

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**WILMINGTON, DE**

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# THE LANTERN



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*The Junior League of Wilmington, DE (JLW) would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters. With your help, the JLW is able to continue our Mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.*

*Thank you!*

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Junior League of Wilmington



@jlwilmingtonde



Junior League of Wilmington, DE

# Now That We're Back, Let's Reconnect!

With life finally starting to return to what it once was pre-pandemic, we devoted this year to reconnect with each other, rebuild our League and implement our new Mission.

Our year began with what have become League traditions: our July Iced Tea at Brandywine Creek State Park and August BBQ at the League House with catering from The Well. Members reconnected and enjoyed each other's company at Constitution Yards, Delaware Art Museum, Brandywine Zoo, Stitch House Brewery and Can-Do Playground in the late summer and fall. In December, our Sustainer Committee hosted their Annual Holiday Party at the Greenville Country Club, always a fun event and highlight of the year. Actives shared delicious recipes and many laughs at our holiday potluck and gift exchange. One of our accomplishments and highlights of the year was hosting our eighth Annual Women's Leadership Summit at the Ed Oliver Golf Course in February, the first Summit in-person since 2019! March saw the return of our Sustainer-hosted Coffee General Membership Meeting, where Members gathered in the homes of Sustainers to partake in small group discussions. These Sustainer-hosted Coffees have become valuable to our League where we build relationships with our Sustainers and learn our history. Thank you to Pamela Bonsib, Stephanie Cory Gorris and Kate Cowperthwaith for opening up their homes and to Mary Paige Bailey for hosting the virtual Coffee. We ended the year with our Annual Red Party in March and our Annual Dinner at the Alamo Room at Wilmington Brew Works in May.

The League has focused on offering flexibility with our programming to balance the needs of our Members. We continued to offer some virtual programming and ramped up our in person events to focus on meaningful connection and fostering a sense of belonging within the League. We are looking forward to our upcoming League year!



# Message from the JLW Sustainers

What a wonderful year the Sustainers have had! With people gathering in person again, we embraced the spirit of reconnecting and reuniting with each other to make up time lost. We started off in September with a visit to The Food Bank of DE that included a tour and lunch. We were amazed by the facility and delicious food, but no more so than the wonderful work they do to feed the community! Later this month, we had a wonderful dinner at the University of Delaware's Vita Nova fine dining restaurant. As part of their education, Culinary Arts students cook and serve. It was a special night! In October, we had a fun day at the Delaware Park Raceway. We all enjoyed watching races while we had a lovely lunch. November took us to the Wilmington Country Club to listen to a fun Historic Fashion Presentation, "Bustles to Bras". The speaker was interesting, and her collection was amazing. We kept the Christmas spirit alive in January with a group tour at Longwood Gardens during their final week of gorgeous Christmas displays. As winter faded to spring, we toured the Brandywine Art Museum, had tea at Centerville Cafe and enjoyed a buffet luncheon at University of Delaware's Vita Nova. We ended with the year with our annual Spring Cocktail Party in April, another one of our favorite events. We will also attend the Fair Hill Scottish Games at the end of May.

What has become one of our favorite events, we held our annual Holiday Party at the Greenville Country Club in December. We were pleased with a great turnout of Actives and Provisionals! We loved getting to know the Actives and Provisionals better, and it was a great night of good conversation and laughter.

Along with our Sustainer events, we joined Actives and Provisionals in several different ways. We participated in Community Impact events, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging events and Fundraising events. We helped make period packs, volunteered with DIAD events, gardened at Headquarters and attended the Women's Leadership Summit. Participating in these events helps us stay in contact with the Active Membership.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Wendy Bunch, Jane Erisman, Mary Francis Haney and Sharon Kirtley who achieved Sustainer Emeritus status this League Year



## IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened to report the recent passing of five Sustainers:  
Betsy Benzel, Mary Ann Horning, Elizabeth (Bidly) Jenkins,  
Cynthia Kuespert and Andrea Rotsch



# 2022-2023 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Working Group

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Working Group had yet another successful year as they worked towards the League's collective goal to further embed DEIB into our organization.

The DEIB Working Group hosted various events to foster understanding, the sense of belonging and the openness to share experiences related to DEIB.



