

The Jabberwock



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
BILLINGS

MAY 2021

VOL. 52, ISSUE #9

2020-2021 Board of Directors

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We're on the Web!

www.juniorleagueofbillings.org



President's Message



Many people have recently asked me about what has been the best part of being president of the Junior League of Billings. I can easily say it is the learning experience. I have learned something every day about myself, the league, my team, other members or our community. I have grown so much as a person, and a leader. There is a quote that comes to mind by John F. Kennedy that says, "Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other." This is so true.

I hope that all of you are also learning about our League this year. Every month we have been fortunate enough to hear from sustaining members of our organization on decades of the past. These women have such valuable input, experience and knowledge. I truly must thank them all for sharing with us and hope to continue to see sustaining members at future events. For me, the amazing part about the history presentations is the number of projects that even I was completely unaware that the league was a part of. It has been great to see everything that we have accomplished in the past and only inspires me to see what we can do in the future.

Every week, I get the opportunity to work with our amazing administrative director, Dina Pett. She has an incredible amount of knowledge to share about our organization, leadership, administrative and hands on volunteering. Each time I leave our

amazing new office space, I am in awe and feel like I have been at a lesson or class. She is an often unrecognized asset to our organization that I need to thank again and again. This year marks her 40th year in the position as administrative director and she has even more years in the Junior League.

As I write this article, nominating is happening and applications will be closed by the time this is published however, as I type I sincerely hope that there are many taking the leap into leadership of this league. I shouldn't be surprised as we are known to be a training organization but these years that I have had on the board of the Junior League of Billings have been life changing and I will take the experience with me for the rest of my life. I am so lucky to have been slated as your president. I have learned that I love the Junior League.

Jennifer Massey
President



General Membership Meeting

MAY 11, 2021
6:00-8:00 Annual Dinner Meeting at Better To Gather
Watch your email and JLB social media for more details.

Membership Council

Membership Appreciation has been on our minds all year, more so than ever before. Our monthly General Membership meetings celebrating each decade of JLB has emphasized our appreciation for the women who came before us and the examples they set for us to follow. This year, we would like to show ALL our members appreciation at our May dinner. We will be giving out very special 50th anniversary gifts so please plan to join us.

Membership Council is also planning to re-offer the opportunity for members to order JLB 50th anniversary t-shirts, sweaters, travel mugs, and more at our May dinner. We will also post options online on our Private FB group. Please reach out to Jessica if you have any questions or need to make an order.

Finally, are you craving a reason to open your home and host a get together? We will be seeking a location to hold our annual Family picnic in June(ish), if you're able to volunteer your home please reach out to us!

Jessica Taylor
Membership Council Leader

Thank you!

Thank you to our Active member Michelle Breum, Sustainers Laura Hopkins, Maggie Vralsted, Kelli Toohill and Sustainer and Past President Allison Murphine for contributing to our celebration of the 2010's.

ALSA PHOTOGRAPHY

All New Members this year need to call ALSA Photography and make an appointment to get a head shot taken courtesy of the JLB. Please call Jerry at ALSA, 252-4376 and make an appointment as soon as possible. The Junior League will use the head shot in the Membership Directory. Please do this by May 15.

Also, any Active member wanting a new head shot, make an appointment and pay the \$15 to the Junior League of Billings.



Communications



Hello from Communications Council! We are very excited about our “We Are JLB” social media campaign and we would love to feature you! One of the goals of this campaign is to show members from all walks of life, in all seasons of life—so we need new members, sustaining members and everyone in between! Please reach out to communications@junior-leagueofbillings.org if you would like to be featured. As always, if you have any other ideas for your communications team, we would love to hear them! Wishing you all some sunshine - literally and figuratively!

Don't forget when you are ordering items on Amazon to mark the box to donate to the Junior League of Billings.

