



League Lines

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HUNTSVILLE





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Our Mission

The Junior League of Huntsville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of individuals, organizations, and communities. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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Catlin Bouldin, Stephanie Davidson, Sarah Finlen, Natalie Huff,
Ashley Jackson, Jessica Johnson, Kate Moon,
Deborah Powell, Anne Vasile, Beth Zinn

Note

Thank you for reading our summer edition of League Lines! Inside you'll find all of our usual content on the work that the Junior League of Huntsville does in support of our community, member news, event photos, and more!

You'll also see hyperlinks, formatted to take you right to our [website](#), our advertisers and sponsors, and more.

Interested in advertising in any of our 2019-20 issues? Contact us for rates and other info at communications@JLHuntsville.com

Thank you, and enjoy League Lines!

League Lines Staff

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President's Message



As League year 2018-2019 comes to a close, I have had numerous people ask me how I've felt about "my year" as President of this wonderful organization. A few thoughts on this— first, this has never been "my year." It has always been "our" year— together, our members have done so many wonderful things! We awarded \$63,300 in Community Assistance Grants and expanded our training opportunities as we work through and expand upon our strategic Mission and Vision of promoting voluntarism and developing the potential of women. Second, I remain deeply humbled and honored to serve this organization of which I have been a proud member since 2008. I have been excited to see the Junior League of Huntsville grow and evolve as we continue to serve our community. It was a huge honor to me to bring to governance resolution our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, and as a member of the Junior League, I look forward to our continuing commitment to this endeavor. Finally, I will never forget the members who give the organization its life and vitality— the backbone of the League, are our members.

At the recent Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) Annual Conference, held in Denver in May 2019, I had the honor of hearing speak, and meeting, retired Delaware State Senator, and member of the Junior League of Wilmington Sustaining member, Margaret Rose Henry. Senator Henry was the recipient of AJLI's Mary Harri-man Community Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual whose efforts at social responsibility and motivation to others best embody the spirit of the founder of the Junior League. At her acceptance speech, Senator Henry spoke on ten characteristics of a strong woman leader that really resonated with me— ten characteristics not only to aspire to, but to emulate. These include passion, intuition, focus, resilience, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, consensus building, a positive mindset, the ability to follow through, and having a sister circle.

As I further reflect back on the wonderful, amazing year that was 2018-2019, and my opportunity to serve as caretaker of the Junior League of Huntsville, I also reflect on the words of Senator Henry and how much having passion, focus, resilience, a positive attitude, and (definitely!) a sister circle of friends have helped make this year a success. Brava to our League members on a successful year, and thank you!

Warmly,

Anne

Anne Vasile
Junior League of Huntsville President, 2018-2019



Executive Vice President's Message



Dear Fellow JLH Members,

The 2018-2019 League year is in the books, and we're already all hard at work to make the 2019-2020 the best yet! But before we fully turn our focus toward the future, we should take a moment to recall and celebrate some of our successes of this year! Over the past 12+ months, we have all worked hard to make organizational improvements in three major categories: fiscal responsibility, membership, and community impact.

Perhaps most importantly, the funding shortage that was identified in 2016 has been resolved, and the JLH will start

2019-2020 fiscal year with a balanced budget. This was a multi-year effort, that included many hard decisions, scaling back spending combined with creative fundraising, many late nights of grant writing, lots of hard work by committees, councils, and by you, our members. Further, Apple Annie and The Book Ball were hugely successful this year! Through the efforts of all of our members, we raised a combined total of \$34,500 in forward-funding money available for League year 2020-2021, and thanks to the continued generosity of the Lambert Foundation, the JLH was awarded a \$55,000 grant to help fund our community impact projects and training initiatives for the 2019-2020 League year. Our members also raised and donated over \$10,000 to our Annual Giving Fund, which immediately helped offset our operating costs.

Our active membership numbers will jump from 151 to end the 2018-2019 year to 174 to start next year, and our incoming Provisional class is 48 women strong! We revised our membership policies to make them even more member-centric; we formed a new JLH Book Club, which will continue into the foreseeable future; and our Member Enrichment Committee and Sisterhood Events mini-placement planned some incredible events for our membership to help keep everyone connected and engaged. And truly, our Communications Council was the glue that held us all together. Without their tireless, daily work that kept us all informed of what's going on – via weekly eBlasts, multiple daily posts on social media, and our first-ever all-digital issues of League Lines – we would be much less connected with the League and with one another.

