

Meet Your 2014-16 LCW Board of Directors

The League of Catholic Women is proud to introduce the following volunteer leaders who have stepped forward as we enter a new era.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CO-PRESIDENTS

Fran Rusciano Murnane: A 30-year member who co-chaired the Ball, served on the board and came back to active volunteering recently. “We are called to ethical decision-making and just relationships by the Holy Spirit.” Fran has a huge impact at Risen Christ School as Director of Advancement. She is a “supportive friend, loves writing, gardening, cooking for appreciative appetites and being at the lake with family and friends.”

Julie Ann Schmidt: Julie Ann became a League member after walking casually through the green door one day while she was in graduate school at the University of Minnesota, almost 15 years ago. She chaired First Impression in its infancy before taking a break to sing and travel overseas. She is married, with a ten-year old son adopted from Guatemala.

TREASURER

Jean Ackermann: Jean came to the Twin Cities in 1985 to get married. She has a BA in Business Education (office). Her career was in the school systems and office management until her early retirement in July, 2014. Her League involvement includes: First Impression, Book Club and helping in the League office. She enjoys spending time with family, volunteering at church, camping, hunting, fishing and charcuterie.

SECRETARY (INTERIM)

Margie Mullin: “I was raised in Rochester, MN. A high school trip gave me a yen for travel and probably prompted me to become a docent at the MIA for 20 years. After graduating from the U Of M, I taught French and Latin in Evanston, Ill. We have 4 children and 15 grandchildren.



Fran Murnane



Julie Ann Schmidt



Mary Ritten

COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Ritten: “I have worn many hats in my nearly 30 years as a League member. I feel privileged to be trying on a new chapeau as part of such a talented and energetic new board. This organization is dear to my heart, as it is to yours. Thank you for working so hard to ‘save it.’ ”

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League Holiday Party Set for December

Save the date TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16. Then start inviting friends and spouses to join League members at a “Christmas Cheer” party to celebrate the season with cocktails and small bites. Watch for a more detailed invitation in the December Link.

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GOVERNANCE

Marcella Gordon: As a former League treasurer, president and chair of the Endowment Fund, Marcella brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to yet another board position. Marcella is an avid reader and one of the faithful founding members of the daytime “Bookies.”

DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS (INTERIM)

Susan Hayes: “For over 30 years I have been a volunteer in various organizations in St. Paul and Minneapolis. As a new League member in the 1990’s, I worked on the Link and co-chaired the Northside Breastfeeding Project.”

Anne Lawler: Anne has over 26 years of travel industry experience. Anne’s passion is helping others succeed. She is a graduate of St. Mary’s College of Notre Dame, lives in the Twin Cities with her husband and 4 children and serves on the Holy Family Catholic High School Board.

Kris Smyth: Kris comes to the LCW Board with deep experience in fundraising, currently as Director of Development at Catholic Eldercare. Kris has assisted with several League projects during her 10 years as a member.

A Wonderful September 30 Annual Meeting!

The Annual Meeting of the League of Catholic Women took place on September 30 at 2:00 p.m. at The Woman’s Club. About 65 members were present, more than the 45 required as a quorum by our Bylaws.

Amendments to the Bylaws were straightforward and few. The most important amendment brought back into existence the Advisory “Committee” (rather than Advisory “Board”). The changes to the structure give the President/Co-Presidents and the Executive Committee some leeway in choosing outside members (from the Twin Cities community) who have some particular expertise that would be helpful and limits the terms of those serving. With the kind heart we all have for the League, this committee will grow and flourish in service to the League.

Votes by show of hands were taken for the Executive Committee and for the Full Board of Directors. It should be noted that according to the 2007 Bylaws, no nominations may be taken from the floor. They may be made before the Annual Meeting in writing and require 20 signatures.

Wonderful hors d’oeuvres were butler served and beautiful desserts were on the tables in the dining room. It was a delightful social gathering, greatly enjoyed by members, especially those who are former members of the St. Paul Guild of Catholic Women who have “jumped the river” to join the League.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Continued*

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Alice Randall: “In the mid 70’s, new to Minneapolis, I said yes to joining LCW and became friends with an exciting group of women who provided me with the opportunity to grow and become engaged in a number of meaningful activities—from Pathway Group Homes and Woman/Becoming to many fun, celebratory social events. After 30 years with the Edina School System as Community School Partnership Developer, I look forward to once again being involved with and learning from the amazing, competent women of the League.”

MEMBER ENRICHMENT

Mary Culhane: “My association with LCW goes back more than 20 years. I have held positions as co-chair of the mailing committee and later chaired the daytime ‘Bookies’ book club. It is a pleasure to be working with such dedicated and talented women. I enjoy playing golf and spending time with my grandchildren.”

Judy Fischer: A longtime League member, Judy joins Mary as co-chair. She is also a “Bookie” and has participated in several League social events and outreach projects. She also served as an Art Adventure Guide at the MIA.

MEMBERSHIP

Theresa Orth: “I am a graduate of the College of St. Benedict where the Catholic values I learned at home were strengthened: service and acceptance of everyone. I believe I was given gifts of talents and health so that I may help where needed. My 2 sons attended Annunciation School where I was APO president and also coordinator of its annual rummage sale. My husband and I remain active members of the parish.”

