



News Release

President, Lori Gruber
Vice President, Bre Theiss
Past President, Heather Maurer
Recording Secretary, Heather Dixon
Corresponding Secretary, Lindsey Stevens
Treasurer, Holly Shell-Langhurst
Assistant Treasurer, Elaine Severs
75th Anniversary Chair, Beth Pryor

Junior Service League Celebrates 75th Anniversary

May 1, 2008

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio – Women of all ages gathered together to celebrate Junior Service League's 75th anniversary on Saturday, April 19, with a gala dinner event in the ballroom of the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Springfield.

The league honored Lori Bartell, Mary Lu Noonan and Gretta Runyan at the gala dinner event with its first-ever Award for Distinctive Service.

“The ballroom was filled, with some 140 in attendance. Mike Larson, John Kuziak, Tim Swonger and Tyler Detrick played live music as members, both young and old, greeted each other with great excitement as if they were attending a high school reunion,” said Beth Pryor, chairwoman of the event. “Everyone was dressed to the nines, and the food was delicious.”

A slideshow of almost 100 photos of league members through the years ran continuously in one corner of the ballroom, while a video of the 1996 Follies ran in another. Follies programs from past years were on display, along with brochures, binders, cookbooks, shirts and a red Junior Service League apron. Members gazed at poster-size collages of photos, reminiscing about their years in the league.

Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland paid tribute to the league, proclaiming April 19, 2008, as Junior Service League Day. State Rep. Ross McGregor, R-Springfield, commended league for its many years of service and fund-raising projects. U.S. Rep. David Hobson, whose wife, Carolyn, was a league member, also complimented league on its commitment to the community.

“All of these distinguished gentlemen spoke with such high regard about our organization's 75-year dedication toward the plight of others less fortunate in our community,” Pryor said. “They noted how we also found time to form such lasting bonds of friendship in the process.”

Tom Stafford, staff reporter of the *Springfield News-Sun* presented the league's first-ever Award for Distinctive Service to Bartell, Noonan and Runyan. Bartell, a member of the league from 1976 through 1981, was recognized for her contributions to the Springfield community through her service on various committees and boards. Noonan, 93, president of the league in 1935 and the first Follies chairwoman, also

was recognized for her contributions to the community through her service on multiple boards and organizations. Runyan, a member of the league from 1967 to 1977 and a breast cancer survivor, was recognized for her work assisting others battling the disease and for beginning a support group for grieving mothers. McGregor came back to the podium a second time to present special letters of commendation to the three award recipients.

The evening continued as friends and family snapped photos of all past and present league members. A photo of the past presidents also was taken.

“The evening concluded with attendees kicking up their heels on the dance floor to cap off the night with great fun,” Pryor said. “Many women said they were looking forward to meeting again for the league’s 100th anniversary.”

A portion of the proceeds from the gala event fund-raiser will be given back to the community through grants. Junior Service League, a nonprofit women’s organization, was founded in 1933 by Mrs. Bertha Crabill, Mrs. Margaret Martin and Mrs. Laura Mae Carlisle. The league supports and enhances Springfield through community service projects and fund-raisers.

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Note to Editor:

The attached photo outline is:

Junior Service League celebrated 75 years of service to the Springfield community on Saturday, April 19, 2008, with a gala dinner event in the ballroom of the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Springfield. The league recognized its past presidents in attendance. Pictured from left to right are: Heather Maurer, Connie Bost, Mary Lu Noonan, Nancy Finnegan, Kelly Evans-Wilson, Pat Lohnes, Katie Oder, Lori Gruber, Ann Chitkara, Karen Teusink, Lisa Sherrock, Nancy Tehan, Margaret Roark, Kathy Acra, Nancy Kincaid, Kathy Henry, DeWandia Higgins, Mary Latham, Linda Armstrong, Lana Waldren, Elaine Stevenson, Cathy Arends, Janet Detrich and Marty Billing. Mary Lu Noonan was the league’s president in 1935. The league also recognized Lori Bartell, Mary Lu Noonan and Gretta Runyan with its first-ever Award for Distinctive Service.