

Junior League of Springfield

LeagueLiner

February/March 2008

Volume 60, Issue 5

WIIN Conference 2008

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Springfield and the Junior League of Springfield will play host to the 2008 WIIN (Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana) conference on February 8th and 9th. Leagues from the region will be experiencing the hospitality of the Land of Lincoln. The event kicks off with a reception on Friday, February 8th at the Robert Morris Gallery just steps from the conference site, the Springfield Hilton at 5:30 p.m. Here you can meet fellow League ladies and learn on refining your skills both as a Junior League member and as a concerned community citizen. The conference will provide training from Association of Junior Leagues International, Pam Mosley. Pamela (Pam) Mosley is a Consulting Liaison in AJLI's League Services Department. She serves as a League Liaison responsible for providing technical assistance to Leagues and also assists in developing AJLI resources. Pam is a certified Birkman consultant and joined AJLI in 2000. Topics at the conference will include: Creating a Community Impact, Developing and Managing Community Programs, and Developing Members into Leaders. The conference will be filled with high caliber training, fun, good food, and special gifts. The ad-hoc WIIN committee including actives Joyce Burkhart, Kathy Dehen, Stefanie Moy-Zobus, Tricia Hopkins-Price, Farah Salim, Ann Schmitt and Sustainers Sue Bell and Elaine Young have planned an entertaining and educational event not to be missed!

Junior League
of Springfield

Headquarters

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www.jlsil.org

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday April 5, 2008

Event: 2-4pm Volunteering hours: 1-5pm

Lincoln Land Community College



KiDs in the KiTcHeN

Thank you for all you have done...

- Thank you to the Projects and Grants Committee: Valerie Rife, Kathy Dehen, Meredith Swanson, Laura Pizarek.
- Thank you to the Finance Committee for their time and input in choosing this year's projects and grants.
- Thanks to Kate Cohorst and Julie Waldrop for attending ODI in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Thanks to the Cookbook committee, Jill Daugherty, Kelli Kaufman, Karen Kloppe, Leslie Ruyle, and Laura Scott for your work on the display at the festival of trees!
- Thanks to the Special Event Committee, for all the great DIAD's and DIAM's this year. You are a fantastic committee!
- Thanks to the Finance committee, Tricia Hopkins-Price, Julie Herter, Erica Hofferkamp, Kellie Kaufman, Martha Mote, Julie Harris, Jessica Dalheim, and Cynthia Lemar for all your work on the JLS budget.
- Thanks to the Projects and Grants committee, Angie Condon, Kathy Dehen, Valerie Rife, Laura Pizarek, and Meredith Swanson, and the Finance committee for deciding on some great P&G awards this year!
- Thanks to everyone that coordinated and attended the Children's Story Hour at the Downtown Library.
- Thanks to everyone that helped out at the Phoenix Center! You did a great job. It looks terrific!!
- Thank you Barb Rowe and your committee for your continuous work on the Kitchen Tour.
- Thanks to Jen Deaner for your work with Sojourn and Dress for Success.
- Thanks to every member that helped at the Senior Services of Illinois during the holidays.
- Thanks to Joyce Burkhart for all your efforts selling scarves this year!!!
- Thanks to the Arrangements committee, Sara Ratcliff and Erica Hofferkamp, for arranging the ornament exchange. Fun was had by all that attended.
- Thanks to the WIIN committee for coordinating this exciting training conference!
- Big thanks goes to members of the Communications council for doing such a wonderful job during the first half of League year - I know you will continue to impress during the second half!

JLS Mission

On March 15, 1939, 74 volunteer workers founded the Service League of Springfield. This was incorporated as the Service League of Springfield on November 2 of the same year. Their first project was a Placement Bureau, which filled requests for volunteer service. The Service League of Springfield affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues of America and became the Junior League of Springfield in 1950. Through the power of our association, Junior Leagues strengthen communities by embracing diverse perspectives, building partnerships, and inspiring shared solutions.

The Junior League of Springfield, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins, who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to volunteerism.

With Sympathy

To the friends and family of Helen J. Lutz, a former Sustainer, who passed away on December 31, 2007.

To the friends and family of Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Chapin and Annabelle Patton, both were Emeritus members.

Our Mission

The Junior League of Springfield 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.



The Junior League of Springfield, Inc.
Women building better communities

Happy Birthday to You!

