



2015-2016

JUNIOR LEAGUE

of ANNISTON - CALHOUN, INC.

Annual Report

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2015-2016 Board of Directors

President
Lana Smith

Treasurer
Teresa Ross

Treasurer-Elect
Jennifer Jones

Secretary
Mary Martha Hall

VP Community Impact
Tina Roberts

VP Fund Development
Lindsay Ward

VP Governance
Lori Ellis

VP Marketing
Amanda Martin

VP Membership
Alyson Mims



(Not pictured Lindsay Ward)

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Message from the President

Dear League,

Our 2015-16 League Year is complete. We saw a multitude of member centric events this year within our League, as well as several outside of the League; we saw member's share with us their celebrations of marriages and births; we mourned with each other in heartache. Members and how we gave to our community and our League this year will forever hold a special place in my heart.

A book that is highly recommended around the League is "The Servant Leader," by James Hunter. It illustrates principles that are neither new nor complex, and they can be applied at home, work, and in the community. In this book, the author references Jesus as an example of a servant leader. Whatever your faith may be in, most agree Jesus' life is full of good teaching. One way He did this was to tell parables. Here is one such parable from the book of Matthew: "What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good soil, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams." Matthew 13:3-8 MSG

Imagine you have in your hands, a packet of seeds which, for all of us, represents the new League year. The seeds are here. The year is coming. What will make a difference for the year ahead is what YOU do with YOUR seeds. I am confident each of us can sow our seeds on good soil. YOU are the soil! Fertile soil is comprised of 3 main nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Likewise, the League has 3 main avenues for you to succeed in your League career: working in your committees, being involved in our League community impact, and committing to your personal development through training. You invest not only in our community when you join the League, but possibly greater than that, you invest in yourself. Therefore, you are the owner of your League experience; let's go ALL IN and create another year of bettering our League and our community!

It is my privilege to wrap up this amazing year. Thank you to the outgoing Board, Active & Sustaining members and Community Partners. Here's to a wonderful next year!

Warmest regards,

Lana O. Smith

Lana O. Smith
President, 2015-2017



2015-2016 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gold Partner:

Webb Concrete
& Building Materials

Silver Partners:

Center for Domestic
Preparedness
Employee Association

Bronze Partners:

Eastman

Service Master by
Mimsco

Supporters:

Anniston Eye Clinic–
Dr. Dawn Wilczek

Patrons:

JLAC Board of
Directors



Mission

The Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. It's purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Our 2015-2016 Community Impact Focus Area was "Healthy Lifestyle Choices in Children."

Developing the Potential of Women

The League is led by a team of nine ladies on the Board of Directors. These members participate in general member activities as well as manage the operations of the League. Most have minimal non-profit leadership experience but they enjoy on the job training and training from the Association of Junior League's International through online resources or traveling to conferences.

Leadership Development

The League sent five delegates to two AJLI Organizational Development Institute's. In June 2015, Mary Martha Hall and Holly McCormick attended the Charlotte ODI. In January, Casey MacAllister, Jennifer Jones, and Lindsay Tyson attended the ODI in Miami. Each lady attended a different 'track'; there are five and each focuses on a specific topic. Each of these ladies were identified as having great passion for the League as well as leadership potential.

Teresa Ross, Kristie Goodson, and Lana Smith attended the AJLI Area III Conference on behalf of JLAC. This was specifically for League's in the Southeast region. The sessions were small in size and we were able to really connect with the presenters and other Leagues. It was a great experience learning more about AJLI and how our League can move toward the future of Junior League!

Lana Smith and Amanda Martin attended the Alabama Power of Good Elevate conference on behalf of the League. Both ladies were able to interact with other nonprofits from Calhoun County and across the state, as well as come back with a wealth of knowledge about how to better our community.

In January, the Alabama Junior Leagues met for lunch, speakers, and roundtable discussions. Lana Smith and Lori Ellis represented JLAC. The featured speaker/facilitator was Karen Henning of CareerScape.

