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2016–2017

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On the Cover

JLNO continues to maintain strong relationships with key community non-profits such as the United Way of Southeast Louisiana. Left to right UW of SELA Public Policy Chairman Kim Sport, Strategic Partnership Committee Chair Leigh Thorpe, UW of SELA Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Charmaine Caccioppi, and Planning and Development Council Director Susan Dinneen.

Photo by Jessica Bachmann
Letter from the President

As my husband and I drove our family on our cross-country adventure to Colorado this summer, we passed through a fair representation of the geography of our beautiful country. The bayous and rolling hills of South and North Louisiana, the prairie cattle country of the Texas Panhandle, the scrub-filled mesas of New Mexico, and finally the lofty mountain peaks of the San Juan Mountains in Colorado all passed by our car windows. It is humbling when you see such sights and realize that you are but a tiny dot in all of that space. It is hard to think that as a tiny dot any individual could affect positive change in her community. The problems may be too big, the cause too difficult, or the topic too controversial for one person to tackle. But change always has to start somewhere or with someone.

I am asking all of our members to “Be A Hero” this year both individually and collectively as the Junior League of New Orleans. Being a hero is not always measured by the effort put forth but in the effect felt.

In 1987, I was rear-ended in a car accident on St. Charles Avenue, and I will never forget the woman who came up to me as I sat dazed, upset and alone on the street. I had never seen her before, and I haven’t seen her since, but she stopped to offer me words of comfort and helped me stay strong until my family arrived. Small actions can have a big impact on a person you randomly meet and help or in the case of the League, training capable volunteers to go out in our community and work to help women and families better their circumstances. We have almost 93 years of putting on our capes and having the courage to make a difference in our community.

From the mother who relies on diapers from the Diaper Bank to the families of the infants whose car seats we funded through our Community Assistance Fund grants, we are those heroes in our community. There is a meme on the internet which I love, and it says, “I’m not saying I’m Wonder Woman, but you’ve never seen us in the same room.”

You are all “Wonder Women” to me. We are 2,200 dots in the universe working to make New Orleans a greater community. Thank you for putting on your capes.

Gratefully,

Maria Pardo Huete
Junior League of New Orleans President 2016-2017
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Letter from the Editor

When I think about my role models growing up, almost all of the people in the positions I wanted to be in were men. I was in college by the time we elected Gov. Kathleen Blanco in 2004. The women who served as my role models were the women who are close to me - my grandmothers, my aunts and my mom. They gave me precious guidance on being a woman in this world when few of the community role models looked like me. It was hard to set goals to achieve positions when I was limited by possibilities, but they gave me the power to challenge assumptions and dare to dream.

When I was young, forming a personality and planning how I would change the world, little girls didn’t fantasize about being the president. We dreamed about being the first woman president. We yearned for role models who looked like us in the community. Our leadership goals usually included a caveat mentioning our gender or glass ceilings.

When I joined the Junior League, all of the limits were lifted. There was no position I could not achieve. All of the leaders looked like me. I received my first copy of Lagniappe and set a goal. I wanted to be your editor. As I worked toward achieving it, I spent three years writing for three amazing women, Jessica Chin, Kelly Walsh and Amanda Goldman. The countless hours we’ve laughed and learned have helped hone my skills and train me to do this job.

As we ride out the election season with the first female presidential nominee of a major party, we catch up with Peggy Wilson, a JLNO sustainer and the first councilwoman in New Orleans. Peggy shared her experience of finding her footing as a councilwoman in a world of councilmen.

The Junior League has given me and many like me permission to set exactly the goal I wanted to achieve and to achieve it without caveats. Our little girls will never have to consider whether a woman can do that job and will always have role models in the community who look like them. I’m thrilled to be your editor this year, and I look forward to laughing with and learning from my fellow editors, three more amazing women - Emma Pegues Smith, Rhonda Stephens and Stephanie Campani. “Developing the potential of women,” is a standard we are setting so that the girls we influence can set their goals without caveats.

Warmly,

Lea Witkowski-Purl

Lagniappe Editor 2016-2017
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**Bulletin Board**

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- **Tuesday, Sept. 20** (double credit) 7 p.m., Nims Auditorium, Sacred Heart
- **Tuesday, Oct. 18** (child-friendly) 9 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. at JLNO Headquarters
- **Tuesday, Nov. 15** Small Group Meetings, Location TBD

**LACE UP THOSE RUNNING SHOES**

It’s finally time for the Freret 5K! This year’s 5K and half-mile fun run races will be on Saturday, Oct. 15.

**SEMIA-ANNUAL BAG DAY AT BLOOMIN’ DEALS**

Bag Day happens on Saturday, Oct. 1 this year – for $10, you can fill a 33-gallon bag with all the merchandise you can carry! The store opens at 10 a.m., but customers line up early!

**REBUILDING TOGETHER**

The annual JLNO community project dedicated to helping disadvantaged citizens repair and move back into their homes will be held over two weekends, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7-8 and Oct. 14-15.

**GIVING TUESDAY**

This tradition started in 2012 as a movement to create an international day of giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. Mark Tuesday, Nov. 29 on your calendar this year!

**DON’T FORGET:**

Bloomin’ Deals closes early for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. Headquarters will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25.

**LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE?**

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**WHO SAYS SUMMER HAS THE BEST FESTIVALS?**

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The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard

By Kristin Durand

Welcome to Savoir Faire, the Junior League of New Orleans’ Etiquette Column. With this column, our aim is to help navigate through the oftentimes puzzling world of manners and propriety with an eye towards modern issues. In our inaugural edition, we are tackling the topic of hand-written versus digital communication.

It’s a wonderful feeling when someone takes the time to put pen to paper and express their gratitude. Still, with modern technology so easily accessible, email can be a viable alternative as well. How are you to decide which medium to use?

When it comes to thank you cards, purists will argue a handwritten note is the only way to go. It adds the human touch an email can’t convey. On momentous occasions such as weddings, births or graduations, it’s de rigueur to follow the old fashioned rules; however, rules can be bent. Junior League Sustainer Anne Milling noted, “I frequently say thanks by email when I want someone to know I appreciate their attending a meeting, a community event, a casual community lunch or even a dinner party hosted by close friends.” It’s important to note that the primary benefit of email is its efficiency. “If it’s important that the recipient gets the thank you immediately, then an email can be effective,” added JLNO Active member, Allison Plaisance.

What about a business transaction? That’s tricky. It used to be common practice after an interview to write a thank you letter to your prospective employer. Unfortunately, many hiring managers don’t have time to devote to a handwritten letter. Email has become an acceptable form of communication in the business world, so long as it is sincere. Jennifer Bernard-Allen, the Senior Tax Manager at Laporte CPA & Business Advisors, said, “I often receive electronic thank you notes from candidates going through the formal accounting recruitment process, and it is a very nice and genuine touch. It feels less personal and more professional and is always appreciated.”

