



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ATHENS

JUNIOR DIRECTIONS

October/November 2021



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ABOUT JUNIOR DIRECTIONS

Junior Directions is published by the Junior League of Athens, Inc. on a bimonthly basis, with publication dates on the 1st of the month. Articles are due on the 15th day of the preceding month.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ATHENS

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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

VISION STATEMENT

The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.

OUR FOCUS

Women's Reproductive Health

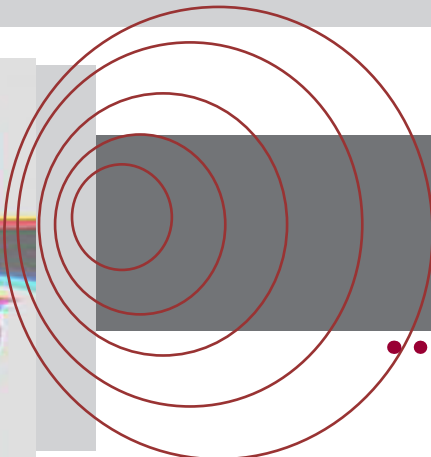
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Calendar

- October 11: October General Membership Meeting
VIA Zoom
- October 18: Council Meeting
VIA Zoom
- October 25: Board Meeting
VIA Zoom
- November 7: Sustainer Appreciation Reception
Taylor-Grady House
- November 8: November General Membership Meeting
Taylor-Grady House & Zoom
- November 15: Council Meetings
Taylor-Grady House & Zoom
- November 22: Board Meeting
Taylor-Grady House & Zoom



President's Note



Sarah Allgood
2021-2022 President
jlathenspresident@gmail.com

I was recently asked by a group of college students what I think my “real” super power is, and I responded, “Staying calm under pressure”. One year ago, as I was taking notes, listening in on many zoom meetings, and absorbing “what it takes” to be in a leadership position for an organization like the Junior League of Athens, I do not think I could have predicted how much super powers come into play- but not just for me, for our entire membership.

Last year our league was rocked by COVID-19. Everyone was doing her best to make decisions for the league, for her committee, and for herself as a member. We transitioned our league experience to Zoom for virtual meetings, happy hours, and volunteer support opportunities. Eventually everyone grew weary of those “unprecedented times” and “having to pivot”. It was hard to focus in long meetings or conferences. It was hard to feel like we were as plugged into our Athens community as in previous years. It was hard to find the connection that was so valued by members, no matter her tenure in the league. But despite the challenge that a new pandemic brought, so many of our members revealed their super powers:

Creativity

One of the first to ask, “how can I help?”

