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On the Cover

Mason R. Owen, Reagan Hayes, Liam Hayes and Lauryn Parlow play on the fire truck at JLNO's 2nd Annual Touch a Truck.

Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

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Letter

from the President



Photo By: Jessica Bachmann

According to a Wikipedia source, the phrase, “cross training” refers “to an athlete with a goal of improving overall performance. It takes advantage of the particular effectiveness of each training method, while at the same time attempting to negate the shortcomings of that method by combining it with other methods that address its weaknesses.” The Junior League of New Orleans’ placement opportunities have supported this type of training for its volunteers for over 90 years.

For example, a Junior League volunteer’s placement may consist of participating in a community project held in a classroom with students at Educare, Lafayette Academy or assisting with the facilitation of Judgment Call at The International School of Louisiana. The following year, that same volunteer may serve on the Project Evaluation Committee, which evaluates the overall effectiveness of our community projects. In the next year, said member may write about her collective JLNO experiences as a *Lagniappe* writer and publish a story in this very professional publication, which is coordinated by volunteers just like her. In year four, the volunteer may serve on a fundraising committee that will raise funds to keep her initial community project in effect for years to come.

This experiential training fulfills the Junior League’s mission of both “developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.” In the example above, while the volunteer may not have had experience in the classroom, as an analyst, a writer or fundraiser, after four years in Junior League, she will! As one of 293 Junior Leagues across the world, our placements and programs create a safe environment for volunteers to cultivate the leadership skills necessary to develop or manage other valuable nonprofit work in their communities.

To the incoming JLNO leadership team, your goal is to improve overall performance of the organization, its members and ultimately, Metropolitan New Orleans. The internal JLNO structure is designed to “take advantage of the particular effectiveness of each training method, while at the same time attempting to negate the shortcomings of that method by combining it with other methods that address its weaknesses.”

On behalf of the outgoing Board of Directors, we proudly look to each of you to continue to cross train our membership in an attempt to fulfill the Association of Junior League International’s Vision Statement: “Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.”

You’ve been remarkable,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet". The signature is fluid and cursive.



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Letter

from the Editor

“The future depends on what you do today.” — Mahatma Gandhi



Photo By: Jessica Bechmann

The end of a Junior League year is a time for reflection of the past year and anticipation of the coming year. In my first letter as editor of *Lagniappe*, I compared JLNO to a deeply-rooted tree. Looking back on this past year, I am reminded of how we strengthened our roots, added wisdom and lessons learned to the sturdy trunk, and of the fresh growth that blossomed. JLNO members serve as the water that gives our tree life and sustainability. As a member, you should be proud to know that after 90 years of growing, the JLNO tree is rooted deep in this city and will continue to grow stronger.

In order to continue giving to our beloved city, The Junior League of New Orleans must explore new ideas to further grow as an organization. 2013/14 was a remarkable year and we want to applaud all that was accomplished; achievements that will allow JLNO to flourish. Inside you'll find information regarding the new strategic plan and get a glimpse of what is to come. I also invite you to read about the Project Development Committee and learn how an idea becomes a JLNO community project. Read about our newest community project, JLNO's Diaper Bank. Don't miss our feature on volunteering as a family. You'll discover how your volunteer experiences can impact your family and enhance to your child's success.

As we close the 2013/14 Junior League year, I am preparing to say goodbye to a placement that has taught me so much. The training I received over the last for years is invaluable. When I started my Junior League journey 6 years ago, I never imagined I would be the editor of a magazine, or become a published writer. But, thanks to this placement, I now have a new skill set, interest and more confidence. The Junior League is a great training resource – you just have to accept the offer. As I look ahead to the upcoming year, I know I'm ready to embark on my new role with The Junior League of New Orleans.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to a few very important people who have given me so much this year. Thank you to my husband Kevin. You're my biggest cheerleader and give me never-ending support. Jeanne and Enid, thank you for believing in me. The guidance and leadership you provided is priceless. You'll never truly know the depths of my gratitude. Kelly and Jessica, you both have been huge assets and I thank you for enthusiasm. Kelly, she's all yours!

Last but certainly not least, I would like to extend a very special thank you to the *Lagniappe* staff. These 19 women amazed me with their productivity and consistently exceeded my expectations. For that, I am grateful.

A million words of thanks to each of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Meet the 2013/14 *Lagniappe* Staff

What a *remarkable* year this has been! Over the past year, this group of 19 dedicated women filled the pages of *Lagniappe* with stories of our success and lively photos. The *Lagniappe* staff would like to wish you all the best of luck on your future Junior League of New Orleans endeavors. Thanks for reading!



The 2013/2014 *Lagniappe* staff: Standing (L-R) - Heather Hilliard, holding her niece, Bradley, Liz Wood, Kimberly Allen, Kelly Walsh, Amelia Council, Rachel Stephens, Amanda Goldman, Heather Guidry and Elizabeth Hayes. Seated (L-R) - Ann Conger, Erin Woods, Qi Wiggins, Bobbie Klobas and Jessica Fridge holding her daughter, Evelyn. Not pictured: Lea Witkowski-Puri, Sherri Zeller-O'Bell, Margaret Zainey-Roux, Autumn Town and Emily Remmington. Photo by: Jessica Chin



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JLNO Summer Bulletin Board

Happy New **LEAGUE** Year - The 2014/15 Junior League year has officially begun! Here's to another amazing year!



Do you want your event featured in League Faces?

Email the event information to editor@jlno.org.

Keep us updated! Visit www.jlno.org and update your contact information.

We don't want to lose you!

Share your idea! Do you have a story idea for Lagniappe? Send your idea to editor@jlno.org!

Better to be Safe! Safe Sitter training has begun! Register your potential sitter (ages 11 & up) for one of the following dates: June 21, 22, 28 and 29; July 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27; August 2. All sessions are held at JLNO HQ from 9:30am - 4:30pm.

Get the grill and fireworks ready!

Celebrate America's Independence on the 4th of July! Happy Birthday, America!



It's a Revolution! The July Joint Council and General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8th at 7pm at JLNO HQ. All JLNO members are invited to attend.



Going to the chapel? Are you or someone you know getting married soon? Come to JLNO's Bridal Boutique! The boutique will be open June 21st, July 19th, August 2nd and 16th from 10:00am - 1:00pm.

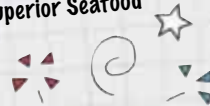


Want to partner with JLNO? JLNO will host a Nonprofit Partner Fair on August 19th beginning at 9am at JLNO HQ. For more information, please email info@jlno.org.

Attention Provisionals! - On August 21st at 6pm and August 22nd at 9am, Provisionals are invited to attend "Sip n' Shop" at Bloomin' Deals, where they learn the basics of volunteering at our thrift shop.

Take a break and relax! - Labor Day is September 1st! In observance, JLNO HQ will be closed.

Welcome Provisionals! - The Provisional Social will be held at Superior Seafood at 5:30pm on September 16th. All Provisionals are invited to attend!



Mark your calendars
The September General Membership Meeting is Tuesday, September 16th at 7pm in The Nims Center at Sacred Heart Academy.

Put your name on the list!

To be added to the Lagniappe mailing list, please send an email to editor@jlno.org or contact JLNO Headquarters at **504.891.5845**.

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- Liked Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop on Facebook?
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Get a head start on this year's requirements by:

Completing your Fundraising Shift

Completing your Thrift Shop Shift

Making your rummage donation

Completing your Community Shift 

Roadmap for the Future – Strategic Plan Update!

By: Kimberly Allen

As the Junior League of New Orleans celebrates our 90th year, we have spent a lot of time looking back at our history, our successes, and our contributions to the community.

But for one group of Junior League members, they have spent much of the last year thinking about the future of JLNO as they put together the Strategic Plan that will guide the organization over the next few years.

Under the leadership of Planning & Development Council Director Mary Beth Green and Strategic Plan Co-Chairs Mollye Demosthenidy and Jennifer Jeansonne, this team focused on taking a comprehensive look at the way that JLNO operates to identify any areas that need to be changed or improved.

“As a [Junior] League we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our members’ time and money,” said Mary Beth. “This new strategic plan will help us tremendously in terms of fine tuning how we do things.”

