

SPRING 2018

The Commentator

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

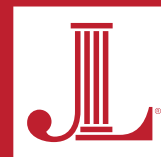
RHINESTONE ROUND UP 2018



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ABILENE



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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

Junior League of Abilene is 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.

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2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristina Campos Davis, President; Amy Carnes, President-Elect; Katie Browning, Immediate Past President; Jana Moreno, President-Elect-Elect; Emerald Cassidy, Communications Director; Taylor Tomanka, Community Director; Miller Loudermilk, Diversity & Education Director; Elizabeth Miller, Finance Director; Elyse Lewis, Membership Development Director; Mandy Ott, Secretary; Sheryl Kendrick, Sustaining Advisor

Hours of Operation


Monday through Wednesday
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Office Manager

Nancy Allen

Let's Get Social

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 Abilene

 @jlabilene

 @jlabilene

 @jlabilene

Junior League of Abilene

774 Butternut St
Abilene, TX 79602
o (325) 677-1879
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Welcome

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's been an incredible year for the Junior League of Abilene. We have spent the year focused on our community impact. At the urging of our parent organization, the Association of Junior Leagues International, we spent most of the year learning more about the needs in the Abilene community and the ways that JLA can meet the needs of the "least of these."

After spending hundreds of hours looking at needs assessments from the city, local hospitals, school districts and other nonprofits, we have decided to focus on the problem of poverty facing school-aged children in our community. Most of our projects, such as Backpacks for Kids, Suds Buds and Community Partners are focused on this area, and so we plan to keep and expand these projects. We are also looking into a new program that would work with AISD to assist the homeless children in Abilene. That program should start in the fall.

This assessment continues JLA's long legacy of looking into the community and finding the best places for us to put our resources and (wo)manpower.

I want to take a moment and say a big thank you to the person who has led our Community Impact work, Taylor Tomanka. She has given hundreds of hours to meetings, researching and dreaming about what it would take for JLA to be more active in the poorest parts of our community. This work would not have happened without her leadership.

I have been so grateful for all of the women who have worked so hard to make this year a success. I cannot express in words how blessed I have been to be president of the Junior League. I am so grateful to my Board, to the Leadership team, to the amazing actives, the wonderful provisionals and awesome sustainers.

My prayer for this organization is that it continues to grow and bless Abilene in new and impactful ways.

Kristina Campos Davis
President, Junior League of Abilene

Donor Tribute

SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters in 2017 and 2018. We understand that there are 600+ nonprofits in the Big Country that you could give your valuable time and money to, so we consider it an honor for you to support the mission of the Junior League of Abilene.

Over the past couple of months, our Community Impact committee reviewed and confirmed our commitment to support the children in our community who are not having their basic needs met. Our current projects, such as Suds Buds that provides hygiene products, Backpacks for Kids that provides food and the Bluebonnet Room at CPS that provides supplies for children in CPS custody, support that commitment. We are also considering new projects that take our commitment to a new level to support the homeless student population that is over 1,100 in Abilene ISD.

We look forward to the Community Foundation of Abilene's second online giving opportunity, Abilene Gives, scheduled for May 1. This is a 24-hour online giving extravaganza that gives nonprofits like the Junior League of Abilene the chance to promote our mission on different social media platforms that reach to Abilene, Taylor County, across the nation and around the world to allow people to show their support by donating to

the Junior League of Abilene. Please mark your calendars and help us make this Abilene Gives even bigger and better than last year's.

Philanthropy is the cornerstone of Abilene, and we do not take the donations that we are given lightly. Our goal is to help as many children as we possibly can with the dollars that are entrusted to us.

Again, we want to thank each and every one of our donors, in-kind sponsors, corporate sponsors and volunteers for your support and dedication to the Junior League of Abilene. Without you, we could not do what we do to support the children in our community that desperately need our help.

