



Welcome to the 2016 - 2017 Junior League Year!

It seems like just yesterday that I was a new member sitting in my first general membership meeting. Back in 2010, I had no idea how much the Junior League of Scranton would impact my life. Today, I proudly boast about being one of the 150,000 members of the Association of Junior Leagues International and a member of one of the 291 Leagues in four countries for the past six years. I tell everyone who will listen that I found my place to give back to my community, my career at WNEP, and the numerous organizations that are important to me. I have also met the most amazing women who have taught me so much. I have gained skills that I will grow upon and friendships that will last forever. I'm truly blessed for this opportunity. Thank you.

I look forward to working together to center our projects on childhood nutrition and hunger and striving to find a perfect balance between training, direct service, and fun. I started a journey into AJLI's New Membership Rollout 2.0. This will allow us to look at membership obligations and retention with fresh eyes. We already created a History Committee to preserve our history for the next 75 years!

This League year is off to a great start. We held two successful board trainings this summer, two board meetings, three general membership meetings, an Out-of-League placement, two Done in a Day's, and our administrative fundraiser. I'm so proud of the League for trying something new with our VIP ticket option and working together to host our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Touch A Truck -- another successful event!!! We made hundreds of families, as well as vehicle owners and operators, very happy. We are a perfect example of a small League with a big impact. Congratulations to all, especially our chairs, Amie Talarico, and co-chair, Gina McAndrew. I'm also very excited for this year's class of Provisional members to experience the Junior League of Scranton.

I hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter of the year and continue reading how we are "Women Building Better Communities." I'm sending warm wishes to all of you for a very happy and healthy holiday season in the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
*Shannon*



## 2016 - 2017 Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board  
**Amie Talarico**

President  
**Shannon Roche Cusick**

President Elect  
**Nicole Lance**

Recording Secretary  
**Amy DiChiara**

Treasurer  
**Maggie Nasser**

Sustainer Representative  
**Michele Musheno**

Nominating  
**Erin McFadden**

Membership  
**Tami Prall-Nasser**

Community Research  
**Noelle Griffiths**

Parliamentarian  
**Gretchen M. Wintermantel**

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JuniorLeagueofScranton.org

## 2016 - 2017 Public Relations Committee

*Katelyn McManamon, Chair \* Erin McFadden, Vice Chair \* Shannon Black  
Dana Ferrise \* Melissa Kadlubowski \* Maria Bertha \* Amanda Braun \* Yvonne Caudullo*





The Junior League of Scranton held its 8th Annual Touch A Truck on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. Every one of the 1,300 attendees enjoyed activities, concessions, and of course got to experience the more than 40 vehicles that participated. Very special this year was the dramatic entrance and exit of the Commonwealth Health helicopter. This amazing addition was secured with the help of the Vehicle Committee and Sustainer **Michele**



**Musheno!**

This year, children were excited by appearances by Tux the Penguin from the Scranton/W-B Penguins; Champ, the Scranton/W-B RailRiders Mascot; and of course Elsa, played by Jamie Hannigan.



J.P. Mascaro & Sons was generous enough to donate a bicycle for our bike raffle and we premiered the Touch A Truck VIP tent where those who participated were able to enjoy a paint party hosted by Spirited Art. One lucky VIP won the Touch A Truck fleece blanket. Each child who filled out their Scavenger Hunt Card walked out with bubbles and every family was given a great swag bag with many goodies donated by local businesses.

Touch A Truck Chair **Amie Talarico** and Vice-Chair, **Gina McAndrew**, would like to thank all League members who donated time and items to our fundraising event. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all vehicle operators, sponsors, donors, family, and friends that made the day possible.

The children walked away with smiles on their faces, and the Junior League of Scranton was able to raise \$8,600 in order to operate and provide programming and training for yet another year.



## League Members See Results of Grant

Junior League of Scranton members recently spent their Saturday morning volunteering at **Employment Opportunity and Training Center (EOTC)** of Scranton.

In June, the League awarded its 2015-2016 \$300 discretionary grant to EOTC to purchase age-appropriate games and activities for its Supervised Visitation Program, specifically to provide items for teenagers and older children



when they visit with their non-

custodial parent. The League offered its assistance with the room when the items arrived.

League members **Pam Janus** and **Gretchen Wintermantel** assembled a wall mural, while **Nicole Lance** and **Rose Coyne** put together an electronic basketball hoop game. **Gina McAndrew** worked with **Kristy Ryczak**, EOTC Program Manager, on a foosball table.