February

Jalene Higginbotham

2

Brandy Moore

3

Julie Herter

6

Britta Brackney

7

Jessica Dalheim

16

Kathy Dehen

29

March

Kathryn Kleeman

1

Sinead Rice Madigan

2

Tiffani Hamerlinck

4

Aimee Berman

13

Jennifer Miller

23

Dana Kinion

29

2007—2008

JLS Board of Directors

President: Genelle Iocca

President-Elect: Jessica Dalheim

Sustainer Co-Presidents: Pat Jacobs
and Cheryl Roberts

Recording Secretary: Jen Deaner

Finance VP: Tricia Hopkins-Price

Membership VP: Melanie Capps

Communications VP: Farah Salim

Community VP: Kate Cohorst

Fundraising VP: Stefanie Moy-Zobus

Treasurer: Julie Herter

Parliamentarian: Jalene Higginbotham



Historic Springfield Scarves make great gifts!

Cost: \$50 (includes tax)

The scarves come in gold gift boxes tied with attractive JLS ribbon. An information sheet as to what historic places are on the scarves is included in each box.

To purchase: Call Junior League Headquarters at 787-7802 or Joyce at 546-1851 or e-mail joyce9479@sbcglobal.net.

The scarves are also available at the following local businesses: Illinois State Museum gift shop, Shoetopia, Tinsley Dry Goods, and The Wardrobe.

Provisional Class Update

Since September, the provisional class has grown to 14 members, with the three newest members joining late December through early January. The A/P committee is excited to introduce Melissa Bedford, Carissa Brownback, Navonna Bunn, Lauren Davis, Megan Fulara, Angela Fyans, Kim Harmon, Kathryn Kleeman, Cheryl Lanier, Lauren Mueller, Becky Rader, Cori Stuart, Tracy Sulwer and Jennifer Walsh. On January 12, 2008, these ladies spent their Saturday afternoon learning about the options for their provisional project. As part of the process, they visited two area not-for-profit agencies—Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault and P.O.R.A (Positive Options Referrals and Alternatives) to learn more about the agencies and the project ideas each agency proposed. In addition, two other project ideas included Junior League projects

such as developing marketing materials and working with the Communications Council on a Kids In the Kitchen initiative. After discussing all the options, the members chose to work with P.O.R.A and help coordinate their annual dinner fundraiser and stock their food pantry. The provisional members will not be doing any fundraising for the event, but will help the P.O.R.A staff set up and work the event. During February and March, the provisional members will be asking the active members to donate canned food items at general meetings to help stock the P.O.R.A food pantry. They are all very excited to help a great organization and get started on their project. The A/P committee (Amanda Eichholz, Leslie Ruyle, Marque Hauptert, Lori Smith and Sinead Madigan) has enjoyed getting to know all of these fantastic women and encourage all the active members to introduce themselves and make an effort to get to know them as well.

Board Briefs

Approved

- Minutes from the November and December Board Meetings
- Financial Statements
- Status Changes
- Motion to complete the application process for an Oscar Gala Fundraising Event in 2009
- Motion to complete the contract for a trial subscription for an on-line auction fundraising event
- Motion to approve grant money to be given to the following agencies: M.E.R.C.Y. (\$500), Sangamon County Department of Public Health (\$400), SIU Foundation (\$500).
- Motion to approve the following projects: Parent Place (\$1000) and volunteers, Children's Museum (\$400) and volunteers
- Motion to eliminate the position of Parliamentarian and move the duties of the Parliamentarian to the Recording Secretary for General Membership Meetings

Discussed

- Results of Council Meetings at the November GMM
- New Fundraising ideas including an Oscar Gala Party for 2009 and an on-line Auction. The Fundraising Council will pursue both options
- Channel 20 may partner with JLS for the Oscar Gala and assist us in the application process
- Possibility of raising the price of Kitchen Tour Tickets as the JLS Kitchen Tour will feature 7 homes this year
- St. John's Hospital may partner with Kids in the Kitchen and will fund proposed projects supporting KITK including a KITK cookbook and a healthy food addition to children's menus in local restaurants
- Two possible Kitchen Tour Preview Events including a Sunday afternoon garden party in Washington Park, partnering with Greenview Nursery or an evening event at Illini Country Club, possibly a Kentucky Derby themed event
- Possibility of changing the Body of Law to provide flexibility in developing/changing Chair positions and AD HOC Committees and conducting emergency votes via email or telephone
- Questions for the interactive survey at the January GMM