- 2 Belonging Breakfasts - Members gathered together at the League House to have open and honest conversations related to belonging in the League and in the world around us.
- 1 League-wide Training - We welcomed Kenyetta McCurdy-Byrd, Chief Operating Officer of the WRK Group to our February General Membership Meeting to learn more about the WRK Group and the Riverside community.
- 1 Tour of the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware History Museum - Small group of Members met at the museum to learn more about African American history in the state of Delaware.
- 1 DEIB Movie Night - Members met at the League House to enjoy food and watch a movie related to period equity.
- 1 Period Poverty Awareness Event at The Delaware Contemporary.

**A huge thank you to our DEIB Working Group Members!**  
Aravinda Ayyagari, Britney Mumford, Ciara Seal, Jamie Rivero, Megan Pettyjohn, Mishel McCants, and Taylor Urban



## The DEIB Working Group is looking for more Members!

If you are interested in helping the League continue its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging journey, please email Taylor Drainer, DEIB Chair at [president@jilwilmington.org](mailto:president@jilwilmington.org).

# Community Impact

**263,000+**

Period Supplies Donated  
This League Year

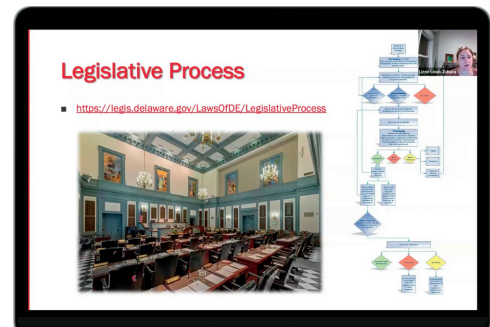
**10,559**

Number of People Helped  
This League Year



# Public Policy and Advocacy

In November 2022, members wrote 50+ letters to local businesses encouraging them to supply period products to patrons.



JLW Members Lizzie Zubaca and Kyle Evans Gay hosted public policy trainings

**More to come...**

PP&A is developing plans to influence period equity legislation in future League years

# "Done-In-A-Day" Events

JLW has been hard at work in the community:

- Donated 500+ items in the Kingswood Community Center school drive
- Assembled 400+ period packs
- Donated 100 pieces of winter clothes and accessories
- Distributed 50 period supply packs at Kingswood Community Center
- Packed 50+ food boxes at Sunday Breakfast Mission
- Sorted 1000 pairs of underwear

Events to create period packs took place throughout the year



Members helped Sunday Breakfast Mission assemble Thanksgiving food boxes in November 2022



In March 2023, members cooked dinner for families at Ronald McDonald House



Members participated in the 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Cleanup hosted by West Side Grows Together



# Happy 30th Anniversary, Kathy Doolin!

If you have been a Member of JLW or had any involvement with our League, you most likely know the name, Kathy Doolin. As our Office Manager, she oversees all office operations, League House maintenance, record keeping, training, onboarding of new Members, donations and more. She has played a vital role in our League's success the last 30 years she has been with us, and we couldn't imagine the League without her. You know her as our Office Manager, but did you wonder what she did before coming to JLW, what her favorite parts of her job, and what she does outside of the League?



Before Kathy joined the JLW 30 years ago, she worked in the customer service department for a company called Digital. In fact, there she worked with Sustainer, Kerry Smiley, and that is how she was first introduced to JLW! After leaving her previous job, she started working with the JLW as our Office Manager in the mornings, part-time. She loved the flexibility this new position gave her, which enabled her to accommodate her children's schedules. She found this new role exciting as she never got bored with all of the behind-the-scenes-work and office administration duties, and she was always learning something new. Her favorite JLW highlights are our signature fundraisers, Whale of a Sale and Kitchen Tour, the latter which has her go to retailers and houses to sell and collect proceeds. A big part of her job is helping train new Members and new leaders within the League. She understands and appreciates her role in passing down past historical League knowledge and in helping the League improve. Over the past 30 years, she has seen the League grow, evolve and withstand the pandemic. She is excited to see where we go next and to be a part of it!

When she is not working, she enjoys gardening crocheting, reading, cruising, going for car rides and taking care of her furry grandbabies. Most of all, she loves spending time with her husband, Jerry, and her son, Jerry (36) and daughter, Laura (33), who was just married. She and her husband spend most of their time at their Dagboro beach house and are finally appreciating how to relax!

