

League Lines

Volume 1 * Issue 6

April 2015

Letter from the President

Dear League Members, Community Partners, and Friends of Junior League,

We are wrapping up the 2014-2015 League year. We have one more General Membership Meeting, two service projects, and our Annual Meeting (May Dinner). I hope you have enjoyed receiving your newsletters this year. Our Marketing Committee has done an outstanding job putting them together each month. We hope you felt you were "in the know" about all Junior League happenings. The Marketing Committee has also been working on a new website that will be rolled out at the Annual Meeting on May 12. Please make plans to attend the meeting/dinner and visit the site.

I cannot believe this year is already coming to an end! It is especially hard to believe that I will be moving to Sustainer status next year. I have had a wonderful time as an Active member in this League. I met incredible women and community leaders. I made friends that will last a lifetime. I worked on heart-warming community projects. I learned about leadership, activism, team work, and the importance of mentors. I thought I would be extremely sad to leave the Junior League Board that I have served on for 4 of my 5 years in the League. However, I am finding that the opposite is true. My President-Elect Lana Smith is a brilliant, hard-working, dedicated leader. She is going to do incredible things with our League. Our leaders over the last several years have worked diligently to strengthen the foundation of our League. Now, the foundation is ready, and Lana and her Board are going to build upon it. She has several of this year's board members staying on, a couple of new ladies to give fresh outlooks, and several ladies who have had a break rejoining the Board. It is one of the strongest Boards I think we have had in my tenure in the League. These are strong, intelligent ladies that have the ability to affect lasting changes in our community. I am honored to have served with them and to turn the League over to them. Now, I just have to find a new hobby...

I cannot thank each of you enough for your contributions to our League this year. Whether you contributed financially, by volunteering, attending our fundraiser, donating to our fundraiser, advising us on a topic, offering encouraging words, or helping us in another way, we could not have this much success without you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Because I invested so much of myself in this League, I take your contributions personally. I appreciate each of you!

We will hold our Annual Meeting (May Dinner) on Tuesday, May 12. This is the finale for the 2014-2015 year. Please join us to celebrate our remarkable successes of this year.

Best regards,

Maryann Deason Gendron

Maryann Deason Gendron
President 2014-2015



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Community Impact ~ VP. Kristi Yates

Spring is here and that means the end of the League year is upon us. We have just completed our Spring Signature Project – Kids In the Kitchen at Noble Street Festival in Anniston. I would say this project was a huge success as several hundred kids and parents participated in one or more of the activities we had scheduled for the day. Some of the activities of the day included: kids planting tomato plants in recycled milk cartons that they decorated to take home, Zumba by the awesome Candace Tinner, Insanity by the awesome Tammy Doering and her husband Jim, and hands on healthy snacks that were prepared by the kids. No matter what activity the kids participated in they got to take home their very own Junior League Kids In the Kitchen Cookbook with fun and easy healthy snack recipes. I hope that we made a difference and taught kids that living a healthy lifestyle can be fun! I would like to thank Alabama Power and Regional Medical Center for their generous donations to help make this event possible. I would also like to thank the Community Impact Committee who spent hours meeting in preparation for this event. This event would not have happened with out the members of Junior League coming together; working before the event rinsing and spray painting milk cartons and cutting fruit, and those that helped the day of. It was a cold and windy day so a huge shout out to the ladies who braved the weather to volunteer their time at this event.

The Community Impact Committee is currently working on the 2015 Nancy Julian Distinguished Young Women Scholarship. We received 12 completed scholarships applications and a review committee will start reviewing them this month. We will announce the 2015 Nancy Julian Distinguished Young Women Scholarship recipient at the Annual Meeting (May Dinner).

We have one last Done In a Day coming up April 11, 2015, at Weaver Elementary School from 9:00AM -11:00AM. This will be a work day to complete the outdoor classroom garden and spruce up the school grounds. I hope to see everyone there. What a fun way to end the Junior League year as we fellowship with our Junior League sisters and help our adopted school and community!



More photos on page 5

Active Member Spotlight ~ Lindsay Ward



Lindsay Ward, otherwise known as "L Ward" or "L Dub" for short, is currently the Director of Business Development with the Calhoun County Economic Development Council. This position is the reason she actually moved to Anniston. Before moving to Anniston, she earned her Master's of Science in Economic Development and Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. Lindsay is originally from Long Beach, which is along the Gulf Coast. All of her family is in Mississippi and both her mother and older sister are teachers and her father is an environmentalist with Mississippi Power.

