



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ST. JOSEPH**

2016-2017

Annual Report

**Junior League of St. Joseph
Annual Report
2016-2017**

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to provide a summary from each board member in respect to their Junior League responsibilities for the League year. This is being used as an internal document to highlight the accomplishments and opportunities for our League. This will be distributed to all Active, Sustaining and New Members.

President - Katie Jonas

It has been an honor to serve the women of the Junior League as president this year. There are multiple accomplishments listed throughout this annual report. As president, it was my duty to serve as coordinator for all activities, meetings, volunteer work and financial decisions. Many of these events were delegated to a variety of board women to finalize the details to make each and every one a success.

Preparing for the year, I wanted to ensure that our members were offered a variety of engagements that fit their wants and needs. Our league is a very diverse group of women who all have a different perspective to bring to our organization. This began by working with the Arrangements Committee which scheduled a wonderful plan for each general membership meeting and social opportunity.

Throughout the year, I was able to work directly with several board women to put together volunteer and training opportunities for our members. Some of these were held during our general membership meetings and others were outside of those scheduled times.

Another personal goal as president was to increase our presence in the St. Joseph community. The Communications Committee lead the charge on regular updates to our social media accounts, multiple professional newsletters and the preparation for a sustainable website. The Ways & Means, Cinderella's Closet, Public Issues committees also were all very supportive in getting information out in the community about the activities going on in Junior League.

It was also my duty to support any and all questions or concerns from all members. There were a handful of situations throughout the year where I was personally working with a member to help provide guidance on points, volunteer work questions, financial questions or general league questions. My hope is that this personal interaction provided appropriate guidance and support to each member.

There are countless opportunities for the Junior League of St. Joseph looking forward to next year. One opportunity that continues to struggle is how to continue to engage members in between each general membership meeting. This year seemed to be balanced a bit better

where the workload of all Junior League activities was spread out amongst more members; however there is always room for improvement.

I hope that all members of the Junior League view my term as president as successful and are excited to continue to support the wonderful work that our board women accomplished this year.

President Elect - Dawn Ford

Wow! What an amazing year we had with the Junior League. We had a great group of new members, a great group of actives, and an amazing group of leaders on our board and committees.

One thing that stands out for me this year is to know the 2016-2017 members get to say they were apart of the league when we acquired a space all our own. This is has always been a goal for the past several years with the League and this year we all accomplished it.

None of the things the League has accomplished this year would have happened without the leadership of our President, Katie Jonas. I personally thank her for her drive, organization, and commitment of getting everything done. I look forward to being President next year and working with all of you ladies in making the upcoming year another success!

Community Vice President - Natalie Byergo

2016-2017 will surely go down as one of the Junior League's best years yet! This officer was responsible for organizing the booth at the Josephine Expo. The League was visited by many members of the community, and this was an excellent opportunity to promote the Junior League.

Another highlight of this officer's year was to collect the League's nominations for the YWCA Women of Excellence Luncheon. This year's nominees are:

Woman in the Workplace: Katie Jonas

Woman in Volunteerism: Susanne Eichenmueller

Emerging Leader: Andrea Cole

Several League members will be in attendance at the YWCA Women of Excellence Luncheon on June 15, 2017 when the winners are announced.

Congratulations to the entire Junior League of St. Joseph for an exciting and successful year.

Corresponding Secretary - Megan Marti

Another wonderful year for the league, we really stepped up our game this year. My role as Corresponding Secretary was to maintain our league roster, both within an excel spreadsheet and on AJLI. One of the new things I did this year was send out birthday cards to our sustainers. It was a nice way to reach out to those ladies who are still apart of this great organization and say thanks.

Recording Secretary - Katie McCullough

What a great Junior League year this was!! I was responsible for recording our Board minutes and General Membership minutes. It was my responsibility to organize the Annual Report. With the support of President Katie Jonas sending out the consent agenda via google docs this helped with properly recording all meeting notes. A special thank you is in order for Volunteer Coordinator Stacia Studer for taking notes at September General Membership meeting while I was away for a Cross-Country meet also at the November General Membership meeting as I was absent for I recently gave birth to my daughter. Another special thank you is in order for Communications Chair Lauren Catron for taking partial notes in March at Board meeting as I had another schedule conflict. I look forward to what Junior League has in store for years to come.

