PLAN A VISIT TO NAJA HEADQUARTERS

Looking for a fun Girls Weekend with your JA sisters or with your new Provisional Class? Why not plan a “Mississippi Delta” weekend around touring our National Headquarters in Greenville. Members can earn several Education hours for this activity. See our history displayed, meet the staff, and shop at the NAJA store. Lagniappe, Montage, and Country Gentlemen are also great places to shop in Greenville. Tour, shop, and have lunch at nearby McCarty Pottery in Merigold (closed the month of January). You could also hit “The Strip” in downtown Cleveland for shopping, and then visit Warehouse or Crave for lunch. Close out your day with dinner and drinks at Doe’s or Poseca’s in Greenville. Or venture over to Leland for food, drinks and some great music at Vincie’s. Don’t forget to hashtag #najaroadtrip.

NAJA HISTORY 101

How much do you know about Junior Auxiliary? We know you can talk about the history of your Chapter, but what do you know about our shared NAJA history? Through these 73 years we have grown into a highly effective, non-profit organization, doing remarkable service in our communities. How did we get this legacy of service? Glimpsing at our past and reconnecting with the determined women who had a heart for impoverished children of their communities gives us an insight into our inspiring heritage. Maybe just the inspiration our souls need, to realize the collective power we possess as members of Junior Auxiliary to significantly impact the lives of children in our communities today! Here is just a little refresher:

November 3, 1941, a small group of dedicated women from 10 towns in MS and AR met in Greenville, MS. The towns included Greenville, Greenwood, Laurel, Leland, McComb, Vicksburg, and West Point, MS and Pine Bluff and Russellville, AR. For years these groups had been assisting their respective communities in the systematic care and welfare of underprivileged children, and in civic endeavors dealing with the desperate conditions of suffering and poverty arising out of the economic depression beginning in 1929. Their purpose was to unite these ten groups, each primarily interested in child welfare in its own area, into a national organization seeking strength and inspiration through their union. Mrs. Brodie Crump was elected President.

As NAJA grew, the 5 point crown was adapted in 1945, with the 5 points symbolizing Charity, Youth, Health, Service and Leadership – the ideals behind the work of JA. In 1950, the official slogan ‘Care today – Character tomorrow,’ submitted by Mrs. Kenneth Martin of Warren, AR was adopted.

Today we have 98 chapters in 7 states boasting 14,986 members. Last year Chapter members performed 239,936 Service hours, raised $2,666,568 and spent $2,512,017 serving children and families in their communities.

There is a great Power Point presentation that combines our history with our current statistics and leadership. It is an excellent resource to use when training Provisional members and can be found under the “Recruitment” tab on the left side of the NAJA website. A full history of NAJA can be found on the NAJA website under “About NAJA” tab on the left side.

By now, your AEC packets are in the hands of your Chapter President and AEC Chairperson! It’s time to start planning to attend one of our best conferences ever! We have five great speakers, our officer workshops, the Foundation raffle, the Gallery store, scholarship luncheon and our Saturday evening banquet where we celebrate ALL of you for a job well done this year!

One of the presentations being offered will be the Redi Foundation who will give us a lively musical production that educates about bullying, texting while driving, substance abuse and other issues that affect our teens today. Find them at www.redifoundation.org and check out the media and video link! Wow!

Before the conference as well as when the work of the day is done, you will want to have some fun with the girls! Download the Birmingham app to your phone today!! Go to your App Store or visit www.inbirmingham.com/app for info on all dining and attractions in the area! There is lots more to do in Birmingham than you would imagine!

We ask that all Presidents and AEC Chairpersons read the packets thoroughly. Most all deadlines are April 3rd to make it easy to remember. Please contact NAJA Headquarters if you have any questions. So, let’s get everyone signed up, order those t-shirts, make your hotel reservations and get ready to have a super experience at AEC 2015!!

Calling All Leaders! Yes, We Mean You!

As a Chapter, you can better plan your future and help retain your members by using their passions and talents in projects they are interested in. You can develop their leadership succession plans by learning who is interested in leading the Chapter now and in the future.

The NAJA website has several good surveys that could be very useful in helping you find future leaders. The Chapter Member Placement Interest Sample can be adjusted for your Chapter’s needs. The Personality Assessment can assist you in finding your Chapter’s owls, peacocks, St. Bernards, and lions.

To find these surveys, look under “Membership Committee—Retention” at www.najanet.org.