

September GMM

September 8, 2025 @ The CAC Capitol Lounge

6:30 P.M. Social Time, 7:00 P.M. Meeting

Attendance: Alyssa Bailey, Shelly Bailey, Katie Coffey, Deanna Dockey, Jennifer Flint, Molly Garczynski, Amanda Gresh, Shannai Karren, Ann Kaufman, Melissa Kelley, Amy Magee, Siria Matos, Michele Meredith, Sara Metz, Katie Musheno, Jessica Naughton, Amanda Phillips, Nancy Qiu, Amy Resh, Karen Retorick, Elizabeth Sauers, Rhoda Sawyer, Vanessa Slaughter, Erin Smith, Rose Thomas-Sarno, Lizzie Wodrig, Jodi Wolesslagle (We currently have 52 active members. We needed 27 for a quorum due to voting at this meeting. We had 27 in attendance.)

- I. Melissa Kelley, President, called the GMM to order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. JLW Sustainer Leadership Presentation
 - a. Peachie O'Connor, Jen Flint, Allison Bressler Grove, Marisa Rau
 - b. They shared their leadership experience within the League that led them to want leadership roles, what they gained from those experiences, and how that has helped them in other areas of their lives. In addition, they explained how attending JL conferences influenced them within the League and their personal lives. It was also discussed how community service they planned/lead/participated in taught them about our community and the impact our League has on our community.
- III. Updates
 - a. President – Melissa Kelley
 - i. Tom Bressler, CAC Bartender, was given a thank you gift from the Board.
 - ii. Motion for Approval of May GMM Minutes
I, Melissa Kelley, motion to approve the May GMM Minutes.
Second: Michele Boyles
Discussion: None
All in Favor: Yes, Motion Passes
 - iii. Important Dates Handout: Handout attached to agenda (also in ME)
 1. Register on ME for everything
 2. Cannot register for Annual Dinner yet on ME, due to the Board figuring out pricing. Registration will be open soon.
 - iv. 100th Anniversary Adhoc Committee
 1. Our 100th Anniversary is 3 years away. We want to make it a big event like a gala of some sort. It would be nice to include

our local partners, inviting others who have helped and impacted our League. Our area isn't the best to find large venues, so one year is not enough to pull this event together. Even if one year is for research and gathering quotes. We need to appropriately budget in advance for this as well. Melissa is putting together an adhoc committee for this to begin planning. Anyone at all experience levels within the League is welcome to join. Email Melissa at president@jlwilliamSPORT.org by September 30th if you want to be part of this.

v. Celebrity Bartender Night

1. The Board will be putting this event together as an additional fundraiser sometime in the spring. More details to come.

vi. Motion for the Bylaws

1. For review prior to the September GMM on Monday, September 8. I motion to change when these items are due, and I do not feel we need specific dates for this included in our bylaws. This will allow for flexibility in terms of when the board decides for them to be submitted based on League needs and changes.

I, Melissa Kelley, President, make a motion to change the following verbiage in our bylaws:

Current Verbiage

Section 4. Committee Responsibilities

Committee chairpersons are encouraged but not required to seek the service of sustaining advisors or mentors who have served in those roles within the league before. **Each Committee Chair must prepare a Committee Description agreed upon by all committee members to be presented to the Placement Chairperson by February 1. Each Committee Chair must also prepare a proposed Committee Budget and present it to the Treasurer by March 1. All chairpersons must submit an Annual Report to their Board Liaison by April 30th and shall maintain proper records and files utilizing the provided Junior League of Williamsport's Google Drive.** The Committee Chair shall be responsible to review and guide members to their member commitment forms located on Member Essentials.

Proposed Changes

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 4. Committee Responsibilities

Committee chairpersons are encouraged but not required to seek the service of sustaining advisors or mentors who have served in those roles within the league before. **Each Committee Chair must prepare a Committee Description**

agreed upon by all committee members to be presented to the Nominating Chairperson. Each Committee Chair must also prepare a proposed Committee Budget and present it to the Treasurer. All chairpersons must submit an Annual Report in Member Essentials and shall maintain proper records and files utilizing the provided Junior League of Williamsport's online record keeping files. The Committee Chair shall be responsible to review and guide members to their member commitment forms located on Member Essentials.

Second: Laura Beauchesne

Discussion: None

All in Favor: Yes, Motion Passes

vii. Retention Data as of February 2025

1. The New Member Committee of the 2024-2025 League year, requested data regarding our retention over the last few year. Melissa Kelley (PE at the time) and Deanna Dockey (Secretary at the time) compiled this information.
 - 56 active members moving into the 2025-2026 league year
 - Within the last two years, we have 25 new members that are continuing to be active (this does not include those from the last three years that have resigned). That's 45% of our current active membership being new in the last three years.
 - Within the last 5 years...
 - o 71 new members; 35 out of 71 of them are still active members
 - o 49% retained
 - o 51% resigned
 - Average yearly enrollment: 14 members, with 2024-2025 being the highest at 17 members
 - Years with the most resignations...2021-2022 (8), 2020-2021 (9), 2019-2020 (12)
 - Year with the highest retention (not including 2024-2025 since this year just ended)...2022-2023 (63%), which makes sense given this class is only 2 years in.
 - It is also important to note...
 - o During this 5-year span, we experienced a pandemic.