Through the tireless efforts of League and community leadership, we established the BirthDay Books partnership and Provisional project— a unique and highly impactful program for our community. We rekindled a long-held and much-loved partnership with Children First, and expanded this program by becoming more involved with the Accelerated Reader and Room Mom programs at Morris P-8 School. Our partnership with the National Children's Advocacy Center is deeply rooted in the community, with the League having initiated the SCAN, or Stop Child Abuse Now program, and we witnessed first-hand at our January GMM the work the NCAC does in child abuse and prevention for our community. And learning more about the connection between the JLH and the NCAC gave chills to many of us! We increased our presence in the community through targeted funding of the Bookmobile with the Huntsville Library Foundation— a project that will last until 2021. (Look for the JLH logo on the back door of the Bookmobile as it drives throughout the county!) These external community projects are a drop in the bucket compared to our internal community work with Butterfly Project, One on One: Let's Read, and Rainbow Rhythm Band. In the past year, Butterfly Project dressed approximately 90 girls for prom and awarded \$13,000 in college and career-readiness scholarships. We had the opportunity to meet these amazing women at our April GMM. One on One: Let's Read hosted five amazing family literacy nights in partnership with the Northwoods Housing Community and the Cavalry Hill Public Library, featuring, among other topics, a medieval night and a special celebration of Black History Month. Rainbow Rhythm Band delighted audiences at performances across Madison County, most recently in April at Panoply, which also featured some of our Sustaining members returning to the stage.

Truly, what a year it was! Thank you all - from the bottom of my heart - for allowing me to serve as the JLH Executive Vice President for the 2018-2019 year! It was simultaneously an honor, a learning experience, and a huge opportunity for personal and professional growth. I will forever look back on this time as a JLH member with fond memories and a full heart. Congratulations to you all on a job well done!

Warmly,

Beth Zinn
Junior League of Huntsville Executive Vice President, 2018-2019



April General Membership Meeting

The April GMM and Placement Fair were held at [Valley Hill Country Club](#) on April 11, 2019. Thank you very much to our April GMM sponsors **Carolyn Lankford** and JLH Active **Lauren Battle** of [Lankford & Battle Insurance Agency](#).

The Butterfly Project awarded \$13,000 in college and career ready scholarships this past year. We had the honor of meeting these amazing women at our April GMM as Butterfly Project Chair **Caitlin Bouldin** highlighted each of their accomplishments.

Members enjoyed an engaging presentation on the Opioid and Drug Crisis by Maggie Wallace, Deputy District Attorney for Madison County, and Shane Turley, Strategic Counterdrug Team (STAC) Officer and Investigator at the Madison County District Attorney's Office. They shared close-to-home examples from our area, insights into the evolution of the epidemic and subsequent policy response, and suggestions for pathways to rehabilitation.

National Volunteer Week Chair **Ashley Jackson** shared an update including a history of NVW and opportunities to participate in our own community.

The meeting concluded with an informal Placement Fair giving Actives and Provisionals the opportunity to learn more about different committees across the JLH.



Several members brought their darling little ones to the April GMM on April 11! These future League members and League supporters got to enjoy their first JLH meeting with their sweet mommas.





The JLH in the community



The JLH's **Children First Committee** finished out the year with a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and raffle at the faculty meeting during Teacher Appreciation Week. The faculty and staff were incredibly grateful for our generosity.



Girls on the Run had a fantastic end of season Fun Run at the Huntsville Inner City Learning Center on April 29, 2019. It was a hot sunny day, and after months of training, the girls ran for 30 minutes and crushed their lap goals for the season! They were all so excited to receive their finishing medals and tshirts!





The JLH in the community



At the April General Meeting, the **Butterfly Project** team awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to six Butterfly Project students from Madison County, Madison City, and Huntsville City schools.

The Butterfly Project was so fortunate to have an impressive pool of applicants for our Monarch Scholarships this year. Each of our scholarship winners distinguished herself academically, demonstrated the desire to further her education, and made a significant contribution to their community through voluntarism. The League got to know many of them throughout the year at our Volunteer Nights with other Junior League Community Programs and at our Butterfly Boutique. We couldn't be more proud to honor this year's group of Monarch Scholarship Winners!



