



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BAKERSFIELD

Women building better communities®

WILDFLOWER • SUMMER 2018



Who We Are...

Since 1952, the Junior League of Bakersfield has been committed to promoting voluntarism and to training its members for community leadership.

Junior League members share a strong commitment to service. We seek women of all races, religions and national origins who are interested in the benefits of working together to positively impact our community.

The Junior League of Bakersfield makes a difference in Kern County through project and enabling fund grants, given annually to local non-profits.

The organization has been instrumental in funding numerous projects and activities focused on women and children.

To learn more about how to join Junior League of Bakersfield, email memdev@juniorleagueofbakersfield.org or call 661-322-1671

Cindy Meek Named 2017-18 Sustainer of the Year

Cindy Meek has contributed extensively to the Junior League of Bakersfield and the Bakersfield community through her activities, and as a tribute to her outstanding accomplishments and sincere selflessness, she is being recognized as the 2017-2018 Sustainer of the Year, the highest recognition awarded to a sustaining member by the Junior League of Bakersfield.

Cindy's unsurpassed interest in volunteerism and commitment to community service are unequalled in her service to Kern County charities and nonprofits. Raised in Napa, she graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Education and received a life-time teaching credential from California State University, Hayward. She is a wife, mother of three, grandmother and teacher.



Cindy joined Junior League in 1976. She served on and chaired numerous committees, serving as President in 1985-1986. In 1987-1988 she served her last year as an Active member of JLB, sustaining in 1988. She served as the Garces Parent Cub President and on the Garces School Board. She was President of Bakersfield Community House and served on the Volunteer Center Board in Nominating and Fundraising. She continued on the Kern County Library as the CFO, co-chaired a committee and worked on fundraising. Cindy also served in many capacities with St. Francis Parish School. She was honored as Career Woman of the year in 1989 and was NCEAs Distinguished Principal in 2008-09. In 2011, she retired as Principal of St. Francis Parish School. She has served on the boards and committees of Kern Bridges, Garces Memorial High School Foundation, Bakersfield Community House, the Volunteer Center, Lori Brock Children's Museum, Beautiful Bakersfield Awards Dinner, Kern Pan-Hellenic Board, Guild House, Kappa Omega Service Sorority, United Way, Kern County Cancer Society, Kern County Library Foundation and Mercy Hospital. She has served as President of Bakersfield Community House, Garces Memorial High Parent's Club, the St. Francis School Board and the Junior League of Bakersfield. She has chaired the Garces Gala and four WASC Committees for school accreditation. She was a charter member of the St. Francis School Foundation and still serves on the Board of Directors. She Co-Chaired the 2018 Garces Gala celebrating the 70th anniversary and continues to be involved with scholarships, teacher-training and assisting her successor. She has dedicated her life to St. Francis Parish School and touched thousands of students' lives by challenging them to excellence. In January 2018, the Cynthia M. Meek Enrichment Center was completed; a multipurpose, state of the art space that allows the St. Francis Parish School community to gather under one roof for weekly Mass, Assemblies, Retreats, Rallies and Presentations.

Cindy personifies that which is the very best in community leadership and volunteerism, and has made a lasting impression on those with whom she has been associated.



Vern Pike, 2017-18 President
Junior League of Bakersfield

2017-18 Board of Directors

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Contact Us

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Tonya Vallicella 2017-18 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Tonya Vallicella, our 2017-18 Volunteer of the Year, the highest recognition awarded to an active member.

Tonya joined Junior League of Bakersfield in 2005. In her 13 years as an active member, she has served on multiple committees as a member and chair and on the Board of Directors; multiple times in the same positions. She enjoys technology and loves to learn new things. She has taken every position she has filled very seriously, quickly learning the responsibilities and always cognizant of the guidelines and rules. She is always willing to share her vast knowledge of technology, finance, publications and the infrastructure changes within League. She has provided help and support to all committees and members who ask and has worked tirelessly in the bank for almost all fundraisers, regardless of her placement.



Tonya's commitment to Junior League and the women and children of Kern County has been clearly demonstrated through her volunteerism and willingness to learn through trainings offered through JLB and AJLI. She has attended the Organization Development Institute (ODI) trainings three times (focusing on the Community Impact Track), Southwest Exchanges five times and Annual Conference twice, always expanding her knowledge of the issues facing Leagues. She has been a member and chair on Arrangements; the Wine Fest fundraiser two times; as the Vintner Chair and Tickets and Auction Book Chair, the Publications Chair twice; and served on Advisory Planning and the Community Research committees. She has participated on the Project Evaluation Committee five times, including one time as a member on the Community Research Committee. She has been the Treasurer/Finance Director twice, committing each time to a two year progression and served as the Communications Director/Secretary.

Tonya was on the Ad Hoc By-Laws and Policies and Procedures Revision committee for several years; developing a true understanding of the infrastructure and requirements/rules of League, as well as the ability and motivation to help mold the future of League through skills acquired at multiple trainings. She is committed to sharing her training, especially as League moves toward becoming "issue based." She hopes to be a part of the process that creates improvements in membership recruitment, member satisfaction, fund development and the clarification and documentation of job descriptions and responsibilities. In her fourteenth Active year, as the Administrative Vice-President; she will have continued opportunities to use her League training. Her commitment to volunteering has served the JLB members well as she continually supports the mission of "developing the potential of women through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers." She has consistently shared her knowledge and information.

Tonya personifies that which is the very best in community leadership and volunteerism, and has made a lasting impression on those with whom she has been associated.



CalSPAC Update:

On May 5th, Susan Hopkins, Leslie Manning and Allie Madrid attended the CalSPAC conference in Sacramento, where CalSPAC members presented a motion and support for Family Support Bill AB 2626: Strategies to Improve Enrollment in State-Sponsored Preschools.



The 2018 Fiesta Committee thanks everyone who supported the event.

Fiesta a Wonderful Night Under the Stars

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Fiesta! It was a wonderful night out under the stars at The Gardens at Monji. The venue was beautiful, the lawn games were fun, the Mexican food was delicious, and the folklorico dancers stunned us with their talent. Fiesta was a relaxing evening with friends old and new who came out to support the work JLB does in the community.

A special thank you goes out to our corporate table sponsors: Bank of the Sierra, AltaOne Federal Credit Union, Kern Ridge Growers and Advanced Beverage.

Another thank you goes out to our Fiesta Committee who worked hard all year to put on this year's spring fundraiser. Fiesta may be over but it's never too late to fiesta!

Sincerely,

Bethany Johansing, Fiesta Committee Chair



The JLB Sustainer Luncheon will be held June 7 at Stockdale Country Club

SAVE THE DATES!

Sustainer Luncheon
Thursday, June 7th at 11:30 am
Stockdale Country Club

Sustainers and Board members will be mailed invitations with further details.

Fall Fundraiser - Oktoberfest
Friday, October 12th
JLB Community Center

Check the Junior League website www.juniorleagueofbakersfield.org for more information.

In Memoriam...

Adele Rock Nickel passed away in April 2017. Adele joined Junior League in 1968.

Dolores Hoffman passed away on December 19, 2017. Dolores joined Junior League in 1966.

Anne Hibbard passed away on December 23, 2017. Anne joined Junior League in 1972.

Jean Wigim Sheldon passed away on January 5, 2018. Jean joined Junior League in 1952.

Janice Giles Jackson passed away on March 27, 2018. Janice joined Junior League in 1983.

Alene Parsons passed away on March 27, 2018. Alene joined Junior League in 1957.



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