Provisional Class Project

The 2007/2008 JLS Provisional Class will be sponsoring Positive Options, Referrals, and Alternatives, Inc. for their service project. The class has elected Kathryn Kleemen President. PORA is an organization whose mission is *to help people with a history of prostitution change their lives by encouraging spiritual and emotional growth, good health and education through street outreach, safe housing, individualized support and referrals.* The JLS Provisional Class will be assisting with PORA's annual fundraiser in March with more information on the event to follow. Additionally, the provisionals will be collecting canned food items at the February, March and April JLS General meetings to stock the food pantry at PORA. Please remember to bring at least ONE CANNED GOOD to the next three meetings. For more information on PORA please visit their website at www.porahome.org.



Volunteer Hours

Congratulations to Renee Clausner, Katie Cohorst, Jill Daugherty, Jen Deaner, Kathy Dehen, Amanda Eichholz, Julie Herter, Megan Holt, Tricia Hopkins-Price, Genelle Iocca, Kelli Kauffman, Dana Kinion, Karen Kloppe, Stefanie Moy-Zobus, Barb Rowe, Leslie Ruyle, Jennifer Sachs, Ann Schmitt, Laura Scott, Dee Dee Shaffer, Lori Smith, Meridith Swanson, Michelle Villere and Amanda Vinicky. Halfway through the League year, these 24 members have already met the 5 hour requirement for volunteering on JLS projects. Special thanks go out to Dave Cohorst, Dennis Schmitt and Scott Beam, who volunteered 5 or more hours on JLS projects, even though they are not members! Together we have provided more than 330 hours, at a value of more than \$6,000!!

If you are not on the list, please consider volunteering for Kids in the Kitchen or one of the upcoming Done in a Day events to complete your 5 hours. For more information about these opportunities, contact Special Events Chair Michelle Villere at michelle_villere@yahoo.com. To check on your volunteer hour status, contact Katiecanoe@aol.com.

LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY, JANUARY 15, 2008

MEMBERSHIP

Why do you continue to support JLS?

- a. Friendships **20%**
- b. Volunteer opportunities **26%**
- c. Leadership/personal development **9%**
- d. All of the above **46%**
- e. None of the above **0%**

RECRUITING

Member recruitment is currently done by the Admissions/Provisional Committee with assistance from the Public Relations/Marketing Committee.

Should we establish a separate Recruiting/ Marketing Committee with a budget for ongoing recruitment of new members?

- a. Yes, create a new, separate committee to recruit new members all year long. **47%**
- b. No, let the Admissions/Provisional Committee continue to recruit and train new members. **53%**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

What type of training do you want JLS to provide?

- a. Mission based (focused on volunteerism and developing the potential of women e.g., public speaking, advocacy, negotiating sponsorship deals, selling basics, how to be a great mentor, creating community impact) **28%**
- b. Non-mission based (e.g., book club, cooking class, financial planning, health topics) **5%**
- c. A combination of both mission based and non-mission based (a and b) **67%**

LEADERSHIP

Should slated leadership positions be two-year terms with staggered elections*?

- a. Yes, both board officers and committee chairs should serve two year terms with staggered elections. **12%**
- b. Yes, only board officers should serve two year terms. **55%**
- c. No, maintain current one year terms for all leadership positions. **33%**

* Staggered elections:

1/2 leadership positions are elected in odd numbered years and the other 1/2 are elected in even numbered years.

5-HOUR VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT

Next year, members should:

- a. Continue to be required to volunteer 5 hours on JLS projects. **59%**
- b. Be required to volunteer more than 5 hours on JLS projects. **30%**
- c. Be required to volunteer less than 5 hours on JLS projects. **2%**
- d. Not be required to volunteer on JLS projects. **9%**

FOCUS AREA PREFERENCE

Focusing our limited time and resources in one direction will allow JLS to concentrate our impact on the community, boost our visibility in the community, increase our attractiveness to sponsors, donors, and new members, as well as improve member satisfaction.

Which focus area do you prefer?

- a. Building a Community of Readers **59%**
- b. Promoting Healthy Living for Families **41%**

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SPAC)

JLS placed our SPAC Committee on "inactive" status. SPAC delegates were not elected and no funds were budgeted for the committee for 2007-2008.

Do we bring SPAC back to "active" status with funding in our budget for 2008-2009?