## 2023-24 Slate of Leadership

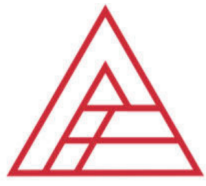
### **Board of Directors**

President – Taylor Drainer  
President-Elect – Tiffany Shrenk  
Secretary – Lorraine Avery-Easterwood  
Treasurer – Adaugo Botchway  
Asst. Treasurer – Christine Lowery  
Sustainer Director – Susan Coulby  
Vice President of Community Programs – Megan Pettyjohn  
Vice President of Membership – Jamie Rivero  
Vice President of Ways & Means – Anita Grant  
Vice President of Communications – Heidi Williams

### **Chairs**

Member Engagement Chair – Julia Mullins  
Member Engagement Members – Jess Grabowski, Amanda Hapgood, Kinsey Lenehan  
Nominating Chair – Melissa Marlin  
Nominating Members – Jessica Chapple, Heather Rafail  
New Member Chair – Merrie Goodlander  
Community Impact Chair – Vacant  
Training & Education Chair – Stephanie Cory Gorris  
Recruiting Chair – Cara Gannon  
Whale Chairs - Taylor Drainer and Tiffany Shrenk  
Annual Funds & Grants Chair – Jessica Atwood  
DEIB Chair – Taylor Drainer  
Nominating Chair – Melissa Marlin

*Congrats*



# 8th Annual Women's Leadership Summit

On Saturday, February 25, 2022, the Junior League of Wilmington, DE, held their 8th annual Women's Leadership Summit. After 2 years of being virtual, the JLW was thrilled to host the Summit in person at the Ed Oliver Golf Course. This year's Summit attracted over 100 participants, as well as 11 sponsors!

Attendees were inspired by Speaker **Henna Pryor**, renowned career coach and consultant, who spoke on the Summit theme of **Embracing Change: Exploring New Landscapes at Home, Work, and Wellness**. They also experienced a meaningful fireside chat between Speaker **Traci Murphy**, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, and Speaker **Delaware Senator Kyle Evans Gay**. Women were able to network with other like-minded peers and exhibitors, make new connections and friendships and learn how to become better leaders in their surrounding community.

The Summit, which was designed to motivate and inspire women across our community to take away new skills, would not have been a success without the hard work and planning by our Women's Leadership Summit Committee, led by Committee Chair, Taylor Urban. Endless hours were spent locating and vetting the right venue and finding sponsors, speakers and exhibitors. They also collaborated with the Communications Committee to produce communication and marketing material shared with individuals and organizations within and outside the Delaware community.

Overall, the eighth Women's Leadership Summit was a successful and inspirational event that served our Mission of empowering women and creating leaders that inspire change in our surrounding community. This event will be retiring as we shift our focus to holding smaller trainings throughout the League year.



Traci Murphy, Henna Pryor, Senator Kyle Evans Gay



2022-2023 Women's Leadership Summit Committee

**We thank our Women's Leadership Committee for all their hard work and dedication planning this event!**

Committee Chair: Taylor Urban

Committee Members: Aravinda Ayyagari, Jessica Atwood, Caitlyn Martin and Tara Nelson

# Fall 2022 & Spring 2023 Provisionals

The League welcomed two amazing groups of Provisional members to our ranks this League Year. Each member brings unique skills and talents that will be great additions to the JLW. We are so excited to have you as part of the League and can't wait to see what we can accomplish together!

## *Welcome to the League!*

### Fall 2022 Provisional Class

Brittany Boyer  
Christina Carmona  
Courtney Gannon  
Joy Hansen

Emily Hockenberger  
Caitlyn Martin  
Mishel McCants  
Tara Nelson

Katherine "Kate" Noa  
(Judkins)  
Kelsey Thompson  
Dionne Williams

### Spring 2023 Provisional Class

Laura Barron  
Hannah Crouch (Godsey)  
Lynn Danner (Martin)  
Claire Harmer

Lindsey Mason  
Maya Matthews  
Anne "Annie" McCarthy  
Olivia McCollum

Nyla Millar  
Elizabeth O'Brien  
Tia Pennington  
Aaliyah Reese  
Elydia Thomas

**HELP RECRUIT THE NEXT  
PROVISIONAL CLASS!**



**VOLUNTEER | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
[www.jlwilmington.org/join](http://www.jlwilmington.org/join)

# A Different Year for Fundraising

With the focus being a year to rebuild, we experimented with a series of fundraisers instead of undertaking the massive event that is our Whale of a Sale.

