Let your light shine through love.
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE THROUGH LOVE

As a little girl in church one of my favorite songs was “This Little Light of Mine”. The song goes something like this:

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.
I won't let no one put it out, I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

When I chose my theme I kept thinking about this children’s song and how relevant it is to Junior Auxiliary. To me as JA members we let our light shine by showing love “To the children whom none have blessed, to the famished whom none have visited, to the fallen whom none have lifted, to the bereaved whom none have comforted.” It is important to not only let your light shine, but also not let others extinguish that light. As women we often are hard on ourselves, have self-doubt, or compete with other women. All of these actions lessen the light you have to share with others.

This brings me to a new challenge I have for each of you and that is to “Stand Beside Her”. This movement, created in 2014 by Girl Scouts Heart of the South who is a partner with NAJA, is a call to action for women and girls to unite our voices to end the comparison, competition, and criticism that undermines female relationships. The Stand Beside Her movement culminates each year during October with National Stand Beside Her Week. This year the celebration will be October 28th – November 3rd. I am challenging each Chapter to create or revamp a current project to align with Stand Beside Her Week. It could be an activity with your local Girl Scout Troop, a NAJA sisters in service activity, encouragement and/or education to girls at local schools, and the list could go on and on. The point is today more than ever we as females need to support and lift each other up and by doing this we are teaching the next generation of females to do the same. Be sure to use the hashtag #StandBesideHer when posting on social media about what your Chapter did. To learn more go to http://www.standbesideher.org/home.html.

I added a new challenge for you since AEC, but I do want to recap my previous challenges I presented in April.

CREATE A PROJECT OR INCORPORATE INTO A CURRENT PROJECT WHERE YOUR CHILDREN CAN SERVE WITH YOU.

It is important for us as parents and adults to set the example for our children. What better way to do that then to include our children in a Service project of your Chapter. By including your children it helps them realize that not everyone is blessed like they are and hopefully has them being grateful for the life they have.

MAKE JUNIOR AUXILIARY A PRIORITY

A mentor of mine, Becky Huling, has been known to say “You can’t do everything, but you can do what is a priority to you.” As a career woman, mother, and volunteer, this quote is so true to me. I can’t be everything to everyone or do everything, but I can choose what is a priority to me and commit to that. Every one of you were asked at some point to be a member of JA and you said yes. So now I’m asking you the hard question: Is JA a priority to you? Do you willingly go to meetings and participate, raise your hand to volunteer for helping another JA sister, and volunteer to chair a project or be an officer in your Chapter?

SISTERS IN SERVICE

JA is first and foremost about serving children in our communities but that doesn’t mean that friends for life aren’t formed through your service. I can’t imagine my life without my JA sisters I have found through my service! My challenge to each of you is to incorporate a sisterhood activity in your Chapter at least once a quarter. These activities will foster friendships and make working together on projects that much better. When you have these sisterhood activities please use the hashtag #NAJA sistersinservice so we can all see the great ways your Chapter is fostering sisterhood.

HANDS ON SERVICE

Our interaction with children is what can change the direction of their lives for the better and shows them that someone cares and they are valued. Just remember that we are to serve others and that requires taking action.

I ask you over the next year to reflect on the quote from Fulton J. Sheen, “Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?”

At the end of your life, do you want to still be in mint condition or show up rugged, used, and worn out from giving all of you to others? I know what I will choose to do but what will you choose?

Thank you all again for this amazing honor of serving as your National President. I look forward to serving you this next year!

We all have the privilege to GET TO serve others so let’s make that privilege a priority in our lives and I bet you when you shift the way you look at JA you will start to enjoy your Active service years even more!

Thank you all again for this amazing honor of serving as your National President. I look forward to serving you this next year!
Who is Leslie James? To me, she is a leader and a mentor. A friend. A true inspiration. And if you’ve had the opportunity to spend any amount of time with her, you would probably agree! As you keep reading, you will see all of the incredible accomplishments that Leslie has earned, all while raising a family and tirelessly serving the community around her. Leslie holds a Marketing Management degree from Arkansas State University, and she earned her Masters in Business Administration from Union University. Leslie has been with FedEx for seventeen years in a variety of specialized roles, including her current role within FedEx as a Marketing Spec Advisor. Throughout her tenure with FedEx, she has become a proven leader through her application of project management skills, attention to detail, team motivation, and well-defined goals and strategies. Throughout her career, Leslie has been an inspiration to fellow colleagues, receiving many accolades and awards. We are so proud of her most recent award, the 2018 FedEx Women in Leadership Wings Award, for her distinguished service in the leadership and mentoring of women through the FedEx Women in Leadership Program. She serves as the Co-Chair for Women in Leadership to help women reach goals in personal and professional development, and she also served as Co-Chair in 2015 and 2016 for the 360 Leadership Summit held at FedEx each year. Other recognition awarded along the way in Leslie’s impressive career includes the FedEx Rising Star for Leadership Award for 2016 and 2017; FedEx BZ Award for 2011 and 2017; FedEx Shining Star Award for 2013 and 2014; FedEx Rising Star for Teamwork for 2013; FedEx Reach Award for 2011; FedEx 5Star Award for 2010; FedEx Ambassador’s Club Winner for 2008; and FedEx Salesperson of the Year for 2004. And while her career has been a shining star amongst Leslie’s many accomplishments, her beautiful children Emma and Barker are the true lights of her life. She is a superstar mom, professional, and volunteer, and she sets an excellent example for them daily with her dedication to each task she takes on. Emma has been serving alongside her mom for many years now, and Leslie is also an active part of Emma’s Girl Scout troop as Troop Leader and Troop Cookie Mom, and currently serves as a member of the Girls Scouts Heart of the South Community Action Cabinet. Leslie’s love of Junior Auxiliary started when she and her family lived in Marion, Arkansas. Leslie has always been an active volunteer in her community, serving as the Co-Chair for Crittenden County Heart Gala and as a board member of the Esperanza Bonanza organization for a number of years. Leslie became a member of Junior Auxiliary of Crittenden County, AR, in 2007, and hasn’t looked back! She was a pillar in her home Chapter, serving as a two term Chapter president from 2009-2011. Leslie became involved with Junior Auxiliary on the national level in 2011 as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Leslie fell in love with the ability to serve all of the Chapters of Junior Auxiliary at the national level, and she then went on to be a Region II Chapter Support Coordinator and member of the NAJA Board of Directors. After her service as a CSC, Leslie served as the Marketing Vice President, where she spent a great deal of time and focus during her two years as Marketing VP helping to create the new NAJA website we use today! After her tenure as the NAJA Marketing VP, she served as the NAJA 1st Vice President during the 2017-2018 year, where she oversaw the duties of the twelve CSCs to help serve each and every member of NAJA. We couldn’t be more excited that her extensive experience and dedication to NAJA will be leading us this year! Throughout this year, I believe she will inspire thousands of women with her determination and compassion, and I can’t wait to see what good we can all do together. Leslie’s theme has challenged each of us this year to Shine Our Light Through Love, to make our service to NAJA a priority, and to unite our Chapters through #SistersinService. And I can’t think of a better example for each of us to follow than our new NAJA President, Leslie James!
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ANNA PIERALISI

BY AUDRA GAINES
JA of Desoto Co, MS and NAJA Recording Secretary

I’ve found that the best way to get to know someone is to sit and chat for a while. Our new Executive Director, Anna Pieralisi, was gracious enough to take a few moments out of her busy schedule and do just that. Once we got past the introductions and the “people matching” that Southern ladies always do (our point of contact is Anna’s cousin, Jennifer, with whom I went to high school), I went beyond the ordinary to ask questions that always interest me: for example, I want to know where you went to school, but I also want to know what’s in your ‘go cup’ (Anna’s actually a water girl most of the time, but a little Notorious Pink slips in on occasion). Here’s what Anna had to say:

