



A Message from the President

Welcome to the 2019-2020 League Year!

Not only is it hard to believe I am starting my eighth active year in the Junior League of Scranton, it is hard to believe I am getting ready to pass on the Presidential torch at the end of this League year. When I started this journey in leadership 3 years ago, I thought it would take forever, but now as the end is approaching, I am not sure where the time went.

Over the next year, League members will be very busy. We will be wrapping up our League transformation, moving the Little Black Dress Initiative from a community awareness event to a fundraiser and we will be undertaking two community events. Of course, this is also our 80th anniversary year, so keep your eyes open for several exciting events to remind us of where we have been and to celebrate the hard work of women in the Scranton area for the last eight decades.

As you can see from the articles inside, we are already off to a busy start. We began the year with a very successful Touch A Truck Event at Nay Aug Park. The 11th event marked a new location in the park and several new attractions, including animals from the Electric City Aquarium and a car that that was donated to us from DeNaples Auto Parts that children decorated with markers. As always, the support we received from the community is what made the event as wonderful as it was.

League women wasted no time in continuing to foster our partnership with the Lackawanna County Library System and hosted several Kids in the Kitchens at the Nancy Kay Holmes Library. These events will continue through the year on the second Wednesday of every month, so feel free to sign up and bring your children, grandchildren, or anyone who would like to teach about health and wellness. Also, we made quite a showing at the Santa Parade and helped serve the community at the Friends of the Poor Dinner in November.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." The women of the Junior League of Scranton have been just that for the last 79 years for our community and intend to continue as we move into our 80th year.

I look forward to seeing all of you throughout the League year!

Sincerely,
Nicole

Fall 2019 Issue



2019 -2020 Board of Directors

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Christina Nasser Thomas

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Nicole Lance

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Amy Betts

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11th Annual Touch a Truck



The Junior League of Scranton held its 11th Annual Touch a Truck event on September 28, 2019 at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. This year over 1400 people cruised over to our new location by the pool, interacting with over 60 vehicles! The first hour of Touch A Truck is free from horns or sirens so children with special auditory needs can participate in the fun.

The children's activities area was very busy painting faces, coloring, and blowing up balloon animals. Our own Amy Betts' husband, Ky Betts, was drawing caricatures all afternoon. A Thank a First Responder banner was filled with wonderful messages from our communities' children. However, the most popular activity was the color car. Children had so much fun coloring an actual car generously donated by DeNaples.

We had a successful basket raffle this year. We raffled 2 kid-sized bikes donated by the North Scranton Neighborhood Association and baskets donated by different local businesses including Electric City Escape, Caravia, Northeast Art Project, D.G Nicholas-Scranton, and many more.

Endless Mountains Hot Air Balloons once again joined the fun and let attendees, and even Tux, run around inside the inflated balloon at the bottom of the grotto. This year, the Electric City Aquarium came along as first-time participants and brought some great creatures for everyone to check out. Lackawanna County Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit also brought their horses for a tour around the park.

Tux, representing the WB/Scranton Penguins, came along and brought his fun-loving attitude and took pictures with many of our attendees. The Commonwealth Charter Academy loaded up its Aquaponics Lab with fun and learning.

Children got the chance to put their imaginations into overdrive climbing aboard the COLTS trolley, a Scranton Fire Department engine, Tobyhanna Army Depot military vehicle, UGI Penn Natural Gas dump truck and Scranton Police SWAT bearkat.

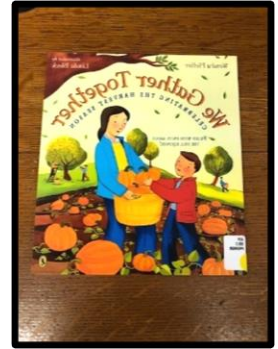
Co-Chairs, **Elizabeth McLane** and **Mary Luchansky**, would like to express a big thank you to every Active, Active Preferred, Provisional, and Sustainer who made this fundraiser a huge success.



October Kids in The Kitchen



On October 9, the Junior League of Scranton held a fall themed Kids in the Kitchen event at the Nancy Kay Holmes Library. The children enjoyed reading *One More Acorn* and *We Gather Together*. They also made string cheese and pretzel brooms and orange, mango, and yogurt parfaits! Members involved were **Ashley DeAngelo, Lindsey Jones, and Dawn Talley**.



Provisional Class History Walk

Our Provisional Class did a unique twist on their History training and participated in the Scranton After Dark Walking Tours at the Lackawanna Historical Society. This year's Provisional Class learned about some of Scranton's famous buildings and residents...some of whom have never quite left! The Provisionals are looking forward to completing the final part of their history training in the Spring when they learn about the history of the Tripp House.



November Kids in The Kitchen



The Junior League of Scranton held a Thanksgiving themed Kids in the Kitchen on November 13 at the Nancy Kay Holmes Library. Five children braved the cold and warmed up to the book, "The Berenstain Bears Thanksgiving". League members also colored turkeys with the children and taught them how to make made veggie turkeys! All the kids were officially ready for the big holiday feast!