Mollye, Jennifer, and Mary Beth were joined in this effort by Jeanne Boughton, Katherine Raymond, Enid Fahrenholt, Allison Plaisance, Gina McMahon, Maria Huete, Carrie Moulder, Hallie Boh, and Sarah Abbott. David Huete, a professional strategy leader, guided the team through the planning process and provided objective recommendations that made sense to the future of JLNO.

This group worked with a variety of stakeholders – members of the current and previous boards, several ad hoc committees and work groups, Joint Council leaders, and the general membership – to examine JLNO’s current strengths and weaknesses, to survey the New Orleans community landscape, to identify opportunities and challenges facing The Junior League, and to make strategic recommendations to position JLNO for the future. These members hope this plan serves as a road map that upcoming JLNO leadership can use to make decisions.

One major change is that JLNO will move from having three Focus Areas to The Association of Junior Leagues International recommended strategy of one Issue Based Community Impact; Advancing the Wellbeing of Women.

“I think that one of the most positive things that can come out of this new strategic plan is related to the switch to an Issue Based Community Impact,” Jennifer explained. “I think that “Women Helping Women” will energize our membership and lead to new, creative projects that can make a significant impact



Strategic Plan Co-Chairs, Jennifer Jeansonne and Mollye Demosthenidy, flank Planning and Development Council Director Mary Beth Green.

Photo by: Amelia Council

in the New Orleans area.”

She believes the switch will also help with marketing and branding efforts, which will lead to increased funding partnerships and community partnerships with organizations in the community.

Mary Beth says the other changes will be much more subtle and gradual.

“We have implementation goals such as an inventory control system at Bloomin’ Deals and developing a mentoring program,” Mary Beth added. “These goals will all contribute to improving JLNO and our members’ satisfaction, but aren’t necessarily going to be obviously noticeable to each and every member.”

Educating Junior League members on the Strategic Plan was a crucial part of the strategy, and the specific details were unveiled at the March General Membership Meeting.

“The response was overwhelmingly positive, so it looks like we are on the right track to getting everyone on board,” said Jennifer.

According to Mary Beth, members will notice many favorable changes.

“Members will see that we are making a more focused and measurable impact in the community, our thrift shop and

other fundraisers will be even more successful than they are now, and our membership will feel their time and dollars are used efficiently,” she explained.

Jennifer said that working on the new strategic plan was a refreshing change to her Junior League experience because she learned a great deal about the inner workings and operations of JLNO.

“Getting to sit on a different council was also a great experience because it allowed me to see the development of community projects, the evaluation of businesses and fundraisers, and participate in conversations about community partnerships, all things that went hand-in-hand with the strategic planning process,” she added. “The training that I received about the strategic planning process has been beneficial in other areas of my life, both personal and professional. The team that worked on this plan was comprised of fantastic, powerful, involved women who are among some of the finest in JLNO, and it was an honor to be a part of this team and play a role in determining the future of JLNO.”

United in dedication to improve our community, JLNO is poised to take a leap upward in pursuit of our mission and the impact we have on the New Orleans community.



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Junior League Member in the Community: A Debut Novel for Sustainer Laura Lane McNeal

By: Rachel Stephens

For Junior League of New Orleans Sustainer, Laura Lane McNeal, there was no time like the present to begin pursuing her dream of embarking on a writing career. Inspired by the extreme loss she experienced on several levels as a result of Hurricane Katrina, McNeal sought to, as she puts it, “write about the New Orleans that was and never would be again.”

McNeal took up writing as a second career. After the New Orleans native received dual degrees in Fine Arts and Business Administration from Southern Methodist University, she earned a master’s degree in Business Administration from Tulane University. McNeal made a career in advertising, working for firms in New York and Dallas, before returning home to New Orleans to start her own marketing consulting firm, as well as working as a free-lance writer and decorative artist. When the devastation of Hurricane Katrina forced her to rebuild her life, McNeal, a married mother of two, seized the opportunity to begin writing full-time.

McNeal credits her time with the Junior League, as a writer, assistant editor, and editor for *Lagniappe* magazine, for helping her train to pur-



sue and achieve her goals. Speaking about her time in the Junior League, McNeal says, “I certainly would say without a doubt that my experience [in JLN] was a stepping stone to my writing career in many ways, including getting to know the community on a better level and giving me the confidence to move forward with my aspirations.” True to its mission of training women, in this case the Junior League of New Orleans served as a springboard for McNeal’s work as a novelist.

Her debut novel, *Dollbaby*, is a coming-of-age tale of eccentricity and secrets set in civil rights-era New Orleans. Set to release in July from Pamela Dorman Books, *Dollbaby* tells the parallel stories of two young girls and the New Orleans they experienced beginning in 1964. The experiences and relationship that evolves

between Liberty (Ibby) Bell, a recently arrived twelve-year-old girl transplanted from the Pacific Northwest, and Dollbaby Trout, a New Orleans native and the African-American daughter of Queenie, the cook in Ibby’s home, create the novel’s intriguing dynamic. McNeal used the novel’s varied characters to create an image of New Orleans

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1 Dollbaby author Laura Lane McNeal.

Photo by: Carlton Mickel

2 Laura Lane McNeal holds a copy of her debut book.

Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

3 Laura Lane McNeal with her dog Abby.

Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes



from a number of vantage points. As she describes, “I felt that *Dollbaby* needed to be told from dual perspectives—from that of a native of the city where the culture was ingrained, and from a newcomer.” After the sudden death of her father, Ibbby has been shipped to live in her grandmother’s ornate uptown New Orleans mansion. Ibbby finds the city to be unlike any place she has ever been, and Queenie and Dollbaby initiate Ibbby into the local culture, both its longstanding traditions and its darkest mysteries. Ultimately, Ibbby unlocks the secrets long hidden in her grandmother’s home, finding in a round-about way through Queenie and Dollbaby that family can sometimes be found in the least expected places. As McNeal describes, “In the end, it is *Dollbaby* Trout’s outwardly simple yet deeply complex voice that tells the bittersweet story of what happens when the lives of these two families irrevocably and unmercifully collide.”

The staff of *Lagniappe* magazine proudly congratulates Laura McNeal on the publication and release of her novel, which is receiving much advance praise. New York Times bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews raves, “McNeal’s *Dollbaby* is such an impressive debut—a powerful roux of family drama, long-simmering secrets and resentments, and ultimately, forgiveness and redemption. Deeply evocative, with memorable characters, *Dollbaby* belongs on the keeper shelf along with *The Help* and *The Secret Life of Bees*.” Bestselling author Walter Isaacson also finds the novel “both thrilling and poignant” writing that *Dollbaby* “brilliantly captures New Orleans. It’s a deeply personal tale about growing up and searching for family as well as a provocative exploration of race and kinship.” McNeal dedicates her book to the city of New Orleans, and she has already begun work on her second novel.

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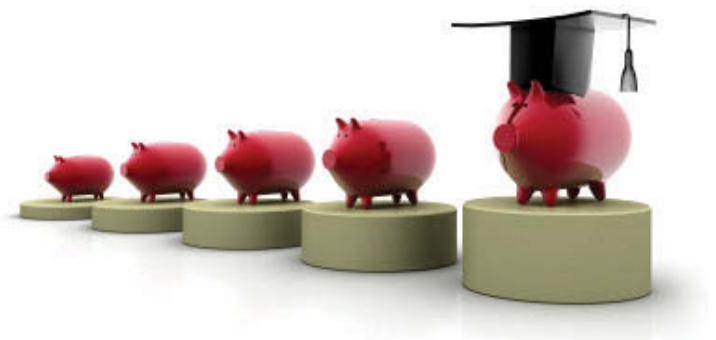
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Investing in your child's future begins now



By: Steve Hemperley
Southeast Louisiana Market President, Capital One Bank

We all know the importance of a college education, and we also know the daunting numbers involved. As the cost of college continues to rise, it's important to start saving as early as possible. But don't be discouraged if your child is already in high school or soon to become a college freshman – it's not too late to start saving, and any amount is better than nothing.

TO GET STARTED, HERE ARE SOME GREAT OPTIONS:

- **State 529 plans** — Named for the part of the IRS code that created them, these plans allow you to save money to pay for your child's post high-school education. Students can go to a school in

any state, and the withdrawals won't be subject to federal tax. Grandparents, aunts and uncles and close family and friends can also contribute to these accounts.