Lindsay is involved with the Young Leaders Society of Calhoun County as the Recruitment and Retention Chair. She is also involved with multiple other committees and organizations through work. Her hobbies include woodworking. She had always wanted to start building things, so this past summer she stopped making excuses for not doing it and actually started to learn. Lindsay is self-taught, so the process has been somewhat slow. So far she has built a console table, dining cart, a work table, some stools, and other decorative items for her family back home. Another hobby that she has developed since moving to Anniston is mountain biking. Lindsay says, "Cold Water Mountain is a phenomenal location for beginners to get

used to the different terrains for mountain biking. I highly recommend anyone to take that initial leap and try it out!"

Lindsay's favorite JLAC events include the self-defense training class with the Anniston Police Department and the Christmas party every year because she loves the holidays. Murder Mystery has also been one of her favorite events of JLAC. She has enjoyed being on the Fund Development Committee because she has been able to be a piece of the philanthropy that allows JLAC to give back to the community. One of the skills that Lindsay has been able to further develop through JLAC is working with other people through our partnership with Weaver Elementary, in events like the outdoor classroom workdays and anti-bullying campaign. Also, through the inner league workings she has been able to learn how to work with different groups of people more effectively.

Sustaining Member Spotlight ~ Robin Cooper



Robin actually goes by her nickname. Her real name is Roberta and her grandchildren call her Berta. She currently lives in Anniston. Her son, Clark and his wife Kim live in Birmingham with their two children (ages 6 and 2) while her daughter Carol Cooper Hagan and husband, Chris live in Anniston with their three children (ages 16, 13 and 3). Robin taught elementary school in Tennessee and Georgia before coming to Anniston where she currently works for a local estate sale company. Robin is involved in several organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Museum League, Visual Arts Society, and the Algonquin Study Club. She is a volunteer for the Knox concert Series, Soup Bowl and Christmas Clearing House, which is a program of Interfaith Ministries. Her hobbies are shopping, smocking, traveling (especially cruising) as well as playing hand bells and singing in the choir at her church. Her favorite hobby right

now is "grandfathering" the little ones. Purple is her favorite color because it is cheerful, vibrant, regal and joyful - she even painted her dining room a plum color!

Robin's favorite JLAC event was attending the 1990 National Junior League Convention in Toronto with her dear friend, Martha Vandervoort, who was the outgoing President that year while Robin was the incoming President. Her favorite JLAC placement was driving Meals on Wheels for six years with her co-volunteer, Betsy Babb. They truly felt like they were serving God's people in need by delivering the meals. Robin gained valuable experience in handling the finances of a large group, developed and still uses organizational skills, found confidence in public speaking and learned how to be an effective Board Member. The most important skill every member can gain is that of treating each person with equal respect and kindness on a daily basis. Her advice to the current membership is to continue with the history of service and volunteerism in our community which began many years ago and is still going strong today. Keep up the good work! The Sustainers are so proud of all you do to carry on the rich heritage of the League.

2014-2015 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gold Partner:

Webb Concrete
& Building Materials

Silver Partners:

Alabama Power

Farmers & Merchants Bank

Laser Fabrication

Regional Medical Center

Bronze Partners:

Center for Domestic
Preparedness Employee
Association

ERA King Real Estate

Supporters:

Anniston Eye Clinic-
Dr. Dawn Wilczek

NHC Healthcare
Anniston, LLC

Patrons:

Davie's School Supply

Reaves Insurance Agency

JLAC Board of Directors

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Jeanne Meigs
Paige Mooreland
Charlotte Mullis
Ginger Newton
Maggie Burn Owens
Gina Stephens
Lynn Talbot
Gena Vinyard



Moments & Milestones

Deepest Sympathy:



Martha Vandervoort

We are devastated to announce the passing of one of our most active Sustainers, Mrs. Martha Vandervoort. Martha was an incredible lady that treated everyone with dignity. She was the Executive Director for Interfaith Ministries.

Martha joined the Anniston Calhoun Junior Service League in the 1988-1989 League year. She served as the Junior League Contact that year. From 1989-1990, Martha served as President of the Junior Service League. It was during this time the Junior Service League began its metamorphosis into a Junior League when membership voted to pursue membership in the Association of Junior Leagues, Inc. In 1990-1991, Martha served as the Immediate Past President, a Junior League Contact, and on the Advisory Planning Committee. During this year, the League began the affiliation process with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) through a series of three informative visits. A Letter of Agreement was composed jointly by the Board and the AJLI representatives. Martha attended the AJLI Annual Conference in Toronto.