Okay. Let’s talk about l’éléphant in the room: birthdays. Facebook is passé. A text is so everyday. This is their once-a-year-it’s-all-about-me day! Send a handwritten note or a personalized greeting card via snail mail. If you’re feeling intrepid, go for the gusto. Enclose your favorite photo together from the past year or include a gift card to their favorite coffee shop. You can even draw a sweet sketch on the envelope.

Finally, one step that can stump even the most seasoned scribe is the signature. “Love” should be reserved for family or close friends while the most universally accepted sign off for professional correspondence is “Best Regards.” If you’re still stumped, JLNO Sustainer Katie Crosby advised, “How to close the note depends on your relationship with the person and your individual level of comfort.”

No matter which technique you opt for, write from the heart and your kind words will always be cherished.

P.S.: If this column has inspired you to catch up on your correspondence, here are a few stores in NOLA that are a writer’s delight!

Scriptura
5423 Magazine St, New Orleans

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102 Metairie Heights Ave, Metairie

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As the Greater New Orleans region rounds another anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the shadow of the city’s greatest disaster is never far from our collective consciousness. Though the memories of Katrina and the devastation it unleashed are hardly forgettable, remembering key lessons of emergency preparedness and household readiness can be difficult in the rush of everyday life. As we ride out another hurricane season in South Louisiana, it is important to remember how and why we should best prepare for an emergency of any kind — be it fire, flood or hurricane. Fortunately, the JLNO network and Greater New Orleans community is filled with fantastic resources to prepare your home and family before, during and after an emergency.

JLNO Active member Erica Camese-Gallardo, of Charles Glenn Insurance, LLC has made a career of helping her clients by deciphering complex policies and demonstrating how they can be better protected. In one case, mere months after she was able to highlight and correct weaknesses in a client’s homeowners’ policy, the client experienced a fire in her home that would have otherwise been financially devastating.

This is especially important in the post-Katrina landscape, where many policies include deductibles that are based on a percent of overall damage, instead of a flat fee. As Betsy explained, a wind policy might have a deductible ranging from 2-5 percent of the overall damage inflicted on a property: if a homeowner has $100,000 of damage, then they will need to ensure they have as much as $5,000 on hand to access their insurance coverage.

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UNDERSTAND YOUR POLICIES

According to JLNO Sustainer and former President Leah Engelhardt, an attorney with Preis PLC, under Louisiana law insurers are presumed to know and understand the terms of their policies. It is, therefore, vital to review your policies thoroughly with your insurance agent to fully understand what is protected and to what extent.

ENSURE YOU ARE FULLY COVERED

Betsy encourages her clients to think outside the box and consider...
the specific things that matter to them, then ask themselves if they have coverage for those items. “Your life happens outside of your roof and that’s where you need your insurance to follow you,” Betsy said. To that end, Leah emphasized that many clients don’t understand that movable objects often times aren’t covered in an insurance policy and expensive art, wine, coin, fur, antique and silver collections might not be included in a traditional coverage, requiring additional policies.

In New Orleans, many owners of traditional historic homes should also take the time to consider the expense of replacing and refurbishing unique historic details of their homes. To ensure the cost of rebuilding these unique artisan features is covered, Leah said it is important that your policy is based on an insurance appraisal for rebuilding, instead of a traditional bank appraisal for refinancing or lending purposes. These details should all be discussed thoroughly with your agent.

**PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

Erica recommended that in the midst of hurricane season, having an up-to-date emergency kit remains important. In her experience, clients often take advantage of tax-free weekends to stock up on emergency supplies.

Eric DeRoche with State Farm Insurance concurred with this point. For Eric, front of mind in preparing for catastrophic events is the need for an emergency evacuation plan and sufficient supplies, including an AM/FM radio.

**INVENTORY AND DOCUMENT YOUR ASSETS**

According to Guy Bumpas IV, a Claims Adjuster with Gillis, Ellis & Baker, Inc., having all insurance documentation, policies and contact numbers on hand is hugely important, and there is no better documentation than pictures. Guy suggested creating a photo inventory of all property and valuable possessions before a claim occurs. These pictures will prove useful for assessments of damage and could act as reference material in the event of a claim.

Leah and Betsy take this a step further: both recommend taking a video inventory of your home, noting the date, time, placement and condition of assets. This can include specific valuables in your home—such as those prized silver, art, or coin collections—as well as the unique features like stained glass windows, tiled fireplaces or intricate woodwork that will take additional effort to replace. This will provide necessary documentation for insurance adjusters, while also assisting craftsmen who might be refurbishing your home.

Additionally, Leah recommends scanning and digitally archiving all important documents and policies to a cloud-based system, like Dropbox, that can be accessed anywhere—even from your smart phone.

**PUTTING YOUR LIFE BACK TOGETHER**

While the steps above will ease the transition process after a disaster, it is still important to be proactive and aggressive in the immediate aftermath. In fact, Leah said that it is often the duty of the policy holder to inform their insurance agent of a disaster or impact to their home/property as quickly as possible. It is also your responsibility to work with your insurer to mitigate further damage to your property. If, for instance, you believe your roof has been damaged or blown off, alert your insurer that you will need a tarp: failure to monitor your damaged property could result in unpaid claims for pursuant damage.

You should also feel comfortable meeting with your adjuster and educating them on your home. After all, Leah said, “You’re in the property and you know it: don’t be afraid to let them know.” You should be prepared to work with your adjuster and make sure your claim is fully met.
We have all heard the saying, “what a difference a year makes!” Well then, it goes without saying what a difference 11 years makes. More than a decade ago, the flood waters of Katrina continued to linger, and calls from concerned Junior League chapters across the globe flooded in. League after League offered up support, financial aid and other assistance all in an effort to rebuild and restore New Orleans. With such an outpouring of generosity, then-President Liz Creel called on past presidents Wendy Beron and Ellen Coleman to determine how JLNO could best utilize the kindness and support of League members from around the world. “Their generosity inspired us to look beyond our own personal challenges to discover a way to make a meaningful difference in our community,” said Liz. The past presidents formed a committee comprised of mostly Sustainers. “Our Sustainers have always supported the League, but their hands-on effort in this project was unprecedented,” said past President Laura Politz. The newly formed committee set aside the first week of October in 2006 for a rebuilding project that would bring League volunteers together from chapters spanning coast to coast and even across the “pond”. Leagues Rebuilding a Better New Orleans was born.

The massive volunteer effort allowed us to focus on members of the community who were struggling to rebuild lives and in most need of help. The rebuilding initiative included
home restoration, gardens, cemeteries and cultural landmarks like Willie Mae’s Scotch House. Like many other businesses, the storm forced Willie Mae’s to close its doors in 2005. In 2006, a team of League volunteers painted the interior and exterior of the restaurant. Willie Mae’s granddaughter, Ashley, helped alongside volunteers and eventually the restaurant reopened. Today, Ashley runs the day to day operations, and the critically acclaimed restaurant continues to serve up southern food to locals and visitors alike.

