We, the women of the Junior League of Spokane, are in the middle of a milestone year. You may have heard we’re celebrating our 95th year serving Spokane, and the icing on our birthday cake is sharing in the centennial of the 19th Amendment with women voters across the country. As an organization that armors women with leadership training to be change-makers in our own community, we are so proud to see our mission personified with two of our alumni, Candace Mumm and Betsy Wilkerson, sitting on the Spokane City Council.

The JLS continues to serve Spokane via our focus area of childhood literacy. At our November General Membership Meeting, we approved continuing with this focus through 2022-2023. If you saw the article in the Spokesman-Review in October about kindergarten readiness, you understand why childhood literacy remains an urgent issue in our community: fewer than 25% of children in the Spokane Public Schools District are “kindergarten ready.” To put that into perspective, the statewide average is about 46%.

Our annual book fair took place on March 7th at the West Central Community Center. All of the hard work and time that League members dedicated to the execution of the book fair paid off, as over 120 children attended! Each child took home a new book, snacks and swag from Spokane community partners.
Help us blow out those 95 candles on April 18th. We have organized a day to honor our service to the Spokane community called “Retracing Our Steps: 95 Years with the JLS.” Please look at the E-Blast for more details, but the planned walk through downtown Spokane for all Actives, Sustainers and New Members will include stops at Crosswalk (we were an early supporter) and the Red Wagon in Riverfront Park (we commissioned the wagon for the city in 1989).

Cheers!

Michelle Grover
President | Junior League of Spokane
2019-2020
President@JLSpokane.org
Small Leagues, Big Impact (SLBI) is a group of smaller leagues within the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). Of the 291 leagues that make up the association, 191 are eligible for SLBI membership and 120 have chosen to join so far, including leagues as small as 14 actives and as large as the upper limit of 135 actives. Our membership in SLBI provides us with additional training opportunities and resources, as well as the chance to exercise collective voice within the association when small leagues identify a common cause.

SLBI membership includes additional sessions at AJLI conferences, negotiated rates with some of the AJLI trainers, and access for member leagues to a variety of other resources. In Fall 2019, SLBI put on its first training conference (in the spirit of NWX but focused on small leagues from all geographic locations) and will be hosting a second in September 2020. Additionally, with the retirement of AJLI’s long-term CEO Susan Danish, SLBI organized listening sessions to help members weigh in on the desired characteristics of the future CEO.

Many of the training opportunities and resources SLBI provides are aimed at all members of the member leagues. These include a vibrant and active Facebook group--with lots of ideas and resource sharing--and monthly conference calls on topics chosen by the members. We’d really encourage you to take advantage of these chances to learn from women in similar leagues across the association.
We always remember the women that came before us, who put many things in motion that allow us to make the impact we do today. When we want to know what’s been done before or to ensure we don’t reinvent the wheel, when we need advice on best practices, or we want the history of a project or fundraiser, we just ask a Sustainer.

Our sustainers serve as mentors to both new and active members of the League and are a valuable source of support and information to the League as a whole.

**FOR MANY LEAGUE MEMBERS, TRANSITIONING FROM ACTIVE TO SUSTAINER STATUS MARKS NOT THE END OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO THEIR LEAGUE AND THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE, BUT RATHER A NEW BEGINNING.**

Looking back over 119 years of Junior League history, you don’t have to dig deep to find some very impressive women: Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O’Connor, Barbara Bush, Betty Ford and more. However as noted in *Volunteer Powerhouse*, a history of the Junior League, “The strength of the organization has been the untold thousands of women whose names are known only in their own communities and regions”… communities and regions just like Spokane.

This struck a chord with me recently. I had an opportunity to sit with three local trailblazers—Eleanor Andersen, Faris Charbonneau and Bridget Piper. As I listened while they reminisced about time spent volunteering in Spokane, it occurred to me: The impact these three impressive Junior League of Spokane (JLS) sustainers have made and continue to make in our community is mind boggling. Just imagine what a story the combined volunteer history of all of our sustainers would tell?
Over the years, we have watched a well-trained army of sustainers serve in a host of impressive roles. They serve on almost every board and cause in this community from the smallest nonprofits to City Hall and beyond. As I stated, if we could tally the volunteer hours and the positive change our sustainers have and continue to be responsible for, the impact would be staggering.