## JLS at Family Fair

*The Junior League of Scranton was just one of the many participants at the Family Fair hosted by Frances Willard Elementary School in Scranton.*

*Principal Meg Duffy coordinated the night for her students to receive the needed supplies to start their school year. Some of the other contributors included the Willard PTA, the Duffy Family, Scranton Fire Department, the Lackawanna County Sheriff's Mounted Unit, West Scranton High School Marching Band, Rep. Marty Flynn, EOTC, the Boy Scouts of America, Macaroni Kids and more. The families received backpacks, uniforms, tablets, haircuts, pizza and more. Thank you to Junior League members Jennifer Frey, Melissa Kadlubowski, Gina McAndrew, Maggie Nasser, Tami Prall-Nasser, Shannon Roche Cusick, and JoAnne Rossi for donating folder and pencils to hand out to the children.*



## Roseann Smith Alperin Award

The Roseann Smith Alperin Award Selection Committee met on Sept. 15 at the Scranton Area Foundation to select a recipient for the award. **Amie Talarico**, Chairman of the Board, and **Michele Musheno**, Sustainer Representative, represented the League. Patricia Jennings, Roseann's sister represented the Smith-Alperin family. Laura Ducceschi, CEO of Scranton Area Foundation and Rosemary Broderick, Vice Chairman for the Scranton Area Foundation also attended. **Susan Blum Connors** was chosen as the Recipient. Susan has been notified and she will be presented with the award at the Scranton Area Foundation Annual Gathering on Dec. 8, 2016. Susan is a volunteer with Jewish Family Services of NEPA. Guests of Connors, members of the Smith and Alperin families and the Junior League of Scranton will be invited to attend. The event is free and open to the public.





## Everyone Loves A Parade

Don't miss out on this holiday tradition.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors

To walk in the **Santa Parade**

Saturday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m.

Contact Dana

[lawrence.danam@gmail.com](mailto:lawrence.danam@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

FRIENDS OF THE POOR  
**THANKSGIVING DINNER**

TUESDAY, NOV. 22

SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER

CONTACT **DANA** IF INTERESTED

**LAWRENCE.DANAM@GMAIL.COM**



## Calling All Carolers

Join us Thursday, Dec. 15 to sing Christmas Carols at two locations!! We'll start at 6 p.m. at the Holy Family Residence, and then go to the Cino Merli Veterans Center for 7 p.m. to spread holiday cheer to all their residents. Please contact Noelle at [nfabbr1007@gmail.com](mailto:nfabbr1007@gmail.com) if you're interested! Hope to see you there.



**SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY COCKTAIL PARTY TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 2016 TRIPP HOUSE**

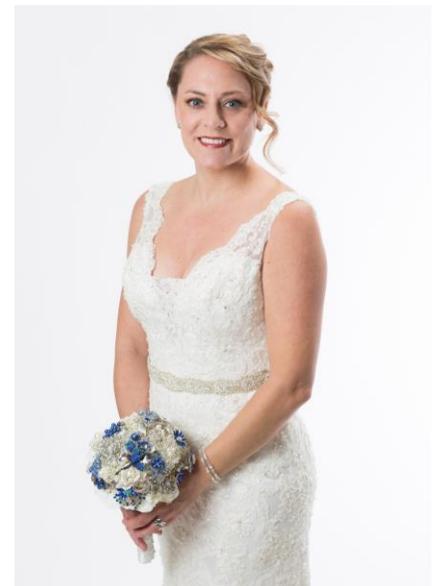


### Meet the Chairman of the Board - Amie Talarico

My name is Amie Talarico and I am currently the Chairman of the Board of the Junior League of Scranton. I enjoyed my time as President of the JLS for 2 years, and I look forward to further serving the League and the Scranton area in the coming years. I was born in Scranton and attended the University of Scranton and Marywood University. I taught special education in the area for 11 years. In July, I assumed the role of Director of Special Education at the Lackawanna Trail School District. I believe that this shift to a leadership role in my professional life would not have been possible without my Junior League training and experience. I hope to help further the mission of our League and help to develop a membership model that sustains us for years to come. I enjoy traveling and the ongoing projects that come with owning a VERY old home!

### Meet the President - Shannon Roche Cusick

I grew up in North Scranton with my mom, dad and big sister, Nicole. After graduating from West Scranton High School, I attended Penn State University. In May of 2001, I applied for an internship at WNEP-TV and I never left. For the most part of 15 years, I've been waking up dark and early (3:30 a.m.) to direct Newswatch 16 this Morning. I also oversee the WNEP's annual Feed A Friend campaign, the Operation Save a Life program, produce Public Service Announcements and the Good Morning Pennsylvania segments. I joined the Junior League of Scranton in 2010 and it's one of the best things I ever did. I've served as Public Relations chair, Touch A Truck co-chair, Cinderella's Closet Fashion Show chair, Parliamentarian, President Elect, the Voluntary Action Center liaison and more. This past year, I was the secretary and race director for the annual Susan G. Komen NEPA Race for the Cure and a fairy godmother for Cinderella's Closet of NEPA. I live in West Scranton with my hubby, Joe Willy and we are looking forward to celebrating our first wedding anniversary on Dec. 12. I enjoy spending time with my niece, nephew, and friends' children, going out to eat, making crafts, and of course volunteering.