Provisional Tea Held



On November 17, the tradition of the annual Sustainer's Tea for the Provisional Class was held at the beautiful home of Sustainer Representative, **June Dutka**. The afternoon was punctuated by



charming company and a scrumptious spread of tea and assorted light fare. The history of The Junior League of Scranton was discussed, and many new friends were made. Welcome to The Junior League of Scranton, Provisionals! Pictured above Left: (left to right) **Julie Jordan, Michele Catalano Musheno, Nada Gilmartin, Tami Nasser, Amy Paceij-Woodruff, Katie Gilmartin, Patti Thomas, Katie Mellon Sunday, June Dutka,** and **Virginia Paoloni**. Pictured above Right: (left to right) **Sarah Cruz, Jessica Hiller, Katie Blake, Heather Stanton, Courtney Leaidicker, Lindsay Pasquale, Brienne Marco,** and **Heather Burke**.

League Members Enjoy Evening Outing

The evening of November 5 saw League members enjoying a fun new venue as they spent the evening gaming and conversing at Downtown Scranton's Bartari. A fun and memorable time was had by all in attendance!



Paige Gebhardt Cognetti Voted Mayor of Scranton



A very special congratulations goes out to League Member, Paige Gebhardt Cognetti. On November 5, Paige was named the first Woman Mayor in Scranton's 153-year history. We are all so proud of you, Paige!

JLS Annual Dinner



On Tuesday, June 11, 2019 over 40 League women gathered at the Green Ridge Club in Scranton for the Annual Dinner. The event celebrated a successful year and allowed members to reflect on their accomplishments over the year.

The 2019-2020 Board of Directors includes: **Christina Nasser Thomas**, Chairman of the Board, **Nicole Lance**, President; **Maggie Martinelli**, President-Elect; **Rosemarie Coyne**, Treasurer; **Amy Betts**, Recording Secretary; **June Dutka**, Sustainer Representative; **JoAnne Rossi**, Membership Development Chairman; **Gina McAndrew**, Nominating Chairman; **Tania Stoker**, Community Research Chairman; **Noelle Griffiths**, Parliamentarian; and **Elizabeth McLane**, Corresponding Secretary.

Ms. Nicole Lance announced **Tami Nasser** as the League's newest Sustaining member. Ms. McFadden, Membership Development Chair, introduced ten provisional members. They are: **Nichole Little**, **Sarah Kane**, **Dorothy**

Grill, **Rebecca Wallace**, **Ashley DeAngelo**, **Sarah Farrell**, **Alex Melendez**, **Stephanie Adamec**, **Crystal Torrissi**, and **Mary Gerrity**.

The **Mary Harriman Award** for exemplary League service was presented to **Megan Boettcher**.

The **Margaret L. Richards Award** for outstanding community impact was presented to **Christina Nasser Thomas**.

The **Sustainer of the Year Award** was awarded to **Terra McAulliffe**.



Amy Betts Receives Roseanne Smith Halpern Award



Amy Betts was born in Pennsylvania but as a youth living in New York, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Iowa before moving to South Dakota, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from the University of South Dakota. She graduated from the Honors Program, Magna Cum Laude. Upon graduation, she traveled to Columbia, South Carolina where she worked as an Education Consultant and then a Training Specialist for Palmetto GBA, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC. Her husband's career in the Army took them to Fairbanks, Alaska and she worked in the non-profit arena as a Coordinator for the Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (MASST) program designed to assist seniors with developing marketable skills; and as the Coordinator of the Youth in Transition Program. This was her most challenging and rewarding position.

In 2010, Mrs. Betts moved to Scranton so her husband, Ky Betts, could attend Marywood University. They have made Scranton their home, raising their daughter Nora, age 15, and Alfred, age 9, while finding ways to get involved in the community. She is an Active Member of the Junior League of Scranton, currently serving as the Recording Secretary. She is a past chair of the Placement committee, Education and Training committee, Public Relations committee, the Strategic Planning committee, and most recently the Parliamentarian. Mrs. Betts

has been involved with Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA since 2011 and enjoys molding a new generation of civic leaders. Mrs. Betts has served as a board member of The Lutheran Academy since Nov 2014 and has seen the school grow from 10 students to a current enrollment of 31.

She has also been building a Mary Kay business since 1997, making women look and feel beautiful. In June 2017, Mrs. Betts was named a "Top 25 Women in Business in NEPA" by The Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal. She continues to mentor women to build their own successful direct sales businesses.

When she isn't working or volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and dog Waffle.

Congratulations

Lindsey Courtright was married on June 15, 2019 to Matthew Jones.

Mariah Reichle was wed on September 7, 2019 to Tyler Cunningham.

Elizabeth McClane and her husband, Tom, were blessed with their first child, Clare, on June 5.



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