The **Rainbow Rhythm Band** finished our year strong at Panoply 2019, with Actives and Sustainers alike playing to an involved and fun crowd! The weather was fabulous, as was our stage presence. This year has been a step by step rebuilding year, and we have succeeded in getting our music and energy into the hearts of current members of the League.

As a mini placement in the upcoming year, we'd like to encourage each and every one of you to watch our videos, talk to current and past members, and consider joining our ranks to bring joy and fun to the Huntsville community. It is a choice you will never regret!



The JLH in the community

There are more than one million registered charities in the United States many of which rely on volunteers. Mary Harriman founded the first Junior League in 1901 to improve the lives of people in her community, and the JLH has remained committed to this sentiment whilst developing the potential of its members. Growing research suggests that volunteering is linked to happiness, higher life satisfaction, & better mental & physical health. Supported by the Points of Light organization, National Volunteer Week (NVW) is a time for JLH to celebrate the impact our volunteers have in the community as well as to encourage active voluntarism during this particular week! We gathered multiple opportunities to connect JLH members with local volunteering events during NVW in April:



JLH participation in NVW started with the **Red Cross Home Fire Campaign**. Alabama ranks 5th in the nation in deaths from single-family home fires. Each volunteer led a team of Alabama A&M students for a total of almost 1,000 students to install free smoke alarms and educate people about fire prevention & safety.

The JLH volunteered time in the **North Alabama Red Cross Donor Room** during their Sound the Alarm campaign greeting donors, providing snacks & any assistance they may need, & offering encouragement during the donation process. Two members even donated blood! Earlier this year the American Red Cross issued a critical blood shortage emergency, and each donation helps save up to at least four lives at the local level.



JLH voluntarism extended to our furry family members at the **Greater Huntsville Humane Society**. Unwanted animals make their way to shelters at an overwhelming rate, and JLH attendance over several days at GHHS was intended to highlight this. One afternoon was spent in their King's Kitchen which is a service provided twice a month to help save pet lives by distributing pet food to help low-income pet owners feed their pets in times of financial difficulty. Volunteers also walked dogs and groomed cats in need of adoption, cleaned the kennel area, and prepped food. JLH members were encouraged to bring their children, and one precious little girl read to the cats in the cat room which helps children practice reading skills while also acclimating animals to human interaction to increase their chance of adoption. The sweetest moment came at the end of a shift when one of our JLH volunteers adopted a dog, Daisy, and gave her a "fur-ever home" alongside her new dog brother, Duke!





The JLH in the community



Other efforts focused on the history of our area alongside those that uplift our present-day community. In particular we wanted to highlight the state of Alabama's bicentennial celebration. JLH participated in the **Burritt on the Mountain** Spring Farm Days event. 150 visitors were educated on the historical significance of the park and museum and enjoyed demonstrations of daily chores and skills from from the time period.

JLH spent time at the **North Alabama Food Bank** learning about their process of sorting and distributing donations to help meet the nutritional needs of our area's most vulnerable citizen thereby feeding over 80,000 people annually. They also educated JLH on their local food initiatives that work to address hunger's root causes.



JLH volunteered at the **Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)** Career Clothes Closet. JLH volunteers helped receive clothing and accessories that will help empower their clients for success in the workforce. JLH Sustainers also donated.

JLH volunteers worked with the **NICU Sweet Pea** organization to make Halloween costumes for this upcoming fall for infants in the NICU. This is done to help restore a sense of stability during an otherwise unsteady time.



Our NVW efforts ended with two projects that focused on nourishing the community both from the ground and from the ground up. Several JLH volunteers helped at the **Care Assurance System for the Aging & Homebound (CASA) Vegetable Garden**. The average CASA client lives on less than \$1,000 a month, and they depend on the fresh produce they receive from the garden. JLH volunteers helped install several rows of metal fencing to help the garden flourish.

The last day of NVW was spent building a **Habitat for Humanity House**. JLH volunteers spent the majority of the day working in the rain alongside other Habitat volunteers as well as recipients of Habitat housing. Tasks included installing an exterior vapor barrier & bands of metal flashing around entire house as well as durable & water resistant interior wall covering for the bathrooms – all of which help maintain a mold-free & clean living environment for families to thrive.

