



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ALBANY

Women building better communities®

March General Membership Meeting
Albany Public Library, 331 Delaware Ave Albany NY 12209
March 12, 2013

In attendance: Dafney Amilcar Rodriguez, Kate Barry, Jennifer Bryant, Jennifer Carraher, Andrea Cass, Brooke Chaffee Zayas, Karen Clark, Cristina Commisso, Carly Connors, Caitlin Cooper, Tara Cristalli, Lisa Cronlund, Carolyn Daggett, Felice Devine, Sandra Doellefeld, Maggie Dunham, Bridget Graber, Michele Gruber, Evelyn Hickok, Julia Holmes, Meghan Keating, Megan Kelly, Natalia Kokalj, Kirsten Kropp, Sharon Lastique, Christen Mayer, Michele Melton, Gretchen Meyer, Mandy Nordstrom, Brianna Olsen, Lorayne Pescatore, Kelcie Racino, Sara Regan, Lakisha Rich, Lynn Roberts, Ginny Rosborough, Suzy Shad, Naomi Shencavitz, Eileen Smith, Lea Ermides Stevens, Taryn Webster, Provisionals: Cate Clark, Vicki Creteur, Kate Howard, Emily Juda, Caitlin Monjeau

I. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Sandra Doellefeld called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

A. There are no additions or changes.

III. Approval of January General Membership Meeting Minutes*

A. **Megan Kelly made a motion to approve the January General Membership Meeting Minutes, Evelyn Hickok seconded, all approve. Motion approved.***

IV. Reports

A. President

1. The American Girl Fashion Show went great this past weekend and next year's show will be held on March 8, 2014.

B. President-Elect

1. Nothing to report.

C. Slate and Dues Vote*

1. 2013-2014 Slate*

President: Lisa Cronlund

President Elect: Kirsten Kropp

President Elect Elect: Sara Regan

Secretary: Tara Cristalli

Treasurer: Bridget Graber

Communications VP: Sara Regan

Community Council VP: Ginny Rosborough

Finance VP: Caitlin Cooper

Nominating VP:

Membership VP: Taryn Davila-Webster

2. Dues Increase*

- a) **The Board would like to propose that dues be increased to \$110 for Actives, \$90 for Sustainers and \$50 for LOA. AJLI has increased the member dues by \$8, the remaining \$2 will go to JLA.**

3. The slate and an increase in dues were presented to the membership for a vote via ballot. Both the slate and the increase in dues were approved unanimously by the membership.*

D. Secretary

1. Nothing to report.

E. Board Training Wrap-up

1. Four board members attended a training coordinated by JL Hartford with an AJLI speaker on community impact. The emphasis of the training was to decide on issue areas the League cares about (such as literacy and school preparedness) and then develop projects within those issue areas, but always keeping in mind that the League is bigger than one project and does more in the community than one project. Members need to be reminded of the League's larger mission. The other part of community impact that is so important is collaborating with other organizations in the community that share our issue areas and for those organizations to know the JL is an organization they can turn to for help.

F. Treasurer

1. American Girl

- a) Please submit any American Girl reimbursements to Caitlin Cooper, so that she can make the final calculation of how much the Fashion Show made this year.

2. Dues

- a) Dues will be \$110 for actives for the 2013-2014 League Year.
- b) There will be an option to pay dues through the website this year, but there is an additional finance fee since PayPal charges a fee.
- c) If anyone would like to donate to the dues scholarship or would like to confidentially apply for the dues scholarship, please contact Caitlin Cooper.

G. IL Extension Questions/Vote*

1. Facts about Imagination Library:

- a) The JLA has already spent \$69,000 on Imagination Library.
 - (1) This project has been primarily self-funded; we have not had many sponsors.
- b) We have delivered 35,000 books to children signed up.

2. Sustainers

- a) The sustainers have recommended ending IL.

3. What happens next?

- a) If IL ends in May 2013, we will take some time (2-3 years) to do a needs-based assessment of the community to aid in deciding what our next signature project will be.

