

spring 2019



THE DIALOG

volunteers with a vision

a publication of the Junior League of Texarkana

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The Junior League of Texarkana, Inc. (JLT) 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.

HOURS OF OPERATION
mon thurs | 10am – 4pm

OFFICE MANAGER
Janet Lyons

SOCIAL MEDIA
follow us on social media to stay connected with the most up-to-date League news. You'll also catch us behind-the-scenes at our different League events!



Junior League of Texarkana



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@jltexarkana

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Robin Bass
President

Women Building Better Communities!

I am so proud to be a part of that phrase. The Junior League of Texarkana is so fortunate to have a wonderful cadre of women who spend their spare time (which we don't have much of) building better communities. You worked with Harvest Regional Food Bank to provide nutritious meals to children, you packed back packs with comfort items to support children who were displaced from their homes, you provided teachers with grants to help make their classrooms better, and you gave books, clothes, shoes, money and car seats to children and organizations in this community who might otherwise not have any of those things. You did that. Not me, not your Board of Directors (who are all fabulous by the way), but you as a league accomplished all of this in just one year.

And on top of all that, you had a very successful Mistletoe Fair, a roaring New Year's Eve party, and the best Golf Tournament any one has ever seen in Texarkana. I am so proud of all of you for making this year great!

We are all on a journey, sometimes wondering if it is worth it. Wondering if what we are doing is really making an impact. Let me tell you, you are making an impact. Every hour, every minute, every second that you spend volunteering your time for the Junior League makes an impact. Keep moving forward, keep making an impact. And remember, you can do so much more than you think you are capable of when you are "spurred on" by others.

As we move from this league year to the next, be "spurred on" by others. Look to your leaders for guidance. Look to each other for sisterhood and remember: "Behind every successful woman is a tribe. A tribe of women who could choose to compete but take the higher road of collaboration instead." (Amy Weatherly, "Behind Every Successful Woman is a Tribe", love what matters.com, January 31, 2019).

Yours in Service,
Robbin Bass
2018-19, President
Junior League of Texarkana

Message from the committee:

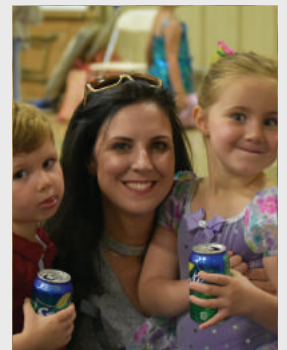


Emily Cox
Co-Chair

What a blessing it has been for us to have a front seat in the details of the spring publication of the dialog. You women have played a major role in advancing the Junior Leagues initiative and enhancing the quality of life in the Texarkana community!

We must send an extra special thank you to all those who contributed in providing write-ups and photos for the spring dialog. Credit for this publication goes directly to you ladies. You stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun every time we called on you.

We have thoroughly enjoyed producing the last 2 dialogs. This committee has taken an idea of a publication and hopefully produced something everyone can be proud of! Thank you for letting us serve the league.



Laurie Galloway
Emily and Laurie Co-Chair

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT —ELECT

Friends,

This year marks my seventh year as an active member in the Junior League of Texarkana. There are days when I feel as if that first year was just yesterday, but, in reality, life is quite different now compared to then. My League years have seen me through marriage, motherhood from the preschool to tween years, and changing professional roles and responsibilities. JLT has been one of the most consistent aspects of my adult life, and what a blessing it has been.

We talk at lengths about what JLT does for our community. Community impact is important and should be highlighted, but we mustn't forget what this work does for us individually, as women. The relationships we develop and the training we receive through our service is truly what sets the Junior League apart from other organizations. We develop women!

As we wrap up the current year and prepare for a new one, I hope you will join me in reflecting on the work we've done, the memories we've made, and the ways we've grown. There is much to celebrate!

Thankful to be IN LEAGUE with you,

Monica Harrison



MEET THE BOARD

Front Row [L to R]:

Jessica Higgs, Robbin Bass, Monica Harrison, Jami Duran

Back Row [L to R]:

Kelsey Reynolds, Mandy Cater, Rosiland David, Rhonda Jones, Morgan Wilhite

**not pictured: Peggy Burson, Katina Levingston and Wendy Harman*

2019-2020 INCOMING BOARD



[L to R]: Audra Ellis, Jeanna Morris, Magan Wisdom, Samantha Bryant, Jennifer Smith, Kristi Kendrick, Rhonda Jones, Monica Harrison, Rosiland Davis, Katina Levingston

MOVING FORWARD

Teacher Take Wing

The Teacher Take Wing program is designed in an effort to provide funds to our local educators for creative projects, equipment, and learning materials to enhance the educational experience of our city's students. The 2019 committee reports outstanding participation in this year's grant cycle. Applications were received from sixty-six applicants representing eleven school districts and hundreds of students across the greater Texarkana area. Districts included TISD, TASD, Pleasant Grove, Liberty Eylau, Fouke, St. James, Redwater, Trinity, Genoa, and Leary. From the pool of outstanding and creative grant proposals, forty winners were chosen. Materials requested by the teachers included Legos, bristle blocks, classroom libraries, audio-visual equipment, musical instruments, STEAM stations, Dash Robots, Speros, science lab equipment, and supplies for an aquaponics project.

