



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EAU CLAIRE

Women building better communities



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Volume 13, Issue 2

Connections

The Junior League of Eau Claire (JLEC) 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** and educational.



Legislative Breakfast

Children's Mental Health
A Forum with Political Leaders

**Monday,
December 5, 2005**

7:00 – 9:00 am

Family Resource Center
123 Graham Avenue, Eau Claire, WI

RSVP to Linda Bohacek at 833-9636 or
Lbrdh4pets@charter.net

*Co-sponsored by CMHACV and Junior
League of Eau Claire*



Community Organizations Awarded Funds

It was exciting! It was wonderful! We did it!

At the October General Membership meeting, a discussion was held concerning each of the proposals submitted for consideration of possible fund allocations. A quorum of the membership voted to disburse funds to the following organizations:

1. Eau Claire Area Hmong Association—\$500

Requested funds for rice. A 25 lb. bag will feed a family of 6 for 2 weeks. \$500 will feed approximately 80 people for 2 weeks.

2. Eau Claire Teen Court—\$825

Part of the Restorative Justice program, Teen Court addresses criminal and non-criminal offenses in a school setting among the offender's peers. Teen Court allows offenders the opportunity to explain their actions and thinking to a group of their peers and helps them to understand the consequences of their actions.

\$375—training for student and adult volunteers

\$450—12 month consultation with consultant who will assist in and evaluate the implementation and continuance of the program

3. Eau Claire Foster Care—\$1,000

Requested funding for holiday party and summer picnic for Eau Claire area foster children and their families.

Words cannot express the joy felt as funds were given to these organizations.

Thank you to all members in attendance at the October GMM. **Your** vote made a difference in many lives and helped to improve our community.

Did You Know?

The first Junior League was founded by a 19 year old by the name of Mary Harriman in New York city in 1901. That's 104 years ago.

A Message from Marianne

2005-2006 theme—*Discovering the Treasures Within*



“I think BIG,” was the theme for the AJLI Fall Conference held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 20-23rd. The conference was part of a leadership training series for league Presidents and President-Elects. The leadership training series also includes the Winter Networking/Governance meeting held in February 2006, and the Annual Conference held in May 2006. Together these three meetings offer unique opportunities to learn and to apply the very best knowledge in nonprofit leadership from the experts.

When we “think BIG” we are encouraged to stretch ourselves to apply new skills—making our League the best it can be. Throughout the conference, many opportunities and workshops provided ideas for increasing League membership, fundraising options, promoting leadership training, becoming an effective community partner, and brainstorming with other Leagues of like size. All in all, it was an energizing conference with a huge impact. As the year progresses, the Board will search for ways to incorporate many of these ideas into our League.

“Think little goals and expect little achievements. Think BIG goals and win BIG successes.”

—David Joseph Schwartz

A common thread of all workshop sessions was that the “Junior League mission” needs to drive everything that Leagues

do—it is the “star that steers us.” Our every move as a League must be based on our mission statement. Planning is everything, because with a viable plan based on solid goals, we will be able to identify our successes in the community, both small and BIG.

We were also reminded that as women we try to do too much and that “Life is a marathon not a sprint.” So breathe, there is no need to rush in and save the world. Take one planned step at a time.

Let’s “think BIG” individually and as a League. Each of you has a tremendous opportunity to share your talents and increase your leadership skills. Your voice will be heard and your impact felt! So, step up and together let’s effect change where it is needed in our community. “THINK BIG”!

Have a blessed holiday season. Enjoy time with those family and friends who have touched your life.

Peace to each of you,
Marianne



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Marianne Klinkhammer
 President-Elect Bobbi Giles
 Past-President Chris Sniegowski
 VP Community Jacqui Muir
 VP Communications Sheri Baemmert
 VP Finance Sallie Kernan
 VP Membership Brenda Weisenbeck
 Recording Secretary Kate Hinnant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS

Corresponding Secretary Linda Bohacek
 Historian Phyllis Mattson
 Newsletter Editor Amy Mursu
 Newsletter Design Sheri Baemmert
 PR Hannah Vick & Becky Seelen
 Website Sheri Baemmert

COMMUNITY

BTS Sarah Donnellan & Jen Ropes
 Celebration of Women Jessica Witte & Tracey Newhouse
 Community R&D Hannah Vick & Tracey Newhouse
 Education/Speakers Lynn Stark
 Literacy Volunteer Pamela Macal
 Regional Arts Liason Jean Hood
 SPAC Linda Bohacek

