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On the Cover
Peggy LeCorgne Laborde, who volunteers with charities including Women of the Storm and the Audubon Institute, is the 2015 Sustainer of the Year.

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www.jlno.org
Dear Readers,

When working with a 90-year-old, successful nonprofit, there is a delicate balance of change and staying the course. Through thoughtful planning and dedicated members, our League has managed a beautiful balance.

As you will see in our cover article, the community devotion and volunteer spirit that are so apparent in Peggy Laborde are still the strengths we espouse to members. She is a shining example of what we can all aspire to, with dedication and a strong sense of commitment – even better if we can do it all with a positive attitude and contagious smile like Peggy!

Just as JLNO members historically stood up for women’s rights, our members (90 percent of active ones working full or part-time) continue the efforts to support women. Through our newest program, the Diaper Bank, we provide low-income mothers with diapers so their children can attend daycare, and they, in turn, can attend work or school. Our ever-expanding female entrepreneurship support – please enjoy the articles highlighting these initiatives – provides free opportunities for the community to learn and grow in a supportive manner.

Lastly, we welcome another new experience to our League and New Orleans as a whole. In a vote of confidence for our city’s resurgence, and of support for the great work of the Junior League, House Beautiful magazine has selected New Orleans and our JLNO Kitchen Tour to host its Eighth annual Kitchen of the Year.

We hope you can join us for this historic event on May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available at www.jlno.org/kitchentour. Thank you for being a part of the exciting things JLNO is accomplishing.

Gratefully,

Katherine Kleinpeter Raymond
Junior League of New Orleans President 2014-2015

The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.
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Dear Readers,

I do not believe it is a surprise to anyone that the Junior League of New Orleans has a long and rich history of women helping the community through voluntarism. What may surprise people outside the League are the benefits JLNO provides to its own members through their JLNO training. Namely, JLNO members have several training opportunities available so that they can gain the knowledge and skills for leadership in the community as well as in their personal and professional lives.

One example is JLNO’s newest partnership with Idea Village. As detailed in this issue of Lagniappe, the Idea Village has recognized that there are not very many female entrepreneurs in New Orleans. In order to correct this problem and advance the wellbeing of all women, JLNO and Idea Village have collaborated to develop and promote female entrepreneurship in the community. They have also sponsored a panel discussion about succeeding in male-driven industries and hosted a networking event for women. I am sure as this collaboration continues to grow so will the great opportunities for JLNO members and women throughout New Orleans.

Training JLNO members is not limited to our relationship with Idea Village. JLNO also offers its members over 100 placement opportunities to learn valuable skills while helping the community. For instance, I have personally learned how to develop Lagniappe content, promote JLNO’s community involvement through my articles and pictures and edit and produce a professional magazine.

These are skills I never would have gained had it not been for my JLNO placement. I think this sentiment can be shared by the staff writers, photographers and editors of Lagniappe. I am sure if you talk to any JLNO member, you will hear similar stories about how much she has learned through her League placement.

It is important to note that while I have learned a great deal through my Lagniappe placement, I have by no means perfected my editing skills. It is for this reason, I have to apologize to one of our very talented staff writers, Rebecca Bartlett. She wrote an amazing article for the Winter 2014 issue entitled “Celebrating Our Past and Seizing the Future.” However, it was inadvertently credited to another writer. Sorry Rebecca!

Sincerely,

Kelly Walsh
Editor
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Get ready to GiveNOLA through the Greater New Orleans Foundation’s Day of Giving on May 5th. Proceeds for JLNO will benefit Diaper Bank.

JLNO Panel during Idea Village’s 7th Annual Entrepreneur Week is on March 25th.

Happy Easter! Easter Sunday is April 5th!

Lemonade Day is May 2nd! If you know of children who want to participate, Lemonade Day University is April 11th and April 25th.

Get ready to be wowed! The 10th Annual Kitchen Tour featuring the House Beautiful Kitchen of the Year is May 2nd!

Mother’s Day is May 10th – Lagniappe wishes a Happy Mother’s Day to all the amazing moms!

Safe Sitter registration will open soon. Check www.jlno.org/SafeSitter for more details.

