



**2016-2017
Board of Directors**

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Follow us on
facebook!

Phone: (406) 652-6272
Fax: (406) 652-6299

E-mail:
jlb@juniorleagueofbillings.org

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www.juniorleagueofbillings.org

President's Message



"Don't limit your challenges. Challenge your limits." – Jerry Dunn

Women have challenges every day. Some are imposed by time or circumstance (how can I be three places at once?) and others by us. Often, though, I see we are challenged in our support of others (spouses, children, schools, parents, etc.).

When did you last choose a challenge for your development? To push your limits in some way?

I have to laugh at myself when I think back to elementary school and that darned rope that hung in the corner in the gym by itself most of the time. When it "came out" 1-2 times a year, we were doing some sort of physical fitness assessment and climbing was part of the test. For my entire K-12 schooling, I don't think I ever successfully climbed to the top of that rope – despite all my years playing competitive sports. What "was my problem"?

Several years later (during college), I was at summer training with the Marines in Quantico, VA. How is this pertinent to my elementary school rope deficiency, you ask? Well... the rope is at the end of the US Marine Corps obstacle course – and a requirement for successful completion as a Marine. It was there that I overcame this challenge (and ultimately became a US Marine as well). It turns out that (1) there is a technique that can be *learned*, (2) a lot of people experience this challenge (i.e. I was not alone), and (3) it is amazing what you can do when people take time for you and a "team" supports you.

No, the Junior League doesn't run obstacle courses (even if it seems like it some days!), wear combat boots, or have calloused hands from climbing ropes. We do, though, have a foundation of support and "best practices" (locally, regionally, and through AJLI). We do have the ability to collaborate on challenges internally and with other leagues - many we find that are not unique. We do, as well, have a team that believes in each other and wants nothing but for each woman to be successful.

What is a limit you would like to challenge? How can we support you in that development in League?

I hope you "pull that rope out of the corner" and give it a climb. Know this "team" is with you on that journey...

Tonya Bush

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."
Nelson Henderson

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

March

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Billings Petroleum Club

5:30 Social
6:00 Council Meetings
7:00 Meeting

FUND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Fund Development is starting off 2017 by looking backwards.

What! I know it sounds strange but - yes - we are looking back to MPM 2016 in order to plan MPM 2017! We had quite a successful mart, and we are wanting to have a repeat performance of that. We want to meet our goals that were set, so we are revisiting our notes and starting to work on just that. Starting plans for MarketPlace early has also been a goal of the Fund Development Council for a number of years and I feel fortunate to help make this happen!

We are writing a new chapter in our book. We are also helping to develop and launch a wonderful new (to us) idea called Community Based Fundraising. It's the idea of creating a connection between the funds that we raise and the mission of the Junior League, promoting volunteerism and developing the potential of women. This is something we are very excited about.

Tali Phil
Fund Development Leader

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year the Nominating Committee accepts nominations to recognize an individual woman for her outstanding, extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Junior League of Billings and the community of Billings as our Volunteer of the Year. Special recognition takes place of this individual during the May celebration dinner. Nominations will be accepted beginning in February with a **deadline of March 14, 2017**. Please take time to consider the women around you and submit the names of those who have embodied the mission of the Junior League. When submitting a nomination please include information on why the individual deserves such recognition. Nominations may be submitted via email to: Nominating@juniorleagueofbillings.org or via the online nomination form found on the website in the Member's Only section: **My League->Online Forms->Volunteer of the Year Nomination**. Please direct questions to any member of the nominating committee: Allison Murphine, Amber Goulet, Laura Hopkins, Maggie Vralsted.

AJLI Webinar Wednesdays

Take advantage of a Webinar Wednesday presented by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). These are facilitated by either AJLI Staff or other leaders in the respective fields. Don't worry if you miss the date or cannot do it on a Wednesday – as they are all recorded in the "Archives" (back to 2011)!

March 8, 2017: From Stay-at-Home Mom to the West Wing: Lessons Learned along the Way (*Suzy DeFrancis, Chief Public Affairs officer, American Red Cross*).



COMMUNITY COUNCIL/Winter Leadership Conference

Jennifer Webber and I were lucky enough to get to go to Tampa for Winter Leadership Conference. It was quite a well organized, very nice event. Tampa did a fantastic job of hosting. Our first evening we got to see Hyde Park, a more up scale part of Tampa and the Junior League had the shopping area all reserved for conference attendees with free food and drinks, music and mingling opportunities.

