



**JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
*of* **ST. JOSEPH**  
**Honoring & Inspiring**  
**Women for 95 Years**

**2015-2016**  
**Annual Report**

Junior League of Saint Joseph  
Annual Report  
2015-2016

**President – Stancy Bond**

Every semester I teach, mid-way through I begin to wonder, “Are you really going to teach them something?” By finals, I still have questions in my mind like “Did you teach them ANYTHING?” As I look back on the league year, I wonder, “Did we do anything substantial? Did our time and efforts really make a difference?” The evidence is below. Yes, what the league accomplished was substantial. Yes, we made a difference. We have accomplished much, but there is much yet to do. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything you have done to make this year a success. The league continues to foster a culture of “want to” volunteering; the league is changing. This change is what I will always reflect on to have inspired.

**President –Elect/Administrative VP – Katie Jonas**

This year I had the opportunity to review the current Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and our newly adopted Commitment Form. With very minor updates to these documents we will continue to be foundational documents to help guide our league for next year.

Along with our newly adopted points system, the board found a need for tracking and gathering consistent information in regards to volunteer work done either at an outside agency or for ladies going above and beyond to help another committee within the league. We now have a request form for members to submit with all information to better determine the points allocation based on the volunteer work.

One other exciting opportunity I had the pleasure of participating in was leading an Ad Hoc committee focusing on both internal and external communication. We had great input from current members of the league as well as many sustainers who participated in our survey. We hope to take some of the ideas and suggestions from this group and work on moving our league forward next year.

I am so proud of all of the work our league and all of our members were able to accomplish this past year. Looking forward to even more in 2016-2017!

**Community VP – Dawn Ford**

This year as Community VP, I continued thinking on how the league can change for the better. In November 2015, an ad hoc committee I lead was formed to create a long-term sustainability plan for the league. Those plans are still underway. I look forward to getting feedback throughout the summer and into the next league year for ways to make our league successful for the next decade.

### **Recording Secretary – Stacia Studer**

What a great Junior League year! I was responsible for recording our board notes & general membership notes. I was also responsible for organizing this annual report. Our new Google Drive account has made this amazingly efficient to record notes and very easy to share. I want to send thanks to former Recording Secretary Tiffany Burnes (she recorded the notes at the summer retreat) and future Recording Secretary Katie McCullough (she recorded the notes at the October & February general membership meetings) for their help this year.

### **Corresponding Secretary - Ali Carolus**

I was responsible for updating and distributing the junior league mini-books, which has contact data for all current active members as well as information on meeting dates and board members. I also have updated and maintained the official junior league roster with AJLI.

### **Treasurer – Robin Hughes**

We had a fabulous year for the Pony Express Run and a great group of new members that allowed the Junior League to oversee their expectations for the league year. Business was as usual from a treasurer side.

In the fall of 2015, our current cds became due and we researched options to renew those cds. These cds are earmarked for our 100th year celebration and general league funds. These cds were renewed for 4 years, and will come due just before our 100th year celebration. They were moved from BMO bank to Nodaway Valley Bank.

All funds for the league are now currently housed within one bank, Nodaway Valley Bank.

### **Arrangements – Natalie Byergo & Katie McCullough**

With the help of many committee chairs, we organized many fabulous General Membership Meetings for the League.

We started the year off with a dinner meeting at Boudreaux's where New Members met with their pals and were introduced to the League.

In October we traveled to Tipple Hill Winery where the Public Issues Committee had organized a panel of community leaders to discuss current needs in our community. This was one of our most popular and well attended meetings of the year.

November brought us to the YWCA where along with our business meeting the owner of Keeping Good Company presented on hot trends for Christmas decorating.

The December meeting was held at the Benton Club and many actives and sustainers enjoyed dinner and comradery.

Second Harvest was the host of our January meeting. The business meeting was followed by a volunteer hour of packing Backpack Buddies for children in our area.

In February we broke a sweat with a workout at Title Boxing. Title Boxing were warm hosts and we appreciate their hospitality and their support of the Pony Express Race.

In March we met for dinner at Frederick Inn where we enjoyed great food and socializing after the GMM.

UCP hosted our April meeting where we educated on the opportunities UCP provides in our community and were treated to a tour of the facility following the meeting.

For our final meeting in May, the group traveled to Stanberry, MO and enjoyed a meal and fellowship at Wabash Junction.

