

# CauseWay





# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

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## MISSION

The Junior League of St. Petersburg is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

## VISION

Training women to transform our community.

## IMPACT

The Junior League of St. Petersburg, Inc. has been a driving force in St. Petersburg since 1931. Our community focus area is School Success and Health, which includes healthcare, nutrition, and literacy. We impact these areas through our community projects, financial support, and hundreds of volunteer hours, in an effort to fulfill our mission of improving the community through effective action and leadership.

## COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

## VALUES

- Volunteer: The vehicle in which we train and transform our members
- Empower: Training our members to be leaders
- Educate: Promoting our mission through community and league involvement
- Advocate: Together with our partners, support and promote those in need
- Serve: Build better communities

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear League Members,

As I sit down to write this letter I am in the very last days of my third pregnancy, and this is one of the very last things to check off my “to-do” list before the baby arrives. While contemplating the first quarter of our League Year, I can’t help but compare it to pregnancy and the birthing process. Similar to pregnancy, you go through all of the emotions at first. You are excited, you are nervous, you feel unequipped and ill-prepared for the job set before you, you have doubts about your capabilities, and you are nervous!

BUT, you have an entire year to prepare for the job (sound familiar?) Thankfully, this last year has consisted of learning the job, being trained, planning for the year ahead, and becoming mentally ready to lead the League. The last quarter of your President-Elect Year is uncannily similar to your last trimester of pregnancy. All of the planning and preparing you have done in the last year, and especially the last few months, are about to come to a head. You are about to begin a new journey as you birth your “baby” and then watch it grow over the next year, getting excited for every milestone hit and celebrating even the smallest of accomplishments.

I now find myself in the “infancy” stages of my presidency. I am beginning to see the fruits of my labor. All of my hard work and planning is beginning to pay off and it is exciting! While I still have an entire year to celebrate each accomplishment and each milestone, I am savoring these first few months and the opportunity to connect with our members and get to know YOU!

The overall theme for this year is “Your Voice Matters.” I want each member to know her voice matters; it matters to me, it matters to the League, it matters to the community, it matters in each and every circle you travel in, it matters in your homes and with your family, friends, and spheres of influence. I hope the work you do in the League empowers you to use your voice to be an advocate for yourself, for the League, and for those around you. I hope you find value in yourself and in the work you do in the League!

Our goal this year is to have a more member-centric focus in all we do, from our communication to our events, and everything in between. We will be present at events to offer our support, both psychically and emotionally. We are here for YOU, to cheer YOU on, to encourage YOU, and to support YOU! Just like I plan on celebrating every little milestone that my baby girl accomplishes this year, I also plan on celebrating every little milestone that YOU, our membership, accomplish this year-whether big or small! Not only is the milestone worth celebrating, but YOU are worth celebrating! I am looking forward to cheering you on this year and making sure you know, Your Voice Matters!

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lauren S. Feaster". The script is cursive and elegant.

Lauren S. Feaster, President 2021-2022



# Hang Out With Us

Join the Executive Team for a monthly meetup



Happy Hour at Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe

This year, we want to make sure each and every one of our members has the opportunity to have their voices heard.

We will be having monthly meetups at some of our favorite local places and at different times of the day in order to ensure all members have the opportunity to attend.

**Don't miss out!**

CELEBRATING  
**90**  
YEARS



*Come Brunch with Us!*

Sunday, August 22nd

11:30AM

Doc Ford's: 610 2nd Ave NE

Please register via the JL calendar. Max. 25 people due to capacity!

**SIGN UP NOW**



# EVP REPORT

## FIRST QUARTER REFLECTIONS

Fellow Members,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 League Year!

This past year has been unprecedented and forced our League to get creative and adapt new ways of giving back to our community and staying connected. We have a lot to be proud of as a League – adjusting to a virtual environment, adapting new ways to pack snack packs, and reinventing our biggest community event, Care Fair, to meet the community needs. The list goes on and on.

Now, as we transition into a new League Year, I challenge you to reflect on why you joined the Junior League of St. Petersburg. Was it to meet other like-minded women? To get involved in transforming the community? Become a leader? Or maybe it was to develop new skills. I hope you focus on your 'why' this year as you get involved.

Each year the Management Team creates the Annual Plan, designing goals that serve to further the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is created by the Board of Directors every five years and provides guidance for setting goals at each level of membership. The purpose of the Annual Plan is to provide enough direction so that each Council and all Committees can develop objectives that will align to support the JLSP's goals and mission. This year the Annual Plan has three goals:

- Continue to enhance member engagement through trainings and social experiences
- Continue the creation and development of programs that promote health education and provide healthy food supplies
- Create and develop programs to promote literacy and provide books to children in need

You will hear the Management Team talk about the Annual Plan often as the committees begin working hard to plan trainings, meetings and events. There is a big emphasis on enhancing member engagement and we have great things lined up. Please be sure to continue to provide your feedback as we solicit in our member and our General Membership Meeting surveys. We also have awesome speakers lined up this Fall, so make sure you keep an eye out as you will not want to miss!

As for me, I look forward to building relationships with all of you. I look forward to volunteering and giving back to our favorite city we call home. I look forward to having meaningful conversations and participating in trainings. I look forward to having lots of FUN. I hope you'll join me!

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia McShea".

Alicia S. McShea, Executive Vice President 2021-2022





# President Elect Ad Hoc Report

By: Erin Gladysz, President Elect 2021-2022

## Governing Documents Ad Hoc

The Governing Documents Ad Hoc is getting ready for the 2021 – 2022 League year to ensure that our Charter, Bylaws and Policies are up to date, relevant and serving our League in the best possible way. The Ad Hoc will consider potential social, economic and environment changes that may impact our League and how it operates.

Changes to the Bylaws of note:

- There have been no changes to the Bylaws since previously reported in February 2021.

Changes to the Policies of note:

- In the Community Advisory section, we have renamed the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) and have refined the members expectations as community expert ambassadors, within varied fields, to advise the Junior League of St. Petersburg on how to serve our members and community in the most impactful manner possible and provide strategic feedback on planning for the future of our League. Please refer to the Community Advisory Council section of the Causeway for more exciting updates.

Our first Governing Documents Ad Hoc meeting of the League year will be held on August 18 at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to serve on the Governing Document Ad Hoc, please contact President-Elect, Erin Gladysz at [presidentelect@jlstpete.org](mailto:presidentelect@jlstpete.org).

## Headquarters' Strategy Ad Hoc

Many of you are familiar with our League headquarters at 500 Dr Martin Luther King Junior Street North in BayCare's St. Anthony's Resource Center. We have been the benefactors of St. Anthony's generous in-kind donation for our League's administrative headquarters space for more than 15 years!

Our lease with St. Anthony's will be ending in May 2022 and the Headquarters' Strategy Ad Hoc will consider the current and future space needs of the League and will explore potential options, including but not limited to, finding other organizations/properties that would be willing to donate administrative space for our League's use, remain in our current location and pay fair market value rent, identify other commercial locations for our League to rent and even consider purchasing a property.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to serve on the Headquarters' Strategy Ad Hoc, please contact President-Elect, Erin Gladysz at [presidentelect@jlstpete.org](mailto:presidentelect@jlstpete.org). Please refer to the League calendar for date, time, and location of our future monthly meetings.



# Ad Hoc Report

## Placement Matching Cohort Ad Hoc

Our current process for annual placement includes members completing a survey and our Management Team spending several hours (if not days) doing their best to align the League's needs with member preferences and experience.

With our recent implementation of our League platform to Member Essentials, it is now possible for our League to utilize the Placement Matching tool offered by The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). We are focused on providing members with productive development experiences that result in new tangible skills and the tool will allow members to provide input on selecting a placement that fits their schedule and meets their interests. She will choose her level of involvement from a menu of options based on her availability for the upcoming League year. She'll also identify the learning experiences she wants, and by sharing her skills and competencies, partake in a placement that is aligned with her goals. This could help evolve our placement process, which will create a more meaningful experience for each member and will deliver on our Mission, to develop you as civic leaders with the skills and competencies to improve your communities.

The end goal of this new approach will be three-fold; the focus on empowering civic leaders will help our League to amplify our member's voice in the community; our members will have a more meaningful experience in our Leagues; our League will become more sustainable with increasing membership numbers and higher retention rates.

The committee will determine if this is the right time for our League to adopt the new placement experience and, if so, will lead the efforts. Learn more about this at [https://www.ajli.org/?nd=placement\\_matching\\_landing](https://www.ajli.org/?nd=placement_matching_landing). Look for updates from the Ad Hoc in upcoming e-mail News Blasts and future Causeways!

