday, July 20th.



Endowment Trust

The Endowment helping many.

Our next endowment board meeting is May 27th at 1pm at Peoples Bank. The endowment currently has a net portfolio Value as of March 31, 2004 of \$36,006.65 and the Junior League Endowment Interest Account has a value of \$6,437.49. Most recently the Endowment Trust board granted the Eau Claire Hygienist Association with \$1,000 for the purchase of an additional chair for the Dental Sealant program. The Endowment Trustee is mailing letters to all area Dentists to challenge them to help raise the total amount needed of \$2,800 by donating additional matching funds. There have been several area dentists who have risen to the challenge and sent a check to the Sealant program!

The Junior League presents funding requests to the Endowment Trust board as they meet the definition of charitable donations and match the mission of the League. The next Endowment board meeting will address any new requests received from JLEC.

The Endowment Board is made up of the past two presidents of Junior League, the current president, the president elect and three sustainer representatives. The May 27th meeting will determine who the Endowment board is for 2004-2005.

All contributions made to the corpus (we spend the interest) are tax deductible. Consider making a contribution to build the corpus of the Endowment Trust to honor a loved one!

AJLI Leadership Conference

Robin and Chris inspired by National Conference

The 82nd annual AJLI conference was held in Chicago April 21st through 24th. The Junior League of Eau Claire applied for and received a governance fund from AJLI, which enabled us to send an additional delegate at no additional charge. With the generous contribution from the Endowment Trust Board and funds budgeted for annual conference, Robin Shih and Chris Sniegowski were able to attend as the delegates from Eau Claire.

The Junior League of Las Vegas proposed an advisory resolution to the AJLI board of directors to consider modifying our reaching out statement. The motion passed and the new 2004-2005 board will consider modifying the statement to more accurately represent that the Junior League reaches out to all women.

Christine Benero, 2002-2004 President, has served our leagues so very well over the past two years. She has resurrected our trust in AJLI and has overcome a large budget deficit. AJLI now has a balanced budget and is no longer in debt, thanks to Christine's keen leadership. She has passed the gavel to Pam Newby, incoming 2004-2006 president of the AJLI board of directors.

Robin and Chris attended training workshops on topics including cookbook marketing, evaluating the health of the league, governance, and strategic planning. Workshop handouts and speeches can be found at www.ajli.org (password: volunteer).

The phone rang on the maternity floor and an excited voice on the other end said, "This is George Smith and I'm bringing my wife in; she's about to have a baby!"

"Calm down," replied the nurse. "Tell me, is this her first baby?"

No," the voice replied, "This is her husband."



May 25 GMM

Learn about CMEC!

Please join us for a very interesting and informative meeting about the progress of the Children's Museum on May 25th. 6:30pm social, 7:00pm meeting at the Children's Museum of Eau Claire:

220 South Barstow - meet by the construction entrance on Barstow Street. We will be touring the construction, so dress comfortably.



Dental Sealant Update

Our Sealant Program gets publicity!

Since the last newsletter, we have visited two schools, Sherman and Longfellow. We saw 54 children just at Longfellow! Senator Ron Brown and WEAU TV staff were present to film and interview Senator Brown and myself. Practicing dental hygienists, a dentist, Chippewa Valley Technical College dental hygiene and dental assisting students volunteered, and Susan Jewett, JLEC member were on hand during the filming. Special thanks go to Junior League members, Shelley Voegeli, Sallie Kernan, Tracey Newhouse, Carol Johnson, Becky Reffett, and Susan Jewett for volunteering as room assistants. A great time was had by all. Look for the coverage on the news and if you see it, please let Linda know. May 7th we will visit Mondovi Elementary School and May 14th, we will visit Locust Lane. I need another JLEC member to volunteer the morning shift at Locust Lane.



Foster Care Fund

JLEC assists children in foster placement.

Recently Junior League of Eau Claire gave a very generous contribution of \$1000.00 to create an account to be used in assisting the nearly 70 Eau Claire County children who reside in Foster Care. The fund will be used to give these children opportunities to take part in activities that are not currently funded by the county, These activities include - music lessons, music instrument rentals, all sporting lessons and activities, summer camps, and a variety of other educational/recreational activities.