- **State 529 pre-paid tuition programs** — These programs let you lock into today's tuition price to pay for tomorrow's education at your state's university. Regardless of tuition costs at the time your child begins college, you pay today's rate while the state makes up the difference. If your child opts for a private or out-of-state university instead, accumulated savings can be used toward tuition. The state just won't guarantee to make up the difference.
- **Coverdell Education Savings Accounts** — These tax-free



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ABOVE: Mme. Alcée Villeré, née Delphine Odile Fleitas; ca. 1858;
The Historic New Orleans Collection, bequest of Mrs. Clarisse Claiborne Grima, 1981.376.4



savings accounts allow you to put away \$2,000 per child each year and use the money for elementary, secondary or post-secondary educational expenses. There are eligibility restrictions; only couples with adjusted gross income of \$220,000 or less, and individuals with a gross income of \$110,000 or less, qualify.

- **Roth IRA** — Not just for retirement savings, the Roth IRA can be used to save for college. The money you have saved in a Roth IRA isn't assessed for financial aid purposes and, unlike traditional IRAs, you can access your savings penalty and tax-free for things like education.
- **Individual Development Account (IDA)** — Restricted to low-income families, these are accounts in which nonprofits, in partnership with a local bank, match contributions to a savings account.

OTHER TIPS TO HELP YOU PLAN AHEAD:

- **Establish a goal** — If you specify a savings goal, you can measure your progress.
- **Save regularly** — Set up automatic withdrawals from your paycheck or checking account into the college fund.
- **Ask relatives to help** — Ask for relatives to donate what they would have spent on birthday or holiday gifts to your teen's college savings fund.

It's important to start talking with your kids about financial topics early and make a habit of it to help them feel comfortable coming to you for advice now and down the road. For more free tips and tools to help talk with your kids about money management, visit one of the following websites:

- www.capitalone.com/financialeducation
- www.bankit.com
- www.moneyasyougrow.org

With proper planning and support from a bank truly committed to its clients and community, you can ensure your children get the education they deserve without a lifetime of debt.

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1

The Gift of Volunteering as a Family

By: Sherri Zeller-O'Bell

Parallel to the nostalgia and goal setting prompted at the end of each calendar year, the conclusion of the academic year brings similar opportunities for reflection. In nine short months our babies are walking, our school age children are asserting new found independence leaving baby days way-side, and our teenagers, who take on so much both in and outside of the classrooms, are closer than we ever imagined possible to college shopping. Where did the time go?

Parents cannot help but think about the road ahead and it is our job to impart wisdom and life experiences beyond what can be taught in the classroom. These life lessons start at home and with family. We try to create family memories that not only serve to entertain, but to represent the traditions and values that we want our children to experience and remember of their childhoods. Everyday, we teach them beliefs and life lessons that we hope will instill happiness and success for the road ahead. As Junior League members, we also teach them the importance of volunteering by our example.

Volunteering is a way of life among Junior League members. Many in our membership not only volunteer the forty-plus hours a year for Junior League commitments, but we serve our children's schools, places of worship, and other causes that hold a place in our hearts. By giving our time, we teach our children that serving the community is important. Volunteering is not only knowing what needs to be done but also doing it.



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1 Families love volunteering together at Second Harvest Food Bank.

2 Spending time together volunteering is also an amazing bonding experience.

3 Involve your children in your volunteer efforts!

Photos provided by: Second Harvest Food Bank

4 New learning experiences are abundant at The Edible Schoolyard.

With the summer months upon us, family volunteer opportunities are a great way to create some new family memories, learn some new skills, and help the community. According to UnitedWay.org, research has shown that volunteering as a family:

- Helps families learn about social issues and provides a new perspective on the world
- Provides positive role models and passes on family values to children
- Provides new learning experiences and development of new skills for both children and adults
- Provides quality time for the family to spend together
- Increases interpersonal communication and the problem-solving abilities of family members
- Helps youth decide what they want to do with their life

As Junior League members, we have the privilege each year of selecting among a wide-range of interesting volunteer opportunities that have been identified, vetted and arranged as ideal volunteer experiences. Two long-time JLNO community partners that would serve as excellent family volunteer experiences are **Edible Schoolyard New Orleans** and **Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana**.

The **Edible Schoolyard (ESYNOLA)**, founded in 2006, aims to change the way children eat, learn and live at the five FirstLine public charter schools where the gardens are located. The mission of the organization is to improve the long-term well being of their student, families, and the school community by integrating hands-on organic gardening and seasonal cooking into the school curriculum, culture and cafeteria programs. ESYNOLA welcomes community volunteers to help with gardening and cooking classes, composting, and garden maintenance. ESYNOLA also host Open Garden Days on Saturdays throughout the year.

Dee McCloskey, former JLNO President and ESYNOLA board member, remarks that Open Garden Days include weeding, trimming, picking, and providing overall maintenance to the gardens. Volunteers are divided into groups at the start of the session and each tackle specific jobs in the garden. In addition to helping to serve the children and school community of these sustainable gardens, the sessions conclude with a group lunch where volunteers get to relax and

enjoy each other's company after working side by side all morning. "It's a unique opportunity to make the world a better place while discovering these wonderful gems in our city. Volunteers get to learn new experiences, meet new friends, help others, and help the Edible Schoolyard Community"

The five campuses where volunteers are needed are Samuel J. Green Charter School, Langston Hughes Academy, John Dibert Community School, Joseph S. Clark Preparatory High School and Arthur Ashe Charter School. *For information on Open Garden days and volunteer opportunities at ESYNOLA, please visit esynola.org.*

The **Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana** is another JLNO community partner that provides an enriching volunteer experience for families. Their mission is to lead the fight against hunger and build food security in south Louisiana by providing food access, advocacy, education and disaster response and the organization's vision is for a hunger-free south Louisiana. According to Second Harvest, when you give your time to volunteer, organize a food drive, or raise your voice to build awareness about the issue of hunger, you become a partner on the fight to end hunger in south Louisiana.

Second Harvest offers an array of volunteer experiences. Through the efforts of sorting and packing fresh vegetables, fruits, and other foods for families in need, volunteers ages 9 years old and up are welcomed to help in the warehouse. Children ages 9 – 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The summer schedule includes warehouse sorting Monday through Friday and in the fall. Saturdays are included. The Second Harvest Community Kitchen, which provides breakfast and lunch to over 3000 area children each day, welcomes volunteers ages 15 and older to help in the food preparation and packaging. Volunteer shifts are available for Community Kitchen Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. until Noon. For those who love the outdoors, an opportunity not to be missed is the volunteer Gleaning Days. Families with children of all ages are welcomed to help harvest to fruit being donated by area farmers. Volunteers travel to the citrus groves in Plaquemines Parish to help harvest the fruit for area families in need. *For more information on volunteer opportunities with Second Harvest Food Bank, please call (504)734-1322.*

While your summer will undoubtedly include a few chores around the home, a reading list, a trip to the beach, and important time with family and friends, perhaps JLNO will inspire you to share a volunteer experience with your children, family and friends. Whatever you do with these summer months be adventurous, have fun, and don't blink—it will pass us all by much too fast.

“Playing dress-up begins at age five and never truly ends.” — Kate Spade

Summertime Fun, with a Junior League **Twist**

By: Autumn Town

After a short, chilly spring, summer is here and things are heating up quickly. Spring/Summer 2014 fashion shows are already showcasing the best of this season's fashion trends—cropped jackets, tea length skirts, artful colors, florals, color blocking, and the return of the button up, to name a few. But you don't have to hit New York or Milan to find these looks—Bloomin' Deals, the Junior League Thrift Store on Freret Street, has everything you need to soak up the summer sun.

Bloomin' Deals first opened as a permanent fundraising feature in

1927 on Royal Street, before moving to its present location in 1960. In addition to housewares and furniture, Bloomin' Deals also stocks a large collection of new and used adult and children's clothing, including shoes and designer-label items. To show the versatility and selection available at Bloomin' Deals, JLNO members spent a fun Saturday morning at the Thrift Shop scouting looks and putting together current fashions. In a little over three hours, we matched 7 current looks, fresh off the runways! The best part is that you can interpret the looks exactly, or incorporate your own sense of style.