If you have any questions or would like to serve on the Placement Matching Cohort Ad Hoc, please contact Executive Vice President-Elect, Amanda Griffin at [evpe@jlstpete.org](mailto:evpe@jlstpete.org) or Membership Vice President, Kelsey Nolan at [membershipvp@jlstpete.org](mailto:membershipvp@jlstpete.org). Please refer to the League calendar for date, time, and location of our future monthly meetings.





# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF **ST. PETERSBURG** 25TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL CARE FAIR



By: Gauri Sunkersett, Care Fair Co-Chair

The new year of 2021 held much promise for a bright future. After pivoting away from an in-person event last summer during the height of a global pandemic; we were thrilled to once again bring Care Fair back to Johnnie Ruth Clarke in celebration of its 25th anniversary. We safely incorporated the recommended COVID-19 CDC guidelines and hosted a fantastic event with several new and exciting features.

Our Care Fair event provided more than 150 pediatric medical wellness examinations along with over 60 dental screenings. Participants were also given the option of receiving a voucher to obtain these services at a later time. Additionally, we offered three different COVID-19 vaccinations that have been authorized by the FDA -- Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. Our Street Fair provided plenty of entertainment including Raymond our Tampa Bay Rays mascot, music by our DJ, crafts organized by Kids Create, story time with our Library Puppets, and free chapter books by our Literacy Committee. Guests were provided treats by way of Kona Ice along with healthy snack packs from Kids in the Kitchen. Our community was eager to participate as well as we saw the return of Great Explorations, the Fire Department, and so many more! We highlighted the importance of mental health awareness and featured a Behavioral Health specialist for the first time.

Additionally, our Agency Fair featured close to 25 different vendors to provide important information to our community in the areas of literacy, scholarship, energy efficiency, and health education resources. And last but certainly not least--1500 backpacks filled with essential age-appropriate school supplies were prepared for the event! We provided a 30% increase from last year due to all the generous donations we received leading up to our event. In addition to supplying all participants and volunteers with a backpack, we also distributed backpacks to the Boys and Girls Club, Clothes to Kids, Sandy Lake Elementary, Pinellas Park Middle School, Johns Hopkins Middle School, Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force, and a few other organizations in Pinellas County. We are so thrilled to be back in-person serving the community and cannot wait to plan additional events to support our Care Fair and JLSP mission!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**ST. PETERSBURG**  
25TH ANNUAL  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
CARE FAIR

THANK YOU TO ALL OF  
OUR AMAZING SPONSORS!



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## LAUREN FEASTER PRESIDENT



Lauren Feaster is a 9th generation Floridian. Originally from Lakeland, Fla., she moved to St. Petersburg six years ago when she and her husband, David, got married. She has two little boys, DP (4) and Winston (3), and a sweet baby girl, Evie (1 month).

Lauren graduated from Auburn University in 2008 and loves everything about SEC football! She has been a member of the Junior League for 12 years, serving on the Board of Directors for nine of them. She has served in both the Lakeland and St. Petersburg Leagues in various roles such as Communications VP, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Finance VP, and Recording Secretary. She is involved in the Patrick Brett Foundation and in previous years has served as their Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer. She is a graduate of Leadership Lakeland, served on the Campfire USA Board of Directors, the United Way Young Leaders Society founding member and the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce's Public Affairs Committee among others. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, baking, entertaining, working out, traveling near and far, and spending quality time with her family!

## ERIN GLADYSZ PRESIDENT-ELECT

Erin Gladysz was born and raised in Connecticut, graduating from the University of Connecticut with her Bachelor of Science in accounting. She started her voyage "south" by moving to New York City for two years and then spent eight years in Washington, DC. Erin now calls St. Petersburg home and has lived here since 2012. As a proud member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg since 2013, she has served in a variety of positions, including three years of serving on the JLSP Board of Directors - as the Assistant Treasurer for one year, and Treasurer for two years. In addition, Erin has served on the Nominating Committee, the Social Enrichment Committee, and the Kickball Tournament Committee. This year she is honored to serve as President-Elect of the JLSP and to continue the League's vision since 1931, training women to transform our community. Her previous volunteering includes serving as a Docent at the Smithsonian Institute and as a big sister with Big Brother Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.

Erin is a Director at Protiviti, a global consulting firm, where she advises companies on risk, compliance, and finance. At Protiviti, she serves as the Tampa office's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lead. Erin loves to spend time with her family and friends and you will often find her at the playground and splash park at the Pier, soccer practice, or out on the boat with her husband, Brian, and their son, Will.



## BRYNNE JOHNSON NOMINATING CHAIR



Brynne Johnson has been an active member of the Junior League for more than 18 years. Before moving to Florida, Brynne initially joined the New York Junior League when she relocated there after college. She was inspired by the Junior League's mission of empowering women but quickly found her true passion in service with hands-on volunteering that brought positive change to the community of which she was a part.

A little over nine years ago, Brynne joined the Junior League of St. Petersburg and during that time she has served as ODI Site Chair, Care Fair Co-Chair, Nominating Chair-Elect, Community Vice President, President-Elect, and President, along with numerous ad-hoc committees. This year she is thrilled to be serving as Nominating Chair alongside the JLSP Board of Directors.

Professionally, Brynne has been a designer with Herman Miller for the past 19 years; most recently in the role of Global Workplace Designer. She designs inspirational workplaces for major companies across the world that adapt to the new ways people work and experience environments. She has the passion and drive for creating spaces where both individuals and organizations can thrive. She partners with both clients and Architecture and Design firms to understand and translate their conceptual design ideas into tangible Herman Miller environments.

Brynne resides in St. Petersburg, Fla. with her husband Matt, eight-year-old son Tucker, and old cantankerous English Bulldog, Winston.

## MARY REED SUSTAINER DIRECTOR

Mary Reed is the Sustainer Director and has been a proud member of the Junior League for 18 years. Mary has served in a variety of roles in the Junior League of St. Petersburg, including President in 2016-2017, Nominating Chair, and Membership Development Chair. She is very excited about the opportunity to collaborate with our sustaining members to encourage engagement and further the mission of our League.

Mary completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas and made her way to Florida to attend the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College where she earned her MBA. Mary is originally from Topeka, Kansas, but loves to call sunny St. Petersburg home.

If she is not participating in a Junior League event, you will find Mary spending time out on the water with her husband Brian and two darling daughters, Madeline and Lauren.



## TIRRAH SWITZER AT LARGE DIRECTOR



Tirrah Switzer is the Senior Product Marketing Manager with Community Brands. In her role as Senior Product Marketing Manager, she is borderline obsessed with keeping up to date with industry trends and understanding the challenges associations face. She is the co-author of four research studies on member engagement and loyalty, association digital evolution trends, and a benchmark report on small-staff associations. Previously, Tirrah worked with several non-profit organizations in volunteer management, individual giving, and program development.

Tirrah has been a member of the Junior League for almost two decades - serving with the Junior League of Pensacola, Tampa, and St. Petersburg. She loves community and membership committees and this is her third time serving on the Board of Directors. She's also a mentor with Take Stock in Children, a member of the Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County Hammers and Heels Society, and is the chair of the small staff advisory committee with the American Society of Association Executives. She has also volunteered internationally with Habitat for Humanity and Cross Cultural Solutions in Malawi, Cambodia, and Ghana.

She graduated from the University of West Florida and received her graduate degree from Webster University. Tirrah is also a graduate of Leadership Pinellas and Leadership St. Petersburg.

## AIMEE JOPLING TREASURER

Aimee's provisional year with the Junior League of St. Petersburg began in May 2018. As a Florida native born in Winter Park, her family moved to the Tampa Bay area when she was three. During her provisional year in JLSP, she enjoyed meeting new friends and taking on a leadership role in the successful completion of their new member fundraising project with Girls, Inc.

During her first active year, she continued her leadership role as the Finance Community Delegate Chair and became the Interim Finance VP mid-way through the fiscal year. Over the past year, she was appointed Finance VP and looks forward to her upcoming Treasurer position.

After graduating from the University of Florida and the University of South Florida, she began her nursing career in cardiac ICU, cardiology, and renal transplant. Aimee has worked with the local organ procurement organization (OPO) as a vascular transplant coordinator and has expertise in renal transplant, heart failure/cardiac ventricular device research, and congenital heart registries with local Tampa Bay interventional congenital heart cath lab and EP cath labs.

