



## **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ALBANY**

*Women building better communities®*

### February Sectional Meetings Various Locations / Times

#### **Evelyn's Home**

February 7, 2013

In attendance: Evelyn Hickok, Jennifer Carraher, Brooke Chaffee-Zayas, Tara Cristalli, Kim Bryden, Vicky Creteur, and Casey DiPaola

#### **I. Call the Meeting to Order**

- a. Called the meeting to order at 7:55pm

#### **II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

- a. update regarding Transfers
  - i. Evelyn informed the group that she had discussed the concerns of some of the new transfers with the board at the February 5th, 2013. She informed the group that the PE would be designated as a point person to reach out to new transfers. She also explained that we did not have a membership vp until a couple of months ago and that affected some of the things we have implemented in the past, including welcoming of new actives and transfers. She also mentioned that she had told the board that Brooke Chaffee-Zayas would be a great resource to tap into regarding membership.

#### **III. Membership Requirement Checkup**

- a. Evelyn explained that certain requirements are based on numbers of active years with the league and suggested that all active members present at the sectional check the Redbook section on our website.

#### **IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events**

- a. The consensus was to keep the holiday party at the Fort Orange Club and to also have "sectional" type gatherings in the fall to give members the opportunity to meet other members in a smaller, more intimate environment.

#### **V. March Voting Meeting Reminder**

- a. Dues increase
  - i. Dues Increase was discussed. Evelyn explained that we have not had a dues increase in several years and that AJLI suggests dues be increased every year. She also explained that \$8 of the dues increase will cover the AJLI dues increase and the other \$2 will go to our League.
- b. Imagination Library Extension
  - i. Imagination Library Vote was also discussed. Evelyn reminded everyone that you cannot vote by absentee ballot for this and that in order for us to have a quorum we need 2/3 of the active voting membership. She stressed that it is important to be

there in order to have your voice heard. Provisionals expressed concern that they are using personal contacts to fundraise, as well as holding an event for, a project we may not be involved in past May. Evelyn said she would reach out to the board regarding this concern.

c. 2013-2014 Slate

- i. Evelyn mentioned that this is the other item we will be voting on at the March GMM.

VI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Evelyn Hickok  
Finance VP

**Lisa's Home**

February 7, 2013

In attendance: Lisa Cronlund, Felice Devine, Bridget Graber, Michele Gruber, Kelly Haseotes, Brianna (Wattie) Olsen, Lynn Roberts, Lea (Ermides) Stevens, Kara Tubbs

I. Call the Meeting to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- a. Added communication.

III. Membership Requirement Checkup

- a. Members were encouraged to log onto Closerware to make sure their requirements are up to date. Computer was circulated at meeting for members to do the same while there.

IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events

- a. Discussion was had about changing the holiday party this year. Ideas included having it at a swanky bar, having a Sectionals type event, or having a league member host the party. The hope is to increase the attendance of active league members. As for other social events, attending members were interested in Paint and Sip in Saratoga.

V. Communication

- a. Members were asked about how they preferred to receive information regarding Done in a Days and social events. Consensus was email and the calendar in Closerware. However, issue was raised that the calendar isn't always up to date. Recommended updating it to reflect all events.

VI. March Voting Meeting Reminder: Members were reminded that the March meeting is mandatory and that several matters would be voted on: the 2013-2014 Slate, dues increase, and whether to continue with Dolly's Imagination Library (and if so, to what degree) or end it as of May 2013.

- a. Dues increase
- b. Imagination Library Extension
- c. 2013 -2014 Slate

VII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lea (Ermides) Stevens

## **Kate's Home**

February 13, 2013

In attendance: Kate Barry, Kristen Mayer, Dafney Amilcar-Rodriguez, Lakisha Rich, Colleen Corcoran, Sharon Lastique, Kirsten Kropp, Michele Melton

### **I. Call the Meeting to Order**

- a. Kirsten Kropp called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

### **II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

- a. Add discussion of upcoming DIADs and American Girl Fashion Show.

### **III. Membership Requirement Checkup**

- a. All members are strongly encouraged to login to Closerware to make sure their requirements tracking is up to date and to make sure they are on track for meeting requirements.
- b. GMM training proposal for next year- instead of a training segment at each meeting, plan for only two more in depth training offerings, attendance at one being required. This will help shorten GMM time. This idea was discussed and was very well received by the attendees. It was mentioned that shorter meeting time could mean that many committees could hold their meetings right after and still get everybody home at a reasonable time.

### **IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events**

- a. Holiday party proposal for next year- Instead of a formal gathering, it was proposed to hold Sectionals in December- many smaller, less formal gatherings in somebody's home. Most everybody responded positively to this, because the austerity of past holiday parties turned away some members, and it is expensive. Many felt the new idea was a great way to get to know more people better.

