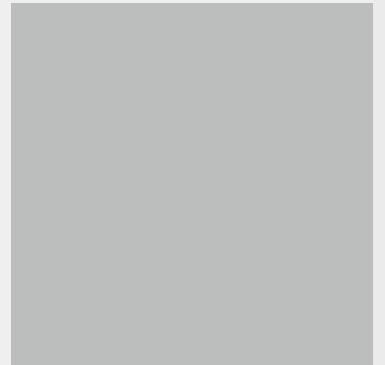
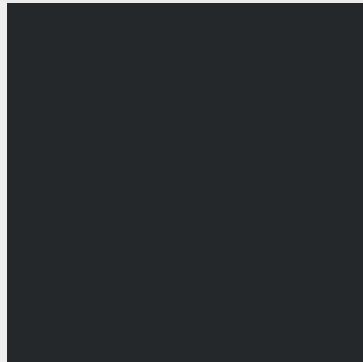




JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

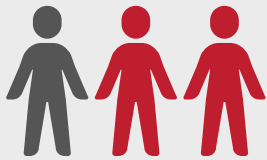
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 2025-2026 LEAGUE YEAR





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

MISSION: The Junior League of Long Beach is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.



316 Members

Funds Raised
\$40,000+



300+
Hours Volunteered

Community Programs
3



SUPPORTERS AND DONORS FOR 2025-2026 LEAGUE YEAR

Port of Long Beach

Ms. Christie Bettendorf

Ms. Juliet Acuff

Varghese-Paul Family

Ms. Ashley Strickland

Ms. Meghan Rickman

Ms. Kami Riley

Ms. Kirsten Graham

Ms. Rebecca Low

Bobby & Heather Brel

LTC & Mrs. Hatch

Long Beach City College

Girl Scouts of Greater LA

Marriott Long Beach Airport

Pride Tax & Bookkeeping

Emigh Dental Care

Shannon Hall Tax

McCormick L.A.



The Junior League of Long Beach will work in partnership with local communities to facilitate Leadership and Youth Development programs to encourage positive experiences, relationships and environments for youth and young adults to thrive.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we conclude another meaningful year of service, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, compassion, and leadership demonstrated by our members, donors, and community partners. Together, we are making a lasting impact throughout Long Beach through volunteer service, leadership development, and community programs that support women, children, and families.

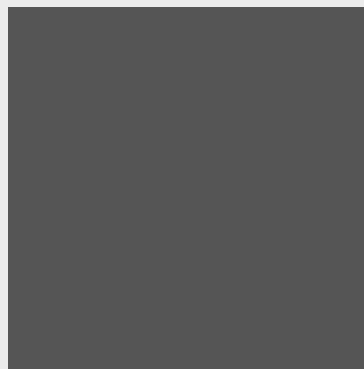
This spring was especially exciting for the Junior League. Our March Prom Party helped 30 girls prepare for a special milestone with confidence and dignity. We also launched our very first Young Leaders Summit for high school girls: an inspiring, day-long program centered on leadership, confidence, financial literacy, and future career pathways. Seeing all of these young women leave feeling empowered and encouraged was a powerful reminder of the importance of our mission and the role our League continues to play in developing future leaders!

None of this work would be possible without the support of our active and sustaining members, donors, and community partners. Your generosity, time, and commitment allow us to continue growing our impact while adapting to the evolving needs of our vibrant Long Beach community.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as President has been watching our members step forward with creativity, determination, and heart. From our longtime sustainers to our newest members, every woman contributes to the strength of the Junior League.

As we look to the future, I am optimistic about all we can accomplish together. Thank you for believing in the mission of the Junior League of Long Beach and for being part of our community.

Kami Riley
President, 2025-26
Junior League of Long Beach



2026 HELEN D. NEWCOMB AWARD RECIPIENT

Judy Ross



Judy Ross received the highest honor in the Junior League of Long Beach for her commitment to volunteerism and community action



Judy, a member of the Junior League of Long Beach since 1979, has dedicated more than four decades to serving the League and the Long Beach community. A Past President (1987–1988), she continues to support the organization as a sustaining advisor and mentor, helping to develop and guide future leaders.

Judy holds a Master’s degree in Social Work and has dedicated her career to improving lives through mentoring, supporting public health initiatives, and nonprofit leadership.