- a. Yes, slate SPAC delegates and fund the committee. **33%**
- b. No, keep SPAC on "inactive" status for next year. **67%**

FUNDRAISING BY SHOPPING MALLS

Do you utilize the JL Shopping Mall?

- a. Yes, I use the link and shop through the JL Shopping Mall to benefit JLS. **9%**
- b. No, I do not use the link, but I will start utilizing the link and shop through the JL Shopping Mall to benefit JLS. **41%**
- c. No, I do not utilize the link and do not plan to use it. **50%**

Would you support other shopping rebate links?

- a. Yes, I would support other online shopping links to benefit JLS. **50%**
- b. No, I would not utilize other online shopping links and do not plan to use any. **50%**

ALTERNATE METHOD FOR FUNDRAISING

Would you pay a required \$100 "donation" in lieu of holding a fundraiser with other member requirements?

- a. Yes, I would pay \$100 instead of having an actual fundraiser. **33%**
- b. No, I would not pay \$100 instead of having an actual fundraiser. **67%**

FUNDRAISER "MENU" – EVENTS

Do we need an additional fundraiser?

- a. Keep both Kitchen Tour and Next-to-New and add a new fundraiser. **25%**
- b. Keep Kitchen Tour and add a new fundraiser. Stop Next-to-New. **64%**
- c. Keep Next-to-New and add a new fundraiser. Stop Kitchen Tour. **0%**
- d. Keep our existing fundraiser events (Kitchen Tour and Next-to-New). No additional fundraisers. **11%**
- e. No more fundraisers. We need less projects and grants. **0%**

Kids in the Kitchen

What Junior League of Springfield and
YOU can do to help prevent childhood obesity!
(A call to volunteer for all members, provisionals and sustainers)

You are probably aware that rates of childhood obesity are increasing. According to the Institutes of Medicine, since the 1970s the prevalence of obesity has more than tripled for children aged 6-11 years. At present, approximately nine million children over six years of age are obese.

Junior League of Springfield can make a difference.

You are also probably aware that the health risks of obesity at any age are great. According to KidsHealth.org overweight children are at risk for serious health conditions like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. They may also be prone to emotional health problems including low self-esteem and depression.

Junior League of Springfield can make a difference.

Research from these and other groups show that getting children involved in preparing healthy meals and snacks, educating them on making healthy food choices, and providing opportunities for healthful eating and physical activity in community programs, are all vital to preventing childhood obesity.

Junior League of Springfield can make a difference.

Join the Junior League of Springfield and St. Johns Hospital in our Kids in the Kitchen event Saturday April 5 2-4pm at Lincoln Land Community College. With your help, children will be preparing and taste testing healthy snacks, learning how to identify foods they should eat frequently and those they should avoid, and having "active" fun in sessions with YMCA staff.

YOU can make a difference.

Please email Michelle Villere at michelle_villere@yahoo.com or call 391-4529 if you can volunteer at the event for the full duration, 1-5pm, which includes set-up and clean-up. If you would like to take a greater role and organize event registration, lead one of the six learning stations for kids, or manage the parent education stations, please indicate this in your email. And if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas please let me know.

Honest to Goodness

Looking for a way to warm up those cold winter days? These delicious recipes from our *Honest to Goodness* cookbook can help!

French Onion Soup, page 69
Buttermilk Herb Biscuits, page 73
Apple Creek Turnovers, page 195

The cookbook committee is always looking for new vendors. Please contact Jill Daugherty at jilla9999@hotmail.com if you know of any potential vendors.

Raise Money for League while Shopping

There is a Junior League shopping mall link on our website that is a painless way to raise money for our League. Visit our website, www.jlsil.org and click on the shopping mall link.

Illinois Nonprofit Principles and Best Practices

The Donors Forum helped create and staffs the attorney general's Charity Advisory Council, a group of volunteer experts who advise the attorney general on policies that are realistic for nonprofits to adhere to, while still ensuring transparency and public accountability. Their website is www.donorsforum.org.

