



Winter 2011

the COMMENTATOR

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

2010-2011 Executive Council

President
Kari Polk

President-Elect
Megan Cheek

Community Director
Glenna Cordray

Communications Director
Jessica Owen

Treasurer
Katie Alford

Secretary
Amy Milam

Membership Development
Linda Stanley

Sustaining Director
Denise Jones

Past President
Chesley Martin

Community Advisory Board

Norm Archibald	Nancy Liles
Jane Beard	Barbara Massey
Paul Cannon	Randy Pool
Roxy Childs-Cox	Margarita Scouten
Connie Davis	Sylvia Shurgot
Stephen Faehnle	Joe Spano, Sr.
Debra Huntley	Steve Stovall
Joey Light	Doug Williamson

Commentator Committee
Amy Richardson, Co-Chair
Tifani Smith, Co-Chair
Stephanie Boggins
Megan Myers

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin 2011, my goal is for us to continue our momentum and finish the League year strong. The first half of the year has been busy. We had our Make-A-Wish send off party in August, Suds Buds packet assembly in September, Community Partners change over in October as well as a Kids in the Kitchen event, Backpacks for Kids assembly and distribution monthly, and numerous monthly "PAVE" opportunities. We still have January, February, March and April to go. There are many exciting opportunities that lie ahead within the next four months. Let's use the fresh start of a new year to renew our commitment to our mission and spirit of voluntarism to fuel our tanks for the remainder of the year.



Kari Polk, President

The Junior League of Abilene is truly excited about our future. Now is the time to give thoughtful consideration to how you would like to share your time and talent and develop your potential in the future with this organization. We have presented the 2011-2012 board slate, and it was voted on at the general meeting on January 11. Our incoming president, Megan Cheek, is sure to lead our organization into the upcoming year with very capable leaders by her side. She cares deeply about our mission, and we will be in the best of hands.

Although you may not realize it, you motivate me to be a better person and JLA member. Thank you for your service and allowing me to be a part of this journey.

"A Hero Lies in You"

Kari

★ CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL 2010 ★

Once again, another Christmas Carousel has come and gone. Feathers, Flappers & Fedoras was a huge success this year, raising approximately \$125,000.00, and well exceeding our goal! I would like to send out a huge thank you to all of the League for their part in making this year's event so great. Christmas Carousel would not have been a reality, except for the exceptionally devoted women who made up the committee this year. I want to extend my sincere appreciation for those ladies, as well as two very special sustaining advisors Jamie Miers and Pam Rosenbaum, who both played an instrumental role at keeping us "in line"! Our president Kari Polk and her sustaining advisor Denise Jones were both so amazing and always available to assist with every detail along the way. Thank you all again for your support and best of luck to Angela Tomlin and next year's gang! We are all Heroes!

Stacy Hammond
2010 Christmas Carousel Chair



HEROES AT WORK ...

Junior League of Abilene has been hard at work in the Abilene community through the many arms, minds, and souls of its members.



MORE WORK TO BE DONE: PAVE



Veronica
Bartosh



JoBeth
Willis

PAVE has been absolutely amazing this year! We have been able to help several organizations such as St. John's Episcopal School, Blue Jean Drive, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Children's Miracle Network, and more! PAVE is a true demonstration of what Junior League is. I love that when you get such an amazing group of wonderful women together, we just rock at getting things done, and it doesn't seem like work at all!

PAVE Shift Sign-Up available on the JLA Web site.

February Autism Extravaganza

March Champion for Children Conference

Summer Children's Performing Arts Series

... AND HEROES AT PLAY

Junior League of Abilene Active and Sustaining members alike enjoyed Carousel events and holiday fellowship.



LEAGUE DEVELOPMENTS

The Board who will carry us into the future of the League has been proposed, announced, and voted on by members. We are very excited about taking our Heroes into a new chapter of service.

2011-2012 Board Slate

President Elect - Amy Milam
Community Director - Allison Cowling
Secretary - Jessica Melson
Communications Director - Lea Hutt
Membership Development Director - Kerry DiGioia

2011-2012 Membership Development Committee Slate

Kris Ross, Glenna Cordray, Susan Pate, Kari Polk,
Amy Gebhart, Patricia Malm, Lana Zullo



Linda Stanley
Membership Development Dir.

