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The Junior League of Springfield, Missouri, Inc., is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



MARCH 2024

League Light



President's Message

Samantha Williams, President

What a year we have had - and we are only halfway through! Because of YOU the JLS has gracefully relocated, beat fundraising records, hosted highly successful trainings and meaningful community service projects. We are not only on track, but we are making waves as we recenter and reset, and I'm proud of us!

We recently met with our Community Advisory Council for a two-hour total SWOT analysis of their view, knowledge, and history of the Junior League of Springfield. Their insight and thoughtful perspective will guide us as we develop our three-year strategic plan. We are very fortunate to have had previous leaders in the league that knew the importance of establishing sound fiscal policies and practices as well as endowment funds that will secure the league's financial future. That said, your dues and participation in our fundraisers is vital to our ability to fund and develop our training and projects for future community impact.

While each of these are incredibly wonderful, successful, and necessary 'wins', one other win that I am pleased to note is the culture we have created in the League. Together, we have and will continue to create, promote, support, empower, and uplift one another, and in doing so, we are creating a Junior League where "We. Are. One." This spirit of unity and collaboration is essential for driving meaningful change and I am committed to continuing to work alongside each Junior League member and community partner, knowing that working together as a cohesive team will yield greater results.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to the final four months of the 2023-2024 Junior League year - they're about to fly by!

Sincerely,

Samantha Williams

Issue Highlights

NEW - Spring Recruitment
Fundraiser Update
Community Impact
Training





President Elect Message

Rachel Fuhrman, President Elect

It is an honor to serve as your incoming 2024-25 President. As we move into our 65th year of service, I reflect on what JLS has taught me about our community, myself, and the power of the collective. I look forward to learning and growing with you as a League and community. As we finish this year strong and prepare for next year, I encourage you to step outside your comfort zone. Seek new opportunities within JLS and use your talents to advance the League mission. I encourage you to invite another JLS member out for coffee to make a new connection, say yes to that leadership ask, commit to personal growth through our trainings, attend one of our fundraisers and use what you learn in JLS as a springboard to greater community impact. I look forward to leading the Junior League of Springfield next year and helping you achieve the greatest possible membership experience. My door/phone/email is always open to every League member.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fuhrman

JLS Welcomes New Executive Assistant Jennifer Black

JLS extends a warm welcome to our new JLS Executive Assistant, Jennifer Black.

Jennifer is looking forward to using her skills and knowledge for an organization that so closely aligns to her passions and values. Jennifer spent most of her career planning events, engaging volunteers, and marketing in alumni relations positions for several universities in St. Louis. She also worked for a nonprofit and a national franchising company, before several years of freelancing. After spending her whole life in St. Louis, Jennifer moved to Springfield in 2016 for her husband's job. Jennifer now resides in Willard, Mo with her husband, Aaron, and their three children, Sawyer, Hudson and Belle. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys watching her kids in their sports and activities (currently soccer and cheer), reading, running, and gardening.

Jennifer will be in the office 9:30-2:30, M W TH F and 3-5 on Tuesdays.



Training

The Education and Advocacy Committee hosted a fall 'Women in Leadership' training event that brought key regional leaders together with approximately 30 JLS members for a conversation about negotiation and leverage, navigating male dominated fields, women's rights, work/life balance, gender pay equity and utilizing strengths. They are now focused on planning spring trainings and Advocacy Day.



Reminders

Secure Your 2024-25 Membership

Thank you for your continued investment in JLS! With your loyalty and support, we can provide our members with valuable benefits and aid our community partners. The new League year begins June 1 and timely dues payment by March 1, 2024, will assist us in planning for next year's programming and placement. You may pay by scanning the QR code below, mailing a check to the office, or calling the office to pay by phone. If you need to change your membership status, please do so before March 1, 2024. You can submit that request through the "Membership Status Change Request" form on Digital Cheetah or by email at membership@jlspringfield.org.

Scan the QR Code to Pay
Your Dues Online!



Update your Digital Cheetah Profile

To ensure we have the most up to date contact information for you we encourage you to update your Digital Cheetah profile. How? Log into Digital Cheetah, then click "My Profile." There are options to edit each section. You may also call the office and request an update over the phone.