Each of our National Volunteer Week partners was so grateful for our involvement. We established closer relationships with these groups along with other volunteers, & we also identified additional needs to support in the future. However, we too, received a gift by truly capturing the spirit of community service. One of the most profound moments happened when we came across a former JLH member (of the Grace Club Auxiliary) who was in need of the aid provided during NVW. She said our presence was the very thing for which she had been praying! It served as a humble reminder that we are all just a moment away from being in the position to need those same services.





the JLH in the community

Coffee & Croissants



On May 8, the JLH celebrated Coffee & Croissants with our community partners, donors, and friends of the League! The breakfast was held in the Community Room at **Bryant Bank** in downtown Huntsville, and attendees enjoyed an assortment of breads, pastries, and breakfast quiche catered by [Good Company Café](#). The Board of Directors would like to extend a huge “thank you” to all who gave their time and energy to lending a hand with this inaugural event, and we cannot thank our sponsors, non-profit community partners, and League friends enough for being a part of our efforts in service to the community!



Attendees included representatives from [Huntsville Hospital Foundation](#), [Liberty Learning Foundation](#), [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#), [National Children's Advocacy Center](#), [United Way](#), [Girls, Inc.](#), the [Lambert Foundation](#), [Girls on the Run](#), [Children First](#), and [Huntsville City Schools](#).





Strong

2018-19 Provisionals

BIRTHday Books & NICU Meals

The theme of this year's Provisional Class was "JLH Strong", and each one of these incredible ladies has certainly proven themselves worthy of being called JLH Strong. They jumped into the year with focus and determination. Not only did the Provisional Class complete all 30 credits that Active Members are required to complete, they also successfully finished the extensive Provisional Training Course and launched the brand new community project, BIRTHday Books.

In April they hosted their last meal for NICU families at [Huntsville Hospital](#). The delicious meal was provided by generous donations from [Nothing But Noodles](#), [Walton's](#), and [Sugar Belle Cupcakes](#). Throughout the year Provisionals delivered thousands of books to babies at Huntsville and Madison Hospitals as part of the BIRTHday Books initiative. They completed their last delivery to Huntsville Hospital's Women's & Children's Center in May before handing the project off to next years' Chairs, **Susan Walker** and **Emily Baines**.

"I am truly proud of all the hard work these ladies have put into the League and I'm very thankful they chose to share their time and talent with us. They created an incredible Community Project for our organization in BIRTHday Books. This partnership with the Huntsville Hospital Foundation is special and I truly believe their class will be remembered for launching it. Our members are the heart of our organization and because of these amazing women I know the League's future is bright. I can't wait to see all the ways that they shine in the League and in our community."

- **Jessica Johnson**, New Member Chair 2018-2019





Member Events

AJLI Conference

The Association of Junior Leagues International held its 97th annual conference in May 2019 in Denver, Colorado. Over 500 women from across the United States, Mexico, and Canada attended this phenomenal celebration of women in leadership, as we looked back on nearly a century of promoting voluntarism and developing the potential of women.

The purpose of the annual conference is not only to engage in the Association's annual business, including voting on resolutions pertaining to governance bylaws, but also to acknowledge different League's accomplishments during the past year. Association-wide task forces can be created, and members from all across the Association meet and dialogue with one another on important issues including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, membership, and fiscal responsibility. Training seminars are offered to all attendees on a variety of topics including governance, League demographics, and even transitions seminars for outgoing League leaders.

The Junior League of Huntsville is one small part of a large organization, and the power of association and networking available within sister Leagues is made readily apparent by having our League leaders attend AJLI conferences. As Huntsville continues to grow and adapt, it will be even more strategically important for our League's leaders to maintain connections with the Association at the international level. If you'd like to see more of what was accomplished at the 97th annual conference, log in to the AJLI portal from the JLH website, and visit the "training and meetings" tab and then click on AJLI annual conference, and you will find all of the conference materials, including seminar handouts and videos available for your viewing. Junior League of Huntsville President, **Anne Vasile**, was in attendance and is pictured below with Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun President, Tina Roberts.



Cupcakes & Calligraphy



Thank you so much to Christina Green of [The Cardinal Collective](#) for leading a calligraphy class for our members on March 30, 2019! Attendees enjoyed an informative hand-lettering class at [Smallcakes](#) in Jones Valley. Thank you for hosting us for this fun event!





