It has been an absolute honor to serve as President of The Junior League of Spokane for the 2017-2018 league year. Not only am I amazed by all of the support I’ve received but also how much we’ve been able to accomplish!

Shortly after accepting the President’s gavel, I introduced the theme for 2017-2018, “Growing Our Future.” My goal was that we’d work together to grow our revenues through fundraising and grant writing, grow our reach in the community through our Impact projects and book fairs, grow our brand recognition throughout our community, grow our membership numbers and member involvement but most importantly, grow as individuals.

I am happy to report that 2017-2018 was full of growth: Touch a Truck was the most successful to date, bringing in $10,500 record Net Income, 2,190 attendees and 32 trucks! Red Hot Night’s 2nd year was a success bringing in Net Income of $22,000 and Funding Resource Management dazzled us with creative money making opportunities while bringing in more than $2,000.

The Treasure Hunt Book Fair at West Central Community Center was a success during its second year, more than doubling attendance with 300 kids & parents. We partnered with MLK Center at East Central Community Center for our 2nd book fair of the year. We have added 3 new Reading Corners, two from our New Member classes and one from our Impact Committee. Our brand recognition continues to grow in Spokane and beyond due to our fabulous new website and continued efforts to promote JLS, fundraisers, focus area and member recruitment through social media, flyers and word of mouth.

We proudly welcomed 15 amazing New Members! We are half way through the Membership Transformation Rollout and we’ve had success with our JLS meet & greets, member socials and member highlights.

In addition to meeting the original goals, we’ve also completed the
the Strategic Plan and moved into a new office building. Please join us for our Open House on Tuesday, July 17th on the Saranac rooftop.

The most important goal was to grow as individuals. I know through my years in the Junior League I have developed many skills but serving as President has given me something more. This past year, I have seen more growth in myself than I ever thought possible and I owe all of that growth to the Junior League of Spokane, to the Sustainers who have worked tirelessly to develop the league and who continue to support the League and to the Active members who come to the table ready and willing to improve our community, lift each other up and develop friendships in the process. I am grateful for each and every one of you and for your role in making the Junior League of Spokane a success.

I’ve been thinking for a long time about what I would write in the final LAAG as President. Obviously, I’m grateful for the opportunity, experience and support I’ve received but there’s more. I was struggling to put my feelings into words and was about to give up when I realized I had been shown what to write for months! It was above my head (literally) and again in song. The past several months when I’ve been outside with my youngest daughter, I’ve heard the Canada geese flying, well before seeing them. I’d quickly turn my daughter in the direction of their flight path and point as they became visible. As I was beginning to type this article I started listening to one of my favorite musical duos, (Storyhill), from my home state of Montana. My favorite song of theirs is called “Steady On.” Just then, it all clicked. The Junior League is similar to the Canada geese flying in V formation and Storyhill explains it here (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1Z6JoUSFaM):

“..Steady on like the honkers, that pass through the air,  
You can, hear them coming and you step out and stare, 
They’re in chevron formation and they’ll follow their leader, 
Who’ll tire when she’s flown through the sunshine & thunder…”

By flying in a V formation, the flock is adding more flying range than if each bird flew alone. We ALL work together to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve our communities. When the lead goose tires, (or when the league year ends) it rotates back and another goose flies to fill the position. I’ve seen our members making changes in formation at the end of their league year when they begin working with new committees. I’ve also seen our members change formation during the year by: leading trainings, sharing valuable knowledge, double placing and going the extra mile to help a friend.

It’s time for me to fall back in formation and make room for new leadership. Thank you for giving me wings. You’re in good hands!

Steady On… Maria Cahill - President, 2017-2018
2018 Sustainer Dinner

The May 2018 Sustainer Dinner was held at Manito Country Club. It was full of fun, friends and a BIG SECRET!

Thank you Cindy & Carol Wendle for all of your work planning this year’s Sustainer Dinner. With more than 70 Junior Leaguers in attendance, it was an absolute success! Thank you to Melissa King and Kayla Kees for efficiently checking-in all attendees!

Outgoing President, Maria Cahill, thanked co-Sustaining Directors Catherine Brazil and Michelle Grady for their mentorship and guidance throughout the 2017-2018 League year. She also gave a summary of the year and introduced the incoming President, Ann Smith. Ann announced the 2018-2019 Board, including Sustaining Director, Pamela Raymond and spoke about her vision for the upcoming year: Empowering Women.

Co-Sustaining Directors, Catherine Brazil & Michelle Grady recognized Bonnie Morrow as the 2017 Outstanding Sustainer of the year and welcomed new Sustainers: Heather Byrd, Sylvia Campbell, Lesley Culley, Kim Koch, Tricia Morgan, Marnie Schroer, Sally Stopher and Jackie Worobec. They also presented outgoing President, Maria Cahill, with a grape vine for her personal year of growth.

Mary Heath and Jeanne Agar spoke about the History of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation (INWCF). Mary Heath, Molly VanMarter and Elinor Magnuson were the League members who founded INWCF in 1974. Jeanne Ager, past Junior League President, was the first paid Executive of the foundation. Mary & Jeanne spoke about the need Spokane had for the foundation and introduced Shelly O’Quinn, current CEO, to talk about the future.

Shelly O’Quinn spoke about the future of the foundation and how it is going through a major re-branding and name change. She discussed the reason for the name change is that people don’t know what INWCF does and the name needs to reflect what it does in the community. She trusted everyone at the dinner to keep the new name a secret until the official unveiling on June 5th.

