



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Lynda Miller
jllbpr@gmail.com

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH TO HONOR MEMBER
BARBARA K. WENDEL WITH ITS 2015 HELEN D. NEWCOMB LEADERSHIP AWARD
AT ITS ANNUAL AWARDS AND INSTALLATION DINNER ON MAY 20
AT THE VIRGINIA COUNTRY CLUB IN LONG BEACH

May 19, 2015 (Long Beach, Calif.) The Junior League of Long Beach (JLLB) will honor longtime member Barbara (“Barbie”) K. Wendel with its Helen D. Newcomb Leadership Award at the organization’s Annual Awards and Installation Dinner on May 20 at the Virginia Country Club in Long Beach.

Each year, JLLB honors a member who exemplifies the spirit of Helen Newcomb, the founder of Long Beach’s Junior League chapter. “We are proud to honor Barbara Wendel’s more than 30 years of dedicated leadership and community service with JLLB’s top award,” said the organization’s president, Danita Humphrey. “JLLB stands on the shoulders of strong women like Barbara, who demonstrates true passion and a longstanding commitment to voluntarism.”

Mrs. Wendel joined the Junior League of Long Beach in 1985. Her numerous involvements both as an Active member and as a Sustainer illustrate her enduring commitment to the league. She chaired the Children’s Dental Health Clinic project and then went on to serve on the Clinic’s board for seven years. She was an active member of the Training Team and was the chair of the Facilitator Core. Mrs. Wendel participated on two Executive Boards as Membership Vice President and as Administrative Vice President.

“This is truly overwhelming. I am so honored to be included with the inspiring women who have previously received this award,” said Mrs. Wendel. She will next serve as the Sustaining Advisor to the 2015 – 2016 JLLB Board of Directors.

-- more --

JLLB's Helen D. Newcomb Leadership Award – Page 2

Mrs. Wendel has carried her Junior League training into the community. She has served the City of Long Beach through her participation on the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities.

Her other charitable activities include a major involvement in the chapter of the American Red Cross that serves the greater Long Beach, Rio Hondo and South Bay areas. For the Red Cross, Mrs. Wendel sits on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and is the Volunteer Partner to the Executive Director. She was Chairman of Volunteers for five years and has orchestrated many Red Cross events including "Hometown Heroes" and "Prepare Carson and Paramount."

Mrs. Wendel lives in Long Beach with her husband Phil and has two children, Jennifer and Philip, and two grandchildren, Sydney and Reagan.

Also at tomorrow night's dinner, the JLLB 2015 – 2016 Board of Directors will be officially installed. The organization's membership voted on and approved the board earlier this year. The incoming board members are:

President: Elizabeth McCann
President-Elect: Virginia Zart
Treasurer: Maribel Mullery
Executive Secretary: Annie Patno
Community Vice President: Ashleigh Ruhl
Fund Development Vice President: Alexandra Weiss
Membership Vice President: Amy Jennings
Nominating Chair: Cara Lies
Sustaining Advisor: Barbara Wendel

Each year a Junior League of Long Beach member is honored with the Helen D. Newcomb Leadership Award. This prestigious award was established in 1995 to honor Helen Dutton Newcomb, who served as JLLB's first president in 1931. The organization's top honor is given annually to a member who embodies the league's mission and serves as a mentor and role model to others.

The Junior League of Long Beach is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit volunteer organization, and is a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). JLLB is now one of over 292 Junior Leagues throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Great Britain. AJLI's member leagues encompass over 155,000 members worldwide.

JLLB's Helen D. Newcomb Leadership Award – Page 3

JLLB is also a member of the Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC), a non-partisan advocacy and education organization charged with promoting legislation favorable to its member leagues' community projects and focus areas and tracking all legislation that would affect those projects and areas.

Established in 1931, JLLB is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Through needs assessment, support of fund development and volunteer hours, the Junior League of Long Beach has been instrumental in launching more than 60 projects and programs into the greater Long Beach community.

For more information, to become a sponsor, make a donation, or to become a member, visit www.jllb.org.

#