

The Jabberwock



SEPTEMBER 2021

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2021-2022 Board of Directors

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Helen Laferriere

President Elect
Marisa Clark

Executive Secretary
Katie Vaughn

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Tani McKeever

Communications Chair
Amy Riesinger

Community Council Leader
Ashley Braaten

**Fund Development Council
Leader**
Elizabeth Russell

Membership Council Leader
Dawn Gilman

Sustaining Advisor
Mary Jane Knisely

Nominating Chair
Jennifer Massey

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We're on the Web!
www.juniorleagueofbillings.org



President's Message



Hello Junior League of Billings!

It's hard to believe that September is around the corner! With the new season comes changes. Change in weather. Change in leaves. Change in clothes. Change in routine. One of my favorite changes about the Fall is that we start meeting as a league again. Especially after last year, we know that we are better together and I am always amazed by the strong group of women in the JLB!!

As a League, we are no exception to change. We are always trying to adapt while keeping our mission forefront. This year the Board is excited to announce the Small League Fast Track Renewal Plan. This action plan is a detailed plan put together by Association of Junior League International (AJLI) made especially for small leagues. The plan is designed to help us build a stronger league by intentional volunteering, engaging and recruiting members, stabilizing fundraising, and updating bylaws. The board is confident that the steps we take this year will make lasting positive changes for the JLB. This plan will be discussed more at the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on September 14th. We can't wait to hear your feedback.

Speaking of feedback, a big thank you to those members that completed the Active Member Survey! We will be sharing your feedback at the GMM in September as well. One thing that stood out is the need for connection and building relationships as JLB members. We plan on implementing intentional opportunities for members to not only build connections, but also personal development.

As you may have noticed, there are exciting things planned for our September GMM. I can't wait to see you there! Know that you are valued member of the Junior League of Billings!

Yours in service,
Helen Laferriere

"There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees—as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again."

— Ruth Ahmed

September General Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**The meeting will be virtually and in person at the
Billings Hotel and Convention Center
1223 Mullaney Lane**



**Social:
5:30pm
Council Meetings:
6:00pm
General Meeting:
6:50pm**

Fund Development

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are as excited as I am for our new Junior League year! The Fund Development Council is off to a busy start. We will be hosting a bingo night fundraiser on October 15th at the Elks Club from 6:00-9:00. Tickets will cost \$50 and will be available by September. This event will feature a catered dinner, cash bar, 10 rounds of music bingo, raffle baskets, wine ring toss and a game of heads or tails to win a Nintendo Switch. We are looking for members to donate bottles of wine at our September meeting that we will use for ring toss. We are also looking for local businesses and individuals to sponsor our bingo rounds for \$100 each. Please reach out to me if you are someone you know might be interested.

We are also actively planning our annual Montana Women's Leadership Conference. This event will be held on February 11, 2022 at MSU-B. Our keynote speaker will be Pamela Barnum, a former undercover police officer and federal prosecuting attorney. We are taking applications for breakout session speakers. Please feel free to share our application with anyone that you think would be a good fit for our event. Tickets will cost \$80 and will be available online starting in the fall.

Thanks again and I can't wait to see you all in September!

Elizabeth Russell
Fund Development Council Leader

Bingo at the Elks Club

October 15, 2021 from 6:00-9:00pm

Join the Junior League of
Billings for an evening of
Bingo and games

Cost:
\$50 per person
Catered Dinner

Elks Club, 934 Lewis Ave.



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
BILLINGS**

**You can purchase your tickets NOW for
Bingo at the Elks Club.
Go to the JLB website and click on Bingo
at the Elks Club. \$50 per ticket.**

President Elect

Pumpkin spice, scarves, and sweaters are right around the corner, and that means it is time for Junior League of Billings to kick off our League year! Personally, I am a lot more excited about JLB than I am about pumpkin spice.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year full of opportunities to make connections, volunteer, and further develop ourselves personally and professionally. We sent out a member survey to each of you, and we really appreciate your time and the thoughtful responses you have provided. Keep watch for the ways those responses will help shape our League year!

I am thrilled to serve as your President Elect this year. Last year was challenging on all levels, for everyone, but it did give me a greater understanding of how important and powerful our connection with one another truly is. I hope to connect with each of you through the League year, and I would also like to invite any member to reach out to me with ideas, suggestions or concerns. Here's to an amazing year!

Marisa Clark
President Elect

Membership Council

Membership is excited about our upcoming New Member Open House being held at Kay Foster's home at **115 N. Broadway #515**, on Tuesday, August 31st from 6-8pm. There will be charcuterie, desserts, wine and other beverages to enjoy while we kick off our 2021/22 League year. Please, invite the women you now who could benefit or benefit from being a part of JLB! We will have a drawing for a prize for everyone you invite who attends our social. A sign up genius is out for help with refreshments.

Our goal is to increase our membership with dynamic, active women who will help keep our league strong.

Dawn Gilman
Membership Council Leader



Communications Council

Greetings from the Communications Council! As we head into the Fall, our council will continue focusing on social media engagement, including: Free Laundry Days, Women's Leadership Conference, and our successful social member spotlight campaign "We Are JLB. We're looking for members - active and sustainer - who would like to be featured in the campaign, if that's you, please send a note to Communications@JuniorLeagueofBillings.org.