Treasurer - Anitra Svendsen

Another great year is in the books for Junior League! My role as treasurer included the tasks of creating and mailing fees and dues notices to all actives and sustainers, checking the Junior League mailbox weekly, depositing payments, paying bills, reimbursing members for committee expenses and maintaining the league financials with the assistance of the accountant.

The year started off quite busy as we collected registrations and sponsorships for the Pony Express Run. A huge thanks to Tanja Schumacher of Ways and Means for being well organized and great at communicating with me as we processed large amounts of money. Also, Megan Marti as corresponding secretary was a great help as we needed each other to keep up to date on AJLI payments.

Creating the budget for the upcoming year was the most challenging part of this treasurer role. In the future, it would be beneficial to explain how to read the budget to members prior to the end of the season. It wasn't until the creation of the future budget that I realized many were unsure of the budget. That being said, we need to be proud of our budget for the 2017-2018 year. Several committees were willing to make some uncomfortable cuts to ensure we have a balanced budget. This is especially exciting, as we now have our own building!

The end of the league year was focused on finalizing and collecting dues and fees payments for the year. A challenge I have faced is getting fees paid promptly by members. This has been better as we have required prepayment for a few items. Our league fiscal year ends on May 31. At that time our goal should be to have all payments collected, so we can finalize our league year and begin fresh with the new budget.

Thank you to all our members for being diligent with your spending this year, prompt with your payments and patient with me as I learned the role of treasurer!

Volunteer Coordinator - Stacia Studer

I have been so blessed to work and learn from an amazing Junior League Board. I have appreciated the guidance from Megan Marti; her mentorship and experience has been much appreciated. Last but not least, I have enjoyed learning from Margaret Miller as we collaborated

on many projects. As volunteer coordinator, I used *Volunteerspot* to organize our volunteer opportunities. I also used Google Sheets to organize the data from the members of the League which was sent out in a *pdf* at least once a month via e-mail to the members of the League. I also used Google Forms for members to submit “outside hours.” The mini-grant and community assistance letter are also placed in the “Volunteer Coordinator” folder in our Junior League Drive account. I have truly grown as a leader in the area organization with this position and I have appreciated this challenge.

Arrangements - Tiffany Thompson

The Arrangements Committee consisted of Chair Tiffany Thompson, Assistant Chair Nicole Messick and Committee Member Hilary Salanky. In June 2016, President Katie Jonas and the committee met to brainstorm fresh ideas for our committee. We were all in agreement that we wanted to try new presentations by different Non Profit Agencies. We also wanted to plan three socials that would help members get to know each other on a personal level.

All of our board and general membership meetings were scheduled for 5:30pm. We felt this helped to alleviate confusion about when start time was for all Junior League meetings. Our first seven board meetings were all held at the Altec Training Center.

Our General Membership Meetings were located at the following locations.

- September 6th: United Way- Kylee Strough, Executive Director
- October 10th: SJSD Care Closet- Truman MS- Kelly Bristol & Jenny Moore, Social Worker
- November 14th: YWCA Bliss Manor- Jean Brown, Executive Director
- December 12th: Benton Club- Holiday Dinner Meeting- Big Brother Big Sisters- Jamie Noble, Executive Director
- January 9th: Second Harvest- Backpack Buddies
- February 13th: Truman MS-Zumba with Jaclyn Ziesel
- March 13th: Hi Ho Bar & Grill Nominating and Placement Interviews
- April 10th: Bartlett Center- Betty Hellerich, Executive Director
- May 8th: Dinner Meeting- Tipple Hill Winery

Donations of items needed by agencies were collected at the following meetings: SJSD Care Closet, YWCA Bliss Manor, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Bartlett Center.

The Arrangement Committee also planned three socials at the following locations.

