

League Lines

Volume 2 * Issue 2

Winter 2015/16

Letter from the President



Dear Members, Friends, and Community Partners,

The holiday season is a time of thanksgiving and reflection and since we are halfway through the League year, it's an opportune time to take a look at our mission! All members create the goodness of the League and not one person "does it all" so what are ways we, as a League, have promoted voluntarism, developed the potential of women, and improved our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers? Since this summer, we have started using the points system in place of requirements which allows members to submit outside community service hours to earn points for League service. The points system was designed by members, for members. Promoting voluntarism in the League is crucial but we never want to overlook members impact on the community outside of the League! The team of ladies who put on our Murder Mystery Dinner now have event fundraising experience full of lessons learned that will be influential for future fundraisers and other events. The New Member class planned, promoted, and completed their project 'Fill Closets for Fall' at Weaver Elementary School. The ladies in this class not only made an impact on the lives of the kids and families through the clothing drive but they learned how to work together in a group to represent JLAC in a beautiful way.

What's next? To enjoy each other in the holiday spirit, all members are invited to our Christmas party! Your admission to this event is items for Weaver's school pantry. These items will be given to specific children so they can be fed over the weekend. This is a seemingly easy project but it has significant impact to these children. Other events of note are that we will have our New Member induction in January, we will send delegates to the Association of Junior Leagues International Organizational Development Institute, and we will have our signature project 'Kids in the Kitchen' at the Noble Street Festival again this year.

We still have much to do! Each member is an asset and as President, my greatest desire is for our membership to know their worth and see their value. We are strong women growing strong communities. Our actions as a League and as League members have the power to multiply once we invest in ourselves and our community. New opportunities and challenges will be presented to us and together, we can change our world!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy 2016!

Lana Smith



President, 2015-17

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(Not pictured: Lindsay Ward)

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New Member Project - Fill Closets For Fall



As part of the Junior League of Anniston Calhoun's Adopt-A-School partnership with Weaver Elementary School, this year's New Member 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

The Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc. hosted their 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.

The fundraiser would not have been possible without the dedication of JLAC's Murder Mystery Dinner Chair, Lindsay Tyson, whose tireless efforts made the whole event a success. Additionally we would like to thank the many donors who gave to our silent auction, Dave Mashburn and his talented chefs at the Anniston Country Club who prepared the delicious dinner, the numerous JLAC members and sustainers that volunteered to make the fundraiser possible, and our Community Partner Sponsors without whom we would not be able to complete any of our programs.

Our gratitude is extended to the JLAC Fund Development Committee whose membership includes: Lindsay Ward, Lindsay Tyson, Amber Reynolds, Elizabeth Kirk, Lyndsey Key, JoAnn Tyson, Leah Helton, and Rachel Kline.

For more information on how to become a Community Partner Sponsor or how to support our League, visit: www.jlanniston.org/community-partners/

2015-2016 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gold Partner:

Webb Concrete
& Building Materials

Silver Partner:

Center for Domestic
Preparedness

Bronze Partners:

Eastman

Service Master by
Mimsco

Supporter Level:

Anniston Eye Clinic

Patron:

JLAC Board of
Directors



Community Impact

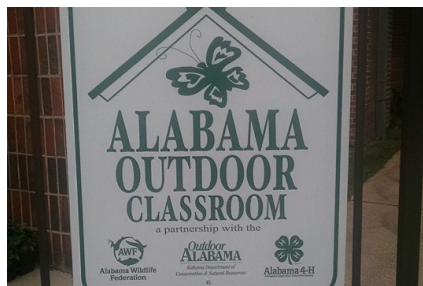
Our first Done in a Day for the League year was a work day at Weaver Elementary to spruce up the grounds and the Outdoor Classroom. Our New and Active League ladies had a great time working together with some of the WES staff on this project during a beautiful November afternoon.

Save the date for Junior League 'Kids in the Kitchen' event at Noble Street Festival in April 2, 2016. All members are invited to help with this event. Look for more details soon on our League website.