Board of Directors

Samantha Williams, President
Rachel Fuhrman, President Elect
Teresa Ollis, Treasurer
Rachel Fortenberry, Secretary
Heather Trinca, VP of Finance
Lisa Longwell,
VP of Communications
Micheala Steinmetz-Benton,
VP of Membership
Daphne Simpson,
VP of Community Impact
Anne Marie Baker,
Sustainer At Large
Jennifer Growcock,
Sustainer Director

Community Advisory Council

Logan Aguirre, Publisher/Owner
Whitaker Publishing

Greg Burris, President & CEO
United Way of the Ozarks

Don Chenevert, Esq., Deputy General
Counsel
SRC Holdings Corporation

Janet Dankert, President/CEO
Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Bob Dixon, Presiding Commissioner
Greene County Commission

Clay Goddard, President
Burrell Behavioral Health Southwest
Region

Jonathan Groves, Professor of
Communication Department Chair of
Communication
Drury University

Brandy Harris, Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield

Hal Higdon, Chancellor & President
OTC Springfield Campus

Winter Kinne, Incoming President &
CEO
Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Grenita Lathan, Superintendent
Springfield Public Schools

Matt Morrow, President
Springfield Area Chamber of
Commerce

Jaimie Trussell, Chief Executive Officer
Council of Churches of the Ozarks

Kevin Waterland, Owner/General
Manager
Pitt Technology Group

Paul Williams, Chief of Police
Springfield Police Department

Provisional Class and Spring Recruitment

The 2023-24 provisional year is fully underway and JLS has welcomed a provisional class of 18 during the 2023 fall recruitment. With regular Provisional Member Meetings and General Membership Meetings these ladies have become familiar with the League and one another. This year's Provisionals have shown they are dedicated to making their experience in JLS all that it can be and we are excited to see what parts they will play in the future of JLS.

Provisionals Becoming Active Members



Cynthia Barraza Monroy
Catherine Bennett
Toni Braddish
Beth Castens
Brianna Cudworth
Haley Ethridge

Sydney Evgenides
Kaleigh Gross
Morgan Harper
Tien Hassenplug
Sarah Hines
Michelle Melton

Angela Pitts
Emily Schmitz
Veronica Shultz
Anna Stark
Jessica Tankersley
Emilee Williams

NEW SPRING RECRUITMENT!

For the 2023-24 League year, JLS has adopted a new recruitment timeline and will be holding recruitment events in February and March for the 2024-25 provisional class. This will allow the provisional members to be placed on a committee June 1 and plug in the entire year. **Our best recruitment tool is YOU, so please invite a friend and join us at any of the recruitment events below!** If you would like us to reach out to a potential provisional member email their contact information to provisionalmember@jlspringfield.org.



Upcoming Recruitment Events!

Feb. 6 - Noon
Zoom

Feb. 17 - 8 am- 1pm
KY3 Women's Show

Feb. 22 - 5:30 pm
Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar

March 16 - 10:00 am
Plaid Door Sale
JLS Headquarters

March 21 - 5:30 pm
Hold Fast Brewing



Women Building Better Communities

JLS Introduces Changes to League Structure, Relocates, and Creates New Taskforces

For the 2023-24 League year, JLS relocated to a new office, began operating under a revised governance structure and created two new taskforces. In July 2023, JLS sold our historic home on Bennett St. to New Moon Studios, LLC for \$400,000 (depositing \$379,000 into the restricted JLS Building Fund) and signed a 12-month lease with the Ozark Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. JLS sunset the Management Team and returned to governance solely by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will oversee and guide the League's long-term goals while managing the day to day operations. The new governance structure is expected to provide more flexibility and timeliness in responding to and meeting the needs of our community and members.

The 2023-24 Board of Directors created two new task forces. They voted to create a Fundraising Taskforce to evaluate current JLS fundraising efforts and make recommendations for future fundraising. Additionally, the board created a Strategic Planning Taskforce to research and draft a new three year strategic plan. Both task forces have a completion date of May 2024. Thank you JLS members that have agreed to serve on these task forces.

Community Volunteer Impact

This year we are providing \$5,500 and volunteer support to four community partners. In the first half of this year our members made comfort blankets for Child Advocacy Center and served Thanksgiving dinner at I Pour Life. This spring members will help host the Girls Empowerment Summit with Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield, build and stock a community fridge with Better Block SGF and continue service to I Pour Life. Members will vote to approve 2024-25 projects at the April General Membership Meeting.