Applause for the Freret 5K Chairs and Committee!
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JLNO’S 2014 holiday toy and coat drive helped 170 children at Educare!

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Have you …
• Purchased your Kitchen Tour tickets?
• Signed your children up for Lemonade Day University?
• Donated diapers or made a monetary donation to JLNO’s Diaper Bank?
• Seen JLNO on the news? Check the Media section of our website to see articles and TV appearances.

Spread the word!
Touch a Truck is on March 21st at a new location – Children’s Hospital State Street Campus!
Discover Inspiration for your Dream Kitchen

JLNO Kitchen Tour featuring the *House Beautiful* Kitchen of the Year

By: Heather Hilliard

Spring is an exciting time for most of us and usually involves freshening up the house. For the Junior League of New Orleans, it means a time to demonstrate how some residents have spruced-up or totally remodeled their kitchens.

This season marks the tenth anniversary of the Kitchen Tour, and the chic national magazine, *House Beautiful*, contacted us to feature one of our tour stops as the *House Beautiful* Kitchen of the Year! Designed by internationally renowned Ken Fulk, the Kitchen of the Year in an historic Uptown home celebrates the kitchen as the new American living room. The partnership between *House Beautiful’s* Eighth Annual Kitchen and JLNO’s Tenth Annual Tour is a powerful collaboration and an exciting way for us to gain greater recognition for the activities our programs support, as well as additional advertising to attract more visitors.
From small focal points to large projects, taking the time at various milestones to refocus is a great way to renew our fondness for two things important to New Orleanians – food and family.

The Junior League committee that selects homes for the Kitchen Tour considers many aspects when selecting homes for the tour, and these traits can assist those planning renovations or a gathering at your home. Aesthetics are important in the kitchen, but functionality is truly critical. Pleasing color schemes invite people into the space. Using a clean all-white approach with towels or pot holders in bright primary colors for accents is another recent trend. Adding a single item as a focal point in a differing texture has been appealing in the industry, as it is a small personal touch directly selected by the owner. Keeping within an architectural style assists with consistency and flow as well. While an historical home may be “in era tradition” on the outside, the interior could be totally modern, as long as the appeal and theme are cohesive in a room – and to your taste.

Beyond the appearance, functionality is key. Can you get in, out and around easily? The proper flow of the room makes cooking for a family and entertaining easier. Ensuring passage by larger modern appliances encroaching on thoroughfares and can lead to additional renovations if you do not properly consider the space.

A frequent frustration is also location of the appliances. Many people like having an island to add usable space and “workstations.” A designer or architect pointing you toward the in-fashion style of “open concept” or “incorporated dining” does not mean it is a “must-have.” For example, a designer may suggest a sink in your new island, but you may have a preference for an open countertop where you can work, serve a buffet or wrap presents. When considering a renovation, think about what else you can do with the space beyond just prepping food.

Storage space is also a frequent problem that plagues New Orleanians, and we are constantly pressed to find innovative storage solutions. A new trend that is easily adaptable in New Orleans’ high-ceiling homes is upper level cabinetry. For things that are not used often, placing them in the right room but out of typically used space is useful. With the 12 or 13-foot ceilings in many older homes in this region, the flush face of cabinetry also adds a professional and “complete” look to the room, whereas stopping four feet below the ceiling creates dead space and a choppy presentation for guests and homeowners.

To get more ideas from beautiful homes including the House Beautiful Kitchen of the Year, be sure to attend the Kitchen Tour on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You’ll also want to check out the “Get the Look” kitchen designed by Ken Fulk in JLNO Headquarters.

For details on each home on the tour, you can visit www.jlno.org/kitchentour. To accommodate time schedules and preferences, this year we are offering a “full tour” of all 12 kitchens as well as a three-home “mini tour,” so there are opportunities to check out exactly what you want for your future kitchen on our tour!
This year, the Junior League of New Orleans formed a new strategic collaboration with The Idea Village, an independent nonprofit organization committed to driving positive change in New Orleans through entrepreneurship.