What is “home” to you? The Mississippi Delta – I grew up here and have spent most of my life here. Even though I spent several years in Oxford and still have a home there, once I get out of the hills and hit that flat land, I’m home. What are you the most grateful for? That I’m not in control of everything. Otherwise, I’d be responsible for everything, I’m thankful that God has the plan all worked out. How would your friends describe you? Giving, loving, stubborn but loyal, honest, and trustworthy. “I’m going to say what I think, for better or worse,” she said with a laugh. What makes you feel accomplished? I want to hit that finish line after a lot of hard work. What is the perfect vacation? The beach! Any beach will work for me – I love the sound of the ocean, the sun and sand, a cold drink, and some wonderful seafood. A lake will do in a pinch, though! I just love being near the water. My home in Indianola is on the bayou, and I have a canoe that I love to take out. Got a bucket list? Yes! This year I get to check off going back to New York after ten years and while there, I plan on seeing the David Bowie Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. I’m a huge fan, and never made it to see him in concert. I’ll be able to see this just before it’s retired. What is fun to you? I love tennis. I’m also an artist by training with a degree in Studio Art from Ole Miss so I enjoy painting and drawing. Any water sport and cooking are fun for me too. So, how did an artist by training end up as Executive Director of NAJA? Well, I started in retail at the age of 15 at The Country Gentleman in Greenville, MS. My mother also owns a store in Indianola, MS, The Carriage House, and I still have a small part in that. Even while getting my art degree, the retail work was always there, evolving into marketing. Eventually, I moved into management and direct sales, where I was able to combine marketing experience along with training women for their own businesses. This new opportunity with NAJA will allow me to use my management, marketing and training experiences in a whole new way. I believe everyone is given a superpower. What’s yours? I have a really good memory, and I’m good with faces even if I miss a name. That’s a power that has served me well! When’s the last time you laughed so hard your stomach hurt? That was a couple of days ago at a birthday party. I was watching my cousin’s children playing a game by the pool – their mother would ask a question as they were jumping off the diving board to see who could have the best answer. The oldest, Pierce Randall, would slow down as she hit the board to get a little extra time with the question. That girl is hilarious – and so competitive! She’s going to find a way to get the edge up! What’s your karaoke song? I don’t have a specific one, but I did get up and sing “Don’t Stop Believing” with some friends a couple of weeks ago. Wait – really, isn’t that everyone’s karaoke song? But, I’m a choir girl, not a solo girl. No one’s going to make me sing at a convention or anything, right? (I told her I promised nothing). What’s your philosophy on life? The Golden Rule is best. What’s your favorite movie of all time and why? Oh, dear, my high school friends would say it’s Ferris Bueller’s Day Off. I do love that movie. I tend to be very focused and driven, and the downside of that is I’m often very serious by nature. This movie reminds me to have fun and that nature doesn’t have to be perfect. You can learn a lot from outside sources you wouldn’t normally consider if you’ll veer off the path a bit. As Ferris said, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” What’s the best phase of your life so far? Well, I’m in the middle of lots of new things right now, which is really exciting. Past experiences have prepared me for new adventures, so I’d have to say now. Yeah, now is really good.

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COVER DESIGN: Image represents NAJA President Leslie James’ theme, “Let your light shine through love.” The design was created by her daughter Emma who is 12 years old.

The Carriage House
Chapter Support Coordinators

Seated, from left: Vickie Person, Region IV, Water Valley, MS; Lisa Benjamin, Region VI, Hammond, LA
Standing, from left: Kelly Trout, Region IV, Columbus, MS; Brandy Byrd, Region II, Lawrence County, TN; Debbie Jones, Region I, Forrest City, AR; Heather Crowson, Region II, Tipton County, TN; Edith Crosby, Region V, Madison County, MS; Rhonda Bryant, Region III, Monticello, AR; Sandra Chavers, Region VI, Slidell, LA; Patricia Kelly, Region III, Greenville, MS; Shannon Miller, Region V, Brookhaven, MS
Not pictured: Amanda Tulgetske, Region I, Mountain Home, AR

Board of Directors

Seated, from left: Emily Boyd, NAJA Marketing VP, Searcy, AR; Leslie James, President, Crittenden County, AR; Darlene Carey, First VP, Greenville, MS; Kelly Freeland, 2nd VP, Crittenden County, AR.
Standing, from left: Jeannie Tinker, 3rd VP, Ruston, LA; Brandy Byrd, CSC, Region II, Lawrence County, TN; Martie Shull, Scholarship Chairman, Jonesboro, AR; Vickie Person, CSC, Region IV, Water Valley, MS; Debbie Jones, CSC, Region I, Forrest City, AR; Edith Crosby, CSC, Region V, Madison County, MS; Charlott Jones, Ex-Officio, Jonesboro, AR; Rhonda Bryant, CSC, Region III, Monticello, AR; Sandra Chavers, CSC, Region VI, Slidell, LA; Audra Gaines, Recording Secretary, DeSoto County, MS; Julie Gibens, Education Chairman, Tupelo, MS; Merrill Greenlee, Executive Director, Greenville, MS; Sug Borgognoni, Membership Chairman, Greenville, MS; Gina Spratlin, Treasurer, Greenville, MS
Not pictured: Marian Chancellor, Foundation Chairman, Columbus, MS and Wilma Wilbanks, Parliamentarian, Leland, MS
NEARLY 30% OF STUDENTS IN 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES ADMIT TO HAVING BEEN BULLIED, and with the use of social media and networking apps continuing to rise, those numbers are steadily increasing. For the past five years, the Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, MS has presented “Stand Up Speak Out”, an anti-bullying program, to area sixth graders. The program focuses on the roles of bullies, victims, and bystanders, empowering students and preparing them to better meet the challenges of bullying in a proactive manner while making socially responsible decisions. During its five year period, “Stand Up Speak Out” has been praised as a much-needed project to combat the bullying issue that plagues schools today. In communication with local teachers and administrators, they have also expressed a need for an anti-bullying project for younger students, as the issue is often already evident among sixth graders. Their 2017-2018 Provisional class chose to step up and meet this need with their class project, “Stand Up Speak Out, Jr: Choose Kindness.” The program was presented this year to area fourth graders, and the students took away valuable information such as the ABCs of a positive bystander, the difference between bullying and conflict, and the various ways to combat bullying in a positive manner. The children were also given bracelets to remember the project’s motto, “When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.”

In addition to their other continued Service projects in the city and county schools, Junior Auxiliary of Columbus was extremely proud to be able to partner with the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors in the building of a playground at the Columbus Soccer Complex. JA of Columbus donated $75,000 to the building of the accessible play area, and “Crown Park” opened in Spring of 2018. 🏟️
**CHAPTERS AT WORK**

**ABBEVILLE | LA**

The Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville, LA held its annual “JA Jewels” prom dress Service project on Saturday, February 24 at Magdalen Place. Junior and Senior females in Vermilion Parish are requested by invitation only to shop for all of their prom essentials in a boutique atmosphere at no cost to their families. Fifty-three invitations were provided to counselors at each high school in Vermilion Parish to disburse to those that they feel could use a hand-up from this great project. Forty females were provided with formals, shoes, jewelry, handbags, steaming and even a seamstress was on site to provide necessary alterations. "The JA members were very warmed by the experience especially since most assisting were our Professional members. Moreover, two families came back to the event from previous years to donate the dresses they had at home," exclaimed JA Jewels Chairman Jamie Hebert. “The biggest issue for some of the girls attending was deciding between two dresses because the selection of dresses is getting better each year thanks to donors and some businesses helping with discounts.” One of the attendees joined with her older sister who is raising her and stated “This is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for us” and wished that this would have been available when she was in school because she wasn’t able to attend her prom due to not being able to afford a dress. Hundreds of Service hours go into this event with the hauling of dresses back and forth, finding the right venue, obtaining donations to help these ladies have all of the essentials and ensuring the atmosphere is perfect for the attendees during the event. Not only does the event afford prom essentials but a small breakfast is included so shoppers enjoy their morning and get a full, pampered experience from the members of Junior Auxiliary.

