



Western Reserve Junior

SERVICE
LEAGUE

2024 - 2025
YEARBOOK



Admissions

Karrie Shannon & Cheryl Tambor

August

Committee meeting to plan for upcoming year and how to recruit new members

October

Admissions had a table for the craft show at Lakeland to “market” our organization

November

Mini open house with Nacho Night at El Rodeo Mentor

December

March was preparing for open house and finalizing details

April

Open house at Social Parlor at Lake Erie College

May

Dinner had table of 9 upcoming provisionals attend

July

All new provisionals have paid dues – class size of 14



Endowment

Maureen Dolan & Janet McGee

The starting balance this year in The Heritage Endowment Fund as of 6/30/2024 was \$232,836.63, with \$21,263.00 available for distribution. The ending balance as of 3/31/2025 was \$235,184.33, with \$10,515.00 available for distribution.

We added 6 new Founding 50 donors this year: Patricia Dean, Heidi Landgraf, Vickie McDonald, MaryJo Miller, Pam Fraser, and Cheryl Tambor, bringing our total Founding 50 membership to 43.

In August, 6 members volunteered for the Vintage Ohio Wine Festival at Lake Farmpark in Kirtland. The Endowment Fund was rewarded with a \$40 per volunteer contribution (\$240) from the Ohio Wine Producers Association for our participation.

In October, we once again opened the online spirit wear shop through a local business in Mentor, Vector Screen Printing and Embroidery, to offer a variety of clothing items and merchandise with the WRJSL insignia for members to purchase. We raised \$178 from this endeavor. We also received a \$300 donation this month from Bob Potts Band. (Thanks to Pam Fraser!)

In November, we hosted The Endowment Tea at The Lincoln 1830's Barn (aka Kathy Toderick's place). Invitations were sent to the Sustainers, Past Presidents, Founding 50 Members, and the current Executive Board. 22 people attended and enjoyed learning more about our Heritage Endowment Fund at the Cleveland Foundation from Katie Collin, Director of Philanthropic Strategy. We raised \$125 from the raffle basket at this event. (Thanks, Diana Yount, for donating a wonderful basket!)

Our Annual Anniversary Appeal "62 for 62 years" campaign brought in \$3,978.06! People donated amounts ranging from \$19.62 (the year we were founded) to \$1,062. We very much appreciated every "62" contribution!

Since the inception of the Heritage Endowment Fund in 2014 to date:

- Gifts and donations \$119,610.69
- Income earned on investments \$83,860.79
- Administrative fees (\$9,631.75)



Finance

Paula Gordos & Vickie McDonald

The Finance Committee meet in the beginning of the Fiscal year and reviewed our Policies.

There were no recommendations for change.

The committee reviewed the Grant funding methodology previously approved in FY 2023-2024. This methodology is based on the timing of organizational fundraisers. The Committee agreed to continue to use the grant funding methodology previously approved by the Board in April 2024 to help guide funding to Community Research. No changes to the methodology were made.

Committee also reviewed, discussed and approved unanimously to continue the current process of moving funds allocated to Community Research for grants (based on the approved methodology formula) from the Community Fund bank account, into the Cleveland Foundation Heritage Endowment Fund; earmarked as a placeholder for Community Research Grants. This allows for enhanced opportunity of market fund interest gained from the Cleveland Foundation Flagship Pool investments which WRJSL is invested in through our Endowment Committee reviewed, discussed and approve the 2024-2025 Budget. Budget was distributed at the Sept Board meeting to all committee chairs.



Historian

Michele Johnson & Tonya Busic

Tonya Busic and I met with Carrie Lane to get more information on the duties of Historian. She gave us several flash drives that we combined into a larger external hard drive (donated by Elevated Wealth Solutions.) We also decided to buy a second HD to keep in a second location, potentially with the other items that are currently being cataloged.

We met with Pamela Dorazio-Dean of the Western Reserve Historical Society Cleveland History Center. She showed us many of the items that they are current organizing and cataloging for us. Unfortunately, they had a fire at the center in 2023 and are still cleaning many of their other items. Eventually we will be able to go to the library and bring out any of the stored items for our viewing pleasure. She introduced us to Ann Sindelar who will be handling our items going forward. We have not paid the remaining balance on the work that has been done thus far.