Winners of the grants, were honored at the November 5th general meeting held at Texarkana Arkansas Convention Center. The night began with a social, including dinner, provided by Off the Fire. During the Awards Ceremony, several teachers and their students spoke about their projects as they were awarded their checks. In all, \$14,669 was awarded for various classroom projects. The ceremony concluded with door prizes being given to very deserving teachers. Shout out to Jason and Becky Williams for donating dinner for two to Benchmark. The 2019 TTW committee included Jeanna Morris, Emily Ransom, Kelsey Kuhn and Stephanie Adcock.

Shoes for the Soul/Clothes for a Cause



On Saturday, March 30th, 72 students from twenty local elementary schools came to Target at Richmond Road to shop with over 35 Junior League volunteers. Each student had thirty dollars allocated for clothing, along with an additional thirty dollars allocated for shoes. This is a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for students in need of community assistance. Of those 72 children, every single child left with a smile on their face and a new appreciation of what volunteer work can look like in their community.



Spring into Reading



Packs for a Purpose

JLT provides backpacks to displaced children in foster care and/or kinship care. If a child must leave their home through the Department of Family and Protective Services, they often have only a trash bag in which to gather their belongings. The backpacks provided by JLT contain comfort items and living essentials which assist in maintaining a child's dignity. We are serving our community one backpack at a time!



MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION

Mistletoe Fair



Christmas Party



New Year's Eve Party





AWARDS

Katina Levingston

Marguerite Whitmarsh Holman was a charter member of the Junior League of Texarkana, and she served as the League's first president. In Mrs. Holman's honor, we recognize an active member each year in celebration of her contributions to our League. Criteria for nomination include effective volunteer experience with JLT, a strong belief in voluntarism, and service that exceeds expectations. We are pleased to announce that Katina Levingston has been selected as JLT's Marguerite Whitmarsh Holman Award recipient for 2019.

Mrs. Levingston began her League service in 2012. She has served on numerous committees such as Community Research/Project Development, Membership Transformation, Public Relations, Touch-A-Truck, and Nominating/Placement. She currently serves on the JLT Board of Directors as Nominating Chair. She is described by her fellow League members as someone who goes out of her way to support and encourage others.

We extend our gratitude to Katina for her years of dedicated service, inspiration, and leadership. She is most deserving of this recognition.



2018-2019 NEW MEMBERS

The New Member class exceeded our expectations with the task they were given to fulfill their new member year. Two major fundraisers in 5 months! Their leadership, dedication and commitment amazed us. What a wonderful group of women we had the pleasure of leading! You ladies made us proud and we know the Junior League of Texarkana is lucky to have each one of you.

Jenni & Natalie
2018-2019 New Member Chairs

2018-2019 NEW MEMBERS



Front Row [L to R]:

Holly Jones, Courtney Davis, Joy Sandefur, Morgan Cowling, Jessica Musgraves, Courtney Harris, Courtney Gutierrez

Back Row [L to R]:

Ashton Huntze, Jade Ruth, Ashlee Stavinoha, Alissa Flanagan, Kelly Harvin, Violet Braswell, Tiffena Pierce, Cheyenne Anderson, Monica Griffin, Natalie Copeland

**not pictured: Emily Eudy, Alana Sikes, Brittney Mills*

2019-2020 NEW MEMBERS



Front Row [L to R]:

LaTonya Bayonne, Shane Riddell, Erica Smith, Shan Paris, Jennifer Tyler, Lakesha Taylor, Tiffany Studebaker, Varonica Kennedy, Kendal Thompson, Taylor Trippe

Back Row [L to R]:

Shelby DeMuth, Blaire Barlow, Linda Leach, Kayla Hill-Washington, LeeJaye Wilson, Brittney Laughard, Whitney Elijah

**not pictured: Austyn Willis, Melissa Hardy, and Paige Hilton*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

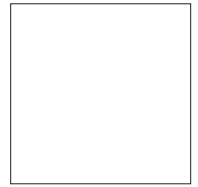
We are excited to SPOTLIGHT two amazing Junior League ladies, Jennifer Smith & Erica Ramage. They Co-Chaired the Mistletoe Fair this past fall with great success. Each is known for a giving heart, focus, positive attitude and all around FUN! Erica stated the placement gave her an opportunity to step out of her comfort zone and be a leader. We say she is gifted as a leader and are thrilled this gave her a chance to step out. Jennifer enjoyed the challenge of such a large project and growing to not doubt her talents. She is talented indeed! Congratulations to you both!



SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to our Junior League of Texarkana Sustainer of the Year, Janet Lucas Lyons. JLT is beyond blessed to call you ours! Thank you for ALL you do.



MEMBERSHIP

Invite them to the league! Do you have a friend that you wish you could spend more time with but never get to see? Do you have a coworker who can't stay out of projects and is always in everything? Have you met someone new to town that doesn't know many people but would like to get more girlfriends while learning about our community?

Founded in 1926, JLT 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. Membership in the League is open to women of all races, religions, and national origins who share in our commitment to voluntarism and improving our community. If you know someone who is looking for an organization that is committed to improving the community and training its members, JLT may be a perfect fit.

With so many benefits of membership, promoting the league is easy! League members:

- Train for effective, community leadership.
- Work with other women to create positive change.
- Gain insight into community needs and develop strategies for solutions.
- Have access to community leaders, new friends, and social opportunities.
- Learn about local and national non-profit organizations.
- May transfer membership to other Junior Leagues.

Prospective members may have questions about eligibility requirements and volunteer and financial obligations. Answers to these questions and more can be found at www.jltexarkana.org