**BILOXI-OCEAN SPRINGS | MS**

Someone To Talk To is a two-fold project through the Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS. The first aspect is a pre-recorded puppet show presented to kindergarten through second grade students at local elementary schools. The show focuses on physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and stranger danger. After the show, members discuss and provide questions and answers about the situations the puppets were involved in during the show. It teaches the students that they are special and need to find a trusted adult they can talk to about problems or bad situations they may face. The second aspect of this project is “Keep Me Safe”, which is a series of 4 books (2 in the fall and 2 in the spring). These books teach the importance of safety around town, around the home, around water, and on the road to preschool and kindergarten students in our Service area. After the books are read,
student volunteers participate in demonstrations of life-jacket safety, helmet safety, and using a dog puppet to help the students learn to ask, “May I please pet your dog?” when they see a dog they do not know. Someone To Talk To is on-track to serve over 2,000 children this year.

**BROOKHAVEN | MS**

After hearing Tina Meier speak at AEC, Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven, MS members left knowing they wanted to provide some type of suicide prevention and awareness for their community. Fast forward a few months of talking with no real plan in place. President Juliana Adams then receives a phone call from a Life member with information about a speaker, Dean Sikes, whom she heard in the nearby community of Natchez. The small community of Brookhaven had been tragically affected by teen suicides, more than a community their size should. So, Juliana immediately reached out to two of the Service project committees, Community Assistance and Life Choices, who were stories from students around the world. Some were funny, some were shocking, but Dean had a way of captivating these students and getting them to lock in on his every word. Every presentation ended the same. Dean asked 3 simple questions: 1. Have you ever been hurt by someone you need to forgive, 2. Have you ever felt rejected, and 3. Is suicide an option for you. Finally, he ended each session with reminding students that we were all created for purpose and “You Matter.” This Chapter was able to provide an outlet for students to talk and be heard.

**NAJA WELCOMES ITS NEWEST ACTIVE CHAPTER …**

**YELL COUNTY, AR!**

The Junior Auxiliary of Yell County, AR, having met the requirements needed to achieve Active Chapter status, has been granted its NAJA Charter. NAJA President Charlott Jones had the distinct pleasure of presenting the Charter to Chapter President Sarah Davis at AEC 2018 in Mobile, AL. The Junior Auxiliary of Yell County held its petitioning meeting on July 18, 2017, and efficiently moved through the new Provisional Chapter training and development process to become an Active Chapter in less than 10 months. On hand to help celebrate were Chapter Development Coordinator Beth Holbert and NAJA President Jones, who worked closely with the Chapter as they worked to attain active status.

During their Provisional term, the Chapter participated in two community Service projects - Stuff the Bus and Toys for Tots. Now, as an Active Chapter, they have adopted their first Chapter Service projects which include:

- **Words of Encouragement:** Provide students and teachers with encouraging post it notes on bulletin boards for them to take what they need or to give away to others.
- **Partner with “The Call”:** Assist with organizing and helping to maintain “The Call Mall” to help foster children and families with their needs. It carries items such as clothing, bedding, toiletries and essential items such as diapers and wipes. It also has Pack & Plays and other items that new and continuing foster parents may not be able to afford to buy.
- **Lunch Buddies:** Partner with primary schools students during their lunch time to provide early mentorship to support and enhance their personal and academic growth. These students will remain part of the program through primary school.

Even before the Chapter received its Charter, they celebrated and promoted JA Week by having a proclamation issued by the county judge and securing a front-page article in the local newspaper. The first Chapter sponsored fundraiser will be “Ties and Tiaras,” a father-daughter dance, scheduled for July 14. NAJA wants to congratulate Yell County on receiving their Charter and looks forward to seeing the positive impact these hard-working ladies will have on their community.

For information on how YOU can help start a Chapter in a community that needs what Junior Auxiliaries offer, contact one of our New Chapter Development Coordinators.

Beth Holbert - najacdcnorth@gmail.com
Leslie Vaughn - najacdcsouth@gmail.com
to share their stories, and to feel like there was hope for their situations. “A Week of Hope” has made a lasting impact in this community. It opened their eyes to the many needs that still need attention. It ignited a community response of people who want to get involved and help make a difference in these children’s lives. This is just the beginning. The Chapter is currently working on suicide prevention and awareness curriculum for the classrooms, bringing another speaker in for the fall, developing peer support groups at each school and most importantly praying for the youth of today.

CLEVELAND | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS held their annual Exceptional Education Easter Egg Hunt for forty-six students in the Cleveland school district on March 27, 2018. Twenty-seven Active members and ten Life members met at Delta State University’s football field to hide seven hundred eggs for the children to find. For a sensory activity, there was a live bunny rabbit for children to pet. The Easter Bunny himself made an appearance to visit with the children and check out their Easter egg loot. The students enjoyed making tissue paper flowers and potting them with bunny fluff in their Easter egg vases. They also made magnetic canvases painted with flowers to take home to their family.

COLLIERVILLE | TN
The Junior Auxiliary of Collierville, TN, in partnership with Main Street Collierville, installed a newly constructed Little Free Library on July 28th, 2017 on Town Square. A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. They come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch - there is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community, while fostering a love of reading, a sense of community, and easily accessible literature. The Town Square is located within walking distance from an area where families may not have regular access to new books. Thanks to generous donations, JAC and Main Street Collierville will continue to stock and monitor the Little Free Library with books of various genres, including children's books, free for public borrowing. The Chapter is currently partnering with other organizations and businesses to open additional Little Free Libraries in Collierville.

COLUMBIA | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Columbia, MS Child Welfare project is FLARE (Fostering Love Amidst Real Emergencies). This project provides overnight bags with emergency care items for the children of Marion County that are taken suddenly into foster care. This project includes providing the bags with essential items, provides support through respite opportunities, and holds an annual Christmas party for the biological and foster parents to attend. Santa attends this event for pictures and to bring the children a special gift. The Crown Club girls provide and set up carnival activities for the kids to participate in such as pin the nose on the snowman and making reindeer food. The Chapter is thankful for their sponsors who help donate the food including many local churches, Piggly Wiggly, and Domino’s Pizza. A special thanks to the Marion County Development of Partnership for the use of the building, tables and chairs. FLARE also collaborated with the local area schools to host a job fair for all of the children to attend to be able to make plans and determine what their next step is after graduation.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY | AR
This year for Junior Auxiliary of Crittenden County, AR’s “Read-
ing Rock Stars” project, which is the Provisional project that they let the Provisionals organize, the Chapter held an Easter egg hunt at their local library, Woolfolk Library. There were games outside the library such as an egg and spoon race and bunny hop sack race. Inside the library there was face painting, a coloring station, and an arts and crafts table. Kids were also able to sign up for a library card. The Easter bunny was a special guest, who took photos with kids and joined in on activities. There were 1,500 eggs stuffed with treats for the big hunt. The children were divided into three age groups and when the Marion police department volunteer blew his horn, the children raced to fill up their baskets with many eggs. At the end of the egg hunt 125 books were given out for age levels 3-12. This community does have other egg hunts, even on the same day, but what made this one special and stand out was the Chapter promoting reading and teaming up with the library.

DESKOTO COUNTY | MS
Forty-six girls from DeSoto County participated in Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County MS’s Girls U Service project on Saturday, March 24. The theme was Moana. They got to enjoy a Pump class and participate in four breakout rooms- 1) Inner Beauty: The Chapter used the theme of Moana to talk about being positive to ourselves. 2) Outer Beauty: The girls made a homemade sugar skin scrub. 3) Crafts: They made cute candle holders. 4) Nutrition: The girls learned about how much sugar is in the foods they eat and did a sugar experiment. All of the girls that attended left with gift bags full of personal hygiene items and little “happies”, Moana t-shirts, and door prizes. It was a great day for the girls and the JA members!