She received her RYT 200-hour yoga certification as well as an additional 100-hour Kids yoga certification. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, running, yoga, cooking, baking, attending concerts, travel, volunteering and is a fur-mom to rescue pup, Roxie.



## SUMMER JENSON COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Summer grew up in Clearwater, Fla., and is a St. Petersburg High IB graduate. She earned a Masters in Health Sciences in Occupational Therapy from the University of Florida in 2002. In 2003, she married fellow Gator Alumni and architect, Jason Jensen, and moved home to St. Petersburg. They just celebrated 18 years of marriage and have three beautiful, energetic children (ages 15, 11, 6) who keep them laughing and passionate about making this community the best it can be for future generations. Looking for an opportunity for service and friendship, Summer joined the JLSP in 2009. Over the past 12 years with JLSP she has gained many wonderful friendships, experiences, memories, and learning opportunities. Summer has served in numerous roles within the League including Library puppets, Recording Secretary, New Member Class Advisor, Nominating, and President. She is very excited to rejoin the board and serve with this group of dynamic and dedicated leaders.

## WHITNEY GREEN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION DIRECTOR

Whitney Green is a native Floridian and moved to St. Petersburg nine years ago. She graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. in English in 2009, and from the Florida State University College of Law in 2012, where she met her husband, Henry. The couple relocated to St. Pete with their fur-babies and had their first human baby in April. Whitney practices as an Assistant State Attorney in Pinellas and Pasco counties, where she specializes in criminal post-conviction litigation.

She joined the League as a provisional member in 2018 and has since served as chair-elect and chair of the Public Affairs Committee. In addition to service with the League, she sits on the board of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers and volunteers as a student mentor with Lawyers for Literacy. In her free time, Whitney enjoys traveling, antique-hunting, reading, and checking out new restaurants.



## AJA HALL RECORDING SECRETARY



Aja Hall is a native of St. Petersburg and a graduate of the University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in Marketing. After graduation, she began her career in the insurance industry, leading her to her doing what most Floridians would never do, moving to Ohio. After living in Columbus, Ohio, Aja moved to Austin, Texas, and eventually found her way back home to St. Pete.

Aja is the VP of Operations with EG of Florida Insurance and Risk Management. She spends her days partnering with clients and advising them on the unique risks they face within Community Associations. She is a dynamic leader with more than 15 years in the insurance industry. She has earned her Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation and is well versed in both personal and commercial insurance.

Aja joined the Junior League in 2009 and in addition to various committee placements, has held numerous Chair positions. Her most recent placements include Production Chair and Provisional Development Co-Chair. She loves all that the League has to offer and has a passion for membership and growth within the League. Aja spends her free time with her super cute boyfriend, John, and dog, Lina. She also loves spending time with her family, any activity involving the water, watching documentaries, and exploring all the new places St. Pete has to offer.

# Management Team

## **Alicia McShea** Executive Vice President

Alicia McShea has been in the Junior League of St. Petersburg since 2015. She joined the league to get involved with the community and help make a difference. Alicia has served on the Community Outreach Committee, Kids Create Chair Elect, and most recently Community Vice President. She is excited to be serving as Executive Vice President this coming league year.

Alicia is originally from Pennsylvania where she attended Penn State University, majoring in Communications. She moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., after graduating in 2006. Professionally, she has worked at Franklin Templeton Investments for the last 14 years.

In her spare time, Alicia loves baking, going to the beach, and playing golf.



## **Amanda Griffin** Executive Vice President Elect

Amanda Griffin was born and raised in sunny St. Petersburg, Florida. Amanda is from a loud tight-knit family that includes three inseparable sisters. Amanda graduated from The Florida State University (go Noles!) where she received her Bachelors of Science in Family and Child Sciences. After college, she moved back to St. Petersburg and began working at the Children's Dream Fund. Starting from an Administrative Assistant position and working her way into the Executive Director role this May. Working for the Dream Fund has enriched Amanda's life and she feels fortunate to be able to create joyful moments for children battling serious illnesses.

Amanda has been a member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg since 2013. She joined the league to help make a difference in St. Petersburg and meet likeminded women. While serving on the membership council she fell in love with the leagues mission, specifically developing the potential of women.

In Amanda's free time you can find her working out, bopping around Downtown St. Pete with her boyfriend Josh, spending time with her family, drinking wine with friends, and traveling.

Amanda is SO EXCITED to be serving as the Executive Vice President Elect and can't wait to see the amazing work we accomplish in St. Petersburg together.



## **Keri Fabiano** Nominating Chair Elect

Keri has been an active member of JLSP since 2016. Keri moved to St. Petersburg in 2014 and joined JLSP to get involved in her new community, develop leadership skills and meet new friends along the way. After her Provisional year, Keri chaired the Merchandise Committee, where she provided new JLSP branded items such as shirts, hats and Tervis bottles to the membership. The following two years Keri was Chair-Elect and Co-Chair of the Provisional Development Committee. In 2020, Keri was a member of the Nominating Committee and was so inspired from the passion of the women who interviewed, she decided to commit the next two years to serve on the committee.

Keri is originally from Punta Gorda, Fla. She graduated from Florida State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Textiles and Consumer Sciences, majoring in Merchandising. Since graduating, Keri has held marketing roles in several industries, with the past eight years in digital marketing and advertising. She is currently Director of Media Operations at Roger West, a full-service digital marketing agency headquartered in Tampa.

In her free time, you can find Keri lounging by the pool, spending time with family and friends, going to Disney World, and dining at local St. Pete restaurants.



## **Stephanie Guckenberger** Finance VP

Stephanie Guckenberger has been a member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg since 2015. She transferred to JLSP from The Junior League of Roanoke Valley, which she joined in 2009 after graduating from Virginia Tech.

Stephanie served in various Communication roles while serving in Roanoke. Since joining the Junior League of St. Petersburg, Stephanie has served on the Care Fair Committee and ultimately Co-Chaired the event in 2018. She joined the ODI Ad Hoc Planning Committee during the 2018 -2019 League year and ultimately ended up attending the ODI Conference in St. Petersburg in February 2019. Stephanie served on the Board of Directors as the Recording Secretary for two years and thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the strategic aspect of the Junior League. She now serves as Finance VP and serves on the Management Team.

Stephanie lives with her husband, Mark, and son Will in St Pete. She loves all sports but especially loves the Virginia Tech Hokies. She loves to travel and spend time with her family and friends.



## **Kelsey Nolan** Membership VP

Kelsey is originally from a small town in New Hampshire known for this one time it made a Guinness world record for hosting the most lit jack o lanterns in one place. She moved to Fla. in 2013 and graduated from the University of Tampa 2017 with her bachelor's in Business Management. She works as part of the People Operations team for the North American Human Resources department at McKinsey and Company, Inc.

Kelsey is passionate about the community and enjoys learning more about St. Pete. She joined the JLSP in 2018 and recently served as the chair of the Kids in the Kitchen committee while also leading the league's Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc. In her role as Membership VP, she works closely with the D&I committee to help support efforts to diversify the membership experience and the organization's community impact. In 2019, Kelsey joined the chamber's Young Professional Group and is currently serving her second year on the Board. Kelsey looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve her community with a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion.

In addition to exploring St. Pete, she loves to travel and experience different parts of the country and even the world. When travel planning, she makes sure to include annual visits back to New England to see her parents or to Denver, CO to see her little sister - but they enjoy visiting the Burg too!



## **Kristen Lefkimiotis** Community VP

Kristen Lefkimiotis has been a JLSP member since 2018 and is currently serving as the Community VP. She was born and raised right here in sunny ole' St Pete and swears she will never leave.

Kristen has been married for four years and has four bonus kids. Currently, she works at St Anthony's Hospital as the Administrator on Duty and as a Registered Nurse in Critical Care.

Caring for people is her JAM (volunteering with JLSP is an added bonus!) On her days off you'll find Kristen at the beach or on the boat, soaking up family time, eating ALL the things, drinking yummy wine, and traveling as often as possible. She's also a HUGE fan of planning surprises for people, and has been known to literally fly halfway across the world to do it.



## **Jenna Garnatz** Development VP

Jenna Garnatz has been a member of JLSP for the past two years. She was a Provisional in March 2018 and last year served as Chair Elect for the Cocktails & Couture Fall fundraiser. Jenna has always had a passion for serving the community and is driven by the Junior League's mission to provide support to children and families in the St. Petersburg area.

