

Junior League of Reading NEWSLETTER

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2026-2027 Board of Directors (not pictured: Jess Stabile)

Celebrating a Year of Impact

As we wrap up another incredible year, the Junior League of Reading is celebrating the amazing women who guide our mission, volunteer initiatives, and community impact.

During our Annual Dinner, we celebrated many meaningful traditions; the passing of the gavel to our newest President, the gifting of the President's pendant to our next President Elect, and welcoming our newest board members. We are proud to officially welcome Caroline Lash Hill as our 2026-2027 President!

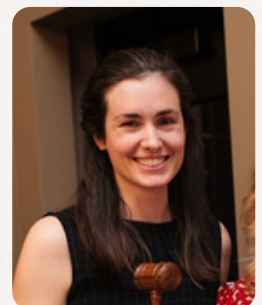
We want to extend a massive thank you to our outgoing Board of Directors for their fantastic leadership, tireless service, and dedication.

To our outgoing President, Jenna Hiester, we are so grateful for your leadership and service through a year centered on The Magic Within - honoring the spark each member brings and the impact we create together through shared purpose and leadership.



Message from the President

It is an immense honor to serve as President of JLR this year. I'm in this position after 12 years of active membership that have simultaneously pushed my limits - we are all volunteers juggling the rest of our lives with our civic one - and shown me how much we, as busy women, are actually capable of getting done. We have a lot in store this year as we develop a new strategic plan, expand upon our advocacy work, and increase our presence in the City of Reading. What I'm most excited about, though, is the driving force of Junior League every year: this organization is where women of all backgrounds can learn to identify a need in the community, develop plans, and turn them into action. I hope you'll follow along to see the impact that this amazing group of women will have this year and going forward.



Member Moment:

Meg Valente



The Junior League of Reading is incredibly honored to announce Meg Valente as our 2025-2026 Founder's Award recipient.

This prestigious accolade is reserved for an Active Member with four or more years of service who beautifully champions the Junior League spirit of voluntarism through an exceptional attitude, stellar leadership, and distinguished contributions to both our organization and the wider Berks County community.

Now in her eighth Active year, Meg's positive impact spans almost every corner of our League. She has continued to step into vital leadership roles, including serving as the first VP of DEIB on our Board of Directors, Chair of the Advocacy and New Member Committees, and Chair of our 100th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee. She has done a phenomenal job driving member engagement and leadership development.

Thank you for being a bright light in our League, Meg!



Sustainer Stories:

Piera Moyer

At our 2026 Annual Dinner, the Junior League of Reading proudly celebrated Piera Moyer as she transitioned from Active membership to Sustaining member status. Piera leaves behind a remarkable legacy of leadership within our league, highlighted by her tenure as our 2022-2023 President. Throughout her Active years, she has been a driving force for our organization, serving as VP of Membership and chairing numerous committees, including New Member, Special Events, and Community Development. Most recently, Piera dedicated her time to the Nominating and Placement Committee, helping to shape the future structure and leadership of our league. We are deeply grateful for Piera's years of dedicated service and wish her the absolute best as she begins her next exciting chapter!

New Member Events

Make an Impact. Build Connections. Join us!

Meet the League at Fall Fest in West Reading on Saturday, September 19th!

Additionally, we will be hosting our New Member Kick off on Friday, October 2nd at Junior League of Reading Headquarters. More details below!

Join us!

New Member Kick Off

On Friday, October 2nd
from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
at Junior League of Reading
Headquarters
1520 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, PA
19610

Learn all about the Junior League and the impact our members help make on the community. Come enjoy dinner, drinks, new friends, and dive deeper into all things league!

Note From VP of Membership, Stacey Carmello

The Junior League brings together women who want to make a difference, develop leadership skills, build friendships and strengthen our community. Whether you are new to the area, looking to expand your circle, develop new skills or give back, there is a place for you. Come as you are: Bring your talents, ideas and passion and discover what (JLR) is all about.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF READING INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE OF BERKS COUNTY

CELEBRATING \$16,600 Awarded to 8 Youth-Focused Local Organizations!