EASTERN SHORE | AL
Junior Auxiliary of the Eastern Shore, AL recently partnered with The Forgotten Initiative to provide a parents night out to foster parents in the area. Held on a Friday night at a local church; the purpose of this event was to allow the parents a kid-free night. Parents were able to shop, dine, and relax while knowing their children were in good hands. Members smiled, laughed, did arts and crafts, played games, and ate pizza with the children. It was

LOOK WHO’S NEW TO JAS

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF SLIDELL (JAS) had a meeting to brainstorm new ideas for publicity and getting their name out in the community. The co-chair, Natalie Smith, who had been a Provisional the year before suggested they surprise each new Provisional by having an Active member stop by with a yard sign that says, “Look who is new to JAS!” and take a picture to post on social media. This would have a three-fold purpose; (1) give Provisional members a sense of pride in the organization, (2) raise curiosity in the neighborhood about Junior Auxiliary, (3) introduce the Provisional to an Active member to start building a sense of familiarity and belonging. The Provisional members loved it and kept the signs in their yard throughout their training. They returned them at their last class to be used for the next class.
a positive and rewarding experience for the children as well as the members. Being able to serve this “forgotten” niche of our community has become a major focus of the JAES Chapter this year.

FORREST CITY | AR
JA Buddies is a Service project of Junior Auxiliary of Forrest City, AR. The goal of JA Buddies is to impact the lives of children by offering encouragement and support. JAFC partners with local school districts to visit with students during their lunch hour and to provide activities after lunch. JAFC is often referred to as the ‘girls in the tie-dye shirts’. Not only does the Chapter ensure that no child eats alone during lunch, they also encourage the children to get involved and be active by playing games outside, or turning cartwheels, or even playing touch football. JA Buddies also delivers Valentine’s Day suckers to every student grades 3-6 in the Forrest City School district. By giving every student a sucker they were able to aid in emotional support by showing the child they are loved. Every time JAFC is in the school district the children ask when JA is coming back. This Chapter takes time out of the busiest of days to make the biggest impact on the lives of children through the JA Buddies Service project.

GREENVILLE | MS
One of Junior Auxiliary of Greenville, MS Service projects is Eat and Play the Healthy Way which focuses on childhood obesity. The objective is to raise awareness and encourage healthy eating habits and exercise in children. From October to April JA members visit 5th grade classrooms one Friday a month at O’Bannon Elementary to present a variety of topics on exercise and healthy eating. This year, the Junior Auxiliary of Greenville was awarded a grant through Monsanto, which gave additional funding to add many new ideas and activities for the project overall. With the collaboration of the 5th grade teachers, the school nurse, the project chairman and project members, the idea of providing O’Bannon Elementary with a raised bed garden for vegetable planting came into place. Many thanks to a few local businesses that helped with the creation and building of the raised beds, as well as donating the stones and soil for the project. The 5th grade students learned about germination of seeds and how plants grow. They planted seeds and watered them in the classroom and watched them grow into mature plants. They then were able to transfer those plants to the outdoor garden and will continue to maintain the garden as needed. The students will be able to eat healthy plants that they grew themselves. Eat and Play the Healthy Way is an ongoing Service project for the Greenville Chapter so the students can hopefully work in this garden for years to come. The students and Junior Auxiliary members have thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty!

GRENADA | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, MS Provisional class conducted a child care course for the 2017-2018 year. Members saw a need to educate young teenagers in important life saving techniques and basic knowledge in child care. This evolved into the Safe + Sound project. The course consisted of four different sections of topics that lasted twenty minutes each. The first two sections taught the participants CPR methods and the Heimlich
Grenada Chapter is happy to add member’s individual skill set. The perfect way to incorporate each and it has proved to be the course had on the participants, touched by the impact that this Provisional member was truly than they anticipated. Each and they learned much more in their future roles in child care. Participants felt better prepared to report a successful course!

A survey was conducted and participated in the first course. Twenty-three teenagers materials in case of an emergency. Various first aid essentials and guides, a child care checklist, and kits that consisted of a CPR diaper and proper car seat safety. At the end of the course, participants received child care kits that consisted of a CPR guide, a child care checklist, and various first aid essentials and materials in case of an emergency. Twenty-three teenagers participated in the first course. A survey was conducted and the Provisional class was happy to report a successful course! Participants felt better prepared in their future roles in child care and they learned much more than they anticipated. Each Provisional member was truly touched by the impact that this course had on the participants, and it has proved to be the perfect way to incorporate each member’s individual skill set. The Grenada Chapter is happy to add dancing around on the walls. There are many stations for you to learn and play in, and many children your age to play with. Imagine your teacher greeting you with her warm smile. You can’t wait to see what she has in store for you today. Now, imagine that you never had that. Close your eyes and think about staying in a shelter. There are many children here, yes; but these children are not all your age, so they may not want to play the games you like. Some of the children -- just like yourself -- come from abusive homes. Homes that are broken by drug, physical, and mental abuse. Your walls are grey and you may even feel alone at times. All you want to do is escape, to learn something new, to be happy and forget about your home situation. Children in the second scenario have finally received the preschool experience that many of us have taken for granted. With this Chapter’s Hearts Without Home project, children with harder backgrounds were given their chance to escape -- even if only for a few hours a day. “With the help of JA funding and a state grant, JA of Gulfport members renovated a trailer that was donated to the children’s shelter,” said project chair Adrienne Jones. With just a little paint, yard work and TLC, less fortunate preschool aged children are able to enjoy the luxuries of being a kid. With a reading nook, computers, dress-up area, puppet station and Lego station, these children are able to learn new things and unleash their imaginations. There is no telling how much this project will help these children grow. We can only hope that the children remember this time in their lives and realize that no matter what they are going through, there is always something to look forward to.

HATTIESBURG | MS
The Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg MS’s Provisional Class raised funds to purchase and donate two “Caring Cradles,” which are medical cooling devices that offer a more dignified way for parents to spend time with a newborn who has passed away. The devices are a new resource for this community and will be donated to Merit Health Wesley and Forrest General Hospital. Ashley Castleman, project coordinator, said, “With a Caring Cradle, parents are given more time for memory making, including the ability to hold, rock, cuddle, and take photos with their baby. While researching this project, the Chapter heard many touching stories from families who have benefited from having this option during such a difficult time.”

JONESBORO | AR
With less than 5 percent of their community being Hispanic, Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR recognized that many of the Hispanic girls in their community were not only underserved, but falling through the gaps in other community programs and services. In an effort to build off of their incredibly successful and beneficial project, Girls Enrichment Junior High, Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro added a new project titled Girls Enrichment High School. This project specifically targets high school girls and not only offers mentorship but teaches basic life skills to assist them as they approach graduation and adulthood. This year, 2017-2018, was the first year to offer the high school Service project. Participants of these Girls Enrichment projects now have the opportunity to participate from 7th grade through 12th grade. The chair of Girls Enrichment High School, Kim Schrantz, worked directly with Gina Gomez, Executive Director of Hispanic Community Services. 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fully understood what to expect and what would be expected of them before they committed to the project. By committing to this project, the girls agreed to participate in monthly projects from September 2017 through May 2018. Ten high school girls signed up to participate, four of them being previous participants in our Girls Enrichment Junior High project. This project operates on a $4,000 yearly budget. This money is used to feed the girls and pay for the monthly planned event. The committee has nine Junior Auxiliary Jonesboro members and each was paired with a Girls Enrichment High School participant. The JA members took turns planning the monthly events, which generally last around two hours and include dinner, to allow time to build relationships between the JA members and Girls Enrichment High School participants. The first month the girls completed a CPR class and are all now CPR-certified. Another month the group had a recruiter from Arkansas State University speak to the girls about furthering their education. The girls also got to hear someone from Focus Bank speak to them about having a checking account, savings account and credit card to help build basic life skills. The girls were also taught a self-defense class. The girls have truly enjoyed all of these events!

