

J *the* COMMENTATOR

SPRING 2010

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

2009 - 2010 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Chesley Martin

President Elect

Kari Polk

Community Director

Tonia Cook

Communications Director

Tracy Patterson

Treasurer/Finance Director

Kimberly Scarborough

Secretary

Jennifer Smothermon

Membership Development Director

Jamie Belz

Sustaining Director

Pam Rosenbaum

Past President

Risha Sanders

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Jennifer Harper

Debra Huntley

Petty Hunter

Joey Light

Debbie McClure

Nancy Liles

Margarita Scouten

Barbara Massey

Norm Archibald

Dr. David Polnick

Jane Beard

Joe Spano

Paul Cannon

Steve Stovall

Roxy Childs-Cox

Doug Williamson

COMMENTATOR COMMITTEE

Jessica Owen, Co-Chair

Nancy Reed, Co-Chair

Lois Haynes, Sustaining Advisor

Lisa Chavez-Owens

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Someone once wrote, *“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.”*

The average value of donated time by volunteers in 2009 was \$20.85 per hour. In Texas, it is even higher at \$21.50 per hour. 61.8 million Americans gave 8 billion hours of volunteer service worth 162 billion dollars in 2008. That is a lot of heart.

The average value of time each and every one of you as Active Members of the Junior League gave our organization and community this year is about 80 hours, valued at 1,720 dollars. That is a total of 14,160 hours and 304,440 dollars. And those are just the average numbers.

We are an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, to developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Those numbers translate into at least 80 hours of training for each one of us this year.

NBA player, Steve Nash said, *“I am a huge believer in giving back and helping out in the community and the world. Think globally, act locally...”* He goes on to say, *“I believe that the measure of a person's life is the affect they have on others.”*

Together, we have given back. Together we have affected our community and each other.

- ☑ We have provided clothes, shoes and beds to children taken from their abusive homes through Community Partners.
- ☑ We have offered healthy snacks and taught the importance of healthy eating choices and exercise to families in our community through Kids in the Kitchen events this year.
- ☑ We have helped make dreams come true for several Taylor County children with life-threatening illnesses through Make-A-Wish, with more to come, including our own Landry Robinson, 6 year old daughter of Active Member Shannon Robinson and granddaughter of Sustainer Lucy Kay Robinson, who has battled brain cancer for the past year. I am happy to report that Landry is free and clear of all cancer today, and will go back to Houston for more testing in June.
- ☑ We have Provided Assistance and Volunteer Experience to over 40 other non-profit agencies in our community providing them money and volunteers in over 70 volunteer opportunities through PAVE.

- ☑ Together, we stuffed and delivered 7,000 hygiene packets to all children at the 9 most-needy Title One campuses in AISD as well as Tye elementary. We also provided these same schools with lice kits and laundry detergent – all through Suds Buds.
- ☑ We have cleaned out, organized and renovated our historic Junior League House. Making it beautiful and useful for us and for others in the community.
- ☑ We have maintained communications and public relations with our members and community supporters through our Commentator, our amazing Web site and our PR Committee.
- ☑ During Project Research and Project Evaluation, we researched and planned effective projects for next year including our new Back Packs for Kids project and our Con Mi Madre feasibility study.
- ☑ We raised approximately 120,000 dollars in one weekend through Christmas Carousel. All money going to meet our Mission.
- ☑ We have attended beautifully arranged meetings thanks to our Arrangements Committee.
- ☑ Many of our children experienced a taste of volunteering at Carousel through Little Leaguers.
- ☑ 60 Provisionals have been trained and are now Active members of our organization.
- ☑ And equally important, Membership Enrichment has helped us care for each other...giving to our Junior League Community...providing meals, cards, prayers and support for our members in need.

Together, we have made a difference in our community.

Together we have supported each other.

Together, we have fulfilled the Mission of the Junior League and all the women who have come before us.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed, *“Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.”*

Together we have served our community and each other. We have achieved greatness.