2023-24 Community Partners



Women Building Better Communities

Fundraising Update

The Junior League of Springfield offers its members an opportunity to engage in philanthropy! Research shows that women are more generous than men. While men and women are equally likely to consider themselves philanthropists (45 percent and 46 percent, respectively), women are most likely to say that they are passionate about social change, and 86% wish they could be doing more to make a difference. Women have long been the driving force behind giving decisions in many households and data shows that they use their time, money and buying power to create positive social change. Women are more likely than men to:



Be a recent volunteer



purchase from socially responsible businesses



donate through an online or social media platform

The Junior League of Springfield provides you the opportunity to volunteer and make social change – whether you are a new philanthropist or a seasoned philanthropic veteran. Our fundraising efforts allow you to give directly to a trusted 501C3 that not only funds community projects but also provides trained volunteers for an even greater impact.

The **JLS Founders Fund** was established in 2022, it is a permanently endowed fund, managed by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, that will provide funding for projects and/or scholarships for perpetuity. This fund honors the five amazing women who established the Community Service League of Springfield in 1959 and that in 1976 became the 231st Junior League in the country. The Founders Fund online platform allows you to donate through payroll deduction, one-time credit card gifts, gifts of stock, fund transfers, IRA rollovers and much more. You may not think that an automatic gift of \$10 a month is much, but in three years that is \$360!



If you're ready to begin your 2024 charitable giving, simply scan the QR code below or, if you would like to discuss ways you can be a part of something bigger through philanthropy, don't hesitate to contact Morey Mechlin at moreymechlin@me.com or Courtney Schawo at hayescourtney@hotmail.com.



GIVE LS encompasses all other fundraising outside of events. The Donor Development committee leads this endeavor and looks for opportunities to increase JLS earnings. This year we partnered with Kendra Scott (raised approx. \$1000), sold mums in partnership with Wheeler Gardens (raised approx. \$500). We recently received a \$1000 grant from "Springfield Southeast Rotary". Be looking for upcoming opportunities to GIVE JLS - scan the QR code below or use your dues letter (arriving soon!) to GIVE JLS with additional gifts to our JLS Endowment (operational endowment) or to the Annual Giving Campaign (which assists us in covering annual expenses, including projects and training) directly deposited to our operations account.

Scan the QR code and donate today!

Founders Fund



GIVE JLS



Women Building Better Communities

Fundraising Update



The JLS Charity Ball committee requests the pleasure of your company at the

64TH ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

Saturday, April 20, 2024
Hickory Hills Country Club

Patrons Party will be held at the home of Travis Webb
Entertainment provided by the band Dr. Zhivegas
Cocktail Attire

The committee is currently securing sponsorships and to date has **over \$40,000 committed!**

Formal invitations will arrive mid-February.

Please reserve your table for this "soon to be" sold out event!

We hope you will join us for a lovely Candlelight Dinner and Dance

This year's committee chose a traditional theme – but with a little update – a rendering of a 1960's Candelabra. Decorations for the evening will also be in keeping with tradition – borrowing our members candelabras. If you have one you would like to share for the evening, please call the JLS office 417.887.9422 or email Charityball@JLSpringfield.org and we will arrange for pickup & delivery.



Fall Home Tour held a successful 10th annual homes tour on October 7, 2024 raising \$26,000 - our highest grossing Fall Home Tour to date - and provided 225+ patrons a unique opportunity to see inside five of our region's finest homes while being treated to cooking demos, food and beverage tasting, and entertainment. Committee members are now working on Fall Home Tour 2024.



Come visit Plaid Door in our new headquarters! The Plaid Door is accepting gently used clothing and jewelry for women. We are not accepting household items. Donations are accepted M-F, 9-6pm. The donation area is located just inside the main entrance of the Eastgate office, a collection bin and tax receipts are located to the right of the main door, in an alcove.

Upcoming Sale Days, 9-12pm: March 16, April 20

Come see us at the KY3 Women's Show on Feb. 17!

Women Building Better Communities

JLS Staff
Jennifer Black
Executive Assistant

Committee Chairs
Katie Cosby
Administration

Casey Chasteen &
Rachel Palmer
Arrangements

Lillian Sweeney &
Brooke Johnston
Charity Ball

Joanna Dettmer
Communications

Melissa James
Community Projects

Jenn Cooper-Lewis
Donor Development

Jami Moore
Education & Advocacy

Jessica Rice
Fall Home Tour

Morey Mechlin
Founders Fund

Sebra Butler
Membership Engagement

Mia Wilkins
Project Review &
Development

Tammy Dixon &
Tara Benson
Provisional

Laura Blakey &
Becky Fincher
Plaid Door

Hailey Hasek
Webmaster