The beginning of this account is a truly wonderful thing that will have a direct impact on these children - allowing them the opportunity to interact with their peers in a positive way and be involved in healthy, fun activities.

JLEC Dues are due!

If you plan on attending the Spring Banquet you may pay your dues there. If you will not be there please send them to the treasurer Kari Byrne by June 15th.

Dues are as follows:

- \$70: Active members and provisional members moving to active
- \$60: Active Sustainer (may vote)
- \$50: Sustainer

Send to: Kari Byrne 3727 Goldridge Rd. Eau Claire, WI 54701



Provisionals

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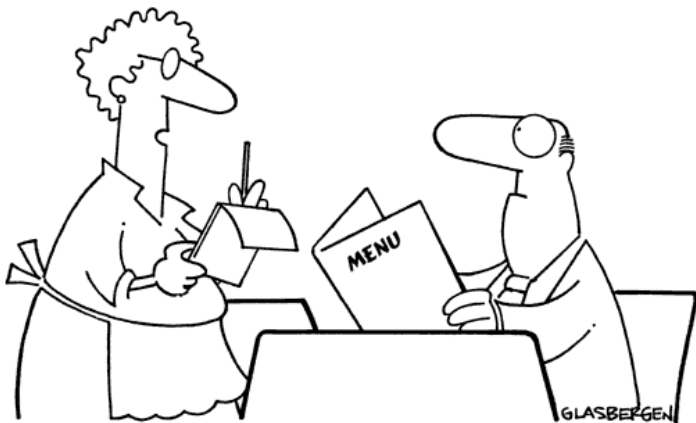
Provisional Bios

Get to know our newest members!

Once again we have an exciting provisional class that is made up of 14 extraordinary women. Each one brings a unique personality and ideas to our League. Please introduce yourself to them welcome them to JLEC when you see them at the next GMM. Here are two more bios:

Laura Fitzmaurice - Laura is a realtor for Eau Claire Realty, Inc. She and her boyfriend of 2 years have survived many do it yourself house projects - bathroom remodeling, hardwood floor installations, and construction of a brick patio in the backyard. When she is not busy with house projects, Laura enjoys golf, disc golf, reading, and watching romantic comedy movies. Besides all her hobbies and work, Laura is trying to tone her cooking skills, unfortunately she says she is eating out allot! If you want tips on how to work with your significant other on household projects, be sure to ask Laura.

Dianne Lund - Diane works for the Eau Claire Area School District in the capacity of Partnership Coordinator for the Manz Elementary School and community. She and her husband John have two children; Jackson 10, and Rebecca 6. Besides spending time walking and reading, Diane enjoys attending high school sporting events of all kinds. She and her husband also enjoy wine tasting and buying and selling on Ebay. So, if you are looking for a good wine for dinner or getting rid of some of your collectables on Ebay, Diane is the one to ask.



"Our diet spaghetti is exactly the same as our regular spaghetti, except you plant, cultivate, harvest and grind your own wheat."

CORNER

SUSTAINER

BUNKO BABES will meet again in OCTOBER at Shotz Armstrong's home. Watch your fall newsletter!



SUSTAINERS BOOK CLUB--

will meet May 27 at Borders at 10 am. If you have questions please call Donna Gilbertson at 835-6421.

SUSTAINER TEA-

We'll be mixing things up a bit and having our spring tea in the fall! Watch your summer news!

Have a great summer ladies!

**Barb Ihlenfeldt, Nancy Kersten
and Marla Mernitz**



Junior League Funding

We assist local non-profits to help their missions.

At the General membership meeting held on April 27th active members and sustaining active members voted to approve the following requests for funds:

\$750 to the Family Resource center

\$500 to the Ruth House. An affiliate of the Hope Gospel Mission, the money will provide training materials for the staff to develop leadership skills. Ruth House is the only shelter for homeless women in the area. Our funds were generously matched by league member Joanie Sheid. Thank you!

\$1000 to Eau Claire County Foster Children. To fund a NEW program developed by Jennifer Ropes in conjunction with the County. See below for more information.