Now that most people take photos from their smartphones, we thought it might be a good idea to invest in a cloud-based program that we can all use to upload pictures. This would be very helpful when creating the powerpoint for the May dinner. I was able to get photos from Facebook, the WRJSL website and some that I took personally to create the slide-show of highlights from this year. It was shown at the May dinner and can be found on the external hard drive.

Pamela Dorazio-Dean – pddean23@gmail.com

Ann Sindelar - aksindelar@wrhs.org



Meeting Management

Jennie Best & Sue Fatica

Meeting Management hit the ground running at the end-of-year Board meeting. We passed around a sign-up sheet to host the Board meetings for our next year. We were able to get all slots filled that night.

The next week we conducted business by email. All documents were sent to members and they were asked to sign up for a meeting, to secure a speaker, and to secure a location. They then sent their contact form back to us. We assigned “helpers” to the Board meetings and to the General meetings. The Sustainers greeters were added and the completed lists were sent to Office for inclusion in the Pink Book.

The December Brunch was left as TBA. We instead did a “Ladies Night Out” at Billie’s Martini Bar with a Christmas craft. It was very well received, and we had great attendance. We would consider another “night out” event in place of the brunch. Noise was a factor so we may need to look at different venues that can accommodate 40 some women.

All meetings went well—except for the freeway closure that stranded many members. Things to watch out for:

- Size of venue—especially for the April meeting where we showcase our grant recipients
- Hours of the venue
- Wi-fi capabilities
- Documents distributed to all members:
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Possible Locations



Nominating

Vickie McDonald & Deb Kennedy

Nominating Committee members:

Sustainer Advisor: Ame West

Committee members: Vickie McDonald, Jennie Best, Ali Wilson, Deb Kennedy, Karrie Shannon

Alternate committee members: Janet McGee, Pam Fraser, Kathy Toderick

Non-voting advisors: Pam Morse (President), Cheryl Kuonen and Cheryl Tambor (Placement Co-Chairs)

The Nominating Committee put forth a fabulous election slate for the 2025-26 year.

“Nominating Night” was held on March 10th, at the home of Vickie McDonald. Voting members consisted of: Jennie Best, Ali Wilson, Deb Kennedy, Karrie Shannon and Janet McGee (Alt). Janet voted in Vickie’s place as she was on the election slate ballot.

The Nominating Committee put forward the following slate for 2025-26:

President – Paula Gordos (2-yr term)

Vice President – Susan Fatica (1-yr term)

Treasurer – Vickie McDonald (to complete the second year of the current Treasurer term vacated by Paula Gordos)

Secretary – Cheryl Tambor (1-yr term)

In accordance with Nominating Committee Policy & Bylaws, the committee utilized the input from Placement Committee interviews to nominate the following five (5) active members and three (3) alternates for the 2025-26 Nominating Committee:

1. Karrie Shannon
2. Cheryl Kuonen
3. Heidi Landgraf
4. Janet McGee
5. Pam Morse

Alternates:

6. Jennie Best
7. Ali Wilson
8. Pam Fraser

The election slate was presented to the membership at the March General Meeting and was voted unanimously approved at the April General Meeting, held April 17, 2025. There were no “write-in” candidates from the floor presented prior to the election.



Office

Vicki LeVan & Rachelle Sundberg

As the 2024–2025 service year comes to a close, the Office Committee is pleased to share a summary of our contributions and key administrative initiatives that supported the ongoing operations of WRJSL.

Pink Book Production & Distribution

This year, we successfully compiled and submitted all data for the annual Pink Book to Minuteman Press. A total of 105 books were printed at a cost of \$446.25. These were distributed during both the General and Board meetings. We're proud to continue the tradition of this essential resource and will evaluate whether additional copies should be printed next year based on member need.

WRJSL Stationery & Note Cards

We provided WRJSL-branded stationery and note cards as requested by members. As supplies are running low, we recommend assessing whether there is still a need and, if so, restocking for the coming year.

Virtual Meeting Support

Recognizing the importance of accessibility, we created Zoom links for all General and Board meetings, which were also added to the website for ease of access. We ask for input on whether virtual attendance should remain an option moving forward. In addition, Zoom links were provided for committee meetings upon request. To streamline this process in the future, we recommend that all Board members have access to the Zoom account login info so they can create their own meeting links as needed.