2019 Annual Dinner

The JLH gathered at the [Huntsville Botanical Garden](#) on May 20th to celebrate the League's accomplishments for the year and to honor our community partners, recognize our outstanding members, and install the Board of Directors and Management Team for the 2019-20 League year.



Thank you to [Olivia Reed Photography](#) for sponsoring our Annual Dinner!

Outgoing President **Anne Vasile** welcomed attendees. **Anne** and Executive Vice President **Beth Zinn** presented a League Year in Review which summarized the League's major accomplishments for the year.

Over the 2018-19 year the JLH contributed 14,000 volunteer hours and raised \$34,500 in forward funding which will support community projects in future years. Earlier this year we passed a slate of **Community Assistance Grants** totaling \$63,300, that allocated funding for six external community partnerships, including our BirthDay Books project with the **Huntsville Hospital Foundation**, Read for the Record with the **United Way**, Girls on the Run, a new



after school book club with **Girls, Incorporated**, the **Huntsville Madison County Public Library**, and our continuing partnership with **Children First**.



We voted to further fund our internal community projects including Butterfly Project, One on One, Rainbow Rhythm Band, and a new anti-Human Trafficking placement.

The JLH recognized the contributions of four members during the 2018-19 League year with service awards. The Rising Star Award was presented to Provisional **Amy Manion**, Sustainer of the Year was presented to **Lady Smith**, Karen Spearing Active of the Year was presented to **Caitlin Bouldin**, and Kristen Ebaugh Spirit of the League was presented to **Stephanie Murphy**. New first year actives and new sustainers were recognized.



Sustainer **Lindsay Rice** installed 2019-20 **President Margo Alford** and **Executive Vice President Greer Eleazer** to their new positions, which was followed by the installation of the 2019-20 Board of Directors and recognition of the 2019-20 Management Team. Margo Alford closed the evening with remarks on the upcoming year.





Congratulations to our Members!

Awards and Promotions

On Saturday, April 13, the Community Ballet Association gathered at the East Hall of the Von Braun Center to honor nominees for the Virginia Hammill Simms and Katherine and Richard Lester volunteer in the arts awards.

The Junior League of Huntsville was pleased to nominate Sustaining member **Dr. Ina Wilson Smith** for the Virginia Hammill Simms award, and Active member **Danielle Dutcher** for the Katherine and Richard Lester award. We are so proud of our two outstanding nominees, and the many contributions they've made through the years to the arts in Huntsville and Madison County. The awards dinner was chaired by **Elise Taylor**, 2018-2019 Sustainer Director, and also in attendance was JLH Past President and 2015 winner of the Katherine and Richard Lester award, **Carlen Williams**. JLH Past President **Lady Vowell Smith** was also a nominee for the Virginia Hammill Simms award, nominated by The Gothic Guild. Congratulations on your nominations!

JLH Executive Vice President Elect **Greer Gray Eleazer** was recognized as a local SuperHero by the National Children's Advocacy Center! As a Grissom High School Health Science Teacher, Greer teaches high school students all the things she wishes she'd known when entering the nursing field. She is an inspiring educator who is dedicated to teaching her students the skills they need to be successful, and we are proud to count her among our amazing members!



Kristina Hendrix was promoted to Director of Corporate Communications at Dynetics. She has been at Dynetics for 3 years and was previously a Manager. Kristina has more than 15 years of public relations experience with the Department of Defense, NASA and private industry.

Amy Roark recently earned a promotion to Contracting Officer in the Sensors Directorate of the Missile Defense Agency.



Congratulations to the JLH graduates of Leadership Huntsville's recent Connect 21 class!

Amanda Barnes, Katie Crawford, Meade Davis, Heather Freeman, Hayley Lamberth, Leslie McGill, Fannie Proctor, Olivia Reed and Megan Zingarelli





*Members: Save the date for
Upcoming League events!*

July 2019

July 8: Cupcakes and Cocktails

July 21: New Provisional Member Retreat

August 2019

August 12: General Membership Meeting

September 2019

September 9: General Membership Meeting

October 2019

October 25: Apple Annie Day

In Our Next Issue:

Check in with us as we welcome our new Provisional Class!

... and Much More!

LAUREN BATTLE

IT'S GOOD TO BE IN

YOUR TRUSTED Allstate INSURANCE AGENT
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