

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Annual Meeting, May 1975

I am proud to accept this gavel as your 44th President. Proud...because I'm very proud of this Junior League. We can all be proud of our League's heritage and of its track record in the past.

Through the years one of this League's strengths has been that we have been able to seek out community needs and change our role to meet them. No longer are we the Lady Bountifuls carrying baskets of fruit or even the extra ladies licking stamps in some office - although those were certainly necessary roles at one time. Now we are tutoring children with learning disabilities... or meeting with juvenile justice agencies....or writing grant requests to find money to support our projects....or urging our legislators to budget more money for services to children.

~~Just as we have changed our role in the past, we will continue to change~~ *build on our heritage and*
in the years ahead because we realize that we must change if we wish our League to remain a dynamic, viable organization. *Mary Poole, President of AJL*

Anna Hensel, Betsy Bethune, and I have just returned from Annual Conference in Colorado Springs. While there, AJL President Mary Poole challenged us to "Plan the League for our daughters instead of saving it for our mothers." I believe that only by planning for the future, for our daughters if you will, can we ~~hope to~~ save the League for all of us.

Nationally, AJL
~~that the role of the Association is increasingly becoming~~ *seeing its role as* one of trying to identify future trends that will affect Junior Leagues and then getting the word to us in time for us to plan for those trends.

A little over a year ago, the AJL Board put out a Trends Report which gathered together most of the available research on voluntarism. I would like to touch on just one of those trends tonight, and that is the changing role and expectations of women.

You are all aware of the trends affecting women in general. What you may not be aware of is that these trends have recently begun to affect *the Winter-Salmon* our Junior League.

For example, the number of working women nationwide continues to increase.... and the number of women who will work full or parttime and who will work for longer periods in their lives will continue to increase. Today at least ~~58~~ *58*

This means that 35% of our active membership hold jobs.
of our active membership works full time and another ~~27~~ *31* hold part-time jobs. ~~the~~

Again we are all aware that marriage and life styles relating to husband,

children, and home care are changing dramatically....there is the blending and sharing of roles between husband and wife; there's less household help available. Perhaps these trends, plus more employment, are reflected in our League in the increase in attendance at night meetings. This year when there was a choice of a day or a night membership meeting, 36% attended the night meeting.

Another factor that is affecting Leagues is the number of women going back to school. The League is no longer the only challenging learning opportunity readily available to women....as once it might have been. Now colleges and graduate schools are receptive to the part-time, housewife type student while a decade ago they were not.

Our League is trying to speak to this desire for more training through the new courses we will offer next year. ^{At placement} ~~This spring~~ 36 of our members enrolled in our "Skills of Helping" course. ^{Another} ~~Another~~ 24 signed up for "Growing To Be Me". Twenty-two more want to take the yet to be planned money management course. The demand for these courses is certainly an indication that we need to continue to offer more sophisticated training.

The Association has set an objective to make League training equivalent to that of a college or university or that available through paid employment. To achieve this, they are offering a new volunteer career development plan. We will be sending two delegates to ^{Charlotte in December} ~~Atlanta in the fall~~ to train to become counselors in our League. They will train ^{others, perhaps} our Placement Committee, ^{interests} to assist each of us in assessing our own ~~strengths~~ and skills and in setting goals for ^{so that we can focus our volunteer efforts there,} ourselves. Then it will be up to our League, the Area Council and the Association to design programs and placements to help each of us meet our individual goal.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of what is happening to women is our rising expectations about our roles in society. All the issues of the women's movement have raised our consciousness to the point where we want fulfillment in our own lives and want the full ranges of available choices open to us also.

AJL's Trends study tells us that there will be fewer marriages in the future and fewer children....thus giving women more discretionary time. But if we use that time to work for pay or to further our education, we will certainly

have less time for volunteering. ~~To quote Mary Poole:~~

"Many members will not have time for once-a-week service-type placements in a one-to-one situation such as tutoring, ^{or teacher aide} ~~docentry, teacher aide, etc.;~~ ~~their time will be so limited that it must be spent where they can make significant changes.....either in developing a totally new program, administering it, policy-making for it, etc. These kinds of change-oriented volunteering~~ Their time will be so limited that it must be spent in volunteering that doesn't take as many hours as it does

skills, contacts, knowledge, and expertise." This will be a real challenge to us as we look at project and placement possibilities and at money raisers... keeping in mind the changing time availability and changing expectations of our volunteers.

Mary Poole has suggested that if we really want to plan for the future, we should look at what college women are thinking. She feels that two trends on campuses now are significant for the Leagues.

One is that the most popular campus volunteer involvement is the Public Interest Research Group, a Nader-type investigative body. They're out to expose corruption, consumer rip-offs, etc. Their willingness to work within the system to bring about change through research and documentation of a problem is a far cry from the revolutionary approach or drop-out approach of a few years back. This is a commitment to bring about change that the League can build on.

The second college trend that can affect us is the dramatic increase in the number of self-designed degrees. Many young people want a "say" in their own education. They know what they want to achieve and they care enough to take the time to design their own degrees. The implications of this for Provisional training and placement are obvious.

Mary Poole feels that Junior Leagues today are facing the biggest crisis ever because of the trends hitting women and the trends hitting the economy.

I don't think the League can do much about the economy, except to be very aware of it when we select a money-raiser. But we certainly can, and must do something about the trends affecting women. And we will.

Next year....

- * Our Advisory Planning Committee will be studying our Placement picture
- * Our delegates will return with AJL's volunteer career development program
- * Our first courses will be underway
- * Projects and Research will study our community with a careful eye on League members' interest.
- * Ways and Means will be researching a big money-raiser
- * And we will continue to implement the association management process so that we can be sure we use our resources, especially money, ~~and~~ manpower, *and time*, in the best ways possible.

In all these ways, we will be speaking to trends affecting women.

We will also be continuing to make an impact on our community through Horizons and Learning Disabilities and through our three new projects: the Juvenile Justice Council, the Mental Health Curriculum, and Street Scene '76. And we will join the rest of the country in celebrating America's Bicentennial as we kick off the sales of our cookbook, Winston-Salem's Heritage of Hospitality.

Voluntarism and Junior Leagues may indeed be facing a crisis, but I ~~find~~ ^{heard} have ~~it very reassuring~~ that the Chinese word for crisis is the same as the word for opportunity. In the Bicentennial year ahead, I am convinced that our Junior League will continue to build on our heritage while we look to the future ^{for} ~~new~~ opportunities for women and for voluntarism.

Mary Anne Magrara
New business - Carolyn Carter, Admissions Chm.
Any other announcement
Join us in the for refreshment as we greet our
new provisional
Meeting adjourned