- AJLI has reported that they have seen a decline in enrollment overall as an organization and have developed their own retention task force. They have also reported that similar non-profit service-based organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary, United Way, etc. are seeing similar declines in membership.
- Michele Boyles has attended AJLI trainings titled "Growth Strategy Bootcamp." We have also revised our enrollment procedures over these years based on recommendations from AJLI.
- There is no one or anything to "blame" for the way our numbers have been trending, but it is just good information for us to be aware of as we look into the coming years.

b. New Member Committee – Michele Boyles & Jodi Woleslagle

i. Enrollment changes for the 2025 – 2026 League year:

1. Move from provisional to active after: Mandatory attendance at 2 GMMS and dues paid. 60 days begins after first GMM attendance.
2. Do not have an active join a committee their provisional year. They'll continue to attend New Membership meetings/events. This will create a "class" feeling for the group and prevent mid-year committee catch-up.
3. Have board members and committee co-chairs attend the New Member January committee meeting to explain each role/committee. This will enable new members to have a more solid understanding before completing the placement form.

ii. Recruitment and Upcoming Events

1. Recap of Summer Recruitment Events – both good attendance
 - a. Thursday July 17th at New Trail
 - b. Monday August 11th at Kitchen Repose
2. New Membership Application Deadline: Monday December 1st
3. Food Bank Tour / Packing Event: Wednesday September 17th
@ 6-8pm (everyone is welcome)
4. GMM Bring-a-Friend Night: Monday October 6th

iii. New Members

1. Melissa Jackson
2. Lindsay Harner

c. Community Committee – Jessica Naughton & Siri Matos



- i. Kids 1st Friday Recap – This was a successful event. Lots of community individuals with their children came by our stand.
- ii. Find the Good Day – Thursday September 18th
 1. This is an annual campaign by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) to raise awareness and funds for the Junior League movement. It is dedicated to finding the good in oneself, one's community, and the world, and encouraging acts of kindness, compassion, and positive community impact. Junior Leagues worldwide participate by hosting events, supporting community partners, and engaging members and the public in volunteer and giveback activities.
 2. All of the volunteer events leading up to our celebration of Sustainer's Tea (also on 9/18) are to highlight the good we do. These volunteer events directly align with the pillars in our mission (food security, mental health and wellness, literacy), which is our goal for volunteer events moving forward.
 3. Find the Good Day Events
 - YWCA Boutique
 - 8/23 Event
 - YWCA Recurring Volunteer Opportunity
 - o 2nd Saturday every month
 - o Starting Sept 13th from 10am-12pm & 12-2pm
 - Thrive International Programs - Comfort Food Around the World Take-Out Meal
 - o 9/16 from 6-8pm, 9/17 from 2-6pm
 - Stocking Little Food Pantry Boxes & Hygiene Items for Salvation Army
 - Bring donations to Sustainer's Tea
 - Delivering Food Pantry & Salvation Army Hygiene Items: Fri, 9/19 3:30-5pm
 - Central PA Food Bank Tour/Packing: 9/17 from 6-8pm
(Hosted by New Member)
- iii. Baby's 1st Book: The committee is working to add a hands-on component. A book in Spanish has also been added. Books and handouts were passed around.
- iv. CodeRed.Period: An update was given on the status of this project. We are currently providing items to 8 schools.

d. Treasurer – Laura Beauchesne

i. Financial Obligation

1. \$25 for 2025-2026

ii. 2025 – 2026 Budget Update

1. See handout attached to minutes
2. This will be distributed and discussed at every GMM. The Board and Committee Chairs receive budget updates via email for everything each month.

iii. 2024 – 2025 Financial Update

1. Revenue

- a. Income: \$38,443.81 (several sources besides our fundraisers)
- b. Expenses: \$45,176.48
- c. Loss: \$6,732.67

Event	Gross Proceeds	Expenses	Net Proceeds
Auction	\$16,236.64	\$4,244.07*	\$11,992.57
5K	\$850	\$1,621.03	\$(771.03)

2. The PowerPoint presentation from the leadership team discussion this summer (separate Teams meeting about 1 hour in length), was placed on each table to review. Laura Beauchesne (Treasurer) offered to host another call at a later time if anyone is interested in understanding the previous years' expenses further.