Throughout this year, I have been impressed by your dedication, your patience, your ingenuity, your strength, and your passion. I applaud your hard work, your leadership and your kindness and am humbled by you all.

This year, we have broken new ground...while sustaining tradition. I truly love this organization and am honored to have served as your 2009-2010 President.

My Sustaining Director, Pam, gave me a book “The Heart of a Volunteer,” at my last Board meeting. One of the quotations in the book pulls volunteerism together in just a few words.

“May happiness touch your life today as warmly as you have touched the lives of others.”

Thank you,

Chesley Martin, 2009-2010 President

FALL PROVISIONALS

Julia Belcher
Jennifer Bellar
Sonja Dickenson
Jenna Dozier
Ali Holamon
Jessica Jeffrey
Alana Jeter
Sarah Lazarowitz
Sara Norman
Joi Pollard
Tami Ratliff
Vanessa Roberts
Tamara Robinson

Kedra Snead

Lucy Vinson

SPRING PROVISIONALS

Kaysha Arnold
Allison Baldwin
Braid Blanks
Kristina Campos
Stephanie Duncan
Juliana Edwards
Carolyn Gerney
Kelley Grimes
Randi Guerrero
Cassidy Hodges

Tracy Holmes

Allicyn Ivy

Amalyssa Johnson

Laura Kellerman

Judy Lanman

Andrea Leggett

Jessica McGaughey

Lindsay McGill

Kendra Meyer

Mamie Meyers

Maloree Munn

Megan Myers

Crystal Nichols

Sharon Owens

Laurin Parrack

Jennifer Plantier

Sarah Plunkett

Melissa Powers

April Propst

Shelly Rafter

Amanda Roberts

Kristi Rodriguez

Kayla Stringer

Abby Walla

Cosia Wilcher

Jessica Wilson

Jana Wilson

Nancy Brock

By: Nancy Reed

When contacting Nancy Brock for the Sustainer Salute, it just happened that I called her while she was going to have her hair done. This was not just the normal hair appointment. She was getting ready for a luncheon to be recognized that same day by the AAUW for her service in the Abilene community. She was one of eight women selected to receive the AAUW inaugural “Women of Outstanding Achievement” Award. And she very kindly took my call and said “yes, I can take the time and help you”. What a nice introduction to one of Abilene’s dedicated leaders.

Nancy was born and raised in Mississippi and came to Texas to attend college at Baylor University for a degree in Biology and English. She stayed in Texas and completed her master’s degree in Social Work at University of Texas. By the early 1970s, she and husband, Dr. Price Brock, Jr., chose to stay in Texas and selected Abilene as their home.

Her inclination to volunteer began at home. Her mother taught her the importance of helping others. Nancy helped her teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and went with her to deliver goat milk to migrant workers for their babies. During high school, Nancy read to a blind neighbor, and by the time she moved to Abilene, she was familiar with Junior League in other cities, as well as Abilene. She admired the members she knew and the accomplishments of the League. In the 1970s though, Nancy was already in her 30s with two young children and a husband with an active medical practice, and Junior League had a “closed admissions policy.” Nancy believed that she would not be eligible for League membership, however her good friends in the medical community, Peggy Powell and Mary Travis, approached her with an invitation to become a Provisional member. Her Provisional Chairman, Rita Turkett, was a “delightful, motivating leader,” and Nancy quickly knew that Junior League was a great fit for her. She attributes the Provisional course — and later, the inaugural class of Leadership Abilene — to educating her about Texas and Abilene and preparing her for the next 37 years of her life volunteering and pursuing business interests in Abilene.

