

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DULUTH

Women building better communities®

ANNUAL REPORT

2021–2022





Mission:

The Junior League of Duluth is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

Vision:

The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change

Junior League of Duluth, Inc.

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Duluth, MN 55806

Phone: 218.727.0341

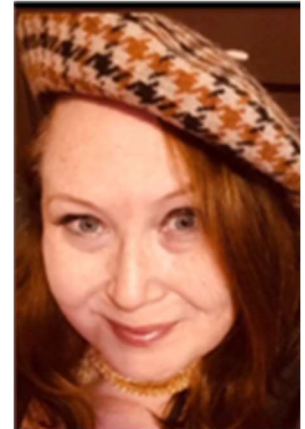
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President's Letter

Hello, Everyone!

This past year as President of the Junior League of Duluth has taught me how to honor the contribution levels of each member on an individual basis. With work/life balance around family, friends and colleagues as well as keeping a positive public-facing message, we all have something to be proud of; our dedication to League.



As I look forward to the new league year, I am optimistic and so excited to see that planning for our beloved Festival of Trees is in the works as well as continued focus on community involvement. We have more opportunities than ever to assist organizations through our Done in a Day/Done in a Meeting events.

Community outreach is everywhere, and we as a body of positive members can make a difference every day, regardless of what is going on around us. We share a robust history of accomplishments that are noteworthy and deserve notice.

Through our active recruitment, we will continue to build our membership, and we will continue to look at ways to adjust as needed to ensure a rich and growing organization.

As we enter our next year, think back on all that we have done as an organization. Think forward to what could happen now and how you can contribute in your special and individual way. With shared goals and determination, we will continue to make a difference every single day.

Lastly, let's enjoy this time together at Annual Dinner to listen, connect and inspire each other. The work of the Junior League is never done. Every day brings new opportunities, and I cannot wait to see what 2022-2023 has in store for us.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa S. LaTour". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa La Tour
President
Junior League of Duluth

LEADERSHIP

President: Melissa LaTour*

President Elect: Liz Hansen*

President Elect-Elect: Angela Engblom

Recording Secretary: Jenna Maki*

Sustainer Reps: Shevaun Stocker and Tracy Morton*

Community Council

Director: Alexis Elder*

Community Funding Lead: Libby Socha

Community Projects Lead: Ta'Ne Lancaster

Communications Council

Director: Julie Sarkela*

Internal Lead: Natalie Broberg

External Comms & Centennial Lead: Jennifer Webb

Web Lead: Amanda Sutton

Finance Council

Director: Kathy Jensen*

Treasurer: Addie Smith

Endowment Fund Chair: Katie Kuettel

FOT Leads: Brittany Liberty and Liz Villeneuve

Membership Council

Director: Anna Nelson*

Development Lead: Lynnea Emerson

Training/Ed Lead: Jeanine Schroer

NP Lead: Correne Jenson

NP Lead Elect: Patricia Norman

*** denotes Board of Directors Member**

We value transformational female leaders who

SET BOLD GOALS,

open their circles and their minds,

disrupt convention &

CHANGE THE CONVERSATION

for the betterment of civil society.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL

For the Community Council's Fall Project, members assembled 16 self-care baskets for domestic violence survivors through CASDA. Baskets were customized by the Junior League and included things like bath bombs and shower soothers (both made by League members!), nail polish, candles, moisturizers, cozy socks, eye masks, coloring books, and journals.



For the Spring Project, we collected reusable kitchen supplies for the First Ladies of the Hillside's "Food Forward" initiative to provide healthy meals to Hillside residents. We collected over 200 items, including mason jars, silicone food storage bags, cleaning supplies, pots, pans, and cooking utensils for families with limited kitchen tools, completely equipping the First Ladies for their first batch of meals.



Community Funding & Community Award

The call for grant applications went out this spring. The Community Council is currently in the selection process. Stay tuned for more information on this year's grant recipients!

The First Ladies of the Hillside has been selected to receive this year's Community Award!

The First Ladies of the Hillside is a grassroots group of women who are working together from inside the Central Hillside community to create opportunities for kindness and generosity for ourselves and for our community.



MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

New Members

The Membership Council hosted a virtual new member event in January. We are excited to welcome three new members to JLD this year!



Stephanie Forslund



Samantha Morse



Lauren Farden

New Member Project: The Spring New Member Class put together a Food Drive for Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank. They are collecting donations through May 18th, 2022.



Training and Education Recap

Membership Council arranged a variety of wonderful speakers to present during this year's GMMs.

