

October GMM

October 6, 2025 @ The CAC Capitol Lounge

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

Attendance: Melissa Kelley, Lindsay Crist, Laura Beauchesne, Kristin Kaderli, Lauren Horton, Erin Smith, Jody Wolesslagle, Michele Meredith, Katie Musheno, Ann Workman, Rose Thomas-Sarno, Peachie O'Connor, Mary Holstein, Jessica Naughton, Jordan Brininger, Jamie Brininger, Brittany Dent, Lea Plagens, Melissa Jackson, Siri Matos, Shelly Bailey, Amanda Phillips, Bridget Kane, Molly Garzynski, Ashley Adomiak, Lizzie Wodrig, Rhoda Sawyer, Amy Resh, Lindsey Harner (We currently have 51 active members. There were 25 active members, 2 provisional members, and 2 sustaining members in attendance. We would have needed 31 active members in attendance for a quorum.)

Bring-a-Friend Night Guests: Bri Benjamin, Hanyu Zeng

- I. Melissa Kelley, President, called the GMM to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Project Linus Presentation and Blanket Making

- a. Michele Meredith introduced Jill Kaplan with Project Linus – a non-profit that will provide cheerful, bright, and washable to hurt, injured, or sick children. “A Hug When You Need It.”
- b. Their mission: Provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”
- c. Each blanket includes a satin tag from Project Linus, and each can include a tag from the donating organization.
- d. Over 300 chapters nationwide... They have created over 9 million blankets. Our local chapter has made 32,000 blankets. In 2025, they donated 2,300.
- e. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Blanket Day – October 25 | 9:30am-2pm | Lutheran Church Lewisburg
- f. Our membership then made blankets to donate to Project Linus.

III. Updates

a. President – Melissa Kelley

- i. Motion for Approval for September GMM Minutes
I, Melissa Kelley, motion to approve the September GMM Minutes.
Second: Bridget Kane
Discussion: None
All in Favor: Yes, Motion Passes
- ii. Register for Everything on ME

- iii. 100th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee
 - 1. Members have agreed to co-chair and sit on the committee. They are in the process of getting started.
 - 2. Members can join this committee at any time. Please reach out to one of the co-chairs if you are interested.
 - 3. Co-Chairs: Allison Bressler Grove, Shelby Weber, Michele Meredith, Peachie O'Connor, Amanda Phillips
 - 4. Committee Members: Melissa Kelley, Lindsay Crist, Laura Beauchesne, Jodi Woleslagle, Kristin Kaderli, Mary Holstein, Donna Bastian

- iv. Celebrity Bartender Night
 - 1. The Board is aiming to hold the event in June.

- v. Sustainer's Tea Thank You
 - 1. Thank you to Peachie O'Connor for hosting Sustainer's Tea at her home and for making it a lovely evening for us all.

- vi. Questionnaire Collection
 - 1. All members were given a paper with the following question prompt to answer anonymously. The Board will review and discuss these due to concerns with active member participation.
 - 2. Prompt: "What makes you want to stay involved and continue contributing to the Junior League of Williamsport?"

b. New Member Committee – Michele Meredith, Jodi Woleslagle

- i. New Members
 - 1. Welcome to our new Provisional Members Melissa Jackson and Lindsay Harner.

- ii. Recap
 - 1. The New Member committee toured & packed food boxes at the Central PA Food Bank on September 17th.
 - 2. All members are welcome to attend new member tours – more to come.
 - 3. Thank you to everyone who brought a friend tonight!
 - 4. New Membership Application Deadline: Monday December 1st

- iii. Upcoming Tours
 - 1. American Rescue Workers Tour: Monday 11/10
 - a. Asking all members to bring peanut butter and jelly donations to the November GMM, for them to be delivered to the ARW for their food pantry.

 - 2. Salvation Army Tour: Thursday 12/4

- a. We will be packing food boxes and Christmas gift bags for their Christmas Assistance Program.

c. Community Committee – Bridget Kane, Siri Matos, Jessica Naughton

i. Victorian Christmas

1. Saturday November 22nd 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.
 - a. Homes and Churches on tour will be featuring local musicians
 - b. Adult Tickets: \$25
 - c. Student Tickets: \$10 (6-18 year including college students with ID)
 - d. Children Tickets: Free (5 years and under)
2. JLW Volunteer Hours: (4 Hour Shifts)
 - a. 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
 - b. 12:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
 - c. Many Volunteer Opportunities: *(Once Peachie has the names of volunteers, she will call you to discuss location and instructions.)*
 - d. ie. ticket sellers, docents in homes, ornament seller, trolley and bus docents, dress up Victorian
3. Deadline to register to volunteer: Friday October 17th

ii. Upcoming Volunteer Events

1. YWCA Boutique Recurring Volunteer Opportunity (2nd Saturday each month)
 - a. Next opportunity is on Saturday, October 11, 10am–12pm & 12pm–2pm.
 - b. Sign up on ME for one time slot or both
2. Thrive International Programs - Comfort Food Around the World Take-Out Meal
 - a. Saturday November 1st
 - b. We'll be making tamales for their December takeout meal
3. EmpowerStride – Kringle Fest
 - a. Sunday December 14th

iii. Baby's 1st Book

1. New book choice with a bilingual option (roughly 50 babies are born to Hispanic families each year). “Tummy Time”

2. We would not be adding more books to our yearly count – we would order 1,150 English version books and 50 of the Spanish version.
- iv. CodeRed.Period
1. We will be having a planned hands-on activity at the November GMM – Bingo or Trivia
 2. Inventory after tonight’s GMM – could use some help
 3. Next packing event – November 6th at 7pm at the CAC in the Board Room.
- v. NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: YWCA – Creations of Courage
1. German Christmas Market – December 6th 10am-7pm
 2. 2-hour shifts will be on ME.

