

Women's Symphony League
2025-2026
Membership Information and Committee Selection

Welcome to WSL 2025-2026! We are excited to have you as a member and will do our best to make this year fantastic. We are embarking on our 71st year as a league with so much history and traditions. We hope you will love your time in the WSL and continue as a member for life! Through our fundraiser we are blessed to be the largest single source of funding for the East Texas Symphony Orchestra. Our symphony, under the direction of Maestro Richard Lee, continues to push new boundaries in live performance music and appeal to all ages with a diverse array of music. What a blessing ETSO is to our community!

Our organization also provides funding to the East Texas Youth Orchestra, provides scholarships for budding musicians throughout East Texas and gives tickets to concerts through our Symphony Seeds program. It is exciting to be part of a child's journey of music appreciation!

Finally, we are proud of our Junior Symphony League members. These young leaders are learning about the arts and volunteerism. After two years of volunteering and fundraising, it's a joy to celebrate them at our annual Symphony Ball.

Thank you for joining us as we support the ETSO and promote music education in our community. As you look through the placement opportunities, please select an area that will fit your schedule and best let you share your gifts and talents with the WSL. Together, we can do great things!

Sincerely,
Stacey Hardin Hiles
WSL President 2025-2026

Please direct membership or committee questions to Sunny Farr (903) 330-9812

Committee Information 2025 - 2026

Please select a placement for 2025 - 2026 from the following opportunities, indicate your choices online before June 1, 2025.

President-Elect - Julie Lyndsay

Communication VP - Molly Little

- Newsletter: Collect, compile, and proofread articles for the newsletters, coordinate the publishing of the newsletter, and email newsletters to membership
- Website: Update and maintain information on the WSL website on a timely basis
- WSL Mailings: Label, sort and prepare for bulk mailings. Deliver mail to the post office as needed.
- Photography/Historian: Assist with taking pictures at meetings, events and other functions of the WSL and JSL.
- Event Communication: Send out text messages to membership throughout the year
- Social Media: Post on the WSL Social Media account throughout the year.

Education VP - Stephanie Clayton

- School Concerts: Help plan and execute the School Concert(s). The Chairmen coordinate volunteers, help with publicity of information to schools and our community. The Committee usher at the School Concert(s), and may assist with providing meals to the musicians, help with publicity, and help in various ways on the concert days. (NOTE - Daytime placement - The School Concert is a performance for 4th and 5th graders on a weekday during school hours usually in March)
- Scholarships: Prepare and revise scholarship brochures and forms. Help promote scholarships and evaluate candidates. May also assist with identifying prospective competitors and circulate information for the TASO Youth Competition.
- Symphony Seeds: Coordinate with the ETSO for symphony seats. Communicate with schools regarding the availability. May include meeting the students to a "Meet the Conductor" opportunity.

Social Activities VP - Casey Oland

- **Arrangements**: Serve as a committee member to help serve, prepare food, or help welcome members at General Meetings and the May Joint Board Meeting. These meetings are a 4 - 6:30 time commitment on the meeting dates.
- **ETSO Concert Reception**: Serve as a committee member to host an annual evening reception for ETSO. This is normally held after one of the symphonies.
- **Symphony Concert Host**: Help provide or serve meals to the orchestra. Volunteer shifts would be on Friday night or Saturday afternoon prior to an ETSO concert.
- **Fall Fresh and Friends Fundraiser**: Assist the Chairman with the planning and presentation of the event. Assist in obtaining sponsorships. Most positions will be working the event.
- **Symphony Ball Committee / Volunteer**: Support the Ball on various committee positions and duties. Placements vary for schedule. Some positions work prior to the Ball and some are done the night of the Ball.