Prior to joining the League, Jenna served in numerous leadership positions for the University of Iowa's Dance Marathon, the third-largest Dance Marathon in the country, providing support for pediatric oncology patients and their families treated at University of Iowa Children's Hospital. Working with Dance Marathon, she gained experience with fundraising, event planning, and community outreach. In law school, Jenna served as the Vice President of the Kent Justice Foundation and spent several semesters working for the Cook County Office of the Public Guardian, advocating for the rights of children throughout Chicago.

Jenna is an attorney at Capital One Financial, specializing in regulatory risk and governance. She started with Capital One nearly five years ago after graduating from law school at Chicago-Kent College of Law in Chicago. Prior to that, Jenna attended the University of Iowa where she received her B.S. in Political Science and International Business.

Jenna relocated to St. Pete from Chicago two and a half years ago with her husband and rescue pup, Nile. Jenna is happy to call St. Pete home, but will always be an Iowa Hawkeye at heart.



## **Lane Feaster** Communications VP



Lane Feaster is a 3rd generation St. Petersburg and is proud to be born and raised in this great city. She attended the University of Florida where she received her Bachelors of Science in Advertising and Masters in Management. After graduation, Lane was hired into AT&T's Leadership Development Program based in Atlanta. She was then transferred to New York City where she spent six years working hard, playing hard, traveling often, and checking everything off of her NYC bucket list. During this time, Lane completed her MBA at the University of Florida. She was then transferred to AT&T's headquarters in Dallas, TX where she spent two valuable years before she found her way back to St. Pete. Lane still works for AT&T and is fortunate to have the opportunity to work remote and travel as needed.

Lane is an adventure seeker, avid traveler and is striving to hike the highest peak in each state. She recently checked number 19 off the list having mountaineered Mt. Whitney in California, the highest peak in the contiguous US. It's a fun challenge for her and an opportunity to explore our beautiful country.

Lane has been a member of JLSP since 2019 and is so grateful for the friendships that it has created and the opportunity to grow, learn, empower women and serve our community. Lane is grateful to be serving as the Communications VP and is excited to see how we continue to grow, transform and serve the Community that we all love.

Thanks  
for the love

Allison Amick Photography

*We appreciate you donating your time and talents to the League and taking our Board of Directors and Management Team Pictures!*



# Meet the Provisionals!

By: Brit Johnson & Marisa Schuldinger, Provisional Development Co-Chairs

Our newest members are already one-third of the way through their Provisional Year! So far, Provisionals have completed 4 monthly training courses, attended the Community Bus Tour and volunteered at Care Fair—all giving members exposure to the impact that JLSP has on the St. Pete community. Throughout the summer, Provisionals have gotten to know one another at group socials, brunches and happy hours. This fall, Provisionals will have the opportunity to attend the First Annual Provisional Retreat, a fun-filled day on Anna Maria Island where attendees can bond with other members, making life-long friendships as they continue their League education.



# PROVISIONALS



## MADISON ALLEN

Madison Allen is a graduate of Florida State University, with diverse experience as a professional Event Manager. She joined the FSU Crew team and was on the rowing club for all four years. Madison was Fundraising Chair of FSU Rowing her junior year, She was elected President her senior year and discovered her passion for hospitality and events along the way.

Born and raised in Tampa, Fla., Madison came back home after college to become an Event Manager at Grand Events of Florida, a local events company. There she directed a variety of events ranging from weddings, community events, private parties, and corporate events. Next, she was hired at Raymond James Financial as a corporate conference and meeting planner, directing events locally and nationally. Currently Madison works in the Resource Development department at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Suncoast as an Event Coordinator and is looking forward to hosting their Annual Gala at the Vinoy in St. Pete this February.

## NICOLE BALLANTE

Nicole Ballante is a Florida native and proud alumnus of Florida State University and Vanderbilt Law School. Nicole recently moved to St. Petersburg and has more than five years of experience as a civil litigator.

Nicole is passionate about community service and is excited to be involved in Junior League of St. Petersburg. She is looking forward to learning more about the community she now calls home and making life-long friends along the way.

Nicole resides in St. Petersburg with her husband, three bonus sons, and two Labrador Retrievers. In her spare time Nicole enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and kayaking.



# PROVISIONALS



**RACHEL BOZICH**

Rachel has spent more than 10 years in corporate wellness and health education and has been a part of Team Member Wellness at Tampa General for seven years. She works as a Senior Wellness Educator for Community and Corporate Wellness and teaches exercise science electives as an adjunct instructor at Hillsborough Community College. She has a Masters in Exercise and Nutrition Science from the University of Tampa and a Bachelors in Exercise Science and Public Health from the University of South Florida. She is a Certified Worksite Wellness Specialist, has Exercise is Medicine Level II credentials through the American College of Sports Medicine, and is a certified personal trainer.

She serves on several boards including Tampa General Hospital Ambulatory Services Board, Girls on the Run of Greater Tampa Bay Board, and the St. Pete Young Professionals Board as Program Chair. Rachel loves to run (especially with her dog, Miles), volunteer with Girls on the Run, and spend time with her friends and family.

**WHITNEY CAREY**

Whitney Carey moved to St. Peter in August 2020 from Chicago. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2009 at Loyola University Chicago and later went on to earn an MA in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and an MBA from Elmhurst University. Whitney currently works in HR for a technology company headquartered in Chicago and focuses on training and development, performance management, employee wellness, people and compensation analytics, and the employee lifecycle.

She spent 10 months in AmeriCorps NCCC on a team of 11 peers completing service projects in the Pacific Northwest. Her projects included restoring wetlands in the San Joaquin Valley, living and working on Native American Reservations in Montana as a tax preparer, being an AVID tutor at a low-performing high school, and building a nature center and butterfly pavilion in Oregon. She has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, planted LOTS of trees, built and maintained hiking trails in Ca. and Oregon, partnered with food drives, and worked with animal shelters.



# PROVISIONALS



**LAURA CRAIG**

Laura Craig is originally from New York before making Florida her home. She has a B.A. in Music Industry and M.S. in Communications.

Laura will be attending the Stetson University College of Law part-time program in the Fall. She joined the Junior League of St. Petersburg to support and give back to her community while learning new personal skills and developing friendships. Laura is a paralegal working at a local firm.

She currently lives with her fiancé, Cameron, and cat, Baidu. In her spare time, she loves taking yoga classes, being outdoors, and exploring all the restaurants in the area.

**LAURA CROWDIS**

Laura Crowdis moved to Pinellas County four years ago from Overland Park, Kansas. A graduate from the University of Kansas, she has degrees in Marketing and Business Administration with a concentration in International Business. She is a Marketing & Communications Lead for GHD, a global engineering company in the water, environmental, and transportation industries. She is passionate about mitigating the risks of climate change on infrastructure and committed to ensuring everyone around the world has access to clean water.

Developing a passion for serving her local community at a young age through volunteer opportunities with multiple local organizations in the Kansas City area, it was important to continue that commitment after relocating. As a provisional member, she is looking forward to building new relationships while helping deliver much-needed resources to the local community. Laura currently lives in St. Petersburg with her Pomeranian, Sgt. Pepper.



# PROVISIONALS

A portrait of Jennifer Cunningham, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a white and blue patterned top, sitting on a dark blue couch and smiling. The background shows a home interior with shelves and a lamp.

## JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM

Jennifer Cunningham is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) at her practice The Therapy Loft, LLC. Jennifer moved to Florida a few years ago from Chicago after receiving her Masters of Art in Counseling from DePaul University.

Jen is passionate about mental health and advocating for others which is what brought her to JLSP. Jen loves to explore the city and be outside, especially with her dogs!

A portrait of Mary DeVore, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a green and white patterned top, smiling. The background is a brick wall.

## MARY DEVORE

Mary DeVore is a St. Pete native and a proud alumnus of The Florida State University with a BS in Engineering. Mary was accepted into the Emerging Leaders Program at Nielsen where she held many leadership positions and completed more than 500 community service hours in the Bay Area.

She joined the Junior League to continue her community involvement and learn more about volunteer opportunities in St. Petersburg. Mary is looking forward to building new relationships and further developing her personal and professional skills. She currently works as a Senior Program Manager at Nielsen in the Engineering department. In her free time, Mary enjoys being outdoors, exercising, and walking her dog with her husband.

# PROVISIONALS

## SARAH ELLISON



Sarah Ellison is a born and raised Midwesterner and a proud alumnus of Indiana University. She moved to St Pete in April 2020, after spending 16 years working in Chicago. She has more than 16 years of experience working with PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she is dedicated to solving problems and serving stakeholders in both the workplace and community. She is a member of the Tampa Bay Associate Board of Ambassadors of the American Cancer Society and sits on the Board of Trustees for the Morean Arts Center. She has more than 8 years of experience on various non-profit boards.

