

The Jabberwock



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
BILLINGS

MARCH 2021

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2020-2021 Board of Directors

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President's Message



February is often seen as the month of love. On Valentine's Day we celebrate our loves, our family, and those we care for and support. I want you all to know that you are the heart of this organization and I love all that you do for the Junior League, for each other and for our community.

At our February GMM a letter written by a past member was read by sustainer, Susan Germer. I also read this letter at our conference, but I would again like to share it here almost as a "love letter" to the league. It gives me chills to hear the impact in her words and remember what we have accomplished since this letter was written in the 1990s. Keep loving, keep volunteering, keep inspiring, keep empowering. We are doing great things here in Billings. We are the pioneers that she speaks of in this letter.

Just days ago we had our 5th annual Montana Women's Leadership Conference. We held this conference virtually and

were able to inspire and empower 135 attendees from across the country. Our reach may have been further than ever before. It was quite the accomplishment and we should be so proud.

Next month our Laundry Day will occur statewide as the Junior Leagues of Great Falls and Helena will serve their communities at the same time. Our league is making great strides and impacting the lives of so many to include myself. Your hearts, your service, your commitment, your friendships, they all warm my own heart.

Thank you and Happy February.

With Love,
Jennifer Massey
President

September 19, 1993

Letters to the Editor
Billings Gazette
401 N. Broadway
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Sir(s):

There is a group of pioneer women who reside in Billings. These pioneers usually remain unnoticed. Such is this rare group of women in Billings that when their affiliation is mentioned an image sometimes appears that they are "women who have nothing better to do than get together for a cause". But before I mention their official name allow me to share with you just a few of their many triumphs. This group has been at the forefront of anticipating community needs. Needs such as vision and glaucoma screening in our schools, TB testing for our children, opening branch libraries, setting up and implementing conferences, resources and training for parents and professionals on child neglect and abuse issues, taping books for the Blind, starting a community day care for ALL children, drug and alcohol abuse awareness and education, theater workshops for the children, organizing a place for troubled teens to go, "Tumbleweed", Ronald McDonald House, Gateway House, bringing to the forefront the domestic violence problem and last but not least providing for all the disabled children their very own playground so they too can feel the joy of being a kid. These are but a few of what their hard work, vision and determination have accomplished. These wonderful inspiring women have not only dreamed the dream but have put in the blood, sweat and tears to make sure they became a reality. I have been privileged indeed to have known them for, as it turns out, my first and only year that I resided in your great city. But before I left I wanted to let everyone within shouting distance know of how truly blessed you all are and will continue to be with pioneers of such courage and strength. Thank you Billings, thank you Billings Junior League, for the great love and warmth with which I have been embraced.

Respectfully,

Signed Stu

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General Membership Meeting

MARCH 9, 2021
6:00-6:45 Council meeting
6:45-8:00 p.m. will be the General Meeting

The March General Meeting will be March 9th. We will be celebrating the 2000*s at that meeting so watch for more details as they are available!

Membership Council

When was the last time you told someone about Junior League of Billings? If it's been a while, reach out and tell someone! Or better yet, share something about JLB on social media. Many of our (potential) new members in the last year or so have found us or our events through social media. As our community starts to open back up and we get closer to in-person meetings and events, think about someone you would like to invite to our next get together.

Our post Leadership Conference social meetups in Whova were largely a success. Giving women a place to discuss their conference experience and takeaways was like the "cherry on top" of an incredible day. A special thank you to Hannah Olson, Michelle Breum, and Jen Massey for facilitating those meetups!

Coming up in March:

Something fun. Something in person. Something to remind us of one of the many reasons we all likely joined Junior League...socials! Surrounding yourself with like minded and interesting women. Stay tuned for our March social announcements. (Membership Council is also considering a virtual option as well, please reach out to anyone on our council if you have feedback on in-person vs virtual, or any ideas for our next social!)

Continue to keep an eye on your emails and our Private FB JLB Members page for event reminders, Zoom login information, and general updates as to what our members are up to in the community.

Jessica Taylor
Membership Council Leader



Thank you!

Thank you to our keynote speaker Ashley Rhodes Courter and our breakout speakers: Kim Lewis, Michelle Buehring, Akvilina Rieger, Leif Welhaven, Karen Grosz, Juli Pierce, Nicole Biondich, Lynn Mallowney Cabrera and Karen Baumgart. Our speakers were amazing and the Montana Women's Leadership Conference was a success!

Message from the President Elect

A big THANK YOU to all of those that planned and participated in the 5th annual Montana Women's Leadership Conference! It was a success! We had 110 attendees and raised \$14,411. Our speakers were fabulous and our keynote Ashley Rhodes Courter was truly inspirational. I have been honored to be the chair this year and appreciate everyone's efforts. Most importantly, I am excited that even in this difficult year, we have been able to fulfill our mission of developing the potential of women and improving our community. I look forward to continued growth of the conference in the years to come.