Kristi Flangan Villar: Kristi is a proud member of the League of Catholic Women. She is also a member of the Basilica of Saint Mary and previously chaired their annual Block Party. Currently she serves as Director of Development for Children’s Health at the U of M & Masonic Children’s Hospital. She and her husband have 2 children, ages 5 and 18 months and live in Wayzata.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Mary Estlick: Fairly new to the League, Mary has been an active member of the Basilica of Saint Mary for many years. Currently she and her husband are acting as Marriage Mentors there. Mary is deeply interested in the spiritual lives of women, serving on the board of WomenSpirit for several years. She is a member of the LCW book club, Spiritual Conversation, and the mother of 3 sons and one grandson.

Tuny O’Rourke: “I have been a member of the League for 35 years and was active in Women/Becoming in the 70’s and 80’s. I was a spiritual director at the Cenacle Retreat House in Wayzata, and Loyola Center for Spirituality and also on the training team at Sacred Ground at St. Catherine’s. My husband and I have 4 married children and 8 grandchildren. My interests include golf, both here and in Arizona, and amateur theatre.”

Donna Ramsay: “A League member for over 36 years, I find the LCW offers so many programs of interest to women with inquisitive personalities. My family and friends, as well as the joy of gardening and painting fill my life. I find that the one thing that most holds my interest is spirituality—deepening and growing into ourselves, others and God. Serving on boards in all the above areas has enabled me to make long lasting friendships.”

SOCIAL SERVICES

Jean Dunn: “After 35 years working in a Bloomington law firm, I retired to enjoy ‘the fruits of my labors.’ Those fruits include travel, more time with friends and family and a chance to join groups very different from those in my working days. Thanks to a good friend, I joined the League about 5 years ago. I very much enjoy all the friends I have made by volunteering at Tuesday Club, First Impression and Risen Christ and also editing the Link. I look forward to serving on the League board as we make decisions that shape our future.

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Mary Culhane



Kristi Flanagan Villar



Mary Estlick



Donna Ramsey

We have included all photos submitted that would print clear images and apologize if yours could not be used.



Mary Gallivan



Jane O'Neill



Karen Winter

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SOCIAL EVENTS

Mary Gallivan: Mary has been a life long resident of Saint Paul and mother to 4 adult children and grandmother to 10. Mary has been an active realtor for 30 years. She has been involved in Junior League, Catholic Charities, Clare House, St. Thomas Academy and the Guild of Catholic Women. Mary is now happy to be a part of the League of Catholic Women.

Jane O'Neill: “For many years I was an active member of the former Guild of Catholic Women. I recently retired from teaching and now spend more time with my children and 11 grandchildren. I am looking forward to being part of LCW and to share the co-chairing of our social events.”

Karen Winter: “Answering the call of a lifelong love for learning and my community, I have been blessed to have a volunteer career with such organizations such as the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Children’s Hospital and Catholic Charities. I was married to Norb Winter for 46 blissful years until his passing in 2011. Our family of a daughter, son and 4 grandkids all reside in St. Paul, at least until the cold settles in. Then I spend winters in sunny Florida. I am honored to be part of the LCW’s Board of Directors.”

St. Nicholas Bags are Back!

Looking for a fun, rewarding service project for you and your kids/grandkids during the holiday season? After a hiatus last year, the League is again putting together comfort kits for those in our community who are homeless. Your help is needed to provide donations for filling these tote bags. The following items are needed in travel-sized quantities. If you are able to contribute several items in each category, that would be wonderful.

Shampoo/conditioner

Toothpaste& toothbrushes

Tubes of Vaseline

Hand lotion

Chapstick

Granola bars/ other snacks



Also badly needed are winter caps, gloves, mittens and socks.

Before December 3, you may bring your donations on any Wednesday or Thursday morning (9:00 to noon) to the League's office on floor 6 of the Woman's Club. You may also drop them off at Anna Underdahl's home at 5121 Grove Street, Edina. Call 612-481-3359 before you come.

Kits will be assembled at the home of Marta Melin (martamelin@gmail.com). Please contact her if you would like to participate. Christmas cookies, cocoa, wine and cheese will be served.

Come join the fun and follow in the footsteps of St. Nicholas by bringing a little comfort and cheer to those in our community who may be most in need of it at this time of the year.

In Memoriam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Lorraine Breitenbacher

Patty Holloran

Jim Gooley

Patty Holloran

Marilyn Klis

Mary Ritten

Fred lang

Marilyn Beddor

Jane Clifford

Patty Holloran

Suncoast West Foundation-Joan Loonam

Joanne Mahoney

Patty Holloran

Mary Kiley Smith

Mary Kavan

Joan Peterson

Laura Purcell

Greg Suddendorf

Mary Ritten

Calendar of events

Monday, November 1:	Spiritual Conversation Book Club at the home of Kathleen Thiede 9:30 a.m. "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis, Chapter 5
Thursday, November 6:	MIA Art Tour of "The Art of Spain" 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Contact patvagnoni@comacst.net for more information.
Tuesday, November 11:	Tuesday Club at Saint Olaf 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 13:	Daytime "Bookies" book club 9:15 Hostess, Marcella Gordon / Discussion Leader, Mary Culhane "Empty Mansions" by Paul Dedman
Tuesday, November 18:	Evening "Bookies" book club Hostess and discussion leader, Lavern Levy "Fly a Little Higher" by Laura Sobiech

League Office Hours

Wednesday and Thursday,
9:00 am to noon.

Exceptions made for
Thanksgiving, Christmas
and Easter holidays.