LAUDERDALE COUNTY | TN
Junior Auxiliary of Lauderdale County, TN hosted their first Dolly and Me Tea Party. The girls in attendance were treated to finger foods and punch prepared by Life and Associate members. Following the refreshments, the girls enjoyed an etiquette lesson that taught them the importance of table manners and how to properly arrange a place setting. Included for their enjoyment was a craft station and a photo booth. Special guests included young women from the high school cheerleading squad and Miss Tennessee Collegiate. Decor included china sets and floral centerpieces sponsored by local businesses. While the children participated in the activities, the mothers had the opportunity to fellowship and purchase doll clothes and accessories from a local vendor. Junior Auxiliary of Lauderdale County is especially thankful for the support of their Life and Associate members and the community. Events such as this one are much more successful with their support!

LAUREL | MS
Very Special Arts Festival is a much loved Service project of the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel, MS held in conjunction with the Lauren Rogers Museum every fall. It is a day for all special needs and special education children in Jones County, and surrounding counties, to get together and enjoy music, arts and crafts, and one another. On average, over 300 children are served. JA of Laurel members love the opportunity to work with these children hands-on and to see the smiles on their precious faces as they enjoy their special day.

After the train ride, guests were treated to hot chocolate and cookies, a photo booth, and the showing of the movie “The Polar Express.” They also visited the craft tent, where reindeer antlers were made to wear and reindeer food was assembled for Christmas Eve. Children also enjoyed visiting Mrs. Claus, who read the Christmas story from The Bible by the fire.

MADISON COUNTY | FL
The Junior Auxiliary Chapter of Madison County, FL was faced with a major obstacle this service year when their Annual Golf Tournament had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond their control. This finance project has provided the majority of funding for their Service projects for many years. Through rigorous brainstorming they were able to agree on a replacement finance project, The Fancy Flamingo Flock. The Fancy Flamingo Flock finance project was more successful than
Club created a new project this year named GLAM – Girls Leading And Mentoring. This project targeted 5th and 6th grade girls who have a definite need for guidance and encouragement in their lives. The 11-12 year old age range is a difficult age as girls are transitioning into young ladies. Self-confidence and self-esteem are often lacking in girls of this age. Counselors at local middle schools helped JA identify these 5th and 6th graders who would benefit from mentoring and extra support. Crown Club members treated these girls to a day of yummy food and shopping fun. Crown Club members enjoyed taking their GLAM girls to a salon to have their nails done, which is a treat for any southern lady! The GLAM outings were a big success as it showed the GLAM girls that others care about them and it showed the Crown Club of McComb that volunteering a little time to others is not only rewarding, it is also fun!

ROGERS-BENTONVILLE | AR
Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR has many rewarding projects that serve various needs in the community. Although the women enjoy working with their committees, this year they are making an effort to work together more often as a group. To kick off National Junior Auxiliary Week, they volunteered at the Samaritan Community Center warehouse in Rogers one morning and packed 1,700 SnackPacks for Kids. This program provides nutritional support to children in Benton County who are at-risk for hunger or food insecurity on the weekends. The SnackPacks contain 8-12 items that can be eaten over the weekend.
no preparation or refrigeration required. They are delivered to schools where counselors and teachers discreetly place them in at-risk children’s backpacks each week. As one of their ongoing Service projects, JARB assists in the distribution of the Snack-Packs to their assigned schools. “We had a great time working with our fellow members to help prepare these packages for distribution,” said Mitun Balasekaran, 2017-2018 JARB President. “We look forward to planning more team projects in the future.”

**RUSSELLVILLE | AR**

The 2017-2018 Provisional class of Junior Auxiliary of Russellville, AR recognized an opportunity to serve seniors in the local community through a partnership with the Pope County Senior Wellness and Activity Center. The Provisional class project consisted of a donation of bingo supplies to the center as well as a sponsorship of a weekly game of bingo through the event Bingo Buddies. After visiting with leaders at the center, the Provisional class realized the need for new bingo supplies to help serve the nearly 100 visitors who play bingo daily at the center. The class purchased 300 new bingo cards for use all year long as well as provided 30 prizes for a day of games. In addition to the supplies and sponsorship, the Provisional class members participated in the bingo festivities by calling numbers, playing bingo, and visiting and dining with the seniors in attendance.

**SALINE COUNTY | AR**

Realizing that many children in the Saline County, AR community are rendered unable to play sports they enjoy due to high equipment costs, JA set out to remedy the problem. Their solution, Sports Swap Shop. They began this new project by setting up donation stations at local businesses for several weeks to collect their initial equipment, which would later be redistributed to those in need. JA set up a booth at local sports registrations (think soccer, baseball, basketball, etc.) and simply handed out the athletic equipment to those who approached their booth. Three years later, the Chapter now has families contacting them through their social media platforms to inquire about the program and also how to donate their gently used, no longer needed equipment. The Chapter reached about 100 children in their county this year alone. There are essentially no overhead costs for the project, making the impact even more substantial. Sports Swap Shop is such a simple idea that has a far-reaching impact. One family stands out and that is a mother who had four children all wanting to play sports they enjoy due to high equipment costs, JA set out to remedy the problem. The mother thanked us and told us that without SSS, her daughters would not have been able to play. It’s reasons like this one that remind us why we JA.

**SLIDELL | LA**

Hearts United (HU) is the Child Welfare project for the Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA. This project focuses on assisting high school students that are identified as unaccompanied youth (not living with a parent) to give them emotional support throughout the school year. JAS works with the Kids in Transition (KIT) program of their local Parish Public School System. The goal of the KIT program is to eliminate any restrictions that might inhibit the education of transitional students. JAS assists this program in three ways: (1) Community Mentoring Program, (2) Assisting Seniors with SR Prom and (3) Adopt a Student. The Mentoring Program is open to every status of JAS Membership. After a Mentor training and background check is obtained, members are given the name and phone number of a student who has requested a mentor. A call is made to introduce themselves and arrange a meeting to get to know them and ask what their expectations are for a mentor; the goal is to make a positive influence on their lives. Some students just want to know someone is there to listen and to check up on them or give them an occasional ride if they are in a tough spot. The Adopt a Student program is also open to all JAS members and has the mission of choosing a KIT student(s) with the purpose of sending encouragement through notes, cards, and small gifts throughout the school year. The members have used their imaginations and resources to make an impact. For example, one member bought a large Christmas stocking and filled it with items like body wash, toenail clippers, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, small flashlight, mini first aid kit, hand sanitizer, homemade candy and a gift card to Walmart where they could buy what they needed or wanted. When the KIT coordinator gave the young man his stocking he
said, “Why would this lady do this? Not even my own mother or family has ever given me anything this nice”. There were 25 students who were not adopted by JAS so at Christmas the Chapter purchased gift cards and wrote personal notes to each one.

**TIPTON COUNTY | TN**
Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN’s Provisional class organized a Service project that focused on foster children and their unique needs. The All M.I.N.E. (My Immediate Needs Enclosed) aimed to provide these children with basic clothing items, new undergarments and socks, along with a duffel bag that they would be able to carry their items in.

“We knew we wanted to do something that would be beneficial to foster children. With the majority of our Provisional class being teachers, we witness quite often the struggles faced by foster children,” Provisional member Eboni Eaton said. “So many of these children move frequently with nothing more than what is on their backs. We wanted to provide them with possessions that they would be able to carry with them no matter where they may be placed.”

The Provisional members worked with a third-party agency to invite families and tapped into the Chapter’s Active, Associate and Life members to collect items for the private shopping event held on April 14. In total, the Provisional members were able to serve 23 children who were able to personally shop and pick out their very own bag and clothing.

**TUPELO | MS**
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS held the 55th annual Charity Ball February 2, 2018 at the BancorpSouth Arena. A fairytale ball, the theme was “Once Upon a Time in Tupelo.” The enchanted evening included presentation of Living Ads, a royal feast, and awarding of Tupelo’s 2018 Outstanding Citizen Award to Mrs. Josephina Rayburn, a longtime Tupelo educator. Guests danced the night away, under twinkling lights, to The Party Jammers, a Memphis-based dance band. With a record crowd in attendance, the event raised money for Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo’s nine Service projects. It takes every single member of the Chapter to bring this event to life, with a goal of giving the children of Tupelo and Lee County a happily ever after.