### Meet the President Elect - Nicole Lance

Hello everyone. I am Nicole Lance. I was born and raised in North Scranton and recently purchased my first home in the neighborhood. I am a Scranton Prep graduate. Upon graduation I attended the University of Scranton for a degree in Counseling and Human Services. I was employed by Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services for 8 years protecting the most vulnerable members of our society. During that time, I earned a Master of Social Work degree from Marywood University. I am currently employed by the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Child Welfare Resource Center as a Practice Improvement Specialist. I am also working on a Master in Public Policy and Management. This is my fifth active year with the League. During my tenure I have been on the arrangements committee, public relations committee and anniversary committee to name a few. I was also a Touch a Truck co-chair in 2012, a Scranton Girl Tea co-chair in 2015, the sponsorship chair, the treasurer and I currently serve you as the President Elect. I truly believe the League has given me the skills I need to be a positive member of my community and I am forever grateful for the opportunities of leadership it has provided me. In addition to my involvement with the Junior League, I serve as a

chair for Making Strides of the Wyoming Valley with the American Cancer Society, I am on the board of Cinderella's Closet of NEPA, The Voluntary Action Center and I am also a volunteer with the North Scranton Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch and Marley's Mission Blue Ribbon Gala. In my down time, I am learning about the joys of home ownership and do-it-yourself projects. I also love to bake and cook.

### Meet the Recording Secretary - Amy DiChiara

Born in West Scranton, I joined the Junior League in 2010-2011 as a way to coordinate my community involvements and be a part of a larger volunteer presence. I began my education with a degree from College Misericordia and later earned my Doctorate in Physical Therapy from The University of Scranton. After working in private practice for several years, I started my own private practice in Olyphant, PA. I am active on several boards at my church, local MS charities, and as Treasurer of Cinderella's Closet of NEPA. Before becoming the JLS's Recording Secretary in 2015, I served for two years as JLS Treasurer. Currently, I have "downsized" my professional position to a home health physical therapist and "upsized" my family with the new addition this past July of baby Eva to current sibs Joe and Julia.



### Meet the Treasurer - Maggie Nasser



I am in my sixth active year with the Junior League of Scranton and I currently serve as the League's Treasurer. I have previously served in the roles of Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Sponsorship Chair, Cinderella's Closet Chair, and Arrangements Chair. I work as the Administrator of Special Projects and Initiatives at the Scranton Area Community Foundation, where I oversee their programs, Women in Philanthropy and Center for Community Leadership and Nonprofit Excellence. I am currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Scranton. I serve on the boards of Cinderella's Closet of NEPA and Jewish Family Service of NEPA. I am a co-chair of the 2017 Marley's Mission Blue Ribbon Gala, along with fellow Junior League member, Tami Prall-Nasser and former member Val Serine-Langan. I have been extremely honored and humbled to have received the Mary Harriman award in 2013, the Margaret L. Richards award in 2014, and the AJLI Rising Star award in 2015. I reside in Dickson City with my fiancé, Eric Martinelli, and our golden retriever, Maisie.

### Halloween Done in a Day

Junior League of Scranton members braved the elements on Saturday, Oct. 22 for the Greater Scranton Jaycees Trunk or Treat event at the Nay Aug Park Pool Pavilion Parking lot. The cold, rain and windy didn't keep nine JLS cowgirls from having fun. They handed out pretzels and chocolate treats to about 150 children. Pictured: Shannon Roche Cusick, Amy Betts, Melissa Kadlubowski, Gretchen Wintermantel, Liz Davis, Jacquelyn Nicolais, Amy DiChiara, Dana Lawrence, Ashley Johnson



## Dr. Mimi's Junior League Survival Kit

As a past President of Junior League of Greater Orlando, and having done leadership training with over 150 Leagues, I have learned that sometimes we need a Survival Kit. There may be times when you feel like you cannot "survive" the week. Don't fret! If you develop this Survival Kit, it will have just what you need to keep yourself focused on the small-but-oh-so-very- important things!

In the Junior League Survival Kit, be sure to have:

1. A **rubber band** to remind you that you are flexible and can stretch to fit just about any demand or challenge of your membership.
2. A **safety pin** to remind you to sometimes poke fun at yourself. Yes, it is the Junior League but it is only the Junior League.
3. A **lightbulb** to help you remember to seek new ideas. Members will support what they help create.
4. A **kaleidoscope** to show you how a picture can change when you look at it from a different angle or new perspective. Remember that the view from the front of a GMM is different from what members experience in the back.
5. A **Band-Aid** to remind you that when there are tough times, you can make it through them. You will heal and be even stronger than before!
6. Two **straws** to keep you from ever reaching your last one! Focus forward. Better times are ahead.
7. A **mirror** to use when asking yourself, "Am I the *only* one who can do this?!" Delegate!!! More members leave because they are underutilized than overutilized.
8. A **Lifesaver** to remind yourself that the right word at the right time can save someone's Junior League life.
9. **Hershey's Hugs and Kisses** to remind you to be sweet to yourself and others. We all want to hear sweet words of praise and recognition!
10. A **toothpick** to help you pick out the best qualities in others (instead of picking and focusing on the bad ones!)

Remember: **Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.**

### *Junior League Prayer*

*We pray that we will never be so blind that our small world is all we see, or so supremely satisfied that what we are is all we ever hope to be. Grant us the joy of filling someone's needs. Make us gracious followers. Make gracious those who lead. And more than all, we pray that down the years, we will remember there are always new frontiers.*

Thank you to our Mission Sponsors!



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