- November 2016: Family Hayride & Bonfire at Klein/ Hartenbower Farm planned by Nicole Messick. Due to inclement weather the Hayride was canceled.
- January 2017: Wine and Paint Night with the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art planned by Hilary Salanky and Laura Lawson.
- March 2017: Couples Bowling Mixer at Belt Bowl planned by Tiffany Thompson

Communications - Lauren Catron

What a great League year this has been! The Communications Committee was fortunate enough to have three League members on the committee this year: Communications Chair: Lauren Catron, Communications Co-Chair: Shaina Mixon, and committee member: Jenna

Whittington. We really worked to ramp up our social media presence by posting regularly to our social media accounts including: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Each account has a great number of followers and we will continue to grow as the League continues to grow. The Communications Committee also helped monitor the Cinderella's Closet Facebook page. Both the Communications and Cinderella's Closet committees spoke, and we think moving forward we will have the Cinderella's Closet committee handle their page. We hope in the future to maybe consolidate and have just the one Junior League page.

We were excited this year to expand to two newsletters during the League year. The first newsletter, which was published in the fall included bios from all our new members. Each new member was able to write and tell the League a little about themselves, and provide their picture. This helped the rest of the League put a name and a face together, and helped everyone learn more about the new members. The second newsletter was published in the spring, and included some exciting photos from our open house and ribbon cutting!

One of the most exciting things happened in the last few months of the League year. We have started a contract with Think 516 to start on our new website!! We will have a whole new site and will be a lot easier to update! The site will include new pages for the Pony Express Run, Cinderella's Closet, our grant program, and more! We are so excited to get the ball rolling on this project!

Community Outreach - Margaret Miller

This has been a great year for the Junior League! My time as a board member has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader, and also allowed me to work with so many great organizations within our community. I am very grateful for the support and help that Volunteer Coordinator Stacia Studer provided me this year as we worked hand in hand with setting up so many volunteer opportunities throughout the community. I am also grateful for all the ladies on the board, and their support throughout this league year.

As Community Outreach chair-woman, I was responsible for reaching out to various organizations within our community via email or phone to set up volunteer opportunities for our league members. Community Outreach is in charge of 3 main volunteer opportunities: Tiny Tot Town (September), Pumpkinfest (October), and Children's Fair (April). I worked with the coordinators of these 3 functions and helped establish the number of volunteers needed, and what they needed volunteers to do to help make these functions a success. I was also in charge of setting up Noyes Home and YWCA readings which each ran from September to April of our league year. This past year, I also worked with Backpack Buddies, Second Harvest, and YWCA to set up other volunteer opportunities.

Finally, a big part of being the chair of the Community Outreach group is working with the large number of non-profit organizations that we provide Junior League Grants to each year to have them re-apply and be rewarded again with one of our grants. The grant process begins in December by sending out grant letters and applications via email and mail to ensure they were received by the organizations. This year, we asked for applications back by the beginning of

February. The Community Outreach group and I then met in the middle of February to review the applications. We then assigned each organization an amount of money based on their wants and needs. This year we made the funding process a little more personal by allowing league members to sign up on volunteerspot to go to the organizations that were receiving funds and reward them with their checks in person instead of just sending the grant checks by mail. This event was called "Prize Patrol" and it was well received by the various organizations.

Cinderella's Closet - Erica Moore

The 2016-2017 league year will quite possibly go down as one of my favorite. There were some major changes for Cinderella's closet. Thank you for allowing me to be the chair of this committee. I truly enjoyed working with all of the new members, LaTonya and all of you to make this year so memorable.

This summer we moved from our space at the AFL-CIO to the second floor of the (now) old Habitat for Humanity building. Our members were able to move and organize the new space. We were able to host our military ball giveaway and help provide dresses to girls going to this dance as well as our first prom giveaway.

After our first giveaways we held our annual fashion show at East Hills Mall. This fashion show was a great success bringing awareness to the needs of the closet along with letting those in our community know where they could come and shop for items they might need.

This winter into spring the league made an amazing dream come true and we now have a new space to call our home. This space will allow us the opportunity to do many wonderful things for our league as well as our community.