**WINONA | MS**
Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS began a new Child Welfare project in the year 2017, and it proved to be successful through the calendar year of 2018. It’s called G.E.M.S., which stands for growing, empowering, mentoring, and supporting. Monthly meetings are held with a select group of young girls who were nominated by their school counselors. Activities focus on developing and strengthening lasting relationships between the G.E.M.S. and JA members. Some of the activities the G.E.M.S. have participated in so far have involved self-empowerment and self-worth exercises, as well as teaching related exercises in internet safety and bullying. The positive impact that G.E.M.S. is having on these girls’ lives is big. They are eager and excited to engage with the JA members and this Chapter hopes to continue this project with these young ladies for years to come.

**JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF SLIDELL, LA**
Wanted to do something to help re-engage the Life and Associate Members. With the leadership of President Deb Jones, a birthday card was created. All Active members signed a card and then the birthday cards were printed with the signatures already inside them. Life and Associate members receive their birthday card during their birthday month reminding them that the Active membership appreciates the foundation they have laid for them to build upon.
Be A Pineapple

STAND TALL, WEAR A CROWN, & BE SWEET ON THE INSIDE

BY JUDY HEIMBUCK
JA of Slidell, LA President

EVERY DAY IS A DAY TO SERVE!

My name is Meredith Sanders, an active in the Junior Auxiliary of Ruston, LA, and a teacher for 5 years at Hillcrest Elementary. I am honored to have been selected as Hillcrest Elementary’s 2018 Teacher of the Year. Each day brings joy and some days bring hardships but that is what I love about teaching. Every morning when I walk into my classroom, I know that I have the power to make a child feel loved and important. Math, Reading, and Language are all important skills to learn. However, when some students didn’t have dinner, have holes in their shoes, and stayed up all night because they were taking care of their baby sister, your servant’s heart quickly jumps in and wants to love and serve in a whole different way.

Junior Auxiliary has given me that same opportunity being made aware of the needs of the community and working with an amazing group of women in order to try to meet those needs. One of the greatest things about Junior Auxiliary has been seeing some of my students benefit from the Service projects in which we participate. Several of my students were able to experience Christmas because of Junior Auxiliary of Ruston...Wow! Junior Auxiliary has given me a fresh look on Service and our community. A chance to serve is in front of us every day, whether that’s at work, our neighborhood, or within our own family. It’s what we do with that chance that really matters. Take a chance and serve!

A chance to serve is in front of us every day, whether that’s at work, our neighborhood, or within our own family. It’s what we do with that chance that really matters. Take a chance and serve!

Meredith Sanders
PEARLS IN OUR CROWN

How many of us are guilty of scrolling through Facebook looking at all our JA sisters’ beautiful pictures and happy posts thinking… “I wish I could go on a trip like that”… “I wish I had kids that were that athletic and talented”… “I wish my grandkids would smile sweetly for pictures”… “I wish I were that creative”… “I wish I were that creative”… “I wish I was as pretty and thin as she is”… and we think that these people have the most wonderful perfect lives. We do this unconsciously and we don’t even realize we’re doing it. It’s become such a habit that we put ourselves down constantly without noticing. It’s a social reflex. But honestly– it’s completely arbitrary. Comparing one person’s life to another is like comparing apples and oranges. We don’t know what tragedies or obstacles they have had to overcome in their past. (And we don’t know if pictures have been photo shopped! LOL). We are each in a different place in our journey of life. There is no need to feel inferior because we each have talents and skills to bring to the table to make our JA Chapter successful.

Instead I encourage you to be a PINEAPPLE! We’ve all seen that little phrase about being a pineapple that says…

“Be like a pineapple: stand tall, wear a crown, & be sweet on the inside.”

I think this is exactly what God has in mind for us. Confidence isn’t to be defined by the size of our home, the kind of car we drive, how talented we are, or a number on a scale. We should draw our confidence from Him. Confidence in the fact that Jesus died to save us. Confidence that we are loved. Confidence that He wants us to be like a pineapple.

He wants us to stand tall! Stand up for those who can’t stand up for themselves by putting your best efforts into the projects and people that we serve!

He wants us to wear a crown! The crown on our head is bought and paid for. Wear it...
proudly for the charity, youth, health, service and leadership that our JA crown represents. You are God's child through and through. A daughter of the King. There are no social variables that are going to lose you that title. Boost your confidence with that princess!

He wants us to be sweet on the inside! Be faithful and true and kind and give grace by loving the least of these! (Matthew 25:40)

These are the things we need to focus on! Throw the apples and oranges you're comparing out the window and just be a PINEAPPLE instead! 🍍

ROSE CLARK KEBE, I. A. LEWIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR and Lincoln Parish Middle Level Runner Up Teacher of the Year:

Growing up children are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” My answer has always been, “I wanted to be a great teacher!”

Being in education for almost 24 years, I have realized being a teacher is not about the title or status quo but it’s about impact, influence, leadership, passion, innovation and inspiration. Throughout my career I have embraced these characteristics, especially leadership, inspiration, and innovation to foster dreams of children of all ages. My educational journey began as an 8th grade Math teacher in a Title 1 school in South Carolina where I taught for 14 years. I then landed a role in St. John’s County School District as Instructional Technology Program Specialist. Serving in this role allowed me to help teachers become innovative instructors in technology and assist students in becoming 21st Century Technology ready. This Chapter in my educational career increased my passion and determination to be a leader and motivate not only students but everyone in the educational arena. For the last two years, I have been a Math teacher at I.A. Lewis in Ruston. I am currently serving as 6th Grade Math, District Teacher Leader, PBIS Coordinator, Ruston High Pom Squad Co-Adviser, and FBLA Adviser. During my first year, I was invited to join the Junior Auxiliary of Ruston. Working in the organization, I serve as the Finance Chairperson to raise funds to support their Service projects. These projects allowed me to see a need in our community for positive female interactions with our high school ladies. Therefore, I began to volunteer with the POM Squad. Being the mother of two sons, I realized the need to influence and encourage young ladies. Another one of my accomplishments was starting a Middle School level chapter of Future Business Leaders Association. After volunteering at the Ruston High school with my son and being co-adviser of the POM Squad, I saw the influence and positive impact on students and wanted to bring this experience to I.A. Lewis students. Throughout my career I have demonstrated my childhood dream of “being a great teacher” by being a teacher of children, adults, and community members. 🌟

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MADISON COUNTY, MS presented its inaugural Spirit of the Crown Award at their annual fundraising gala, the Royal Rendezvous, in April. The Spirit of the Crown Award is given to an individual who has dedicated countless hours to helping our organization and the children of our community. Edith Crosby received the award this year. She was as an Active member of JAMC from 2003 until 2009. During this time, she served a role in St. John’s County School District as Instructional Technology Program Specialist. Serving in this role allowed me to help teachers become innovative instructors in technology and assist students in becoming 21st Century Technology ready. This Chapter in my educational career increased my passion and determination to be a leader and motivate not only students but everyone in the educational arena. For the last two years, I have been a Math teacher at I.A. Lewis in Ruston. I am currently serving as 6th Grade Math, District Teacher Leader, PBIS Coordinator, Ruston High Pom Squad Co-Adviser, and FBLA Adviser. During my first year, I was invited to join the Junior Auxiliary of Ruston. Working in the organization, I serve as the Finance Chairperson to raise funds to support their Service projects. These projects allowed me to see a need in our community for positive female interactions with our high school ladies. Therefore, I began to volunteer with the POM Squad. Being the mother of two sons, I realized the need to influence and encourage young ladies. Another one of my accomplishments was starting a Middle School level chapter of Future Business Leaders Association. After volunteering at the Ruston High school with my son and being co-adviser of the POM Squad, I saw the influence and positive impact on students and wanted to bring this experience to I.A. Lewis students. Throughout my career I have demonstrated my childhood dream of “being a great teacher” by being a teacher of children, adults, and community members. 🌟
YOU ASKED, AND WE LISTENED! AEC 2019 will begin with our Plenary Session and a Welcome Party on Friday evening and will conclude with an awards brunch and business meeting on Sunday morning! We hope that the change in scheduling will allow even more members to attend this year’s AEC, which is packed with fun, education to take back to your communities, and opportunities to learn from your peers! We know that life can be hectic for a JA member—you spend time pouring into your homes, your families, and your communities. This year, we challenge you to pour into YOUR-SELF by attending AEC 2019. Please join us in the Bluff City in April while we learn how to “Let Our Light Shine Through Love”. This will be a weekend that you and your Chapter won’t soon forget!