\$200 to Safe Place for Newborns-see below.

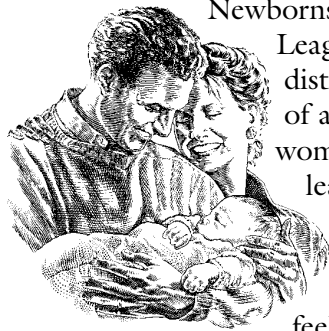
\$500 to the Warm the Children fund. The \$500 will allow 5 Eau Claire area children each \$100 to use towards warm clothing, boots, and jackets. This project is sponsored by the Leader Telegram. League members who are interested may choose to take one of the children shopping to spend their money. Information will be available next fall.

Safe Place for Newborns:

JLEC helps educate against infant abandonment.

Our league has donated \$200 to purchase 500 "Safe Place for Newborns" posters that we will place Junior League of Eau Claire Logo stickers on and distributed to area locations where women of all ages can view. The posters tell women that there is a no prosecute law for leaving newborn babies at specific locations in our area as the alternative to abandoning them or worse. These women who are in situations that they feel are hopeless will get a choice and babies will get a chance.

When the posters arrive we will be soliciting the help of league members to display them in locations such as churches, high schools, dormitories, grocery stores, neighborhood restaurants ...any where there is a community bulletin board. What great continued support of Women and Children!



WHIRLY GIRLS

Summer fundraiser!!

Come attend a jewelry show!

Start your summer off with a fun evening of wine tasting and a "Whirly Girls" private Jewelry showing on Friday, June 25th from 7 - 9 in the evening at the home of Barb Westrate - 426 Hampton Ct. in Altoona.

"Whirly Girls" jewelry is designed by people passionate about making a difference. They create their unique line of one-of-a-kind hip jewelry with a view toward building a business that gives something back- both to the people who buy their jewelry, as well as to the causes they support.



An example of the unique & beautiful designs of the WhirlyGirls Collection

A portion of their annual profits from the sale of their jewelry items helps support causes like breast cancer research, AIDS awareness, Alzheimer's research, heart disease research, and myriad other causes.

At this special event a generous portion of all sales will go directly to JLEC allowing us to fund projects that meet our mission. Please come to this event (bring a friend, a neighbor, or a sister) and not only support this fundraiser, but pick up a piece of very fun, very hip jewelry!!

Tickets to this event are \$25.00 which include wine, appetizers, and a \$25.00 coupon toward any jewelry purchase that evening!!

To purchase a ticket call Jennifer Ropes at 834-1840. Please do your best to RSVP by 6/15

2003-2004

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JLEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President-ElectChris Sniegowski
Recording SecretaryMary Ann Dickoff
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Vice President, CommunityJennifer Ropes
Vice President, CommunicationsNicole Lasker
Vice President, FinanceCarol Johnson
Immediate Past-President.....Donella Magadance

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Bylaws | Linda Bohacek |
| Membership | Becky Reffett |
| Nominating | Open |
| Sustainer Reps | Nancy Kersten, Marla Mernitz, and Barbara Ihlenfeldt |
| Corspnd. Secty. | Linda Bohacek |
| Historian | Phyllis Mattson |
| Newsletter | Nicole Lasker |
| Public Relations | Becky Reffett |
| SPAC | Linda Bohacek, Donnie Magadance |
| BTS Project | Open |
| ECRAC Liaison | Jean Hood |
| Education | Marianne Klinkhammer |
| Treasurer | Kari Byrne |

Junior League has a new website!

Please give us your feedback!

We've created a website for JLEC! We would like you to browse it, give us feedback and ideas for what you'd like to see there.

go to: www.idd-ec.com/jlec

see inside this newsletter (bottom of the ECRAC page) for the username and password to access the site!

www.idd-ec.com/jlec

Don't forget the banquet tomorrow night, Friday May 14!

Have a great summer everyone!



See you at Whirly Girl, Country Jam and Back to School!!!

The web page will stay updated over the summer, so if you have a question, check there for info.



316 Eau Claire Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE

Women building better communities