As a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International, our League has a responsibility to be present at the Annual Conference each year. This year the conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia and many of our League leaders were able to attend. These ladies attended the full conference: Lana Smith, Amanda Martin, Casey MacAllister, Kristie Goodson, and Tina Roberts. Three more board members, Alyson Mims, Lindsay Tyson, and Mary Martha Dalrymple joined on the last day to see our President, Lana Smith, give a session presentation on Membership Engagement. This was the first time a member from our League presented at an AJLI conference!

New Member Class Project



The New Member Class of 2015 put forth great efforts in serving a need in our community with their class project. As part of the Junior League of Anniston Calhoun's Adopt-A-School partnership with Weaver Elementary School, this year's class chose to focus on preparing children in need with clothing items for cold weather months. The Fill Closets for Fall campaign benefitted children in need at WES. Based on recommendations made by the school's principal and counselor, parents were able to sign their child up to receive new or gently worn clothing items. These items included jackets, pants, long-sleeved tops, socks, hats, and other items.

The New Members held a donation drive during the month of October. Word of the drive spread through social media and television; the ladies appeared on Calhoun County's Most Wanted to promote the clothing drive and to help raise awareness of JLAC. The support from around the community was overwhelming. Not only did several local businesses partner with them to give discounts when clothing items were brought in, but dozens allowed the group to display flyers in their storefronts.

On Tuesday, November 3, the New Member class invited the families to come and pick up their prefilled bags of clothing items. Because of the overwhelming amount of clothes donated, the children were able to "shop" for additional clothing items. As an added treat for the parents, the New Member class provided a Chick-fil-A dinner.

"Being able to offer these families a free meal was icing on the cake," said New Member class president Jacki Lowry. "We often times take for granted running through a drive-thru to get a sandwich when we are hungry. For some of these children, Chick-fil-A was something they had only heard about before that night."

In all, 43 children from 19 families went home with full bags of clothes to help them combat the winter ahead. Chick-fil-A of Oxford was gracious to donate 25 sandwiches towards the project. The New Members purchased an additional 70 sandwiches, 95 fruit cups, and one bottle of water per family member.

Fund Development

For our fall fundraiser the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser at the Anniston Country Club on October 22 and 23, 2015. This year's performance, "Unprincipled 2: The Sophomore Year," brought us back to Warren G. Harding High School to see how the school was coping from last year's tragic murder and the many changes the school was facing, including the organic food in the school's cafeteria which is a tragedy in itself. Because of the fantastic writings of Mike Stedham and thrilling performance from the actors, including CAST performers, Sustaining Member Hervey Folsom, and Active Member Lana Smith, everyone in attendance at the Murder Mystery Dinner had an exhilarating experience. This year's Murder Mystery Dinner raised over \$6,600 to support our League efforts.

During the spring, JLAC members participated in the Martin's Family Clothing Benefit sale. Discount tickets were sold that enabled the buyer to 20% off their purchase on April 16th. All ticket sales plus a bonus for coupons used that day also went to support our Leagues mission. This event raised a total of \$777 to support JLAC!

JLAC received a Young Child Priority One grant from Anniston Kiwanis to help fund our Kids in the Kitchen program! Our President, Lana Smith, and our VP Fund Development, Lindsay Ward, accepted the grant from Anniston Kiwanis President, Steve Madeley.

As we close out another League year we want to thank all our community partners for the support you have offered this year. The work our League does in the community would not be possible without your support. We look forward to another great year with you all. For more information on how to become a Community Partner Sponsor or how to support our League in the upcoming League year, visit: www.jlanniston.org/community-partners/



Marketing

The Marketing Committee has been hard at work this League year to continue to increase our branding and awareness in our community. We published three newsletters, League Lines, that were sent to Membership, Community Partners, and Friends of the League quarterly. We also published our first stand alone Annual Report recapping the 2014-2015 League year. In October, our VP Marketing, Amanda Martin, and the New Member Class President, Jacki Lowery, promoted the League, our fundraiser, and the New Member project on TV 24. Several appearances were also made as guest speakers to various Calhoun County organizations. We continued to keep updates and news stories on our website as well as social media. Make sure you visit us at jlanniston.org and follow us on social media @JLAnniston! #JLAnniston



Junior League Legacy

Founded in 1901 by New Yorker and social activism pioneer, Mary Harriman, the Junior Leagues are charitable nonprofit organizations of women, developed as civic leaders, creating demonstrable community impact.