- **Patty Saleo Downs** – Adverse Childhood Experience Training
- **Anna Nelson** – Mental Health Check In
- **Mary Cowen** – Life House
- **Laura Anderson** – Resilience, Restorative Practices and Healing from Trauma
- **Sara Niemi** – PAVSA



Busy Bees & Volunteers of the Month

September: Addie Smith

January: Sarah Crowell

April: Jenn Webb

November: Ta'Ne Lancaster

February: Anne Chouinard

December: Brittany Liberty & Liz Villeneuve

March: Lynnea Emerson

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

The Junior League of Duluth sponsored Chelsea Loining for 2021–2022 Leadership Duluth class. The Nominating and Placement Team was in contact with active members throughout the year and brought to the Board suggestions to address low membership and lack of ability to fill all roles for the 2022-2023-year placements. With the pandemic and low membership, time commitments and willingness to fill director/lead roles has gone down considerably. There was a suggestion that we ask if sustainers are willing to become active again to get us through this period of low membership and allow us to maintain League as we know it.



JLD members met before the April GMM for some spring cleaning.



SUSTAINERS

This year's Sustainer Advisors to the Board were Shevaun Stocker and Tracy Morton. The Sustainer Advisory Board for 2021-2022 was Denise Bussa, Membership Council and Patty Salo Downs, Community Council. Denise Bussa also served as co-chair of the Centennial Committee. We're so grateful for the experience and expertise these Sustainers bring to their work, helping to provide historical context, knowledge, and ideas to the important work our councils do.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Mickey Ferguson and Katie Kuettel, First Wednesdays for Sustainers continued to take place at Blackwoods on London Road throughout the year.

Thank You

PLANNING COUNCIL

Planning Council

Director: Liz Hanson

Members: Melissa La Tour, Angela Engblom and Jenna Maki

This past year, Planning Council was very sad to see the Office Manager depart JLD. Finding a replacement proved to be challenging with a very tough job market. Thankfully, Finance and Planning were able to collaborate closely to ensure the inner workings of the JLD office continued. There was much to learn, and we are thankful for the great partnership with Finance and other resources that answered questions or pointed us in the right direction.

VERY special thank you to Addie Smith, Treasurer, and Kathy Jensen, Finance Director, for going above and beyond this year! We could not have done this without you!

Past President, Lisa Plachta, organized the yearly Past President luncheon in summer 2021. We thank Lisa and others for sharing advice and support, making this a very special afternoon and honored tradition!



The pandemic did not stop JLD from meeting outdoors for the Holiday Social this year. We toured Bentleyville, dropped off donations for Toys for Tots and had a nice evening connecting.

Angela and Liz had the opportunity to attend AJLI conferences virtually and will attend the Annual Conference in Dallas in May 2022. This will be the first in-person conference in several years.



As we conclude the 2021-2022 league year, Planning Council is excited to hire a new Office Manager, think about hosting in-person events and meetings and gear up for Festival of Trees.

ENDOWMENT

The Dale Heimbach Wheeler Memorial Fund was established in 1983 in memory of Dale, who died while an active member of the Junior League of Duluth. The management of the Memorial Fund is the responsibility of the Endowment Fund Committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DALE HEIMBACH WHEELER MEMORIAL FUND

From May 7, 2021 to April 19, 2022

Emily Andrews
Correne Jenson
Katie Kuettel
Tracy Morton in memory of Andrea Theisen

The Junior League of Duluth Endowment Fund was initially funded by a devise of the estate of sustainer Margaret Mitchell. The Fund was established in 1992.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

From May 7, 2021 to April 19, 2022

Emily Andrews	Lynnea Emerson	Suzanne Rauvola
Lail Beste-Michelson	Liz Hanson	Amanda Sutton
Sarah Crowell	Michelle Hargrave	Carole Turner
Angela Dougherty	Katie Kuettel	Jennifer Webb
Heather Drangin	Mary Ostman	Nicole Widdes

Anonymous donation in honor of Mary Olin

Lynnea Emerson in honor of Liz Hanson

Mary Evans in honor of Mickey Ferguson

Mickey Ferguson in honor of Katie Kuettel

Betsy Harmon in honor of past president Dawn Kregness

Julie Johnson in memory of past president Judy Salyards

Barb Sheedy in memory of Michael Sienko

The Endowment Fund Committee awarded \$4,769 from the Dale Heimbach Wheeler Memorial Fund and \$5,231 from the Endowment Fund to partially fund "Developing A Community of Resilience" Summit on March 26 as part of the Junior League of Duluth Centennial Celebration. These two funds were the only source of community funding for the 2021-2022 year.

The King's Daughters Bequest Society, established in 1999 by the Endowment Fund Committee, honors those who have made a significant commitment to the future of the Junior League of Duluth by remembering the League in their will, trust, life insurance or other estate plan. The Society members include Sherry DeWulf, Angela Dougherty, Kay Gower, Katie Kuettel, Margaret Mitchell, Mary Olin, and Mollie Thibodeau.

CENTENNIAL

CENTENNIAL: Celebrating 100 years of the Junior League of Duluth.

Covid-19 delayed the plans to celebrate our Centennial in the 2020-2021 League year.

This year we focused on the two "big" events which were part of the original vision for the celebrations.