Her impact extends well beyond the League through dedicated service to numerous nonprofits, boards, and commissions. She served for 15 years as the first Executive Director of the Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership, where the organization help strengthened the capacity of more than 5,000 nonprofit organizations and helped expand their reach and impact across the community.

The JLLB is proud to celebrate Judy’s lifelong commitment to mentorship, service, and strengthening the Long Beach community.

The prestigious award is given annually to a Junior League member who exemplifies the organization’s mission and serves as a role model through her leadership, service, and dedication to community impact. Established in 1995, the award honors the legacy of Helen D. Newcomb, the founder and first president of the JLLB.

Congratulations Judy!

Community Programs

JLLB Programs Sending Ripples of Impact through our Community

Building Future Leaders through Life Skills & Experiences

The Junior League delivered a year defined by hands-on service and meaningful community connection, strengthening partnerships with Food Finders, Casa Youth Shelter, LBUSD, and the Volunteer Center. Our work spanned service initiatives including donation drives that collected 22 bags of clothing and 166 lbs of food, our fourth annual Prom Party, where 30 high school girls experienced a joyful, dignified event shaped by thoughtful planning and community generosity. Culminating with the inaugural Young Leaders Summit.



Young Leaders Summit



Prom Party



Long Beach Marathon

Community Programs

Driving Change in California

CalSPAC's Impactful Year

The Advocacy & Outreach/CalSPAC committee championed civic engagement throughout the year, representing JLLB at statewide CalSPAC conferences and bringing accessible advocacy education directly to members. Through impactful trainings with partners like the League of Women Voters, sharing legislative updates, Get Out the Vote efforts, and member facing forums like Legislation & Libations, the committee connected the League to broader policy conversations while equipping member with tools to understand and influence issues affecting women, youth, and families. Our delegates represented the League at multiple CalSPAC conferences, monitored new bills, and translated complex policy into meaningful local engagement.



Serving on CalSPAC offers Long Beach delegates the chance to represent our League and advocate for legislation that aligns with the Junior League's mission. It's a unique opportunity to learn about public policy and share valuable insights with the home League. Delegates help foster civic engagement. Their efforts promote greater participation in advocacy among JLLB members.

Since 1971, the Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC) has advocated for the interests of its member Leagues, ensuring that key issues in Health, Education, Family Support, Violence Prevention, and Anti-Human Trafficking are addressed at the national, state, and local levels.



Membership Update



**15
New
Members**

Welcome New Members

Fall Class

Morgan Anne Howard
Julie Brown
Shawna Berk
Annie Chean
Kimberly Livingston
Jenny Puglisi
Anjelica Petris
Allyson Badere

Spring Class

Inger Goodman
Annika Armstrong
Rachel Cranfill
Laura Baker-Rowe
Kelsey Davis
Jennefer Hernandez
Emma Overly



2025-26

Outgoing Board of Directors

President: Kami Riley
President-Elect: Nisha Varghese
Treasurer: Kathryn Esham
Executive Secretary: Kirsten Graham
Membership VP: Ashley Strickland
Community VP: Holly Disney
Nominating Chair: Laura George
Sustaining Advisor: Leslie Smith



2026-27

Incoming Board of Directors

President: Nisha Varghese
President-Elect: Arantxa Chavarria
Treasurer: Kaley Millan
Executive Secretary: Mandy Hatch
Membership VP: Holly Disney
Community VP: Samantha Aviles
Nominating Chair: Ashley Strickland
Sustaining Advisor: Juliet Acuff

Member Experience



Training and DEIB Efforts

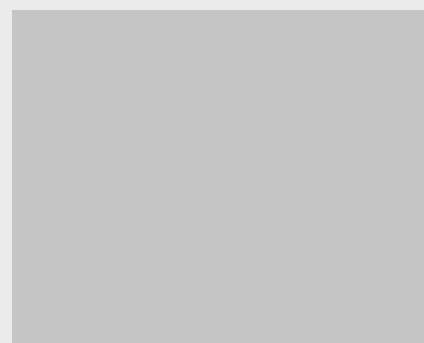
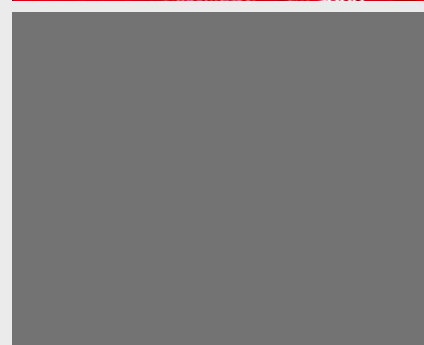
We expanded access to meaningful learning while embedding DEIB principles throughout the League experience. Highlights included launching the year with a land acknowledgment, incorporating DEIB knowledge bites into every GMM, facilitating five trainings, including the relaunch of Facilitator Level 1, and increasing visibility through with members and community events such as the MLK Festival and Long Beach Marathon.