A recent transplant to St Pete, Sarah is excited about fostering a dialogue with the community and working with other like-minded women in JLSP. Sarah lives in St. Pete with her husband, Brett, and their dog, Terry, and enjoys spending time with family and friends, swimming and exploring parks with Terry.

## KIMBER FRALEY

Kimber is a Florida State alumna whose professional background focuses on sales, marketing, and client relations. She has been in multiple facets of real estate, contributing to companies' increased sales and profit margins, and greatly enjoys the industry. She is a Business Development Agent for a home inspection company and is also available to provide real estate referrals.

A native Floridian, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her friends, family, and two fur babies. To satisfy her creative side, she hand-makes one-of-a-kind sterling silver and turquoise jewelry and sells them via her company, Turquoise Wanderings Jewelry. She was inspired to join JLSP to become more engrained in the amazing community she calls home. After living in St. Pete for a couple of years and learning what a community-centric city it is, she wants to give back and become more involved in this supportive city. Junior League seems to be the perfect outlet to do so, as well as being a place to build relationships with like-minded women and gain new skills along the way.



# PROVISIONALS



**HOLLI FULTZ**

Holli Fultz moved to St. Petersburg one year ago from Dallas, Texas, but she is originally a Midwest girl from Ohio. She is an alumnus of the University of Cincinnati, where she received her Doctorate of Pharmacy and has since worked in biotech drug research for 14 years and loves her job and helping patients.

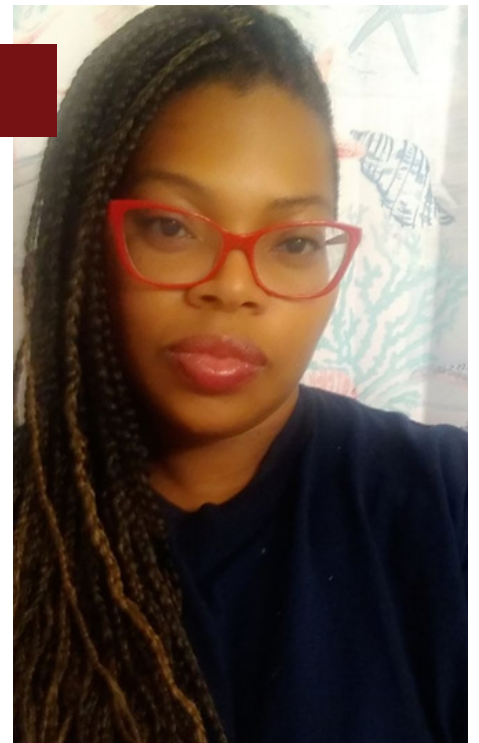
In her spare time Holli enjoys traveling, pilates reformer/yoga, going to concerts, boating, relaxing on the beach, and spending time with family and friends. A few fun facts about Holli, who grew up in a military family: she lived in Iceland for almost two years, she has moved a total of 20 times in her life, and she has lived in seven different states! However, she plans to make Florida her forever home!

**LATRENA GAMBLE-HARRELL**

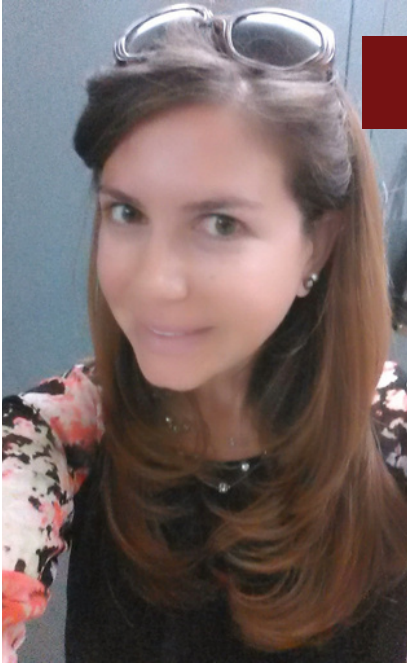
Latrena is a native of St. Petersburg and a proud alumnus of St. Petersburg College, with a BSN in Nursing. She is also an alumnus of South University with an MSN in Nursing and a certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

Latrena currently works as a Professor of Nursing at SPC and also has worked as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the past five years in different settings from primary care, urgent care, and occupational settings. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Latrena joined the Junior League to build positive new relationships and to further her passion to help the community. If she is not participating in JLSP events, you will find her spending time with her wonderful husband LaJuan and sweet daughter Mckenzie.



# PROVISIONALS



**ASHLEY GERCHIKOV**

Ashley Gerchikov moved to Florida from Ohio for undergrad and stayed in the Tampa Bay area to complete her master's in Healthcare Management. She works in Healthcare Sales and Marketing, as well as runs health events and retreats. She recently got certified through the Institute of Integrative Nutrition as a Holistic Health Coach and has a coaching program to help others. She believes in education and that it's important to help others through knowledge and resources.

Coming together with like-minded individuals to serve the community is rewarding to Ashley and she is honored to be a part of such a purposeful organization as the Junior League. She is passionate about making an impact in the community and the health industry. Ashley organizes Health Expos and Wellness Festivals in the Tampa Bay area to bring people together to learn more about wellness options in the community, along with fitness classes for all to participate. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, brunches with friends, outdoor sports, the beach, and spending time with good friends and family.

**BRIDGET GODSIL**

Bridget Godsil moved to Florida to attend the University of South Florida where she recently graduated with a bachelor of science in Nursing and a minor in deaf studies. While attending USF and connecting with her community, she developed a passion for supporting the disabled community and families with disabled children.

Bridget is currently starting her job at Moffitt Cancer Center as a Registered Nurse, working with patients battling a cancer diagnosis and their families. In the future, Bridget hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Nursing, focusing on supporting siblings of disabled children.



# PROVISIONALS



**ERIN HOWELL**

Erin Howell is in her sixth year as a transplant to the Sunshine City from Mississippi. She moved to the area to attend the University of South Florida, where she is currently completing her Ph.D. in education.

Erin has a passion for working with students and is an instructor of communication at St. Petersburg College. She works part time in the Office of Leadership and Student Organizations at USF St. Petersburg campus.

In her free time, she enjoys biking, paddle boarding, and pretty much anything that involves being outside.

**AIXA JULIAS**

Aixa (AJ) Julias graduated from Jacksonville University in 2012 and knew she would come back to live in Florida one day. AJ moved to St. Petersburg in May 2020 from the Washington D.C. area. She recently purchased a home downtown and looks forward to the sunny and warm winter months.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, her company adopted a new remote working model that allows her to continue to work remotely. AJ is a Director of Assessment Delivery Operations at College Board, a not-for-profit organization focusing on providing students with access to higher education.

AJ has always had a passion for volunteering, especially with organizations that work with children. She decided to join JLSP as her values aligned closely to those of the Junior League. AJ looks forward to becoming more involved within the St. Petersburg community and building long-lasting relationships.



# PROVISIONALS

## JAIMIE KANE



Jaimie Kane is a 20 year Pinellas County resident and a transplant from 'corn country' aka Lincoln, Illinois. She is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a BS in Speech Communications and has been an Account Executive with Mohawk Industries for nearly 19 years.

She is the proud mommy to her 16-year-old Himalayan kitty, Mona. and has a loving husband of 5 years, Bob Kane. Jaime adores her precious time with family and friends and enjoys hosting BBQs, pool parties, and boat days. She is an avid Chardonnay lover and all things wine for that matter. Live music, travel, and Tampa Bay sports also make her world go round!

Jaimie enjoys helping her community and has been involved for many years with various organizations in St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay. She enjoys doing hands-on projects and volunteering to make someone else's day a little brighter. She joined JLSP to meet new ladies that share her passion and volunteer spirit while supporting the wonderful citizens of the City of St. Petersburg!

## ALY KIRBY

Aly Kirby is a born and raised Florida Gator fan and alumni. After receiving a BA in Sociology, she took some time to experience the field of Social Work in her hometown of Ocala, FL. Aly and her husband, Ryan, then found themselves moving to Tampa Bay and have been residents of Pinellas County for seven years. They now run their own real estate team with Keller Williams of Seminole, Kirb Appeal Homes.