Since sustaining in 1997, I have supported the League with my sustaining dues. If I ask myself why I have done this, the answer is simple: This organization provided me with the training to launch my career and is responsible for helping me forge life-long friendships—giving back to the organization is a natural. I can never be thankful enough for the time I spent in the Junior League of Spokane.

Advantages of sustainer membership are numerous. They include:

- Life-long connections with women who share a devotion to improving and serving the community
- Inclusion on the distribution of the E-Blast newsletter for upcoming events and opportunities
- Opportunity to participate in JLS Sustainer activities, Holiday Luncheon, Sustainer Dinner and other events planned on an annual basis
- Access to the JLS Directory and contact information of new member, active and sustainer JLS members.

Have you spent time as an active in the Junior League of Spokane? If the answer is yes, I invite you to join me as a sustainer. We are a group of women who still care deeply about Spokane. We support the Junior League with our dues of $89, because our dollars support the mission of JLS—training women with leadership skills to go beyond the League to continue to serve our community. Whether you have never been a sustainer, or your dues have lapsed, please give this invitation serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Gail Stevenson
Sustaining Director | Junior League of Spokane
2019-2020

P.S. Watch for your invitation to a spring fling on May 7 and the Sustainer Dinner on May 20!
Children climbed, explored and even honked a horn or two on a variety of construction trucks and emergency vehicles at the 9th Annual Touch-A-Truck Event, presented by the Junior League of Spokane. This year’s event was record-breaking for the number of trucks in attendance with 34 trucks! This year, we raised just over $11,000, including $2,400 of sponsorships! Our sponsors make this event possible, and we are very grateful for their continued support of the event and the Junior League of Spokane’s mission.

The Junior League of Spokane continues to put fundraising dollars towards our focus area, childhood literacy. Our Book Grant committee was able to disperse $2,875 dollars and over 425 books to community partners who work tirelessly to advance childhood literacy within the Spokane region.
The Junior League of Spokane is now directing fundraising efforts towards a new Partnerships model, which is being spearheaded by the League Partnerships Committee. This new model allows the JLS to focus on soliciting corporate sponsorships, contributions from generous donors and establishing partnerships within the Spokane community.

2019-2020 Funding Director, Kelsey Parker, elaborated: “The Junior League of Spokane is excited to cultivate new partnerships with our supporters. These partnerships allow the Junior League mission to permeate new areas within Spokane, which ultimately expands the scope of our impact.”

Although League Partnerships has taken the lead, each member of the JLS is encouraged to participate in sharing leads, making asks and supporting this new endeavor. “We all have unique and varied reasons to continue investing ourselves in the Junior League of Spokane - let that guide your invitation for others you know to support us,” said Parker.
The Annual Fund provides unrestricted financial resources for the Junior League of Spokane. The Annual Fund is a year-round fundraiser for the Junior League of Spokane that directly supports our work in developing the potential of women and training effective volunteers for community change. The Annual Fund is open to our members, as well as to our friends and supporters in the community who wish to support our mission.

The Junior League of Spokane’s Annual Fund goal is 100 percent participation from Active Members. Having such strong participation from our General Membership demonstrates our commitment to the JLS’s mission and makes us eligible for community grants and support.

One person can absolutely make a difference in the Junior League of Spokane—each member makes a difference with the time and talent that is donated to the JLS. Each member can also make a difference with a donation, regardless of the amount. The work we do is worthy of your support. Your investment not only empowers the Junior League of Spokane to develop civic leaders but expands the capacity of our non-profit partners. Your donation allows us to continue to enhance the community in which we all live and impacts a nearly century-old institution whose trained volunteers helped found community partners, and who have provided volunteer support to, such as Innovia Foundation, Crosswalk Teen Shelter, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery and the Foster Santa Breakfast.

**FUNDING**

**WHICH OF THESE REASONS TO GIVE SPEAKS TO YOU?**

- BECAUSE THE JLS HAS GIVEN YOU FRIENDSHIP AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- BECAUSE THE JLS HAS GIVEN YOU TRAINING AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE
- BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SEE THE JLS GROW
- TO HONOR OR SAY THANK YOU TO A FELLOW LEAGUE MEMBER

**DONATE NOW!**

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

The Annual Fund is open to our members, as well as to our friends and supporters in the community who wish to support our mission.
The Junior League of Spokane is excited to announce the newest members of the JLS. These women worked hard on creating a reading corner at Daybreak Youth Services and helping cultivate a relationship with Daybreak for the future. These members were voted in as Active Members of the Fall Class of 2019.

