



New Logo 2014

A Brief History of the University League



Original Logo

"The first meeting of this small group was held in the spring of 1901 on the lawn of the home of Mrs. William F. Allen, wife of one of the pioneer members of the faculty. . . . The formal organization took place May 4, 1901, in the music room of Chadbourn hall. From among the forty women present, committees were promptly formed, one of which was to select a suitable name for the organization. The selection was made, and has remained the same. Teas, receptions, and lawn parties were planned as suitable ways to promote social contacts for faculty as well as women students. . . . Opportunities for helping girl students were found." Capital Times, 1929.

Early University League support included a.) Furnishing a rest room in Main hall, b.) Organizing an Ice Carnival, c.) Increasing swimming facilities, and d.) Furtherance of a "Women's Building" which resulted in building Lathrop Hall. **In these early days, The University League founders established what has become our mission: *Supporting Scholarships, Service, Education, and Friendship.***

Timeline:

- May 4, 1901** The University League was founded
- 1910** Raised funds for new Women's Building - named Lathrop Hall when opened that year
- 1916** **Established Loan Fund** for women students - \$25 + \$50 initially
- 1925** Received \$2000 bequest from estate of charter member, Mrs. William F. Allen, andrenamed the loan fund the Mrs. William F. Allen Memorial Loan Fund
- 1929** Organized Dames Club for wives of graduate students
- 1930** Responded to the need of more women for financial support during the Depression, byvoting to give 2 scholarships to women students in addition to the loans.
- 1949** **1st Interest Groups were organized**
- 1950** 1st Homecrafters Chair added to League board and it became a **League service project**
- 1951** **Hospital Services** started with emphasis on the patient library. Magazines and books were donated. Sewing groups made toys and puppets for children.
- 1952** League became one of the initial sponsors of Madison Friends of International Students (**MFIS**). Important services were coat loan, furniture loan, welcome picnic, home hospitality and friendship coffees. MFIS Co-chairs served on the League Board for many years.
- 1955** Rosa P. Fred Scholarship established in her honor.

- 1959** English classes for foreign wives began through MFIS
- 1960s** Number of Interest Groups expanded responding to member needs and wishes
- 1962** Junior Division was renamed Newcomers and had a membership of 500
- 1962** Added Patient Escort and Flower & Mail Delivery to Hospital Services. In the 60s, 90 University League volunteers contributed over 8000 hours per year to the hospital.
- 1970s** League logo designed - a circular design with the League name in the outer circle and a 12-pointed star in the inner circle suggesting the Numen Lumen from the UW seal.
- 1971** **1st University League Scholarship Benefit** held. These have continued annually over the last four decades to provide funds for scholarships.
- 1976** Housing Referral Service began for faculty coming to or taking leave from the University. Run by League volunteers, it provided a unique valuable service
- 1978** President Angelena Lenehan appointed an *ad hoc* committee to study whether League should apply to be a **tax exempt 501 (c) (3)** organization. The Tax Exemption Committee successfully applied for this status and in **1981**, University League became tax exempt.
- 1978** Mrs. William F. Allen Scholarship Fund set up with UW Foundation with \$10,000 from the Loan Fund and \$200 from University League. The balance of the Loan Fund was used for loans until the two were combined at the Foundation in 1998.
- 1980** First Past Presidents Luncheon held - organized by Angelena Lenehan, Mary Sue Hansen, & Margaret Schroeder. Has become an annual event.
- 1981** University League developed and published a Newcomers' Handbook for incoming faculty and their families. It was revised and reprinted in 1988 and again in 1996.
- 1985-86** Honorary Life membership category was dissolved due to increasing costs of maintaining these non-dues-paying members. All were encouraged to return to regular League membership.
- 1986** First Big Ten Faculty Wives Organization meeting was held at University of Michigan. Karen O'Neil, wife of UW System President O'Neil, in response to discussions at the Past Presidents Luncheon, worked with the wife of UofMich President to organize this organization and its first meeting.
- 1992** League's Long Range Planning and Policy Committee proposed opening the membership to any women and men interested in supporting the goals and purposes of the League. The motion to open to all women passed at the Annual Meeting. The motion to open to men was defeated.
- 1993 on** League membership was enhanced with new members from the community that added energy and breadth to the organization
- 1993** **University League Endowed Scholarship** was set up with \$2000 from the Evelyn Steenbock Estate, and \$3000 from League members. Living members could add to this fund in \$1000 increments and set up their own named endowed scholarship when their total gift reached \$10,000.
- 1993-94** University League mission statement developed: *Supporting Scholarships, Service, Education and Friendship*

- 1994** Newcomers disbanded in response to fewer incoming faculty with spouses who were not also in the work force.
- 1998** Allen Loan and Scholarship funds combined into one.
- 2003-04** University League websites developed (<http://www.univleague.wisc.edu>)
- 1990s - 2000s** Attracting new members and leadership continued to be a goal and a concern as society and the role of volunteer organizations shifted. The League continues to give time and energy to its evolution.
- 2000s** University League opens its membership to men. League continues to attract new members, provide increasing funds for scholarships and grants, support friendships through interest groups, provide education to members and friends through large group meetings, and provide service to the community through its volunteer opportunities
- 2011-12.** An Elevator speech was written to briefly describe League and four new interest groups were established. A marketing plan was developed with the help of UW marketing undergraduates. The Thomas and Ramona Steele Endowed Scholarship was established under University League for the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.
- 2012-13** A renewed interest in publicity began to further the mission of the League. One new Interest group was added. The Donald and Wilma L Sites Endowed Scholarship was correctly identified as one of UL's 23 Endowed Scholarship. The Gifts and Grants Committee's name was changed to the Scholarships and Gifts Committee.
- 2013-14** A new University League logo was designed and unveiled at the Annual Meeting. The "Each One Reach One" new member initiative increased membership by 10%. Two new interest groups were added for a total of 28. Three social programs were advertised on Wisconsin Public Radio. A major effort to increase communication with members was accomplished with the use of general emails to all members and the addition of a fifth newsletter.
- 2014-15** The Board of Directors and the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee developed a Five Year Strategic Plan (2015-2020). Publicity Committee was established. The BOD approved the establishment of the University League Centennial Endowed Scholarship. Program committee added 3 day trips to the Program schedule.
- 2015-16** "A Century of Giving" program featuring archival material and the family of our founder Mrs. Wm F. Allen was held to celebrate UL's 100 years of financial aid to UW-Madison students. The new University League Centennial Endowed Scholarship was fully funded. A Scholarship Committee was added to the Board. A new volunteer opportunity with UW-Madison School of Nursing pairing students with members was established.
- 2016** As the University League begins its 115th year, we can celebrate a rich history of serving the university, its students, League membership, and the wider community. And as we look to the future, the Board and the Long Range Planning Committee are challenged to think and plan creatively to carry the University League mission forward. Together we will work to develop a path that honors our past while moving towards a positive and viable future for The University League. We seek your help and support.