This past summer, Liz took a moment to reflect on the significance of the event in 2006. “[The] willingness and enthusiasm of Junior League members from all over the world to come to our assistance,” still strikes a chord with her today. So many national and international Junior League members volunteered their time and assistance. “We had so many volunteers that we actually had to find additional projects to take on at the last minute in order to ensure everyone had a meaningful job to do. That speaks volumes about our fellow league members and the bond that holds us together,” said Liz.

Liz had the opportunity to present the concept to an even larger audience at the Association of Junior Leagues International Annual Conference. “When I spoke at the annual conference in the spring of 2006 and proposed this rebuilding idea I had no idea how powerful this movement would become. The momentum continued to build and before we knew it, Ellen, Wendy and I had 1,000 volunteers on our hands. It was truly the most incredible effort I have had the privilege to be part of, and I am so grateful for the opportunity, and proud of our League leaders and volunteers for having the fortitude to make it happen. There were more obstacles than opportunities, but somehow it all came together,” stated Liz.

“The most extraordinary part of this rebuild project was the opportunity to make such a positive impact on the lives of people who live and work in our own Freret Street neighborhood. These were our neighbors who had largely been overlooked by the massive rebuild efforts of other groups,” remarked Liz. Many of the members of the community had not received help a year after the storm. “Two of our homeowners were battling cancer, and we were able to get them both back into their houses so they could live out their remaining days in the comfort of their homes with their loved ones around them,” said Liz.

Leagues Rebuilding a Better New Orleans helped JLNO define its role in our community revitalization. In the decade since, a continuing partnership with Rebuilding Together has provided opportunities for members to restore homes and help rebuild lives. Since its inception 25 years ago, Rebuilding Together has completed more than 500 projects. It serves as a testament to the resilient nature of New Orleanians and the generosity of others across the world. Today, JLNO continues to leave a permanent stamp on the Big Easy bybettering the lives of New Orleanians with Rebuilding Together.

The next Rebuilding Together projects will be held on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7-8 and Oct. 14-15. You can find more information at JLNO.org or RTNO.org.
Advancing the Wellbeing of Women

Using Mindfulness as a Source of Achieving Balance

By Michelle Craig and Lea Witkowski-Purl

As mothers, sisters, friends, wives, community leaders, employees and business owners, as women, we often take care of everyone else first and ourselves last, if at all. Most of us juggle several of the roles mentioned above at one time. Being so many things to so many people often fills us with joy, a sense of community and inclusion and a sense of belonging. Sometimes, however, it can also become overwhelming, emotionally wearisome and stressful. Moreover, negative feelings associated with these responsibilities can also result in “guilt” for feeling this way.

Every woman, no matter how good she is at juggling her various roles in life, feels overwhelmed at times. That is normal. What should not be normal is to feel more negative emotions than positive ones throughout the day, week, month or year. When that happens, it could mean that your emotional wellbeing is out-of-balance. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “There is no consensus around a single definition of wellbeing, but there is general agreement that at minimum, wellbeing includes the presence of positive emotions and moods (e.g., contentment, happiness), the absence of negative emotions (e.g., depression, anxiety), satisfaction with life, fulfillment and positive functioning. In simple terms, wellbeing can be described as judging life positively and feeling good.”

Natalie Kaharick is a JLNO Active member and Co-CEO and Chief Operating Officer for New Orleans College Prep. Since 2005, she’s been teaching yoga, meditation and breathing techniques. She teaches donation-based meditation classes each weekend in New Orleans. “So often, our mind and emotions are racing, and our feelings begin to define our world outlook,” Natalie said. “Pausing and taking a moment to be ‘mindful’ can remind us that feelings and situations are changing. We can pause and be grateful for life’s beautiful moments and know that our challenges will pass.”

Mindfulness can lead to wellbeing. “Mindfulness is a state of mind that one cultivates through conscious practice,” Natalie said. “It allows you to pause and be present with what is happening in your day at any given moment.” Mindfulness is a powerful way to relieve stress. Natalie offered her top three tips for achieving mindfulness and decompressing on the go. “When you’re stressed, time seems to be lacking. Find a few things that you can do that bring you back to yourself, but don’t require a huge time commitment. For me this looks like, 1) Pause. Close my eyes. Take a few deep breaths. There’s a reason mothers have used this advice for centuries. It works! 2) Change your surroundings. Take three to five minutes to walk around the perimeter of your office building, go stand in your back yard for a minute and catch some vitamin D. 3) Self-Massage - I’ll take a few minutes and just rub my forehead, temples, do some neck rotations or roll my shoulders.”

Focusing on living a mindful life and taking time for activities that bring us joy is one way to achieve wellbeing. “Oftentimes (women especially), think that we’re being selfish by doing something that we love,” Natalie said. “However, our state of mind impacts everyone we interact with throughout our day. It’s been my experience that I’m so much more joyful and have more to give if I take a few minutes to recharge my batteries.”

JLNO will host a monthly speaker series event from September 2016 to May 2017. The events will be open to the public and held on the third Thursday of the month and cover health, wellness and other topics of interest.
Provisional members attended their first event, Sip ’n Shop at Bloomin’ Deals, to learn more about the history and mission of the thrift store, as well as gain a sneak peek into what their shifts will entail at the store. After a brief presentation, members broke into assigned small groups to meet their advisors and fellow Provisionals. 2015-2016 Provisional Co-Chair Sibby Charbonnet explained the importance of these small groups and the renewed effort to strengthen ties between all Provisionals. “Each month one of our groups of Provisionals and their advisors are hosting a non-required social in an effort for our Provisionals to have ample opportunities to get to know their class and build community throughout the whole year,” said Sibby.

2016-17 Provisional Co-Chairs Lesley Davis, Amanda Azzarello and Marion Newsom, will lead our class of 148 members to a successful year of creating new friendships and making a difference in the community.

What are you most excited about as a Provisional?

“Meeting lots of new people because I just moved here from Baton Rouge.”  
Taylor Burgmon

“Volunteering at Bloomin’ Deals because my mom was a Junior League member, and I used to go volunteer with her in middle school.”

Lindsey Verdin

“Advancing the Wellbeing of Women, promoting voluntarism and making networking connections.”  
Sarah T. Aucoin

“Meeting new people and giving back to the community.”

Lindsey Yenn

1: Provisional Co-Chair Amanda Azzarello, Co-Chair Marion Newsom, Vice Chair Ashley Lusk, Co-Chair Lesley Davis and committee members Torry Dean, Sarah T. Aucoin, Mae Hill, Regan Dupuy, Maddie Schott, Margaret Saik, Ann Kirk Harris and Beth Applewhite were all present to guide provisionals through the Thrift Shop. Photo by Rana Francois

2: Provisional members Dale O’Neill, Sarah Robin, Ingrid Rinck, Alex Elliot, Cheryl Ellsworth, Elizabeth Bromberg and Kristen Petry. Photo by Rana Francois

3: Bloomin’ Deals Thrift Shop Manager Debbie Burke shows provisionals around the section of the Thrift Shop where clothes are sorted. Photo by Rana Francois
Why and How to Advocate:

Training JLNO Members to Advocate for the Community

By Amber B. Barlow
Partnering with other non-profit organizations in the community is just one of the ways the Junior League of New Orleans trains and influences its members to be effective advocates. JLNO’s Strategic Partnerships Committee joined forces with the United Way of Southeast Louisiana to present the topic of advocacy to JLNO volunteers and educate them on how to become better advocates.