It's almost that time again to select a deserving young lady for our Nancy Julian Distinguished Young Woman Scholarship. This award was established by the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc., in 1996. It honors the memory of Nancy Julian, a very active member of our League and community. Each year the award goes to an outstanding high school senior in Calhoun County, Alabama, who has maintained an excellent academic record and has displayed a willingness to serve her school and community through volunteerism and extra-curricular activities. This year we are adding an interview to the application process. The application, when it goes live, will be available through the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama at www.yourcommunityfirst.org/scholarship-central/local/. Details on scholarship application posting and deadline will be available soon at jlanniston.org.

The Community Impact Committee is also looking for members (new, active, and sustaining) who are interested in reviewing/scoring scholarship applications. A training session will take place in January. If you are interested in reviewing applications, please contact VP Fund Development, Tina Roberts, at 256-225-5801 or development@jlanniston.org by the end of December. No experience is required.

Weaver Elementary DIAD



September Membership Meeting

We had a great first General Membership meeting, complete with a September Selfie contest and a visit from AJLI Governance Committee member, Anne Marie Colombo. Anne Marie is a member of The Junior League of Douglas County, Georgia, which she joined in 2005. She currently acts as Advisory Chair and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Chair. She is also the ALT (Action Learning Teams) representative and runs the AJLI SPAC (State Public Affairs Committee) monthly call. She served as President of her League in 2012/2013. In the past, she has also chaired the Georgia SPAC, representing 12 Leagues in Georgia. She is also a board member of the United Way of Greater Atlanta, Douglas County. Professionally, she works in the software industry.



October Membership Meeting

This GMM we observed anti-bullying month and heard from Madelynn Barker, our 2015 Nancy Julian Scholarship winner, about her anti-bullying campaign. Read about her campaign, G.I.R.L.S (Growing, Initiating & Realizing Lessons on Self Respect), at <http://girlyougotthis.weebly.com/>

We also heard from Summer Davis, Weaver Elementary Principal, on how our partnership with WES through the Adopt-A-School program has made an impact over the past two years in the school and students.



November Membership Meeting—Home Harvest Small Groups

Our November GMM was a bit different this year; we took a couple of ideas from conferences, rolled them into one plan, and had a "Home Harvest." Many, many thanks to our hosting Sustaining Members who made this event possible! Active and New Members broke into four small groups and were either at a Sustainers home or a local spot. The Sustainers graciously provided dinner and much inspiration to members.

Members thoughts about Home Harvest:



- ◆ It was great to hear from the Sustainers who have been in the League since it began!
- ◆ Loved our meeting! I would enjoy more meetings like this if possible.
- ◆ Thank you Sustainers for your hospitality. It was wonderful to hear about our history.
- ◆ I loved the opportunity to visit with Sustainers and hear about their past with the League. It was interesting to hear how the League has transformed over time.
- ◆ Think this is a great idea because it gives us a chance to focus on the League as well as other members and learn more about one another.
- ◆ This was a great time to network and see how you could help someone with new opportunities and find out new things you might like to do for yourself.
- ◆ This was the best GMM I've ever attended! This is what I'd always hoped JL would be like.... We had the best time!



Moments & Milestones

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH:

These ladies have been chosen among the Active League members as Member of the Month for their exceptional efforts and commitment to our League, going above and beyond their normal duties.

September: Kristie Goodson

October: Katy Cairo

November: Lindsay Tyson

LITTLE LEAGUERS:



Connor James Legg was born October 27th at 9:54am weighing 6bs 13oz and 19.5" long. Congratulations to mommy, New Member, **SamieJo Legg**, dad Dave, and big brothers Carter and Carson. Conner was born on his mommy's birthday!



Anna Grace Davie was born November 18th at 6:44pm, weighing 8lbs 3oz and 21.5" long. Congratulations to mommy, Active Member, **Kim Davie**, and dad Rob!