Today, the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is comprised of more than 150,000 women in 292 Junior Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together, they constitute one of the largest, most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world.

In Calhoun County, what began as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Guild in 1973 evolved into the Anniston-Calhoun Junior Service League in 1984. After much dedication by members in the late 80's and early 90's, the Service League became the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc. in 1992. Thank you to our amazing Sustaining Members for your commitment to the League and to our community!

Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun Membership

Actives	32
Leave of Absence Actives	2
Sustainers	67
Sustainer Emeritus	11
New Members	18
League Membership	132

Welcome New Members

Mindi Amberson, Diandra Baeza, Jackie Blackwell, Katy Burley, Lana Dillesshaw, Brooke Duhaime, Dana Jennings, Kendra Lackey, Samiejo Legg, Jacki-Lyn Lowry, Kanani Miller, Morgan Montiel, Jordan Pilkington, Jessica Reed (not pictured), Maria Rosales, Katie Tyler, Laura Wesson, and Michelle Yancey



Moving to Sustaining League Membership

2015-2016: Jennifer Maddox
(Pictured at right)



Financial Management

The League ended 2015-2016 in the black. Such an exciting accomplishment! Our Operating and Fundraising Budget was \$32,600 and we had a net profit of approximately \$1,000.

The Board of Directors chose to hold 100% of the funds earned from this year's major fundraiser, Murder Mystery, for next year's programs and training opportunities, in anticipation of bringing in a new fundraiser and new focus area in 2016-2017. This is our third year in recent history to make this forward-looking commitment.

Our 2014-2015 League year taxes were filed and a Financial Review was preformed by our League accountant, Curvin & King, LLC. Both were completed and a report was presented to the League on February 19, 2016. The 2015-2016 League year taxes and Financial Review are currently in process.

Community Impact

This was our final year for our Focus Area, Healthy Lifestyle Choices in Children. This year we bid farewell to our commitment to Weaver Elementary School and turned our sights towards our future Focus Area, Developing the Potential of Women.

We provided a lot of support to Weaver Elementary School. We had three Done in a Meetings (DIAM). We collected money to provide items for Weaver Elementary School's clothing closet. Each year, WES staff pay out of pocket to purchase essentials for children such as socks, underwear, clothes and shoes. Our first DIAM helped provide funds for the school so that staff would not have to pay out of pocket for such items. Our second DIAM was providing donations for the Gotcha Program at Weaver Elementary School. The donations help to buy prizes and supplies for rewards for students with good behavior. Our last DIAM was collecting nonperishable food items for the food pantry at the WES that contributes to families in need. Our League also purchased donuts for Weaver Elementary School's Munchies with Munchkins. This initiative is designed to allow parents the opportunity to spend extra time with their children during school hours.

In October, we did a Done in a Day at Weaver Elementary School. Members helped to make repairs to patio tables and did landscaping around the butterfly garden and school grounds.

Our signature project was Kids in the Kitchen at the Noble Street Festival. We had a wonderful time interacting with the children as we taught them about eating healthy. We provided fresh fruit and trail mix as snacks and provided them with free cookbooks to take home. We taught them how to plant tomato plants, which they took home with them. We also had the opportunity to Zumba in the streets with the children. The kids saw it as fun. But we all know that it also counts as exercise. Shhhhh, don't tell the kids!! We served approximately 500 children throughout the day.



2015-2016 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Healthy Lifestyle Choices in Children

Kids in The Kitchen
event at Noble Street
Festival

Adopt-A-School Weaver Elementary School

Clothing Closet

Gotcha Program

Munchies with
Munchkins

Butterfly Garden &
Outdoor Classroom

Donations to the
Food Pantry

League Business

The Board of Directors of the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc. meets monthly on the first Tuesday. Routine business conducted by the Board outside of the meeting includes: treasury duties such as paying bills and managing the budget, managing social media accounts, maintaining records of membership contact information and membership requirements, staying in contact with other Leagues and AJLI to learn best practices and adapt what is best for JLAC, reviewing and updating bylaws and policies, cultivating community partnerships and researching community impact opportunities. Every member serves on at least one committee: Fund Development, Membership, Marketing, Finance, and Community Impact. Through the placement of the members in these committees, we are able to fulfill our mission as a League. The members of JLAC own the bylaws of our League and by that have the ability to elect leaders and manage the League. Votes by general membership were for: the revision of bylaws/policies and slate for 2016-2017 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee.