With a background in social work, Nancy found her natural bent to be with projects and “people growing.” Her first JLA project was the Redbud Park playground, and she learned about playground construction and safety. These lessons helped her later while volunteering with First Baptist Church’s playground installation. She attributes JLA to teaching her the importance of involving the people who live in the neighborhoods where a project is to be developed, and also how to most effectively work within the

framework of the City of Abilene. These lessons also directly helped her later when she spearheaded the Friends of the Library efforts to establish a north-side library. She found it a natural fit to network effectively with City of Abilene personnel to make progress on plans and details, and also knew it was imperative to call together residents of the neighborhood around the proposed library site to give critical input into what they wanted to see in “their” library. She sums this process up with a comment, “People teach us so much when we ask and listen.”

Of her JLA experiences, Nancy loved being Provisional Co-Chair with Marilyn Long because it gave them a chance to train and mentor women. While serving as Vice President to an “incredible” President, Lanita Zachry, she grew in attention to detail, and appreciated the amazing opportunity to attend conferences and to share ideas with Junior Leagues all over the United States. It also opened the way during Nancy’s year as JLA President to invite the AJLI President to visit Abilene for the first time in many years. That visit was the prelude to what Nancy said, “was perhaps the most challenging part of my League career, a change in our admission procedure. I love that our League met that challenge and continues to this day (from 1983) to strive for diversity in our membership.”

Perhaps her next greatest challenge was sustaining from JLA and finding her niche within the community. She put to use organizational, leadership, and parliamentary skills that she learned while in JLA, and served on several boards such as Friends of the Abilene Public Library, Hospice of Abilene, Abilene Community Foundation, and the Deacon Board and Daycare Board at First Baptist Church. In 1990, through a connection with a Junior League friend in Wichita Falls, she decided to open and operate a franchise of the Sylvan Learning Center in Abilene, and again used her skills learned in JLA.



SUSTAINER SALUTE CONT FROM PAGE 3

Junior League gave her “how to” skills while helping her to understand that she could undertake new challenges and that she truly did have gifts to give back to her community. Today, she enjoys and takes pride in visiting the Mockingbird Branch library, picnicking in Redbud Park, driving by the West Texas Rehab Center and Hendrick League House, reading about Suds Buds or Christmas Carousel in the newspaper, and knowing “League did it.”

Nancy shares that she loves her family — husband, Price; son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Katina; daughter, Rachel; and HSU daughter, Lori Conklin and granddaughter Isabella. Yet, she is so very thankful for the “family” of Abilene to which she was introduced through the Junior League of Abilene.

Her hope for Junior League of Abilene now is that we never give up the important role of training women for community service. She said, “it is so hard today with demanding schedules, but even more important to do things well, with the heart of a servant but with the diligence of a CEO.

Keep making the League relevant to our community. Your task of growing effective leaders can never be underestimated.”

Nancy we salute you for your time and commitment to the Abilene community and the betterment of women. You truly are a woman of outstanding achievement, and we appreciate your guidance, hope, and leadership. We aim to do our best to continue empowering women and growing strong leaders.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATES

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Chair: Tonia Cook

Serving as the JLA Community Director this year has been an honor. I have been blessed to meet and interact with so many amazing people. As always, it has been a challenge to juggle all of the tasks that any woman has at hand (family, career, school, JLA, and everything else that comes with being a woman). The challenge has been well worth it.

As the Community Director, I have been involved with the JLA’s Community Advisory Board (CAB). This board serves to educate the community leaders about League and provides a resource of information to the League. The advisors bring great knowledge and insight for projects that are needed in the community. The CAB is comprised of 19 individuals with deep roots in the community. The following individuals graciously agreed to serve on the 2009-2010 Community Advisory Board: Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene; Jane Beard, Diane Graves Owens Grant Foundation; Leigh Black, Hendrick Medical Center; Paul Cannon, McMahon Law Firm; Roxy Childs-Cox, TTU HSC School of Pharmacy; Dr. Stephen Faehnle, Hendrick Medical Center; Jennifer Harper, First Financial Bank; Petty Hunter, Neighborhoods In Progress; Debra Huntley, Abilene Chamber of Commerce; Joey Light, Wylie ISD; Nancy Liles, Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau; Barbara Massey, Craig Middle School; Debbie McClure, Abilene Regional Medical Center; Dr. David Polnick, Abilene ISD; Margarita Scouten, Protective Services Licensing Division; Joe Spano, Abilene City Council; Steve Stovall, Stovall Realtors; and Doug Williamson, Abilene Reporter News.

ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

Megan Cheek

I am excited and honored to serve as President-Elect for 2010-2011. Attending the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) Annual Conference was a great way to begin this huge job because what I saw and learned was so inspiring.

It is vital for us as a League to be aware of broad topics and specific issues affecting our community so that we can continue to focus on creating the greatest impact. I plan to spend a lot of time observing and listening to current and past Presidents, League Members, the Community Advisory Board, and people in the community, so that I can find ways to make us an even more effective organization.

The AJLI Annual Conference was a great celebration of the impact of an organization of 160,000 women. Much of the conference focused on AJLI’s “Roadmap for the Future” — a high-level set of recommendations that they, and we, hope will ultimately ensure a bright long-term future for Junior Leagues everywhere. You will be hearing more about the “Roadmap” this year and we plan to discuss how we can implement some of these recommendations for the benefit of JLA.

I was also able to attend breakout sessions on things such as diversifying fundraising efforts, using social media to promote the League, keeping members through the “burnout years,” and issue-based community impact. In visiting with my counterparts from other Leagues, I found some great ideas for making General Membership Meetings meaningful. I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend, and I look forward to implementing all this information in my upcoming position serving the JLA!

JLA PROJECTS 2010 - 2011

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Together with Child Protective Services of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, JLA will undertake the prevention of abused and neglected children in our community through the promotion of community involvement, the education and awareness of child abuse, neglect, and abandonment among the general public, and through the Adopt-A-Caseworker and the Bluebonnet Room.

PAVE (PROVIDING ASSISTANCE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE)

JLA will respond to immediate short-term needs in the community through established community non-profit agencies, and may provide support to previously sponsored organizations.

SUDS BUDS

JLA will provide basic hygiene items for all students at Head Start and selected Title I campuses in Taylor County.

MAKE-A-WISH

In collaboration with the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of North Texas, the Junior League, as trained with granters, will assist in grants for children in our community with life-threatening medical conditions.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

JLA will empower youth to adopt healthy habits in an attempt to reverse the trend of childhood obesity by providing demonstrations related to preparation of healthy snack and meals and by encouraging physical fitness.

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

In collaboration with the Food Bank of West Central Texas, JLA will provide backpacks full of nutritious food to be given to needy children over the weekends.

CON MI MADRE

JLA will conduct a feasibility study of Con Mi MADRE, which strives to facilitate the academic and personal success of Hispanic girls by providing various educational and supportive services using a relational holistic family systems approach model. The primary mission is to decrease the dropout rate of Hispanic students in middle through high school, encourage parent involvement and increase post-secondary enrollments by providing career and college readiness educational opportunities.

Meet the 2010-2011 Board

Each Board Member answered the following questions:

- 1) In a nutshell, what 3 words/phrases best describe you and your family?
- 2) What is your largest goal to achieve in the coming year, and how does it relate to the JLA mission?
- 3) Share how JLA has best prepared you for the job you're about to do?
- 4) What is the single thing you most want other JLA members to know about you?



KARI POLK

President

- 1) Honest, small town America, results.
- 2) My goal this year is the mission: "Develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers."
- 3) Other placements I've had in JLA have helped prepare me for this position.

I've been involved in all the components of JLA (Finance, Community, Communications, Support, and Fundraising). JLA has so many different opportunities to grow. You just have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone.

- 4) I love the Junior League of Abilene and the impact it has on the community and the women involved.



MEGAN CHEEK

President-Elect

- 1) We are all about loving God and each other, laughing with family and friends, and baseball!
- 2) My goal this year is to begin planning for the future of our League so that we can continue the great work that we are doing in our community and further develop into an organization of women, developed as civic and community leaders, creating lasting community impact.