A structured button-up, paired with a softer silhouette, looks fresh and feminine.



Monochromatic with a punch of color keeps you looking cool but still fashion forward.



This look pairs summer's hot piece—the jacket—with comfortable separates that can be dressed up or down.



A good transition piece between hot summer nights and cool fall evenings, Bermuda shorts are the perfect wear-with-everything.





Color is key for summer, but why stick to just one? Colorblocking is a great way to indulge your love for bright tones!

"Fashion is the armor to survive the reality of everyday life." – Bill Cunningham



And don't forget shoes! Get dressed up for warmer weather.



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JLNO by the NUMBERS

90 YEARS
of serving Metropolitan
New Orleans



2,200 MEMBERS
ranging in age from
25 to **102**

100
**PLACEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**
to work in leadership or
on a committee

40
**TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES**
to develop personally or
professionally

90%
are college
educated

89%
work outside
the home

82%
volunteer out-
side of JLNO

The Junior League of New Orleans offers its members a range of opportunities to contribute to the organization and Metropolitan New Orleans. Through civic leadership and community engagement, members fulfill our mission and serve the public with direct service, advocacy, education, and fundraising.

Community Impact

\$785,000 in funding
+ 36,700 in volunteer hours
= \$1,500,000
investment in the community & mission*

Community Events

9 SERVICE PROJECTS

9 FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

1,800 PEOPLE SERVED

260 BUSINESSES participating in fundraisers

*volunteer hours multiplied by \$19.33 - the value of a volunteer hour in Louisiana as estimated by Independent Sector

Developing Strong Partnerships

By: Qi Wiggins

Have you ever wondered how The Junior League of New Orleans determines what projects to support? How projects are chosen, and the process? The Project Development Committee is where you can find these answers.

In 2013/14, this committee was co-chaired by Jessie Haynes and Heather Guidry. These ladies had the task of managing a small group of committee members to decide how JLNO will support, engage, and enhance our community. "It's a mix of internal [Junior] League members submitting ideas and our annual community seminar. We get the bulk of our project ideas through the seminar," said Jessie. Every August, along with the Community Shift and Community Assistance Fund (CAF) committees, the Project Development committee hosts a community seminar, in which area nonprofits are invited to attend and learn more about partnering with JLNO..

"In the seminar we provide nonprofits with information about JLNO. Afterwards, we ask those interested in receiving a grant, volunteer hours, or both to submit a concept paper," Heather said. The concept paper is a one page proposal that is reviewed by the Project Development committee to decipher if the project addresses JLNO's area of focus. "From the concept paper, we are able to determine if an organization or project meets the requirements and the needs of the Junior League and community. For example, if the project is requiring volunteer time during business hours Monday through Friday, that project may not be a good fit [for JLNO]," stated Heather. After reviewing the concept papers, the committee settles on which organizations will be asked to submit a full application.

After an organization submits an application, a site visit is then scheduled. During the site visit the committee evaluates the location to determine if it is safe, matches the intended project, would be able to be staffed properly, and aligns with JLNO member's goals and interests. During this entire process, the JLNO Board of Directors is abreast of all actions taken by the committee. "We stay in constant communication with our [Junior] League board. The Planning and Development Council Director is our liaison, and she



2013/14 and 2014/15 Co-Chairs of the Project Development Committee (L-R Jenna Turnage, Heather Guidry and Jeanne Charlebois) Not pictured — Jessie Haynes
Photo by: Liz Wood

keeps the board updated on our progress — from the annual seminar to the site visits," Heather added.

Following the site visits, the committee offers their suggestions to the Planning and Development Council and then to the JLNO Board. When the membership elects the Board each year, they place their trust in them to select projects that best represent the membership and community. Once the Board agrees to move forward with the selected projects, they are then presented to the membership, who cast the final vote at the Annual March General Membership Meeting.

The Project Development committee works hard to ensure that the range of projects offered meets the needs of the membership and community. It also encourages all members to invite area nonprofits to the annual August seminar. Jessie stated, "Any organization may be considered for a JLNO future project, however they must go through the entire [evaluation] process."

A new project included in the 2014/15 Junior League year is the Diaper Bank. JLNO recognizes that many local parents face a "diaper gap." This is due to the cost of diapers and

because diapers are not included in the federal social safety net programs. Sadly, a lack of diapers can lead to neglect and it can also prevent parents from having access to a day care facility, which is important if they are trying to pursue or maintain their work and educational goals. Currently, only one small program serves Metropolitan New Orleans, and JLNO is excited to collaborate with them to start the first full-scale diaper bank in our community.

"Our own Marie Huete brought this project through the process. It's something new, impactful, and a good match for our members. We want to ensure that all parents have an adequate supply of diapers for their child. We're here to help our community," Jessie said.

Jeanne Charlebois and Jenna Turnage join as the 2014/15 co-chairs and they are already taking the steps necessary to make sure that future projects will include a volunteer component that allows for the utilization, training and development of volunteers. With a new strategic plan being implemented, this committee will seek out projects that address a need within the new Issue Based Community Impact — Advancing the Wellbeing of Women.

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August 30
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Major Leaguers Personal Thank You's from JLNO Members



The 2013/14 Junior League of New Orleans' year has officially come to an end. This year has been **remarkable**, thanks in part to our "MAJOR LEAGUERS", those who have gone above and beyond what was asked of them. Our members are extremely grateful for the support provided by others — members and nonmembers. From staff to husbands, Provisionals to Sustainers, JLNO is filled with committed and kind members who recognize those qualities in others. Thank you to all who made this such a fun and productive year.

Carrie Moulder — Thank you for always answering my many phone calls and emails. The feedback you provided is invaluable. You are a true asset to this organization.

— Jessica Chin

I'd like to thank Jeanne Boughton for her mentorship, leadership, and legacy of remarkable work with the Junior League.

— Katherine Kleinpeter Raymond

Thank you to all the Provisionals and Actives who made Bloomin' Deals a fun and friendly place to work!

— Melissa Guidry

I would like to thank Nini Scriber, for being such a wonderful Egg Salad co-chair. It is a pleasure to work with you.

— Ann Heslin





The words “thank you” do not seem to be enough to show my appreciation for all of the women in the Junior League of New Orleans. In my short time on staff, I have been inspired and delighted by their wealth of knowledge, effort, and energy. I include my fellow employees, Holley Payne and Keela Bell, among this number. Through patience and positivity, Holley and Keela have helped me more than I can put into words. I can only say that I am grateful to come to work with them every day.

— Carrie Moulder

Rachel Roubion — Thank you for co-chairing Events with me. You are an excellent team player and it was a pleasure collaborating. More importantly you are an AMAZING mom, wife and friend. I truly am blessed to know you!

— Caitlin Brewster

Thank you to the amazing Esprit members Kelley Mackenroth, Kristen Robinson, Erica Cameese, and Megan Barnes for their hard work in making a rainy Easter Egg Hunt a wonderful indoor EGGstravaganza!

— The Esprit Committee

I would like to thank the 2013 Buy, Save and Serve committee for all their hard work this year. The fundraiser would not have been a success without your time and dedication. It was a pleasure working with you. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

— Chalon Dominick

I want to send out a huge thank you to all the members of the Business & Communications Council. This has been a productive, profitable, and most of all rewarding year. You have worked so hard and your efforts made my job easy. And fun! Thanks so much!

— Enid Fahrenholt

Holley, Carrie and Keela, Thank you for letting this MaMa and her baby invade headquarters often. You have been helpful, therapeutic, and it has been awesome getting to know you all individually and personally. Y'all are the best and we enjoy seeing your faces every time we stop at 4319 Carondelet St., Y'all Rock!

— Courtney Lane and Mikey

Thank you to Shon Baker and Sarah Abbott for helping me out with some Junior League requirement problems! They were both super helpful and I really appreciated the support and assistance!

— Megan Barnes



I want to extend a huge thank you to Ashley Aarons and Denyse Boudreaux for stepping in and taking last minute photographs at many JLNO events for *Lagniappe*. You both did a fantastic job and I really appreciate your flexibility and willingness to step in on last minute assignments.