We kicked off our first fundraiser series with a Fitness night at Dynamic MVMT Studio in Wilmington. We had fun working out and sweating together!



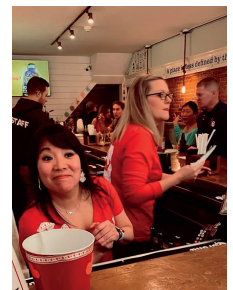
In November, Provisionals, Actives and Sustainers and their friends, gathered at Heart and Home boutique in the Pike Creek Shopping Center to shop and raise money for our League. We had a successful turnout despite the downpour. What was special to our League is that one of the owners, Catherine "Cat" Wilkins, is a Sustainer!



Our next fundraiser took us to Rockwood Museum for a Paint Night and a tour. Member tapped into their creativity by painting a winter cardinal scene on a slate instructed by Kennett Designs. This fun evening sold out!



The highlight of our fundraiser series was our Guest Bartending Fundraiser at Grain Trolley Square in Wilmington! League Members stepped behind the bar to man the taps for friends, family and the community. Our League bartenders raised a good portion of the money before the evening started! This was our most successful fundraiser of the year helped us exceed our goal for the year. We had so much fun, we cannot wait to do it again in upcoming years!



For our last fundraiser, we hosted a shopping event at The Pink Turtle boutique in Greenville in April. Members, friends, family and our community were able to shop both in person and online.

**We thank our Fund Development Committee for planning these wonderful, creative fundraisers!**

Committee Chair: Anita Grant

Committee Members: Colleen Maull, LaVante Dorsey-Yates, Colleen Heyel, Lindsey Neary

**WHALE OF A SALE WILL BE BACK FALL 2023!**

# JLW Donors - Thank you for your support!

## Benefactors Circle - \$1,000+

AJLI  
Barclays Bank Delaware - Taylor Drainer  
Christiana Care  
Crestlea Foundation  
Sallie Mae Fund-Lorraine Avery-  
Easterwood  
Fund for Women  
Ursuline Academy  
State of Delaware  
Wilmington University  
WSFS Bank

## Patron - \$500-\$999

Bank of America (volunteer grant  
from Amanda Hapgood)  
Del-One Federal Credit Union  
Meg Erskine  
Grain Trolley Square  
Jeanie Hayes  
Hockessin Athletic Club  
Dinah Kirby  
Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.  
UDEL Women's Leadership  
Initiative  
WellFit

## Fellow - \$250-\$499

Sarah D'Alonzo  
Alison Frost  
Ashley Harris  
MacElree Harvey, LTD  
Minted.com  
Lisa Pomraning  
Tiffany Shrenk  
Suzanne Veasey

## Partner - \$100-\$249

Tara Agne  
Carol Beck  
Charlene Bertheaud  
Pamela Bonsib  
Sandra Borrer  
Adaugo Botchway  
Allison Brokaw  
Jennifer Callahan  
Jessica Chapple  
Pam Cornforth  
Kate Cowperthwait

Susan Davies  
Margaret Dorian Henry  
Lynn Fuller  
Joan and Larry Gehrke  
Maude Glore  
Merrie Goodlander  
Anita Grant  
Nancy Graves  
Amanda Heberton  
Susan Herrmann  
Bobbe Hoy  
Amy Hughes

Virginia Leonard  
Melissa Marlin  
Margaret Morton  
Nancy Naeve  
Lynn Newsom  
Sue Scofield  
Nina Sneeringer  
Susan Stafford  
Susan Stith  
Vi Sutton  
Ashley Warren  
Carla Westerman  
WSFS Bank

Joan Connolly in memory of Bonney von Wettberg  
Mary Haney in memory of Karen Doherty  
Denise Spence in honor of Katrina Chakraborty for the birth of her daughter

*thank  
you*

# JLW Donors - Thank you for your support!

## Member - \$50-\$99

Mary Bowler	Jessica Grabowski
Mary Crowley	Cheryl Heiks
Pamela Dietz	Mary Hickok
Alice Donaghy	Jennifer McKelvey
Vernita Dorsey	Sandra Schneider
Catherine Flynn	Kelsey Thompson
Cara Gannon	Leanne VanDerveer
GlaxoSmithKline-Ciara Seal	Francie Warther