Elizabeth Miller

Finance Director, Junior League of Abilene



LEAGUE LEGEND

Dodge Jones Foundation

CHAMPION

Dian Graves Owen Foundation

SIGNATURE

First Financial Bank

Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company

Hendrick Medical Center

Lantrip's Custom Homes

Billye Proctor Shaw

Steve Arthur Family Foundation at Community
Foundation of Abilene

VISION

Abilene Cultural Affairs Council

Abilene Diagnostic Clinic, P.L.L.C.

Abilene Regional Medical Center

Anonymous

Browning Law Firm, PLLC — Katie and Cade Browning

COMMUNITY

Barber Foundation

Peggy Beckham

Family Vision Associates

David and Kay Alexander Donor Advised Fund at
Community Foundation of Abilene

Jack and Becky Rentz Donor Advised Fund at
Community Foundation of Abilene

Dr. Brad and Mrs. Sheryl Kendrick

Lawrence Hall Chevrolet, Inc.

Lytle Land & Cattle Company/Sharon's BBQ & Catering
Network for Good

Kari Polk

Shelton Family Foundation

Southall Chiropractic & Acupuncture Clinic

FRIEND

4B Ranch

Abilene Christian University

Abilene Interior Design

Nancy Brock

Condley & Company, LLP

Doncaster by Vickie

Charles Erwin

Fat Matt Roofing

Glen D. Hall, DDS

John and Amy Milam

RJ Ranch

TonerTiger, Inc.

Tim and JoBeth Willis

William P. Wright, Jr.

SUPPORTER

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Texas

Risha Sanders

Stacy Spink

Pam Yungblut - Senter Realtors

IN-KIND

A-Town Cleaners

Abilene Pediatric Dental

Abilene Running Company

Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant

Ben E. Keith Co.

Big Country Coffee

Capture Photography

Cash Register Guy

Chef Darren Grace

Chick-fil-A North

Choice Media

Cumulus Radio

Hickory Street Cafe

Hispanic Life Magazine

KTAB

Kuhdoo Soaps

La Voz Radio

Magnolia Market

Market Street/ United Supermarkets

May Farm

Reed Distributing

Sam's Club

Taylor Electric Cooperative

TX Tees

United Rentals

JLA Projects

HIGHLIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Suds Buds

Our Suds Buds project helps Abilene children affected by poverty by providing basic hygiene items for students who otherwise would not be able to afford them. Each packet includes toothpaste, a toothbrush, floss, soap, deodorant, shampoo and detergent.

On January 20, 35 JLA volunteers packed 5,100 packets (plus an additional 150 lice kits) that were then distributed to nine Abilene schools. Leftover supplies were delivered to the AISD homeless liaison.



A special thank you to Abilene Pediatric Dental Associates for donating all of the toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss!

Children's Arts & Literacy Festival (CALF)

The 2018 Children's Arts & Literacy Festival (CALF) is approaching fast! Downtown Abilene will be a celebration of children's literature June 7-9. This year's festival is in honor of Oliver Jeffers, who is known for such books as *This Moose Belongs to Me* and *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*.

As we have for the past few years, JLA members will be staffing the book reading and craft activity at The Well and the Center for Contemporary Arts. JLA will also be packing bags to be given to attendees of the event.

In addition to volunteers, JLA has provided a grant to the Center for Contemporary Arts to fund this activity.

For more information about CALF, visit abilenecalf.com.



Christmas Carousel

A big thank you to the 4,762 holiday shoppers who attended JLA's 37th annual Christmas Carousel. Because of you, we were able to raise a net revenue of \$45,562!

Christmas Carousel is our main fundraiser. Every dollar raised directly funds both JLA's community projects and other local nonprofits through our PAVE program.

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for Carousel 2018, Christmas on the Red Carpet, this November 1-4.



Membership

PROVISIONAL CLASS OF 2018



Christy Bain

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: FNP

"[JLA has made] vast contributions I had no idea about such as the League House."



Kasey (Barron) Johnson

Hometown: Euless, Texas
Occupation: Event Coordinator

"I have learned how much I truly love Abilene, and I love that I have the opportunity to contribute!"