— Jessica Fridge

I'd love to recognize the hard work of all the Mighty Men who volunteered to pickup furniture and other heavy items for donation to Bloomin' Deals.

— Kate Padbury

I could never have known how much I would grow personally and professionally as a *Lagniappe* writer and editor during the chaos of my first Placement Week, when a fortuitous glitch in Digital Cheetah showed my first choice as filled. So, thank you to the wonderful ladies of *Lagniappe* with whom I've had the privilege of working over the years — Jessica Chin, Maria Huete, Caitlyn Brewster, Kelly Walsh, and Enid Fahrenholt!

— Sarah Harbison



JLNO'S 2ND ANNUAL TOUCH A TRUCK HITS A HOME RUN!

By: Amanda Wingfield Goldman

Touch a Truck rolled into its second year for The Junior League of New Orleans with a bang by raising nearly \$28,000 in revenue. Approximately 1,600 people attended Touch a Truck this year, and its co-chairs and vice-chairs agreed that the best part of the event was seeing the children's faces light up as they entered Zephyr Field. "A little boy made a beeline for the fire truck across the lot right when the doors opened," says Vice-Chair Lisa Yip. "Basically, he left his parents and little sister at the entrance!"

"There was a special moment for me as a mother and [co-]chair of this event when I saw my kids for the first time," says Cynthia Gremillion. "I was at one end of the parking lot when I saw my 5 year-old and 2 1/2-year-old running towards me with such pure joy and excitement on their faces. All the boys could do was tell me about all the different kinds of trucks that there were, what they had seen and what they were going to do. There is a moment as a mother when you see your child so happy, so excited that it touches you in a way that you can't explain."

The second best part? "Watching a child have a meltdown because their parents are telling them they have to leave," Cynthia shares. "Although I never want to see a child cry, it tells me that we did our



job by making it so much fun that they don't want to go. Our toughest critics are the little ones." Co-Chair Mary Martin Roth agrees. "We received numerous emails after the event about their children screaming with excitement when they ran in the entrance towards the trucks, and crying and clinging to their strollers and not wanting to leave."

Touch a Truck tripled the number of vehicles this year at Zephyr Field. "We had everything — racing vehicles, boats, cement mixers, trolleys, limos, dump trucks, and some trucks that I had to no idea what they were or

what they were for!" exclaims Cynthia. The trucks were truly the highlight of the event, and children enjoyed climbing aboard to learn from the truck operators about what the trucks were used for. The children's faces would light up and the truck operators would beam with pride as they explained their line of work. "I loved watching the kids turn the sirens on and off on the police car and the fire truck," says Vice-Chair Denise Smith. "The kids were in pure heaven being able to press buttons and make a ton of noise!"

Touch a Truck's organizers agree that they owe the success of this year's event to the hard work of the Touch a Truck committee. "We



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had an amazing committee that was so dedicated,” says Cynthia. “The women on the committee love children, and we ‘tapped’ into kids and we know what they want. If we needed to do research, all we had to do was go home and ask our children or the kids in our lives what they wanted to see.” Getting the first year of Touch a Truck under their belts also helped. “With the success of the first year and the amazing feedback we received, it was much easier to get companies to participate this year,” Cynthia says. “The truck companies were thrilled to participate again, and the New Orleans Zephyrs were very generous to allow us to host the event at Zephyr Field,” says Denise.

In addition to tripling the amount of vehicles this year, Touch a Truck also included some educational components for children such as a recycling center, a touch pool from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and a bird cleaning station where children learned how to clean animals involved in oil spills.

JLNO is already very excited about next year’s Touch a Truck event. The Touch a Truck committee hopes to expand the variety of vehicles next year and is looking into adding a helicopter, military vehicles, and more entertain-

Touch a Truck Sponsors

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1 Touch a Truck Co-Chairs, Mary Martin Roth and Cindy Sterbcow, and Vice-Chairs, Lisa Yip and Denise Smith, pose with the sugar cane harvester provided by John Deere. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

2 Liam and Reagan Hayes, children of Elizabeth Hayes, climb and explore the fire truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

3 Junior League volunteers Carrie Wright, Caroline Wade, Amy Borrell, Brie Howard, Caty Flower, Cecile Kerber, and Chalon Dominick welcome guests to the 2nd Annual Touch a Truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

4 Jack Goldman, son of Amanda Goldman, demonstrates the proper way to touch a truck. Photo by: Amanda Goldman

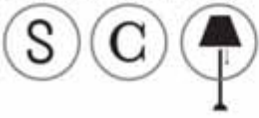
5 Lauryn Parlow experiences the back of the AMED ambulance. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

6 Megan Chin, daughter of Jessica Chin, has fun on the fire truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

ment options. The committee is also thinking outside of the box with ideas such as a VIP area, quiet hour for younger children or children with disabilities, a birthday party option, and expanding on the classroom sponsorship by providing transportation.

“I think the idea of having children actually touch a truck or a favorite vehicle, climb in the driver’s seat, and meet the driver or operator who protects, builds, or serves our community is such a strong event,” says Mary. “We are not the only [Junior] League who supports this event, and it is really rewarding.” Touch a Truck is unique because it bridges volunteer opportunities between JLNO and the community. In turn, JLNO uses the money raised to support community projects around the city. “We look forward to further developing partnerships with our many sponsors in making this a marquee event for years to come,” says Denise.

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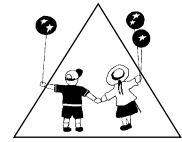
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Dear June R. Leaguer,
I am approaching the end of my Active membership. I love being an Active member and am not ready to become a Sustainer. Do I have any other options?

*Sincerely,
Juanna Work*

Yes, Juanna, you have the option to remain Active until the age of 51 or you can go "Associate Active" by requesting a change in status in writing during Placement Week. Associate Actives are required to meet all financial obligations (except Thrift Shop rummage) and required to fulfill any ONE of the following: general meeting requirement; placement obligation; or shifts (Thrift Shop, Fundraiser, or Community). However, board members, committee chairs, and presidential appointments are not eligible for Associate Active status.

Dear June R. Leaguer,
I'm co-chairing a fundraiser for another local nonprofit and we're looking for sponsors. I was curious if the Junior League of New Orleans sponsors other nonprofit events or organizations?

*Thanks for your response,
Sharon DeWealth*

Dear Sharon,
The Junior League is proud of members that represent or lead other nonprofits in addition to their roles in JLNO. It is proof that our mission of "women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers" is alive and well! However, as an organization, JLNO does not raise funds for other nonprofits, but you may find that we form strategic partnerships with nonprofits with who we share a mission, vision or focus.

Dear June R. Leaguer,
I have a beautiful couch for sale. Before I list it for sale elsewhere, I would like to see if any of my fellow Junior Leaguers would like to buy it. Does JLNO have "classifieds" or have a member bulletin board?

*Regards,
Red E. Toosell*

Dear Red,
We understand that there are some items that you are not quite ready to donate to Bloomin' Deals. For those items, you can safely sell items to other JLNO members by placing an ad on Fleur de League by emailing fleurdeleague@jlno.org. If you are not tech savvy, you can place an ad in Tout de Suite's "This n' That" section by emailing carrie@jlno.org. We also have a bulletin board at JLNO headquarters for you to post your ads to other JLNO members.

Dear June R. Leaguer,
I've just transitioned into my Sustainer membership and would like to remain involved in the organization. As a Sustainer, what options do I have to remain a part of JLNO?

*Fondly,
Sissy Tainer*

Dear Sissy,
As a Sustainer, you who have the option to participate in numerous social events throughout the Junior League year tailored exclusively to Sustainers. There are also Sustainer clubs that you can join, if you are in good standing. Each club is managed by their respective boards or club officers and there are nominal annual dues for some clubs. A few of the clubs, like the Lunch Bunch, are small and have immediate openings for Sustainers who are interested in joining. Other clubs, like the Garden Club and Interior Decorating Club, have more than 200 members and a waiting list of three or four years. Additionally, if you have a great idea for club or would like to participate in a community project, contact JLNO Headquarters at 891-5845 and learn how to start one and add to the fun of being a Sustainer!