Diligence

Sees the silver lining in every situation

Open to new ideas, even if she may disagree

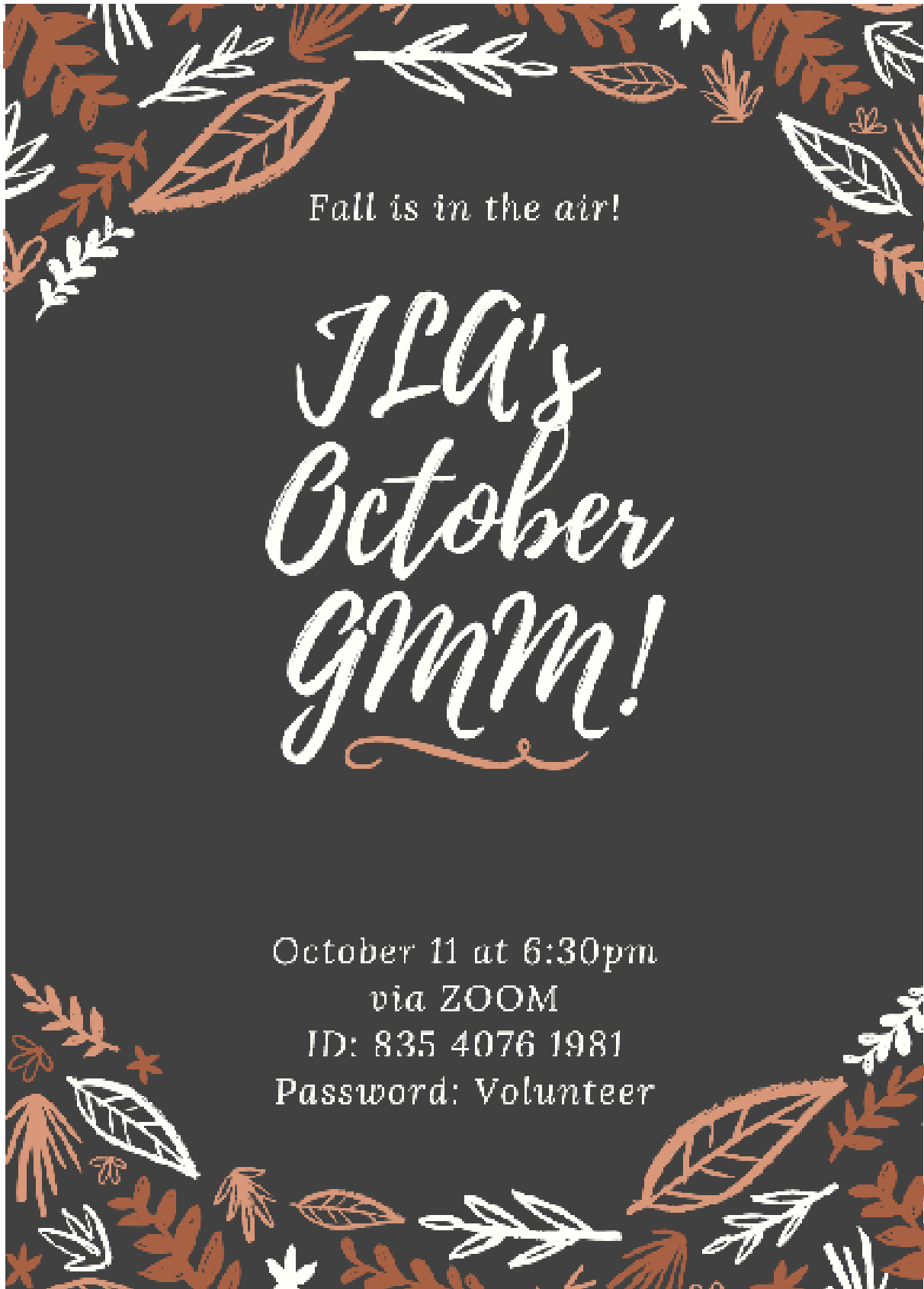
Brings a sense of humor when the room needs it most

Connecting people

Passion

Of all of these, our members showed their commitment to the Junior League of Athens. And here I want to say thank you not only to the active members, but to sustainers and provisional members. Over the summer, I felt certain that we would be fully back-to-normal for this league year. I was sure we’d survived the “zoom league year” and the clouds were finally clearing. August brought a different story, and without hesitation the Management Team made the bold and responsible decision to once again, start our year virtually. Y’all, we had a wonderful turnout for the September GMM! While we are currently virtual once again, we are truly starting this year on a new path. We voted to change our signature focus to Reproductive Health & Issues, with a goal of working to help the Athens community find “period equity”. We discussed the current state of the Taylor-Grady House. We learned about the upcoming efforts for Georgia Pre-K week. We got to welcome and hear fun facts about the incredible group of new provisional and transfer members this year.

There is no doubt this year is bringing some uncertainty, but is that not a catalyst for the Junior League?! We are here to become greater leaders and volunteers. We are passionate about serving the community and making new friends along the way. Our next moves will be new in some ways, but my hope is that we draw from the generations of league women who came before us, and continue forward with the same determined passion. This is an exciting time to be in the Junior League of Athens—an exciting time to show our super powers.