Attendees of the 2018 Sustainer Dinner were energized and excited about the Junior League and reminiscing with friends. We can’t wait for next year when the Sustainer Dinner will be planned by Julia McGann & Laura Lawton!
Values Adopted at Annual Conference

Voting Delegates were busy at this year's Annual Business Meeting held during AJLI's 96th Annual Conference in Memphis. After two years of collaboration, the Junior Leagues approved our Association Values. These Values are not a part of our governing documents but will be displayed on our website and in other marketing materials as listed below:

**Mission**
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

**Vision**

**AJLI Values**

**Diversity:** The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

**Collaboration:** We believe lasting societal change is achieved through both collaboration and meaningful disagreement. Living the value of collaboration inspires us to accomplish more together.

**Community:** We believe a strong sense of community is essential to human well-being. Living the value of community provides a foundation of inclusion, which allows us to make a greater impact on the world around us.

**Empowerment:** We believe that the empowerment of women is a necessary requirement to create positive, lasting societal change. Living the value of empowerment fosters trust and confidence in each other.

**Leadership:** We believe in the unique power of women’s leadership abilities to transform communities for the better. Living the value of leadership allows us to make a collective difference.

**Respect:** We believe respect is a fundamental human right. Living the value of respect instills in us an unconditional positive regard for others.

**Service:** We believe it is through service that we build core relationships with others. Service is the lens through which we decide how we will invest our time and resources. Living the value of service empowers us as catalysts for lasting community change.

We thank the delegates for their leadership as well as the many Junior League members who added to the Values conversation.
Book Fair

The Treasure Hunt Book Fair program has doubled in size in its second year! On April 14, we welcomed about 300 people to the gym at West Central Community Center, which we transformed into a colorful pirate’s cove. Children and their parents visited the many literacy activity booths and informational tables, including the ever-popular “Not a Box” booth. After completing their treasure map by visiting all the activity booths, the children were invited to choose any book they wanted from a treasure chest of fun new books, which came from the JLS Book Bank library. All of the attendees also received a healthy lunch! The feedback from the parents and our community partners was universally positive, and this event is poised to grow substantially in the coming years.

In addition to the large event at West Central Community Center in April, we held a smaller fair in partnership with the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center at their new location in the East Central neighborhood. Typically new events take a few years to grow as the neighborhood gets to know us, but we had a strong showing for the first year. All the kids left with two brand new books, and every attendee, including family members, received healthy snacks. The MLK Center is excited to partner with us again.

Thank you to all of the JLS members who volunteered their time to make the Treasure Hunt Book Fairs a shining success this year! The outgoing Book Fair Committee is grateful for the support of the League and our community partners, and the incoming Committee looks forward to growing this beneficial program in years to come!
2017-2018 Annual Fund

Thank you to all of our generous annual fund donors! Your generosity helps ensure that we fulfill our mission, continue to train our members and provide support to the greater Spokane community through our community projects.

This year our annual campaign raised $3,540! – Michelle Grover, Funding Director (2016-2018)

**Actives:**

Maria Cahill  
Krista Caro  
Julie Cornelison  
Amy Cox  
Anne Fink  
Michelle Grover  
Melissa King  
Lauren Klundt  
Kim Koch

Ashley Manfred  
Molly Moffett  
Nicole Moore  
Kristin Orwig  
Kelsey Parker  
Abbey Parsons  
Marnie Schroer  
Ann Smith  
Cora Whitney  
Jacqueline Worobec

**Sustainers:**

Eleanor Andersen  
Jane Baldwin  
Janet Camp  
Christine Culp  
Marti D' Agostino  
Joan Fergin  
Marlene Geraghty  
Sheila Geraghty  
Cheryl Grabicki  
Donna Greenough  
Constance Guthrie  
Donna Halverson  
Grace Hege  
Nancy Henry  
Roberta A. Jackson  
Paula Johnson  
Carole J Jones  
Dianne M Klein  
Shelly Kuney  
Carolyn Louthian  
Suzanne E Lynch  
Elinor Magnuson  
Kristin Mason  
Barbara McGann  
Candi Morton Gilchrist  
Carol Neupert  
Anne (Topper) O'Connell  
Cheryl Papesh  
William Papesh  
Bridget Piper  
Karen Robideaux  
Becky Shellman  
Connie Stacey  
Marilyn Stedman  
Gail Stevenson  
Gail Stevenson (*In memory of Mary Wilson)  
Diane J. Thomas  
Michelle Tompkins  
Karen Warrick
Upcoming Events

• June 28 JLS Night at the Spokane Indians
• July 17 Meet the JLS & New Office Open House
• Sept 22 Touch A Truck

Board of Directors
President: Maria Cahill
President-elect: Ann Smith
President-Elect-Elect: Michelle Grover
Treasurer: Cora Whitney
Treasurer-Elect: Megan Sennett
Sustainer Co-Directors:
  Catherine Brazil and Michelle Grady
Administrative Director: Melissa King
Community Director: Emily Arneson
Membership Director: Niki Moore
Funding Director: Michelle Grover
Parliamentarian:
  Stephanie Krebs-Anderson
LDC Chair: Christa Clarke
Presidential Assistant: Kristin Orwig

Committee Chairs
Meetings & Arrangements: Emelie Braxton
Marketing & Communications: Amy Cox
Book Bank: Sarah Love
Book Fair: Clariese Coté
Red Hot Night Co-Chairs
  Krista Caro and Ann Smith
Impact: Chrystal Ortega
Funding Resource Management/Marketplace: Melinda Bowman
Touch a Truck: Stephanie Krebs-Anderson
Recruitment & Training Chair:
  Kate Heidergott
Retention & Development Chair:
  Ashley Manfred
Placement Chair: Lauren Klundt
Our Mission:
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The JLS welcomes all women who value our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

www.jlspokane.org