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SETTING A NEW AGENDA

By: Ann Conger

Photos by: Amelia Council

As a member of the Junior League of New Orleans, we've all been in this situation at least once: it's late on a Tuesday afternoon, you've had a long day and you just want to go home. However, it just happens to be the second Tuesday of the month, which means there's a General Membership Meeting (GMM). As it turns out, you are a couple meetings shy of the four meeting requirement and to top things off, the end of the Junior League year is closing in. What do you do? Do you go home and hope you'll be able to make the next Tuesday night meeting or do you turn down Napoleon Avenue, dodge the construction, grab a bite to eat, attend the meeting and learn something new for the day? Thanks to recent and upcoming GMM changes, JLNO members have many more options in terms of attending meetings, fulfilling their membership meeting requirements, and staying informed with what is going on with both the JLNO and the community at large.

The initiative to streamline GMM's was the idea of 2013/14 President Jeanne Boughton, "Meetings will be run efficiently as possible, as we want to be mindful of our members' time and meetings will feature graphically engaging presentations, as well as interesting speakers." Social media and email has also been employed to tell members of what will be discussed at the meeting and to respond to member's requests and interests, in terms of meeting ideas. Furthermore, minutes are being posted online and agendas are being sent out in advance to better notify members of what the meeting




Caitlin Brewster, Kristin Stewart and Jeanne Delaurel check-in JLNO members attending the March General Membership Meeting.

will cover. Having the minutes posted online is a great step for both JLNO's transparency and for keeping the members who were unable to attend aware of what was discussed. These changes will undoubtedly help members stay more informed and assist them in making choices on how their time is best spent.

In addition to the monthly GMM, there is now a wide variety of options to assist members with their meeting requirements, as well as many options for growth and development through meeting attendance. One great way to get a meeting credit, as suggested by

continued on page 33

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Grilled Octopus
black eyed peas & potato confit salad, chorizo oil

Braised Goat Pasta
shiitakes, peas, goat cheese

Truffle Fries *black truffle mayo*

Crawfish Ravioli
corn succotash, butter & lima beans



Lemonfish Crudo
Big Shot pineapple nuoc cham, radish, cilantro, basil, mint

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SETTING A NEW AGENDA

continued from page 31

2014/15 President Katherine Raymond, is to attend monthly Joint Council meeting. The Joint Council consists of the chairs and vice-chairs of all JLNO committees, as well as the Board of Directors. Beginning with the 2013/14 Junior League year, Joint Council meetings were made available to all JLNO members. Joint Council meetings are more intimate and geared more toward leadership and education. They cover a different leadership-related topic each month, such as how to engage committee members, how to run meetings, among other useful topics. Katherine says that she “would love for all members to attend a Joint Council meeting because they are a great opportunity for learning and talking, on a smaller scale, than other meetings.”

While GMM and Joint Council meetings happen (almost) monthly, there are other, special format meetings that occur periodically throughout the year. November is the time of year when JLNO hosts small group meetings, which are limited to a smaller number of people, but have several meeting times, locations and dates. These meetings are a great opportunity for members to speak out and give feedback regarding their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions



1 Lacrecia Jones and Sarah Peltier look over the ballots at the General Membership Meeting on March 18, 2014.



2 Whitney Ponseti purchases a Freret 5K t-shirt from her sister, Mariel Ponseti, and Beth Van Kirk before the meeting begins.

for this organization. In December, the Holiday Market replaces the GMM and is a festive way to multitask by receiving a meeting credit and doing some shopping at the same time. In years past, October and April hosts Member Education Series, also known as “Trainingpalooza”, in which a member can receive a GMM credit by attending one or more training event. Additionally, for the 2014/15 Junior League year, there will be trainings scattered throughout the entire year — in addition to the October and April trainings. Between

November and April, if a member is not able to attend a Tuesday night meeting, she has plenty of options!

Attending meetings, whether in the form of traditional GMM's or in the form of other, more specialized meetings is a great way to meet fellow JLNO members, do some networking and become informed about goings on within the Junior League and beyond. Members now have more ways than ever to get their meeting credits, learn a little, and maybe make a few new friends in the process.

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GREEN THUMBS LEAD TO TOP HONORS!



The JLNO Garden Club won top honors with their interpretation of *Pastoral Scene*, by George Inness, at the 2014 Art in Bloom event held at NOMA. Photo submitted by: JLNO Garden Club

By: Heather Hilliard

Every year, the New Orleans Museum of Art — affectionately referenced as NOMA — sponsors an "Art in Bloom" competition, where the museum selects oil paintings to inspire an interpretation through living media for a five-day display. The NOMA volunteers and the Garden Study Club create this annual event that draws more than two dozen groups to the competition. Approximately three weeks prior to the judging, the groups are emailed their various inspirational portraits. Junior League of New Orleans's Sustainer Garden Club participates every year, with a team of two designing the response piece, selecting plant material, and constructing the sculpture in the NOMA hall.

This year, the Garden Club's entry received

two prizes, both with special meaning. The Directors of NOMA awarded their top prize to the entry designed by Garden Club Board Members, Elizabeth Seaver and Beth Hesse. Their creative entry was reflective of the piece *Pastoral Scene*, 1857 by George Inness. Their diligence in refreshing the living art every day was likely a critical piece to the high achievement of this year's competition.

The second award received was the Rose Forsyth Strachan Award, given by the Garden Study Club and was awarded for plant material used — local, as well as variation of type. The Garden Club used a variety of botanicals, including myrtaceae, oryza stiva and senecio cineraria. The significance of this achievement is that the namesake (Rose Forsyth Strachan) was actually the

chair of the Junior League Garden Club in its third year of existence, 1942-1943.

The Sustainer's Garden Club has recently shifted to a co-chair system, with this being the inaugural year of co-presidents Ann de Montluzin Farmer and Danielle Newlin. Natural partners, Danielle and Ann were Newcomb College graduates together and are their class alumni co-chairs, which is experience that has been useful in coordinating activities of one of the largest Sustainer clubs in JLNO. This club has a waiting list typically of 50 Sustainers and an annual participation of 250 women engaged in learning about various aspects of flora, design, presentation, and even sustainability.

In order to continue their education, the club offers lectures, projects, and trips

to encourage involvement, as well as learning techniques. The Sustainers' Garden Club is similar to an Active Junior League member's placement project for a year. It's a year commitment (June through May), with meetings beginning in the fall and being held monthly at a club member's house, with the exception of Mardi Gras time. There are lectures in garden design, topical discussion such as orchids, book discussions, and gardening tips for members. Sometimes, the interest even promotes sub-groups, such as The Whimsy Group, comprised solely of members of the Junior League Sustainers' Garden Club that design and place the flowers in The Great Hall of NOMA. Not all volunteer efforts are known by the greater community as Junior League projects, but it is always appreciated and in the forefront of important cultural gatherings.

In another parallel to the Active Junior League membership, members of the Garden Club are required to attend two meetings a year. Frequently, the meetings will host guest speakers and some meetings have less of an academic focus — the most prevalent being the Christmas Tea, co-sponsored with the Sustainers Interior Decorating Club. Each year, the groups alternate this fun and well-attended event, providing a hostess in one club or the other that can accommodate a lively and creative crowd!

This fall, the Garden Club celebrates its 75th anniversary as one of the longest-standing Sustainer Clubs in the Junior League of New Orleans. Many members also are NOMA volunteers or participate in other community volunteer activities — and those hours can be recorded in the member's Junior League online profile, so that JLNO can show the many ways and hours the Junior League women contribute to the community and fulfill our Vision of Women Building a Greater New Orleans. If you are a Sustainer (current or incoming) and have a green thumb or interested in making New Orleans a more pleasant and pretty place to live, consider joining the Garden Club! Send an email to the Garden Club Recording Secretary (gardenclubrecordingsec@jln.org) to be added to the waitlist.