HEROES CALLED TO SERVICE

The 2011-2012 Board is beginning to take shape and make plans for the next League year. As you reflect upon your involvement with Junior League of Abilene and the many volunteer placement opportunities available to you, consider what it is that compels you to give. What is that internal drive that gives you another ounce of energy when you think you're depleted? What gives you that creative idea when you feel that your brain is tapped out? What sparks a passion inside of you that ignites an ability to pour more out when you could've sworn you had already emptied? For me, it's because voluntarism really isn't about giving more of me. On the surface it appears to be an outpouring of more time, more brainstorming, and more sweat. How then is it possible I feel so fulfilled? I'm realizing the service really isn't giving... it's receiving. Receiving blessings in the form of fellowship, encouragement, gratitude. Receiving blessings knowing that I stuffed a case of Suds Buds packets *with my daughter*. That we are fortunate enough to have the funding and resources to organize a project that helps so many families. That we are a family fortunate enough not to need a Suds Buds packet from the Junior League of Abilene.

Incoming President Megan Cheek and her Board will need a committed Council of Leaders to help them create and drive the processes for the 2011-2012 League year. The Leadership Council will need ardent committee members to be the reach of the League as we implement our projects. Consider your strengths and what drives you to give, and visit with your Membership Development about finding a position that will complement your skills. Our community needs something from you... but you'll be blessed in return.

Tifani Smith, Commentator Co-Chair

Current Board and Leadership position vacancies. Please email Linda Stanley lstanley@abilenedc.com for details.

Finance Director / Treasurer

Auction Co-Chair

Commentator Co-Chair

COOK SOMETHING UP WITH

Peanut Butter & Banana Smoothie

Ingredients: 1 ripe banana, 1 cup of ice,
1/4 cup fat free milk, 1/3 cup water,
1/2 packet natural sweetener (such as Stevia),
2 tablespoons peanut butter (smooth or crunchy)
1/2 scoop vanilla protein powder (optional)

Pour all ingredients into blender. Blend until smooth. Enjoy!

* Makes 1 large smoothie or 2 small smoothies.

* Try to use "natural" peanut butter



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: MAKE-A-WISH

In 2009-2010, the Junior League of Abilene created a partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas and the West Texas Regional Make-A-Wish office in Midland, Texas. Since this project started two years ago, JLA has provided training for at least sixteen JLA members to become "wish granters" which allows Make-A-Wish to grant more wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions in Taylor County. Prior to JLA involvement, there was only one wish granter in Taylor County. Last year, JLA helped four children in Taylor County see their wish come true, first by meeting with each wish child and their family to help determine the wish, then by planning a send-off party for each child as well as providing enhancements to make each child's wish extra special.

Over 25 JLA members were involved in the combined "Destination Disney" send-off party, which was held at Fort Imagination in August 2010 for three of the wish kids from last year, including Landry Robinson, daughter of JLA member Shannon Robinson. In addition, there is still one wish that has yet to be fulfilled for an 18 year old girl who wants to travel to Washington D.C. This particular wish has been "in-progress" since last year and we are hopeful that her send-off party will be sometime in February. At this time, the 2010 - 2011 Make-A-Wish committee has four more wishes "in progress", including a 4 year old boy, a 3 year old girl and 14 year old twin boys. This means that so far this year JLA is involved in 5 wishes with potential for more before the end of year.

If you have not yet had a chance to be involved in a send-off party for a Make-A-Wish child, you will definitely have the opportunity to be involved. We always want to have a large JLA presence to show our support to these special kids and their families and to enrich their experience with hope, strength and joy! If you have any extra scrap-booking materials, please consider donating them to the Make-A-Wish committee to be used in providing a special scrapbook for each wish child.



*Tera Gibson
Co-Chair*



*Kris Ross
Co-Chair*

Committee

Allicyn Ivy, Sarah Lazarowitz,
Sara Norman, Julie Edwards



2011 PROVISIONAL MEMBERS



Name: Kim Poligala
Occupation: Admission Counselor at McMurry University
Food: Italian & Mexican
Magazine: Real Simple, Cosmo
Book: The Five People You Meet in Heaven
Hobbies: shopping, volleyball, and jewelry-making
Movie: Can't Hardly Wait
Collections: Coach purses
If you knew you could not fail...