3) My colleagues in JLA had confidence in me that I did not have in myself. I have been challenged to develop leadership skills by being offered placements that were just a bit outside my comfort zone, then being mentored by others in league to rise to those challenges.

- 4) My family is my first priority, but I am glad to take time for JLA as well, because I feel that it develops me into a better wife and mom and I am proud to be building a better community for my kids.



CHESLEY MARTIN

Past President

- 1) Loyal, Texas-Loving, All about family.
- 2) My goal as Past President is to support Kari and the Board in any way needed.
- 3) If someone asked me to stand and speak in front of a group of any size, my palms would sweat, my heart flutter and my tummy turned to knots! After years

of JLA training, I am much more calm during public speaking. I have developed organizational skills, having led areas of the League such as Carousel, Provisionals and Community Director. I haven't always been placed in jobs I wanted, but have learned from, and fulfilled the jobs, and was better for it. I should also add my Commentator articles written a few years ago helped lead to the paying job I have now as the editor of *Abilene Families*.

- 4) I have a true passion for this organization and what we accomplish in our community. I want people to see this passion and hopefully it will help empower others to be everything they can be. Your blessings will be many times more than what you give.



DENISE JONES

Sustaining Director

- 1) Loving, Abilenians, Making life fun.
- 2) To support Kari in her presidency and continue the excellent JLA tradition of training volunteers for the betterment of our community.
- 3) As a longtime JLA member, I can honestly say I owe many of my skills to the training obtained in JLA over the years. I want to help ensure that future leaders receive similar training that will benefit them.

- 4) I am passionate about JLA and have seen firsthand over the years what an impact our organization has made on our community.



LINDA STANLEY

Membership Development Director

- 1) Busy, Travel-Loving, Readers.
- 2) To help each and every member grow and expand to reach their full potential within the League and in life. I also want every member to have their most satisfying and enjoyable League year ever.

3) Each and every leadership position that I have held within the League over the past 17 years has helped me grow just a little bit more and learn more about the League and its purpose. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone, that is where you learn and grow the most!

4) I am naturally a very shy person, but have overcome (to some degree) that natural tendency toward shyness through my journey in the Junior League.



KATIE ALFORD

Treasurer / Finance Director

- 1) West Texas farm girl; Mom of 2 beautiful girls, wife of an amazing husband, volunteer and President of the Community Foundation; About making the most out of my life by having fun and leaving an impact on our community.

2) I hope to make sure JLA stays financially stable and enable us to do more with our money to impact the organizations/ community we serve.

3) Being placed in various positions gives you a broad view of what the JLA does and also allows you to work with people you might not otherwise have the opportunity serving with. It definitely teaches you how to be flexible and open-minded.

4) Even though I did not grow up in Abilene, I love everything about it and want to do whatever I can to make it an even more amazing place to live and raise my family.



GLENNA CORDRAY

Community Director

- 1) I love having fun and laughing with my friends and family; As an attorney, I am committed to keeping children safe; Country girl who loves the city.

2) My goal is that all of us will have a great time working together as we serve the children of Abilene through our projects.

3) I have served as Auction Co-Chair, Merchants Co-chair, Admissions Chair, and Provisional Chair. I have learned to be bold and "just ask" - either for money to benefit the children of Abilene or ladies to join the League. Some may say "no," but many more say "yes".

4) I love to be around ladies who love the League. They lift my spirits and get me excited about serving our community.



JESSICA ENGLAND OWEN

Communications Director

- 1) Mom to a precious 3 year old and wife to the love of my life; Listen to your heart kind of person; After 10 years in Austin, moved back home to enjoy family.

2) I hope to continue to enhance communication channels already in place and better incorporate our mission into all areas of communication.

3) As Marketing Director at eHT and a career in communications, I feel confident I can do this job well. The JLA has prepared me through the learning and growth I've received from speakers, training opportunities and mentors. As Co-Chair for Commentator, I got to know some really amazing JLA women that inspired, encouraged and supported me.