They had many pirates there as this weekend marked the kick off of Gasparilla, Tampa's mini Mardi Gras! Its worth a Google! :) Junior League is involved with Gasparilla and on our last day they hosted the children's parade and all the kids were dressed as pirates. We got to meet the President of the Tampa league as she was going around chatting with everyone. I even ran into people I had known from Seattle years ago. It was such a fun way to kick off the weekend.

The next day we broke into our "tracks". I attended the President Elect Elect track with all the other PEE's and Jen went to the President Elect track. They further broke us into groups by league size. I heard talks on how to make AJLI resources work for our league, League Operations, How to have an Engaged Membership, and many more. I left feeling like our league is on the right track and doing/thinking of many of the things other leagues are.

Many are trying to be more efficient and effective at spreading their mission through fundraising. Rather than another cookbook, attend another gala, etc. they are aiming to strike two birds with one stone: spread their mission and cause while raising money for something meaningful to people. This in turn keeps members engaged and not burnt out. It really echoed what I heard Vicki Clark saying while she was in Billings. I got to hear Vicki speak again, too! I feel like I've been rejuvenated from a nap after hearing her speak; just a new outlook and recharged to conquer whatever challenges are in my path! I keep that Vicki Clark training fresh in my mind. Remember she said we can take naps! Its allowed! Thank you for all of your fundraising efforts that allowed me to attend Winter Conference. I am so lucky to have gone.

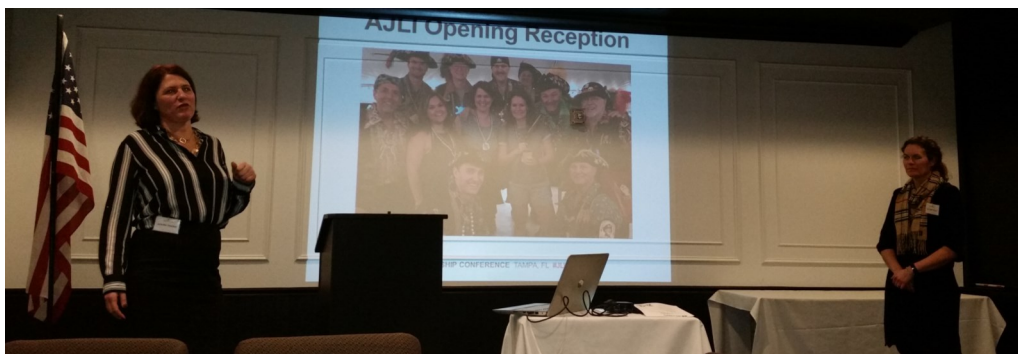
Kids in the Kitchen took place on February 9 at Wise Wonders and the next Laundry Day took place on February 13 at Speedy Wash!

Jennifer Kautz, Community Council Chair

Scenes from the February General Meeting



A warm thank you goes to our February GMM Panel Lynn Mullowney Cabrera, Tiff Davidson Blades, Kelli Toohill and Tali Phil for sharing their experiences from JLB board service.



Jen Webber and Jen Kautz share their experiences from AJLI Winter Leadership Conference in Tampa, Florida.

March Birthdays

ACTIVES

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| March 9 | Brittany Grote |
| March 9 | Tali Phil |
| March 13 | Maggie Vralsted |
| March 25 | Kendra Freeck |
| March 29 | Jennifer Webber |

SUSTAINERS

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| March 3 | Jen Bodine |
| March 9 | Peggy Darkenwald |
| March 16 | Patty Nelson |
| March 16 | Gayle Tompkins |
| March 22 | Vickie Eagle |
| March 23 | Judie Gage |
| March 25 | Pam Sanderson |



FINANCIALS

AS OF DECEMBER 2016

ASSETS:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Cash | 59,261 |
| (Checking & Money Market) | |

LIABILITIES:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Reserves | 37,767 |
| Defer MarketPlace | 2,940 |
| Payroll expense (state/federal) | 377 |

JLB Unspent Budgeted 38,153

Total Liabilities 69,237

Available Funds - 9,976

The assets that are available at this time is the total cash in the amount of \$59,261.

The Liabilities need to be backed out of the total cash amount to get available funds.