For more information about AEC 2019 and our new schedule, you are welcome to email NAJA 2nd Vice President Kelly Freeland at najasecondvp@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE
FOR A NEW & IMPROVED AEC 2019
APRIL 26-28, 2019 | MEMPHIS, TN

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THE NAJA FOUNDATION presented the Foundation’s Outstanding Service Project Award, along with a $1,000 check, to the Junior Auxiliary of Harrison, Arkansas, for its “Back to School Bash” Project.
AWARDS PRESENTED AT AEC

BETTY W. ROBBINS
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Region I
Diana Davis, Jonesboro, AR
Region II
Beth Holbert, Savannah, TN
Region III
Sandy Speakes Huerta, Cleveland, MS
Region IV
Jackie Meyer, Tishomingo County, MS
Region V
Jennifer Grey, Vicksburg, MS
Region VI
Susan Slaughter, Hattiesburg, MS

MAG AWARD
Under 15,000:
Brookhaven, MS – Camp Masterpiece
Vicksburg, MS – Blessing Bags Campaign
30,000 and above:
Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS – Swinging into Inclusive Play
Slidell, LA – Play it Forward

NORMA DELONG
EDUCATION AWARD
Under 15,000:
Cleveland, MS – A Better You
15,000-29,999:
Columbia, MS – Back to School Bash
20,000: Cyberbullying
Russellville, AR – CASA Teen Life Skills
30,000 and above:
Tupelo, MS – WA.V.E.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS - SERVICE
Under 15,000:
Cleveland, MS – Overall Chapter Promotion
15,000 – 29,999:
Columbus, MS – Stand Up, Speak Out
30,000 and above:

LOUISE ESKRIGGE CRUMP AWARD
Under 15,000:
Cleveland, MS – Adoption Family
Lawrence County, AR – Adopt-a-Family
15,000-29,999:
Oxford, MS – Adopt a Family
30,000 and above:

WILMA JOHNSON
WILBANKS NATIONAL FOCUS AWARD
15,000-29,999
Columbus, MS – Stand Up, Speak Out
30,000 and above:
Gulfport, MS – #bullyproof – Helping to “Keep it Safe in a Virtual World”
THE CROWN SCHOLARSHIP LEVELS
APRIL 16, 2017 - APRIL 15, 2018

PLATINUM ($1,250 AND UP)
Charlott Jones
Cleveland, MS
Columbus, MS
Greenville, MS
Greenwood, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Jonesboro, AR
Madison County, MS
Ruston, LA
Searcy, AR
Tupelo, MS

DIAMOND ($750-1249)
L&M Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Jackie Robbins Family/Irrigation Mart
Brookhaven, MS
Clarksdale, MS
DeSoto County, MS
Gulfport, MS
Oxford, MS
Rogers-Bentonville, AR
Starkeville, MS
Tipton County, TN

SAPPHIRE ($500-749)
Ann Guice
Batesville, MS
Houma, LA
Madison County, FL
McComb, MS
Russellville, AR

PEARL ($350-499)
Abbeville, LA
Amory, MS
Arkadelphia, AR
Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
Booneville, MS
Cabot, AR
Camden, AR
Clarksville, AR
Cleveland, TN
Clinton, MS
Collierville, TN
Columbia, MS
Covington, AR
Crystal Springs, MS
East St. Mary, LA
Eastern Shore, AL
Forrest City, AR
Hammond, LA
Hope, AR
Hot Springs, AR
Humboldt, TN
Indiana, MS
Kosciusko, MS
Lake Providence, LA
Laurel, MS
Louisville, MS
Macon, MS
Meridian, MS
Monticello, AR
Natchez, MS
Neshoba County, MS
New Albany, MS
Rankin County, MS
Saline County, AR
Slidell, LA
Tane County, MO
Tate-Panola, MS
West Point, MS
Winona, MS
Yazoo City, MS

REPORT OF THE NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2017-2018

FORTY FIVE (45) COMPLETED APPLICATIONS were reviewed by the Scholarship committee. Sixteen (16) semi-finalists were interviewed via telephone. Ten (10) finalists were selected to receive scholarships totaling $40,000.

To date, five hundred and fifty-two (552) scholarships have been awarded for a total of $1,308,504. The scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing graduate degrees in fields of study which meet the special needs of children.

The National Scholarship Program is funded through donations from JA Chapters, honorariums, memorials and special gifts. This year eighty-two percent (82 %) of the Chapters have given to the scholarship program. Eighty-seven (87%) of those Chapters donated at a Crown level. The National Scholarship Committee is very thankful to the Robbins family for their continued support of the National Graduate Scholarship program.

THE NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AWARDED THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2018–2019

JENNIFER ANTI
Slidell, LA; Masters in Dyslexia Therapy; William Carey University

MEREDITH BIRGINSKE
Searcy, AR; Masters in Speech, Hearing, & Language Pathology; University of Arkansas Medical Sciences

TAYLOR HEFLEY
Conway, AR; Masters in Speech, Hearing, & Language Pathology; University of Central Arkansas

KAYLA HODGE
Southaven, MS; Doctorate in Acute Care & Family Nurse Practitioner; University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

MARY EMILY LEAVELL
Covington, LA; Doctorate in Counseling; University of Holy Cross

Respectively submitted by Martie Shull
National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Scholarship Chairman 2017 - 2018

JESSICA NELSON
Knoxville, TN; Masters in Counseling; University of Tennessee, Knoxville

AMANDA OURSO
New Orleans, LA; Doctorate in Audiology; Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

LILY PARRISH
Seattle, WA; Masters in Speech, Hearing, & Language Pathology; University of Washington

LYNETTE RENO
Ponchatoula, LA; Masters in Counseling; Southeastern Louisiana University

KATHERINE TAYLOR
Brandon, MS; Masters in Pediatric Acute & Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; University of Mississippi Medical Center

(Opposite Page, from left) Finance Award Ruston, LA; Awesome Attendance Award Lake Providence, LA; Presidents Award Picayune, MS (Below, from left) Delong Award Cleveland, MS; Lyn Walker Silver Level Donor to Foundation.
AWESOME ATTENDANCE AWARDS
PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT AEC 2018 BUSINESS MEETING

The AWESOME ATTENDANCE AWARD recognizes Chapters that bring a large percentage of their members to NAJA educational events. NAJA appreciates the commitment this high attendance represents. Making AEC and Area Meetings a priority shows a Chapter’s effort to grow future Chapter leaders and to continually improve Chapter Service projects and to its belief that time spent at NAJA events is time well invested. This award will be presented annually to Chapters with 25% or more of their Active members attending AEC and/or Area Meetings for the prior calendar year.