FINANCE

Treasurer Susan Jewett
 Fund Development Tracey Newhouse
 Bunco Robin Shih
 Cookbook Robin Shih
 Dine in CV Jacqui Muir & Angela Prissel
 Packer Party . Jen Fesenmaier & Denise Kristo
 Sinterklaas Donnie Magadance

MEMBERSHIP

Bylaws/Advisory Chris Sniegowski, Carol Johnson, Pamela Macal
 Nominating Nicole Lasker (chair)
 Party Planner Jacqui Muir
 Placement . . Carol Johnson & Chris Sniegowski
 Provisional Counselor Deb Svihovec
 Sustainer Rep . . Nancy Kersten & Marla Mernitz
 Volunteer Service Coord. Pamela Macal

Junior League of Eau Claire

316 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire, WI 54701
 715-831-8442

Newsletter Editor: Amy Ann Mursu
 Design: Sheri Baemmert, Peak Designs

© 2005 Junior League of Eau Claire. No portion may be reprinted without permission from the editor, except by another Junior League. Submit articles to editor.

Committed To Voluntarism

As we turn the calendar to November, the year brings us to the time of harvest and Thanksgiving. It truly seems that at this time each of us count our blessings and find ways to share with those less fortunate. In keeping with our League mission of "improving communities," numerous opportunities exist to volunteer in the Eau Claire area.



In Junior League, a project may pique your interest, so you may volunteer a couple hours. Well, those hours of active involvement may touch your heart and ignite a passion. When that happens, you will be hooked on supporting life-changing efforts in the community. It is when you live your beliefs that you turn the world around, one person or event at a time.

The greatest gift you can give is time in volunteer activities such as fundraisers and our League projects. May you look to the year ahead and say, "How can I help? Where do you need me to volunteer?" Remember, as volunteers you are not paid in dollars, because you are "priceless." A huge THANK YOU in advance for your commitment of time and for giving from the heart. The following are volunteer opportunities:

1. Dental Sealants

Dec. 2nd, 8:30-12:30 p.m., Lakeshore

January 27th, 8:30-12:30 p.m., Locust Lane

February 11th, 8:30-12:30 p.m., Longfellow

Contact Linda Bohacek if you are able to assist.
Lbrdh4pets@charter.net or 833-9636

2. Foster Care Holiday Party

Friday, December 16th at St. Olaf Church 6 - 8 p.m.
(volunteers needed 3:30 - 9 p.m.)

Volunteers are needed to work the party and another crew is needed to help set up for the event. If you and/or a friend, relative or spouse would be able to help, please contact Jen Ropes at 834-1840 or j_ropes@prodigy.net or Michelle Facer 830-9226 or facermichelle@hotmail.com

3. Eau Claire Regional Arts Center (ECRAC)

Saturday, January 14th 2 p.m. Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra performance

Email Jacqui Muir at jacqui1974@charter.net or call her at 839-6589

75th Diamond Celebration A Classy Night of Fun



On November 1st, seventy-seven women gathered at the Eau Claire County Club to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Service League/Junior League in the Eau Claire area. The buzz of conversation, the bubbly laughter and the joy of seeing friends filled the room with excitement throughout the evening. It was indeed a night to celebrate!

In the history display, everyone found something to pique their interest and remind them of the days gone by and the projects that benefited the community. Pictures of events evoked memories of the fun and volunteer hours spent preparing for the Charity Ball, Apple Fest, Senior Boutique, and The Follies. Some ladies were reminded of outfits they never knew they had owned—photos don't lie!

The program highlight was storytelling time. Ten ladies spoke and told stories about funny situations and things that had happened to them and their fellow Leaguers. Thank you to all who shared and helped everyone remember the great spirit of unity there is in League. Ask Bobbie Peterson to recant the story of the "mule". She had us all laughing hysterically.

Helen Haney Hull (42-43) was our oldest president in attendance. To honor and celebrate her 94th birthday, everyone sang the birthday song. Helen and her daughter, Barbara Brenden (66-67) are our only mother and daughter to have both served League as president. Congratulations!



Helen Haney Hull and Gloria Gold at 75th Celebration

During cocktail hour, guests were treated to music by the Belle Musique flute duo. Another treat was the surprise gift given to each lady. It was a classy commemorative etched diamond shaped mirror ornament wrapped with silver ribbon in a black box. Kris Steiner provided this gift from Alta Title Services. Lasker Jewelers donated the circle of diamond necklace for the raffle won by Anita Moen.