One of the goals of JLNO’s Strategic Partnerships Committee is to strengthen JLNO’s relationships with key non-profits in the community. “United Way is the first organization JLNO is partnering with to provide advocacy training to League members. Effective advocacy involves broad coalitions of community organizations. JLNO expects to be involved with additional organizations in the future,” said 2015-16 Planning & Development Council Director Blair duQuesnay. “United Way was an obvious partner in JLNO’s advocacy efforts as United Way has vast resources available and the experience to educate and inspire volunteers on public policy issues facing the communities in which we live,” said Active Leigh Thorpe, Strategic Partnerships Committee Chair.

On May 18, 2016, League members and all interested volunteers met at JLNO Headquarters to learn about advocacy, the public policy issues impacting the community at large and how to become better advocates for those issues. Charmaine Caccioppi, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, and Kim Sport, United Way of Southeast Louisiana’s Public Policy Chairman, delivered an educational evening bringing the importance of advocacy to the forefront.

Charmaine and Kim shared ways JLNO members may use resources available to them to initiate tremendous change. Charmaine and Kim explained the key roles non-profits and organizations play in shedding light on public policy issues plaguing the community and how each is able to explore the resources available to them and advance an agenda. “One key aspect is the importance of organizations such as the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and JLNO partnering together and pooling resources to identify political topics and concerns as one coalition, and to work together,” said Kim.

For example, JLNO’s Diaper Bank has been set up to assist families that cannot provide diapers for their children due to impoverished circumstances. Up until JLNO took the initiative, there were no government programs providing diapers to families in need. One of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana’s biggest public policy initiatives is early childhood education. As Leigh explained, “JLNO’s Diaper Bank and United Way’s early childhood education initiatives go hand in hand in that if families are unable to provide basic necessities for their children, such as diapers, there is no way these same children will be fully prepared to enter school and early childhood education programs.” Thus, partnerships among organizations and non-profits in the community are crucial to attacking these major public policy concerns.

As Chair of Strategic Partnerships, Leigh introduced United Way’s Public Policy Chair and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to JLNO to embark on the partnership this year. According to Leigh, “the first step JLNO is taking moving forward will be hosting this training on advocacy and how to get involved with Public Policy and Advocacy. It is important to share information from the ALICE Report, which helped guide United Way’s Public Policy Agenda for 2016. It shows League members how they can advocate on behalf of issues they care about and invite any interested members to receive information in the future about United Way’s various Public Policy agenda items, such as expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, domestic violence legislation, early childhood education funding, as well as others.”

United Way’s ALICE Report, which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, has become a key component in targeting areas of need in the community and
uncovering avenues that JLNO may focus their efforts on to provide resources and strengthen the community overall. The ALICE Report was released in January 2016 and includes information on a huge number of citizens in the state of Louisiana who are technically living above the poverty line but remain unable to afford basic necessities.

“Education is the first step in advocacy, and advocacy is often misunderstood. Advocates trained with the right information will be much more effective in the community,” said Blair. “The United Way ALICE Report has a vast amount of information about the citizens of Louisiana who are working yet struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. This is powerful information for our members to have as we consider issues the JLNO will support through advocacy efforts.”

According to Charmaine, “it is important to never underestimate yourself and your life experiences. You never know when your life experiences may add input and be a resource in advocating for your community,” she said. “Volunteers are able to use whatever talents they may have to make a difference such as providing research on certain public policy initiatives and advocating on Capitol Hill to state legislative leaders.”

As Leigh explained, it was important for JLNO to invite the leaders of United Way to share the many levels of engagement one may become involved with in the advocacy process. First, Charmaine and Kim provided a forum through JLNO to bring a large group of strong, powerful, influential women united together to effect change in their community. Second, the volunteers were given the tools and resources needed to advocate. Third, opportunities were presented for volunteers to become advocacy volunteers and perform various levels of research on public policy initiatives. "I came to this event hoping to learn how to better advocate for those whose voices are often not heard and to learn more about the specific struggles they face daily," said Active member Amanda Gammon. Active Claire Delerno was also eager to participate in the advocacy training. “Learning to be a better advocate will help us as League members push initiatives and will provide powerful information for advocating for JLNO’s Diaper Bank,” she said.

Overall, JLNO members were encouraged to find and select various issues they themselves are passionate about and how each may take that passion and set public policy initiatives into motion. Strengthening advocacy skills is just one of the many ways JLNO and its members are dedicated to improving the community and providing key resources to those in need.
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Emergency Preparedness

Learn to Live Easy during Hurricane Season

By Tiffanie Brown

Living in Louisiana has its pros and cons. Some of the pros are amazing food, weather and parades for everything under the sun. However, there are several cons including weather-related disasters. According to the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide, we are geographically prone to 11 hazards including hail storms, flooding, hurricanes and levee failure. If you have lived here long enough, you have more than likely experienced at least one form of hazard. Now that we are in the peak of hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 until November 30, it’s important to ask yourself the following questions: Are you and your loved ones prepared in case of an emergency? Have you discussed what will happen in the event of a mandatory evacuation? Do you know what you will do with your pets? Keep reading for tips and suggestions on how to prepare and plan for an emergency.

TOP EVACUATION TIPS

- **Refill prescriptions** so that you always have a seven day supply.
- **Build up your emergency funds** with at least one week’s worth of expenses such as fuel, food and shelter.
- **Talk with out-of-town family members and friends** at the start of hurricane season. Ask if it will be okay to stay with them in the event of an evacuation.
- **Have copies of important documents on hand** including tax information, copies of birth certificates, driver’s licenses, vehicle registration and insurance.
- **Check your parish websites** in advance for information on how to secure sandbags and evacuation routes.
- **Listen to local officials** and be ready to evacuate!
SHELTERING IN PLACE

Not all weather-related incidents will call for an out-of-town evacuation. For instance, tropical storms may only require a day or two indoors. Even so, one must still be prepared in case the situation escalates. It is recommended that you have at least three days’ worth of food, particularly non-perishables like canned vegetables, fruits, crackers and protein bars, as well as plenty of bottled water. If you prepare an extra “emergency” inventory it will ensure two things: 1) You won’t get stuck at home without essentials, and 2) You won’t find yourself scrambling to buy items at the last minute only to realize that there is no more bottled water or canned milk. You will also want to make sure that you are fully stocked on other items such as batteries, flashlights, personal hygiene items and baby supplies.

Now that you have your supplies together, what will you do to pass the time? If you have kids, how will you keep them entertained for a few days without power? When I was growing up, my brother and I looked forward to “hurricane days.” Not knowing the possible severity of the situations, we enjoyed staying inside and building forts in the middle of the living room. We would spend hours playing and napping! Keep books and coloring materials at the ready, and encourage them to tell stories or act out mini-plays to keep them from becoming bored and restless. The fun isn’t limited to children – adults can find ways to find some creative ways of engaging as well. If you’re a family that likes to play games, keep a pack of UNO cards or Scattegories handy in your preassembled emergency kit.