Panya Bender

Hometown: Houston, Texas
Occupation: Law Enforcement

"I have more confidence in myself than I did before I joined Junior League."



Precilla Camacho

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Nurse Manager

"I enjoy being involved in an organization that gives back to the community!"



Bridget Camarillo

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Counseling

"I love doing what I can to create positive change in the community."



Amy De Los Santos

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Social Worker

"We truly live in a community where there is more good than bad!"



Tracy Gates

Hometown: Elgin, Texas
Occupation: Police Officer

"I enjoy the fellowship and projects with other women."



Amy Gonzales

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Banking Service Representative

"[I learned] to let down my walls of shyness and just go for it!"



Kyla Hale

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
Occupation: Sales Representative

"I didn't realize how many kids are in poverty in Abilene. The numbers shocked me."



Ashley Hart

Hometown: Round Rock, Texas
Occupation: Pharmacist

"I enjoy joining with other women to help our community and have fun doing it!"



Heather Henderson

Hometown: Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, and Allen, Texas
Occupation: Elementary Teacher

"I love how many different non-profits JLA has been involved in!"



Kenna Hogan

Hometown: Merkel, Texas
Occupation: Development and Marketing Coordinator

"Getting outside of your comfort zone is very rewarding!"



Rachael Hubbard

Hometown: Merkel, Texas
Occupation: Advancement
Project Manager

*"I was unaware of how many
students are homeless."*



Emily Jacques

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Event Coordinator

*"I love being able to spend time
with other women who want to
make a difference."*



Alexis Marrero

Hometown: Perth Amboy, New
Jersey
Occupation: Digital Marketing
Specialist

"I love volunteering!"



Elizabeth McAnally

Hometown: Leander, Texas
Occupation: Owner at The
Embroiderette

*"I wanted to get more involved in
the community."*



Kelsey Newman

Hometown: Rahway, New Jersey
Occupation: Advertising Account
Manager

*"It was absolutely worth putting
myself out there."*



Jyl Schöen

Hometown: New Boston, Texas
Occupation: Human Resource
Manager

*"[I love] the comradery of women
impacting the community."*



Kacey Stanfield

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Work-at-Home Mom

*"I love to lead and take charge ...
I love the growth in my confidence
because of League!"*



Kristen Taylor

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Registered Nurse

*"There is always something more
I can do ... I love how much I
learned about my hometown."*



Bria Varner

Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Occupation: Physical Therapist

*"[I love] how a group of women
from varying backgrounds come
together to build up Abilene."*



Not Pictured

Canon Cavazos, Preslie
Gretillat, Ashley Hurley, Rachel
LaFever, Jordan Loomis, Amalie
Lopez, Martha Ruelas and Kezia
Tunnell

Interested in joining the Junior League of Abilene?

Join us for **Margaritas & Mingle** on May 6 from 2-4 p.m. at the League House
(774 Butternut St) and learn how you can make a difference in the community!



Say Cheese

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



WHO'S WHO

1) Members attend Hendrick Hope Fund's Bunco for Breast Cancer on October 10, 2017. 2) Kendall Harrison, Jenna Hall and Melissa Strain at the General Membership Meeting hosted by Abilene Regional Medical Center on February 13, 2018. 3) Kelsey Newman, Elyse Lewis and Elizabeth McAnally at the Fashions for the Cure event on October 4, 2017. 4) Chephra McKee and Laura Gabso at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center fundraiser benefiting Palm House on March 13, 2018. 5) Provisionals attend tour of the Hendrick League House on September 5, 2017. 6) Emerald Cassidy and Mona Lara at the American Cancer Society Cattle Baron's Ball on October 14, 2017. 7) Members volunteer at the annual Suds Buds packet assembly at the Food Bank of West Central Texas on January 20, 2018. 8) Taylor Tomanka, Elizabeth Miller and Amy Carnes at the General Membership Meeting hosted by Center for Contemporary Arts on January 9, 2018.