d. Treasurer – Laura Beauchesne

- i. Budget Review Call
1. Monday October 20th at 7:15pm (about 45 minutes)
 2. In-depth review of the 2024-2025 budget/revenue/expenses and Vanguard account
 3. Register/Teams Link on ME

e. Fund Development Committee – Shelly Bailey, Amanda Phillips

- i. Sponsorship Deck
1. Lots of work was put into this new version, which was in the October Leaglet
 2. All members are asked to help secure sponsorships – Contact Fund Development to help! They also have spreadsheet that you can look at to help solicit sponsors.
 3. 5 sponsors so far! Member’s 1st, Service 1st, Geisinger, IDC, First Quality Tissue
- ii. Holiday Auction
1. Thursday December 11th @ Holiday Inn
 - a. SHARE the event on Facebook
 - b. Save-the-Dates have been mailed
 - c. Sustainer Calls will be completed
 2. *Ways YOU Can Support the Auction:*
 - a. Bring bottles of wine and/or baskets to the November GMM to be entered to win JL swag.
 - b. Sign-Up for Shifts to Help (will be in ME soon)
 - i. Preparing baskets before the auction
 - ii. Setting up the auction space the day of

- iii. Volunteering at the auction
- c. They also need help with auction items – reach out to Fund Development to sign up to ask businesses.

- 3. Saturday, October 18 | 10:30am Amanda Phillips is going business-to-business if anyone else would like to help!

f. Membership Engagement Committee – Rose Thomas-Sarno, Ashley Adomiak

i. Halloween Party

- 1. Rosko's Brew House, Saturday October 25th from 6-10pm
- 2. Prizes to be awarded for *Best Costume*
- 3. Food options will be available. Anyone know a food truck who may want to park at the event? – reach out to Membership Engagement
- 4. Bring a friend, spouse, or family member to learn about the JLW
- 5. Information will be added to ME soon

ii. Hot Girl Walk

- 1. Lizzie Wodrig will be organizing this later in October. (ie. walks to coffee shops, etc.) – more information to come

g. Nominating – Jamie Brininger

i. Women of Excellence

- 1. Vanessa Slaughter is JLW's nominee in the Sports Category – each year we nominate one member
- 2. Other Members nominated include: Stefanie Allison, Amy Resh, Chris Wallace, Nicole Miele
- 3. We are offering tickets to membership (up to 6 tickets), if you are interested in attending, let Lindsay Crist know!

ii. AJLI 40 under 40 Nomination

- 1. This initiative aims to celebrate and honor outstanding Junior League Members who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in various fields and careers. We believe in acknowledging and highlighting the accomplishments of women who have made a significant impact on their professions and communities.
- 2. Eligibility Criteria
 - a. Must have 2 years of active service.
 - b. Empowerment – The nominee, through her work and community involvement, empowers both herself and

others. Examples may include initiatives that uplift and inspire individuals to reach their full potential.

- c. Leadership – The nominee demonstrates outstanding leadership in her profession or area of service. This can include accomplishments, innovations, or a demonstrated commitment to driving positive change.
- d. Community Impact – The nominee is actively creating a positive impact on her community. This can encompass contributions to local organizations, volunteer work, or initiatives that address community needs.

3. Please send your nomination to nominating@jlwilliamsport.org.

IV. **JLW Book Club – Erin Smith**

- a. Tuesday, October 28th, 6pm at The James
- b. Book: Local Woman Missing
- c. Join the Facebook group

V. **Every Woman All Things: AJLI Initiative – Michele Meredith**

- a. On **October 10**, in honor of World Mental Health Day, AJLI will officially launch **Every Woman. All Things.** — a powerful new initiative dedicated to addressing women’s mental overload and the issues that contribute to it.
- b. This initiative will provide resources, education, and opportunities for dialogue to support women in our communities and beyond. While there is no single solution, we know progress begins when we come together to talk about what matters most.
- c. On **October 10**, we need your help to spread the word! Please **like, follow, and share our launch content** on your social media channels to amplify this important message and show the strength of our collective voice. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved and help move this conversation forward.
- d. Register for the **training on October 23 from noon to 1pm** (link was in the October Leaglet)

VI. **SLBI Conference Recap – Siri Matos**

- a. Siri shared fun ideas for Find the Good day, leadership ideas, and why you’re in the League. We are not the only League struggling with the same challenges – low attendance at events, GMMs, committee meetings, etc. Step 1 is just to stay in touch and connected.
 - i. Make connections with each other – if someone isn’t showing up, reach out and ask why, check in with others.

VII. **November GMM – Melissa Kelley**



- a. Monday November 3rd – 6:30pm Social Time, 7:00pm Meeting
- b. PBJ Drive for American Rescue Workers
- c. Code Blue Speaker
- d. CodeRed Period. Hands-On Project

VIII. **Raffle Prize Winners** – Lindsey Harner and Lizzie Wodring

IX. Melissa Kelley, President, adjourned the GMM at 8:13 P.M.