PETS & EVACUATION

Our furry family members are usually at the bottom of the to-do list when it comes to disaster planning. Some may think all they have to do is grab their pet and a couple days’ worth of food, and they will be fine. But what if the hotel you’re staying at doesn’t take pets? What if your pet is on certain medications? This hurricane season, many agencies are urging pet owners to create an evacuation plan for their pets. Just like us, they have important papers, medications and accessories that can often be left behind in the rush to evacuate. The Louisiana SPCA recommends that the supplies you gather should be able to fully provide for all of your pet’s needs for at least three days. One of the most important things you can do is make sure your pet’s vaccinations are current. If you plan to board your pet, all boarding facilities and veterinarian offices require proof of immunization before accepting animals. You do not want to get to your safe place and be told that your pet cannot stay.

“The Louisiana SPCA prepares year-round for potential hurricane evacuations of both shelter animals and owned animals from around the City,” said Louisiana SPCA CEO, Ana Zorrilla.

Below are a few important details to remember when planning for your pet:

- **Call hotels within your evacuation area and ask about their pet policy.** You can also check bringfido.com, which has a listing of pet-friendly hotel accommodations.
- **Create a checklist!** Have items like food, puppy pads or a mobile litter box, toys and extra medications on the list. Make sure to keep the list with your current evacuation plans.
- **Update your pet’s ID tags if needed.** “Talk to your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping,” said Alicia Haefele of the Louisiana SPCA.
- **When packing your evacuation bag, make sure to pack for your pet as well!**

Know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in your area and have an emergency kit preassembled.
SECURING AND RETROFITTING YOUR HOME

Being residents of a coastal region means we may experience high winds due to bad weather. If you live in an older home, it may not be able to withstand high winds. The best way to protect your home against damaging winds is to hurricane-proof it. This includes strengthening your exterior so no large tears or openings will occur. The National Hurricane Center provides several great tips on how to secure your home:

• **Retrofitting your roof.** The type of roof you have will determine how this will be done. If you have a gabled roof, you’ll want to strengthen the gabled end walls. If you have a shingled roof, you will want to check to make sure the adhesives have attached properly. For either situation, you can call on a professional to make sure this is done correctly and up to safety standards.
• **Install impact shutters.** These will protect doors and windows from flying objects.
• **Install hurricane straps.** Hurricane straps will ensure that your roof and walls are properly connected.
• **Brace your garage doors.** Your local building supplier or garage-door retailer may have a retrofit kit that will be good for securing your doors.

This hurricane season, make sure to retrofit your home to protect it against wind damage.

TOP PLACES LEAGUE MEMBERS EVACUATE TO:

• **Birmingham, Ala.**
  “We like to evacuate to Birmingham! It’s beautiful out there and a very scenic respite!” – Active Tara Quin-Hagmann
  “We ended up in Birmingham last time and had a great time – nice zoo and a fantastic children’s museum. Plus, great shopping and restaurants. It made us think we were on vacation instead of escaping a storm!” – Active Shannon Stover Zink

• **Houston, Texas**
  “Houston to ice skate at the Galleria was always one of my favorites as a child!” – Active Elexa Dixon

• **Other Areas**
  “Lake Bruin, La. We have a house there in northeast Louisiana.” – Sustainer Margaret Hines Godfrey
  “Our family has a cabin outside of Picayune.” – Sustainer Katie Aromi Brandner

STUCK INSIDE FOR A STORM?
Get creative at your hurricane party with these JLNO recipes from our archived cookbooks!

**Frico**

• 4 ounces Parmigiano-Reggiano, rind removed
• Chopped walnuts or chopped fresh rosemary for garnish

Grate the cheese into a bowl. Spoon six evenly spaced tablespoons of cheese onto a nonstick baking sheet. Pat each mound into a three inch round. Garnish with a few chopped walnuts or rosemary. Bake at 400 degrees for three minutes or until golden brown and bubbly. Remove the chips immediately to a wire rack to cool. Let the baking sheet cool before next batch and repeat with remaining cheese. Store the chips in an airtight container for up to one week.

**Tootsie’s Elvis Sandwich**

• 2 tablespoons smooth or crunchy peanut butter
• 2 slices of whole wheat bread
• 1 banana sliced
• 1 teaspoon of honey

Spread the peanut butter over one slice of bread. Layer the banana slices over the peanut butter and drizzle with the honey. Top with the remaining slice of bread. Cut as desired. Perfect recipe for young children to recreate!

Yield: 1 Serving
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In 1923, just three years after the United States approved the 19th Amendment providing women the right to vote, a group of civic-minded women in the New Orleans area came together to “spur on positive growth and change in their beloved city,” by creating the Junior League of New Orleans. Over the course of the next 50+ years, this mission manifested itself via numerous grants, community initiatives and volunteer hours. It also, however, fostered and cultivated women leaders across the city, including New Orleans first Councilwoman, Peggy Wilson.

Though her service in JLNO provided Peggy a specific perspective on the grassroots needs of the city and the true strengths of New Orleans, her segue into politics wasn’t seamless. In fact, as the first woman elected to New Orleans City Council, Peggy got used to hearing, “Oh honey.”

“Most people said, ‘Oh honey,’ that’s a cute idea, but come on. I got a lot of ‘oh honey,’” recalled the former Councilwoman and active civic leader about her initial campaign for a council seat. But the patronizing guidance of her male counterparts didn’t stop the determined neighborhood activist and preservation enthusiast as she watched elected officials and business leaders engage in irreversible decision making—such as tearing down historic buildings—in the name of “progress.” She knew she could do better.

It was under this platform that she ran for her Council seat—on a campaign of principles, not gender. Peggy stated, “When people asked me ‘what are women’s issues?’ I said, ‘Women’s issues are jobs, the economy, etc.’” She stood on issues that affected the future of the entire New Orleans community, not only women.

While her platform was gender-neutral, Peggy recognizes that the unique strengths and assets she brought to her leadership style were not. In fact, many of her strongest talents were honed from her experience with JLNO. “Women are the ones who can garner the kind of action and support that tap into the grassroots. That’s the kind of thing the Junior League taps into,” she said. From this vantage point, Peggy was able to appreciate and fight for the things she felt New Orleans did right, like authenticity and preservation. Further, she was able to take a strong stand against government corruption—a stronger stand than she anticipated having to take.

Whether it was fighting to institute term limits or debating the evolution of Mardi Gras, Peggy’s tenure on the Council benchmarked a new moment for women in political leadership in the city. “My legacy was that I was willing to fight—and fight I did.”

Her tenacity and wit became a hallmark of her career. Peggy recalled an instance early in her Council service when a fellow Councilmember voted against her on an important issue to her constituents. Peggy confronted her colleague after losing the measure. He responded by, “putting his arm around me and saying ‘don’t take it personally, honey.’” A few years later, emboldened to fight corruption and instigate meaningful reforms, Peggy won a critical victory implementing term limits on the Council. Shortly after passing the contentious measure, she was on the elevator with this same Councilmember. “He turned to me and asked ‘how could you do that?’ “I put my arm around him and said, ‘don’t take it personally, honey.’”