Past JLNO President Jeanne Boughton and Idea Village CEO Tim Williamson recognized the unique challenges that women face in the business and entrepreneurial worlds. They believed that the two organizations, JLNO and Idea Village, could work together to promote and support professional success for women.

The collaboration officially kicked off with its first event on December 10, 2014, with a panel titled “How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male Dominated Industries.” The overall goal, as stated by Jessica Bride, JLNO Chair for Strategic Partnerships, is “to tap into the wealth of experience held by our active members and sustainers and the ability to share that with other members, who may need leadership, mentorship or career advice.”

The Idea Village was founded in 2000 with “a mission to identify, support, and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans.” They deliver on their mission by holding an Entrepreneur Season, an annual cycle of unique events that drive entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans and culminates in March with New Orleans Entrepreneur Week.

Entrepreneur Season was created to “instill rhythms and rituals around entrepreneurship for the New Orleans community.” As the first organization in New Orleans with a mission centered solely on entrepreneurship, Idea Village has supported over 3,000 entrepreneurs since its inception, and, in the 2014 season, held over 200 events and

Promoting and Supporting Professional Success for Women

By Ann Gray Conger

The panel discusses their careers at the “How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male Dominated Industries” event on December 10, 2014. Photo by: Kelly Walsh
served over 800 entrepreneurs.

Thanks in part to Idea Village, entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans is 56 percent higher than the national average. These numbers alone prove that Idea Village has a significant local and national impact. Thus the collaboration with JLNO was an ideal fit, according to JLNO Planning and Development Council Director Mollye Demosthenidy, “The Idea Village works with ‘great people with big ideas who are committed to New Orleans.’ And JLNO is just that, a community of smart, engaged women, committed to advancing the well-being of women in New Orleans.”

Several events have already taken place. The first was the “How She Did It” panel, held on December 10, featuring prominent New Orleans women at the top of their game in traditionally male dominated industries. Women in a variety of professions were chosen so that there would be a wide cross-section of influence on the panel. The featured women were Kiki

President-Elect Shannon Able, Chairs Jessica Bride and Kacie Kelly pose with Panelists Dana Stumpf, Kiki Baker Barnes, Suzanne Haik Terrell, Aimee Quirk and President Katherine Raymond at the “How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male Dominated Industries” event on December 10, 2014. Photo by Kelly Walsh

continued on page 16
Some retirement communities are simply located in New Orleans. Poydras is New Orleans through and through. In its history, architecture, gardens and *joie de vivre*, Poydras is an easy place to feel at home. As a Continuing Care Retirement Community offering Independent and Assisted Living, nursing care and even a day program, this is a place of choices and assurances. Poydras makes such a difference in people’s lives. Learn more. Then follow your heart.
“Idea Village was founded around identifying the next generation of leaders.” Sitting down in the office of Ted Williamson, Co-Founder and CEO of Idea Village, a person cannot help but be inspired. If you did not have an idea for a new business, you will leave his office wishing that you did.

From being founded on a bar napkin by five one-time industry competitors to providing direct support to over 3,411 New Orleans-based entrepreneurs, the Idea Village is working to re-write the story of New Orleans, one new idea at a time. The core belief of the Idea Village is that social and economic change in New Orleans can be achieved through supporting entrepreneurs who are willing to pay it forward.

Idea Village is not a venture capitalist scheme. “It’s about identifying leaders passionate about their community and keeping those folks in your community. It’s all about retention,” says Tim.

So, how does Idea Village accomplish their vision? They provide direct support to New Orleans entrepreneurs through their IDEAinstitute, IDEA sessions, IDEAx and Capitalx, programs that provide education, strategic consulting and capital access to budding entrepreneurs. Idea Village has launched a three-year plan to expand their impact in New Orleans by 2018. By March 2017, Idea Village hopes to increase the number of individuals receiving direct support to 5,000, have 200 high-growth founders graduated from core accelerators,
increase attendance at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week to 10,000 and earn a top ten ranking for New Orleans community through $10 million in earned media.