The closet moved yet again, this time downstairs to our current location (827 S. 9th St.). The new member class, along with active members, helped turn the space into a beautiful shop for the girls we provide prom items to. We were able to clean, paint and move all of the items into the new space and have it ready for our ribbon cutting ceremony as well as for our second and final giveaway.

I want to say thank you again to all of the new members for all of the hard work gathering donations, fundraising, painting, moving, cleaning and being on this journey with me. We truly were able to make hundreds of prom dreams come true! I look forward to what LaTonya and the committee will do in the years to come!

Education and Development - Claire Farney

This year the education and development committee included Claire Farney (chair), Kimberly Bass (assistant chair), Cindy Steeby and Crystal Peabody.

In August we asked for active league members to volunteer to be a new member buddy. We then took those names and matched them up to the new members. The active members who had volunteered to be buddies were then told who their new member was and they were given a

description of what was expected of them as a buddy. We also encouraged them to spend some time getting to know their new member better by volunteering or socializing with them. Throughout the year we continued to encourage the active members to check in on their new member.

In October we presented the league with some basic safety tips for women. As volunteers we are often out in the community by ourselves and we wanted to make sure all our members had the knowledge to help keep themselves safe. We also had two officers come and show us a couple crucial self defense techniques. The league members were able to get up and practice these techniques on each other. It turned out to be a great presentation that everyone enjoyed. Anytime you can make learning about safety fun I think it's a major success!

In December we presented the league with a trivia game about the history of the Junior League. We spent a lot of time preparing for this presentation and it paid off. The league members had fun trying to answer the questions correctly but they ended up learning a lot about the league's history that they didn't know before that night. The winning team was awarded gifts!

In February we enlisted the help of Shaina Mixon for a presentation on how and why our meetings go the way they do. She prepared a slideshow and did a great job explaining to the league why it is we follow certain rules and protocol when it comes to board meetings and general membership meetings.

At the May meeting we will be awarding a prize to one new member and their buddy. New members were entered into the drawing by submitting a picture of themselves volunteering or socializing with their buddy. We hoped this would be a fun incentive to spend a little extra time with their buddies.

As soon as we have the funds available the education and development committee would like to replace the signs in Krug Park informing visitors about the buffalo and other wildlife. Jeff Atkins, Assistant Parks Director, told us that they would replace the deteriorating wooden portion of the signs if we replaced the inside information portion. St. Joseph Junior League is currently on the sign so we'd like to make sure we have our name on the new sign and that the logo is updated.

Overall, I think the education and development committee had a great year and I look forward to seeing the wonderful things Kimberly will do next year!

Membership Relations - Michele Euler

This year the membership relations committee included Heather King (Co-Chair), Leah Williams, Jessica Jackson. We held our new member retreat in August at Missouri Western State University. We had a nice day learning about the league and getting to know the new members. This is something that needs to be looked at in the future. If new members can't attend they were behind and it made getting them caught up difficult. We had meetings at Cinderella's Closet, Children's Advocacy Center and Parents as Teachers. The new members jumped right in to help with their project Cinderella's Closet. They help move to the new space.

They helped set up and design the new space. They worked the giveaways for Military Ball and Prom giveaways. The new member class has been wonderful to work with. They are an amazing group of women that the League is lucky to have.

Public Issues - Andrea Cole

This year the Public Issues committee consisted of Andrea Cole (Chair) and Teresa Shirrell (Assistant Chair). For the 2016-2017 year, our goal was to improve the events that Public Issues has supported in previous years. These events, Wine About Public Issues Forum and Lobby Days to Jefferson City were successfully improved upon. Another goal was to add a new event this year. That new event is the Little Black Dress Initiative to raise awareness about poverty in our communities. We partnered with the Chairs of Ways and Means and the Community Outreach Chairs to drive a successful "LBDI" Campaign.