Helen Laferriere
President Elect, 2020-2021

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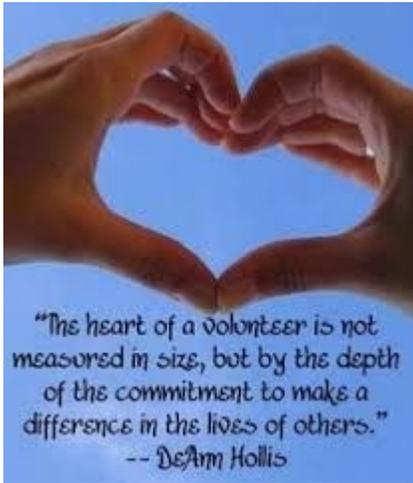
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Special Thanks to Our Wonderful Sponsors

Communications



Hello from Communications Council - I hope you're staying warm, winter is apparently HERE! I wanted to take a minute and make sure that you know that our league offers an easy way to get text message reminders about league meetings and volunteer opportunities. Just text @gb7g33 to 81010 to get signed up! We also have all of our GMM's since September available to watch on our YouTube channel. [Junior League of Billings on YouTube](#) We have had amazing speakers telling us about the history of Junior League of Billings!

Marisa Clark
Communications Council Leader

STAY CONNECTED!

Text @gb7g33 to 81010
to receive reminders by text!



March Birthdays

ACTIVES

March 25 Kendra Moran
March 29 Jessica Taylor

SUSTAINERS

March 9 Tali Phil
March 13 Maggie Vralsted
March 16 Patty Nelson
March 16 Gayle Tompkins
March 22 Vickie Eagle
March 23 Judie Gage
March 25 Pam Sanderson

Fund Development

Hello Junior League,

We hope your year has been off to a great start! We have hit the ground running as we plan a new fundraiser for this fall. We will be hosting a bingo event to engage with our members and community as well as have a chance to inform others about our wonderful organization and its projects. In the past, we have hosted bingo during our MarketPlace Magic fundraiser and know that many people enjoyed the event. Our bingo will include sponsored bingo games, raffle baskets, a catered meal, as well as other games like wine ring toss. In the coming months we will solidify a venue, date, sponsorships, and other logistics. Please stay tuned for more details.

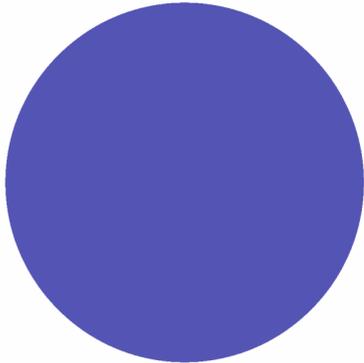
We will also be hosting the Montana Women's Leadership Conference again next spring and will focus on the conference as the League's main fundraiser and mission raising event.

Thanks!
Elizabeth Russell
Fund Development Council Leader

Nominating 2021-2022

Submitted by Dana Paulson, Chair

It is that time of year! Time to begin thinking about where you see yourself next year within the Junior League! Have you thought about joining the Junior League of Billings' Board?



Top things to know about serving on the Board:

Looking for energetic, compassionate individuals to serve in a position on the Board that aligns with your passions.

Attend a summer Board retreat to discuss strategic direction.

Must be an Active JLB member to apply.

You might love being on the Board if:

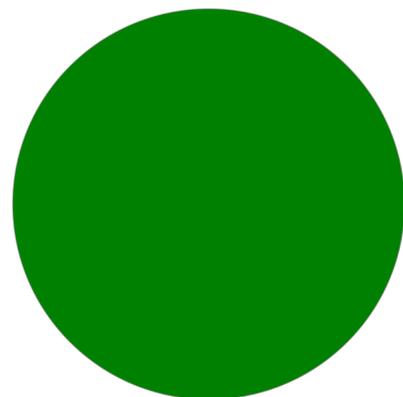
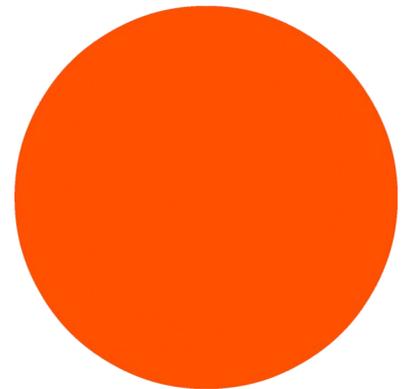
You have a desire to grow personally and professionally.

You want to develop your skills and capabilities as a leader and volunteer.

If you are passionate about the JLB and want to have a meaningful contribution to the organization and our mission.

Enjoy being creative.

If you would like to utilize the leadership skills you develop from JLB to continue to grow in your career.



You may be a good fit if you:

Have a goal to serve on a nonprofit board.

Have a desire to impact the Billings' community.

Have at least one year to commit to being on the Board.

Would like to increase access to professional networks.

Like to share diverse viewpoints or want to step outside of your comfort zone.

Watch social media and your email for additional information about each open position and the instructions/link to apply!

Volunteering at Tumbleweed



thank you!