The Donors Forum offers the following guidelines:

1. The organization has a clearly stated charitable or educational mission, approved by the governing body, in pursuit of the public good.
2. The role, responsibilities, selection and tenure of the governing body are clearly stated in the organization's governing and policy documents and understood by the governing body members.
3. The governing body ensures that its members are competent, knowledgeable and sufficiently diverse in point of view and experience to provide credible and effective oversight of all aspects of the organization's work.
4. The governing body regularly assesses the organization's mission and the effectiveness of the organization and its leadership in achieving it.
5. The full membership of the governing body is responsible for the organization, and each member acts at all times in an ethical manner and in the best interest of the organization and the public.
6. The governing body and staff know about and comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations and fiduciary responsibilities.
7. The governing body exercises active oversight of the financial affairs of the organization and sets policies to ensure that the organization's resources are used appropriately in furtherance of the organization's mission.
8. The organization makes information about its mission, program activities and finances available to the public and communicates in a clear and timely manner with those who request information.
9. Organizations that raise funds from the public or from donor institutions ensure that all solicitation communications are accurate and correctly reflect the organization's mission and use of solicited funds.
10. Grant making organizations establish, follow, and clearly communicate processes for receiving, reviewing, and acting on grant applications and for monitoring and evaluating grants made.

Girls Guide to Gossip

Adapted from the book entitled *The Girl's Guide to Being A Boss*.

- Keep it to yourself. It's not easy, but when you learn a new piece of information, don't share it with anyone.
- Satisfy the urge with celebrities. A favorite way to blow off steam and share gossip is to talk about celebrities-lets face it, their stories are always more exciting than your coworkers' or bosses' will ever be.
- Set some boundaries and stick to them. You don't need to share every detail of your personal life.
- Sharing positive news doesn't give you a free pass. Remember, it is not your story to tell. If a member of your team or your boss tells you they are pregnant, it is not information to pass along.
- If someone tells you something, assume that they don't want you to tell someone else.
- Being trustworthy can be your biggest asset. If you are a trusted member of an organization, you will be given more responsibility, more information, and more power.
- Don't ever use names in public. You just never know who you are sitting next to in a restaurant or on an airplane, or at your child's soccer game.
- Information is currency, but you don't have to treat it that way.
- If you overhear some information, don't pass it along. Remember, it may not even be true.
- Avoid negative talk. Complaining doesn't make things better and it usually makes it worse.
- If you have an idea how to improve something, share it. Creating positive buzz can be very beneficial to an organization.
- If you do plan on passing something along, whatever you do, do not write it down (no email!). Ever. Pick up the phone.
- If your role in the organization puts you in contact with confidential personnel or financial information, keep it to yourself. For so many reasons. You can hurt people and the organization.

HOW HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Council Vice Presidents recently completed a mid-year evaluation. Here is what some of your JLS Councils have been up to:

Community Council

Accomplished so far:

- ◆ Boosted volunteer recognition efforts and implemented new volunteer hour requirements and tracking system
- ◆ Researched community emerging issues/unmet needs, presented two finalists
- ◆ Successfully completed Adopt-A-Street, Camp Care A Lot and Phoenix Center projects, plus DIAD's for La Cuna Project (w/Sustainers), St. John's Breadline, Lincoln Library and Senior Services
- ◆ Accumulated 338.6 volunteer hours, at a value of over \$6,300
- ◆ Submitted plan/budget for expanded Kids in the Kitchen, working with St. John's Hospital
- ◆ Ordered and received last four Centennial Park Bricks

Continue progress on:

- ◆ Goal of 90% of members meeting 5-hour requirement. Currently at 43%
- ◆ Selecting a focus for next year
- ◆ Implementing Kids in the Kitchen Program
- ◆ Awarding projects and grants

Communications Council

Accomplished so far:

- ◆ New provisional informational packet
- ◆ Finding new venues/sponsors
- ◆ New socials to engage membership
- ◆ Revamped yearbook

Continue Progress on:

- ◆ The general informational packet
- ◆ Packet distribution to new Springfield residents
- ◆ Coordinating/enhancing Kids in the Kitchen year-round marketing initiative
- ◆ Coordinating/supervising an intern from Robert Morris College to develop the JLS website



Membership Council

Accomplished so far:

- ◆ Recruited 14 new provisionals
- ◆ Maintained membership numbers

Continue Progress on:

- ◆ Slating positions for the 2008/2009 League Year



Fundraising Council

Accomplished so far:

- ◆ Completed the Next to New Fundraiser
- ◆ Researched new fundraising ideas for 2008-2009 League Year including an Oscar Gala Event and an on-line auction
- ◆ Secured 7 homes for Kitchen Tour

Continue Progress on:

- ◆ Determining an additional event promoting Kitchen Tour. Ideas include a Garden party at Washington Park or a Kentucky Derby Party at Illini Country Club
- ◆ Complete the application process for Oscar Gala Event

JLS Member Renewal Form

ABOUT YOU: Please complete the following information even if it is the same as the current yearbook information. Thanks!