“Women are the ones who can garner the kind of action and support that tap into the grassroots. That’s the kind of thing the Junior League taps into,”
said Peggy Wilson.
1: Peggy and her daughter, Bonnie Wilson, at campaign headquarters during the first successful campaign for City Council in 1984.
3: Peggy in a flight suit during an experience trapping and catapulting onto a Navy Ship.
4: Peggy and Dorothy Mae Taylor at the opening of French Quarter Festival in 1984.

Photos courtesy of Peggy Wilson
Debbie in Bloom

Meet the New Bloomin’ Deals Manager

By Jill Holland

I walked into Bloomin’ Deals to interview Debbie Burke, the new thrift shop manager, and was greeted warmly by the staff and volunteers. This is something Debbie insists upon — customers being welcomed just as if they’d walked into a department store. Along with that warm welcome was a beach display, complete with umbrella, lounge chairs, folding table and a romance novel. All that was missing was the sand and sun. When beachy items arrived at the store, she and her staff set up the area and even added beach towels. The items began selling immediately. “I like for [the staff] to enjoy coming to work,” she grinned, telling me about the fun setup.

Debbie brings a hands-on approach to the store from her experience at Belk in Gulfport, Mississippi. She implemented a staff-only sorting policy that she personally oversees, and her “team player” mentality is paying off. The warehouse is organized and clearly labeled, and the wares on the floor have been vetted with care. Debbie even goes so far as to cross check designer items to make certain that boutique merchandise is priced accordingly.

To enhance the Bridal Boutique, which features many high-end wedding gowns* and formal wear, Debbie had staff members lay out a donated area rug and set up a floor mirror that she brought from home. She wants brides and party-goers to have a true department store experience when trying on options for special occasions. It must be working – one bride that came in left with three dresses so she could change at different stages of her big day!

The success of her impromptu sidewalk sale at the Freret Street Festival prompted Debbie to put on a Father’s Day special as well. The sale (50 percent off dresses, buy one get two free t-shirts) brought in extra business, resulting in more than $4,000 storewide in three days. She hinted that shoppers should watch the storefront during the Junior League’s Freret 5K and perhaps during the Freret Street Marketplace.

It is obvious that Debbie loves what she does when she talks about her plans for the store. She and JLNO Thrift Shop Chair, Heather Doyle, recently attended the NARTS: Association of Resale Professionals conference, which offered educational training to resale owners and operators. Debbie’s goals for the thrift shop are simple and wonderfully appropriate for Bloomin’ Deals, “I want to see it bloom and be even greater than it is.”

* Wedding gowns, many of them designer, are priced at $100.

New Bloomin’ Deals Thrift Shop Manager Debbie Burke strives for customers to have a true department store experience when trying on options for special occasions. Photo by Jill Holland
Diaper Bank and Milk Bank Partnership

Giving at risk babies the best start

In the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO), members are often called upon to make donations. From dropping off a Bacchus dress at Bloomin’ Deals to sending cans of soup to Second Harvest Food Bank, JLNO gives back. Building on this spirit of giving, JLNO’s Diaper Bank is serving women and families in need across the New Orleans community. “Advancing the wellbeing of women,” doesn’t stop at diapers, and JLNO is making strides to support the Milk Bank at Ochsner Baptist Medical Center to extend the reach of support. Just as the Diaper Bank provides mothers in need with clean diapers across the area, according to Dr. Harley Ginsberg of Ochsner, the Milk Bank provides “liquid gold” for premature infants in New Orleans.

As the champions of New Orleans’ first and only collection service – or “depot” – of breast milk, Harley and his wife Sue decided after Hurricane Katrina to give back to the community. After over 30 years of medical practice in the New Orleans (Harley is head of Ochsner’s Neonatology division, and Sue is a nurse) they realized that connecting the 500 premature babies a year that come through the Ochsner Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to breast milk could make a difference between life and death. As Harley stated, “If I’m going to be a zealot and I’m going to have a cause, I’m tired of Louisiana being first and second in infant mortality ranks.”

With the nearest milk bank in Austin, Texas, premature infants in the New Orleans region were lacking access to the nutrient-rich breast milk vital to their delicate digestive systems. As many mothers of premature babies are not yet ready or able to breastfeed, and premature infants are not able to suckle, Harley said the Milk Bank “becomes a bridge for these moms,” until a baby can transition to formula. Thanks to Harley and Sue’s efforts, Ochsner’s Baptist campus now operates as a “depot” where nursing mothers can drop off excess breast milk to be shipped and processed in Texas.

Through the JLNO’s Community Assistance Fund, the Ochsner Baptist Milk Bank was given $7,000 for a new freezer but through the foresight of the 2015-2016 Board of Directors, an additional $3,000 was added to investigate and fund meaningful collaboration between the Milk Bank and JLNO’s Diaper Bank. JLNO Volunteers have been meeting with the statewide Milk Bank team to best determine how to make an impact on the most vulnerable children. Initial plans are to take a mother jointly from the prenatal stage through the diaper ages with the assistance of both organizations. “Children who are born under adverse circumstances will be given the best chance at a healthy start with the assistance of the Milk Bank and Diaper Bank. We share the goal of improving children’s lives by working with their mothers in advocating for healthy families,” stated Maria Pardo Huete, JLNO President. As the Ginsbergs continue advancing the collection service from a depot to a full-service milk bank, they look forward to the support of JLNO in fundraising, promotion and community education. As Harley stated, the Milk Bank allows community members to “really help out those in need from different walks of life.”

By Lacy Strohschein

LEFT: Junior League Active member Jennifer Macias is excited to be able to donate her extra breast milk to Mothers’ Milk Bank of Louisiana at Ochsner Baptist. RIGHT: Susan Ginsberg, Ochsner Milk Bank volunteer, removing the donated breast milk to prepare for shipment to Austin Milk Bank for processing.

Photos by Michelle Sens
Many Neighborhoods, One Purpose

Provisionals Join JLNO to Give Back

By Jill Holland

To become a member of the Junior League of New Orleans, you must reside within 45 miles of JLNO Headquarters, 4319 Carondelet Street. While 38 of our current provisionals actually live in this zip code, a whopping 26 other zip codes are represented in this year’s class! Besides New Orleans proper, we have representatives from Arabi, Chalmette, Gretna, Harahan, Harvey, LaPlace, Madisonville, Mandeville, Metairie, River Ridge.

Speaking of representation, 76 of these women are new New Orleanians, sixteen are from other places in Louisiana, and the other new JLNO members come to us from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Washington and California—18 states! {From the lakes of Minnesota to the hills of Tennessee...}

Our newest Leaguers range from ages 26 to 47. Forty-three of our provisionals are under 30, and ten are 40+

We have 72 single gals, 54 married ones and 23 of our new members are mothers.