**FALL 2019 NEW MEMBERS**

- Aubrey Kubik
- Debra Raub
- Jessie Schmedding
- Briana K’Burg
- Hannah Stearns
- Shae Evans

**TRANSFER MEMBERS**

This year, the Junior League of Spokane welcomed 6 transfer members from across the country. The JLS was also fortunate enough to add 2 transfer sustainers to our amazing and growing group of League Sustainers.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, FILL OUT THE MENTORSHIP MATCH FORM NOW!**

- Annie Miller | Beaumont, TX
- Briana Nelson | Seattle, WA
- Casey Lawrence | Portland, OR
- Erica Warwick | Martin County, FL
- Janell Harvey | Jackson County, OR
- Lesli Fillak | Los Angeles, CA
- Linda Kleingartner | Olympia, WA
- Melissa Condon | Denver, CO

**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The JLS Mentorship Program connects League members in a formal mentorship program. Groups are able to customize their development and League experience, whether they talk about their next career move, or a new place in town they are excited to volunteer at, these women share their connections and empower each other! This year, we placed 11 members with mentors! This is in addition to the mentorship groups that have already been established over the past 2 years.
2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT | Michelle Grover  
President@JLSpokane.org

PRESIDENT ELECT | Niki Moore  
PresidentElect@JLSpokane.org

ADMIN DIRECTOR | Stephanie Krebs-Anderson  
Info@JLSpokane.org

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR | Clariese Cote  
CommunityDirector@JLSpokane.org

FUNDING DIRECTOR | Kelsey Parker  
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR | Ashley Manfred  
MembershipDirector@JLSpokane.org

TREASURER | Sarah Love  
Treasurer@JLSpokane.org

TREASURER ELECT | Sorcha Connor Boyle  
TreasurerElect@JLSpokane.org

LDC CHAIR | Maria Cahill  
Leadership@JLSpokane.org

PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT | Kathy Connelly  
PresAssist@JLSpokane.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN | Melissa King

SUSTAINING DIRECTOR | Gail Stevenson

2019-2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BOOK BANK | Kelsea Nestor
BOOK FAIR | Elisabeth Sibulsky
FUNDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | Jamie Wopschall
IMPACT | Rebecca Birnel
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS | Lauren Warrick
MEETINGS & ARRANGEMENTS | Melissa King
MEMBER RETENTION & DEVELOPMENT | Fatim Ouedraogo
NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT & TRAINING | Ashlyn Perry
NORTHWEST EXCHANGE | Ann Smith & Lauren Warrick
PARTNERSHIPS | Alicia Heiser
PLACEMENT | Kate Heidergott
TOUCH-A-TRUCK | Patti Hinman
APRIL 21 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
*THIS IS A VOTING MEETING
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL | 6PM

APRIL 30 | SPOKANE HAS CULTURE: AN EVENING CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
SARANAC ROOPTOP PATIO | 5:30PM

MAY 14 | PAINT WITH A PURPOSE FUNDRAISER
PAINT WITH A TWIST | 6:30PM

MAY 19 | END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATORY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
LOCATION TBD | 6PM

MAY 20 | SUSTAINER DINNER
MANITO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | INVITATION COMING SOON

JUNE 24 | JLS @ THE SPOKANE INDIANS BASEBALL GAME
AVISTA STADIUM | 6:30PM

SEPTEMBER 26 | 10TH ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK
SCC PARKING LOT | DETAILS COMING SOON
Since our founding in 1925, the Junior League of Spokane has been on the forefront of social reform, identifying problems and finding solutions. We are an army of women empowered as agents of positive change, tackling childhood literacy within our community.

Whether in the public or behind the scenes, Junior League women are committed to moving society forward—challenging the status quo, disrupting convention to ensure a better future for all. Because tomorrow there will be new, unforeseen challenges.

For questions about Membership, please contact: JoinUs@JLSpokane.org

LEARN MORE AT WWW.JLSPOKANE.ORG