1921-2021
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DULUTH



On July 12th, the **Party-of-MORE-than-a-Century** will be held at the Kitchi Gammi Club. The committee planning the party spent the end of the year designing invitations, planning menus, and thinking about the programming.

Building a Community of Resilience Summit

The Building a Community of Resilience Summit was held virtually on March 26th, 2022. This summit was the culmination of more than two years of collaboration between members of the Junior League of Duluth and a number of other community organizations including, but not limited to: The Family Service Collaborative, Family Wise, the YMCA, AmeriCorps, as well as the Lincoln Park Family Services Collaborative.

Under the leadership of Sustainer Patty Salo Downs and thanks to the connections of Dr. Molly Harney (UMD), the group invited Dr. Bruce Perry to give the keynote address. Dr. Perry's talk explored themes from the book, *What Happened to You: Conversations on Trauma*, co-authored with Oprah Winfrey that came out in April of 2021.



Although originally planned to be an in-person event, due to the uncertainty regarding COVID-19, the decision was made to offer a fully virtual event. This, in the end, allowed for the audience to include attendees from as far away as Southern California to be a part of the event. To facilitate the technology a small group gathered, in person at UMD; this group included active members Jennifer Webb and Addie Smith as well as Sustainers, Patty Salo Downs and Shevaun Stocker. About 190 people registered before the event and 169 participated in the keynote. Participation remained strong throughout the day; around 90 people remained through the final session.

CENTENNIAL

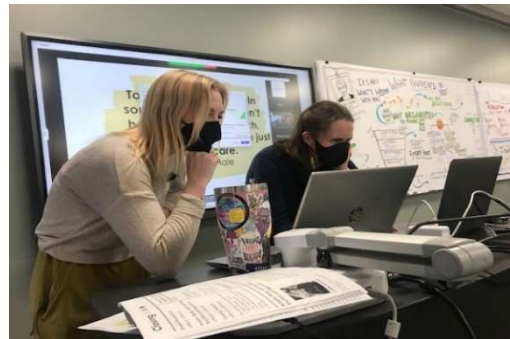
The Summit opened with trauma-informed yoga. This was followed immediately by a land-and-trauma acknowledgement as well as an endorsement from Duluth mayor, Emily Larson. After recognizing the sponsors, focus turned to Dr. Perry's talk. Throughout the talk, participants used the chat to ask questions and share resources in a way that helped to build virtual community. It was evident throughout the talk that Perry's ideas inspired people to reflect on lessons and share personal experiences. The energy in all of these virtual spaces was incredible and testament to the power of this work.

Perry's keynote was followed by an additional session of trauma informed yoga that led into the breakout sessions. Each of the breakout sessions built upon the theoretical discussion from earlier in the day. By focusing on narrower areas of scope--Early Childhood, Education, Therapeutics, and Sport—summit attendees could think more deeply about tangible application and best practices. For example, in the Education sessions, Steve and Luke Graner modeled how to integrate rhythm and regulation into classrooms to help all students learn. The sessions were repeated in the afternoon allowing participants to curate their own learning.

Nelle Rhicard captured the content of the keynote as well as the breakout sessions. She shared her visual notes as part of the final session of the day.

The survey results demonstrate that attendees were really energized by the event and were already translating new ideas to their home, work, and life. The collective that organized the Summit met right after and are already making plans for new programming and new ways in which this Summit may be a catalyst for improving the lives of all in the Twin Ports communities.

The Junior League of Duluth was the largest sponsor of the event; we are already laying the foundation for a new century of impact in the lives of those around us!



FINANCE

Fiscal Year 2021–2022

	Actual	Annual Budget
<u>Year to Date Income *</u>		
Arrangements	\$2,588	\$3,100
Grants & Donations	\$2,277	
Interest & Dividend Revenue	\$1,097	
Membership Dues	\$9,492	\$10,905
Festival of Trees (net of expenses)	\$914	\$220
Resiliency Summit (net of expenses)	\$(933)	
Gain (Loss) in Investment Funds	\$(9,741)	\$200
Total Income	\$5,694	14,425
<u>Year to Date Expenses *</u>		
Operations	\$9,198	\$13,271
Planning Council Expenses	\$4,810	\$4,650
Community Council Expenses		\$15,150
Finance Council Expenses	\$1,956	\$7,820
Membership Council Expenses	\$1,816	\$6,850
Communications Council Expenses	\$2,458	\$3,950
Total Expenses	\$20,238	\$51,691
Change in Net Assets	\$(14,545)	\$(37,266)

* through March 31, 2022

	March-2022	March-2021
<u>Current Assets</u> (as of 3/31/2022)		
Republic Bank Checking - General Fund	\$44,056	\$49,569
Republic Bank Savings - Let It Grow	\$10,945	\$10,940
US Bank - Money Market and Mutual Funds	\$91,729	\$92,097
US Bank - Endowment/DHW	\$351,849	\$364,040
	\$498,578	\$516,646