In the fall, our first project was to expand the Wine About Public Issues Forum. This was our 2nd year holding the Forum. The previous year was open only to Junior League members, so our goal was to grow the event by opening it up to the public. We held the Forum at Pony Express Museum and about 70 people were in attendance. Our panelists this year were important leaders in our community including Mayor Bill Falkner, Jean Brown (President of the YWCA), Joyce Estes (Children's Advocacy Center), Rebecca Spencer (5th District Associate Judge), Joyce Starr (City Council), and Pat Conway (Missouri House Representative, 10th district). The dialogue amongst the panel was very effective in informing the public on the issues our community faces from poverty to gun violence. Feedback on the event included having more focus on solutions and to plan the Forum earlier in October to avoid competing with the Chamber of Commerce annual Gala. Additionally, fewer panelists will allow more time to get through all of the questions.

Our second major event was to plan and coordinate Lobby Days 2017 for all Junior Leagues across the state of Missouri. We successfully grew our member attendance from 11 the previous year to 14. This year one of the members brought a couple of high school girls with us that provided an enriching opportunity for them. We were successful in meeting with 3 of our 5 Buchanan County and Andrew County Representatives. One of our goals was to provide an opportunity for legislation advocacy. Andrea researched bills that were being supported by the YWCA in order to establish a partnership. A motion was made during the February Board meeting to support said legislation, but did not pass. Regardless, the positive outcome is that advocacy was introduced to the Junior League and will hopefully be considered again for Lobby Days 2018. Another goal was to ensure that our members were informed as to who their representatives are and how to look up legislation in the Missouri General Assembly.

Finally, our new project that we planned is the Little Black Dress Initiative. This project will raise awareness about the serious issue of poverty and its effect on our communities. The League will wear the same black dress every day and promote a fundraising page. The money raised will go toward Junior League, the Care Closet, and Second Harvest.

Opportunities for next year include partnering with the YWCA to plan an event for Sexual Violence Awareness month (April) or other organizations on other issues, continuing to grow the LBDI, Wine About Public Issues, and Lobby Days attendance/advocacy. Public Issues committee should continue to carry out projects that raise awareness and educate the general population about issues that need activism from our League and the general public. Education on how the Missouri General Assembly operates (i.e. how a bill is passed) should also continue to be provided to the League. Teresa Shirrell already has some great ideas in these areas for the next League year.

Nominating & Placement - Jennifer Brown

In the fall, my committee solicited league members about the opportunity to participate in United Way Leadership St Joseph program. From the responses, we selected Katie McCullough to represent the league in 2017.

The Fall Interview was sent out via email to determine board interest and placement of the Executive Slate for the 2017-2018 league year. Information was tallied and at the January general membership meeting we then held one to one interviews with those interested in serving on the board. We were pleased to vote and announce the Executive Slate at the February general membership meeting at Truman Middle School.

Spring interviews were sent out the end of February to place the remaining members on multiple committees. The Spring interview was due the first week of March and one to one interviews were conducted at Golden Glaze Donuts following the March general membership meeting at Hi Ho. Katie Jonas, Dawn Ford, Anitra Svendsen, Natalie Byergo, Katie McCullough, Lauren Catron, Laura Lutz, and myself all had wonderful conversations individually to talk about committee needs and the wants of the league members for 2017-2018 league year. Placement was presented to board at the April board meeting and approved.

One of the challenges of the committee this year was participation and follow up from members. Not all members filled out interviews or they turned them in past the deadline therefore resulting in phone calls to find out where their interests are.

Ways and Means - Tanja Schumacher

The Ways and Means committee included the following members this year: Tanja Schumacher (Chair), Emily Wearing (Asst. Chair), Amanda Connett, Ashley Vidal, Gretchen Curley, Anna Lorenz, Erica Hankins and Julie Cobb.

We kicked off our fundraising efforts by participating in Shopping Extravaganza at East Hills Mall on September 10, 2016. We were invited to participate by Molly Pierce, Director of Community Relations at East Hills Mall and also sustainer of Junior League of Saint Joseph, and are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this fun event and at the same time raise funds for JLSJ. We had several members volunteering at the event and based on the number of tickets we sold, East Hills Mall donated almost \$650 to us. Thank you to everybody who volunteered at the event check-in and sold tickets.