Our fundraisers should bring in net income of approximately \$35,409.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Moving further into the second half of the Junior League year, we must begin to think about next year's placements. As part of the 2016-2017 Strategic Plan, the membership council has set out to make placements more meaningful for our members. The Plan stated, "Review placement process for more informed, interactive member involvement in her League experience."

Our council will meet this month to develop a placement packet and training presentation of sorts for our March meeting. We look forward to sharing that with you.

Placement requests will be due by the April meeting. As requested in the past, we encourage you all to consider a council you have never been on or switching councils if you have been in the same place for a while. Junior League's mission is to improve the potential of women and this is a great chance for all of us to grow and experience new tasks and responsibilities within the League.

Remember to continue to fill out your 100 point club forms at the meetings. This helps to keep track of all the volunteer hours within our League. Everyone puts in so much time and effort and we love to reward and recognize all of you. We also want to submit that information to AJLI to show the great impact that the Junior League of Billings is making! At the end of the year, if you have made the 100pt club, your name will be posted at meetings, printed in the Jabberwock, and mentioned in a blog on our website. You will be able to place another star on your nametag. All club members will be placed in a drawing for a prize from the AJLI website.

There will be a Strength Finders Training before the April Meeting at 5:30. This is open to all who can make it, just bring your strengths to share. In February, we will host a mixer on the 20th 5:30-7pm at This House of Books. You can try the tea, read or we will be demonstrating some crocheting and knitting if you are interested in learning a new skill or just practicing one that you already know.

If you want some more social time, we will meet in front of the Junior League office to watch the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 18th.

Jennifer Massey
Membership Council Leader



International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, **International Women's Day** is a national holiday.

**Junior League of Billings General Meeting
February 7, 2017**

Tonya Bush called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Clare Dooley motioned for approval of minutes as printed. It was seconded and approved.

Nominating Committee: Allison Murphine

Still accepting applications for the 2017-2018 Board of Directors. Positions that are open to applicants include:

- Executive Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Council Leader
- Fund Development Council Leader
- Community Council Leader
- Communications Chair
- Nominating Committee Member

Please apply online using forms found in the Member's Only Section of the website.

<https://www.juniorleagueofbillings.org/members/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

JLB Sustainer Panel Discussion

Tiff Blades

Lynn Mallowney Cabrera

Kelli Toohill

Tali Phil

Membership Council: Jennifer Massey

Member recognition cards are located on each table- please nominate your fellow members for their involvement and the drawing will take place at the end of announcements.

March GMM will be a committee placement training - placement requests must be submitted by April 11th meeting. Committee placements will be decided and revealed at the May dinner.

We will be conducting a skills bank assessment to aid in committee placement and for JLB member personal reference.

February Mixer - February 20th at This House of Books 5:30pm - knitting and crocheting. March Mixer - March 18th - St. P Day Parade - meet at JLB office at 10:30-11am.

April GMM will have a Strengths Finder training before the general meeting. More information to follow.

100pt club sheets - Elizabeth Hanson is collecting 100pt club sheets. Those members who make the 100pt club will be recognized on the JLB FB page, in website blog post, and on a flyer displayed during meetings.

Please contact Lauren Wright at secretary@juniorleagueofbillings.org if you know anyone who should receive member support letters.

Member Recognition winners are: Allison Howard & Kendra Freeck

Community Council: Jennifer Kautz

Tonya Bush announced to membership that Jennifer Kautz has been selected by the Billings Gazette as a 40 under 40 recipient. Congratulations!

Thursday, February 6th - Kids in the Kitchen at Wise Wonders.

Saturday, April 1st - STEM girl scouts project at Riverside School.

Monday, February 13th Laundry Project at Speedy Wash

It has been suggested that we might expand our laundry project, we are currently looking into the possibility of hosting at BYO Laundry near Broadwater.

Slides-Portland Community-Based Fundraising: Allison Murphine

Mission, community partnership, viable fundraising efforts.

Fund Development: Tali Phil**No Spring Fundraiser**

Planning for MPM has started- sponsorships and community donations are currently being accepted. Tali Phil asked membership if anyone knew someone who could donate NFL football tickets to use for the raffle.

Presentation: Jennifer Kautz & Jennifer Webber

Jennifer Kautz and Jennifer Webber presented to membership on their recent AJLI training opportunity.

Announcements:

If you anticipate having a membership status change, please submit that request in writing to Dina by March 1st. Membership Dues are due by May 1st and can be paid online.

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Wright
Executive Secretary