This is where the Junior League of New Orleans’ collaboration with the Idea Village comes in. Each year, Idea Village’s strategic planning committee chooses an organization that shares its vision. This year that organization is JLNO, which shares its strategic plan of empowering and educating women in business for the betterment of New Orleans with the Idea Village. By teaming up, Idea Village and JLNO can promote awareness of the impact that entrepreneurship has on the city and inspire more individuals to become mentors and financial supporters of these start-up entities.

Idea Village has recognized a deficit in women entrepreneurs in New Orleans that is shared with the rest of the country. Recent studies show that female entrepreneurs comprise anywhere between 20 and 34 percent of entrepreneurs in each state. In Louisiana, female entrepreneurs make up 27.3 percent of all entrepreneurs. These statistics show why it is important to embrace our female entrepreneurs and give them the tools they need to grow and be successful. JLNO’s mission and vision has always been focused on the well-being of women and children, so aiding women in the workplace is only logical.

In 2014, 1,834 people attended IDEAinstitute workshops and networking events that covered a range of hot topics delivered by industry experts, local business leaders, and experienced entrepreneurs. Of those attendees, over half were female. Women clearly have an interest in becoming entrepreneurs. However, the percentage of women selected to participate in the 12-week IDEAx program, where the focus is on creating scalable businesses, drops dramatically to comprise around 20 percent. “There is a desire in the community to have more female entrepreneurs,” says Tim. Something is stopping more women from transitioning from interest to initiative. That is why the partnership with JLNO is so important. “It can’t be something we just try. It needs to be part of our culture and something we are committed to doing for our generation.”

The collaboration between Idea Village and JLNO will help to promote and foster growth of female entrepreneurs through a string of supportive mentors and networks and provide a cultivating environment for not only Junior Leaguers but any women interested in becoming an entrepreneur.

Becoming an entrepreneur is not easy for anyone. Getting comfortable with failure and learning from mistakes is a large part of the process. The most important part is learning from other entrepreneurs and, once you have made it, paying it forward. If women support other women, then we can pave the road for an increase in women entrepreneurs and help to make names of successful female entrepreneurs, like Lauren Thom (founder of Fleurty Girl), Susan Brennan (Second Line...
Stages) and Margo DuBos (Gambit), names that everyone knows. By celebrating and supporting the women who have succeeded, we normalize and encourage other women to follow in their footsteps. This sends the message to everyone that women are capable and will be encouraged to become successful entrepreneurs.

Tim offers the following advice on how to make a successful go at being an entrepreneur: “Make a list of what you are bad at and surround yourself by people who are good at what you are bad at. If you are bad at sales, find someone who is a good salesperson. Don’t spend your time trying to be good at what you are bad at.” Knowing oneself and being willing to take chances is what makes the difference between someone who is interested in changing her life and someone who is actually willing to put in the effort to make it happen. Ideas are where the process begins, but what makes a person a success is her level of passion.

The Idea Village looks for individuals who are, or will be, headquartered in New Orleans. Idea Village likes a big idea that can really grow and go global. That is where its network can really assist the most to help the business scale.

So now it is up to us to take the next step. What can we do to make women as entrepreneurs a part of our culture in our everyday lives? Can we be a mentor? Can we be an investor? Can we be an entrepreneur? How will we contribute to improving New Orleans and supporting women in the entrepreneurial market?
Paying It Forward

Local Female Entrepreneurs Offer Anecdotes and Advice

By: Jacqui Stump

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines an entrepreneur as “a person who starts a business and is willing to risk loss in order to make money.” For some, however, the concept of entrepreneurship might bring to mind a much more intimidating image: one of late nights and weekends spent pouring over budgets, firing unruly employees and many more such headaches. While starting a business takes hard work and dedication, the stories of two successful female New Orleans entrepreneurs highlight the rewards, as well as offer helpful tips to those who may need a little help realizing their ideas.
When Kay Morrison set out to implement her concept of providing the services of a part-time “wife” to busy New Orleanians, she remembered feeling “like a lone ranger” in the world of business owners. Female entrepreneurs in New Orleans were not very visible at the time. Luckily for us all, Kay put aside her apprehensions and her successful career as an executive in the hospitality industry, and the Occasional Wife was born! The company offers a multitude of organizational, design and personal assistant services to help organize anyone’s life. With several locations across the United States, in addition to its headquarters on Earhart Boulevard, Kay says the part of her business she is most proud of is that it is female-centric: a business run by women, helping women, while in turn providing a flexible work life balance.