What a fabulous night and wonderful celebration it was! Thank you to all who helped, who donated and all of you who attended. Thank you for making more memories!

Sponsors



LASKER
JEWELERS



Avalon
European Floral



Lifelong Membership in the Junior League ... What Does It Mean?

At its recent June Meeting, the AJLI Board of Directors met with members of Philadelphia-area Junior Leagues. The topic was "Lifelong Membership" and the gathering was the first in a series of dialogues the Board will hold as they travel throughout the Association in the coming year.

Why talk about "lifelong membership"? Because the Board believes that we all value the goal of retaining members for a lifetime and that it is one of the core values on which the Junior League movement was founded. The Board further believes that part of being a healthy organization is ensuring that League membership is meaningful regardless of the age of the member or category of membership. It's literally about women joining for life!

The dialogue explored four questions: What do we need to do to have lifelong members? How do we make membership "sticky"? What will it take to be the global women's community volunteer organization of choice? What does it take for the Junior League to be relevant in the life of its members?

One recurring theme was whether membership in the Junior League was as "special" as it has been in the past. Clearly, Leagues have responded to the changes in women's lives by making membership easier, but have some of these changes inadvertently made membership less meaningful? Several League Leaders questioned the relevance of membership categories – Provisional, Active, Sustainer – and asked whether we need to look at membership in an entirely different way.

It has been observed that there appear to be three points when a woman is more apt to resign from a Junior League: after she has been Active for two to three years, near the time when she can become a Sustainer, and in her preliminary years as a Sustainer.

Leagues shared examples of initiatives designed to reach out to their members. These included the Junior League of Philadelphia's "Project Welcome Back", which reaches out to Sustainers who have resigned, and the Junior League of Lehigh Valley, whose Board members write regularly to members they haven't seen in awhile. The Leagues also talked about the

importance of raising the visibility of the Junior League movement to further instill pride in membership.

League Leaders suggested new approaches to retain members including the possibility of having a member be less active locally, but still remain connected to the movement through AJLI until she's ready to resume more active local involvement. There was also discussion of how each member is needed to get the word out; to be more proactive in telling her story about the role the League has played in supporting her as a community volunteer leader.

Naturally, the AJLI Board took careful notes. And the Board welcomes the input and ideas of all members. In January 2005, AJLI will launch its redesigned website which will have an area for League member input. In the meantime, if you have ideas to share on the topic of "lifelong membership", email them to info@ajli.org with ATTN: AJLI BOARD in the subject line.



You Deserve National Recognition! Register Now for the Volunteer Service Awards Program

The Junior League of Eau Claire is participating in an exciting new initiative called the Volunteer Service Awards (VSA) program. The program allows League members who put in at least 100 hours of service on League projects each year, in a specified 12-month period, to receive national recognition for their efforts from President Bush and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. All you have to do is track your volunteer hours in an easy-to-use online service log and our VSA program administrator, Pamela Macal, will handle the rest. By May/June of 2006, you will receive your awards package, which includes a special President's Volunteer Service Awards lapel pin, a personalized certificate suitable for framing and congratulatory notes from President Bush and the Council on Service and Civic Participation.

To enroll in the program, go to <http://vsa.ajli.org> and register today. Then, begin entering your volunteer service hours going back as far as April 1, 2005. A very detailed description of the program, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found by clicking on the "About the Awards" tab of this special program website. For all other questions about the program, contact Pamela Macal at pmacal@wrpr.com.

JLEC Sponsors 2nd Annual Eau Claire County Foster Families Holiday Party

This year JLEC will be sponsoring the 2nd annual Eau Claire County Foster Families Holiday Party at St. Olaf Church Parish Center on Friday, December 16, 2005 from 6 - 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to work on this party should contact Jen Ropes or Michelle Facer. This is an awesome event. Being a part of it is very worthwhile. We need help from 3:30 - 9 p.m.

Junior League Disaster Fund Established

The Junior League Disaster Fund has been established to provide an effective way for Leagues to contribute to their sister Leagues in times of natural disaster. The AJLI Board of Directors will administer the fund. This fund has been established not only in the wake of the hurricanes, but also to ensure that AJLI can move quickly whenever disasters occur.

Many worthwhile organizations address people's needs in times of disaster. Leagues are always encouraged to lend their support to the organizations they feel are most appropriate. The JL Disaster Fund is designed to specifically address the need for Leagues to assist their sister Leagues and their communities.