### **Cinderella's Closet – Erica Moore**

I had the wonderful honor of being the chair of Cinderella's Closet this year. We had an amazing year! Our fashion show went off without a hitch!

We broke records helping young ladies in our community with Military Balls and Prom, we gave away a total number of 330 dresses! The Closet has some exciting things in front of us!

**Communications- Jenna Whittington** Lauren and I spent the year compiling a new member newsletter, yearly newsletter, website, Instagram, and Twitter feed. Since we are a very busy and involved League, we have been very busy. It has been a year of learning and growing, but we feel we have built a strong social media and communications foundation for future years.

### **Community Outreach – Laura Lutz**

During this league year, we committed again to volunteering in the community. We continued to read to children at the Noyes home and the YWCA. We helped with crafts and judged the costumes at the Pumpkin Festival. We helped at Tiny Tot Town in the fall and with the Children's Fair in the Spring. We looked for new agencies to volunteer for and helped Habitat for Humanity wrap presents for Christmas and took part in their Women's Work Day. We also again sent out applications for our Community Assistance grant to area agencies, and distributed it to the agencies' projects that benefit women and children. For example we gave money to the Social Welfare Board to help with expense of prescription drugs and money to the Youth Alliance to give out scholarships for their summer programs. We also distributed the literacy grant to help with school libraries. We looked for new ways to be apart of the community and give back to the community by volunteering our time. It was a very rewarding league year that was full of volunteer opportunities.

### **Education & Development – Susanne Eichenmueller**

This year, education and development worked to build relationships with new members. Working closely with Membership Relations, we established New Member Pal

relationships between active members and new members in hopes of guiding new members smoothly through their first year in Junior League. A presentation was given at the October board meeting on the subject of Stress Reduction, at the request of our president, Stancy Bond. Both Claire Farney and Susanne Eichenmueller attended Lobby Day in Jefferson City, with many other members of the StJoseph Junior League. It was a fun and informative trip.

We have also reached out to Tim Crowley in hopes of inviting him to host a Leadership and Integration training for our new and active members this summer.

### **Membership Relations – Hilary Salanky**

We have had an amazing year with an outstanding new member class. Membership Relations hosted their spring 2015 Prospective Social at the Walter Cronkite Memorial that was sponsored by the Craig School of Business. After having our summer social at the home of Ashley Matthias and having constant contact with prospective members, we were able to recruit 20 members to the New Member Class of 2015. We provided a New Member Retreat for the new members in August to acclimate them with some of our Junior League basics. We felt like this helped the new members feel better prepared for the first general membership meeting and for the year. Once the League year officially started, we held tours and provided volunteer opportunities at Cinderella's Closet (August), United Way (September), Habitat for Humanity ReStore (October), and Parents as Teachers (December). I kept constant communication with the new members through email and through our New Member page on Facebook. The New Member class created a plan at the Cinderella's Closet meeting and presented it to the board at the November Board Meeting. They then began to carry out their assigned tasks and participated in giveaway days for Cinderella's Closet in November, March, and April. They have worked hard to continue to make Cinderella's Closet such a success.

We already began the 2016 League Year by recruiting and keeping connected with those interested in joining the League for the 2016-2017. We sent a survey through Google Forms to our League members in February and collected names from the Josephine Expo. Invites were sent to the ladies interested in joining the League. We hosted a prospective social on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at The Griffey School for the Arts. There will be one more social this summer to line up our new recruits for the fall.

### **Nominating & Placement – Pam Klaus**

Nominating & Placement conducted the Fall interview via Google forms. The board reviewed and discussed the results of the interviews to improve communication within the League and image of the League. Suggestions for revising the Fall interview include eliminating the request for placement and focus on current activities in the League. In the Spring, an additional survey was sent out to members via Google forms. WOE nominations will be included in the Spring interview next year. Face to face interviews were held at Hazel's Coffee with new members and members interested in an

assistant chair position. Nominating & Placement chair, assistant chair, President Elect & Community VP finalized the 2016 - 2017 Placement.