continued on page 22
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Sociologie Social Media Management

Danielle Granger was first drawn to the idea of becoming an entrepreneur during her work in advertising sales, where she learned the value of autonomy and setting her own schedule. When she added a role as a Stella and Dot stylist in addition to her full time job, Danielle built the foundational skills needed to operate her own business. After relocating from Southwest Louisiana to New Orleans, Danielle launched Sociologie, a social media management firm which offers a wide range of services from content creation to full management. Sociologie helps its customers shape their brand image online and increase followers, customers and prospective customers through engaged, synched and strategic social media efforts. Fueled by the idea of reaching goals for herself and her future family on her own terms, Danielle saved money, networked and learned how to do a lot on her own. By keeping her steps small, Danielle was able to build her company one piece at a time.
Advice for aspiring female entrepreneurs!

For all of the potential entrepreneurs out there, Kay recommends creating a support group of people whose strengths offset your weaknesses, who you can exchange ideas with and who will help keep you grounded and on course.

Danielle advises to begin with something you can do yourself, stay open to new ideas, and always work to improve your skill set. In short, Danielle says to “start smart and start small, but just start!”

Visit www.theoccasionalwife.com for locations and more information on how The Occasional Wife can help you organize your life.

Visit www.sociologieworks.com to learn how Sociologie can shape your brand image through social media!
2015 Sustainer of the Year:

Peggy LeCorgne Laborde

By Lea Witkowski-Purl
Generations of past Junior League of New Orleans’ Presidents huddled around a fireplace on a dreary January day. Rain sprinkled on the gardens outside, but the mood inside bubbled with nervous excitement anticipating the arrival of the 59th Sustainer of the Year. She was under the impression that she was attending a planning session for one of the many charities she supports, but Peggy Laborde proved that she is always ready for any occasion while graciously accepting flowers and champagne in honor of her accomplishments.

A New Orleans native, Peggy attended Loyola University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree and receiving the Outstanding Senior Award. She spent her career working as a microbiologist at Hotel Dieu (now University Hospital), Touro Infirmary and St. Joseph’s Hospital in Houston. With her husband, John P. “Jack” Laborde, she has two children — Eric, Staff Urologist and Program Director of the Urology Residency at Ochsner Medical Center, and Blayne, an interior architect in Houston.

Peggy is an extremely vivacious woman with a seemingly endless supply of energy. Within seconds of arriving at the alleged planning session, she had the entire room laughing. A few joyous tears flowed later as quotes from the Sustainer of the Year nominations were read. Irene Lutkewitte, who nominated Peggy for the honor, wrote in her nomination letter, “I think it is fun to volunteer with Peggy. She adapts to both leader and follower positions as needed. She doesn’t just farm out the grunt work to volunteers but shares the workload in all capacities.”

Advice from her father, Lyle LeCorgne, influenced Peggy’s service leadership style. She explains how her father would hold up a finger and tell her, “This is one.” He added a second finger and would impart, “This is not two, but 11.” After adding a third finger, he’d describe the trio as 111, demonstrating how volunteer efforts can stretch to make a difference for many people instead of a few.

“I was brought up to believe that it was always important to do your part as a team member,” Peggy said.

Peggy is also influenced by her experiences living in other places, including Houston, England and Egypt. While in Egypt, her family decided not to live with other ex-patriots in Cairo. Instead, they chose to live in Alexandria without reliable electricity.

“That experience helped me to understand what it was like to be different from most members of a community, to realize the deep needs in the world, and to begin to know how one family can work to change the world for the better.”

When she returned to New Orleans, Peggy joined JLNO in 1983. During her provisional year, she was featured in a Lagniappe article that described her as a “petite dynamo,” a moniker that holds true today. Peggy is currently a member of the Sustainer Garden and Interior Decorating Clubs. She spent her active years chairing events and volunteering for the crisis hotline at Children’s Hospital.

