In the past ten years, you have heard a lot from us about Transformation.

Through Transformation, we are redefining The Junior League, ensuring that we are as relevant now as we were when we first began in 1901.

Slowly but surely we are getting there, adapting the way we do business and how we are perceived by our Members and the public: relevant and strong, an army of women serving as agents of change for the 21st century, pursuing bold goals and disrupting convention in ways we have never done before. We are tackling some of society’s most complex problems, from human trafficking to the environment, and we are doing this from the ground up, working at the local level where our impact will be most strongly felt.

We thank you for your support which has helped us to get here. With your generosity of time, donations and good wishes, we have been able to:

- Achieve greater brand awareness and understanding of the important work we do through a holistic, multi-faceted PR campaign
- Implement new recruitment tools and programs so that we can build a lifelong membership journey for all of our members, ensuring that they will stay engaged during all phases of their lives
- Roll out a new diversity and inclusion toolkit across all of our member Leagues, so that our Membership will look more like the world looks today
- Digitally connect our Members—and our Leagues—with each other, sharing expertise, individual experiences, and information about their programs and projects from near and far

We are truly on the cusp of greatness and yes, Transformation. Thank you for joining us on this journey. To keep abreast of our work throughout the year, review our financials or learn how to join a Junior League, please visit our website www.ajli.org or follow us on social media. We look forward to having you with us as we continue to move forward.

Laurel Lee-Alexander
President

Susan Danish
CEO/Executive Director
CONFERENCES

AJLI conferences offer League Members at all levels vital training and networking opportunities, and are part of our ongoing commitment to developing the potential of women.

We continue to attract excellent attendance at all of our seasonal conferences, with member satisfaction remaining high. Our 2018 Fall Leadership Conference was a standout, featuring the One Voice Children’s Choir (Utah’s Best of State Winner for 5 consecutive years) opening the event. Delegates had a great time at the Closing Event, which was held at Pierpont Place, Salt Lake’s premier award-winning event venue, featuring a red carpet photo shoot and rousing jazz band.

In April 2018, we held our 96th Annual Conference in the great music city of Memphis. Two hundred thirty six leagues, represented by 559 members, joined us for this three-day event which kicked off at Elvis Presley’s Memphis, a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art entertainment and exhibit complex. At the Presley Motors Automobile Museum, Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland proclaimed April 19, 2018 to be “The Association of Junior Leagues International Day” and we were off and running.

The conference theme was “Unstoppable” and our two keynote speakers embodied that notion in every sense of the word. Passionate remarks by Aimée Mullins - an American athlete, actress, and fashion model who first became famous for her athletic accomplishments in track and field despite being born with a medical condition that resulted in the amputation of both of her lower legs—and Muniba Mazari, a Pakistani artist, model, activist, motivational speaker, singer, social reformer and television host who was Pakistan’s first wheelchair-using model and the National Ambassador for UN Women Pakistan—set the tone for an extraordinary gathering of Junior League women.

It was an honor to award the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award to US Junior Leaguer Carolyn Maloney, who has spent nearly 25 years in the House of Representatives as a tenacious advocate for women’s equality, women’s health, child welfare and much more. Congresswoman Maloney made her name as a community leader in New York City, using her experiences in both politics and The Junior League as a launching pad for her policies which are today supporting so many women leaders.

Delegates were also front and center at a series of open forums in which we explored how to carry forward the “Unstoppable” Junior League Movement. We pondered what a new “better together networked organization” will look like and the role of individual Leagues in making that happen. In this defining time for our organization, it was amazing to see 559 empowered women standing strong in support of our new future.
ABOLISH MOVEMENT

ABOLISH is our campaign to raise awareness of the existence and prevalence of sex trafficking, specifically the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In this day and age, it is shocking to think that there are 4.8 million people, mostly women and girls, trapped in forced sexual exploitation. In the US in 2017, the National Human Trafficking Hotline documented trafficking cases in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Yet, human trafficking remains largely underreported.

We have created the ABOLISH Movement to equip community members with the skills and knowledge to recognize signs of trafficking and to report it to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, where effective and safe action can be taken.

In our pilot site in Tampa, Florida—a main point of entry and passage for sexually exploited children—we have reached over one million residents, and the Hotline saw a 41% increase in local trafficking cases reported. Now, we are ready to bring the campaign to four other cities: Birmingham, AL; Santa Barbara, CA; Chicago, IL; and Portland, OR, working closely with local Leagues and their partners to mirror our success in Tampa. Participating Leagues will have access to our centralized ABOLISH website which will serve as an anchor for the movement. In each city, Leagues will use social media, local community events, forums, documentary screenings, trainings, rallies, street teams and even stenciling sidewalks and placing branded collateral in high-risk areas to promote awareness and the need to report.