Sustainer Outreach

To maintain strong ties with our Sustainers, we generated mailing labels for holiday cards, allowing members to reach out and reaffirm the valued connection Sustainers have with WRJSL. This initiative was well received and we suggest continuing it as a meaningful touchpoint each year.

Election & Voting Tools

We facilitated online voting by setting up Zoom polls for the 2025 Election Slate Ballot and any other motions that required a vote during virtual meetings. This ensured that participation and decision-making could continue smoothly despite remote attendance.

Website Development & Exploration

We participated in virtual meetings with our website provider, DevQ, to explore potential site updates and new capabilities. This included examining features such as event ticketing, improved navigation, and future integration tools to better serve our members.



Placement

Cheryl Kuonen & Cheryl Tambor

Activities:

Added 5 new agencies to the Placement List:

- Lake Erie College
- Camp Ho Mit Koda
- United Way of Geauga Co. AND United Way of Ashtabula Co. Lake Co
- United Way is on the list already.
- McKinley Community Outreach Center

The Hunger Network:

- Spoke to Provisional Class about Committee and Placement Process
- Spoke at Admissions Open House about Placement and Mentor / Mentee program
- Set up 2024/2025 Mentor / Mentee program
- Host a Mentor / Mentee social event out
- Planned Provisional Brunch
- Attended Nominating Night
- Sent Monthly reports to Secretary for minutes
- Attended Monthly board meetings and general meetings
- Updated What Every Member Should Know document
- Conducted Fall and Spring Placement Interviews
- Gathered data from Spring Placement interview to share with incoming President for new committees
- Announced Sustainers at End of Year Dinner in May



Policy & By-Laws

Sue Fatica & Vickie McDonald

We began our year by making sure all of the Provisionals had their red binders with current copies of our Policies and Bylaws as well as our procedures. We also gave the co-chairs new copies.

This year we focused on our procedures. In January, the Committee met via Zoom to divide up the standing committees and officers. Each person was tasked with contacting the chair/co-chairs of the respective committees to solicit input concerning changes to the language. That input was then used to update our procedures. No vote from the membership was required to accept the changes.

The Bylaws were also amended to reflect changes in policy as well as a few editorial changes. The Bylaws changes were sent to membership via the minutes prior to the March meeting. Bylaws changes were then voted on at the March meeting. All passed so they have been incorporated into our document.

Our Policy and Bylaws, including our Procedures, have been updated for 2025-2026. The revised PBL were sent to Carrie Lane who posted them on the website.



Provisional

Carolyn Blackwell & Lydia Raser

We are pleased to report that we ended the year with 10 new Provisionals. Although we started the year with 14, life intervened and four had to drop out for various reasons. Two will be back next year with the 2026 class.

We started the year with the Welcome dinner hosted by Pam Fraser. Pam and our Sustainer Advisor Judy Armington, welcomed the new class, The Dragonflies, with a wonderful dinner, cake and favors. Marlene Castilyn was the speaker and introduced the history of WRJSL to the new group of ladies. Carolyn Blackwell's get-to-know-you game was a hit, and the results were even included in the Provisionals' skit at the May Dinner.

The usual meeting line-up was followed for the classes.

- History in the Counties – Andrews Osborn Academy
- Government Night – Classic Jet Center @ Lake County Executive Airport (a favorite again this year).
- Culture in the Counties – Rabbit Run Theater
- Community Outreach – Lake Historical Society
- Policy & By Laws, Sustainers, and General meeting structure – Children's Schoolhouse Nature Park
- Ways & Means and Community Research – LakeTran

We formally wrapped up the year with the dinner from the Sustainers at Jill Gibson's house. The Provisionals completed their year-end test and received lovely pink pashminas. This group of Provisionals were so involved, many were friends before joining WRJSL, and Rebecca Schenk hosted a Galentine's party for the group at her house. Food, games and a craft project were done.

The Provisionals picked Project Hope as their Service Project, and they not only cooked and served a meal but also collected needed food and other items for the Project Hope Food Pantry. They also did a mini volunteer activity at Cleveland Food Bank. We are very proud that these women are living the "Service" part of WRJSL.