In the 1992-1993 League Year, the Junior Service League officially became the 279th Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc. Martha remained an active member until the end of the 1995-1996 League year and served on the Nominating Committee that year. 1996-1997 was Martha's first year as a Sustaining Member. Most people take a break then. Instead, Martha served on the Membership Development and Ways & Means Committees. After that year, she did take some time to be simply a Sustainer. In 1999-2000, however, she served as the Sustainer Representative on the Board of Directors. In 2000-2001, Martha received her first Sustainer of the Year award. In 2012-2013, she received her second.

Martha has been such an asset to our League. She was a Sustainer Representative when we revised our bylaws a few years ago. She attended events and was always willing to help us in any way she could. She was the one that advised us to attend AJLI conferences and that it was essential to invest in ourselves first so that we could better help the community. Martha took quite a few of us in as mentees. She had a way of making us feel welcome and capable of making important, lasting changes in our community. Her passing is a devastating loss for her family, friends, community, and League. We will miss her dearly.

Moving On Up:



Congratulations to our Active Member **Kelly Roberts** on the acceptance of her new position as the Senior Program Coordinator for Lincoln Parks and Recreation! In this position she will be working with senior citizens, and helping with athletic programs and special programs.

Little Leaguers:



Charlie Whitman Welch was born March 23, 2015 weighing 8lbs 5oz and 21" long. Congratulations to mommy **Christie Welch** (Active Member), dad Whit, big brother Sam, and big sisters Emma & Lucy.



Moments & Milestones Continued

Member of the Month: February 2015

Laura Jones has been an exceptional member of the Community Impact Committee. She has been to every committee meeting (and there have been a lot!) and has opened her home to many of those meetings. She is also more than willing to go above and beyond what is asked of her for her in-league committee duties.

Engagements:

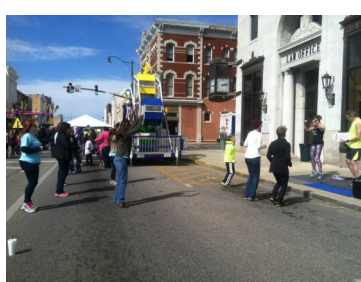


Best Wishes to Active Member **Kristie Warren** on her engagement to Randy Goodson on 3/20/15!



Best Wishes to Active Member **Jenifer Harper** on her engagement to Drew Holderbein on 3/21/15!

Kids in the Kitchen Event at Noble Street Festival



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ANNISTON CALHOUN,
INC.**

P.O. Box 2557
Anniston, AL 36202

Phone: 256-625-5222
Website: jlanniston.org
Email: jlanniston@gmail.com

Connect with us



Junior League of
Anniston-Calhoun



@jlanniston

#JLAC1415 #30yrstrong

Dates to Remember:

April

7th -Board Meeting 6 P.M.
11th-DIAD @ Weaver Elem -

Spring Clean-Up
14th -General Membership
Meeting 6 P.M. (VOTING MTG)
16th-18th -AJLI Annual
Conference in Los Angeles ,CA

May

5th - Board Meeting 6 P.M.
12th - May Dinner & Annual
Meeting 6 P.M. - Location TBA

June & July

Prospective New Member Events
to be announced soon.

Need to Know Info

- Save the date for our JLAC Annual Meeting (May Dinner) on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 5:30 pm at the Anniston Country Club. Dinner will be \$25 per person. Please RSVP to jlanniston@gmail.com with your name and number attending. Formal Invitation to Follow.
- 2015-2016 League year Membership Renewals have been mailed. Response is requested back by May 12, 2015.
- Any current Active member that has fulfilled her membership requirements to become a Sustaining member and would like to be considered for Sustaining Membership for the 2015-2016 League year needs to turn in their request by May 1, 2015.
- A new JLAC website is in development! Be on the lookout for the debut of our new site around May Dinner.
- Our last Service Project for the year will be a Done in a Day at Weaver Elementary, Saturday April 11, 2015, from 9-11am. Please email Kristi Yates at khy4au@gmail.com if you plan to attend.
- Two of our JLAC Board Members are headed to AJLI Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA, April 15-18. Stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram for updates from their trip!



JUNIOR LEAGUE
of ANNISTON-CALHOUN

Celebrating 30 years