2016-2017 Board of Directors & Nominating Committee

President	Lana Smith	president@jlanniston.org
President-Elect	Amanda Martin	presidentelect@jlanniston.org
Secretary	Lori Ellis	secretary@jlanniston.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Jones	treasurer@jlanniston.org
VP Marketing	Kendra Lackey	marketing@jlanniston.org
VP Membership	Casey MacAllister	membership@jlanniston.org
VP Fund Development	Lindsay Tyson	development@jlanniston.org
VP Community Impact	Tina Roberts	community@jlanniston.org
VP Governance	Kristie Goodson	nominating@jlanniston.org
Nominating Committee	Mary Martha Dalrymple	nominating@jalnniston.org
Nominating Committee	Morgan Montiel	nominating@jlanniston.org
Nominating Committee	Lisa Spurling	nominating@jlanniston.org

Governance and Nominating Report

This League year was an exciting time for Governance and the Nominating Committee. Throughout the summer and fall of 2015, we researched our Bylaws, gained knowledge from other Leagues in the Small Leagues Big Impact group, and accessed AJLI resources.

At the January GMM, we announced the upcoming open Board positions available for Slate for the League Year of 2016-2017, with a deadline to apply as February 11, 2016. At the February GMM, we announced our new idea to slate an additional three Nominating Committee Members, with a deadline to apply as February 18, 2016. We also held our Committee Placement Fair at the February GMM, which allowed members to better learn about each committee and to rank their top 3 choices for Committee Placement for 2016-2017.

Your Nominating Committee has relished the chance to make improvements to our nominating and placement processes. First, we created an application for the open positions. This allowed us to compare experiences of the applicants as well as read their personal thoughts and ideas pertaining to their position of interest. Secondly, we asked applicants to include a resume, which provided better detail of their education, work, and volunteer experiences. Lastly, we interviewed each applicant by telephone conference, which fostered interesting discussions and planted new ideas for the future. After these steps, we presented Slate at our March GMM. We also presented our updated Bylaws. Membership voted on the updated Bylaws, Slate, and Volunteer of the Year at our April GMM. After the vote, our slated VP Marketing received a job offer in another city, and had to resign from her position. Per our Bylaws, Nominating advertised for the open position, accepted applications, interviewed each applicant, and slated one. The Slate was presented to the Board via email for voting, and was approved unanimously on May 24th.

We have had a year full of learning, growing and working in Governance, Nominating and Placement. We look forward to our next League Year!

Annual Meeting and May Dinner Award Recipients



New Member of the Year
Mindi Amberson



Natalie Henderson Unsung Hero
Casey MacAllister



Volunteer of the Year
Lindsay Tyson



President's Award
Alyson Mims



Martha Vandervoort
Sustainer of the Year Award
Leann Emrick



Guest speaker Anniston Mayor Vaughn Stewart
Pictured with League President, Lana Smith
and President-Elect, Amanda Martin

Nancy Julian Distinguished Young Woman Scholarship

The League continues the legacy of honoring Nancy Julian by presenting a \$3,000 scholarship to a deserving Calhoun County high school graduate. The receipt is chosen by a panel for her scholastic and philanthropic efforts. This years recipient is **Haley Katherine Cotton** from Jacksonville High School. Haley served as a “Volunteen” last summer at Regional Medical Center. She has served as a volunteer for Science Olympiad, the Woodstock 5k, Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Vacation Bible School and as a Relay For Life Team Captain. She also volunteers in the Special Education Classes at Jacksonville High School. Haley has a heart for children with special needs and it is this love that has helped her choose to major in Communicative Disorders at the University of Alabama. Haley plans to become a Speech Pathologist and work with children with special needs.