Previous Sustainer of the Year award recipient, Susan Johnson, notes that Peggy “has effectively demonstrated the success of her League training by her involvement in various areas of volunteerism and many organizations in our community are all the better for it.”

Her experience has shown her that

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women are empowered and are comfortable multi-tasking and achieving personal goals. She sees the Junior League providing opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

“Whether fundraising or just lending a helping hand, the Junior League has become the go-to place,” she said. “We are champions of finding solutions. It is not only what they teach, but how they teach, with honesty and a sense of high moral standards.”

She said that making the most of the JLNO experience is contingent upon getting involved in the opportunities offered.

“It is very rewarding, and what you reap is so much more than what you actually give,” she said. “It’s the camaraderie and the added bonus is finding lasting friends along the way. Some of my dearest friends are those with whom I started volunteering 35 years ago.”

Peggy volunteers with a long list of charities in New Orleans, including Women of the Storm, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Children’s Hospital, the Audubon Institute, the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony, the Red Cross, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the United Way, the Catholic Foundation, Lambeth House and Friends of the Cabildo.

One of her most beloved pastimes is gardening. Her experience with Longue Vue House and Gardens is particularly close to her heart. Peggy led its Board of Directors in 2005 and 2006 as it faced the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the unprecedented challenge of restoring the National Historic Landmark. With her skills, talents and networks, she motivated hundreds of volunteers from across the country and successfully reopened the site four months after the storm.

Peggy accepts her accolades and honors with a remarkable sense of humility. She seems to take her role as a community leader as just part of her job of being a citizen of New Orleans. She adds to her resume consistently and has an optimism that is contagious, joking and laughing through all the hard work.

“I recently read that women do extraordinary things so often that we think it’s ordinary,” Peggy said.

Peggy is an admirable example of an individual whose ordinary is extraordinary.

“It [JLNO experience] is very rewarding, and what you reap is so much more than what you actually give.”

-Peggy LeCorgne Laborde
Trinity Episcopal School is an ISAS member. We seek to enroll qualified students without regard to gender, race, religion, creed, ethnic, or national origin.
Member Expertise: Media Pointers from Gambel Communications

By: Heather Guidry

The Junior League of New Orleans formed a new partnership this year with Gambel Communications. Gambel has been instrumental in sharing its media expertise by helping JLNO introduce and raise awareness of its new focus area, Advancing the Wellbeing of Women, and its new signature project, the JLNO Diaper Bank.

Gambel Communications, located on Metairie Road, was founded in 2009 by Betsie Gambel, a JLNO Sustainer and past JLNO President. The company is known as one of the premiere public relations agencies in the Greater New Orleans Area. Gambel Communications was recently recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration Region VI (which encompasses Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma) Women in Business as a 2013 Champion of the Year.

Betsie built the foundation of her public relations career through volunteer work. Betsie notes that "the League is a great place to perfect existing skills or learn new skills. You don’t always have to do something that you already know."
As a JLNO member, Betsie was the editor of *Lagniappe* and on the Marketing Committee, where she developed the skills to serve as the first full-time public relations director at Academy of the Sacred Heart. She believes that JLNO fostered her existing skills, helping her become a leading public relations professional: “The League allows you to try new things without risk. You have a tremendous support group, and it teaches you how to be a leader. Because of my volunteer work, I was able to learn the skills to be successful in PR work. It was a turning point in my life, and a bridge to the career that I have now.”

As JLNO’s newest partner, Betsie and her team have advice for raising the profile of nonprofits and small businesses in the media. Gambel advises you to think about and monitor trends as a way to entice the media to help the public understand what your nonprofit or business is doing. Determine what the relevance of your organization is, or its “hook.” Then, meet with the core group of stakeholders to establish goals and a timeline and to develop an authentic and consistent message. Map out what you want to share with the media and delegate responsibilities to your team. When contacting the media, don’t make the mistake of just calling someone you know. Identify the correct media person and let them know in advance so that they can put your story on the schedule. Last, online media outlets are great resources to get the word out about your organization’s events and stories.
Q: I've been inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit, and I have some great ideas that I would love to share and turn into a business. I know that JLNO has some great businesswomen as members, but does JLNO have any resources to help me develop my ideas?

