

League Lines

Volume 1 * Issue 2

December 2014

Letter from the President

Dear League Members, Community Partners, and Friends,

December is my favorite month of the year! Although I despise cold weather, I love Christmas carols, holiday lights, seasonal Starbucks beverages, and spending time with neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family. I am looking forward to our League Christmas party at the lovely home of Christie Welch. She hosted the party last year and is kind enough to do it again. Sustainers and Friends of Junior League are encouraged to join us! Please email Christie at christiestuff@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.

December is also a time that I tend to reflect on the year that is coming to an end. I am extremely proud of the work JLAC's members have accomplished in 2014! Our Murder Mystery Dinner Theater was a huge success! Our membership did a wonderful job with the Weaver Elementary butterfly garden project. Our New Members completed their community project by initiating the Be Brave campaign for Weaver Elementary School boys. It is gratifying to see the end result of projects that have taken so much time and so many resources to plan. Our ladies have done some amazing things this year and are gearing up to tackle some other wonderful projects in the spring of 2015. I appreciate the contributions of all of our volunteers, sponsors, and friends. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Another project that I am proud to have been a part of is the networking day that was open to Executive Boards of all Alabama Junior Leagues. This idea has bounced around for several years, and I am very excited that it finally came to fruition! The Birmingham and Mobile Leagues planned the event and hosted us at the Birmingham League's headquarters. The Leagues of Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Lee County, Mobile, Montgomery, and Anniston-Calhoun were represented. Shannon Ammons, CEO of Alabama Association of Non-Profits spoke first about Board member responsibilities. She touched on common problems for Boards and how to move past those issues. Then there was a breakout session based on obstacles to overcome in our respective Leagues. We reconvened for lunch to hear a representative from VOICES for Alabama's Children. This group is working with the Mobile League to bring healthy foods to the food deserts. They do amazing work. Look them up to learn more!

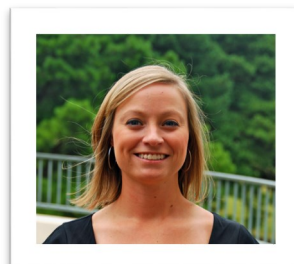
Active Member Jennifer Maddox and Sustaining Member Martha Vandervoort recommended I read *The Servant: A Simple Story about the True Essence of Leadership* by James C. Hunter. (I loved the book and now highly recommend it to others!) As we move into the holiday season, a quote from the book comes to mind. "To lead, you must serve." True leaders lead by serving others. They are the example they want others to follow. Please be mindful of how your words and actions affect others and use those words and actions to lift up others this holiday season.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season! See you in 2015!

Sincerely,

Maryann Deason Gendron

Maryann Deason Gendron
President 2014-2015



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THANK YOU, League for sending Maryann and me to the Fall Leadership Conference! This was my first AJLI (Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.) conference, and I absolutely loved it. The Fall Leadership Conference is designed specifically for Presidents and Presidents-Elect. We met many amazing ladies from all walks of life and from Leagues of all sizes! It was held in Nashville at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center. We were 2 of 350 delegates, representing 186 Leagues. We drove up Thursday after work so we would be prepared for Friday's Opening Plenary at 8 am. That was followed by classes and networking all day. Saturday was also full of classes, and that night we enjoyed the Closing Event at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Downtown Nashville. Maryann and I split up and took separate classes Friday and Saturday. That allowed us to soak in as much as possible! Between the two of us, we attended sessions on Leading Change and Initiating Organizational Renewal, Bylaws and Policies: Why They Are Important and How They Can Work for Us, Building a Successful Formal Mentoring Program, Creating a High Performing Governing Board, How Profitable are our Fundraising Events?, and How to Sharpen the League's Community Impact. We also enjoyed the plenary sessions of Service Dialogue, Friday's Networking Luncheon, Governance Dialogue, Small Leagues Big Impact (This is all Leagues with active membership of less than 100.) Group Meeting, and a Luncheon where we heard from Junior League of Nashville Sustaining Members and Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award winners Martha Rivers Ingram and Deborah Taylor Tate. Do yourself a favor and research these ladies! It seems hard to believe we did all of this learning and networking in just two days. I look forward to representing our League again at an AJLI Conference. The weekend reminded me how proud I am to be a Junior League member and how honored I am to be the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun's President-Elect! ~ Lana Smith



Lana Smith, President-Elect & Maryann Gendron, President
at AJLI Fall Leadership Conference

Community Impact ~ Kristi Yates

I can not believe it is already time for the Holidays, the beginning of the Junior League year has flown by. In the past several months we have collected money and bought supplies for our Art Kits for Weaver Elementary school and spent some time after a GMM packing the Art Kit boxes. Thank you for those that participated in the two Fall Done In a Day projects. We also had our Fall Project at Weaver Elementary school. Thank you to the 13 ladies who came out and spent a beautiful day working in the Weaver Elementary School Outdoor Classroom. Through our efforts and hard work they are hoping to get their accreditation in the spring. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in a Done In a Day or a Project that is ok because you will have opportunities for both in the spring. The next Done in a Day will be in January. We will be collecting \$25 for the Gotcha Program at Weaver Elementary school. We will be collecting the money at the January 12th General Membership Meeting. The other DIAD opportunity is a clean up day at Weaver Elementary School in April, more information to come closer to the date. Our Spring Project is our Junior League Kids in the Kitchen event at Noble Street Festival, March 28th. This is going to be a fun filled day teaching the kids of Anniston and Calhoun County about healthy eating and lifestyles. The Community Impact Committee is hard at work researching for the Focus Area that will start in 2016. We appreciate everyone's feedback up to this point. We will give updates in the new year. Thank you to everyone for your continued support with our Community Impact. I hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas!