In Memory of League member Nancy Julian



Haley with JLAC VP Community Impact, Tina Roberts

This Work Needs Your Help

For each member, Active and Sustaining, the League pays \$43 to the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). AJLI's role is to provide the League with the training and resources needed to execute the work of the League. The League is facing several transitions over the next several years. We need your help! We need funding to send our League leaders to conferences, both AJLI sponsored and within the community. We need funding to bring in speakers and trainers to Anniston! The League recognizes the need for focusing on our member development as a key portion of our mission.

Donations may be made on our website at jlanniston.org under the “Donate” button or by mail to: Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Post Office Box 2557, Anniston, AL 36202

Volunteer and Make a Difference

Ladies 21 and older who are interested in making a difference in their community are encouraged to visit our website for more information and to attend events hosted by JLAC. Community members who cannot commit to membership but believe in our mission are also encouraged to connect with us for opportunities to help!

- Volunteer to speak at a General Membership Meeting about civic or women's leadership
- Volunteer to meet with the Board about governance and management of a nonprofit
- Volunteer for hands-on projects with JLAC

VP Community Impact- Tina Roberts' Experience at AJLI Annual Conference

I had the privilege of attending the AJLI Annual Conference in May. This was my first time attending an AJLI conference. Prior to the conference, I participated in a conference call. The conference call gave a brief overview of what to expect. For instance, the conference call gave suggestions on what to wear, a brief overview of the weekend, and information about the JL Events app for the Annual Conference. Can you believe it?!?! AJLI provided an app for the conference. The app provided information about my scheduled sessions, information about the attendees, workshop handouts, and an activity feed. It was really neat! I did not have any preconceived notions about the conference or what to expect. I aimed to be open-minded and receptive to whatever I might experience.

The weekend was absolutely amazing. I was overwhelmed by the pageantry. The opening ceremony reminded me of the Olympics opening ceremony. Every Junior League president proudly marched down the center aisle of the conference room carrying a sign reflecting the name of her respective League and the year that it joined the Association. We all waited in anticipation for our League President, Lana Smith, to walk down the aisle. We cheered and screamed with elation when we saw her. In that moment, I was so proud to be a part of an organization that equips and empowers women to change (and sometimes challenge) their communities. In that moment, I was even prouder to be a woman!

I attended the Annual Business Meeting. The meeting addresses AJLI business and each League votes on items on the agenda. Prior to the vote, League Presidents or their proxies asked questions to seek clarity on the matters up for vote. Some even made arguments about why certain items should be voted for. Attending the business meetings, I learned that I was much more than a member of an organization. I am also an owner. My dues are an investment into AJLI and that gives me ownership. I believe that changed my perspective the most about my involvement with the League. As an owner, I want to protect my investment and ensure that I have a good return. I can do that through active involvement in the League and through training opportunities through the resources provided on the AJLI website. I want our League to be a shining beacon within our community. I want even more for our League to be an accurate reflection of the standards that AJLI upholds.

There was so much that I learned over the weekend. In addition to the Business Meetings and Ceremonies, I also attended conference sessions. My sessions were directly related to Community Impact. I learned about several topics from the importance of education and the effect that it has on the community to how to achieve community impact through lobbying. I had the opportunity to meet fellow Community Impact VPs from other Leagues and glean from their experiences. They were equally interested in JLAC's focus area of "Developing the Potential of Women" and our mentoring initiative. It is impossible to be in the presence of greatness and not be affected. These women changed me and fueled my desire to delve deeper, to work harder. I look forward to implementing some of the things I learned at Conference. It was an honor to attend and I am very grateful to JLAC for the opportunity.



Opening reception at the Center for Civil and Human Rights

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

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Anniston, AL 36202

Website: jlanniston.org
Email: jlanniston@gmail.com

2016-2017 Board of Directors



Kendra Lackey, Kristie Goodson, Tina Roberts, Amanda Martin,
Lana Smith, Casey MacAllister, Lindsay Tyson, Jennifer Jones, Lori Ellis

JUNIOR LEAGUE
of ANNISTON - CALHOUN, INC.

Annual Report

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