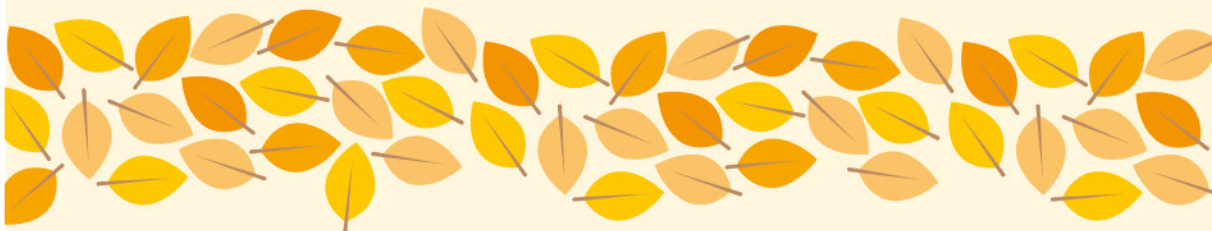


JLA'S

NOVEMBER GMM

11.08.2021

Details to follow



September GMM Minutes

General Membership Meeting Monday, September 13, 2021 – via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by President Sarah Allgood.

Michelle Brunke and Ida Barnett kicks off the meeting with introductions of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs.

Gabby Dukes introduces the newest provisional class.

Kathleen Meehan introduces the newest transfers into the league.

Sarah Allgood welcomes members to the new year and gives updates on what the board has been working on. Also lets members know that the board has decided to vacate the Taylor Grady House after this last lease year.

April Balenger sends out a call to promote Georgia Pre-K Week and asks members to submit a video of them reading a book.

Ida moves to vote on Signature Focus: Women's Reproductive Issues or Literacy.
Michelle seconds.

Women's Reproductive Issues receives majority vote.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Sent into breakout groups to get to know members.

Respectfully submitted,

Asha Manzy
JLA Recording Secretary, 2021-2022

Member Status Update

Transfers:

**Cara Bass
Ellyn Evans
Alicia George
Katie Morris
Julia Dietz**

**Megan Gerkan Wade
Chastity Williams
Shea Steller**

Happy Birthday!

Kathleen Meehan

October 21

**Ashton Peeples
Alison Wages
Emily Lewis
Abbey Duhé**

**November 1
November 7
November 13
November 19**



The Public Affairs committee has been busily working to promote and get ready for GaPre-K week 2021. This year, we will again celebrate virtually the week of October 4-8th. What is the significance of the pre-k program? In 1992, Governor Zell Miller launched a pilot program called Georgia's Pre-K. At the time, the educational program served 750 four-year-olds in the state. Now, 29 years later, the lottery-funded program has laid a solid foundation for academic excellence and future success in the lives of more than 1.6 million children. Georgia's Pre-K is a voluntary, free program available to all of Georgia's four-year-olds regardless of parental income, and continues to be nationally-recognized for its success. Over the years, it has almost lost its funding due to budget cuts, so that's when Voices for Georgia's Children, along with partner organizations like Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, responded by launching Georgia Pre-K Week in 2011. The goal is to emphasize the importance of quality early childhood education by providing opportunities for leaders to engage with Pre-K classrooms in their local communities.

YOU CAN HELP! Speak out on the importance of providing quality early childhood educational opportunities.

Public Affairs has also been working on new legislative initiatives for the current league year. These include; The aid and protection of all women, children, families and vulnerable populations; Quality education which is critical for Georgia's students to become college and/or career ready for our global society. Improved access to health care for all women, children, and vulnerable populations.

Membership Outreach Update

The membership outreach committee is excited to be starting a new league year. We have been very busy over the summer hosting recruitment events. The first was a Sunday Funday in June, followed by a Happy Hour event at Southern Brewing Company in July. We restarted our Happy on the Patio in August. Unfortunately, the recent rise in COVID cases has put a pause on the larger events we had planned for September. We have tried to create feeling of community by organizing small group meet ups in place of our larger events. For the month of September, members were placed in small groups based on their birthday. We will be switching up the groups for the month of October, so stay tuned. We are also hoping to have a Halloween Party, but that will be dependent on the number of cases in the area. Please keep an eye on Tuesday Tidbits for more information regarding these events.