4. The Vote

- a) We need 2/3 of the present, active voting members to choose to continue funding IL past May 31, 2013 or not to extend.
- b) The vote will be broken down into three parts (if necessary to vote beyond the first choice of extend/do not extend); ballots will read as follows:
 - (1) "Continue funding IL past May 31, 2013" or "Not extend IL past May 31, 2013."
 - (2) If the decision is to continue funding IL past May 31, 2013, members will then vote via ballot on whether to "Continue 'as-is'--Continue funding all enrolled through age 5 at a cost of \$68,150 (through 2018)" or "Continue IL in a modified form."
 - (3) If the decision is to continue IL in a modified form, members will then vote via ballot to choose one of the modified IL options:
 - (a) "One Year for All"
 - (b) "One Year for All + Need-Based for 2 Years Enrolled"
 - (c) "City of Albany 2 Years Enrolled"
- c) **Extend/Do Not Extend Vote #1***
 - (1) **There were 41 votes cast. 27 votes are needed for 2/3 approval. 15 votes for "not extend"; 26 votes for "continue funding." Did not reach 2/3, so we will need to vote again.**
- d) **Extend/Do Not Extend Vote #2***
 - (1) **There were 41 votes cast. 27 votes are needed for 2/3 approval. 15 votes for "not extend;" 26 votes for "continue funding." Did not reach 2/3, so we will need to vote again.**
- e) Discussion:
 - (1) Felice Devine stated that according to the bylaws, if a project doesn't attain 2/3 approval, that means the vote is over and the project doesn't pass.
 - (2) Several members expressed shock, disbelief, disgust.
 - (3) Board members explained that that is not how they interpreted the bylaws; the Board believed that the members needed to reach a 2/3 decision either way. This is how the vote was explained to the membership.
 - (4) There was discussion about whether under the bylaws this is a vote to "approve a new project" or "another matter." No consensus reached on this matter.
 - (5) There was discussion that nobody was aware that the voting would end if the first vote did not affirmatively reach 2/3 approval and members thought it was unfair to not have notice of the correct rules before the vote.
- f) **Motion to re-vote***
 - (1) **Evelyn Hickok made a motion to take a re-vote on the original matter of whether to extend or not to extend Imagination Library, Brooke Chaffee-Zayas seconded. Majority approved, motion approved.***
- g) **Extend/Do Not Extend Vote #3***

(1) There were 38 votes cast (3 members left). 25 votes are needed for 2/3 approval.

(2) While the votes were being counted, there was a discussion regarding consulting with an attorney for clarification concerning the Board's understanding of the Bylaws provision governing Project Approval. Lisa Cronlund suggested that we continue going through the voting process in order to reach a decision regarding the Project pending advice from an attorney.

(3) 13 votes for "not extend;" 25 votes for "continue funding." The vote to continue funding IL passed with 2/3 approval.

(a) Vote to continue IL "as is" or continue in a modified form.*

(i) There were 38 votes cast. 25 votes are needed for 2/3 approval. 32 votes to continue IL in a modified form; 6 votes to continue IL "as is." The vote to continue IL in a modified form passed with 2/3 approval.

(b) Vote to continue IL in a modified form options: "One Year for All," "One Year for All + Need-Based 2 Years Enrolled," or "City of Albany 2 Years Enrolled."*

(i) There were 37 votes cast (1 ballot had to be discarded because someone voted for two options). With 16 votes, "One Year for All" was the option with the most votes.

H. Communications

1. The Facebook ad for the American Girl Fashion Show reached 9,000 people in one week. Facebook would be a good way in general to reach people for JLA events, etc.
2. Working on recruiting efforts.

I. Community VP

1. American Girl in the Community
 - a) After seeing an article about a library in New York City that loans out an American Girl Doll, the board decided to purchase 3 historical American Girl Dolls and 6 sets of books to donate to three libraries in the city of Albany: Arbor Hill, Howe, and Delaware.
2. DIADs
 - a) Grace's Closet
 - (1) Grace's Closet was very appreciative for our DIAD held there and another DIAD will be scheduled there in April.
 - b) Cinderella Project
 - (1) The Cinderella Project will be held on April 14th. This DIAD involves being personal shoppers to help young women shop for prom dresses.

J. Finance / Fund Development VP

1. Grants
 - a) The Grants Committee has applied for grants from Build a Bear and Stewarts, will be applying for grants from Target and Sefcu.
 - b) There has been a suggestion to have a larger grants committee.

2. American Girl Wrap-up

- a) American Girl was very successful and sold out 2 of the 3 shows.
- b) Thank you so much to the American Girl Committee for your hard work all year!

3. Mother's Day Project

- a) The recipient of donations for the Mother's Day Project this year will be Jazzy Sun.

K. Membership VP

- 1. May Dinner Meeting, 5/14 Albany Country Club, \$30

L. Nominating and Placement VP

1. Check Closerware!

- a) Please log in to Closerware to make sure you are up to date on your league requirements, but keep in mind that American Girl is not updated yet.
- b) Email Brianna Olsen if you have any questions.

2. Placement Fair

- a) At the Placement Fair, committee chairs will give an overview of their role, time commitments, etc.

V. Adjournment

- A. Lisa Cronlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, Caitlin Cooper seconded. No objections.

*Denotes Voting Issue

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Rosborough, Recording Secretary