WEDDING BELLS & ENGAGEMENTS:



Congratulations to **Holly McCormick**, Active Member, and Neal Hurst, who were married November 14, 2015. The wedding was held at Forsyth Park Inn and the reception was at Vic's on the River, both in Savannah, GA.



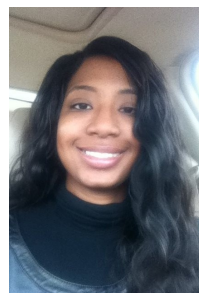
Congratulations to **Katherine Davidson**, Sustaining Member, on her engagement to Evan Jackson on November 7, 2015.

Moments & Milestones

MOVING ON UP:



CONGRATULATIONS to New Member, **Diandra Baeza**, who recently became co-owner of Premiere Ballroom in Jacksonville, AL. She is also an instructor at the studio. Check them out at www.premiereballroomdance.com



CONGRATULATIONS to Active Member, **Charlanda Engram**, who recently became a certified Zumba instructor. She is currently teaching classes throughout Calhoun County.



CONGRATULATIONS to Active Member, **Rachel Kline** who recently accepted a new job with as a kindergarten teacher aide at Sacred Heart. She began her new position on November 5, 2015.

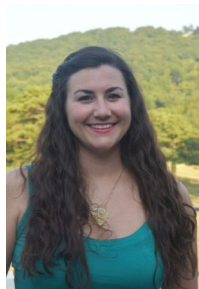


CONGRATULATIONS to New Member, **Jessica Reed**, who accepted a teaching position in September at The Learning Tree in Jacksonville, AL.



CONGRATULATIONS to New Member, **Maria Rosales**, who recently accepted a new job with Wellborn Cabinet in Ashland as their Video Production Specialist. Her first day was November 23, 2015.

MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY:



CONGRATULATIONS to Active Member, **Katy Cairo**, who was recently chosen to participate in Dancing With Our Stars in the spring. Katy was also the lead role in The Rocky Horror Show presented by CAST in October.



CONGRATULATIONS to Active Member, **Lyndsey Key**, who was recently chosen to participate in Dancing With Our Stars in the spring.



CONGRATULATIONS to Active Member, **Jennifer Maddox**, who was recently selected to participate in Leadership Alabama, a statewide organization which brings a network of people together changing the state for the better. Leadership Alabama provides a platform to bring together a diverse cross-section of committed Alabama leaders enabling them to better understand each other and the issues and potential solutions for advancing the state's educational, business and quality of life opportunities.

Ladies Who League - Member Spotlights

Active Member—Katy Cairo



Katy has been a member of the League for two years. Originally from Auburn, she and her husband and four year old daughter now reside in Coldwater on a small farm. Katy currently works for Cheaha Brewing Company doing their marketing and distribution, but she also has Cairo Consulting where she trains people on various aspects of Digital Marketing (Google Analytics, Adwords, Social Media, SEO, Adobe products, etc.) and does graphic design work. She teaches Yoga at Evolution Health and Fitness in addition to playing in a folk rock band The Gypsy Begonias. Needless to say Katy wears a lot of hats. She says her daughter has been the biggest inspiration for her in her career. In addition to her current work, Katy is also a US veteran. From that experience Katy suffers from PTSD and until she gave birth to her daughter she really didn't take control of her recovery like she should have. "I stayed at home and keep mostly to myself letting my fears and guilt control me." She decided she didn't want her problems and anxiety to cause her daughter any distress, so she took control of her disability and began aggressive therapy through the Veteran's Administration in Birmingham. Katy still struggles with PTSD, anxiety, and depression and some days it wins, but with the love and support of her family, she doesn't let the daily struggles define her. She keep reaching higher and redefining what she sees for her life.

In addition to the Junior League, Katy is also involved in the Northeast Alabama Bicycling Association, Dancing with our Stars (Anniston Rotary), Relay for Life, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Mainstream Anniston, Anniston Farmer's Market and she volunteers at The Veteran's Administration. She tries to be open and willing to volunteer in any way that benefits our community. In her free time, Katy enjoys yoga, mountain biking, running, cooking, gardening, volunteering, playing music, painting, writing poetry, reading books, acting, singing, hiking, traveling, and entertaining friends and family.