Membership VP - Sunny Farr

- **New Member Recruitment**: Identify potential WSL Members and help with their formal invitation to consider joining the WSL.
- **New Member Liaison Committee**: Help facilitate new members' orientation, support the new members during their first year to feel welcome, and help guide them to meet their requirements. Serve as a mentor throughout their first year.
- **Placement and Retention**: Be a "Point Person" for membership to contact with questions. Assist Membership VP by inputting placements and requirements into the spreadsheet. Ideally, this is a step-up position to Membership VP. Assist with the placement marathon and communicate with members to help with reinstatement and retention.
- **One and Done**: Volunteer opportunities for WSL will come via email throughout the year. At least a 4 hour placement must be completed to fulfill this placement. The Ball will be requesting help from this committee.

Please Note: Completing the online Membership Form and Payment made either online or by check before June 1, 2025 will signify your acceptance/continuation of WSL Membership.

Some committees have a maximum number of positions. Please return your form early. Placements will be considered by date the form and payment are received.

Membership Guidelines and Obligations 2025-2026

Active Members

1. Must purchase at least one (1) fundraiser ticket each year from the Fall, Fresh and Friends Fundraiser, the Spring Fundraiser, or the Symphony Ball.
2. Must attend a minimum of two (2) General Meetings each year. The purchase of an ETSO season ticket may count as a General Meeting credit, but you must inform the Membership VP.
3. Must serve on at least one (1) placement committee.
4. Must pay annual dues of **\$65** by **June 1, 2025** to avoid a late fee.
5. Reinstatement if your membership is dropped for non-due payment, a late fee of \$20 must be received before January 1, 2026.

New Active Members

1. New Actives will be placed at the New Orientation Meeting.
2. New Actives may choose to serve on more than one (1) committee if desired.
3. Must purchase one ETSO concert ticket and attend one (1) ETSO concert during the 2025-2026 season.
4. Must meet all Active Membership requirements, including payment of dues.
5. Must attend the New Member Orientation. Date TBD (usually August)

Placement Selection Form

1. Active Members should indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement choices. The Membership VP will make every effort to fulfill requests. Committee Chairmen will contact members assigned to their committees. Fulfillment of placement commitment is REQUIRED.
2. If you are pre-placed, please mark the selection and note the name of the person who designated you to serve on the committee.
3. Communication to the Membership VP is vital if there are any issues.

Sustainer & Emeritus Members

1. New Sustainers may join without initially being an Active Member.
2. Must pay Sustainer dues of **\$75**.
3. Sustainers are non-voting members who may participate in any WSL activity, including committee placement but have no obligation other than dues.
4. Emeritus Sustainers - age 80 years young. Dues are waived for your membership.

Junior Symphony League VPs - Elizabeth Daniels and Delaine Daniels

The following policies will apply when proposing your candidate for the Junior Symphony League

1. An **Active** WSL Member may propose a candidate for JSL membership during the student's sophomore year in high school, provided that the proposing WSL member satisfies membership for the required number of years. The **deadline** for JSL proposals is **March 1, 2025**.
2. When a member proposes her candidate for JSL, she must have been an **Active Member of the WSL for at least three (3) years consecutively or five years non-consecutively**. If a JSL member is to be proposed, please fill in the proposal form online at the time of your membership renewal.
3. A WSL Member must remain an Active Member in Good Standing during the years her candidate is a member of the JSL.
4. Sponsors of JSL members are required to fulfill JSL sponsor requirements in addition to WSL active membership requirements, including a JSL AND WSL placement.
5. The Executive Board may give special consideration to candidates whose families have extenuating circumstances making it impossible to meet the membership requirements for admission to the JSL. Such considerations must be presented in writing to the Executive Board for determination of candidacy.
6. In the event of death: If the WSL Member is in good standing at the time of her death, her candidate will be considered eligible for membership subject to the qualification in Article III Section I of the JSL Constitution.
7. In the event of a single father having sole custody of an eligible JSL candidate, an Active WSL Member who agrees to assume all responsibilities of the JSL candidate may request "special circumstances" and, if approved, may sponsor the JSL candidate.