On September 23, 2016, we held our 5th Annual Pony Express Run 5K and Half Marathon. This year we had almost 250 participants who conquered the hills of Saint Joseph on a warm Saturday morning. We continued our relationship with Hy Vee as a Main Sponsor for the race, who this year helped us in getting snack donations, water and Gatorade for the finish line, which was a huge hit. We also had a United Way Family Fun event and a face painter at the park, which was very well received by our younger participants and their parents. We plan to continue doing this for the next race. Packet pickup and after-party were held at Norty's as in previous years. We were able to raise around \$17,000 with the 2016 Pony Express Run and donated \$4,000 dollars back to United Way of Greater Saint Joseph.

For the 2017 Pony Express Run we decided to try out a new approach for the route, due to several reasons. We wanted to change the start time to 7:00am for the Half Marathon because of the warm and humid conditions we experienced in the past years, but this was only possible by reducing the number of police officers needed to keep the route safe. After some discussion with the running company and SJPD, we settled on a new route that will take the runners from the Pony Express Museum to Bartlett Park and then all the way to Riverside on the parkway. This will reduce the number of volunteers and police officers significantly and will also be a safer and less hilly route for our half marathon runners. We are excited for this change, which we believe to be positive for everybody involved in the race. Please lend Emily and her team all of your support for the 2017 Pony Express Run, it is a huge undertaking and can only be accomplished with the help of everybody in the league. We have had a great response since opening registration and hope to grow the race for 2017.

For another fundraiser, we partnered this year with the Public Issues and Community Outreach Committees to organize our first Little Black Dress Initiative (LBI). This is a global initiative sponsored by Junior Leagues throughout the country and the UK to raise awareness on the impact of poverty. We will hold our inaugural Little Black Dress Initiative from May 8-12, 2017. During this week, JLSJ members will wear the same little black dress for five consecutive days to symbolically illustrate the effects poverty can have on society. Participants are encouraged to raise awareness using social media and by wearing a button that reads "Ask me About my Dress". Members will invite and welcome dialogue among colleagues, friends, and strangers to raise awareness about the effects of poverty and raise funds to support the JLSJ and two of our partner agencies (Care Closet at Truman Middle School and Second Harvest Community Food Bank). Our goal for this year is to raise \$1,000, and we hope to reach our goal and to continue doing this fundraiser in the years to come. Donations will be received on a Click and Pledge fundraising page

<https://connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/juniorleaguestimo/campaign/LBDISJ>).

I want to thank the League for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Chair of Ways and Means for 2016-2017. After being skeptical in the beginning if I would be able to carry out the tasks required to organize the race, I am glad I accepted the challenge and the committee work, and especially the race, has become dear to my heart. Thank you to everyone for your support and for being patient with me as I carried out my role.

Sustainer Membership - Natalie Redmond

Thank you Katie for selecting me to serve as your sustainer rep for 2016-2017. It has been my great pleasure to work with you and the board this year. This year I did monthly updates to the sustainers to keep them in the loop on projects ongoing with the League. I worked to get sustainer contact changes to the right person and even helped with lots of sustainer dues questions. I attended as many board meetings and general membership meetings as I could, as well as Junior League Lobby Day. I have been working with other sustainers to host a sustainer social on May 17th at O'Malley Beverage. I also plan to have a Past President's luncheon this summer at Nancy Kirby's home. The League continues to grow and I encourage you to use your sustainers to help carry your mission forward.

Leadership St. Joseph - Katie McCullough

I am so very blessed to have been chosen as the Junior League Representative with the United Way St. Joseph Leadership Cohort. I have learned many great things that St. Joseph Community has to offer. I constantly am informing the entire class what our Junior League mission is. The support of having a member from Junior League is important to this cohort as it has shown others in the business community how important our non-profit organization is for our St. Joseph community. This year our class has broken into mini projects. These projects are to support the need of those in our community. I can't express the gratitude I have for being selected to represent the ladies of Junior League.