Katy got involved in the League because she really wanted to make more women friends in the community. Since she is not from here, it took a long time for her to find a place in the community. She finds it hard sometimes to make friends with other women, and knew that joining the League would give her the opportunity to not only meet and make new friends, but also give back to the community in ways she had not thought of before. Katy is currently serving her first placement on the Treasury Committee and says it is her favorite so far. She also really enjoys the summer socials. "It is fun meeting all the new ladies and being able to socialize with current members. It is exciting to see everyone so passionate about joining Junior League." About her League experience Katy says, "I have learned that despite the differences I may have, friendships can reach across any barrier in life. There is always someone willing to give a hand if you offer yours first. I have learned that the League is somewhere I can go to find support and inspiration without judgement."

Sustaining Member—Becky Hollingsworth

Becky has been a member of the League for 28 years. She and her husband currently reside in Anniston. They have two daughters, Rebecca and Mary. Rebecca has two sons (2 & 4 years old) who live in North Carolina so Becky keeps the road hot, trying to visit as much as possible. Becky claims herself to be a professional volunteer and she loves it! She has worked with many groups she enjoys and has made many friends along the way. Currently Becky is the president of Calhoun County Habitat for Humanity. "Our League actually provided the local HFH with the start up funds they needed to become an affiliate. That was over 20 years ago." She is also involved in several things at her church (FUMC-Anniston), and participates with Meals on Wheels. In her free time she enjoys staying busy with tennis, old lady bike riding, sewing on occasion, and cooking and having friends over. "Our favorite restaurant is 'Becky's Kitchen' located at our house. We rarely go out and I love to cook." Becky also enjoys reading in her spare time and her book reading has revolved around the 30+ Reader Digest Condensed Books that her Mother had. "She was an avid reader and when she died I took only some of the books she had. I want to read all of these before I move on to anything else."

Becky was initially interested in Junior League because she wanted to be involved with other women in the community who wanted to make a difference. She has made many friends through her involvement with the League that she would probably never have known otherwise and has remained friends with many of them.

Her placement was mostly served on the Board, but one of her favorite community projects was the Coosa Valley Youth Services graduations. "They always had an inspirational and motivational speaker that you hoped made a connection with the boys who were graduating from the 12 week program. It was possibly their last chance before going to jail if they messed up again. We did all the refreshments and decorated a table and served the families. Making it a special day and hopefully making the boys feel special in knowing that there are people out there that care about them." Through her experience in the League Becky says that "We can all do our own thing and make a difference individually but as a group of women the Junior League can do things that we can not accomplish on our own."



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

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Dates to Remember:

December

1st -Board Meeting 6 P.M.
8th -JLAC Christmas Party 6 P.M.

January

5th - Board Meeting 6 P.M.
12th - General Membership
Meeting and
New Member Induction 6 P.M.
29th-31st AJLI Winter ODI
Miami, FL

February

9th -General Membership
Meeting 6 P.M.

March

1st -Board Meeting 6 P.M.
8th -General Membership
Meeting & DIAM 6 P.M.



JUNIOR LEAGUE
of ANNISTON - CALHOUN, INC.

Strong Women Growing Stronger Communities

Jingle Bells &
COCKTAILS

Peerless Atlanta Room
Tuesday, December 8, 2015
6:00pm-8:00pm

Food will be provided / Cash Bar available

*RSVP by December 1 to
membership@jlanniston.org
256 591-0968
or via Wild Apricot*

*Please bring as your ticket in:
3-5 items (at least one from each category)
Breakfast- mini cereal boxes, cereal bars
Lunch- cans of spaghetti, ravioli, beanie
weenies, mac n cheese (no boxes),
ramen noodles
Treats- apple sauce, fruit cups*

Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun, Inc

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