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Kitchen of Tricia and Lewis Stirling. Photos by: Katie Hardin

A SECOND HELPING OF KITCHEN TOUR

The kitchen in the home of Tricia and Lewis Stirling is so new that it wasn't completed in time to be featured in *New Orleans Homes & Lifestyles* magazine along with the other homes on the Junior League of New Orleans' 9th Annual Kitchen Tour presented by PosiGen Solar Solutions on April 5. Their nearly 300 square foot kitchen is sleek and contemporary with a slight influence from Italian modernism and crisp, white lines. The couple teamed with Rivers Spencer of Rivers Spencer Interiors for the design and Lorri Adams at Artisan Kitchen and Bath to source the materials. They built the project around the custom Berloni cabinets and included Bianco Reale marble and sleek stainless steel appliances from Fisher & Paykel. The Berloni cabinetry is the star of the Stirling's kitchen because the high gloss finish on the sleekness of the cabinet fronts makes for a seamless look throughout the space. Because of the size and floor plan of the kitchen, the homeowners and their team chose to create a long galley-like functional far wall to serve focal point of the kitchen. The floors are whitewashed oak and add to the clean, light, and airy simplicity of the design.



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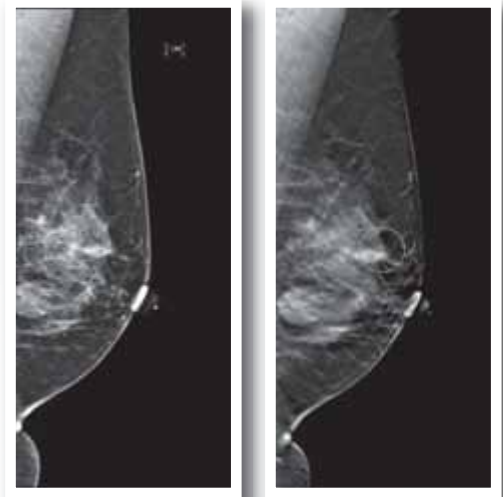
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By: East Jefferson General Hospital

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3D mammography images.
Photo provided by: EJGH

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2013/14

JLNO Scrapbook

A look back at an amazing year!



1



2



3



4

1 JL101 trainings introduce new Junior League members to what JLNO has to offer.

2 Kicking-off another successful Buy, Save and Serve fundraiser.

3 JLNO's first annual Freret 5K brought businesses and the community along Freret St. together.

4 JLNO members gather to celebrate the JLNO's 90th birthday in 2014!

5 Sustainers celebrate the holidays together.

6 JLNO members prepare for a Halloween inspired Kids in the Kitchen event.

7 Cake to celebrate JLNO's 90 years!

8 JLNO's Bridal Boutique boasted beautiful dresses and shoes for future brides.

9 Another fabulous Esprit event at St. James Cheese Company in the fall of 2013.



5



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6



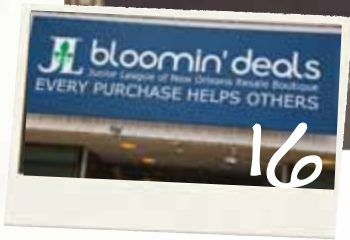
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8



9



10 Get on Board committee members at the spring info session in February 2014.

11 Children at Lafayette Academy Charter School thank JLNO for all of their volunteer efforts.

12 Jeanne Boughton decorates Halloween bags at the Freret Street Halloween Festival.

13 Junior Leaguers help children open their gifts at the Bayou District Toy Drive.

14 JLNO hosted numerous Safe Sitter trainings for New Orleans youth.

15 The 2014 Esprit Easter Egg Hunt was a wonderful family celebration.

16 In the summer of 2013, Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop received a face lift with a new sign!

17 JLNO volunteers paint faces and arms at the Freret Street Festival in April 2014.

18 JLNO volunteers work hard in October 2013 with Rebuilding Together.

19 Senior League volunteers help residents celebrate Mardi Gras.

20 JLNO Transfers gather together at the holidays to celebrate.

21 Lemonade Day University is a recipe for success!

Leaders in Training: New Orleans Regional Leadership Institutes

By: Emily Remington

The New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute (NORLI) describes itself as “a nine-month program designed to enhance personal leadership skills and examine issues central to the advancement of the Greater New Orleans region.” Each year, a group of 40 business, civic, and community leaders are awarded a coveted spot in the incoming class. The class offers a healthy mix of participants from communities throughout a 10-parish region, not just Greater New Orleans.

NORLI begins every September and ends the following May. In order to participate, members must attend seven all-day sessions and two overnight retreats in Baton Rouge. Each of the seven full-day sessions is hosted in a different parish, to allow class members to explore new parts of the region and learn about how policy and programmatic decisions affect businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations in each parish. This regular movement encourages leaders from all over the Greater New Orleans area—not just those living or working in New Orleans, Metairie, or Mandeville—to apply, to join, and to make their valuable voices heard.

For the past 15 years, The Junior League of New Orleans’ president-elect has participated in this program. NORLI Class of 2010 Alumnae and Past President of JLNO, Jennifer Couvillon, described the experience as vital for the essential learning period of the incoming president. “NORLI is designed to enhance a leader’s perspective and offer a regional approach to problem solving in New Orleans. This excellent training opportunity for the President-Elect of the Junior League establishes a foundation from which our leaders can build as they serve in their role as president.”

This “pre-service” opportunity for a president-elect allows her to meet leaders from across the region in the year before she guides an organization of 2,300 women herself. Katherine Raymond, NORLI Class of 2014 and 2014/15 JLNO President, said, “The experience has given me insight into many topics affecting our region, including transportation, economic development, education, and housing. It has also allowed me to connect with leaders from 10 parishes, providing unique opportunities to work together to help our community.”

Jennifer echoed this sentiment, noting that “one of the many responsibilities of the President of the Junior League is to maintain and grow strategic partnerships. These can begin with the connections from NORLI.”

As per NORLI, their curriculum “examines public policy, education, workforce development, diversity, criminal justice, public safety, environmental, and sustainability issues and how they affect economic development and quality of life.” Participants report that the workshops are centered on class participation and panel discussions



1



2

1 Jeanne Boughton (back middle) poses with class mates at the NORLI Class of 2013 orientation.

2 Katherine Raymond (second from left) gets to know fellow participants at the 2014 NORLI orientation.

Photos submitted by: New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute

from experts. Jennifer's favorite experience with NORLI "occurred when we were asked to create our own post-Katrina industrial tour. It was amazing to hear the different perspectives of the 40 participants and invaluable to then level set the group's knowledge on this topic. The group's vision of post-Katrina growth varied as widely as the participants' definition of "industry."

NORLI claims to expose regional leaders to "group dynamics, team leadership, presentation skills, ethics, decision-making, and critical and creative thinking." The opening retreat provides an introduction to NORLI through Emergenetics, a unique tool that provides insight into the way people think and behave. The NORLI staff group class members together according to their Emergenetics profiles. By doing this, class members are with 5-6 other leaders who complement their ways of thinking, an experience that participants learn to replicate in professional decision-making as they put together teams, build projects, and design presentations.

NORLI believes that its contributions to the community include developing "committed, knowledgeable, and action-oriented people to serve as catalysts in promoting positive change – people who are ready to roll up their sleeves and work to make the New Orleans region a great place to be." Jeanne Boughton, NORLI Alumnae and 2013/14 JLNO President, said, "Each class of NORLI participants, who represent nonprofits and businesses across Metropolitan New Orleans, want to pursue progress for the citizens in our region."

According to Jeanne, NORLI played an important role in affording JLNO the opportunity to work with other organizations, businesses and community programs. "Without attending the enriching NORLI programming and sessions for the past 15 years, JLNO would have missed valuable conversations among participants and the organizations they represent. The ability to collaborate among other thought-leaders in our city broadens JLNO's opportunities to create partnerships and sponsorships, which ultimately enhances our impact on Metropolitan New Orleans."

The Junior League of New Orleans is honored to be a part of this unique leadership training program. Each year, our incoming president joins a network of over 500 NORLI alumni who are dedicated members. For more information on applying to be a part of the next NORLI class, please visit www.norli.org.

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Catalyst for Change

JLNO hosts the Area V Training Conference

By: Heather Guidry

Photos by: Carrie Moulder

On April 11, 2014 for the first time in many years, The Junior League of New Orleans hosted the Area V Training Conference. The training took place at JLNO headquarters and consisted of 37 Junior League leaders from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. Members of the Junior League of New Orleans' Joint Council were also invited to attend.