FAVES

I'd open a higher education facility specifically for under privileged students
 What do you hope to contribute to League? building and hard work



Name: Belinda Southall
Occupation: Chiropractor/ Acupuncturist
Family: Husband Dan
Food: healthy food, Mexican
Magazine: Shape, Fitness
Book: The Bible
Hobbies: working out, yardwork, running, hunting
Movie: Anchorman
Collections: cookbooks

FAVES

If you knew you could not fail... I'd be doing what I do now.
 What do you hope to contribute to League? I hope to give new insight and promote JLA in the community



Name: Brandie Stallsworth
Occupation: Stay-at-home-mom
Family: Husband Ryan, Jonas (3)
Food: Mexican
Magazine: Runner's World, Parents
Book: Twilight Series, Waiting for God, The Help
Hobbies: running, scrapbooking
Movie: Count of Monte Cristo
If you knew you could not fail...
 What wouldn't I do?

FAVES

What do you hope to contribute to League? I hope to contribute many volunteer hours at various service events



Name: Christin Turner
Occupation: Homemaker
Family: Husband Adam, Luke (4), Titus (1)
Food: non-fat, no-foam, no water Chai Tea Latte from Starbucks
Book: Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan
Hobbies: reading, having coffee with friends
Movie: Gladiator
Collections: books

FAVES

If you knew you could not fail... I'd be a Bible teacher, author, speaker
 What do you hope to contribute to League? a desire to serve



Name: Janelle Ramirez
Occupation: Child Care Licensing/ State of Texas (DFPS)
Family: Husband Armando, Lexi (8)
Food: Italian
Magazine: O (Oprah)
Book: The Diary of Anne Frank
Hobbies: Zumba, watching my daughter play soccer, dancing
Movie: A Lot Like Love
Collection: HATS! I love hats!

FAVES

If you knew you could not fail... I'd develop a cure for cancer.
 I hope to contribute my hard work, time, and love for people to Junior League and I want to make our community a better place.



Name: Julianna DeBrine
Occupation: CFO, Jeff Luther Construction
Food: Italian
Magazine: Lucky
Book: The Bible & The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
Hobbies: yoga, reading
Movie: Fantastic Mr. Fox
Collection: shoes
If you knew you could not fail... I'd open a cupcake wine bar

What do you hope to contribute to League? hard work, good positive attitude, friendship

INSPIRED TO GIVE

"It is high time that the ideal of success should be replaced by the ideal of service."
Albert Einstein

"Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character."
William Arthur Ward

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi



Name: Maria Murray
Occupation: Fundraiser Consult, Mom
Family: Husband Mike, Marin (5),
 Mason (3), Mallon (2), Maverick (6 wk)
Food: sushi, very rare steak
Magazine: Redbook, Money,
 Southern Living
Book: Z for Zachariah
Hobbies: anything outdoors-
 running, camping, cycling
Movie: 16 Candles
 If you knew you could not fail... I'd
 compete in an Ironman (plan to try!)

FAVES

What do you hope to contribute to League? An open heart, willing spirit, and extra pair of hands to help improve our community



Name: Melinda Bailey
Occupation: 2nd Grade teacher
Food: Mexican
Magazine: Celebrity Gossip
 magazines
Hobbies: shopping and
 scrapbooking
Movie: My Best Friend's
 Wedding
Collections: Willow Tree /
 Demdaco figurines

FAVES

What do you hope to contribute to League? I hope to contribute my hard work and love for children to make a difference

2010 - 2011 PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

The 2010 - 2011 Provisional Committee is under the direction of chairman Dulcey Fulenwider. This year has been hallmark with our Provisional classes as we implemented the 1/2 year Provisional member status. This "fast track" to Active membership option enables us to meet prospective members, provide education and training, but then allows them to be voted into general active membership so that they can vote in League matters and begin an active placement. Feedback has been very positive during the transition, and we welcome our new members!