Name: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____
Last First Middle Maiden Month / Day / Year

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Winter Address: _____
Street City State Zip

(If different) Please indicate months when at winter address: _____ (will not be in yearbook)

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Job Title: _____

Business Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Husband's Name: _____

The above information will appear in the Yearbook. Do **NOT** list my employment information in the Yearbook.

Is your information in the current yearbook correct? Yes No

The Leagueliner will be sent via e-mail & posted on our website at www.jlsil.org/news/leagueliner.

Will you still need a paper copy mailed to you? Yes No

DUES AND FEES: Please place an X in your membership category.

- _____ \$125 **Active** \$125= \$105 dues plus \$20 Arrangement Fee.
- _____ \$105 **Non-Resident Active**
- _____ \$85 **Sustainer (Please indicate the years during which you were an active member—thanks!)**
Years as Active: _____
- _____ \$85 **Current Active - planning to go Sustaining in the 2008 -2009 League Year.**

***Payment plans are available. Please talk to the Treasurer, if you wish to pay by installments. ***

Dues Payment Deadline: April 15, 2008

You may pay by credit card. We accept Visa or MasterCard for a \$6 processing fee.
 Your name as it appears on the card _____ Visa ___ MasterCard ___
 Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date (MM/YYYY) _____
 Your signature _____

Would you like to make an additional contribution? You may make a tax-deductible contribution to the JLS Annual Fund, Capitol Endowment Fund, and/or Community Endowment Fund.

PAYMENT SUMMARY	
Dues	\$
JLS Annual Fund	\$
JLS Capitol Endowment Fund	\$
JLS Community Endowment Fund	\$
Credit Card Fee (\$6)	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$

Reminder: If your dues and member renewal form are not submitted by April 15th, your information may not be included in the yearbook.

Please bring your completed member renewal form with your check or credit card information to the general meeting and give them to the Treasurer. Or, you may mail them to the following address:

The Junior League of Springfield, Inc.
 Attention: Dues Coordinator
 948 Clocktower Drive
 Springfield, IL 62704-1304

LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY (CONTINUED)*(Continued from page 5)***NEXT-TO-NEW**

Should we continue to have our Next-to-New Sale?

- a. Yes, have our Next-to-New Sale and keep it just as it was in 2007. **7%**
- b. Yes, have our Next-to-New Sale and expand items to include adult clothing. **2%**
- c. Yes, have our Next-to-New Sale and expand items to include adult clothing and large items. **20%**
- d. No, do NOT have our Next-to-New Sale and I am willing to pay an increase in our dues. **7%**
- e. No, do NOT have our Next-to-New Sale and I am willing to support and work on another fundraiser. **64%**

NEW FUNDRAISER OPTIONS

What type of new fundraiser would you most support?

- a. Expanded Kitchen Tour **11%**
- b. Online auction **17%**
- c. Oscar Gala Event **20%**
- d. All of the above **30%**
- e. None of the above **22%**

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

How will you support the JLS fundraising efforts?

- a. I am willing to be on a fundraising committee. **27%**
- b. I am willing to chair a fundraising committee. **9%**
- c. I am willing to commit to additional fundraising volunteer hours. **41%**
- d. I am willing to raise dues instead of having a new fundraiser. **14%**
- e. I am not willing to do anything extra. **9%**

JLS EXPERIENCE

This year, is your volunteer time commitment to JLS:

- a. Too much and you feel burned out. **16%**
- b. Not enough to keep you interested in JLS. **7%**
- c. Fits just right into your life. **77%**

Phoenix Center Project

The Phoenix Project could not have been completed without the commitment and hard work of the following committee members: Ann Schmitt, Julie Herter, Kathy Dehen and Amanda Vinicky. They gave up many hours on the weekends to help make the children's room come to life. They transformed a bare, dirty, drafty concrete and cinderblock room into a haven. Please also extend a round of applause and hats off to the following individuals who came out to do painting and handiwork at the Phoenix Center: Kate Cohorst, Melissa Hansen, Jalene Higginbotham, Patricia Hopkins-Price, Karen Kloppe, and Barbara Rowe. A special thanks to local Springfield artist, Xander Fogel for donating his time to painting the Phoenix Center logo on the side and front walls.

