

BACKGROUND OF ANNISTON/CALHOUN  
JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE (ACJSL) WHICH  
BEGAN AS THE  
ALABAMA SHAKESPEAR FESTIVAL (ASF) GUILD

1973 - Adopted By-Laws to form Guild

FIRST BOARD:

Mrs. Thomas Potts - President  
Mrs. H. Brandt Ayers - Vice President  
Mrs. Allen Grazier - Secretary  
Mrs. William J. Davis - Treasurer  
Mrs. Aubrey Hobbs, Mrs. H. Miller Sproull,  
Mrs. Donald Springer, Mrs. Wilfred Galbraith,  
Mrs. Wallace Reynolds, Jr.

\* Complete notes on founding of the Guild were kept by Mrs. Thomas Potts.

1976 - Aug. 31st - Annual Meeting

Resolution passed by membership naming Mrs. Thomas Potts (Betty), "founding president" and "a permanent voting member of the Guild Board of Directors". (This was listed from then on in directory as "Founding President and Life Board member")

1984 - August - 1984-85 ASF Guild Board Elected

Earlier in the year it had been announced that Festival would move to Montgomery. The Board continued in order to determine what direction, if any, Guild would take. It was agreed that all past presidents would serve on the Board. This (and this list contained all past Guild Presidents): 1984-85 ASF Guild and Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League Board:

Mrs. David Johnson - President  
Mrs. Thomas S. Potts - V.P. Membership  
Mrs. Elbert Willett - V.P. Administration  
Mrs. Charles Doster - V.P. Education  
Miss Margaret Griffis - Secretary  
Mrs. William J. Davis - Treasurer  
Mrs. Alice I. Donald - Past President

This Board served during the transition period of "Guild" into "League" and was actually the "Founding Board" of the League, making Tora Johnson the first President of the new Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

1984 - August - Annual Meeting ASF Guild

Board listed above was elected

September and October 1984

Telephone communication and correspondence began with "Association of Junior Leagues" (National organization) (Jeanne Holleman) by Betty Potts (Mrs. Thomas) concerning requirements and possibilities of our group affiliating with AJL in



future Advisory Board and Guild Board requested Betty to pursue this idea after she presented the possibility of this goal to the Board (Betty was a non-resident member of Atlanta Junior League).

November 12, 1984

Board decides to recommend a transition of "Alabama Shakespear Festival Guild" to Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League".

December 5, 1984

Meeting of A.S.F. Guild at Tyler Hall, Grace Church: Betty Potts explained future possibility of AJL affiliation. Votes taken and passed: (from the minutes)

1. To form a Service League
2. To change the name of the "Alabama Shakespear Festival Guild" to the "Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League".
3. To change the By-Laws

Immediately after this December 5th meeting, Tora Johnson and her Board appointed the following committee to research and write new By-Laws for our new organization:

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Co-Chairman - Betty Potts  
Penny (Mrs. Cecil, Jr.) Young  
Angie (Mrs. Joe) Williamson  
Augusta (Mrs. Scott) Andrews  
Inga (Mrs. William) Davis  
Mary (Mrs. Aubrey) Hobbs  
Cynnie (Mrs. James) Sproull  
Brenda (Mrs. Mike) Stedham

MARCH 26, 1985

Incorporation filed in Probate Court (accomplished) for Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League, Inc.

Attorney Brenda Stedham, assisted us in this and the names on the paper of incorporation are Betty Potts, Penny Young, Mary Hobbs, Tora Johnson and Brenda Stedham.

Five years from this date, our group may request affiliation with AJL to begin the process (a two year one) of becoming a Junior League (notes and correspondence on this are in Betty Potts file as well as with Angie Williamson).

March 22, 1985 - Board Meeting

Conference room, Grace Church. List of 75 active, 22 sustaining and 3 non-resident proposed new members presented to and approved by Board. Invitations to be mailed to these immediately.

April 10, 1985

Pre-acceptance orientation meeting of proposed new members with Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League Board - held in Tyler Hall at Grace Church.

April 16, 1985 - Full Membership Meeting

4:30 p.m. - Anniston Country Club; Tora Johnson presiding; new members welcomed; future projects discussed; proposed By-Laws passed out to all members.



May 1, 1985 - 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church - Tyler Hall (two identical meetings held so that all members could attend at least one). By-Laws voted on and adopted.

May 28, 1985 - 4:30 p.m. - Annual Membership Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall. Tora Johnson presided over opening and over meeting. Mrs. Aubrey Hobbs, following resolution presented by Mrs. Thomas Potts, made a "Life Member" of the League, "all fees and dues being waived" and "all privileges and rights of sustaining membership being hers". This in appreciation for all she had done since the beginning of the Guild.

New officers were elected for coming year:

President - Mrs. Oren Babb (Betsy)  
V.P. Administration - Mrs. Arthur Toole (Judy)  
V.P. Membership - Mrs. Joe Williamson (Angie)  
V.P. Comm. Services - Mrs. Scott Andrews (Augusta)  
Secretary - Mrs. John Childs (Barbara)  
Treasurer - Mrs. Clyde Black (Evelyn)  
Asst. Treasurer - Mrs. Charles Cooper (Robin)

History and important dates after this should be reflected in minutes of secretary.

This is a resume' of dates and events of the earliest years of the Alabama Shakespear Festival Guild which became the Anniston/Calhoun Junior Service League. I hope they will prove helpful.

Betty Potts (Mrs. Thomas)  
236-7124  
March 6, 1989



The Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun would not exist today were it not for the interest, enthusiasm, and dedication of sustainer, Betty Potts. Having served as president of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Guild during its twelve year existence and in anticipation of the Festival's move to Montgomery in 1984, Betty formed a committee of devoted guild members whose purpose was to establish a Service League and eventually, a Junior League, from this group of hardworking volunteers.

After much communication with the Association of Junior Leagues International, Betty spent numerous hours researching the bylaws of leagues around the country. As a result, a set of bylaws was written, to be followed for the required seven years, until another committee was formed to write the new bylaws for the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Incorporated. Mrs. Potts again served on this committee, spending countless hours attending meetings to accomplish this monumental task.

During the final two years of the affiliation process, prior to official membership in the Association of Junior Leagues International, Betty was always there to offer encouragement and support for the members in every way possible. She has continued to be available in an advisory capacity if needed. It would be such an honor to present the annual Sustainer of the Year award to someone who was so instrumental in the inception and ultimate success of the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun as we know it today.