Regardless of age, marital status or motherhood, the focus of this group is community service and seeking out other women whose goal is to better New Orleans and empower its females and families. In their own words, two new members summed up the common reasons for joining of the 2016-2017 Provisional Class:

“I have always felt strongly about giving back to my community. JLNO’s focus on advancing the well-being of women resonated with me. I’m so happy to have found an organization that strives to not only improve the economic circumstances of women but also educates and provides support to help women increase their productivity and income levels,” said Megan Whittington.

“My friend recommended I join the Junior League to meet women who share the same passion for community service as me,” said Monique Teixeira. “Since joining, I have met so many like-minded women that inspire me to continue serving my community!”
Safe Sitter is a national program devoted to offering medically accurate babysitting courses for young teens. The courses are developmentally appropriate and geared toward children ages 11-13, teaching students how to be safe and knowledgeable babysitters. The program covers basic safety and life-saving skills including the Heimlich maneuver, CPR, how to handle strangers and other safety measures. The program also teaches children business and advertising skills, which help children view babysitting as a business in addition to a service.

The Parenting Center, which is based out of Children's Hospital and was a former JLNO project, organizes the Safe Sitter program for the New Orleans area. JLNO wanted to help boost enrollment in the program and to engage people who would not otherwise receive the services. In keeping with the spirit of voluntarism and community, JLNO created the Safe Sitter Scholarship program.

“The Scholarship program is always a priority and part of the Safe Sitter program,” Megan Gorman, Safe Sitter Chair explained. “The Parenting Center hands out flyers, information is on the JLNO website, and certain schools are targeted with the information to get the word out. The program has 30 spots reserved for students this summer, with six spots being filled already.”

The Scholarship program reserves three positions. When receiving an application, there is a box to check whether a child receives free or reduced school lunches during the school year. If checked, the applicant is eligible to receive a scholarship. This opens up the program to an income bracket that may not get to go to summer camps or after school programs and where siblings often take on the role as a caregiver while parents are at work.

“The Scholarship Program was originally a scholarship class,” Megan said. “It was broken up by class and into three scholarship positions to ensure... that we could reach people.”

JLNO covers the cost of Safe Sitter training and lunch for the scholarship recipients, many of whom are older siblings put in charge of younger family members. The program allows them to have the resources they need to care for their brothers and sisters while providing them with a nurturing, positive experience.

Please check out this exciting opportunity and encourage your children to get involved in this awesome program.
Girls Night Out Bingo!

JLNO’s New Fundraiser is Coming December 2016

By Elizabeth Walcavich

Picture an exciting, pep-rally type atmosphere with fun lighting, DJs, bingo, luxury prizes, entertainment and more. The next big fundraiser for the Junior League of New Orleans will be Girls Night Out Bingo!, taking place in early December. "We are really excited about a fundraiser and a fun social party as a way for women to get together and support the Junior League of New Orleans," said Shayna Connell, Girls Night Out Bingo! Co-Chair.

Still in the planning phases, the event will be open to all women in the community, with high end prizes such as purses, jewelry and possibly cash to be awarded to game winners throughout the night. A raffle will be held as well. There will be food, drinks, music and great takeaway treats even for those who aren’t lucky bingo winners.

Tickets will be available on an individual basis or by tables. There will also be VIP and sponsorship tables available for purchase. Anyone wishing to sponsor a table will have the opportunity to reach an estimated 400 or more women through Girls Night Out Bingo!, and table purchasers will be encouraged to decorate their tables with creative themes for a chance to win a prize!

“This will be an opportunity to showcase all the good things JLNO does and a way to incorporate these things and market it to other women in the community,” Leslie Martin, Girls Night Out Bingo! Co-Chair, explained. “This is an event for Provisionals to Sustainers, friends of members, and anyone in-between to show their support for charities in the city.”

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information on this fun and exciting event set for Thursday, Dec. 1 at The Cannery.
Employees representing 23 Leagues came to New Orleans from all over the country to learn and network at the Presidents of Larger Leagues Leadership Staff Conference. Held from July 20 through July 22 at Junior League of New Orleans Headquarters, this was the sixth annual Leadership Staff POLL iteration.

“Whenever you get to showcase your home League it is always exciting. It can be a little like having your favorite yet highly exacting aunt visit,” said Maria Pardo Huete, JLNO President and host for the POLL Conference. “You want everything to look just so and nice but welcoming. We have so many things to be proud of as a League, and you want all of it to be seen to its best advantage.”

The chance to visit other Leagues headquarters is an exciting draw for POLL Conference Participants.

“I love the opportunity to visit a new city each year and to experience different League headquarters and operations,” said Mikael Bristow, Operations Director for the Junior League of Boston and a member of the steering committee. “It’s so fascinating to me how each League has such different spaces and uses them in a variety of ways.

The POLL Leadership Staff Conference is different from other POLL meetings held each year because Leadership Staff Conference invites Junior League staff to participate in the training.

“Each year, the senior staff of the Large Leagues holds a conference to gain knowledge, skills and resources that enable them to better help their Leagues and their members,” Carrie Moulder, JLNO Communications and Operations Administrator, who was part of the steering committee for the Conference.

The Conference included a presentation from the president of Digital Cheetah. “This year, we added half a day at the beginning of the conference, in order to have Digital Cheetah staff more involved than in the past,” said Lisa Holloway, Chief Operating Officer for the Junior League of Birmingham and member of the steering committee for the Conference. “Each year they have sponsored our conference financially, provided one-on-one time during our hospitality times each day, and this year added a session and scheduled one-on-one time throughout the week for each staff person to talk about issues they are having at their Leagues and get instruction from them. Most of the Leagues use Digital Cheetah now, and it is so beneficial to have them present for us.”

One key element of this year’s meeting was a discussion of member obligations, which Digital Cheetah representatives attended as well.

“Large Leagues are struggling across the board to make the member experience an engaging and connected one while still making sure that we are fulfilling our missions and meeting the needs of the communities we serve,” Maria said. “So different membership models are floating around with different variations, such as a points system, no designated placements, leadership tracks to assist in nominations and tenure rewards such as fewer meetings to name a few. We will be looking at how well we are walking this line of member needs and community needs this year and hope to make recommendations for change.”

The Conference also included a Marketing and Communications Panel, networking/breakout sessions and networking lunches. Jane Dufour, Communications Council Director, was a participant on the Marketing and Communications Panel on Friday.

“Being a panelist for the discussion on Marketing and Communication was a great way not just to share the work that the JLNO Communications Council has accomplished, but also to hear about the marketing and promotional efforts of other Leagues,” Jane said.

Presidents of Larger Leagues is a designation the Association of Junior Leagues International gives to presidents of Leagues that have 300 or more members. Each year, ALJI holds conferences to allow members to share information between similar Leagues.