For many years, Aly spent her time volunteering and helping others and truly developed a passion for giving. In college she founded the local Rotaract club and spent many years on the board for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards as Logistics Chair for the annual conference in St. Augustine and Jacksonville. Aly has two daughters, Kinley (4) and Aubrey (2). Motherhood has been her greatest accomplishment but she missed volunteering and couldn't wait to join JLSP to get back into it. Aly enjoys traveling, visiting her family in Ocala, and exploring Tampa Bay with her family.



# PROVISIONALS

A portrait of Emily Lehman, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a red top, smiling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

## EMILY LEHMAN

Emily Lehman is a Florida native and a second-year student at Stetson Law. Before law school, she attended the University of Florida where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and a Certificate in Public Affairs. She currently works as the Legal Intern to a Circuit Judge at the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Tampa, conducting legal research and sitting in on criminal and civil jury trials.

Outside of school, Emily serves on the St. Pete Young Professionals Executive Board as the Co-Chair of Marketing. In her free time, she enjoys running, golfing, and trying new restaurants in St. Pete!

## LAUREL MAROIS

Laurel Marois was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida and graduated from Shorecrest Preparatory School. She is a proud Double Gator, earning her Bachelors in History and Juris Doctor from the University of Florida! Laurel is a civil and criminal defense trial attorney and recently joined her grandfather's long-time St. Pete practice, Law Office of Donald C. Anderson, Jr., after working as an Assistant Public Defender in Tampa for three years. She is admitted to the Florida and Washington, D.C. bars.

Laurel volunteers as an advisor to the USF chapter of her sorority, Sigma Kappa, and as a poll watcher and legal observer during elections. She is a member of the Pinellas County Gators, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club (where she is excited to get married at!), several legal organizations, and is a Daughter of the American Revolution! Laurel is an avid Florida Gator and Tampa Bay Sports fan, loves genealogy, Pure Barre, making art, and enjoying everything St. Pete has to offer with her fiancé, Chris, and dog, Albie! Laurel is excited to be apart of JLSP and get to give back to the community that she has always known and loved!



# PROVISIONALS



**KANDACE MCELROY**

Kandace McElroy is a St. Pete native and proud alumnus of the University of South Florida. After living and working in Washington, DC, she moved back to St. Pete in 2020 where she found herself desiring to be more plugged into the community. Kandace joined the Junior League of St. Petersburg to serve others, build meaningful relationships with like-minded women, and develop her personal skills. She serves on the Mayoral Inauguration Ball 2022 Committee and is looking forward to growing further in the league and developing life-long friendships.

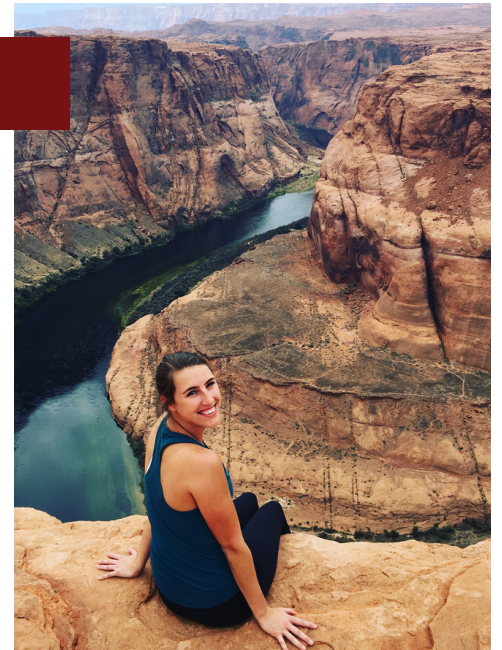
Kandace is the Director of Events & Partnerships at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, based in Washington, DC. She is passionate about women's rights, ending sex trafficking and all things event logistics. Kandace enjoys traveling, working out, and spending time with friends and family. On her days off you'll usually find her at the beach or checking out a new brunch spot!

**BRIANA MCNEIL**

Briana was born and raised in Florida and graduated with honors from the University of Florida. She currently works as a Health Analytics Consultant in the Tampa area.

Briana is an avid reader and is passionate about child literacy. She looks forward to the opportunities the Junior League of St Pete will provide her to impact the community.

In her spare time, Briana loves cooking and trying new recipes, spending time with friends, and doing outdoor activities.



# PROVISIONALS

## JAMIE MOLNAR



Jamie Molnar, LMHC, QS, is a Florida native and proud alumna of the University of Central Florida (BS in Psychology and a BA in Spanish) and Murdoch University in Perth, Australia where she earned a Masters of Applied Psychology (Clinical). She is excited about the opportunity to learn more about the history of St. Pete, become more civically engaged and build lifelong friendships with like-minded women in the community.

She is an advocate for mental wellness and reducing the stigma around mental health. She has more than 15 years experience in clinical and organizational psychology and is the founder and owner of Be Your Best Self & Thrive Counseling, a group counseling practice specializing in a holistic, mind-body-spirit approach to mental health and wellness. She enjoys the beach, yoga, traveling, game nights...and is a total foodie.

## MARIA NEDVIDEK

Maria Nedvidek moved to St. Pete in 2020, along with her husband and two rescue pups. She was born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky (fun fact: all Corvettes are made there!), but always had a desire to live by the ocean. She graduated from Western Kentucky University with a BA in Advertising and a MBA. She's worked in Marketing for eight years before changing course to follow her passion for real estate. Maria works for Smith & Associates Real Estate because of their local involvement and commitment to the community.

Maria joined Junior League to build relationships, develop leadership skills, and engage with like-minded women to positively impact the community! Maria is on the Ad Hoc Mayoral Ball marketing committee and looks forward to working on additional committees. From beaches and dive bars to farmer's markets and local shops, she always has a running list of new places to try and is excited to explore more of St. Pete with new JLSP friends. Beyond work, Maria thrives on travel and adventure! Follow her @thetampabayagent to keep up with her adventures and all things real estate.



# PROVISIONALS



**CHELSEA PEREIRA**

Chelsea is a New Jersey native and recent California transplant with a passion for making a positive impact on the lives of others and living her life with gusto! She is an outdoors woman, nomad, adventurer and spiritual warrior. You can find her stand up paddle boarding, playing tennis and beach volleyball, swimming, doing yoga, camping, hiking, meditating, dancing, and creating! She enjoys bringing people together, throwing events and parties, and taking in everything life has to offer.

Chelsea has volunteered with many organizations throughout the years in every city she has lived, and she has had various careers in several industries, all having the purpose of helping transform the lives of others. With 12+ years of experience working in the fitness industry as a Fitness & Wellness Program Director, Chelsea is in the process of turning her side hustle into her full time gig. She is very honored and excited to be part of JLSP and looks forward to getting to know all the incredible women in the organization and working with them to impact the city of Saint Pete in a positive way.

**BRIANNA RAY**

Brianna Ray is a Tampa Bay native, born and raised in St. Pete. After a few years away, she is happy to be back in the Sunshine City. She is a U.S. History teacher for Pinellas County Schools and has a passion for education, family, and her community. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree in Higher Education from Florida State University.

When not at work, she loves to support her hometown teams, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. She enjoys being active, biking around town, reading, and exploring new areas within the city and beyond. Brianna serves on the executive board of the St. Pete Young Professionals as the Diversity & Inclusion Chair. She looks forward to serving the community as a member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg and getting further involved with the organization.



# PROVISIONALS



**EMILY ST. CLAIR**

A Michigan native, Emily St Clair graduated from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelors in Art History, completed a German Language Certification from the Universitat Oldenburg (Germany), and earned a subsequent degree in Geospatial Information Systems from Lansing Community College. Emily re-located to Pinellas County two years ago to pursue a new career in a sunnier climate.

Emily is serving on the Mayoral Ball Ad-Hoc Committee and is looking forward to increasing her involvement in JLSP and the community. Emily is a Geospatial Systems Consultant at an international AEG firm. In her spare time Emily pursues higher education and certifications to improve her professional career, tries out new restaurants and bars around Tampa Bay with friends, and hiking/kayaking all over the beautiful state of Florida.

**MARIA SWEETZ**

Maria Sweetz is a proud New Yorker who relocated to St. Pete in 2019. She is the Marketing & Events Coordinator for Darwin Wealth Management in Tampa and is passionate about cultivating community and client relationships through unforgettable events and outreach programs. Maria joined the Junior League with the purpose of becoming involved in the community, giving back, and building relationships with likeminded women. She has a history in volunteer work with New York State Congress of Parents & Teachers, United States Committee of Refugees and Immigrants, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Maria is co-chairing the Events and Decor sub-committee for the Mayoral Ball Ad-Hoc Committee. She graduated from the State University of Albany with a Bachelors in Psychology and Fine Art. She spent her junior year studying at Florence University of the Arts in Italy which sparked her eagerness to see more of the world. She spends her time exploring St. Pete's coffeeshops and breweries, enjoying the arts scene, shopping at the Saturday Morning Market, and traveling.