4) Serving and helping others; developing meaningful relationships; and growing as leaders in our community are all things I value about JLA and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be apart of such a strong group of women.



AMY MILAM

Secretary

- 1) With three very active boys, we enjoy being outdoors together camping, hunting, fishing and playing golf. We live in the Jim Ned Community.

2) I want to learn more about the history of the JLA and continue to train to be a leader in our community.

3) JLA has prepared me best for my current leadership position by teaching me key organizational skills, how to conduct a professional meeting and most importantly, offered me leadership training that I use on a daily basis.

4) God, family and friends are the most important things in my life.

Return Service Requested

BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Barnett	05-01	S	Candice McCray	05-23	S	Willys Treanor	07-04	S
Patty Simpson	05-02	S	Shannon Robinson	05-25	A	Cristi Courter	07-05	A
Tiffany Lamb	05-03	A	Susan Bacon	05-26	A	Mattie Maples	07-08	A
Claudia Walker	05-04	S	Fawn Grissett	05-26	A	Gail Thames	07-09	S
Nancy Brock	05-05	S	Katie Browning	06-01	A	Erin Moosbrugger	07-10	A
Carol Chappell	05-07	S	Diane Stearns	06-02	A	Kim Nussbaum	07-12	S
Nanci Liles	05-08	S	Molly Lenker	06-03\	S	Amy Windham	07-12	S
Sue Stubbeman	05-09	S	Marsha Hamilton	06-04	S	Dottie Parker	07-14	SE
Jo Ann Davis	05-09	S	Megan Bolls	06-04	P	Dodge Hubbard	07-14	SE
Lisa Chavez-Owens	05-09	A	Amy Gebhart	06-07	A	Cara Fournier	07-15	A
Amanda Newsom	05-09	A	Jackie Love	06-09	S	Jamie Belz	07-16	A
Lisa Jones	05-12	S	Amanda Teten	06-09	A	Traci Clift	07-17	A
Kristi Thaxton	05-12	S	Betsy Duncan	06-10	SE	Mary Hunter	07-19	SE
Tara Curry	05-12	A	Kay Lanier	06-12	S	Barbara Ballard	07-19	S
Holly Cowan	05-13	A	Brandie Brown	06-16	A	Dottie Preston	07-20	S
Gloria Fulwiler	05-14	S	Carol Corley	06-17	S	Jan Woodward	07-21	S
Charla McCracken	05-14	S	Kerry Watson	06-17	S	Pamela Percival	07-21	S
Doris Grosvenor	05-15	SE	Dee Harris	06-17	A	Barbara Gibson	07-22	S
Dulcey Fulenwider	05-15	A	Dana Decker	06-18	S	Carey Arrington	07-23	A
Jessica McGaughey	05-16	A	Nancy Bander	06-23	S	Mary Lou Fry	07-24	SE
Kerry Di Gioia	05-17	A	Robin McPherson	06-25	A	Ginny Breland	07-24	S
D'Ann Davis	05-19	S	Sara McBeth	06-25	P	Judy Daniels	07-25	S
Margaret McCarty	05-20	SE	Elizabeth Doughty	06-26	S	Jennifer Sandquist	07-25	A
Martha Forman	05-20	S	Cindy Parker	06-27	S	Alice Yates	07-26	P
Lucy Vinson	05-20	A	Alice Wright	06-29	S	Tonya Crenwelge	07-27	A
Carolyn Rinard	05-21	S	Tresa Tutt	06-30	S	Angela Tyler	07-27	A
Claire Carlson	05-21	S	RuthAnn Pittman	06-30	S	Lisa Bloomer	07-28	S
Cynthia Ladyman	05-21	S	Kari Polk	06-30	A	Monica Houston	07-31	A
Cassie Ohlhausen	05-21	S	Gretchen Henson	07-02	S			
Summer Sims	05-22	A	Linda Stanley	07-03	A			