

NEWS

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ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS NAMES DAWN THOMAS PRESIDENT ATTORNEY, LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER BRINGS STRONG LEADERSHIP, STRATEGIC PLANNING SKILLS TO ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Assistance League of St. Louis has named Dawn Thomas president for 2020-2021. In 2016, after a brief career as an attorney in West County and decades volunteering at her children's schools, for community organizations, and on non-profit boards, Dawn joined Assistance League of St. Louis. This organization has for more than 30 years responded to the needs of tens of thousands of people in St. Louis.

Dawn has assumed several Assistance League leadership positions in recent years, including Vice Chair of Outreach, a flexible program that is responsive to un-met needs throughout the St. Louis community. She also served as Chair of Corporate and Foundation Support (and as Grant Writer), and as President-Elect.

In the past year, Dawn played a key role in supporting then-President Jane Harbron to launch the organization's Advisory Council. This group of six influential business leaders in St. Louis meet quarterly to advise and educate the Board on emerging trends in the community. Jane will step into the coordinator role for that council this year.

Dawn worked with the Assistance League board to establish a new program in 2020—Books From Friends, which provides thousands of students in the region books through interactive book fairs and other activities. The program's goal is to distribute 12,000 books to area students in the coming fiscal year. In collaboration with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Books From Friends will distribute over 3,000 books this summer at a back-to-school expo.

As a champion of this and other Assistance League initiatives, Thomas, in 2019, recorded over 1,200 hours of volunteer service.

"Dawn's forward-thinking and hard work led to her election as president," said outgoing Assistance League of St. Louis President Jane Harbron. "Her strategic planning abilities, strong commitment and excellent people skills will help our organization continue to move forward in these unusual times to serve the many needs of the people of the St. Louis region." Dawn is a resident of Town and Country, Missouri.