Connections Work – Mother's/Father's Voice Program	VOICEUp Berks – YVC Summer Story Time program
Reading Science Center – STEM youth programming	Berks Youth Chorus – Singer scholarships
Girls on the Run – Participant scholarships	Reading Symphony Orchestra – Orchestra Zone (free music lessons!)
Opportunity House – Summer Agriculture Exploration Initiative	Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Learning Center – "All Aboard" Team Challenge

We are thrilled to announce our Sustainer Grant program has awarded \$16,600 to 8 local organizations! These grants are dedicated to empowering local youth, expanding education, and creating new opportunities. Congratulations to our grant recipients!

Advocacy



This past spring, participants of Young Women's Summit stepped into the heart of state government with an unforgettable Advocacy trip to the Pennsylvania State Capitol. This year's summit theme was all about learning to use your voice, and these young women did exactly that from the moment they arrived.

It was a busy day that included the honor of being officially introduced on both the House and Senate floors.

The girls also sat down for direct, open discussions with Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz and Senator Judy Schwank. Our summit participants led the conversation, confidently sharing their own perspectives and the real-world concerns they are seeing right in their local communities.

We are so incredibly proud of how these future leaders represented our community in Harrisburg. We can't wait to see how they continue to use their voices next!

Community Development



Young Women's Summit at Penn State Berks was an absolute triumph! Centered around the inspiring theme "Find Your Voice," this highly attended event brought together young women from across our community for a weekend dedicated to empowerment, growth, and connection.

Young women participated in impactful service-learning projects and gained invaluable real-world skills in a practical financial literacy workshop. Because true leadership also requires balance, we featured self-care stations where the girls could pause, reflect, and learn the importance of wellness. Best of all, the summit became a beautiful space for building community - with girls making new friends and forming supportive networks with peers they might never have crossed paths with otherwise. The event's massive success is a direct result of the meticulous planning, vision, and tireless dedication of our Community Development Team. Thank you to everyone who poured their heart into this event!

The Junior League of Reading is proud to feature Young Women's Summit Club, intended to support middle school girls as they navigate the challenges of being a teenager in modern life, hosted twice a month. Check our website for details about club meetings and registration!

Community Relations



The Junior League of Reading participated in the Girls on the Run Spring Celebration 5K! Runners were invited to grab handmade encouragement clips to pin onto a friend's shirt for an extra boost of confidence. JLR volunteers were found on the track as course marshals to cheer on the participants. It was an incredible day of empowerment, and our members were thrilled to support the runners both on and off the course. We are so proud of everyone who participated and who came out to help our local youth shine!



Congratulations to Team EmpowHER for their participation in Yocum's Dancing with the Reading Stars: The Last Dance. They received 2nd place in the Fan Favorite category! This Fundraiser helps Yocum provide arts education for young people across Berks County. It was a beautiful event for an even more beautiful cause. Thank you Megan, Renelle, Lindsay, and Caroline for representing JLR!

Note From VP of Community, Dana Heins

Look for JLR at Fall Fest in West Reading on September 19th as we spread positivity in coordination with international Find the Good Day. Then, join us on October 14th @ 7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse Living, as we host a panel discussion for women in the community themed Every Woman. All Things. The discussion will be focused around how caregiving impacts our lives. All female community members are invited to attend! Our community council is hard at work and can't wait to share more community engagement we are planning!

From The Board

At our 2026 Annual Dinner, the Junior League of Reading was pleased to honor Gaming & Leisure Properties, Inc. (GLPI) as our 2025-2026 Community Partner Award recipient. This award recognizes local organizations and businesses whose outstanding support meaningfully strengthens our ability to advance women's leadership and create deep, lasting change in Berks County.

For the past four years, GLPI has stepped up as the Title Sponsor for Young Women's Summit. Through their incredibly generous annual \$7,500 contribution, they fund the majority of this essential program. Their consistent multi-year commitment provides the stability we need to grow Summit each year, ensuring that local middle school girls have access to a life-changing weekend focused on leadership development, confidence, and personal growth.