Checks should be made payable to AJLI and note Junior League Disaster Fund on the check and send to: AJLI, 90 William St., Suite 200, New York City, NY 10038

“*Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips and shows itself in deeds.*”

—Theodore Roosevelt

Back To School Update

Does anyone have any connections with any Backpack manufacturers? We are looking to purchase a great number of backpacks. If anyone has a contact that may sell them to us wholesale please contact Jen Ropes at 834-1840 or j_sropes@prodigy.net



Special Notes...

- Our condolences to sustainer Connie Lotz whose husband passed away recently.
- Get well wishes to Eileen Immerman as she continues her chemotherapy and treatment for breast cancer.
- Thank you Janet (Losby) Hoover for your generous donation.
- Thank you to the Sinterklaas volunteers. A special thanks to those of you who worked double shifts or brought friends or family to help out.

PACKER PARTY!



Congratulations on another successful Packer Party bringing a victory for the Packers and for League.

The party was held November 13th at the Holiday Inn Campus. Committee co-chairs Jenny Fesenmaier and Denise Kristo along with the rest of the committee did a super job making the event fun and successful.

A special thank you to Liz Falkner. Her organization and knowledge from previous years has helped turn this event into a major fundraiser for League.

A huge thank you also goes out to all of the sponsors and auction donors. We couldn't do it without your support.



Calendar

- December 16** — Newsletter deadline Jan/Feb
- January 9** — Board Meeting
- January 20** — Holiday Party Eau Claire Golf and Country Club
- January 24** — GMM, MI Bank
- February 13** — Board Meeting
- February 17** — Newsletter deadline Mar/Apr
- February 28** — GMM - River Plaza

Let's Make It Count Nov 29th!

6:30 p.m. social; 7 p.m. meeting; program following

Eau Claire County Government Center (Courthouse) on Lake St.

Things are happening and we need you to give us your vote.

The nominating committee will be elected and a vote will take place regarding the updated bylaws and policies at our Nov. 29th GMM. Copies of the by laws and polices were emailed in September. If you would like them emailed again, please contact Marianne Klinkhammer at marianne@gatorgarb.net

It will be appropriate that these votes take place in Judge Lisa Stark's courtroom in the Eau Claire County Courthouse.

Judge Stark will be presenting the models for "Restorative Justice and Teen Court". These programs will present the criminal justice system from the victim's and criminal's viewpoint. League will present Judge Stark with the allocated fund check of \$825.

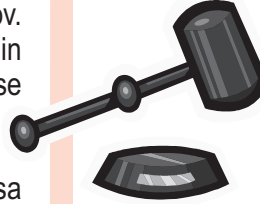
Please be prompt as the courthouse is usually not open in the evening—this is a special event. The doors will be open between 6:30-7:05 p.m. Park in the upper lot across from the main entrance. Please note that this meeting is on the fifth Tuesday to accommodate your Thanksgiving plans.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE**

Women building better communities

316 Eau Claire Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701



Endowment Trust *The Eau Claire Service League established the Endowment Trust in 1985.*

The annual interest income from our Endowment Trust at the end of September 2005 is \$1582.43, bringing the current balance to \$6178.74. The Endowment Trust Account has a current balance of \$35,662.29. Contributions given at the 75th anniversary celebration will increase that balance by \$470. Thank you to all who contributed to commemorate the 75th anniversary! Donors include:

Linda Bohacek \$20
Liz Falkner \$100
Kathy Lasker \$100
Lois Postlewaite \$250

A special thanks also to Lorraine Wilson for her annual \$500 contribution.

The Junior League of Eau Claire offers a way to express appreciation for special people in our lives through a gift to the Endowment Trust.

A gift can honor friends or family on anniversaries, births, promotions, or any other special occasion. A gift to the Endowment Trust perpetuates the memory of a loved one and honors the

accomplishments and special events of others. An acknowledgment is sent to both the contributor and the person being honored. All contributions are welcome and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Names of donors and those honored will be published in the Connections newsletter.

The Endowment Trust board includes the past past president (Trustee), past president, current president, president elect, and three sustaining members of JLEC. The board must convene once per League year. If you are a sustaining member interested in serving on the Endowment Board this year, please contact Robin Shih. The next Endowment meeting will be held in the spring 2006 once sustaining members are confirmed.

The continued support from Junior League members will enable JLEC to maximize the interest income from the Trust to reach new heights of involvement and progress in our community. If you would like to contribute, please send in donation or contact our office for an Endowment contribution card. Mail to: Junior League of Eau Claire, 316 Eau Claire St., WI 54701. Please make checks payable to 'The Junior League Endowment Trust'.