# PROVISIONALS



**JACKIE TAYLOR**

Jackie Taylor is a Florida native who grew up in Palm Beach County. She is an alumna of Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelors in Marketing and a Minor in Hospitality Management. After graduating college she moved to The Villages in central Florida where she lived for three years.

In February 2021 she moved to St Petersburg to be closer to family and works as a Realtor for Keller Williams. In her free time, Jackie enjoys horseback riding, golfing, drinking wine, spending time with her family and her dog, Fendi. Jackie is looking forward to all the opportunities available to get involved in the community that the Junior League of St. Petersburg has to offer.

**BRANDEE THOMAS**

Brandee was born and raised in Georgia and is a graduate of Georgia Southern. After college she moved to China and lived abroad for about two years. She can speak Mandarin, but as the saying goes, "if you don't use it you lose it." During her time in China, she was able to travel around Asia a good bit and fell in love with the culture!

After China, Brandee moved to Charlotte, NC and lived there for six years before relocating to St. Pete this past December. She currently lives close to Downtown with her husband and sweet 11 year-old pup, Peyton. In her spare time you will find her working out, at the beach, at a brewery, or hanging with friends and family. She has a passion for volunteering and helping others and cannot wait to volunteer more with JLSP.



# PROVISIONALS



**MEGAN TIRALOSI**

Megan Tiralosi was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. She moved to Charleston, South Carolina where she got her B.A. in Political Science. She then moved to Saint Petersburg to attend law school at Stetson University College of Law and graduated in 2020.

Megan is an Assistant State Attorney in Pinellas County. When Megan isn't in the courtroom, she enjoys spending time with family, friends, volunteering, and spending time outdoors.

**CLAIRE WASHBURN**

Claire Washburn grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. After graduating from the University of Florida in 2017, Claire made St. Petersburg her permanent home. While attending law school at Stetson University College of Law, she fell in love with the tight-knit community around her.

After graduation from law school in 2020, Claire began work at the Sixth Circuit's State Attorney's Office. When she's not in court, you can find Claire biking around town, cooking up a storm, or chilling with friends.



# PROVISIONALS



**MARY BETH WILLIAMS**

Mary Beth Williams moved to Florida for college and attended the University of South Florida where she recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance.

Throughout her time in Florida, Mary Beth has developed a passion for financial literacy and education and has created curriculums to fill the gap that exists for young adults.

Mary Beth is passionate about providing opportunities for underserved populations and is looking forward to serving these populations with The Junior League of St. Petersburg.

**KELSEY YATES**

Kelsey Yates is a proud friend to all flora and fauna she meets. She is passionate about making the world a better place and being the best version of herself. A former international consultant turned developer of renewable energy, she is proud to have a career and a life that allows her to work and think through problems and puzzles to find the best possible solution(s).

Kelsey is excited to be involved in the local St. Pete community with Junior League. After living in seven cities across three continents in the last 10 years, she is looking forward to making the Sunshine City her little nest with her poorly behaved pup Ziggy Stardust. She is a 2014 graduate of Penn State University, earning a BS in Energy and Environmental Engineering. She is a Development Engineering Manager for Avangrid Renewables and volunteers with Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy (WRISE). She also enjoys cycling, reading, being creative, doing yoga, and spending time with loved ones in her free time.



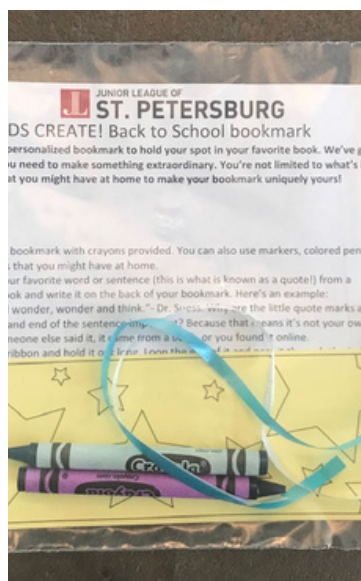
# LITERACY

By: Kelsey Krauss, Literacy Chair

Books can be both mirrors and windows. They give readers the amazing ability to see themselves as characters in a story living life in all its ups and downs while also giving readers a glimpse into the beautiful world beyond themselves that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to see. Developing a love of reading in early readers by allowing them to see books as mirrors and windows is successful literacy. The Junior League of St. Petersburg is continuing to promote literacy within our local community.

Most recently, the Literacy committee has been preparing to help our readers get ready for a successful 2021-2022 school year. The Literacy committee is working to prep over 1,000 books for Care Fair on July 31st. In addition to culturally diverse literature, readers visiting Care Fair will have the opportunity to receive reading strategies and at home “tips and tricks” to continue to become proficient readers.

The Literacy committee is also looking forward to continuing our partnerships with Azalea Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary, Westgate Elementary, Woodlawn Elementary and 74th Street Elementary. Our goal is to continue to foster a love of reading in early readers by providing opportunities to readers to access books and different reading strategies at home.





# Mary Branning "Mickey" Walker

By: Carrie Levine, Proud Daughter

Mary Branning "Mickey" Walker, 93, passed away on November 14, 2020. Mickey was born in St. Petersburg on Oct. 7, 1927 to Thomas Reid and Mary Endicott Branning. Her Canova and Branning ancestors were settlers of St. Augustine and Middleburg, FL dating back to the 1700s. Mickey's grandfather James Milton Endicott was a Justice of the Peace, owner of one of the early buildings (1913) in downtown St. Petersburg and founder of the Endicott Funeral Home, which now houses the restaurant "Rococo Steak."

One of Mickey's earliest loves was baseball – as a first grader her dad started taking her to NY Yankees spring training games at Huggins Field, located at Crescent Lake Park. She adored that special time spent with him. As she grew older, she also became the epitome of a fan of the Yankees, following them ardently every season, making pilgrimages to the original and new Yankees Stadium in the Bronx, and never missing attending Spring Training games when they returned to Tampa and Legends/Steinbrenner Field.

Mickey attended St. Petersburg High School and in 1943, was selected to be one of the Webb's City "Florida Poster Girls." Noted in the State Archives of Florida as "the creation of Webb's City... founder and relentless promoter James Earl "Doc" Webb (1899-1983). Their purpose was to promote the store's Playtime Fashions... Heavily featured in the local and national media, including Life magazine, they were comprised of eight women who were selected each year from hundreds of hopefuls."



In 1944 Mickey left to attend Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, and in 1946 during the summer break began flying lessons at the urging of her beloved great uncle, Leon Lewis, a former Commodore of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. She ultimately received her pilot's license and considered that a treasured accomplishment. Mickey graduated from college with a major in Music and a minor in Voice. Her dream was to be a classical singer and she was also a devotee of the Metropolitan Opera. For many years she spent Saturday afternoons in fall and winter listening to live Met radio broadcasts, and in spring and summer listening to Yankees games. Although she didn't make singing her career, she performed many recitals and in the mid-1960s to 1970s was a paid soloist in the choir at St. Peter's Cathedral. During that same timeframe Mickey also joined the Junior League. She loved getting involved in its many charitable activities, especially working Saturdays at the Thrift Shop and performing in the annual League Follies.

One of Mickey's greatest enjoyments throughout life was work. Her first job as a teenager was selling records at St. Petersburg's iconic Laffer's Music Shop. In her 30's, Mickey went back to school and obtained a Professional Bookkeeping certification. As luck would have it, Mickey became life-long friends with a Junior League colleague Shirley Dowling, who was Creative Director for the Tampa Stone Brook advertising agency. Mickey so wanted to get back to work and asked Shirley if her agency had any openings – they did, needed an office administrator! Mickey had experience, could type well and she got the job. That role led to her next job as an assistant to Alfred Politz, an early pioneer of market research and polling. She then became a property manager for downtown St. Pete family holdings (including the Janus Landing block) with her two cousins, Jim Thurman and Jackie Rocke. Mickey's last paying job with the Neighborly Care Network was something she dearly loved and lasted 15 years. She started as a temp in the corporate office, became a full-time administrator and then worked as a center administrator in two of their Adult Daycare Centers until she retired at the age of 85.