By funding this program, GLPI also empowers our league to focus additional resources on other critical community initiatives and member training programs.



Fundraising

We are thrilled to report that this year's Touch-a-Truck event was an a major success, bringing our community together for a day of family fun, exploration, and giving back.

Our league raised close to \$20,000 to fund our community projects and initiatives! The turnout and participation blew us away. By the numbers, this year's event featured:

- 1,700 attendees who filled the venue with energy and smiles.
- 45 unique vehicles for kids (and kids at heart) to explore, honk, and climb.
- 35 amazing vendors offering local treats, crafts, and activities.
- 28 generous participating businesses who stepped up to support our mission.

The excitement didn't stop with the trucks. We officially drew the winner of our highly anticipated annual raffle campaign. Our lucky winner took home a grand prize of \$1,923!



Congratulations, Amy Tran!



We are incredibly proud to award our annual \$5,000 scholarship to recent Wilson High School graduate Amy Tran. This scholarship is judged against a rigorous rubric that honors exceptional community spirit, exemplary leadership, and deep commitment to volunteerism. This fall, Amy is taking her incredible drive to the University of Pennsylvania where she will study neuroscience on the pre-med track. We are proud to support her bright future!

Treasurer's Report, Jess Stabile

In 2025-2026, JLR brought in \$154,172 in total revenue — exceeding our budget by nearly 13% — thanks to the incredible generosity of our community. Due to the support of our corporate sponsors, we raised \$30,764 and our event fundraising brought in nearly \$64,000 across three profitable events. On the expense side, we invested \$147,565 back into our mission. Nearly 65 cents of every dollar went directly to Program and Community Delivery — from the Young Women's Summit to advocacy work to grants for local nonprofits. We closed the year with a strong financial position, and our investments grew significantly, setting JLR up well heading into 2026-2027. Thank you for being part of what makes this possible!

League In Action



We are proud to celebrate the transition of eight dedicated women into our Active membership! Welcome to the next chapter of your League journey, ladies!



Past President's Luncheon. As the backbone of our organization, today's programs, partnerships, and strong foundation exist because of their visionary leadership and dedication.



In May, our President – Caroline Lash Hill – represented JLR in Indianapolis at the AJLI Annual Conference. More than 650 women leaders attended from across the US and around the world.



Members took a moment in May to visit Kula Kamala. While there, they reflected on a year of impact and recharged for the next. They also completed a service project for the center.

Connection Corner



There were many member socials held over the summer! Members enjoyed participating in Berks Encore's Roper Romp fundraiser in August; Ran with Nemesis in support of their 5K Colorfest; Partnered with Fit4Mom for an awesome outdoor exercise; and held our monthly Book Club discussing the highly reviewed novel, Yesteryear!



Upcoming Events

* SEPTEMBER

- 16th: General Membership Meeting
- 17th: Find The Good Day
- 19th: West Reading Fall Fest
- 22nd: Mahjong Night – Active Member/Sustainer Social
- 24th: Young Women's Summit Club
- 24th: Empowered Leadership Conference
- 25th: Girls Night Out: Domino Players – Affinity Social

* OCTOBER

- 2nd: New Member Kick Off Event – Feel Good Friday
- 8th and 22nd: Young Women's Summit Club
- 9th: Girls Night Out: Dracula
- 14th: Every Woman. All Things. Panel/General Membership Meeting
- 18th: Let's Spring – Member Affinity Social

* NOVEMBER

- 5th and 19th: Young Women's Summit Club
- 9th: Girl's Night Out: Monologues Affinity Social
- 11th: General Membership Meeting

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR
EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.JLREADING.ORG



Do you have an event you'd like JLR to help promote? Want to learn more about how you can get involved? Have a suggestion for our next newsletter or have any general questions?

Email us at info@JLReading.org

OR

communications@JLReading.org

We'd love to hear from you!