## Friend - \$1-\$49

Jessica Atwood	Diane Keighley
Debbie Behling	Rita Kingery Cook
Patricia Bussard	Kinsey Lenehan
Tookie Clark	Noreena Lewis
Susan Coulby	Emily Mathisen
Lynn Danner	Laura Minor
Michelle Giblin	Jamie Rivero
Sara Greevy	Peggy Sacher
Mary Hirschbiel	Sarah Wolff
Margaret Hughes	Jane Wood
Catherine Julian	

Vanderlyn Downing-Webster in memory of Barbara duPont

***And a special thank you to all of our  
Giving Tuesday and DoMore24 Donors!***

*thank  
you*

# Letter from the Current President



Since its inception in 1918, the Junior League of Wilmington has been a powerhouse of women volunteers striving to make lasting change in the city of Wilmington. Throughout our rich 100+ year history, the League has continued to advocate, support and lift up the community around us. As Members, you all use your unique and collective talents to truly make a difference in Wilmington and the state of Delaware.

I am incredibly proud of all the accomplishments we have made this year. I am also grateful for all our Members as you have shown true dedication to our League. I look forward to standing alongside each one of you as we continue to make an impactful change in our community and elevate the Junior League of Wilmington brand.

As our journey continues into the next League year, we will start taking steps to achieve the goals in our 2023-26 Strategic Plan. This year is a foundational one as we focus on Member engagement, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) and our advocacy and education efforts of our Stand Up. Period. initiative. I will look to all of you for feedback and suggestions as we push ourselves to be better advocates, volunteers and champions of our community and each other as League Members.

I am excited to start my full year term as President and welcome our most diverse Board of Directors. As many as you know, our DEIB efforts are very important to me. I want to continue embedding DEIB in our League and our work while sharing our DEIB journey with the public. I urge each and every one of you - New Members, Actives and Sustainers - to take an active participation in our DEIB work whether that is serving on the DEIB Working Group or championing it within your committees.

Together - we can truly do more. I hope you continue to share your talents with the League so we keep making lasting, impactful change.

With thanks and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Drainer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor Drainer

President

January 2023 - June 2024

# Letter from the Outgoing President



Dear Members, Donors, and Community Partners,

Reflecting back on my time as President of the Junior League of Wilmington, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. I have seen our Members grow and develop as civic leaders, and I am proud of the hard work that each and every one of our Members has put into making our organization successful.

I have seen firsthand how our Members are living out our mission each and every day. Our mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training is not just a statement, but a way of life for all of us.

Over the past year, we have had a number of successful events and notable accomplishments. The Fund Development Committee was willing to be bold and think outside of the box in creating numerous fundraising events throughout the new. As a result, we have far exceeded our event fundraising goal for the year! The Community Impact Committee continued to provide direct service to the community through our period bank and various Done-In-A-Day volunteer opportunities with non-profits throughout the Wilmington area. The Women's Leadership Summit Committee proved to be up to the challenge and flawlessly executed our first in-person summit in three years. The Recruiting Committee, New Member/Provisional Committee, Member Development Committee, and Nominating Committee each played a key role in helping members (and potential members) get the most out of their League experience. Not only did the Communications Committee provided much needed marketing assistance to every other aspect of the League, but they also excelled at telling the Junior League story through written and visual media. The Collective Impact Team and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Working Group continued to guide the League's long-term direction and improve the day-to-day experiences of Members. None of us could have done this alone. It is our collective power that enables us to be a catalyst for change in the community.

I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion of our Members, and I know that our organization will continue to help women grow as civic leaders. As we move forward, I encourage each and every one of you to continue to embrace our mission and to use your skills and talents to make a positive impact in our community.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the Junior League of Wilmington. I am proud to have served as your president and look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the future.

With sincere appreciation,

*Melissa Marlin*

Melissa Marlin  
President 2021-2022



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WILMINGTON, DE

1801 N. Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19802

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PERMIT NO. 227

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**EVERY JUNIOR LEAGUE STORY STARTS WITH A WOMAN, READY TO DISRUPT  
CONVENTION, AND BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY. ARE YOU THAT WOMAN?**

The Junior League of Wilmington, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. The Junior League of Wilmington welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