In the early 1990s Mickey discovered her other beloved avocation ballroom dancing, which she practiced for nearly 25 years. She became a competitive amateur dancer, and with her partner, Ernest Tuttle, danced in numerous competitions in the US, Mexico and even... St. Petersburg, Russia! Mickey and Ernest won or placed in over 15 competitions, most notably the Ohio Star Ball where Mickey won the "Top Female Pro/Am Free Style Silver" award.

Mickey was predeceased by her son, Robert Rolander Jr., and is survived by her best friend and daughter, Carrie Rolander Levine. A beautiful and fitting memorial to her life - and passion - can be found in front of the St. Petersburg Opera offices on First Avenue South.

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

By: Summer Jensen, CAC Director



*CAC Kick-off Event at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club*



*David Feaster Sr. and James Flynn Jr.*

The JLSP Community Advisory Council (formerly Community Advisory Board) has a new name, new members, and a re-envisioned purpose. Under the leadership of JLSP President Lauren Feaster and CAC Director, Summer Jensen, the group will utilize the expertise of top community leaders to provide strategic advice and guidance to the Board and League as a whole.

The first change; moving from Board to Council, better reflects the structure and organization of the group. As a council, their primary purpose is to provide advice and support long-term problem-solving to assist the League. Members may contribute by evaluating the effectiveness of our efforts, serve as a sounding board for community opinion, provide expert advice to the League with specific problems or concerns, and help guide strategic decision-making. They do not operate like a board by voting or making decisions for the JLSP board, rather provide input on a range of varied topics.

The second change is in the composition of the Council. The new roster of members, numbering approximately 23, represents a cross-section of interests and perspectives from the St. Petersburg community. The CAC has been heavily populated by non-profit members in the past. While networking with these other groups been very beneficial, the CAC in the future will operate more strategically with a membership that represents a broader cross-section from which to receive advice and guidance. Experts in finance, marketing, city leadership, business, law enforcement, journalism, law, health, and education will provide diverse viewpoints and feedback for how we can operate more effectively as a League.

Finally, the purpose of the CAC has remained largely the same throughout the years, but an updated version of our JLSP policies reflects the greater strategic focus of the group as a support to our Board. As follows are the official purposes of the CAC.

# CAC (CONT.)

- Help communicate the League Mission and programs to the community as an ambassador.
- Assist in evaluating the effectiveness of existing programs and projects.
- Serve as a sounding board for community opinion and provide expert advice to the League with specific problems or concerns.
- Strengthen the League's public relations within the community.
- Develop a network of potential contributors of expertise, service, funding, and membership recruitment.
- Engage and communicate or provide written feedback in response to proposed topics.
- Participate in community events, fundraisers and other special events as able.
- Provide strategic feedback on planning for the future.

The CAC already conducted our first Mixer and Meeting on June 6th at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, thanks to our Host and member, David Feaster. Many members were able to attend and enjoyed getting to meet and spend time getting to know one another. Our kick-off meeting addressed the issue of Public Perception of our Junior League. Great discussions ensued and thought-provoking feedback was provided on this topic. Our next meeting will be in September. The next page includes names of the 2021 CAC. Please look for more details about this dynamic and inspiring group in upcoming editions of the Causeway.



*Nathan Stonecipher and David Feaster Jr.*



*Terry Brett and Corey Givens*

# 2021-2022 CAC MEMBERS

**Brian Auld**

Tampa Bay Rays, President

**Stacey Baier**

Pinellas Education Foundation, CEO

**The Honorable Rick Baker**

Coast Autonomous, Consultant

**Terry Brett**

Brett Funeral Homes, Owner

**Jillian Doyle**

Doyle Wealth Management, CFO

**Caprice Edmond**

Public Education

**Forrest Eleazer**

Park & Eleazer Construction, Managing Partner

**David Feaster**

Republic Bank, Board of Directors

**James Flynn, Jr.**

The Flynn Law Firm P.A., Owner

**Matt Frey**

Frey Masterson Investment Advisors, Partner

**Corey Givens**

Job Corps

**Major Shannon Halstead**

St. Petersburg Police Department, Training Division  
Commander

**Beth Houghton**

Juvenile Welfare Board, CEO

**Dr. Beth Magro**

Dr. Elizabeth Magro, PsyD

**The Honorable Ed Montonari**

City Council, Chairman

**Rev. Louis Murphy**

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastor

**Jim Myers**

Crown Automotive Group, President & COO

**Al Ruechel**

Bay News 9, Former News Anchor

**Craig Sher**

The Sembler Company, Executive Chairman

**Nathan Stonecipher**

Green Bench Brewing

**Bonnie Strickland**

Coldwell Banker Commercial, Realtor

**Doug Waechter**

Douglass Elliman, Realtor

**Nancy Westphal**

Annex 400 Beach

*Thanks  
for the love*

## Save the Date!

The Junior League of St. Petersburg's 2021 Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) Campaign is scheduled to take place the week of October 18th through 22nd, with a kickoff event the weekend prior. During LBDI week, Junior League members will wear one little black dress for five

straight days to spark conversation and awareness of the choices that those who are not facing poverty are fortunate to make every day.



## Celebrating Success:

In 2020, LBDI was marked by a very exceptional year with many countries reeling from the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 60 members served as LBDI Champions, educating their networks and collecting monetary donations through social media to be used for projects and services. Together they raised nearly \$16,000. Child hunger is a global issue, and the Junior League of St. Petersburg is proud to spark change and address it in our own community, working towards statewide, national, and even international change for the better.

New for 2020, the Junior League of St. Petersburg teamed up with LBDI sponsors, 9Round Fitness Roosevelt Blvd and Crazy4Tennis, who supported the campaign throughout the week with a donation and special offers to JLSP. From 30-minute full body kickboxing circuit workouts to an online boutique for the tennis enthusiast, the Junior League of St. Petersburg is thankful for our partners' support in 2020 and look forward to partnering with an even larger group of sponsors in 2021.

## How to Participate as a Champion:

To participate as a Champion, please send an email with your first and last name, phone number, and fundraising goal (minimum \$100 to count towards Development shift) to [LBDI@jlstpete.org](mailto:LBDI@jlstpete.org) and we will create a unique website link for you to share with your social network. In addition, the LBDI Committee will be sending out a campaign Toolkit in the weeks leading up to the event, which will address all marketing needs—including content, graphics, and tips and tricks for successful social media engagement.

## How to Participate as a Daily Partner:

After experiencing success with the introduction of our LBDI daily partnership program in 2020, we are excited to expand upon partnership opportunities in 2021. Participation as a daily partner will have the potential to increase social following, drive business traffic, and promote brand awareness and recognition. As a daily partner, businesses will have access to a massive and influential group of local women's social networks, while helping us fight food insecurity in our community. LBDI advocates post daily pictures across social media and partners will be featured through tags, mentions, and other collaborative opportunities. If you or someone you know might be interested in partnering, please email [LBDI@jlstpete.org](mailto:LBDI@jlstpete.org) for more info.

## Thank you for your interest!

Thanks to the LBDI Committee's hard work and dedication we not only met but exceeded our 2020 goals, providing the much needed support to our community during an incredibly challenging time. In 2021, we hope to engage an even larger group of members to participate as Champions, increase daily partner involvement, and exceed fundraising goals. Please feel free to reach out to the LBDI Committee Chair, Laura Burdick, or Development VP, Jenna Garnatz, if you have any questions. We look forward to engaging with you!



**a warm note to say**

**THANK  
YOU!**

**to St. Anthony's Hospital!**

Thank you to St. Anthony's Hospital BayCare Health System and St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation for their continued support of the Junior League of St. Petersburg and our mission of improving our community. St. Anthony's has generously donated to the Junior League of St. Petersburg our headquarters space since 2006. This is over 15 years of partnership where we have been able to give back to our community funds that we would otherwise have to have spent on rent for our headquarters. With the funds saved from the in-kind donation, we have been able to provide over 40,000 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to the youth of St. Petersburg at our annual Care Fair event!

A special thank you to St. Anthony's past President Ford Kyes, for helping us establish this partnership and to St. Anthony's current President, Scott Smith and all St. Anthony's Board Members for their continued support of our League and our community.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a modern, multi-story building with large glass windows and balconies. Several tall palm trees are in the foreground, and there are some smaller, rounded trees on the left. The sky is clear and blue.

***Highlights coming in our next CauseWay issue will include:***

Community Advisory Council Intros

August Clusters

Cocktails & Couture

September Dinner Meeting

AND MORE!

**HAVE AN IDEA FOR  
SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE  
FEATURED IN A CAUSEWAY?**

*Email [publications@jlstpete.org](mailto:publications@jlstpete.org)*