

Fall 2017 Newsletter



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
EAU CLAIRE

2017-2018 Junior League of Eau Claire Leadership Team

President: Courtney Kanz
Director of Membership: Sue Mertens
Director at Large: Katrina Robinson
Secretary: Nicolle Davison
Treasurer: Amy Weiss

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays! The holiday lights are up, the trees are decorated and for sure the shopping has begun!! This time of year can be so busy – I hope you are able to take a moment to count your blessings. This community is blessed to have all of you helping and serving those in need – especially around the holidays.

The 2017-2018 year is in full swing and our Active members have already accomplished a number of important tasks. During our October meeting, Active members approved a new budget for the year as well as a plan for the distribution of over \$5,000 raised last year in support of furthering our mission and focus programs. I am so moved by the generosity of our members and community and am proud of the hard work our members put in to planning and executing on fundraising opportunities. Because of this, JLEC will be donating \$4,319 to the Diaper Bank, \$1,110 to Kids in the Kitchen and will be able to support our leadership development efforts by sending one member to the AJLI Annual Conference in April.

As the Kids in the Kitchen program transitions to Lily Pad Lab, our focus in the year ahead will be on improving the foundation of The Diaper Bank program through strengthening our partnership with Feed My People Food Bank, increasing community awareness of the program, updating marketing materials, and streamlining the process for individuals and businesses interested in hosting diaper drives. Our members have also elected to partner with two local nonprofits improving the lives of others in the community:

- **Fierce Freedom** - Started in 2012, Fierce Freedom works to educate and raise awareness about human trafficking in northwest Wisconsin. By educating the public, law enforcement, politicians and others about human trafficking, Fierce Freedom continues to help reduce this horrific crime. Fierce Freedom is the most recent recipient of the JLEC Endowment funds and many of you were very moved by their presentation at our spring banquet.
- **Children's Hospitals of Wisconsin Child Advocacy Center** - The Child Advocacy Center is a safe place for kids who may have been abused. The center brings together a team of specially trained professionals who evaluate and investigate cases of child abuse and help children and their families. We have completed multiple Done-in-a-Day projects for this organization over the past three years and they are also a past recipient of JLEC Endowment funds.

As you can see, our League year is off to a great start and I haven't even mentioned the fantastic women we are welcoming into Junior League this year. I want to extend a warm welcome to **Heather Murray, Jessica Rauckman, Holly Thomas, and Jen Wiltgen**. We look forward to getting to know you during the upcoming year and are thrilled you have chosen to join JLEC!

I am incredibly proud to serve as President of JLEC and look forward to the many social and civic opportunities that come with being a member of League – read on for information about a few really fun events on the horizon. I appreciate what each of you contributes to our organization and the sacrifices you make to improve the lives of others. Together, we WILL continue to make a difference in our community! Happy Holidays to you all!!

Sincerely,
Courtney Kanz

2017 JLEC Kick-Off Event

Junior League held their Kick-Off Event on September 18th at From the Vine in Eau Claire. This year we joined the Bunco Babes and played a few games of Bunco. There was a lot of laughter that night as many of us hadn't played before or had played a different version of the game. We are thrilled that sustainers **Marianne Klinkhammer, Sue Brown, Linda Bohacek, Marla Mernitz, and Nancy Kersten** were able to join us that evening.

The social aspect of our Kick-Off Event combined with a high level overview of our league is a winning combination. Membership is a priority and we are working hard to meet the needs of our members. Our Kick-Off Event was a great success and we are happy to say we have had six people join since the event.



2017 JLEC Membership Update

by Sue Mertens

We are continuing to focus on membership during the 2017-2018 JLEC year. So what does that mean exactly? Growing, retaining, and engaging our members!

In simple terms we want you to feel like you have a voice and a role in our League. Our vision of lasting community change is dependent upon membership and we want to make sure that we meet the members where they are at. Whether it's a desire to develop leadership skills, have impact on the community and/or meet new people, our goal is to provide that for our members.

With that being said, I am very happy to introduce our new members for 2017-2018:

Heather Murray, Jessica Rauckman, Holly Thomas, and Jen Witgen are Junior League of Eau Claire's newest members. This group has enthusiastically embraced our mission. We are thrilled that they have chosen us to share their time and talents with us. Their bio information will be coming in a future communication. Our new class is an impressive group!

In addition to our new member class, we have two members who recently re-joined league after several years. **Emily Madsen** and **Sara Hefty** both have previous League experience and we are thrilled they are back! It is so encouraging to see the energy in this group and their devotion to community. The ability to incorporate the skills and commitment of this group to the betterment of our community is a huge win!

Just a side note: In alignment with other leagues across the country we will no longer refer to new members as Provisional members. Jus a slight change but I wanted to mention it. The first year they will be classified as new and after that they will be active.

Halloween Bunco by Katrina Robinson

Did someone say, Halloween Bunco?!

What a fun night!

On Monday October 30th, **Sue Brown**'s home was a spooky surprise of laughter and entertainment.

Donnie Magadance co-hosted with Sue a thrilling night of Bunco and at the end of the night a few lucky ladies went home with delightful prizes.