### **V. March Voting Meeting Reminder: Please remember it is a mandatory meeting--you must attend or cast your slate vote via absentee ballot.**

- a. Dues increase
  - i. Dues are increasing because AJLI dues are increasing by \$8, so Board is proposing to raise dues to \$110/year. Even if the vote does not pass, dues will increase to \$108 to stay compliant with AJLI.
- b. Imagination Library Extension
  - i. Final decision must achieve a 2/3 majority vote (and this cannot be voted on via absentee ballot- you must be present to be able to vote on this). While JLA has the funds to continue the program, the question is whether our money can be better invested in the community via other projects. There are no new projects currently scheduled.

#### **1. This is a three part vote:**

- a. 1st vote is whether to Extend DIL or Not to Extend DIL

- b. 2nd vote is if YES to Extend DIL, then whether to Continue the Program As Is or Extend the Program with Modifications.
  - c. If YES to Extend the Program with Modifications, then membership must choose the method by which to extend the program (refer to the handout in the email blast for analysis of these options).
- c. 2013-2014 Slate
  - i. It was noted that not all members in the room received the slate email.

## VI. DIAD

- a. Three upcoming DIADs:
  - i. Grace's Closet in Mechanicville- 2/23 (donates house wares, clothing to families who lost their homes due to fire).
  - ii. Read Across America- Colonie Center 3/1
  - iii. Rescue Mission Dinner, Albany 3/1

## VII. American Girl

- a. The show is March 9. Please sign up for your shift if you haven't already done so (participation is mandatory). If you plan to donate a raffle basket, please advise the raffle coordinators Brooke Chaffee Zayas and Julia Hormes as quickly as possible. All donations are needed in hand by the end of the month so they can be organized and wrapped.
  - i. Kristen Mayer will donate a basket
  - ii. Sharon Lastique will donate two baskets
  - iii. Kate Barry is donating potential grand raffle items
  - iv. Dafney Amilcar-Rodriguez will donate a basket
  - v. Lakisha Rich is donating a basket (Pampered Chef)
- b. Other fundraising ideas to broaden the League's base, since AG costs a lot of money and consumes a lot of time to prepare:
  - i. Touch a Truck- get local emergency rescue houses to bring in fire trucks, police cars, etc. for families to be able to view and sit in. Would open us up for more publicity, and be far less expensive for the public to attend than AG.
  - ii. Rummage Sale- potential issues with finding storage space, and then a venue with accessibility, good parking, some shelter, that is still affordable.
  - iii. It was recommended that future AG be held at Wolford's Roost CC since Albany CC can no longer be our venue.

## VIII. Adjournment

- a. At 8:30 pm Michele Melton motioned to adjourn, Kirsten Kropp seconded. No objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Melton

**Naomi's Home**

February 20, 2013

In attendance: Meghan Keating, Caitlin Monjeau, Sara Regan, Ginny Rosborough, Naomi Shencavitz

I. Call the Meeting to Order

- a. Ginny Rosborough called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- a. Adding American Girl and Community discussion.

III. Membership Requirement Checkup

- a. The members were encouraged to go on the website to check if they are on track for completing their membership requirements and if there are any discrepancies, please contact Brianna Olsen and Lea Ermides.

IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events

a. Holiday Party

- i. A few members at this meeting were at the Holiday Party this past December and the feelings about the Party were mixed. One member thought that the price was fine, but there should have been more drinks and less food. She thought that an ideal holiday party would include open bar, light appetizers and be at a place that would feel younger and posher. Another member likes the party at the Fort Orange Club. Everyone was in agreement that they like the Holiday Party out because it gives them a chance to dress up, rather than as a sectionals type party in homes.

b. Social Events

- i. The members were in agreement that they would like to see more social events planned. People liked the idea of a sectionals type gathering in the fall. Sara Regan discussed some ideas from her former leagues, like a sunshine committee that found out about important events happening in members' lives and then celebrating those events at general membership meetings. Consensus was that everyone would like to see something like that in the JLA and it would help members get to know one another much better.

- ii. Idea to tie in recruiting to social events, "bring a friend."

V. Community

- a. Several members would like to see further advance planning on the website calendar for Done in a Days, meetings, etc.

b. Done in a Day Ideas

- i. Everyone loved the idea of holding a Kids in the Kitchen event.
- ii. Partnering more frequently with community organizations we have worked closely with in the past, such as Ronald McDonald House.
- iii. Inviting the JL Troy to go to a DIAD with us, for example at the Unity House.
- iv. More outdoor/active type DIADs.

c. Collaborating with community organizations

- i. Sara Regan discussed an idea where the President of a JL gathered together several community leaders to sit down and talk over bagels. The JL would get ideas for ways they could help in the community as well as connect the other organizations with each other to help if the JL could not.

VI. March Voting Meeting Reminder

a. Dues increase

- i. There was discussion about raising the active dues to \$110 total because of the AJLI dues increase. Everyone on board with the increase.

b. Imagination Library Extension

- i. Sara Regan explained how the voting would proceed in phases at the meeting.
- ii. There was a lot of discussion about Imagination Library and how many members and provisionals feel very strongly about honoring the commitment we made to the children who are signed up.