“This is the only time during each year that Leadership Staff have the opportunity to come together and talk about our experiences, programs, fundraisers, staff and all components of our jobs that allow us to be as knowledgeable and experienced as we can be,” Lisa said. “This conference is significant in helping us all provide the best support we can to our volunteers so they can have an incredible impact in our communities.”
Becoming a Financially Savvy Woman

JLNO Offers Training in Money Management

There are many important lessons we learn throughout our lives as women. From learning about manners and etiquette as young girls to facing the challenges of adulthood, as women we are constantly learning and growing. However, one of the most crucial lessons is the one on finances. From how to manage credit to investing for the future, women are not always completely confident when it comes to handling their finances. Budget management is not often taught in schools and, for a long time, was deemed only appropriate for the “breadwinner” or man of the house. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1950 about one in three women participated in the labor force, and by 2012 women of working age were in the labor force at a rate of 57.7 percent. As more and more women lead big corporations, create new startups and take over household finances, there is a great need for women to become financially savvy.

Active Blair duQuesnay, who is both an Investment Advisor and a Financial Planner, said that there is a critical need to aid women in the finance department. JLNO realizes this need and is currently developing a program to help increase financial literacy in women. “Women earn less and live longer than men, which leaves them particularly vulnerable to outliving their financial assets,” stated Blair. The program is expected to offer a combination of single class lectures as well as a three to five class course. The overall goals of the program are to help women learn to navigate banking, budgeting, saving and investing. In case you want to get a head start on becoming financially savvy, Blair offered up these tips:

• **Credit Score**
  Each of the three credit reporting services gives a free annual report. Confirm your credit score through one of these companies. The most important thing you can do to have good credit is paying your bills on time.

• **Set up an automatic savings plan**
  Automatically save into a retirement plan or new savings account. “Set it and forget it” to help remove the temptation to spend your whole paycheck.

• **First-time home buyers**
  The key to an efficient and successful buying process is organization. Start gathering your last two years of tax returns, statements from all of your investments and savings accounts, W-2 from employer(s), etc. You’ll be surprised at how much paperwork is required for a mortgage.

• **Investments**
  It’s never too early (or late) to start investing.
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President-elect Kristen Koppel and Planning and Development Council Director Susan Dinneen catch up during the Joint Council kickoff party on June 14, 2016. *Photo by Michelle Sens*

George Koppel and Meredith Beers are excited to load the donations that have been collected by JLNO for South Louisiana flood relief. *Photo by Carrie Moulder*

Membership Council Director Alice Glenn and Joint Council members Rachel Stickney and Carla Brown at the kickoff party for Joint Council at Bayou Beer Garden on June 14, 2016. *Photo by Michelle Sens*

JLNO members loading donations headed to those affected by flooding in St. Amant and the surrounding areas. Thanks to all our hardworking members and the community for their support.

**First row (l to r):** Maria Huete, Kate Argote (holding Reese Glenn), Alice Glenn, Meredith Beers, Carrie Moulder

**Second row (l to r):** Maribeth del Castillo, Kristen Koppel, Bart’s Office Furniture Moving and Repairs Employees. *Photo by Steven Watson*
TOP: It was successfully standing room only at the first General Membership meeting at JLNO Headquarters.  
Photo by Angela Theresa Henderson

BOTTOM: Junior League Actives and Provisionals signing in at the well-attended first General Membership meeting of the new year at JLNO Headquarters.  
Photo by Angela Theresa Henderson
Top: Safe Sitter committee members, Ashley Lengfield, Lauren Guichard, Jennifer Jeandron, Brittany Beckner and Kim Cuenca prepare to teach 11-13-year-old boys and girls the Safe Sitter course to become successful babysitters. Photo by Michelle Sens

Bottom: These Safe Sitter graduates are looking forward to babysitting after successfully completing the Safe Sitter class. Photo by Michelle Sens
This summer we had the chance to catch up with some of our newest Junior League of New Orleans Sustainers and hear what plans they have for the new chapters of their League journeys. Many years after their first community shift, and many, many memories later, they are all excited to continue their involvement with the New Orleans community – and relax and spend time with their families. For those of us that are just beginning our Junior League journey, it’s wonderful to hear that these women not only made lifelong friends in the League that they continue to stay in touch with today, but that they also plan to remain active with the League and all that it has to offer sustainers. Read on to hear from them in their own words.

**Mimi Wilson**

“I am looking forward to being the Community Council Sustaining Advisor and still being connected to the Active members. I will also be volunteering at both of my children’s schools, including co-chairing the spring gala. And of course, I’m excited to be a part of the sustainer activities!”

**Chrissy Carmody**

“This year, in addition to finishing my time as a JLNO Active, I have also finished co-chairing The Sugarplum Ball (with Ann Heslin, who is still an Active). Now that both projects are completed, this has freed up a LOT of my time! I have agreed to spend more time on campus; my twin daughters attend McGehee, and I have volunteered to be a room parent for the upcoming school year. I am also assessing some new volunteer opportunities that have come my way, as well as finding some time to play tennis a few times a week – which is great fun. My priorities are to spend time with family, get more exercise and learn Spanish.”

**Traci Lucas**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Junior League. I am impressed by the impact the League has in the community and have met so many amazing women – many of whom I now call my friends. It’s through a JLNO connection that I found my way to my current position with Ochsner, where I serve as the Director of Development for Women and Children. I definitely intend to stay involved with the League in some capacity – I just haven’t figured out what that looks like yet. Like so many of our members, I have a full-time career and a family. I recently joined the parent’s council at Whelan Childcare Center where my son attends daycare and am considering participating in the “Get On Board Training.” As he gets older, I do hope to be involved with his school and his chosen activities. I know I will draw upon my experience and training I received in the League to become a more effective volunteer and advocate. I also hope to join other sustainers at lunch gatherings and interest group activities!”

**Anna Combes**

“I’m continuing my involvement in the Junior League by becoming the Diaper Bank Sustaining Advisor. I vice-chaired it at its inception and chaired it last year as well. I was, and still am VERY proud of all we accomplished, and I love it so much that I wanted to stay involved!”

By Emilia Anderson
**First opening our doors in 1927 on Royal Street, and later relocating a mere stone’s throw away to Bourbon Street, the operation of a thrift shop has long been a major source of fundraising for the Junior League of New Orleans. Funding went primarily to support the JLNO Nutrition Center, which offered dance classes, cooking classes, live entertainment, basic medical care and more to underserved children, and in response to The Great Depression, childcare services which allowed women to work outside the home. True to form, the JLNO thrift shop continues to be a catalyst for positive community change.**

In 1960, the League uprooted its thrift shop from the familiarity of the Vieux Carré to its present location at 4645 Freret Street. More than half a century later, Bloomin’ Deals enjoys tenured status as the second oldest business in a booming neighborhood that experienced a large-scale transformation following Hurricane Katrina. Today, the thrift shop continues to be the driving economic force behind JLNO’s charitable works. In fact, it is the single largest source of income to the League, boasting over $500,000 in annual gross revenue. Local League members contribute roughly 6,000 volunteer hours annually to staff the shop.

Since first forming in 1923 on the heels of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, members of the Junior League have directly impacted the course of history in a positive way. If the last 100 years are any indication of what’s to come, then buckle your seatbelts and hang on, we’re going for a ride.
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