Thank you Sue and Donnie!

Fun Facts about Bunco:

Bunco is a progressive dice game, under it's original name of 8 - Dice Cloth was played in England during the 18th century. It was unknown in the United States until 1855, when it was introduced into San Francisco during the Gold Rush by a crooked gambler. This mysterious character, traveling from the East to West coast had made many stops in route to the California gold fields. This character was at Sue's home on the night of Oct 30th, can you spot him in the picture? *wink*

He also made various changes to the gambling game he called Banco. After a few years the game and activity was re-named to Bunco. Bunco has since become one of the greatest ways to maintain relationships and make new friends.

Bunco is a game of dice, luck, & prizes.



Kids in the Kitchen Update

Fighting Childhood Obesity one bowl of chili at a time!

Junior League is excited to announce a new partner in its fight against childhood obesity! Lily Pad Lab will be taking an active role in coordinating the Kids in the Kitchen program alongside Junior League with continued support from Mayo Clinic Health System – Eau Claire.

Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, Junior League and Lily Pad Lab are joining forces to continue the success and growth of Kids in the Kitchen for all fourth-graders in the Eau Claire Area School District. This partnership will ensure the future of the KITK program in our community and allows for continued support for students and schools in the fight against childhood obesity.

The KITK team is also thrilled to be hosting the program at The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley. The Boys and Girls Club has a beautiful, new instructional kitchen, gym, and cafeteria space that will easily serve the Kids in the Kitchen program and allow for continued growth.

We are excited to start another great year giving fourth graders a chance to learn, create, and explore healthy food choices and provide them with an introduction to healthy cooking!

A special thank you to Mayo Clinic Health Systems – Eau Claire for their continued commitment to the program. Because of their generous financial support, we are able to deliver this important programming at no cost to students.



As always, a key to success for the program is volunteers! Volunteering at a Kids in the Kitchen fieldtrip is a fun and rewarding experience. Volunteers are needed from 8:30am - 1:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Valerie Bestland** (valbestland@hotmail.com) or **Vanessa Moessner** (vlmoessner@gmail.com).

2017-2018 Kids in the Kitchen Schedule

October 19th – Sherman, 96 students
November 2nd – Putnam Heights, 88 students
November 30th – Montessori, 46 students
January 11th – Roosevelt, 56 students
January 25th – Locust Lane, 54 students
February 1st – Northwoods, 76 students
February 15th – Sam Davey, 78 students
March 15th – Robbins, 100 students
March 29th – Lakeshore, 83 students
April 12th – Meadowview, 86 students
April 26th – Manz, 84 students
May 10th – Longfellow, 30 students
May 3rd – Flynn, 55 students

The 2018 Giving Gala



Save the date for the second annual Giving Gala! This year's theme is 'Giving with Heart' and will be held at The Lismore Hotel on Friday, February 16th. JLEC is once again partnering with the YMCA and Girls on the Run of the Chippewa Valley, two organizations whose missions align closely with the Junior League. The Giving Gala Committee is hard at work building upon the success of last year's program and coming up with ways to make this year's event an even bigger success! New this year, Two to Tango will be providing dance instruction to attendees prior to and during the event. This is sure to be a fun evening, so please mark your calendars and make plans to Give with Heart in support of programs and initiatives for JLEC, YMCA and Girls on the Run! Look for an invitation in your mailbox soon!

A special thank you to Junior League members providing support for the event through sponsorship. Corporate and individual sponsorships are vital to the success of fundraisers such as The Giving Gala and we are so thankful for your incredible generosity!

- **Nicole Lasker and Liz Falkner**, Lasker Jewelers
- **Katie Larson**, Larson Orthodontics
- **Nancy Mickelson and Katie Murphy**, RB Scott Company

It's not too late to sponsor! If you are interested in a corporate or individual sponsorship, please contact Courtney Kanz (Courtney.kanz@gmail.com) for details. There are multiple levels of sponsorship available.

Upcoming Dates & Events

Mainstream Boutique Private Shopping Night

Invite your friends & family and join us to shop for a cause!

Thursday, December 7 | 7pm-8:30pm

A portion of the sales will be donated to Junior League of Eau Claire in support of our mission.

Mainstream Boutique | 2857 Mall Drive | Eau Claire

JLEC HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 7:00 PM,
SIDEBAR ON GRAND**

SideBAR on Grand | 113 W. Grand Avenue

Please join us for an evening of holiday spirit and cheer!

All Junior League of Eau Claire members and their guests are invited to our annual holiday celebration. Please come and join in the festivities which include heavy appetizers, desserts, and a cash bar!

We will also be continuing the tradition of including our Silent Night Auction fundraiser to benefit JLEC and its programs. In the past this auction has raised substantial funds for our organization but its success depends on the participation of membership. Do you have a talent that can be shared with your fellow JL members? Do you provide a service that one of our members may be interested in bidding on? Would you or your employer be willing to donate a basket or gift card? Please email Katie Walk (katie.walk@kellyservices.com) with information on your donation.

Cost is \$30 per person. Full cash bar is available. Advance payment is appreciated but payments will be accepted at the door. Please note: SideBAR accepts CASH only!