- iii. Members noted that they feel Imagination Library has had problems from the outset and that hopefully the League will learn from this situation when selecting future projects.
  - c. 2013-2014 Slate
    - i. All members in attendance received the slate.
- VII. American Girl
  - a. It was noted that the Provisionals do not know much about American Girl other than it is the League's largest fundraiser, what they are expected to do, or what they should wear, so Ginny Rosborough spoke a little about the fashion show in general, the types of roles members are assigned to at the show, and what to wear.
- VIII. Adjournment
  - a. At 8:52 pm Meghan Keating made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ginny Rosborough seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Rosborough, Recording Secretary

### **Julia's Home**

In attendance: Kelcie Racino, Jennifer Bryant, Karen Clark, Julia Hormes, Christina Commisso, Andrea Cass, Sandy Doellefeld, Gretchen Wilber, Barbara Graffiti, Sarah O'Brien

- I. Call the Meeting to Order
  - a. Sandy called meeting to order 7:45 pm.
- II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda
  - a. Adding Provisionals.
- III. Membership Requirement Checkup
  - a. Sandy asked everyone to Log into Closerware to check requirements.
- IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events
  - a. Holiday party thinking of switching to something more holiday sectionals.
    - i. Sustainers may take over the holiday party.
    - ii. Ideas:
      - 1. A cookie exchange.
      - 2. Need vegetarian selections.
      - 3. Maybe do a Secret Santa.
- V. March Voting Meeting Reminder: March meeting mandatory
  - a. Dues increase
    - i. There will be a vote to increase dues to \$110.
  - b. Imagination Library Extension
    - i. Voting on imagination library in phases.
    - ii. Must be present to vote.
  - c. 2013-2014 Slate
    - i. Members may vote on the slate via absentee ballot.
    - ii. The budget will be at April meeting since the budget will depend on the IL vote.

## VI. Provisionals

- a. Provisional happy hour raised \$600.
- b. Upcoming Read Across America at Colonie center.
- c. There will be an Italian dinner on April 20th at Delmar reformed church with silent auction.

## VII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Clark

## **Maggie's Home**

February 20, 2013

In attendance: Maggie Dunham, Caitlin Cooper, Suzy Shad and Anne Stockrow

### I. Call the Meeting to Order

- a. Maggie Dunham made a motion to call the meeting to order at 8 pm, Anne Stockrow seconded.

### II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- a. None.

### III. Membership Requirement Checkup

- a. Everyone is aware of how to log in to Closerware to check their progress.
- b. Suzy Shad was wondering if requirements are prorated for midyear transfers? Will her requirement credits from her old league transfer? She mentioned having completed all of her community credits.
- c. Comments that speakers from the venue (ie: the woman from Whitney Young Health Center) is not easily recognizable as a training opportunity.
- d. Suggestions from Suzy (based on her experience in her old league):
  - i. Separate training requirement – a clear expectation like we have for community and financial credits.
  - ii. Offer “Trainapalooza” options (for example, the 2 “meaty” trainings that last about 4 hours or so that the board has discussed).
  - iii. Include trainings required by a person’s work into their training requirements.
  - iv. JLA University
  - v. Separate training committee that identifies mini-training opportunities that can be offered before or after a GMM.

### IV. 2013 Holiday Party / Social Events

- a. Those present at the meeting do like the idea of having the Holiday Party at the Fort Orange Club because they enjoy dressing up and having an evening out.
  - i. Suggestion: themed parties (ie. Casino Night, Après Ski, Masquerade).
- b. Caitlin Cooper suggested having a Fall Open House in order to have a little more intimate and casual gathering at the beginning of the year to get people excited about the new league year.

- c. Those present would like more opportunity for camaraderie, get as excited for social events as we do for American Girl. They would like more opportunities to invite significant others, friends and family to events (like the provisional happy hour at Junior's).
  - i. An annual teambuilding exercise was suggested.
- d. In order to retain members, offer many surveys and/or "touch bases" with members to get a feel for what is working/fulfilling for members and what might not be working for us in terms of member engagement.

#### V. March Voting Meeting Reminder

- a. Dues increase
  - i. All present were fine with the increase and understand the vote.
- b. Imagination Library Extension
  - i. Discussion of finances and how we came to this turning point with the project.
  - ii. General understanding/consensus that the project has run its course however there is a strong commitment to literacy and building/discovering new projects to achieve our goal of improving literacy/school readiness in Albany.
  - iii. The group would like to investigate starting up a library program (perhaps in collaboration with Equinox, Boys and Girls Club and/or the Albany Public Libraries).
  - iv. The group believes it may be a good idea to take a few years off from having a signature project in order to really hone in on our overall community goal and find a project with more measurable/tangible results.
- c. 2013-2014 Slate
  - i. All present understood the slate and were ready to vote.

#### VI. Adjournment

- a. Maggie Dunham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm, Suzy Shad seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caitlin Cooper, Treasurer