Philanthropy

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE



Rhinestone Round Up

Derby, dinner and dancing! Don your boots and a fantastic hat and join us for a Western Heritage Classic event benefiting the Junior League of Abilene. The Rhinestone Round Up Derby Party will be Friday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Expo Center of Taylor County.

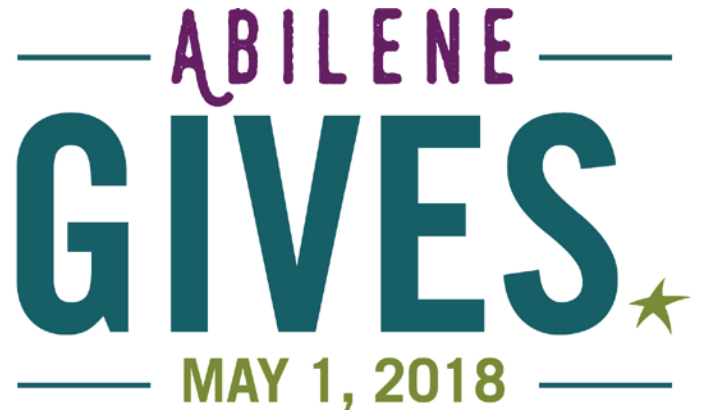
As the 2017-18 provisional class project, Rhinestone Round Up is guaranteed to be a party to remember. Our provisional class has been busy organizing decorations, activities and much more for this exciting evening. Don't miss it!

- Enjoy mint juleps, beer, wine, and gourmet cuisine under the luxurious derby-themed tent.
- Take advantage of in-and-out access to the WHC Ranch Rodeo, only steps away.
- Dance to live music by The Royal Dukes Band.
- Play derby games.
- Bid on exclusive offerings in the silent auction.
- Win big with the Trifecta—no charge to play!

Tickets

\$75 individual ticket
\$125 VIP individual ticket
\$1200 VIP table of 10

To purchase, visit westernheritageclassic.com or call 325-677-4376.



Abilene Gives

On May 1, JLA is participating in the Community Foundation of Abilene's second annual Abilene Gives event, a 24-hour online giving extravaganza. During the first Abilene Gives, we raised \$7,271 for Backpacks for Kids, allowing us to add 40 children to the program. Will you help us beat that record?

If you donate to JLA on abilenegives.org between 12 a.m. and 11:50 p.m. on May 1, your dollar will be stretched with amplifying funds plus bonus money and prizes raised by the Community Foundation of Abilene. Please consider donating and helping us receive extra funds for our programs.

Courtney's Busy Boxes

In memory of JLA member Courtney Ramsey, we have committed to expanding her Busy Box program, which provides entertainment for patients undergoing chemotherapy at local hospitals. We are accepting books; new adult coloring books; new logic puzzle, sudoku and crossword puzzle books; jigsaw puzzles; and pens, pencils and markers. Donations can be dropped off at the JLA house at 774 Butternut between 12-5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ABILENE

774 Butternut St, Abilene, TX 79602

Features

PROVISIONS

Enjoy mint juleps, beer, wine, and gourmet cuisine under the luxurious derby-themed tent

ENTERTAINMENT

Take advantage of in-and-out access to the WHC Ranch Rodeo, only steps away

Dance to live music by The Royal Dukes Band

Play derby games

Bid on exclusive offerings in the silent auction

Win big with the Trifecta—no charge to play!

Rhinestone Round Up

DERBY PARTY

A Western Heritage Classic Event

Benefiting the Junior League of Abilene and the Expo Center of Taylor County

Friday, May 11, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The Expo Center
of Taylor County
1700 Highway 36
Abilene, Texas

Tickets

INDIVIDUAL

\$75

Includes 2 drink tickets and 1 mint julep ticket

VIP

\$125 Individual

\$1200 Table of 10

Includes reserved seating, 4 drink tickets, 2 mint julep tickets, and entrance to a reserved trailer at the matched horse races Saturday

TO PURCHASE

Visit westernheritageclassic.com or call 325-677-4376