The membership committee is also in the process of facilitating a mentorship program for the league year. If you joined the league in 2019 or later, you can register to be a mentee. If you joined 2018 or prior, we would love to have you as a mentor. For more information or to sign up, please email jlamembershipoutreach@gmail.com. Please sign-up by October 4th 2021.

As always, if you have any questions regarding events/programs or any ideas for upcoming socials, please reach out. We are here to make your league experience the best on possible. You can reach the chair of the membership committee at jlathensmembership@gmail.com.



Dear Junior League of Athens members,

As many of you know, the Junior League of Athens (JLA) was notified over a year ago by the ACC Government about their new lease requirements. Beginning in FY23 (July 1, 2022), the League's lease payment on the Taylor-Grady House will increase from \$1 annually to nearly \$40,000 annually. Additionally, ACC will no longer share in paying the House's utilities (historically they covered the first \$8,000) and will also now require that JLA pay them the equivalent of 10% of our annual gross rental income. In response to these dramatic increases, a Taylor-Grady House Action Committee was organized this past spring by JLA Sustainers to discuss how best to help JLA negotiate with the ACC Government. The group was able to raise over \$10,000 to help pay for the House's utilities this year and provided advice and counsel to the current JLA Board.

Three weeks ago, Erin Thompson Podvin, Tammy Gilland (both Sustainer Representatives on the current JLA Board of Directors) and I met via Zoom with Andrew Saunders-Central Services Director, Angel Helmly-Operations Analyst, and a member of the ACC Government's legal team. Based off this discussion, the uncertainty of Taylor-Grady House rental income because of the on-going pandemic, and the current size of our JLA membership, the JLA Board voted at their August meeting to vacate the Taylor-Grady House at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2022).

I realize there are many emotions tied to the Taylor-Grady House. The Junior League's history with the House is significant and spans over 50 years. Our decades of successful stewardship deserve to be cherished and celebrated, and we plan to do both this year. Change is always hard, and this is no exception. You may have asked yourself a handful of questions during this process- and that's expected! Know that we are considering those questions too and working to get them answered as soon as possible. It is my intention that all members feel heard, and informed. While uncertainly may seem difficult, please know that I, along with the rest of the JLA Board of Directors, will be available to talk with you any time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Allgood
JLA President 2021-2022

During the September GMM, JLA Board Sustainer Representative, Erin Thompson Podvin shared that a Taylor-Grady House Action Committee has been formed of Athens community members and several JLA Sustainers. All JLA members who would like to be involved with the future of TGH are welcome to participate (or listen) in their discussion, as they plan to work towards keeping Taylor-Grady House a historic home and museum after the Junior League of Athens concludes it's position as stewards in June 2022. If you would like to be added to the listserv for the TGH Action Committee, contact Erin Thompson Podvin (ethompsonjla@gmail.com) with your information.

Please note that the TGH Action Committee is an entity completely separate from the Junior League of Athens, and their conversations/actions are their own, and not necessarily that of JLA.



We are very grateful for you—our JLA Sustainers!
Please join us on **Sunday, November 7, 4:00-6:00 pm** for an appreciation reception at The Taylor-Grady House.

Come visit with old friends and meet new ones!

Please rsvp to Tammy Gilland by **Friday, October 29**
tammygilland@gmail.com

Sustainer Spotlights & Favorite Memories

One of the best ways to support our active Junior League of Athens membership is to make sure they know and appreciate their history. We are looking for Sustainers willing to be featured in a short, 5-10 minute Sustainer Spotlight at the monthly General Membership Meetings. We will provide a template as a guide. If you would be willing to be spotlighted, please contact Erin Thompson Podvin at ethompsonjla@gmail.com.

We are also looking for Sustainers who would be willing to share their favorite Junior League memories and photos. If you have memories you'd like to share, please email them to Tammy Gilland at tammygilland@gmail.com. We will feature them in Tuesday Tidbits, Jr. Directions, and on the Junior League Facebook page.

Thank you in advance Sustainers for helping us to strengthen the connection with our Active membership.