Thank you so much to the dedicated committee for the Provisional class of 2024-25. We could not have done it without your involvement and encouragement.

Class of 2024-25

Becca (Rebecca) Rice, Joyce Wittman, Vanessa Majewski, Dorie Carlisle, Emily Gilliam, Tara Baumgertner, Stephanie DiLiberto, Rebecca Schenk, Amanda Prosser



PR/Social Media

Cara Mia Duncan & Juliana Petti

Public Relations/Social Media continued the year with the social media plan that included leveraging visibility with the #WeareWRJSL hashtag campaign that began in the 2023-2024 year. We have continued to see additional engagement with posts that feature community partnerships which has led to over 50,000 views of our Facebook posts between 8/1/2024 and 6/1/2025

Specific Facebook posting growth achieved within the same timeframe:

48.7% increase in reach from posts

31.3% increase in content interactions

14.3% increase in visits

Leveraging the growth of Facebook, posts became more active on LinkedIn with a target of growth from a different audience of WRJSL.

Additional posts were created to highlight special recognition of members as well as events such as Admissions Open House, Community Service Projects, Endowment Raffle, Grant Cycle and LEAF Scholarship.

The WRJSL Mailchimp continued to impact our audience via email.

In print, Christine Price wrote articles for the Lake County Gazette featuring the Candlelight Gala and Bubbly Brunch.

The website was maintained by Becky Tuma and then Carrie Lane. There have been committee meetings regarding website updates with more to follow for the 25/26 year.



Ways & Means

Pam Fraser & Ali Wilson

The Ways and Means committee had a productive year with one main fundraiser, the inaugural “Bubbly Brunch.”

The Brunch was held in the spring, Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Stonewater Golf Club. The chairs for the event were Mary Jo Miller and Maureen Dolan.

The previous year Ways & Means committee polled the membership, and they voted to do only one fundraiser for the 2024-2025 year, so we did not have the Gala this past year. We only had the Spring fundraiser. Originally, the membership voted to host a Night at the Races. However, when the Ways & Means committee met in the early fall, the committee recommended we try a different event, and not do the NATR as originally planned. This determination was based on the amount of work it took to do the NATR the previous year and additionally it did not raise the amount of money hoped for. The committee brainstormed, proposed the “Bubbly Brunch” idea and had the board and general membership vote for the change of event. The membership approved and planning began.

Later in the Spring we polled the membership again to get their inputs on fundraisers for 2025-2026 year. The membership was split on 1 vs 2 fundraisers, and the majority did want to have the Gala again for the 2025-2026 year, and preference of time of year for the Gala was late fall (before holiday season). We mentioned this would require members working together in the summer to make a late fall event a success and it didn’t give a lot of extra time for planning. Pam Morse was the only member polled that was interested in chairing. The polling also showed that we don’t have a lot of members who are interested in chairing fundraising events. Something to discuss for future Ways and Means committee – how can we engage and encourage members to chair fundraising events?

In the polling, some other fundraising events ideas that the members liked were: Night at the Races, Brunch Events, Gala, Comedy Night, Red Stocking Raffle, Flower sale, Progressive Dinner Garden Party, Cocktail party, Pickleball, 5k run, Chef event, Game Show Night, Casino Night, Purse Swap, Trivia Night. Based on the polling, we recommended for membership vote to host the Gala in the fall of 2025 and revisit the second fundraiser in the early fall to potentially plan a Spring event. At the time of voting, we did not know the outcome of Bubbly Brunch and how successful it would be. The members voted in favor of the Fall Gala and to revisit the conversation of a second fundraiser in the fall of 2025.



Sustainer Trustees

Pam Martin, Mary Jo Miller, Chris Price

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINER ADVISORS FOR THIS YEAR:

Connie Irvin, Michelle Stainaker, Sue Ellis, Donna Skufca, Carrie Lane, Diana Yount, Ame West, Stephanie Lee, Grace Andrassy, Lynn Killgore, Judy Armington, Becky Tuma, Robin Baum and Kathie Hannibal. We truly appreciate all they do for WRJSL!