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Webb Concrete
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Laser Fabrication

Regional Medical Center

Bronze Partners:

Center for Domestic
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Association

ERA King Real Estate

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Anniston Eye Clinic–
Dr. Dawn Wilczek

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**2014-2015
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THE JUNIOR
LEAGUE**

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Paige Mooreland
Charlotte Mullis
Ginger Newton
Maggie Burn Ownens
Lynn Talbot
Gena Vinyard
Gina Stephens



Moments & Milestones

Community Achievements:



Congratulations to **Lela Sarrell** (sustainer) on Jacksonville State University College of Nursing naming the "Lela Sarrell Learning Center" in Wallace Hall in her honor.



Congratulations to **Dr. Dawn Wilczek** (sustainer) on being named to the Commercial Development Authority.

LITTLE LEAGUERS:



Cynthia **Laney** Tyson was born November 23rd at 2:59pm weighing 7lbs 12oz and 19" long. Congratulations to mommy **Lindsay Tyson**, dad Matthew, and big brother Timothy!

Celebrating 30 years

1984 - 2014

Sustaining Member Spotlight ~ Dawn Wilczek



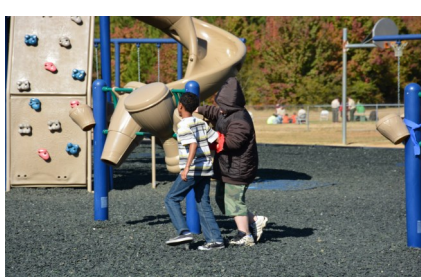
Dawn is a past president of the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun. She is an Optometrist at Anniston Eye Clinic and is taking over the practice from her father, Dr. Dachelet, who started the business 41 years ago. Dawn has been a part of the practice for 11 years and looks forward to many more. She is also very involved in her community. She has served as member of the board of Second Chance for several years and a member of the One City, One Vision initiative. She currently is involved at both Sacred Heart Church & School-in the church choir and a member of the PTO at the school. Dawn was also just appointed to the Commercial Development Authority (CDA). She is also currently a member of Rotary and Women's Executive Network (WEN), Knox Concert Series and Nutcracker. She is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Calhoun County (LCC), and a previous member of the Alabama Optometric Association Board.

She is proud to have a wonderfully supportive family. Her husband of 15 years, Tom Wilczek, works at the Department of Homeland Security. Dawn says "He understands that I have to be involved in the community being a small business owner and is okay with that and helps any way he can." She also has a beautiful and sweet 9 year old daughter who attends Sacred Heart School and is in the 4th grade. She does well in school, loves to draw, and enjoys several extracurricular activities both artistically and athletically.

Dawn's favorite JLAC event has been Winter Treasures. She enjoyed seeing and being a part of such a professional event and also getting to know so many of the ladies in JLAC very well while they worked extremely hard. Dawn also enjoyed serving as the Leagues Provisional Chair while an active member. She said "I love sharing my passion for a group with new members and helping them form strong ties with each other and the organization."

Dawn still values the relationships she has gained while an active member of JLAC. Those relationships have helped her in other civic endeavors to better the community as a whole. She wants the League to remember, "The work you do here really matters and makes a huge impact on the people in Calhoun County."

2014 Provisional Class Project Highlights ~ Anti-bullying field day for Weaver 5th & 6th grade boys



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

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Connect with us



Junior League of
Anniston-Calhoun



@jlanniston

#JLAC1415 #30yrstrong

Dates to Remember:

December

9th -Christmas Party 6 P.M.

January

6th -Board Meeting 6 P.M.

13th -General Membership
Meeting 6 P.M.

New Member Induction @ GMM
DIAD @ GMM - \$25 (Gotcha

program at Weaver Elem)

February

3rd -Board Meeting 6 P.M.

10th -General Membership
Meeting 6 P.M.

20-22nd- AJLI Organization
Development Institute Dallas-
Fort Worth, TX



JUNIOR LEAGUE
of ANNISTON-CALHOUN

**jingle & bells
cocktails 2014**

join the junior league of anniston-calhoun
to celebrate the holidays

tuesday, december 9, 2014
6:00 pm
930 glenwood terrace, anniston
rsvp: christie_welch@yahoo.com

- appetizers and christmas cocktails
- christmas apparel encouraged
- holiday dessert competition
(contact christie welch to enter)

JUNIOR LEAGUE
of ANNISTON-CALHOUN