The day started with a presentation from Harold Suire, Vice President of Education for Emergenetics International and one of four International Emergenetics Master Trainers. Emergenetics International defines itself as "an innovative, results-oriented organizational solutions company specializing in analyzing, identifying and leveraging the way people think and behave. We provide a grounded framework for effecting actionable change through the use of proprietary tools and training based on scientifically-proven Emergenetics thinking and behavioral technology."

After an engaging Emergenetics introduction, Anne Dalton, Chief Officer for Strategic Initiatives for the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), gave a presentation on action learning and how it has influenced AJLI. What is Action Learning? The AJLI website (ajli.org) states, "Action Learning is a fluid, dynamic, and open-ended way of collaborating for success. Through questions and reflective inquiry in place of "expert" information, Action Learning team members engage in a dynamic process of developing and implementing solutions to complex and urgent problems where no known solutions exist." Junior Leagues across the nation are developing solutions to challenges in areas of community impact, membership and governance and management; Action Learning is teaching leadership how to "shift our mindset from change that is episodic to change that is systemic. Action Learning is about leadership, which is the cornerstone of The Junior League."

Junior League members in attendance also had the opportunity to learn about Dual Board Governance: Governance vs. Management. The panel discussion consisted of Cathy Giering, President of the Junior League of Baton Rouge (JLBR), Tam Bourgeois, Assistant to the President of JLBR, Sarah Berthelot, former AJLI Board Member and Past President of the Junior League of Lafayette, and Anne Dalton, AJLI staff. Cathy stated, "The current JLBR membership is fortunate to carry on dual board governing that has been active and in practice for over 10 years and for which plan-

ning began in 1988. We believe in this structure and will assist any [Junior] League in their work to institute dual board governing." In regards on how to implement a dual board governance, Cathy said, "The number one thing that any [Junior] League needs to know in getting started with a dual board governance is that you need to have two things in place at least one year before governing is in action: governing documents and [a] Nominating [Committee.] The rest is just leadership training and efficient governing." The Junior League of New Orleans recently developed a special task force to study the effectiveness of dual board governance, which will be working over the next year to see if this type of board governance is something JLNO should consider for our future.

Since its inception, the Junior League has evolved from an organization of full time volunteers to part-time volunteers. Keeping current with the ever-changing membership is why AJLI supports and encourages Junior Leagues to engage in conversations regarding these specific changes in governing structure. For some Junior Leagues, the governance that worked years ago, doesn't necessarily work in present day.

Concluding the training was Jenny Nolen, also known as "Alabama's Funniest Lady", who engaged the group in a presentation titled, "Leadership through Laughter." Ms. Nolen is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and has a degree in Social Work and a minor in Counseling Psychology. JLNO member Melissa Stelly attended Jenny's presentation and shared her experience, "I really enjoyed the presentation by Jenny Nolen, "Leadership through Laughter." It was very insightful and I learned a lot from it.

It helped me to better understand personality types from a working perspective, which is such a vital tool, especially as it relates to Junior League." Melissa noted that one statement in particular stuck with her after the training, "One thing that she said especially resonated with me, "As long as you don't feel dirt, you have options." It's so important to remember that we're always capable of making conscious decisions to improve not only our own lives, but those of others. As long as we're breathing, we can change things." For more information about Jenny Nolen, please visit www.jennynolen.com.

New Orleans is a popular location for conferences and JLNO is excited that New Orleans will be the host city for the Presidents of Large Leagues conference, scheduled for January 2015.



1 Panelists discuss Dual Board Governance at the Area V Training on April 11, 2014. (L-R) – Sarah Berthelot, Tam Bourgeois, Cathy Giering, and Anne Dalton.

2 Key Note Speaker Jenny Nolen had the attendees laughing when she spoke about the role of humor in leadership.

3 2013/2014 President-Elect-Elects from other Junior Leagues joined JLNO members for the Area V Training. (L-R) – Charlotte Seals, Jackson; Cassie Wenmohs, Austin; Carissa Cooper, Tulsa; Shannon Able, New Orleans; Mimi Foerster, Houston; and Leigh Harver, Birmingham.



League Faces

JLNO members being active in the community and enjoying Junior League events!



1 2013/2014 President-Elect Katherine Raymond, President Jeanne Boughton, and President-Elect-Elect Shannon Able are ready to celebrate JLNO's 90th birthday! Photo by: Denyse Haddock Boudreaux

2 Katherine Raymond and Shannon Able present Amir Shuja from USAgencies with a door prize at the 90th birthday celebration. Photo by: Shannon Able

3 Tobin Bosworth, daughter of Amy Bosworth, enjoys the 2014 JLNO Easter Egg Hunt. Photo by: Amelia Council

4 Jennifer Jeansonne and Allison Plaisance cut into the delicious JLNO birthday cake made by Rachel Stickney with Pralines by Jean. Photo by: Shannon Able

5 Esprit Committee Members Kristen Robinson, with her daughter, Anna, Kristen Stringer and Erica Camese, enjoy their hard work at the 2014 Easter Egg Hunt. Photo by: Amelia Council

6 Locals supporting local businesses! The stars of the play, "The Golden Girls Return", Varla Jean Merman, Ricky Graham, Brooklyn Shaffer, Brian Johnston, and Becky Allen were all costumed by Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop! The play ran April 4-27 at Mid-City Theater. Photo by: Heather Hilliard

7 Brandi Digney, Courtney Spencer, Kimberly Smith and Caroline Fischer enjoy drinks and snacks on their way in to the March 18th General Membership Meeting. Photo by: Amelia Council



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8 Kitchen Tour Co-Chair Brandy Gilly and Vice-Chair Lauren Hebert are ready for anything – rain or shine! Photo by: Carrie Moulder

9 2014/15 Provisional, Kristin Durand, joins Active members, Chana Doreaux and Jenn Rosebanch, at The Park View Guest House. Photo by: Carrie Moulder

10 Celebrity judges Bailey Hidalgo, Miss Louisiana Teen USA, DJ Wild Wayne of Q93, Camille Whitworth from WDSU and 2013/14 President-Elect Katherine Raymond, pose with the top three Lemonade Day winners, as well as Gumbo and Sir Saint. Photo by: Liz Wood

11 Vicki Bristol, Susana Bobadilla, and Michelle Clark enjoy learning about new placement options at the JL103 event. Photo by: Erin Woods

12 Sustainers gather to celebrate the 2014 Sustainer of the Year. (L to R Standing): Cynthia Hammond, Bonnie Conway, Pat Mason, Ann Montgomery, Virginia Walker, Janet Bean. (L to R Seated): Margaret Wall, Claire Stahel (2014 Sustainer of the Year), Muffin Balart, Glayds LeBreton. Photo provided by: Holley Payne

13 Katherine Raymond and celebrity judge Camille Whitworth, conduct a blind tasting at the Lemonade Day Testing competition. Photo by: Liz Wood

14 Junior League members attend League Day at Capitol. Here they take time to pose for a photo at the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge with State Representative Neil Abramson. Photo provided by: Jeanne Boughton



15 Caitlin Brewster, Amanda Moley, and Rachel Roubion check in JLNO members for the Placement Fair. Photo by: Erin Woods

16 Margeret Tifton, Jenny Comarda, Emilie Montgomery, Caitlin Flanagan and Leigh Smith-Vaniz learn about different placement opportunities at the JL103 event. Photo by: Erin Woods

17 Junior League volunteers, Monica Griffin Roberts, Carlette Williams and Jennifer Bar, assist children at the trolley at Touch a Truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

18 The Farnsworth family (Amy, Stephen, Carter, Coli, and Simms) chat with MK1 Mason Bowen about the Coast Guard boat at Touch a Truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

19 Junior League volunteers, Ashley Hope and Katherine Olivard, assist children on the FBI vehicle at Touch a Truck. Photo by: Elizabeth Hayes

20 Bloomin' Deals' staff members, Ms. Audrey, Willie, Ms. Carol and Lawrence, enjoy a lunch provided by JLNO to show appreciation for all of their hard work. Photo by: Liz Wood

21 Ms. Audrey cuts into the delicious cake at the Bloomin' Deals Employee Appreciation event. Photo by: Liz Wood

22 Junior League members, Katie Jones, Kaylee Smith, Meredith Gould, La Koshia Roberts, and Mary Audiffred, enjoy the celebration with Bloomin' Deals employee, Willie Johnson. Photo by: Liz Wood

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