OUR GREETERS WERE GREAT:

Marlene Castilyn, Carrie Lane, Kathie Hannibal, Donna Skufca, Grace Andrassy, Ame West, Bev Lee, Diana McCubbin, Robin Baum, Mary Jo Miller, and Stephanie Lee.

We truly appreciate all they do for WRJSL!

SUSTAINER PARTICIPATION:

Surveys were sent to all Transitional and Sustaining members to get feedback and suggestions. The surveys were used for planning as well as for data to help in decision making for our organization.

President Pam Morse approved our request for a Sustainer Ad Hoc committee. The meeting will be held in June with the purpose of obtaining important in-put from Sustainers as we work to continue the mission of WRJSL.

FALL SUSTAINER EVENT:

The delightful dinner held at Julia's 1902 Restaurant was attended by 22 Sustainers. We had members from the beginning of WRJSL there! It was wonderful to reconnect and reminisce. We also talked about our future as an important organization in our community.

BUBBLY BRUNCH:

We can always count on our Sustainers to attend and contribute to our fundraisers. They donated \$770.00 and many were in attendance to enjoy the speaker, the brunch and the camaraderie in the beautiful setting of StoneWater Golf Club. Shout out to our Sustainer Mary Jo Miller who co-chaired the event and Kathie Hannibal who served as Sustainer Advisor for the event. We were all thrilled when she won the necklace!

SPRING SUSTAINER EVENT:

Unfortunately, the event was cancelled this year. We look forward to next spring when we will certainly plan another fun fling!

MAY DINNER:

On May 15, 2025, we celebrated the Wonder Women of WRJSL! Sue Ellis and Pat Dean were recognized and honored as Charter Members. Sixty-two members, including 10 of the 11 new Provisionals and 10 of the 11 new Actives, enjoyed an evening of celebration at the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club. It was truly a wonderful event where we celebrated past, present and future members and all we do for each other and our community.



President

Pam Morse

The Western Reserve Junior Service League (WRJSL) had a productive year in 2024-2025, continuing its mission to enrich the community through volunteer service and financial support. Here are some key highlights from our year:

Key Activities & Achievements

- Fundraising Success:
 - Hosting the new Spring Bubbly Brunch event with 164 registered guests and more than 36 sponsors, raffle donors and supporters.
 - 2 successful grant cycles that gave more than \$33,000 in community grants and continue to maintain a strong commitment to community funding.
- Volunteer Contributions:
 - Members contributed over 2,600 hours of volunteer services to various organizations and events.
- Grant Program & Scholarships:
 - Our April meeting we hosted our 2024-2025 grant recipients. Encouraging connections, friendships and volunteering
 - Scholarships were awarded to women returning to higher education and to the Lake County Leadership program for one of our members Deanna Cumberland

Partnerships & Collaborations

- Local nonprofits partnered with WRJSL for volunteer hours, board memberships, talent resources, and event support.
- WRJSL and the Cleveland Foundation hosted an Endowment Tea, discussing the strength of the WRJSL Heritage Endowment, benevolent giving and building the corpus of the fund.



President - Continued

Pam Morse

Challenges & Areas for Improvement

- Membership Growth:
 - While WRJSL has a dedicated core group, increasing membership remains a priority.
 - Spring 2025 sees the induction of 9 the 2024 Provisionals with 11 incoming for 2025-2026.
 -
- Priority Action Plan:
 - Strengthening relationships with funders.
 - Improving mentoring programs and communications to our tri-county service area.
 - Enhancing community visibility and networking.

Goals for 2025

- Expand Community Outreach:
 - Increase the number of service projects and volunteer hours.
- Enhance WRJSL Member Experience:
 - Educational programs, spirit wear offerings, and networking opportunities.
 - Warm and fuzzy feelings for our sustainers as we sent them Thanksgivings cards and Happy Spring cards.
 - Increase our community grant outreach to new and small 501C-3's
- Strengthening Partnerships:
 - Build stronger relationships with local organizations and businesses.

WRJSL remains committed to making a lasting impact in the community and looks forward to an even more successful 2025-2026!

As I finish my term as the 31st President, I am honored to have been surrounded by the sustainers, actives, transitionals and provisional women of WRJSL. As you step into your next chapter, I hope you take pride in the progress made, the lives touched, and the legacy you've built. All of you truly embody the spirit of a Wonder Woman!