Marisa Clark
Communications Council Leader

WE ARE JLB

Lynn Mullooney Cabrera
Executive Director,
Alzheimer's Association, MT Chapter
JLB Member and Volunteer

WE ARE JLB

Amy Riesinger
Executive Director,
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County
Travel Aficionado
JLB Member and Volunteer

WE ARE JLB

Hannah Olson
Community Relations Specialist
Instructor of Public Speaking
Former Political Candidate
Mom and Partner
JLB Member and Volunteer

GOLD SPONSOR

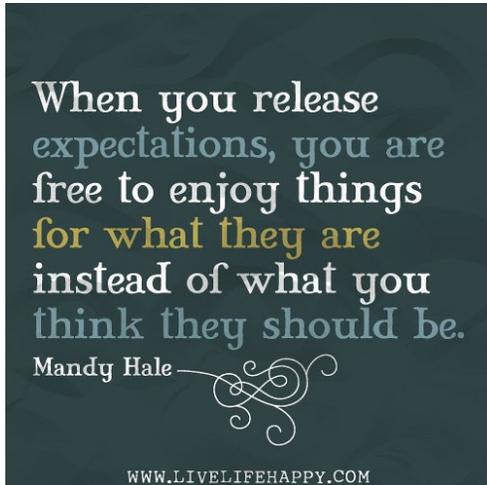
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BRONZE SPONSORS

FRIEND SPONSORS

Ashley Braaten, Realtor KWYP
Brittani Hunter, Coldwell Bank
Dana Paulson
Marisa Clark Real Estate

April General Meeting Pictures at Better To Gather



May Birthdays

ACTIVES

May 5 Amy Riesinger
May 7 Shawna Bonini
May 9 Cassie Crookston
May 13 Hannah Olson
May 16 April Clark
May 21 Michelle Breum
May 21 Jannelle Olson
May 22 Dawn Gilman
May 26 Helen Laferriere
May 28 Jade Fuhrman

SUSTAINERS

May 2 Kim McDermott
May 2 Sandy Sukin
May 12 Jeri Kelley
May 25 Laura Hopkins
May 27 Dee Dee Thomas
May 28 Jean McDonough
May 29 Ann Jones



FUND DEVELOPMENT

The Fund Development Council has been very busy this month planning a few upcoming events. We are looking to schedule our Montana Women's Leadership Conference in February of 2022 at Montana State University Billings. We are currently in talks with the college to determine what dates are available and will let you know when a date has been selected. We are also looking at options for a keynote speaker. Please keep an eye on your email, in May we will send out a list of three possible speakers and would like everyone's input in deciding which one we will choose.

We are also planning a Bingo fundraiser in the fall. This will be an event where we can all get together with league members and our friends in the community for a night of fun and to spread awareness of the league and its mission. We will be hosting the event at the Elk's Club and will have a cash bar and dinner catered by Bruno's. The event will also feature a basket raffle, heads or tails contest for a prize, wine bottle ring toss, and 12 games of bingo. We are still working with the venue to choose a date in September or October and will let you know when this is decided. We are also looking for members to donate bottles of wine for our ring toss game. Please bring donated bottles of wine to the office over the summer or to our first meeting in the fall.

Thank you so much for your help and support!

Elizabeth Russell
Fund Development Council Leader

STAY CONNECTED!

Text @gb7g33 to 81010
to receive reminders by text!



Thank you
**GAINAN'S
FLOWERS**

for the
wonderful
greenhouse
tour!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
BILLINGS

Slate for 2021-22 Board

Congratulations

Vote at the May 11th Annual Dinner Meeting for your Board of Directors and Nominating Slate.

Vote

Helen Laferriere
President
Elected



Amy Riesinger
Communications



Michelle Breum
President Elect



Ashley Braaten
Communications



NOMINATING SLATE

Amber Erlenbusch



Marisa Clark
President Elect
Elect



Elizabeth Russell
Fund Development



Tani McKeever
Treasurer



Dawn Gilman
Membership



Jennifer Penfield



Katie Vaughn
Secretary



Jennifer Massey
Nominating
Elected



Celebrating the 2010's at our April meeting



In the 2010's the JLB hosted "Kids in the Kitchen" with Wise Wonders Children's Museum. Children's health and wellness has been a key issue for Junior Leagues since their founding in 1901. A commitment is teaching kids and their parents about the importance of eating healthy foods and involving them in the fight against childhood obesity.

Kids in the Kitchen



In the 2010's the JLB volunteered in running the Tumbleweed Runaway Program's fundraiser. This program was initiated by the JLB in 1976 and is still a viable part of our community today.

tumbleweed fundraiser

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 9, 2021/Board Meeting/6:53--:58 PM

Attendees

19 in person and 11 virtual attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 pm by President Jennifer Massey at Better To Gather and via Zoom.