Through this first wave of work, ABOLISH has the potential of reaching over three million people! This is just the tip of the iceberg. In the years ahead we will bring the campaign to other Leagues and their partners in cities across the country, making real change happen through the power of our committed Members.
TRANSFORMATION

We have each heard it a million times: Change is inevitable. Change is good.

We agree. And that’s exactly what is driving us forward at AJLI as we continue our multi-year investment in organizational change and renewal.

At AJLI, we know there continues to be a thirst for an organization that engages women around leadership development through voluntary action. How we reconcile our modern day Mission along with the core values that have driven this organization for nearly 120 years is at the heart of our Transformation.

Through our Transformation, we are supporting our member Leagues as they seek to reimagine the essential elements of the organization: the member experience, the community impact strategy, and the governance and management systems.

No doubt, this is hard work and the rewards come slowly but as we all know, Junior Leagues persist! By redesigning the Membership experience we have been able to shift from what the League requires of our Members to what our Members seek to achieve on their leadership journey and how much time they have to commit. We have already seen dramatic impact. In Portland, OR, for example, there has been growth in overall membership as well as renewed engagement in League activities.

We are also retooling the community program strategy—shifting our focus from providing volunteers to local groups to partnering with those groups to invest in longer-term solutions to issues. This approach is beginning to bear fruit as well. In Duluth, MN there has been a multi-pronged and multi-year commitment to addressing food insecurity by collaborating with the City and others to build a deep winter greenhouse, expanding items available to families using SNAP benefits at a local pantry, and educating the wider community on the impacts of food insecurity.

As a historically volunteer-governed and volunteer-managed organization, we also want to make sure that governance is strategic and future-focused while management is efficient and effective. In Memphis, the board of the local Junior League has created its first ten-year plan, focusing on how it will position itself far into the future. Other Leagues adopting the new structure report significant improvements in their day-to-day operating efficiencies, resulting in a deeper member experience focused on the Mission.
Wednesdays is our day of learning together.

Since 2011, over 10,000 Junior League Members have participated in our live Webinar Wednesdays, and thousands more have downloaded webinar recordings and handouts from our on-demand library.

Webinars have proved to be a great way to bring people together across states and borders for 60-minute, bi-monthly sessions. Across the US, Canada, Mexico, and United Kingdom, we are covering a wide range of leadership topics, from diversity and inclusion to networking, and running for office and advocacy. We are sharing tips on how to improve the way individual Leagues operate, communicate, raise money and handle their website analytics. Attendees are enthusiastic, providing comments like:

“This training was both strategic and actionable.”

“Some great, practical info was shared—much of which was counter intuitive to what I would have previously assumed.”

“Strong, well-prepared speaker. Great pacing and level of content.”

“Probably one of the best 2-3 webinars I have ever been a part of. Thank you very much.”

“What a great topic! I will be sharing what I’ve learned and exploring the additional resources that were recommended. Can’t wait for the follow-up webinars.”

These practical and inspiring webinars have proved to be an effective way of bringing our far-flung Junior League family together. We will continue to deepen and expand our offerings, providing learning tools and training opportunities for Leagues and their Members in a workable and engaging format.
The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

The time is now. We must be intentional and proactive in our actions to build diverse and inclusive Junior Leagues...for the good of the community, the well-being of our society, the strength of our relationships, the magnitude of our impact, the scope of our visibility, the quality of our leadership, the reality of our relevance and our essence as human beings.

During the 2017/2018 League year, Leagues were asked to commit to becoming more diverse and inclusive organizations. They began the first part of a three-stage Junior League D&I process:

1. Make the commitment (three steps)
   - Adopt statement
   - Conduct Board/leadership assessment
   - Set up D&I Task Force (Team)
2. Embed diversity and inclusion throughout your League; and
3. Champion diversity and inclusion outside of your League

A Few Success Stories...
A veteran in this mission, the Junior League of Dallas began their diversity and inclusion efforts over 10 years ago. What began as a task force has evolved into the topic of diversity and inclusion as a main benchmark in their strategic plan. Their end goal is to showcase and celebrate diversity within the organization’s leadership and recruitment efforts.

To ensure that diversity and inclusion is woven into the fabric of their League, the Junior League of Richmond created a formal task force which broadens their Members’ understanding of diversity and inclusion. This helped expand their League’s presence and visibility in the Richmond community and their unique nomination process has helped advance their diversified leadership.
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