



Junior League of Eau Claire Leadership Team

President: Courtney Kanz
President-Elect: Sue Mertens
Past President: Katie Walk
Secretary: Leslie Lyons
Treasurer: Amy Weiss



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, it's here – summer is over, the kids are back to school, the days are getting shorter and shorter. I don't know about all of you but my summer went WAY too fast, as it always does. While I am not thrilled to be pulling my sweaters out of their hiding spot, I am really excited to officially start the 2016-2017 Junior League year!

Our Fall Kick-off Event on September 15th at Florian Gardens was a huge success! In addition to fifteen existing members, we had ten potential new members in attendance to hear about the legacy of the Junior League of Eau Claire and how we have been transforming our community for over 85 years. If you were able to join us at the event, you also had an opportunity to hear about the Board's strategy for the upcoming year. Our main focus is membership – growing, retaining and engaging our members. We have already implemented a few more visible components to this plan and you're reading one of them right now! After a brief hiatus from publishing our newsletter I am excited that we are reviving it this year. These newsletters are a piece of history! It is so fun to pull out old newsletters and reflect on our past accomplishments. It is also an important connection point for all of our membership classes. We will be publishing three editions this year: Fall, Winter and Spring. We have also created a closed Facebook page where members are able to share things they feel will benefit other JLEC members whether it be volunteer opportunities, words of encouragement or acknowledgement of accomplishments. We hope you will use this page to its fullest benefit. If you have a Facebook account and haven't been granted access to the page, please let me know. If you are not on Facebook, please know that this is not our main means of communication. We will still communicate important information via email.

We will also be making an effort to better connect our members to each other in person. We have a few special events planned for Sustainer members, social and volunteer events that all members are welcome to attend and as always, our General Membership Meetings are a great way to connect with new and seasoned members. This year, GMMs will be held in the Eau Claire River Room at RCU Corporate Center. Social time begins at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:00. I sincerely hope you will be able to join us – we are in the process of organizing speakers and activities for these meetings with a goal that you will walk away from each meeting having learned something new. Please see the last page for a list of upcoming events and meetings.

While focusing on membership means that we will not be holding our larger fundraisers this year, our focus projects are still making a huge difference in our community! Check out the updates on Kids in the Kitchen and The Diaper Bank included in this newsletter.

I briefly touched on this year's AJLI annual conference theme 'All In' at our Fall Kick-off Event. You will hear this phrase and see the accompanying logo throughout the year as a reminder that we are ALL IN this together and when we are ALL IN, together our efforts will have significant and lasting impact. We have ambitious goals for the year but I am confident that with the membership we have (all of you!), we can do it!

This is a big year for JLEC - we are building for the future. On behalf of the Board, I can say for sure that we sincerely value the opinion of all of our members – our best thoughts and ideas come from you. If you ever have any anything you would like to share, please feel free to contact me.

With sincere gratitude,
Courtney Kanz
President



The goal of Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen initiative is to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated issues. This year we will again be partnering with the Eau Claire Area School District thanks to the support of Mayo Health System's Hometown Health Grant and the great volunteers in Junior League of Eau Claire!

We have the 2016-2017 Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen Field Trip dates set!

Volunteer Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Location: Forage (Banbury Place, building 13 suite 214)

- Tuesday 9/27 Sam Davey
- Thursday 10/6 Lakeshore
- Thursday 10/20 Flynn
- Tuesday 11/8 Robbins
- Tuesday 11/29 Sherman
- Tuesday 12/20 Manz
- Tuesday 1/10 Roosevelt
- Tuesday 1/31 Putnam Heights
- Tuesday 2/14 Northwoods
- Tuesday 2/28 {awaiting school confirmation}
- Tuesday 3/28 Longfellow
- Tuesday 4/11 Locust Lane
- Tuesday 4/25 Meadowview

We will again have three rotations. Kids Zumba, Collaborative art project, and the kitchen. On the menu this year: Fresh fruit and vegetables, roasted red pepper hummus and quinoa chili! We hope that you will consider donating your valuable time with us again this year, even if you can only come once. Feel free to invite a friend or family member.

Please let Valerie Bestland know what dates you are available to help.

THE DIAPER BANK

The Diaper Bank originated in 2011 as a new project of the Junior League of Eau Claire. In partnership with Feed My People who distributes the diapers and/or gift cards to purchase the diapers, our goal is to help families in the area who are not able to provide an adequate supply of diapers for their children. Between fundraising events and business' hosting diaper drives, Junior League of Eau Claire has raised over \$20,000 for The Diaper Bank.

In May, The Diaper Bank, was the beneficiary of a Mom's Night Out event sponsored by Micon Theatres. We sold raffle tickets prior to the movie and briefly spoke about the mission of The Diaper Bank. The response was very positive! As we got ready to leave, a generous lady ran up to us and gave us a \$100 donation. We raised over \$500 at this one event. In addition, we had one business from the event, Cook County Chiropractic reach out to us to host a diaper drive. Cook County Chiropractic collected over 55 lbs of diapers for children in the area. And just this last week, we picked up another donation drive headed up by former member Jessica Stoneberg at her employer, MCIS, Inc. - Clinic Implementation and Training. If there are any business owners in the area interested in hosting a diaper drive, let us know!



AJLI Annual Conference

(Summary courtesy of Courtney Kanz)

AJLI's 94th Annual Conference was held May 12th – 14th in Atlanta. As you read in the President's Message, the theme for this year's conference was ALL IN. AJLI further described the meaning of their theme by stating "the most powerful community impact strategy for any Junior League is leveraging all of its assets – including the commitment, knowledge and expertise of its members – to achieve a lasting and positive impact on society".