A: Your question couldn’t have come at a better time, as this year JLNO has formed a collaboration with Idea Village to host a three-part series aimed at promoting professional success and improving economic opportunities for women. The first event was on December 10th, the second event was on February 25th and the third event will be March 25th. At those sessions, the speakers offered tips on how to network and build professional relationships. If you are unable to attend these events, stay tuned for more information at www.jlno.org.

Best of luck to you in your endeavors!

Q: I am looking to become more financially literate and business savvy. Does JLNO have any plans in the works to help women become experts on this topic?

A: JLNO is always exploring ideas for new projects and partnerships to help both our members, as well as women in the greater New Orleans area. Keep an eye out for training and education sessions and additional speaker series at www.jlno.org.

Q: Now that my business has launched and is becoming successful, I have learned a lot. I would like to share my experiences and help other women with launching their own businesses. What is the best way for me to share my story with other JLNO members and the public?

A: Congratulations on the success of your business! We are always thrilled to hear about successful endeavors of our members! You can market your business while helping out JLNO. You can purchase advertising space in Lagniappe, or you can become a vendor at a JLNO fundraiser. Additionally, JLNO has a mentorship committee that might be something you would want to get involved in, which would be a great way to share your knowledge and expertise.
In 1856, a group of six businessmen formed the first New Orleans Carnival organization, the Mystic Krewe of Comus, and paraded a two-float procession on Mardi Gras in 1857. The Krewe of Rex and the Knights of Momus joined Comus in 1872, followed by the Krewe of Proteus in 1882. A woman’s role within these organizations was limited to behind the scenes or if she was selected to be on a krewe’s court as part of her New Orleans social debut.

Although these oldest organizations remain masked and male, New Orleans’ Carnival season now includes women and all races. The organizations that paved the way were Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, which was formed in 1916, and the all-female Krewe of Iris, which was formed in 1917.

Although the Krewe of Iris was the first all-women krewe, it was not the first all-woman parade. The Krewe of Venus first paraded in 1941, and Iris began parading in 1959. Metairie women formed the Krewe of Helios and Diana in the 1960s and 1970s, West Bank women formed the Krewe of Cleopatra in 1972, and Gentilly women formed the Krewe of Pandora in 1978.

The turn of the century brought with it the Krewe of Muses, which is known for famous shoe throws. Muses began parading on the Thursday night before Mardi Gras, which had previously been known as “Momus Thursday” because it was the traditional parade night for the Knights of Momus. The Thursday before Mardi

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Gras is now affectionately called “Muses Thursday.” In 2012, the Mystic Krewe of Nyx debuted on the Wednesday before Mardi Gras, and its signature throws – glittery purses – have taken their place as coveted throws. Interest continues as illustrated by the newest female krewe, the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale, parading for the first time in 2015.

Aside from participation in all-women’s krewes, women also participate in krewes such as Morpheus, Orpheus and Tucks, and in marching groups, such as the Bearded Oysters, the Organ Grinders, the Candy Girls, the Pussy Footers, the Camel Toe Lady Steppers, the Muff-a-Lottas, the NOLA Cherry Bombs and the Sirens of New Orleans.

Whether working behind the scenes, waving scepters, throwing shoes or dancing down the parade route, New Orleans ladies, and many of our very own JLNO members, work every year to help put on the “Greatest Free Show on Earth!”

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1. JLNO Members Jean Angelico, Rachel Stickney, and Hillary Christiansen catch beads during Krewe of Carrollton Parade. Photo by Rachel Stickney

2. JLNO Member Rebecca Brown hangs out with her sister, Monroe Junior League President, Jennifer Ables, during Tucks. Photo by Jennifer Abels

3. JLNO member Jessica Chin, with daughter Megan, visits Kevin Chin as he loads the float for Endymion 2015. Photo by Jessica Chin
Sharing best practices, showcasing programs and viewing the archives are just a few of the highlights of this year’s POLL conference, which was held in New Orleans on January 15-17. POLL, which stands for Presidents of Large Leagues, is a smaller group within the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) for Leagues with more than 400 members. It consists of over 45 Leagues. Our host committee from the Junior League of New Orleans worked for over six months to make sure this conference was a great success for our local chapter and the AJLI.