3. Opportunities to Save/Make Money:

- a. Cut back on sponsorships with YWCA this year (\$3,000 savings)
- b. Committees being more cognizant of expenses towards their budget (expenses should be shared at your monthly committee meetings)
- c. Prioritizing relevance and number of members to send to conferences (Board discussions)
- d. Budget sheets printed at each GMM for members to review (also uploaded to website and emailed to ALL committee chairs on a monthly basis)
- e. Fundraisers: Celebrity Bartender Night (Board), T-Shirt Sale (Marketing)

- f. Fund Development revamp (will let them speak to this)
- e. Fund Development Committee – Amanda Phillips & Shelly Bailey
 - i. Sponsorship Deck: This was completely revised this summer. The committee is going to start asking for sponsorships this month and then the following month it will be opened to the general membership to assist.
 - ii. Holiday Auction: Thursday December 11th @ Holiday Inn
 - 1. The committee voted on this change of location due to significant price increases at the CAC where it has previously been held. They are starting to work on the marketing piece and getting donations. Many volunteers will be needed, with sign-ups to come.
 - iii. Dueling Pianos: Saturday April 18th @ Bald Birds
 - 1. The committee voted to no longer host the 5K due to loss of revenue from this event. Hopefully in the future, a similar event will be led by the Community Committee, not as a fundraiser. This change in fundraiser is still in compliance with the fundraising motion that passed last spring. More details and planning will take place after the Holiday Auction in December.
 - iv. Grant Application: Through FCFP, the Lycoming Economic Development Foundation (LEDF) has \$60,000 in grant funding available for community based economic development that enhances the quality of life. We are in the process of applying for this grant.
- f. Membership Engagement Committee – Rose Thomas Sarno
 - i. Sustainer's Tea: Thursday September 18th (also Find the Good Day) at 5:30pm at Peachie O'Connor's House. Opening remarks will be around 6:30pm. Please bring a wine bottle donation (preferably dropped-off to Peachie before the event). Left-over wine will be used for the wine wall at the Holiday Auction. Save-the-Dates were mailed and sustainer calls were made for the event.
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 - 1. Halloween Party / Galentine's Day: The Halloween Party will be at Rosko's (October 2025) with a portion of sales coming back as a donation to the League. The Galentine's Day event (February 2026) will be held at the Pajama Factory. Both

events were very well attended last year, with more information to come.

2. Panel Event: Will be held outside of a GMM this year, due to previous years' success and wanting more time to expand upon this event. More information to come.
- g. JLW Book Club – Erin Smith: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9/24 at 6pm at Old Corner. The book selected is *A Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power. Please make sure you join the Facebook page, “Book Club.” As of now, they will meet the 4th Wednesday of every month, which keeping/changing this will be discussed on 9/24, along with future meeting locations.
 - h. Secretary – Deanna Dockey
 - i. Email your Child Abuse clearance to secretary@jllwilliamsport.org. The League will be keeping record of these. If you do not already have yours, there was a link in the Leaglet where you can get it for free.
 - ii. Deanna is working with AJLI to fix and update ME Commitments for everyone to complete.
 - iii. Board and GMM Minutes can be found on our website.
 - i. Marketing – Amy Resh
 - i. T-Shirt Fundraiser: This will be sometime in the fall or winter.
 - ii. Swag Sale: This will be in the spring. Please give Marketing suggestions on apparel you are interested in purchasing to give them ideas.
 - iii. Process for Posting Online: If committees need something posted online, it needs to be sent to Marketing. Email is fine, but if it is immediate, text is better. They should be given at least 24 hours if not more. Also, for all marketing materials for events, posts, etc. the information must be sent and completed by marketing.
 - j. Nominating – Melissa Kelley (Jamie Brininger was absent.)
 - i. Role: The role of Nominating is to ensure member participation, work on developing a leadership pipeline, board applications and interviews, committee placement process, and selecting members to attend conferences.

- ii. Woman of Excellence Nominations due tonight 9/8: The board voted via email on no sponsorship, but to purchase up to 6 tickets for members. If there is an overwhelming interest we can purchase more.
- iii. Conferences
 - 1. Organizational Development Training (ODT): July 11th – 12th, 2025 in Chicago, IL
 - a. 2024-2025 JLW Board voted not to send members
 - 2. SLBI Conference: September 25th – 27th, 2025 in St. Louis, MO
 - a. For members in all roles: Siri Matos will be attending
 - 3. Executive Leadership Training: January 22nd – 24th, 2026 in San Antonio, TX
 - a. For those stepping into Board Leadership positions to prepare for the upcoming League year
 - 4. Annual Conference: May 14th – 16th, 2026 in Indianapolis, ID
 - a. For outgoing President, incoming President, incoming President-Elect
- k. Every Woman All Things AJLI Initiative: Michele Boyles – AJLI is partnering with MHA, NAMI, and AAPR to help determine the causes that cause mental overload – particularly for women. They will be sharing more throughout August and September leading up to World Health Day – October 10th. Looking to make October’s GMM women’s health focused. More to be shared at the GMM.
 - i. Four upcoming action areas:
 - 1. Women & Aging
 - 2. Shared Responsibilities and Mental Overload
 - 3. Caregiving
 - 4. Workplace and Economic Impact.
- l. October GMM: Monday October 6th, 6:30pm Social Time, 7:00pm Meeting
 - i. Focus will be on Women’s Health
 - ii. Bring-a-Friend Night
 - iii. There will be drink tickets
- m. Raffle Prizes – Winners were Allison Bressler Grove and Shannai Karren
 - i. Moving forward, you must be present to win.

IV. Melissa Kelley, President, adjourned the GMM at 8:33 P.M.