Business:

1. The first order of business was to approve the February General Membership Meeting Minutes. Amber confirmed with Dina that a change was needed in the minutes. The PSI Program didn't end in 2006 as was written in the minutes. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion was approved..
2. Helen gave a positive update on the Leadership Conference. There were 124 attendees and 10 speakers in attendance. We made a \$14,000 profit. Many post conference surveys were filled out. 100% said they would recommend our conference. A total of 93% thought that the event was extremely organized or very organized. The speakers were the most liked part of the conference. Our app was user friendly and worked well with Zoom. The speakers were engaging, had a cohesive message of leadership, and 100% of attendees believed that this conference will have a positive impact on our community. We also had 3 women interested in joining the JLB.
3. Dana, the Nominating Chair, gave a very encouraging speech to garner interest in self nominations for the board of directors. Dana shared that she has grown personally as well as professionally by serving on the board. There are currently 10 open board positions and the applications are open until March 16th.
4. Jen introduced our guests for the evening. Vickie Eagle, Colleen Chlapowski, Paige Spalding, and Lynn Mallowney Cabrera are current sustaining members and are all past presidents of the JLB, having served in the early 2000s. Vicki spoke first about Project Youth. It was an umbrella project that included Tumbleweed, First Step House, the Youth Service Initiative with United Way, and Impact Billings. She recommended that each member take advantage of all training opportunities. She was able to serve on other community boards and made connections with other women. Lynn spoke of the relationships she made while in service to the community and with other sustaining members. Lynn told of being a patron of the Wise Penny in her youth and then working shifts there as a JLB member. She was hired for a couple jobs because she had listed being a Junior League member on her resume. Because Lynn often brought her nieces and nephews along with her during various volunteer activities, they had a full work history to put on their resumes. Lynn encouraged our continued work on the Laundry Project as being very impactful to our community. Colleen spoke to us about the Venture into Schools program that the JLB developed in conjunction with Venture Theater. League members volunteered to help bring theater to local students who wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to be involved. They even bought a van to carry costumes and volunteers from school to school. The major fundraiser of the time was The Toast of Billings. They even partnered with the Venture Theater one year for entertainment at the event. Colleen said consistency of the Board Members is important. It was also great to be able to see a project thru development and then put into action. While being on the board, you can learn about all of the other positions and

continue to learn new skills in a variety of positions. Lastly, Paige spoke about how joining the JLB about 25 years ago made a lasting impact on her. She learned much through committee work including leadership skills and making lasting friendships. In a brief question and answer session, it was learned that sustaining members think the Laundry Project is a vital need and it is so positive, being and working on the board of directors is teamwork and so much happens in one year, you can learn and grow with all experiences, a nonresponse from sustaining members doesn't mean there is a lack of interest, and please always invite advice from those members who previously served.

5. Council Updates:

- a. Community: Beth told about the Statewide Laundry Day on March 27th in partnership with the Junior Leagues of Great Falls and Helena and that the Laundry Angels will go out in April and provide free laundry at random times and places.
 - b. Membership: Jessica reported that we have three new members for the Spring 2021 class and training will be happening. There will be a low key happy hour social on March 30th with a virtual option as well. The Placement Matching Tool will be emailed in a couple of weeks. Members will share their strengths and list opportunities they'd like to take advantage of and be placed on the appropriate council for the upcoming year. Members from the Fall of 2020 are eligible to use the Placement Tool. There will also be an in person social in April with a virtual option.
6. Fund Development: Elizabeth shared that while we are transitioning from MarketPlace Magic to the Leadership Conference, we still have extra funds to raise. There will be a Bingo event in October, run much like the Bingo event at MarketPlace Magic. There will be sponsored games, raffle baskets, ring toss, a catered meal and a cash bar. We hope to incorporate the sustainer luncheon at the Leadership Conference.
7. Communications: Our current social media analytics continue to show growth as well as bringing in new members to the League. We have shared all the Nominating Forms in various ways, thus making it easier to self nominate or to nominate a capable member for a board position. Please contact our council members if you need any support in fillings out the applications. Watch for our new social media campaign and continue to share and spread the good works our League is doing.

President Jennifer Massey adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm. The next meeting will be held at Better To Gather on April 13th from 6:45-8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Erlenbusch
Executive Secretary