Thank you to our speakers at our February General Meeting. Kay Berry, Deirdre Alexander and Susan Germer are all past presidents and sustainers. We appreciated hearing from them about what transpired in the 1990's in our League.



New Office Location
2824 3rd Ave N



MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021/General Membership Meeting/6:48-7:54 PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: 21 people via Zoom

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm by President Jennifer Massey.

1. The first order of business was to approve the January General Membership Meeting Minutes. It was moved, seconded, and approved as printed in the Jabberwock.
2. Helen gave a conference update. The conference is to be held this Friday, from 9-3:30 pm. We have under 100 attendees and our sponsorships have reached \$15,000. Each speaker will be recorded for ticket holders to watch at a later date. Please download the app prior to the day of the conference. It is fun to interact with other attendees. There will be post conference sessions to discuss goals, work/life balance and the JLB.
3. Dana spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. They are working in conjunction with the Membership Council to ensure that slated members are competent. If you are interested in a Board position, please speak to current members about their role. A 30-second elevator speech will be prepared by each board member to share their roles and responsibilities and competencies needed to fulfill their role.
4. Jen introduced our speakers for the evening and shared photos of them from their time in the JLB in the 1990s. Kay Berry, Deidre Alexander, and Susan Germer are current sustaining members of the JLB and have graciously agreed to share their experiences of the JLB in the 1990s.
5. Kay Berry shared how the Playground for All Children was established at Rose Park. The Follies were the major fundraiser and a director was hired to produce them. Special education teachers and parents of children with special needs along with the parks and recreation department worked together to design the playground. 40 presentations were given to other local nonprofits to garner support and funds for the playground. Phase 1 was completed in 1990 and Phase 2 was completed in 1993. AJL (later AJLI) recognized this cutting edge project as well as the creation of Tumbleweed and the Youth Court Conference. The JLB made a VHS of how they did the entire project as an example for other leagues. The playground is currently undergoing renovations. Kay also shared that there was a Growth and Development committee always looking for fundraisers for the League. We had the Wise Penny at the time and there was little local competition, so it was very lucrative. There was a lecture series and the theme was always Women and Children. There were lunch and lectures at Eastern Montana College and a community forum at Alberta Bair.
6. Deidre Alexander shared more about the Small League Growth and Development Program. In order to develop the next project for the JLB the committee narrowed the main focus from Women and Children's Health down to four categories: immunization, child abuse and neglect, prenatal care, and parent training. In January 1994, after a consensus building activity, Teenage Pregnancy was chosen as the next project of the JLB. The program was named PSI- Postponing Sexual Involvement. Older teens were trained and taught the program to younger teens. It was so sex education, as that was taught by teachers in school. This was more of a discussion with role playing

with one male and one female teaching a total of 5 sessions. JLB members trained teen leaders and supervised each class for 2 years. The classes were held in middle schools. The league gave out scholarships to the teen leaders, who wrote essays. In 2002 the program was turned over to middle school teachers and it was the end of the League's involvement. The program ended in 2006.

7. Susan Germer joined the League in 1992. The collaboration and discussions held to create the PSI program were an amazing process. Training was really big and the AJLI and league trainers are invaluable resources. Diversity Training started in the mid 90s. JLB had amazing foresight at the time. Susan shared that being part of the Youth Court Conference Committee was a great experience. It helped the community and had a huge impact on Billings. The league did several Done in a Day activities with the focus of women and children. They did diaper drives for the women and children's shelter, a bowl-a-thon for SIDS, and they gave holiday baskets to the residents of Gateway House. The main fundraiser was The Follies and we continued to put in shifts at the Wise Penny. MarketPlace Magic was new at the time. Monte Carlo Night was attempted but shut down by the gaming commission. We do need to remember to take credit for our history. We have done a lot for our community and by giving away our projects our name has been left out of the community's history books. Susan shared a wonderful letter written to the Gazette editor that included many of the Leagues community contributions over the years.

8. Council Updates:

- a. Communications: 134 women were nominated for a free ticket to the Leadership Conference. Two names were drawn: Tia Kiefer and Ashley Peters. Our social media numbers are way up as we have been very busy marketing for the conference. Also, please remember to sign up for the JLB's Remind. You will get meeting reminders and volunteer opportunities via the Remind app.
- b. Community: March 27th will be our statewide Laundry project. We are partnering with PATH and will do a community outreach project to teach people how to do laundry. Gift bags will be assembled at a social. We will also be doing a diaper drive with United Way for Family Promise.
- c. Membership: There will be 3 post conference sessions on Whova: work/life balance, goals to fruition, accountability now, and a JLB info drop in session. We are working on an in-person social with a virtual option for March.
- d. Fund Development: We have over \$16,000 in sponsorships for the conference and are working on a Bingo event in September or October.
- e. The Placement Matching Tool is coming soon as well as a Nominating timeline. Watch your email. Check out the Whova app. If you need any support writing an email to share with your coworkers about the conference, please email Marisa for support.

President Jennifer Massey adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Erlenbusch, Executive Secretary