Sue Mertens and I were among 565 Delegates from 239 Leagues in attendance. We were presented with over 25 informative workshops and multiple networking opportunities. We also had the opportunity to attend AJLI's Annual Business Meeting where we received valuable updates from AJLI and had the chance to vote on two Advisory Resolutions that were proposed during the conference. It was a busy three days!

The AJLI conference surprised and inspired me in so many ways. The room was full of intelligent, thoughtful, motivated and energized women all working toward a common mission. Being part of a larger organization that lends its support to all of its member Leagues gives us significant strength but as an individual Junior League, we have our own legacy and history and are driving change and making an impact in our community in our own powerful way. I was proud to represent the Junior League of Eau Claire and share our legacy and accomplishments with other member Leagues.

JLEC was fortunate to be the recipient of two separate funding opportunities offered through AJLI:

- We received one complementary registration as a result of winning a drawing for Leagues that completed their AJLI online profile by the designated due date. Thank you to the 2015-2016 Board for being on top of this task!
- We were honored to be a recipient of the AJLI Governance Fund, which supports Leagues in exercising their Association governance role by providing financial assistance to help ensure that all Leagues are represented at the Association's Annual Business Meeting by a voting delegate.

In total, AJLI contributed almost \$1,800 toward our conference expenses!

Next year's annual conference will take place May 18 – 20 in Minneapolis. The Board is exploring ways our League may be able to assist the Junior Leagues of St. Paul and Minneapolis in the planning and execution of the conference.

Our vote and representation at AJLI meetings is critical and I sincerely hope we will be able to send delegates in the future. If you have any questions about the conference, please feel free to ask Sue or me – we'd be happy to share more about our experience!



Did you know these women were members of Junior League?

- Former First Ladies Barbara & Laura Bush, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan and Eleanor Roosevelt
- Actresses Katherine Hepburn & Shirley Temple Black
- Olympic Gymnast Kerri Strug
- Chef & Author Julia Child
- Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Calling all Sustainers!!

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EAU CLAIRE WARMLY
INVITES YOU TO A MORNING COFFEE TO
RECONNECT WITH PAST AND PRESENT JLEC
FRIENDS.

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 2016

TIME: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

WHERE: HOME OF LYNN STARK

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
MEMBERSHIP@JUNIORLEAGUE-EC.ORG

LEARN ABOUT PRESENT INITIATIVES AND CELEBRATE OUR RICH HISTORY.
YOUR SUSTAINER SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU!

*IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WOULD
LIKE TO RECEIVE THE JLEC NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE EMAIL MEMBERSHIP@JUNIORLEAGUE-EC.ORG.*



Sustainers supporting our League with Bunco fun!

A special thank-you to the Bunco Babes, who presented us with a \$105 cash donation during our banquet in May. This group, which includes many current and past Sustainer members, decided not to purchase prizes but rather pay money each time they attend and divide it among the hostess, \$5 to the winner, \$5 to the lowest score and \$5 to the person with the most Buncos – and the rest was donated to JLEC. Beyond that, many members chose to forgo their hosting allocation and generously donate that to JLEC as well.

We are so appreciative of your donation! We used it to cover expenses associated with our Fall Kick-Off event, which will lead to more members – and possibly future Bunco Babes!! Many thanks for thinking of us and for your ongoing support!!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK on our Members Only Page!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/586071331557172/>

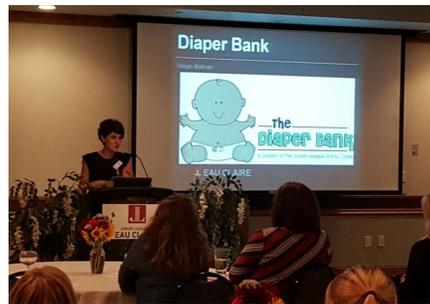
FALL KICKOFF IS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

September 15th really kicked off our 2016-2017 Junior League year with a fun social at Florian Gardens. In attendance we had many active members, sustainers & prospective new members. The event included tasty appetizers and lots of great information around our focus for the upcoming year as well as Kids in the Kitchen and Diaper Bank updates.

It was really a great chance for members to reconnect and to help us grow our membership for the future. A number of the prospective new members have already signed on to be part of our 2016-2017 provisional class. This is a great start for us and we want to continuing building this group.

If you know of anyone interested in joining, please invite them to attend one of our meetings and/or get them connected with Sue Mertens. Our membership is our future!!

UNCONVENTIONAL
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE
WISDOM EMPOWERMENT
ISSUE-BASED DRIVEN
JUNIOR LEAGUE RELEVANT
ILLUMINATED PROACTIVE
ENLIGHTENED HIGH-IMPACT
INTELLIGENCE
PUTTING INTUITION AND EXPERIENCE TO WORK
NETWORKED MEMBERSHIP
LEADERSHIP
REIMAGINED



DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- 10/11: Provisional Training, 6pm at Sue Merten's Home
- 10/13: Sustainer Coffee, 10:00-Noon at Lynn Stark's Home
- 10/20: GMM, 6:30pm at RCU Corporate Center
- 11/6: Volunteer at Community Table
- 11/17: GMM, 6:30pm at RCU Corporate Center
- 12/3: Holiday Party at SideBAR

Have something you want to see in our next newsletter? Please contact Terri Hoepner or email: membership@juniorleague-ec.org.