Thanks again for all of your hard work! You make Junior League proud!

Remember:

Articles for the April/May edition of the LeagueLiner are due by March 15th. Please email them to Karen Thomas at thomas.karen@mhsil.com.

La Cuna - Article submitted by the Sustainers

Are you a dedicated volunteer? Could you be committed to cancer survivors?

The LaCuna Project founder has asked that the Junior League of Springfield take over the project coordination function for this wonderful committee. LaCuna Project volunteers seek to embrace women of all backgrounds during their breast cancer journey by wrapping them in shawls created out of loving concern. The coordinator role includes distribution of their brochure, collection and distribution of the shawls, coordinating meetings of the organizing members, sending patterns and thank yous, and publicizing the program through different venues. Your JLS skills are a most valuable resource and we would ask for your thoughtful consideration to donate your time and expertise to the LaCuna Project. For more information please contact Pat Jacobs at 585-8000 or 2darink@sbcglobal.net.

Junior League of Springfield

Literacy—by Kate Cohorst, Community Vice President

Literacy is one of the single most important indicators of success in both children and adults. And according to the interactive survey in January, it is also the topic Junior League of Springfield members are most interested in focusing their time, treasures and talents on. As a result of this survey, we will be bringing a formal motion forward in February to adopt “Growing a Community of Readers” as our new focus area.

Growing a community of readers and revitalizing the library fulfills a clear, local need and will have a positive impact in Springfield for years to come. People with solid reading skills are more likely to have academic success, land better jobs, and can take better care of their families, both financially and in other ways, such as being able to read and understand prescription instructions and helping their children with homework. Growing a community of readers will build a healthier Springfield with a better workforce, which helps attract businesses and improves the local economy and quality of life.

On the flip side, a parent who does not read well will not read to their kids, which makes it more difficult for them to learn and develop a love of books. Up until third grade, children are learning to read in school. But after that, they must read to learn everything else. So children who aren't reading at grade level by then rarely catch up. Those kids have a higher risk of chronic truancy, drugs and alcohol, teen pregnancy and criminal activity. In fact, third grade reading scores are one of the factors states use to determine how many prison beds will be needed 10 years out!

Library usage in Springfield has dropped significantly over the past decade, even as the city's population has grown. Circulation at Lincoln Library is down 17 percent and the number of visitors has dropped by 20 percent. Program attendance is down 56 percent. When compared to ten other libraries with similar sizes and budgets, Springfield's usage numbers were by far the lowest. Working together, we can do something about that.

But this new focus doesn't just have to be about getting people back into the library, where they have free access to books and a wide range of educational tools. It can also encompass a wide range of other programs designed to improve literacy rates and inspire reading. The exciting thing now is that League members will have an opportunity to dream up literacy projects of their own, solicit ideas from others and decide exactly how they want to start tackling this issue.

Then we will have an opportunity to pursue grant funding from the Illinois Secretary of State and the many foundations dedicated to eliminating illiteracy, and reach out to new fundraising partners who share our commitment. These financial opportunities are just one of the many great benefits to developing a focus area for future Junior League of Springfield projects and volunteer efforts. Doing so will also give JLS a higher profile in the community and help us make a clear, measurable impact. We think this will be very exciting and rewarding for actives and sustainers and will help attract new members. Many leagues across the country have already adopted this approach and have met with great success.

One last note: selecting literacy as our focus area does not mean we will discontinue participation in Junior League's national Kids in the Kitchen initiative, so those members truly interested in the childhood obesity issue will still have an opportunity to make a difference in that area.

Thank you all for your interest in this exciting new endeavor!


Growing a Community of Readers-- Possible projects:

- * Promotional work to get the word out about the library's offerings
- * Library card registration drive
- * Reading contest for kids
- * Projects and programs for children, such as story hours or a children's technology lab
- * Start a program to recruit volunteers to help with homework or college applications
- * Provide literacy tutoring or referrals
- * Start a community book club
- * Launch a literacy awareness campaign
- * Develop and distribute an early literacy assessment kit for parents
- * Start a book drive to donate reading materials to area families

*These are just a few ideas.
The sky's the limit!
What can you dream up?*



February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8	9
					WIN Conference	
10	11	12 General Mtg (Prairie Heart)	13	14 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 General Meeting	12	13	14	15 LeagueLiner articles due
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					