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37 POLL representatives and ALJI staff met at JLNO headquarters for sessions addressing best practices among Leagues, mid-year check-ins and transitions, and how to manage through change. Key speaker Patrick O’Neill discussed tools to create breakthroughs in productivity, change management, teamwork, conflict resolution and leadership.

JLNO was able to highlight a few of our projects on the third day of the conference. These included Bloomin’ Deals Thrift Shop, Bridal Boutique and a former JLNO community project, The Edible Schoolyard. Tours were held at each of these locations, allowing the attendees to see how JLNO has rebounded since Hurricane Katrina.

Host committee member Meredith Morel stated, “A hot topic this year is how Leagues are archiving their information such as files, past awards and historical information.” This interest gave JLNO the opportunity to showcase our archives which were recently moved to the Old U.S. Mint.

Since New Orleans is a destination city, attendance was high. The host committee made sure to highlight some of our finer establishments such as Tommy’s Wine Bar and Galatoire’s Restaurant for networking happy hours and dinners, and guests stayed at The Roosevelt Hotel. They also enjoyed learning about New Orleans through the Preservation Resource Center, an initiative started through the work of JLNO and an excellent example of the lasting community impact Leagues have in their cities.
League Faces

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

1 Active Members Summer Duperon, Lacrecia Jones, Sarah Pettier and Katie Burlison enjoy the amazing art at Exhibit Be on January 17, 2015. Photo provided by: Lacrecia Jones

2 Provisional Advisors Joan LaMiartina, Amanda Frentz, Katie Burlison, Sarah Vendt and Provisional Chair Alice Glenn take a moment to pose before the Provisional Holiday Party on December 11, 2014. Photo by: Lacrecia Jones

3 Provisionals Kerrie Guilmino and Melissa Bassemier in a festive spirit at the Provisional Holiday Party on December 11, 2014. Photo by: Lacrecia Jones

4 Panelists Suzanne Haik Terrell, Dana Stumpf, Aimee Quirk and Kiki Baker Barnes share their stories at the “How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male Dominated Industries” event on December 10, 2014. Photo by: Kelly Walsh

5 Active Jessica Krinke with Corrie Pellerin and Aimee Gowland of ALG Style enjoying the Sip and Style event at Bloomin’ Deals on January 8, 2015. Photo by: Lacrecia Jones

6 Chairs Jessica Bride and Kacie Kelly pose with panelists Dana Stumpf, Kiki Baker Barnes, Suzanne Haik Terrell, Aimee Quirk at the “How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male Dominated Industries” event on December 10, 2014. Photo by: Kelly Walsh
7, 8 JLNO Members enjoy food and shopping at the Holiday Marketplace on December 15, 2014. Photo by: Lacrecia Jones

9 Actives Kate Samy and Megan Siebenkittel serving refreshments at the Sip and Style event on January 8, 2015. Photo by: Lacrecia Jones

10, 11 Interested networkers at “How to Network for People who Need to Network” at Cole Pratt Gallery.

12 JLNO Member Amanda Wingfield Goldman prepares to march in Hermes with fellow Candy Girl, Lauren Rocha. Photo by: Gillian Gurley

13 JLNO Member Jeanne Charlebois celebrates Tucks! Photo provided by: Jeanne Charlebois
Making it great every day.

“It’s such a wonderful feeling to walk into a room and tell someone they are cancer free. We’ve battled so long and so hard alongside one another, and now they have won! THAT is why we do what we do.”

Lesley Meng, MD
Hematologist Oncologist

East Jefferson General Hospital is our region’s only member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network™. That relationship means you can access a higher level of care without traveling out of town. You can learn more about our success in fighting cancer, and about clinical trials being conducted at EJGH by visiting www.ejgh.org/cancercare.
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