Amory, MS
25% AEC 2017
Batesville, MS
27% AEC 2017
Cabot, AR
25% AEC 2017
Clarksdale, MS
60% AEC 2017
Cleveland, MS
55% Area Meeting 2017
Clinton, MS
29% AEC 2017
Collierville, TN
27% Area Meeting 2017
Columbus, MS
33% AEC 2017
33% Area Meeting 2017
Crossett, AR
25% Area Meeting 2017
Crystal Springs, MS
25% AEC 2017
Dyer County, TN
42% AEC 2017
Forrest City, AR
32% AEC 2017
53% Area Meeting 2017
Hammond, LA
30% AEC 2017
50% Area Meeting 2017
Humboldt, TN
29% AEC 2017
Indiana, MS
32% Area Meeting 2017
Jonesboro, AR
35% AEC 2017
Kosciusko, MS
43% AEC 2017
Lake Providence, LA
27% Area Meeting 2017
Lawrence County, AR
32% AEC 2017
25% Area Meeting 2017
Louisville, MS
41% AEC 2017
Madison County, FL
25% AEC 2017
Milan, TN
40% AEC 2017
27% Area Meeting 2017
Nashville, AR
25% AEC 2017
Natchez, MS
33% Area Meeting 2017
Oceola, AR
62% AEC 2017
38% Area Meeting 2017
Picayune, MS
27% Area Meeting 2017
Ruston, LA
32% AEC 2017
Saline County, AR
32% AEC 2017
26% Area Meeting 2017
Searcy, AR
32% Area Meeting 2017
Tate-Panola, MS
29% Area Meeting 2017
Tipton County, TN
38% AEC 2017
50% Area Meeting 2017
Vicksburg, MS
26% Area Meeting 2017
Water Valley, MS
36% AEC 2017
27% Area Meeting 2017
Winona, MS
25% AEC 2017
LOVE AND LEADERSHIP
Taking on the role of Chapter President is a labor of love for most individuals. In this workshop we will continue our discussion from AEC. So even if you attended the AEC President’s workshop you will want to attend this session as well because we will be adding additional knowledge so you can shine your light as a leader in your Chapter.

TREASURERS WORKSHOP
If you are a Treasurer of a Junior Auxiliary Chapter and you were not at the Treasurers Workshop at AEC in Mobile, then you will want to attend this workshop at Area Meeting! The NAJA Treasurer will enlighten you on what it takes to fulfill your position both at the Chapter level and the national level. The Treasurer’s Manual is our guide but sometimes hearing brings it all together and also offers the opportunity to ask questions as well as network with other Treasurers.

PROVISIONAL TRAINERS — GET YOUR SHINE ON!
Our President says, “let your light shine through love.” Properly training your Chapter’s new Provisionals to be prepared to serve is a great initial step. As a Provisional Trainer do you read your manual, utilize the 6 months of NAJA training agendas, invite your Associate/Life members to come and share what JA means to them? What is better than giving Provisionals the light of knowledge and the love to serve children in the community all while building lifelong friendships in your Junior Auxiliary. Join us at the Area Meetings for some PT fun and we will all share our love for JA and will have your light so bright we all gotta wear shades.

SERVICE PROJECT WORKSHOP: SHINE A LIGHT ON SERVICE
Attendees of the 2018 Area Meetings will have the opportunity to participate in a fun and informative session to learn the ins and outs of a variety of Service projects. Several Chapters will present their award-winning projects and cover the topics of concept creation, implementation and any challenges the project overcame. There will also be plenty of time for Q and A during the discussion. In this new breakout session come prepared to get project ideas and have your questions answered by Chapter representatives.

NETWORKING SESSION
Join the NAJA Education Committee members and other NAJA representatives for an interactive, round-table discussion at both Northern and Southern Area Meetings. Get your phones charged and ready for a little friendly competition to test your NAJA knowledge, work out leadership issues, and bring a little twist of fun. Each table will use a game as conversation starters, but our priority is to allow Chapter members to network and share ideas, with a NAJA rep handy to answer questions and provide clarification if needed. If your Chapter has any concerns or issues, please email to: najaeducationchair@gmail.com anytime between now and the Area Meeting.

SOUTHERN AREA MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2018
Hilton Hotel; 1001 East County Line Road; Jackson, MS 39211
Registration $50; Deadline: August 6
Block of rooms for Friday night, August 17
Room rate is $109-601.957.2800; reservation cutoff date is August 6

NORTHERN AREA MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2018
Memphis Hilton; 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard; Memphis, TN 38120
Registration $50; Deadline: October 1
Block of rooms for Friday night, October 12
Room rate is $139 – reservation cutoff date of September 12

SCHEDULE
8:30AM to 9:30AM
REGISTRATION
9:30AM to 10:00AM
BUSINESS MEETING
10:15AM to 12:30PM
PRESIDENTS, TREASURERS, AND PROVISIONAL TRAINERS
10:15AM to 11:15AM
SPEAKER
Jeff Mc Manus - Leadership
11:30AM to 12:30PM
NETWORKING SESSION OR SERVICE PROJECT WORKSHOP
NAJA FOUNDATION HONORARIUMS

VALENTINES
JA OF JONESBORO, AR
JA OF LAWRENCE CO., AR
JA OF YELL CO., AR
JA OF SEARCY, AR

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NAJA CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS
NAJA CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS
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NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
NAJA AWARDS COMMITTEE

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DEVON BRUST
DELEIA & TOM CAREY
ELLEN CAREY
KAYCE & CHRIS CAREY
DIANE & REV. RUSSELL FLETCHER
Darlene Carey

SAMIANTHA HUGGINS
JENNIFER MCCOY
SARAH NEIHOUSE
JULIE PALADINO
COURTNEY PRATT
Sabrina Biley

MOTHER'S DAY
TOKKO ACKERMAN
Karen Knight

RYNA SMITH
Kelly Cosby & Emily Smith

FATHER'S DAY
WENDALL GOFF
DOYLE JONES
Katy Goff

KENT KNIGHT
Karen Knight

WARREN SHULL
Debbie Pearson Bailey

MIKE SMITH
Kelly Cosby & Emily Smith

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NAJA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

2017-18 NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2017-2018 NAJA FOUNDATION
2018-2019 NAJA FOUNDATION

ESTHER HERRING

VICKIE TIDWELL
Darlene Carey

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2017-2018 NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2017-2018 NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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2017-2018 NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2018 PROVISIONAL CLASS OF JA
OF LAWRENCE CO., AR

J A OF CLEVELAND, MS

J A OF CLINTON, MS
Celeste Cade Hickman
Alisa Taylor

J A OF CONWAY, AR

NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2017-2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2017-2018 NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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MERRILL GREENLEE

LESLIE JAMES
CHARLOTT JONES
ELIZABETH WESSE
Esther Herring

J A OF CABOT, AR

MERRILL GREENLEE
Karen Knight

J A OF CLEVELAND, MS
Mary Kline

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MERRILL GREENLEE
Mary Elizabeth Williams

J A OF CONWAY, AR

MERRILL GREENLEE

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VICKIE TIDWELL
Darlene Carey

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2008-09 NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2008-09 NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008-09 NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Esther Herring
MISSY STEPHENS
Ellen Ann Johnson

BARBARA GRAVOIS
Sandra Chavers

MERRILL GREENLEE
JA of Tupelo, MS
Crown & Gavel
Dacia England
Linda Henderson
Jane Jenkins Herlong
Beth Holbert
The Clint & Ellen Ann Johnson
Foundation
Janie Neighbours
Brandi Provias
Linda Smith
Lyn Walker
Suzanna Williams

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VICKI PENTECOST
CINDY ROOD
WILMA WILBANKS
Lyn Patrick

JEANNE HILDEBRANDT
Laurie Jugan

ELLEN ANN JOHNSON
WILMA WILBANKS
Norma Richards

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Jeanne Hildebrandt

MARTHA KIRKLEY
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CINDY ODOM RICE
Dee Scoper

SHANNON STAFFORD
JA of Columbus 2017-18 Provisional Class

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Esther Herring

BESS SIMMONS
JA of McComb, MS

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Amanda Knauer
Missy & Walt Stephens

PAT VANDIVER
Kelly Freeland

NAJA BETTY W. ROBBINS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND HONORARIUMS

MERRILL GREENLEE
Norma Richards

NAJA BETTY W. ROBBINS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND MEMORIAL

HOWARD SMITH
Norma Richards

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