### **Public Issues – Tiffany Burnes**

Public Issues began the 2015-2016 league year by hosting our first *Wine about Public Issues* Forum at our October General Membership Meeting at Tipple Hill Winery. At this meeting we invited female leaders from the Saint Joseph area to come speak to our league about how we could help the women and children of our community. At the forum we had the opportunity to hear presentations from

- City Councilwoman-Donna Jean Boyer
- City of St. Joseph Health Director- Debra Bradley
- YWCA Victim Service Counselor- Wendy Hickman
- United Way President- Kylee Strough

#### Three of our own Junior League Members/ Sustainers

- SJSD School Board Kappy Hodges
- Buchanan County Clerk- Mary Baack Garvey
- Associate Circuit Judge Rebecca Spencer

In January, several members of the League were sworn in by Sustainer and County Clerk Mary Baack-Garvey, as Buchanan County Registrars to help members of the community register for upcoming elections in 2016. Those members include, Jennifer Brown, Tiffany Burnes, Natalie Byergo, Ali Carolus, Andrea Cole, Susanne Eichenmuller, Dawn Ford, Kappy Hodges, Katie Jonas, Pam Klaus, Clara Liles, Megan Marti, Katie McCullough, Shaina Mixon, Lauren Rauth, Hilary Salanky, Anitra Svendsen, and Ashley Vidal.

Voter registration drives were held February 27th at the Cinderella's Closet fashion show at East Hills Mall from 1:00 to 7:00 pm, March 19th from 11:00 am-5:00 pm at Apple Market on Belt and Frederick and April 26th at the Children's Fair.

On Wednesday, February 17th, 11 members of The League traveled to Jefferson City, Mo., to meet with the Springfield and Kansas City Junior Leagues, and Northwest Missouri legislators. They began their day meeting with Senator Maria Chappell Nadel from St. Louis County. Senator Chappelle Nadal is currently running for a Missouri U.S. Senate seat. This meeting provided inspiration from a female leader who is working for the benefit of women and children of all races and socio-economic backgrounds. The Junior League of Missouri groups were announced on the House floor. Members were also able to meet with Representative Pat Conway. Their luncheon was held at Madison's Cafe with Justice Mary Russell as their guest speaker. Justice Russell continued to inspire the group with stories of her climb to leadership as a female. They ended the day with a tour of the Missouri Supreme Courthouse.

Members who attended were Stancy Bond, Tiffany Burnes, Natalie Byergo, Andrea Cole, Susanne Eichenmueller, Claire Farney, Clara Liles, Katie McCullough, Shaina Mixon, Teresa Shirrell, and Stacia Studer.

Andrea Cole also crafted a “Social Justice Statement for the Junior League of Saint Joseph.”

*“The Junior League of St. Joseph believes in the promotion of justice, equality, and equity for all human beings. The League supports efforts to eradicate prejudice, discrimination, and any other **acts** that deprive an individual of their human rights. We believe our community and society are strengthened when all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, and are provided equal and equitable social, political, and economic opportunities. The Junior League of St. Joseph stands against injustice and unequal treatment of any kind, and believes all forms of injustice are a threat to humanity. We strongly support measures at the national, state, and local levels that advance and ensure equal and equitable rights for every human being.”*

The Public Issues committee consisted of Tiffany Burnes and Andrea Cole. This year’s goal was to increase participation and interest in public issues and to energize the Junior League members advocacy interest!

### **Ways & Means – Anitra Svendsen**

This year, we hosted our second annual Pony Express half marathon and fourth annual 5K run. It was well received, and we got lots of positive feedback about the race. We grew the race this year with many new additions. We started a new charitable partnership with the United Way of Greater St. Joseph and gained many new business sponsors. One of our goals was to unite the community, not just runners. We accomplished this by bringing a bigger focus and appreciation to the race volunteers and encouraging community members to cheer racers on with our Pony Express Porch Party contest. Another change was to utilize social media and other races to recruit more runners. For the runners, we updated the course and added entertainment along the route. This year has been a year of growth, both with the race course, race day activities, and with our marketing. That being said, there are some even better changes coming for our next race. The Pony Express Run continues to be a great event for the Junior League.

We conducted two other fundraisers this year. As usual, cookbooks were sold to members, at the Josephine Expo, and to local businesses such as the Pony Express Museum, Hy-Vee, and Albrect-Kemper Museum. We still have inventory of cookbooks. We also participated in an Innisbrook wrapping paper fundraiser.

I greatly appreciate the hard work of all League members. I especially appreciate all the hard work of my committee; we couldn’t have done it without you.

### **Volunteer Coordinator – Megan Marti**

This year, as Volunteer Coordinator, I coordinated the new points system. I created an Excel spreadsheet to track points and sent out bi-monthly updates for points.