Through leadership and storytelling trainings, DEIB education, and member feedback initiatives, members were equipped with the tools and confidence to lead with impact in the Long Beach community.

Membership Engagement

This year marked strong engagement across our General Membership Meetings (GMMs) and member social events. Hosted at the Hampton Inn as our interim venue, GMMs were well attended and fostered meaningful member connection.

To strengthen participation, we hosted several social events throughout the year, including a Paint and Sip, Kickboxing class, Friendsgiving, Gondola Ride, and Galentine's Day celebration. Birthdays, member milestones, and attendance activities also helped enhance engagement and create a welcoming member experience.



Fund Development

The Fund Development Committee created many “sweet connections” throughout the year, helping raise nearly \$40,000 to support the League’s mission and programs. A major highlight was our participation in Long Beach Gives. We also coordinated 2 successful online fundraisers with See's Candies and Kendra Scott, bringing supporters together in creative ways while expanding awareness of our mission. One of the sweetest moments of the year was hosting our “Build a Bouquet Bash” social fundraiser, which blossomed into a meaningful event filled with connection and creativity.



In addition, we were honored to receive three sponsorships from the Port of Long Beach, helping support both the Prom Party and the Young Leaders Summit. The committee also strengthened partnerships through Annual Dinner sponsorships, which contributed significantly to our fundraising success. Through every campaign, event, and sponsorship, we were reminded that strong relationships are at the heart of every successful effort.

We deeply appreciate all of our donors, sponsors, and supporters who helped make this a year full of growth, generosity, and sweet connections.

LONG BEACH GIVES

JLLB was thrilled to participate in Long Beach Gives for the fifth year. This citywide online fundraising campaign helps spotlight the many deserving nonprofits in Long Beach, including JLLB!

We're thrilled to share that for Long Beach Gives 2025, Junior League of Long Beach members raised over \$10,000!



TOTAL FUNDS RAISED
\$40,000+



Port of
LONG BEACH
THE PORT OF CHOICE

THANKS, POLB!

Sustainer Update

“Cosmic Connections” has been the theme for our 139 Sustaining Members this year, and they have had such fun connecting with each other, the Active Members, and the community! Some of the events that have brought them together include



- Van Heath Party where Sustainers gathered for a summer picnic
- Harvest Luncheon to celebrate the women who have reached 50 years of JLLB Membership
- Annual Holiday Party
- Valentine Social
- Special Event at a museum to view a visiting exhibit, have a delicious lunch and play in the adult ball pit!
- Bimonthly Sustainer Council meetings with social time to connect and discussions to support the League
- Interest groups covering wide-ranging passions such as walking, hiking, games (poker, Mah Jongg and Mexican Train), garden-themed events, books and dining.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Sustainers continue to support the League both financially and as mentors and advisors to Active Members. Several Sustaining Members have been honored in the Community this year for their important work with organizations including the Long Beach Library Foundation and the Long Beach Day Nursery. The support, training, and connections gained through the League has clearly enriched the lives of not only the League Members, but the community as well.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$???

Sustainer Update



HONORING LEAGUE LEGACY WOMEN

Linda Florie	Pam Spoo	Cheryl Bryan
Anne Johnson	Tamara Achauer	Susan Ingram
Linda Landes	Linda Geyer	Ann Pray
Charlotte Lesser	Jan Hall Zolin	



THE JLLB 50 CLUB



The Harvest Luncheon celebrates members of our organization who have shared their passion for volunteerism in our community for 50 years. We celebrate the fruits of their labor, their loyalty to the League, their dedication to the community and the friendships made along the way. The first Harvest Luncheon was held in 1993 and has been held every three years since then. The women honored for their service in 2024 joined the League in 1972, 1973 and 1974. There are currently 127 JLLB 50 sustaining members who have been recognized for their 50 years of service.