To ensure we're getting you timely information, members of our council are partnered with our other councils - Membership, Community and Fund Development - to promote our events and activities throughout the year, including. Please be sure you're following us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for the most up to date information. And, be on the lookout for more information on how we will utilize Member Essentials through our JLB website to become a "one stop shop" for JLB information and event signups.

We would love to hear from you...if you have thoughts on how we can better communicate, please don't hesitate to reach out. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Amy Riesinger
Communications Council Leader

Community Council

Hello Friends! Hope everyone had has an AMAZING summer! The JLB service year is gearing up to be full of awesome opportunities for community involvement and personal growth.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT: It is not too late to fill out the member survey that was emailed last month. You are a valuable member to the league and the community. We want to hear from YOU!

I am SO excited to share with you our big plans at our September GM meeting. As we start our BIG IMPACT venture, I invite you to join our next Community Council meeting Friday, September 3rd at 6:00. Meeting will be located at Guadalajara's on Grand and we will be enjoying tacos, margaritas and a chance to get to know each other as we create a game plan for the year.

This summer we have been busy serving the community with our monthly Laundry Day. This continues to be a vital resource for the community and is making an impact in our focus to increase the potential to thrive for low income families and children. If you want a heart warming experience, be sure to sign up for a volunteer opportunity at our next Laundry Day.

It's going to be a great year with your help! A special thank you to each and everyone of you for your commitment to the League and your willingness to serve in our upcoming projects?

Ashley Braaten,
Community Council Leader

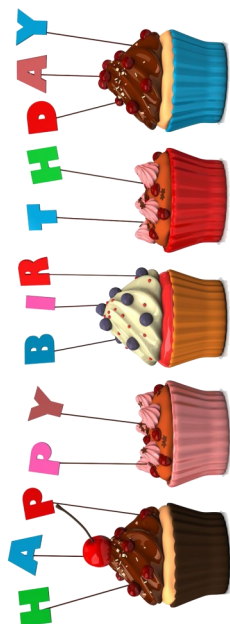
Laundry Reading Time



Mother holding little



Cookie Smiles



September Birthdays

Actives

September 3	Marisa Clark
September 5	Carlin Brown
September 20	Gencay Genc
September 22	Laura Peterson
September 26	Stephanie Baucus

New Members

September 8	Jessica Scheuerman
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Sustainers

September 2	Dee Dee Hilton
September 4	Kari Smith
September 8	Lynn Marquardt
September 11	Karla Stauffer
September 17	Erin Zimmer
September 22	Dina Pett
September 28	Susan Scariano

MINUTES

Location: Better To Gather and Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: 27 in person

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by President Jennifer Massey at Better To Gather and via Zoom.

Welcome:

Jen welcomed everyone and then all members introduced themselves.

Business:

The first order of business was to approve the April General Membership Meeting Minutes. It was moved, seconded, and approved as printed in the Board Mailer.

Annual Report Updates:

Fund Development: Elizabeth shared that Fund Development is moving forward as we had to sunset MarketPlace Magic. We had a great year and we have strong relationships with our donors and partners.

Communications: Marisa shared that our biggest accomplishment this year was keeping our League connected. Our social media followers increased by 44% on Facebook and 48% on Instagram this year. Every event and activity was shared on our social media this year and they had a digital option for attendees.

Community: Beth shared that they expanded Free Laundry Days by introducing Angel Days and it grew statewide by expanding to three cities on one day!

Membership: Jessica shared that our League grew by 5 members this spring, 4 members in the fall and 3 members last fall. Half of our new members found us on our website and social media as well as walking by our new office!

Nominating: Dana shared that our committee is small but mighty and we extend our thankfulness to DeeDee Hilton for her 2 year term of service. The committee added new questions to ask the applicants and spent a lot of hours Interviewing to build a strong slate of candidates, so please vote if you are eligible. Our committee also sent out past nominations to those candidates who had been nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award and it was well received and much appreciated.

Bylaws Committee: We met weekly this year to update our bylaws, policies, and procedures and new changes are coming up in the new League year.

Treasurer: Tani was proud to announce that we have a completed budget for next year.

Secretary: Amber pointed out that we had a beautiful new

space to meet at Better To Gather.

President: Jen thanked everyone for their service this year and was proud to share that we grew in membership, grants, and extended our social media presence and online visibility.

Please vote and then it is time to eat.

Celebrations:

New Members: We welcome new members Gencay Genc, Carry Kirkham, Ashley Braaten, and Mashaela Mackenzie to Junior League of Billings.

Council Placements: Due to the lack of members who have completed the Placement Matching Tool the deadline to complete it and receive a placement is extended to May 21st.

Unanimous approval of the Board of Directors for 2021-2022 was announced: They are Michelle Breum, President Elect, Marisa Clark, President Elect Elect, Tani McKeever, Treasurer, Katie Vaughn, Secretary, Amy Riesinger, Communications Leader, Ashley Braaten, Community Leader, Elizabeth Russell, Fund Development Leader, Dawn Gilman, Membership Leader. Helen Laferriere will be our President for 2021-2022 and was elected to that position last year as President Elect.

The 2020-2021 Board of Directors was thanked for their service and the Board of Directors for 2021-2022 was introduced.

The Volunteer of the Year was revealed to be a most deserving candidate, Jessica Taylor.

Dina was celebrated and thanked for her 40 years of service to the Junior League of Billings with flowers and a singing telegram along with having her family members present to join the celebration.

President Jen Massey adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Erlenbusch
Executive Secretary