Chair
 Dulcey Fulenwider

Committee
 Molly Lee
 Summer Sims
 Jana Wilson
 Jamie Womack

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		J	2	J	4	5
6	7	J	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	J	23	24	25	26
27	28					

February 2011

2-1 Leadership Council
 2-3 Provisional Meeting
2-8 General Membership meeting
 2-22 Board Meeting

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	J	4	5
6	7	J	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	J	23	24	25	26
J	28	J	30	31		

March 2011

3-3 Provisional Meeting
3-8 General Membership meeting
 3-22 Board Meeting
 3-27 Punch & Pastries
 3-29 Community Adv. Board Luncheon

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	J	6	J	8	9
10	11	J	13	14	15	J
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	J	27	J	29	30

April 2011

4-5 Leadership Transfer
 4-7 Provisional Meeting
4-12 General Membership meeting
 4-13,14,15,16, 17 AJLI Conference
 4-16 Community Partners Changeout
 4-26 Board Meeting
 4-28 Sustainer Event

Junior League of Abilene
774 Butternut
Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 677-1879

Return Service Requested

February Birthdays

02-01 Sandy McNair S
02-01 Jean Shoultz S
02-02 Susan King S
02-02 Barbara McLeod S
02-02 Angela Tomlin A
02-03 Sondra Seamster S
02-04 Lynlee Ridley A
02-04 Angelique Moore A
02-06 Tommie Holley S
02-09 Peg Kennedy S
02-10 Kimberly Scarborough A
02-11 Gail Kaiser S
02-11 Patty Taliaferro S
02-11 Joni Wood S
02-12 Frana Sturgill A
02-12 Jeri Orr S
02-12 Charlene Richardson S
02-14 Lisa Cedillo A
02-14 Tiffany Sipe A
02-14 Sandy Meyer S
02-16 Suzie Shahan S
02-17 Christie Galbraith S
02-19 Megan Cheek A
02-20 Glenda Loftin S
02-22 Terry Hall S
02-24 Tamara Robinson A
02-25 Stephanie Jones A
02-26 Stephanie Boggins A
02-26 Cindy Haley S
02-27 Sharon McDonald S
02-28 Anne Jones S
02-28 Lindsay McGill A

March Birthdays

03-01 Jana Wilson A
03-02 Jennifer Harper S
03-02 Frann Smith S
03-03 Malinda Hamby A
03-03 Ruth Robertson S
03-04 Bonibelle Kiker S
03-04 Amanda Roberts A
03-04 Stefani Hargrave P
03-05 Tera Gibson A
03-07 Megan Myers A
03-09 Joy Ramsey S
03-09 Julia Belcher A
03-10 Kylee Stockard A
03-10 Kelly Thompson S
03-12 Sonoma Sibley S
03-12 Dian Stai S
03-14 Kimberley Cole S
03-15 Jamie Miers S
03-16 Kristin Marczynski S
03-16 Kimi Newcomb S
03-17 Alexis Hughes A
03-17 Lisa Linn S
03-17 Teresa Hunter P
03-18 Cathy Mash S
03-19 Debbi Lehr A
03-20 Casee Harwell A
03-20 Pam Yungblut A
03-21 Jackie Evatt A
03-21 Anita Maberry S
03-21 Leslie Smith S
03-23 Maureen Trotter S
03-24 Ellen Knox S
03-24 Sandy Self S
03-26 Patsy Jones S
03-26 Nikima Stewart A
03-27 Amy Edington S
03-27 Kelley Messer A
03-30 Molly Roberts A
03-31 Jenna Dozier A

April Birthdays

04-01 Paula Fiel A
04-01 Jasa Ruff A
04-01 Karen Sharp S
04-02 Jan McCaslin S
04-04 Audrey Music A
04-05 Cindi Bumann A
04-05 Susan Wray S
04-05 April Fountaine A
04-07 Laura Madison A
04-07 Beth Worrell S
04-08 Suzanne Davis S
04-09 Katherine Raetz A
04-10 Tammye Smith A
04-11 Gloria McDaniel S
04-11 Darlene Stevens S
04-12 Jean Eckert S
04-15 Tracy Patterson A
04-18 June Hodgins S
04-19 Leigh Black S
04-21 Pam Rosenbaum S
04-22 Amanda Letchman P
04-25 Jean Stash S
04-26 Gayle Gray S
04-26 Ronda Hillis S
04-26 Kim Poligala P
04-26 Belinda Southall P
04-29 Kay Hartgraves S
04-30 Kasey Kearney A
04-30 Emily Meador S